

be accepted in the knowledge that the Government hopes that the measure will improve the situation that now exists.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

House adjourned at 6.5 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 21st October, 1965

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The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

CONDUCT OF THE HOUSE

Reading of Speeches and Articles, and Irrelevance: Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Yesterday there was some discussion on the subject of Standing Orders, their interpretation, and whether or not they should be suspended. There does appear to be some misunderstanding in this Chamber regarding the reading of speeches and irrelevance; and, for the guidance of members, I propose to read the relevant section of the 17th Edition of *Sir Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice*. I refer to page 441 where, under the heading of "Reading Speeches", it states—

A member is not permitted to read his speech, but may refresh his memory by a reference to notes. The

reading of written speeches, which has been allowed in other deliberative assemblies, has never been recognised in either House of Parliament. A Member may read extracts from documents, but his own language must be delivered *bona fide* in the form of an unwritten composition. The purpose of this rule is primarily to maintain the cut and thrust of debate, which depends upon successive speakers meeting in their speeches to some extent the arguments of earlier speeches; debate decays under a regime of set speeches prepared beforehand without reference to each other.

As the real purpose of the rule is to preserve the spirit of debate, it is not unreasonably relaxed in the case of opening speeches, whenever there is special reason for precision of statement, as in the case of important ministerial statements, especially on foreign affairs or matters which involve agreements with outside bodies or highly technical Bills. Even at a later stage of a debate prepared statements on such subjects are read without objection being taken, though they should not constitute an entire speech. The Chair does not as a rule intervene unless appealed to, and, unless there is good ground for interfering in the interests of debate, usually passes off the matter with a remark to the effect that the notes used by the honourable Member appear to be unusually full, or that the honourable Member has provided himself with rather copious notes. The reading of speeches is even more inappropriate in a committee than in the House itself.

An attempt to influence the course of a debate by the reading of arguments or letters from persons of authority outside is repugnant to the spirit of debate, although it has been permitted.

I would also direct members' attention to Standing Orders 132 and 141, and point out that in future, particularly in view of the suggestions that there was some time wasting, it is my intention to give a rather stricter interpretation of those Standing Orders. I would further remind members that *May's Parliamentary Practice* makes it very clear that the responsibility for initiating action in this matter of irrelevance rests with the House rather than with the presiding officer for the very good reason, of course, that if a presiding officer is constantly initiating action to curb a member's speech it leaves the presiding officer in the position where

he may be accused of partiality and of not being fair to that particular member. For that reason the initiation of such action should come from the floor of the House itself.

I hope we can proceed rather more expeditiously and that members will put the necessary work into their speeches and not have to rely completely on newspaper articles and suchlike for the subject matter of their speeches in the future.

ROAD MAINTENANCE (CONTRIBUTION) BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. O'Connor (Minister for Transport), and read a first time.

QUESTIONS (23): ON NOTICE TAXI DRIVERS: IDENTITY DISCS

Authority for Issue and Compulsory Wearing

1. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Transport:

Where in the Taxi-cars (Co-ordination and Control) Act is the authority derived—

- (a) to issue identity discs to taxi operators;
- (b) to compel the payment of a charge for such discs; and
- (c) to require the holders to wear them?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

Section 11, subsection (1), paragraph (h) of the Taxi-cars (Co-ordination and Control) Act, 1963, and regulations 35 and 36 and the second schedule of the Taxi-Cars Regulations, 1964.

More specific authority is being sought in the Bill for an Act to amend the Taxi-Cars (Co-ordination and Control) Act, 1963, now being considered by Parliament. The honourable member may recall that during my second reading speech I did mention that whilst the taxi control board had control over taxi vehicles, there was some doubt about the legality of its control over taxi drivers, and in the Bill an endeavour was made to put that point beyond any doubt.

HOUSING FOR MIGRANTS

Removal of Existing Tenants: Cost

2. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) In the matter of clearing accommodation at Belmont and elsewhere in order to make provision

for newly-arrived immigrants, what action, if any, would be taken against an existing tenant who desired to remain?

- (2) Would such a tenant have to meet the full cost of moving furniture and other belongings?
- (3) Would such a tenant have to meet the expenses involved in blinds, curtains, floor covers, etc., which do not fit the alternative accommodation offered?
- (4) How does he suppose a pensioner could meet such costs?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Most tenants wish to be allocated homes, but should objection be made on reasonable grounds, the tenant would be permitted to remain.
- (2) and (3) Answered by (1).
- (4) Should difficulty be experienced by a pensioner, the State Housing Commission would give compassionate consideration to assisting the case.

PAINTERS' REGISTRATION BOARD

Staff

3. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What staff is currently employed by the Painters' Registration Board?
- (2) Are there any proposals to increase the staff?
- (3) If so, what are they?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) The staff employed by the Painters' Registration Board consists of a registrar and a full-time inspector and a part-time clerical assistant.
- (2) There are no current proposals to increase staff.
- (3) Answered by (2).

DESALINATION OF WATER

Westinghouse Plant: Investigation

4. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Would he draw the attention of his department to a letter printed in *Time* magazine, page 7, of date the 15th October, 1965, under the hand of the Group Vice President of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Pittsburgh, U.S.A., in which it is stated that Westinghouse can build a desalination plant capable of producing 150,000,000 gallons of fresh water daily for less than 35 cents (American — approximately 3s. Australian) per 1,000 gallons?

Research by Department

- (2) Would he make a comment on what research has been conducted by his department into the matter of desalination of water?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) The Public Works Department has a representative on the advisory panel on desalination methods of the Australian Water Resources Council, which is active in the field of furthering research into economic methods of desalination. The advisory panel submitted a comprehensive report to the council in June, and this report covered information from various countries, including the reference in *Time* magazine.
- (2) The Public Works Department has kept itself well informed for many years on the general subject of desalination of water but carries out little active research on its own account because of the huge costs involved.

An international symposium on water desalination was held in Washington at the beginning of this month, at which Australia was represented. Documents covering the proceedings of the symposium will become available to the department in due course.

MARBLE BAR SCHOOL

Air Coolers: Installation

5. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Education:

In view of the uncomfortable position caused by extreme heat, in the classrooms of the Marble Bar School, when will air coolers of a suitable type be installed?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

Aqua cool units have been delivered and are operating by the use of temporary connections. Within two weeks permanent connection will be made.

POLICE AT MARBLE BAR

Additional Officer: Appointment

6. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Police:

Does he intend to station a second police officer at Marble Bar and, if so, when?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

Consideration is being given to this matter.

IRON ORE MINING COMPANIES

Access Railways: Compensation to Pastoralists

7. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Premier:

- (1) Have any moneys by way of compensation or for any other reasons been paid by any of the iron ore companies to any pastoral lease holders, particularly for railway access; if so, what are the stations concerned and what amounts have been paid?
- (2) Are there any claims outstanding?
- (3) Are the railways to be fenced and, if so, by whom?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Yes. One of the companies concerned with the iron ore projects in the north-west has paid compensation to pastoral lessees. The amount paid has resulted from private negotiations between the company and the individual pastoralists.
- (2) Yes and under direct private negotiation.
- (3) No final and general decision has been made. There have been discussions. Further discussions between pastoralists, the Lands Department, and the companies will be necessary. These discussions will also resolve the basis on which necessary work is undertaken.

CROWN LAND

Use or Conservation

8. Mr. W. A. MANNING asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Does he remember a proposal made by me (*Hansard*, 1964, pages 549-550) for the setting up of a special committee to make an overall plan for the use or conservation of all Crown lands (including reserves and forests), working systematically through all shires and using the Cuballing Shire as a starting point?
- (2) Does he also remember stating in reply to a question on the 6th October, 1964 that he had listened with close attention to my proposal and careful consideration would be given to the proposal when reports which he had asked for were available?
- (3) As a result of this inquiry, when can a full report be expected?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.
- (3) With the overall development of the State in mind it has not been possible to deal with one area in isolation.

Major surveys and soil classifications are required for unprecedented land releases. In addition, development in the north-west needs new townsite surveys. A committee known as The Advisory Committee for the Preservation of Indigenous Flora and Fauna has been established to advise the Government on the adequacy of existing reserves and proposals to create additional reserves. Areas such as Cuballing will come within the scope of this committee.

CARNARVON TOWN LOTS

Applications and Release

9. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Has his department received any applications for Carnarvon Town Lots 778, 777, 776, and 775?
- (2) If so, on what dates were the applications received?
- (3) Did applicants submit deposits with their applications?
- (4) Is it the intention of his department to release these lots to the public and, if so, when?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The 14th October, 1964 for Carnarvon Lot 778.
The 26th January, 1965 for Carnarvon Lot 777.
The 9th April, 1965 for Carnarvon Lot 776.
- (3) Two deposits were received.
- (4) Yes. When current action has been completed, a date for an auction sale will be fixed.

EURARDY STATION: SURRENDER OF LAND

Conditional Purchase Release

10. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Have the lessees of Eurardy station surrendered 5,000 acres of their pastoral lease so that it can be made available for selection under C.P. conditions for farming?
- (2) If so, on what date was the land surrendered?

Survey and Classification

- (3) Has the land been surveyed and classified and, if so, on what date was the survey completed?

Opening for Selection

- (4) When will the land be made available for selection?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) and (2). The lessees of Eurardy station have not yet surrendered approximately 5,000 acres of their pastoral lease.
- (3) Survey and classification of this area is proceeding and is expected to be finalised by the end of November this year.
- (4) This land will be made available for selection as soon as possible after surrender action has been completed.

HARDIE TYRES

Use on Government Vehicles, and Defects

11. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Premier: Further to a question asked earlier in the session concerning the suitability of Hardie tyres on Government vehicles, particularly those operating in country areas, is he still of the opinion that this brand of tyre is giving satisfactory service and that mileages obtained are equal to those of other brands?

Mr. BRAND replied:

Yes. Official reports on Hardie tyres indicate that these give a satisfactory mileage and cause no more trouble than is normally found with other makes of tyres operating under similar conditions. I have travelled thousands of miles in official cars fitted with Hardie tyres, and I find these tyres are no different from other makes.

Mr. Court: And they are made in Western Australia.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES AT BRUCE ROCK

Extensions

12. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) What stage has been reached with the proposed extension of electricity to Bruce Rock?
- (2) Is there also a proposal to extend mains beyond Bruce Rock and, if so, what areas are to receive electricity?

Takeover by S.E.C. and Source of Supply

- (3) What is the approximate date for the Bruce Rock takeover by the S.E.C.?
- (4) From what quarter will the supply come?

Mr. LEWIS (for Mr. Nalder) replied:

- (1) The mains which could eventually supply Bruce Rock have been constructed within a few miles of the town.

- (2) and (3) There are no immediate plans for taking over Bruce Rock or for extensions in the areas beyond the town.
- (4) Merredin.

13. and 14. *These questions were postponed.*

STATE SHIPS: ESPERANCE SERVICE

"Koolama": Omission of Esperance

15. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for the North-West:

- (1) Will he state the reason that *Koolama* is not loading freight for Esperance on its voyage from eastern ports?
- (2) When was this service commenced?

Number of Calls since Commencement of Service

- (3) How many calls have been made at the port of Esperance by these ships during this time?

Cargo for Esperance and Discontinuance of Service

- (4) What quantity of cargo has been carried for this port on each visit?
- (5) Is the service to be discontinued?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Because of insufficient inducement. Decision to omit was held until Monday, the 18th October in the hope that cargo bookings would improve. This was the latest time possible as the vessel had already arrived in Sydney on the 15th October and was working cargo. Bookings received to the 18th October were:—

	Tons
From Sydney	5½
From Newcastle	19
From Melbourne	18
A total of	42½

- (2) The service commenced with the arrival at Esperance of M.V. *Koojarra*, voyage 73, on the 20th June, 1964.
- (3) A total of nine calls have been made up to and including M.V. *Kangaroo's* arrival at Esperance on the 10th September, 1965.
- (4) Manifest tons carried each voyage were:—
87, 98, 55, 73, 123, 168, 123, 126, 145.
- (5) Serious consideration will have to be given to discontinuing the Esperance service unless there is a considerable improvement in tonnage. A quantity of 150 tons was set initially as the minimum tonnage necessary to warrant a

call but this falls short of the quantity required to ensure financial success.

The geographical location of Esperance adds additional vital and costly time to a voyage. Actual steaming time plus valuable lay-time adds at least a full 24 hours to a voyage.

EYRE HIGHWAY

Construction Costs

16. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Will he state the total cost per mile of preparing, forming, metal-ling, and sealing the Eyre Highway?
- (2) What has the project cost to date?
- (3) What is the estimated cost to complete the road to the South Australian border?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Approximately £14,500 per mile.
- (2) £1,750,000.
- (3) £3,286,000.

CROSSWALKS NEAR SCHOOLS

Control Guards: Authority

17. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Police:

What authority is vested in persons who are placed in charge of guard-controlled school crossings?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

They are duly appointed traffic inspectors under the Traffic Act, and may exercise the normal authority of an inspector in respect of the road in the vicinity of the school crossing they control.

IRON ORE DEPOSITS AT BUNGALBIN

Discoverer and Reward

18. Mr. BURT asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Whom does the department recognise as the original discoverer of the iron ore deposits at Bungalbin in the Yilgarn Goldfield?
- (2) Was a reward of any description given to the person concerned?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) The earliest record in the Mines Department of iron ore at Bungalbin is in a departmental geological report by a Government geologist, T. Blatchford, dated 1914-15.
- (2) No.

19. and 20. *These questions were postponed.*

FAUNA PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Vesting of Land

21. Mr. W. A. MANNING asked the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna:

- (1) How many acres of land are vested in the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee and in how many separate parcels of land?

Annual Expenditure

- (2) What is the annual expenditure by the committee?

Obligations and Inspections

- (3) What obligations devolve on the committee in regard to each area by way of improvements and protection?
- (4) How often is each area inspected?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Seventy-eight reserves totalling 1,991,564 acres are vested in the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee of Western Australia.
- (2) The committee has no funds under its control. Expenditure recommended by it may be approved by the Department of Fisheries and Fauna and, if so, it is met from funds of that department. Expenditure last financial year relating to the committee's sphere of interests, including meeting fees and allowances, fauna research, and reserve management, and a fauna protection grant, totalled £2,198.
- (3) The statutory obligations of the committee are set out in sections 11 and 12 of the Fauna Protection Act, 1950-1954. It has no specific obligation in relation to improvements and only an advisory one in respect of protection.
- (4) Each area is inspected as often as the situation warrants within the limits of available staff. Some are visited many times a year, but others not at all.

GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN'S FORMS

Legislation: Arrangement with Commonwealth

22. Mr. DAVIES asked the Premier:

- (1) Was any firm arrangement entered into between the State and the Commonwealth in regard to clause 13 of the schedule to Act No. 62 of 1956 amending the Statistics Act of 1907?
- (2) If so, from when did the arrangement apply?

Service by Post

- (3) Has any consideration been given to renegotiating this section of the agreement in view of the fact that the work carried out by the Police Force could in all probability be done just as efficiently by post?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) An agreement dated the 16th May, 1957, incorporating clause 13 as it appears in the schedule to Act 62 of 1956 was executed by the then Governor-General of the Commonwealth, and the then Governor of the State of Western Australia.
By letter dated the 11th June, 1957, the then Acting Prime Minister advised the then Premier of the State that it was anticipated that the agreement should become effective on and from the 4th July, 1957.
- (3) Yes; and, although it is considered that the work could not be carried out as efficiently by post, this, together with other matters, will be given consideration with a view to keeping to a minimum clerical and similar duties carried out by police officers.

MILK: FREE SUPPLIES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Financing and Cost

23. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the source of finance for the provision of free milk for school children?
- (2) What is the total cost of milk supplied in each of the past two financial years?
- (3) What costs associated with free milk distribution are the State Government's responsibility?

Daily Consumption and Schools Supplied

- (4) What is the present daily consumption of this free milk supply?
- (5) How many schools are—
(a) supplied;
(b) not supplied?

Children not Supplied

- (6) How many children attend the schools not being supplied with free milk?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) The Commonwealth Government under a Commonwealth-State Grants Act.

- (2) (a) To the 30th June, 1964—£325,342.
(b) To the 30th June, 1965—£315,544.
- (3) Half the cost of administration—£1,325.
- (4) To the 30th June, 1965—
834,554 gallons of pasteurised milk.
165,000 gallons of reconstituted tinned evaporated milk.
4,000 gallons of whole milk not pasteurised.
- (5) (a) 824 schools, kindergartens and creches are supplied.
(b) 39 schools are not supplied.
All schools that have requested supplies are receiving milk in one of the three forms in which it is supplied.
- (6) Approximately 1,000 children.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

SWAN RIVER RECLAMATION

Use of Land for University Buildings

Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Works:

There being, I understand, close to 1,000,000 square miles of land in Western Australia, and what appears to be considerably less and less than that area of Swan and Canning Rivers—

- (1) What valid reason, other than perhaps expense of resumption, causes proposed University buildings to be built on what now is the river? See *The West Australian* of the 21st October, 1965.
- (2) If it is desirable to have a teachers' training college immediately adjacent to the University, why cannot contiguous land and/or property, rather than the river, be resumed?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) The exchange of land, including reclamation work, referred to by the honourable member is considered to be the best and most logical way to satisfy the requirements of all interested parties.

LAND ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Bovell (Minister for Lands), and read a first time.

Second Reading

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—Minister for Lands) [2.42 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Members will recall an amending Bill to the Land Act which was submitted earlier this session. This Bill, which was accepted by both Houses and which is now law, extended the period of time from two years to five years during which time a transfer of a conditional purchase lease is not approved unless under special circumstances. The reason for submitting this measure is well known to members and it will have the effect of reducing the number of transfers submitted, some of which could be termed trafficking for the purpose of profit.

During the debate on the second reading of this amending Bill, members who spoke stressed the need for further amendments to the Land Act, and in reply I foreshadowed that consideration was at that time being given to a revision. Certain sections have been examined with the intention that they be brought more into line with present-day conditions.

Point of Order

Mr. TONKIN: On a point of order, has the requisite procedure been followed by the Minister in getting on with his second reading speech? I understand that although Standing Orders have been suspended it is necessary for the Minister to move that the second reading be taken forthwith.

Speaker's Ruling

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): The House yesterday passed a resolution enabling the second reading to be carried straight on and for the Bill to pass through all stages in the one sitting. The second reading is a stage. I know the procedure has been adopted, by some Ministers only, in the past of formally moving that the Bill be printed and the second reading be taken forthwith. This does seem something of a contradiction, because if the Minister seeks permission for a Bill to be printed and then the Bill is immediately distributed, it means obviously the Bill has been printed previously. I consider the requirements of procedure have been met inasmuch as so much of the Standing Orders has been suspended as was necessary to enable this procedure to be followed.

Mr. TONKIN: In order to have the position clearly defined for the future, are you ruling that the suspension of Standing Orders enables one to dispense with any of the stages necessary for the introduction of a Bill?

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): A Bill can go through all stages in the one day; and the second reading stage is a stage of that Bill, and it is now being taken.

Mr. TONKIN: As I understand the position, in order to progress through the appropriate stages one must move the relevant motion. One cannot proceed from the introduction of a notice of

motion in connection with a Bill to the other stages unless the House agrees that progress will go ahead. As I understand this position the question was not put to the House as to whether or not we would go on with the second reading.

Mr. Bovell: I am moving it now.

Mr. TONKIN: The Minister thinks he is.

Mr. Bovell: I am. I know I am. I know more about Standing Orders than you do.

Mr. TONKIN: The notice of motion on the notice paper—or the first portion of it—was for the Minister to move for leave to introduce a Bill, which he duly did. My understanding of Standing Orders is that before he can proceed to the second reading stage the House must agree; and the House has had no opportunity of agreeing. I submit to you, Sir, despite this profound knowledge the Minister professes to have of Standing Orders, that before he can proceed to the second reading stage he has to get the permission of the House to do so; and such permission as yet has not been sought or obtained.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): I have ruled that the procedure being followed is in order inasmuch as the formality is not a stage of the Bill.

Point of Order

Mr. TOMS: I do not want to challenge your ruling at all; but, on a point of order, is it not necessary to move that the Bill be printed? If not, it is illegally before us because it has been printed without the permission of the House. It is necessary for that motion to go through.

Speaker's Ruling

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): On the point raised by the member for Bayswater, so much of the Standing Orders was suspended yesterday as to enable this procedure to be followed, and that is the procedure we are following.

Dissent from Speaker's Ruling

Mr. TONKIN: I move—

That the House dissent from the Speaker's ruling.

We cannot play ducks and drakes with Standing Orders to meet a situation which has developed. My understanding of the position is that, although Standing Orders have been suspended, that was done to enable the Government to progress its Bills through all stages in the one sitting if necessary; but not to dispense with any of the stages or to dispense with the permission of the House to progress through those stages.

I have never yet known it to be a situation that the suspension of Standing Orders allows one to dispense with the decision of the House with regard to the various stages to be taken. Your ruling,

in effect, means that once the House has agreed to grant a Minister leave to introduce a Bill, then automatically he has the right to proceed to the second reading.

Mr. BICKERTON: And the third reading under those circumstances.

Mr. TONKIN: Yes. I submit it is essential that before a Minister or anyone else can progress from the first reading to the second reading he must receive the permission of the House to do so and likewise from the second reading to the third reading.

I say your ruling is contrary to that and implies that once a Minister has obtained the permission of the House to introduce a Bill, then he requires no further permission to allow him to proceed to the second reading stage. I cannot accept that situation without protesting against it and I think the question has to be determined by the House. That is why I am very reluctantly obliged to disagree with the ruling you have given, for the reasons I have outlined.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I reluctantly second this motion. I am satisfied the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is on very sound ground. When the motion was adopted yesterday for the suspension of Standing Orders to enable all Bills to be introduced and passed in the one sitting, I understood that to mean that leave would be given in the first place for a Bill to be introduced, after which it would be read a first time; and then, instead of our having to wait till the next sitting of the House for the second reading to be taken it could be taken on the same day.

As I understand the suspension of Standing Orders, the Minister may give notice of his intention to introduce a Bill, but he must receive the permission of the House. He cannot peremptorily stand up in his place and move the first reading of the Bill. He must obtain leave of the House to introduce it. That motion having been passed, he would then be entitled to stand in his place and move that the Bill be now read a first time; and he must receive the permission of the House for that stage to be passed. That having been done, it would be then necessary for the Minister to obtain leave for the Bill to be read a second time.

As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition says, the Minister—or any member for that matter—may rise, and, having obtained leave, proceed immediately with the second reading stage; but that is foreign to the Standing Orders as I understand them.

If the Speaker's ruling is upheld, it seems to me that a Minister having obtained leave to introduce a Bill, could forthwith proceed with the second reading. The motion that was carried yesterday does not mean that the necessity for a

Minister to obtain leave for the first reading and the second reading should be done away with.

Much as I regret leave to second the motion of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I hope it will be carried.

Mr. BOVELL: I regret that my following of normal debate procedure has upset the House to such a degree. The position is—and I support your ruling, Sir—that Standing Orders are suspended and, when Standing Orders are suspended, we introduce the first reading. We do not make a speech about it, and the first reading is passed. We then go on to the second reading, which I am now moving.

Mr. Tonkin: Where do you get that idea?

Mr. BOVELL: When the second reading is passed, we pass the Committee stage and then we move to the third reading stage.

Mr. Tonkin: Read Standing Order 266.

Mr. BOVELL: I believe the procedure that has been adopted is correct. The Standing Orders provide that certain procedures shall take place with regard to the various readings of a Bill. The normal motion is that a Bill be printed and the second reading taken at another sitting; but when one reading follows another in a sitting, there is no need to move that the Bill be printed and the second reading taken forthwith.

Mr. Tonkin: Will the Minister read Standing Order 266 and explain it?

Mr. BICKERTON: I agree with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and I base my argument against your ruling, Sir, on, perhaps, a somewhat slightly different point from the one that has already been taken; and that is that it has, so far as I am aware, always been the normal procedure, when Standing Orders have been suspended, for the stages of Bills still to be followed.

Regardless of whether you, Sir, are right or wrong in introducing this new procedure, I think the House has been misled in that when it voted on a motion yesterday to suspend Standing Orders—as it does somewhere about this time every session—it undoubtedly voted in the knowledge that the procedure followed in the past would prevail in this case; and personally I can see no reason why it has been altered; because, whilst I am a great one for saving time, I think the whole procedure of having a Bill read a first time, and the second reading taken forthwith, occupies only a minute.

Whether the Minister wanted to introduce something new into the House, I do not know, but my argument is that when members voted yesterday to give permission to suspend Standing Orders, it was in the knowledge that the procedure adopted in the past would be followed.

If what is now being done is going to be the case, when the next Bill comes before us, will we simply go straight on to the third reading? We know that Standing Orders are suspended, and it may be possible to do that; but when the House has voted on a motion it should be given some indication whether the procedure which is normally followed is going to be departed from, as it has been in this instance.

In the present circumstances, the next Minister who gets up could take everything for granted and say that because of the suspension of Standing Orders, there is no need to introduce the Bill, and we might as well vote on the first reading and have done with it. Where will we finish? The House should be informed just what the suspension of Standing Orders means, and whether we are going to follow normal procedure or introduce new procedures all the time.

Mr. BRADY: I want to be clear on what your ruling is Sir. As I understand the position, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition took the point that the Minister did not move the second reading of the Bill but said he proposed to do so. I think you, Sir, followed up with a further few points and said that Standing Orders having been suspended yesterday it is not now necessary for the Minister to formally move that the second reading be taken.

Before I debate the matter, I would like to know the position. Is the Minister now going to move the second reading; or do you rule it is not necessary for him to move that way?

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): The question before the House is not whether the Bill is to pass the second reading; it is whether the second reading debate shall be allowed to proceed at this point.

Mr. NORTON. The point I wish to take is this: After the first reading it has been the custom of the House as I understand it, and it is the intention of the Standing Orders, to authorise that the Bill be printed, whether the second reading stage is taken forthwith or at a later date; and I think the point the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is trying to make is that the House has not yet authorised the printing of the Bill as is laid down in Standing Order 266.

Mr. COURT: I think the emphasis the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has placed on Standing Order 266 is his downfall. If he reads that Standing Order he will find it fortifies the stand taken, or the ruling given, by the Speaker, because it is intended to apply where the Bill is to be dealt with on another day.

Mr. Tonkin: Where does it say that?

Mr. COURT: If the honourable member is so anxious, I will read it for him.

Mr. Tonkin: I can read English.

Mr. COURT: You have been asking everybody else to read it for you. It says—

After the first reading, a question shall be put, "That this Bill be printed," and the second reading made an Order of the Day for some future day.

Mr. Rowberry: That is the only thing that is suspended.

Mr. COURT: The fact is that we suspended the Standing Orders to enable these measures to go through all stages on one sitting day.

Mr. Tonkin: But not to dispense with any stages.

Mr. COURT: No-one is doing that. We passed the motion that the Bill be read a first time, and the Bill is now in the process of being read a second time. If it passes the second reading it will go into Committee, and if it passes through Committee it will go to the third reading stage.

Mr. Kelly: How can it do that if it is not printed?

Mr. COURT: Standing Order 266 provides the machinery where a Bill is to be dealt with on another day, not the same day.

Mr. Kelly: Don't we go through the process of printing?

Mr. COURT: This Standing Order has been suspended. Therefore we have the introduction, the first reading, the second reading, the Committee stage, and the third reading. They are the stages of a Bill.

Mr. Toms: You could go straight to the third reading.

Mr. COURT: That is being absurd. We have to take the Bill through each stage so that it can be dealt with, for instance, in Committee, which is the only stage at which a Bill can be amended.

Mr. Toms: When has this procedure been adopted before?

Mr. COURT: I am not concerned with that; but the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has always invoked Standing Orders, and this procedure is strictly in accordance with the Standing Orders. We suspended them yesterday.

Mr. Tonkin: You honestly think so?

Mr. COURT: I do, yes. A lot of the procedures we have been following have been followed just from force of habit; but that does not make them right. I agree with the Speaker's ruling.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I want to take the Minister for Industrial Development apart for not reading Standing Order 266 properly.

Mr. Court: I thought I did.

Mr. ROWBERRY: The motion passed yesterday was to suspend such Standing Orders as would enable a Bill to pass through all stages in one day.

Mr. Tonkin: Get over that one!

Mr. Court: That is so. The first reading, the second reading, the Committee stage, and the third reading.

Mr. ROWBERRY: Standing Order 266 deals with the fact that the second reading of the Bill cannot take place on the same day as that on which the first reading is agreed to. We suspended part of the Standing Orders—such part as would enable us to do that—and not the whole of the Standing Orders.

Mr. Court: You are on our side.

Mr. ROWBERRY: For the life of me I cannot see why we cannot agree. We accepted the motion that the Minister be given leave to introduce the Bill and that it be read a first time. Then he proceeds with the second reading. What is the matter with members opposite? Why argue the point about it? We are wasting a lot of time for nothing. All stages of a Bill cover the leave to introduce, the first reading, the second reading, the Committee stage, and the third reading. But, according to the motion moved yesterday, all those stages are to be taken on the one day and unless that happens we are not complying with the motion.

Mr. Jamieson: What about the printing?

Mr. FLETCHER: Mr. Speaker, did you put the question to the House as it appears on the notice paper, or did I mishear it?

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): I went through the usual procedure with the first reading.

Mr. FLETCHER: You did put the question as it appears on the notice paper for leave to introduce?

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): That is so; and I immediately followed with the first reading, as I always do.

Mr. FLETCHER: You did put the question?

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Yes.

Mr. FLETCHER: I do not remember voting on it.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): I hope the House is clear on the motion which is before the Chair. I do not want to stifle debate but I propose to put the question. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has moved to disagree with my ruling that the Bill can be proceeded with before authority has been given for its printing.

I must apologise to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in that perhaps I have been a little remiss in not insisting on having his motion in writing before me. I have had to put it in my own words and I hope I have not misled the House.

Mr. Tonkin: I do not object, Sir.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Perhaps I have been remiss in not strictly following the normal procedure.

Motion (dissent from Speaker's ruling) put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes—18

Mr. Bickerton	Mr. W. Hegney
Mr. Brady	Mr. Jamieson
Mr. Curran	Mr. Kelly
Mr. Davies	Mr. Molr
Mr. Evans	Mr. Rowberry
Mr. Fletcher	Mr. Sewell
Mr. Graham	Mr. Toms
Mr. Hall	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. J. Hegney	Mr. Norton

(Teller)

Noes—25

Mr. Bovell	Dr. Henn
Mr. Brand	Mr. Hutchinson
Mr. Burt	Mr. Lewis
Mr. Court	Mr. W. A. Manning
Mr. Craig	Mr. Marshall
Mr. Crommelin	Mr. Mitchell
Mr. Dunn	Mr. Nimmo
Mr. Durack	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Elliott	Mr. O'Neill
Mr. Gayfer	Mr. Runciman
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Rushton
Mr. Guthrie	Mr. I. W. Manning
Mr. Hart	

(Teller)

Pairs

Ayes	Noes
Mr. May	Mr. Nalder
Mr. Rhatigan	Mr. Cornell
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Williams

Majority against—7.

Motion thus negatived.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

Mr. BOVELL: I regret that my interpretation of the Standing Orders procedure—

Mr. Bickerton: You cooked it up an hour ago!

Mr. BOVELL: —has caused an interruption to my moving the second reading of the Bill which I was in the process of doing.

Mr. Tonkin: A Bill that has not been authorised to be printed!

Mr. BOVELL: We are not going over that argument again!

Mr. Tonkin: Not at this time, but we may later.

Mr. BOVELL: There were some comments previously on the necessity for improvements under section 47 of the Act and close attention has been given to the need for residence to be required within a reasonable time of taking up the land.

I had mentioned in the previous debate that the Minister for Lands was bound to approve a transfer if all conditions relating to improvements were observed and that the Minister could not withhold

approval to transfer if it was considered that the purchase price was unreasonable, i.e. the original purchase price plus the value of improvements. Some transfers showed considerations which to my mind were unrealistic, being excessively high.

If the House accepts the amendments which are included in this Bill then "consideration" can be included in an examination of all factors before approval is given for transfer.

Other sections deal with the necessity to remove certain anomalies because of the advent of decimal currency. The sections of the Act which are now submitted for amendment are those regarded as being necessary at the present time.

I refer now to the provisions as set out in the Bill. It has always been the practice to issue a Crown Grant when the full purchase price has been paid for town lots. The Act does not specifically set this down—but the power has been conferred by regulation—and so that there is no doubt that a Crown Grant can issue when the conditions for purchase for town lots are completed, this new subsection has been included.

Point of Order

Mr. TONKIN: Having regard to the ruling which you gave at the commencement of this sitting, Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to draw your attention to the fact that the Minister is reading the whole of his speech. It is not a matter of a highly technical nature where such might be necessary. I suggest this is a unique opportunity for you to enforce the Standing Order which you brought to the notice of the House when we commenced today.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): For the guidance of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition I did not refer to Standing Orders. I referred to the 17th edition of *Sir Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice*.

Mr. Tonkin: Did you not read the Standing Orders, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): I said subsequently that certain Standing Orders would be enforced, and the honourable member will also recall that *Sir Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice* did point out that there were some dispensations. I think he would also agree that it has been common usage for Ministers to read their speeches when introducing Bills.

Mr. TONKIN: In order that we can have the position properly established now, are we to understand that you, Mr. Speaker, are ruling with regard to the advice you gave the Assembly this afternoon that it does not apply to Ministers?

The SPEAKER: I think the Deputy Leader of the Opposition would do very much better if he read the relevant section of the 17th edition of *Sir Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice*. He would

then find the position fairly clear. It is not my intention to upset the usage of this House which has been the practice for many years, as the honourable member is well aware.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

Mr. BOVELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact this Bill is of a technical nature, because it alters sections of the Land Act which are very important. I wanted to convey to the House the exact and correct information. There is no person who more than the Deputy Leader of the Opposition accuses the Government of giving the wrong information at times, and without much justification. This is a Bill of a technical nature and I think you made it quite clear, Sir, when you read the extracts from *Sir Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice* concerning Ministers reading speeches of Bills of a technical nature.

The first part of section 46 alters the form of making Crown land available for selection. In many instances land has previously been declared open by the Governor in Executive Council and subsequent action taken by forfeiture or other means, requires further consent to make this particular land reavailable for selection. It is thought reasonable for the Minister himself to declare Crown land open for selection by notice in the *Government Gazette*. Making the land available in the first instance is only the commencement of settling the land, and many things are required to happen before eventually the land is transferred to the farmer in the form of a Crown Grant.

A subsection is also added which makes incorporated companies ineligible to select conditional purchase land. It is advisable to include this in the Act to remove any doubt that companies can hold Crown land under conditional purchase, as in any event companies are not regarded as being capable of complying with conditions of the Act, particularly in respect of residence and taking possession of the land in person. The whole intent of making available land under special conditions, is to give the opportunity to genuine farmers.

Section 47 is important as it deals with conditions for release and improvements required. Subsection (3) at present requires each applicant to lodge a deposit which is returned if the application is unsuccessful. It is thought that the procedure should be simplified so that applicants do not in the first instance lodge a deposit with the application which in the majority of instances must be returned to the unsuccessful applicant. This is brought about because of the increased numbers of people applying for blocks of land and, of course, only a small number are successful. I quoted this instance on previous occasions, that in one series of 26 blocks there were 464 applicants. The treatment of the deposits creates a lot

of unnecessary work, both in the Lands Department and the accounting and return in the Treasury.

The amendment to subsection (4) (c) (i) deals with residential requirements. Experience has shown that modern-day practice in clearing, burning, and subsequent cultivation of land requires a period of at least two years. It is not reasonable to expect the farmer to reside on the land until it is brought to a stage of production. Once a farmer has taken up permanent residence, it is proposed that he continue for at least six months each year—that is, after the first two years—for three years, which coincides with the general period of five years before approval to transfer can be given on the one hand, or application for Crown Grant on the other.

So as to allow the farmer to develop his block whilst not residing upon it in the initial period, it is reasonable to allow a certain distance from his holding which will qualify for a residential period. Under modern-day conditions with motorcars and roads, it is considered that 50 miles is a reasonable distance from such leasehold land. The previous distance of 20 miles has been in the Act for a long time and referred to days when transport was much slower than it is today.

It is proposed to apply the residence conditions more strictly so that *bona fide* farmers will receive the benefit of this condition. It is only under very special circumstances that lessees will be allowed to absent themselves from their holdings.

Subsection (4) (f) (ii) relates improvements to the amount of purchase money, that is, the value is placed upon the improvements. Values, of course, are subject to changes over the years and what might have been a reasonable value 10 years ago has no relationship to present-day conditions. It would be more effective to place improvements upon an acreage basis which does not relate to a money value. This arrives at the same requirement to see that the land is brought into a stage of development within a reasonable period.

The proposed amendment requires the lessee to have at least 25 per cent. of the total area cleared and cultivated within the first five years and progressively sow into pasture or crop and then, at the end of the sixth year, this 25 per cent. must be sown to pasture or crop, and so on progressively until the end of the eleventh year. Fencing requirements previously were on the basis that half the boundary should be fenced by the end of the fifth year and the full boundary fenced by the end of the tenth year. It would be more reasonable to expect a farmer to fence his cultivated land as he progresses, so that by the end of the tenth year he should have the whole of the land boundary fenced.

Instead of asking a farmer to boundary fence areas which he is not developing this fencing provision will coincide with his development, and he will only be required to boundary fence the areas he is developing progressively.

Mr. Kelly: A very wise provision.

Mr. BOVELL: Discretion is also given to the Minister to vary the percentage or type of improvements required. It is also proposed to give credit for any improvements in excess of that required.

I refer now to section 47 (4) (f) (iii). Assuming that improvements are related to a percentage of the area, this particular subsection is redundant and should therefore be taken out of the Act. The paragraph immediately following requires amending to bring it into line with the improvements required in a previous subsection. Commencing the time within which improvements are to be commenced from the date of the approval of the application for the lease, means that the lessee is not required to wait until the lease is actually issued. This may be some time after the approval is actually given. In other words, improvements are required to commence sooner than previously.

The wording of subsection 5 leaves a doubt as to when a Crown grant could be issued when improvements are being completed. By inserting the words "in respect of the total period of the lease" we remove the doubt that the full improvements are required before a Crown grant can be issued.

The amendment to section 98 (9) (b) and (10) (a) relates to pastoral leases which, in the opinion of the Pastoral Appraisal Board are not capable of carrying the required number of stock. As the section now reads, land which may be granted to the pastoral lessee to increase his holding to make it an economic unit, must be contiguous.

Experience has shown that it is not always possible to find land which is contiguous for the purpose of enlarging a pastoral lease, and the amendment seeks to make available pastoral land within a reasonable distance of the existing pastoral lease, but within the same district.

As section 115 (1) now reads, the Minister's right to refuse to approve a transfer relates only to an incorporated company. For the same reason, the Minister may only require a statutory declaration to be submitted by any director, shareholder, or officer of any such company. There are a number of pastoral leases in the name of an individual; consequently the section does not at present require an individual pastoral lessee to submit a statutory declaration, nor is the Minister empowered to refuse a transfer if the pastoral lease is held by an individual person.

When the Land Act was consolidated in 1898, fines were provided for late payment of rent. As members will see, in 1898 the fine was 2d. and 4d. in the pound and the maximum payable was 6d. If we relate the value of 6d. in 1898 to today we will find it a good deal more. In any event, the conversion to decimal currency will require an alteration in the rates of fines, so a reasonable application of 10 per cent. for late payment of rent has been provided for in the Bill. Any failure to pay the rent within 60 days may, in any case, result in the forfeiture of the lease.

The periods of time have been amended so that three months is allowable from the commencement of each half-year. Assuming that rent, or purchase money, is payable at 10s. an acre—which becomes one dollar under decimal currency—then the fine is 1s. or 10 cents.

Section 139B (9) is not consistent with the reading of section 47, as that particular section does not provide for cultivable land or the equivalent, as at present. An amendment proposes to bring it into line with section 47 by mentioning only areas of land exceeding in the aggregate 5,000 acres, as stated in section 47.

I have previously mentioned that the Act, as it now stands, requires the Minister to approve a transfer of a conditional purchase lease after all conditions of improvements and residence, as required by section 47, are complied with. The Minister is not entitled to withhold a transfer merely because he considers that the "consideration" is excessive. Several such cases have been referred to me in recent times, and I have been reluctant to approve of a transfer because the "consideration" to my mind was excessive and showed without doubt that the lessee was demanding an exorbitant profit. I think the House will agree that anybody is entitled to a reasonable profit if the circumstances arise where he is obliged to sell.

Mr. Curran: If you had looked up before, we would have been able to look at you.

Mr. BOVELL: I hope the fact that members opposite have to look at me does not upset their equilibrium. I am sure the member for Cockburn, in his friendly way, would not suggest that looking at me might upset his equilibrium, if that is what he was trying to indicate.

It does not seem reasonable to me that conditional purchase land made available at a very reasonable price in the first instance should be the means of allowing the lessee to capitalise on a buyer's market when these people are prepared to pay high prices for agricultural land. In many of the instances I have mentioned, an overall figure of £5 an acre is stated as the purchase price; whereas the initial price,

plus what is considered the value of improvements—and this is sometimes difficult to assess—would, perhaps, not exceed £2 an acre.

In one other instance, the "consideration" was expressed as £10 an acre for partly-developed land. Consequently, I think it is reasonable for the Minister to have the same power to refuse a transfer as is already stated in section 115 for pastoral leases.

Subsection (2a) deals with the necessity for the lessee of conditional purchase land to obtain the approval of the Minister in writing before negotiating a sale in its various forms. When this subsection was inserted in 1960, a penalty of £100 was inserted. This, I understand, was not intended at the time; and, in any event, forfeiture is not able to be taken unless a conviction is first obtained. Consequently, forfeiture action is restricted at the present time and it is necessary to take court action and, in fact, obtain a conviction.

The purpose of this amendment is to remove the penal provision so that forfeiture action may be considered in the normal way, if the approval of the Minister is not first obtained in writing, where the lessee seeks to transfer the lease. It is proposed to amend subsection (4) of this section, which relates to pastoral leases, so that these leases be treated the same way as conditional purchase leases and not be transferred until after the expiration of the first five years of the lease.

The seventh schedule does not conform with section 47 as amended and the proposal now is to delete from the schedule reference to any acreage, other than the 5,000 acres, and also the expression "cultivable land" so that the reading is consistent with section 47, to which it refers.

The foregoing amendments bring the Land Act more in keeping with present-day conditions and, if passed, will give a firmer measure of control over the requirements of improvements and residence before a transfer may be approved on the one hand, or a Crown grant issued on the other.

I am concerned, as no doubt all members of this House are, in preventing trafficking in Crown land, so there is a need to control the "consideration" expressed for a transfer. I believe the submissions I have made today will meet the contingency here.

There is need also to assist the genuine farmer and to provide him with a set of conditions that he is able to carry out as a minimum requirement in the development of the land allotted to him.

The demand for Crown land in the past two years has increased tremendously; and the illustration which I have given members of the number of applicants applying is an indication of what can be

expected in the future. There is a need to ensure that speculators do not take advantage of the position and that those people who express a genuine desire to settle on the land and develop it should be given every encouragement.

I know that there have been criticisms of the present method of allocating Crown land, but these criticisms come mainly from some self-interested people and some who are disappointed in their applications.

The present method of allocation has stood the test of time. By comparison with other States, as I stated last evening, it has been shown that Western Australia has the best system.

I commend these proposed amendments for the earnest consideration of the House as they are submitted in a genuine desire to tidy up those sections of the Act which will assist the genuine farmer in the development of land; and will try to ensure that the successful applicants take up residence and develop the land which has been allotted to them and use it as their home and run it as a family unit.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Kelly.

EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Third Reading

Debate resumed, from the 13th October, on the following motion by Mr. Lewis (Minister for Education):—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

MR. LEWIS (Moore—Minister for Education) [3.31 p.m.]: During the third reading debate on this Bill the Deputy Leader of the Opposition raised one or two points which had been brought to his attention by the Teachers Union, and he quoted from some notes which had been taken on the occasion of the deputation to the director-general on the proposed amendments to the Act. I would like to make it clear to the House that the notes were not official notes; they were taken by a member of the deputation and, therefore, can in no way be regarded as official and are not necessarily accepted as being correct by the department.

However, I want to emphasise that the director-general, from his recollection of the deputation and what occurred, accepts them as a substantially correct account of what had been discussed. However, he did say that as a result of the deputation he had accepted that the proposed amendments now contained in the Bill before the House as generally acceptable to the union, with one or two reservations which the director-general thought could be overcome by regulations which he proposed to have promulgated.

Since then he has been in touch with the Parliamentary Draftsman, who has informed the director-general that in his opinion the objections could not be adequately overcome by regulation, but that some further amendment to the Act would be necessary. After further consideration it has been agreed that the two matters which have been raised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition would be conceded, not wholly so, but in part.

In regard to the first matter he mentioned—it will be recalled that there were two—which referred to what might be termed eleventh hour changing of the order of preference on which the appellant may appeal to the teachers' tribunal, it has been conceded that there could be some extenuating circumstances where such an appeal for a last-minute change should be granted. However, the onus will be on the appellant to satisfy the tribunal that the reasons are valid. If the tribunal is satisfied on the point it will be taken into account when making decisions.

Mr. Davies: What extenuating circumstances would be considered valid by the tribunal?

Mr. LEWIS: Frivolous reasons would not be considered, but perhaps the extent of the accommodation the appellant subsequently found available at a certain centre would be considered. Another reason could perhaps be that the appellant had further information regarding the climate of a particular place, which climate might affect a disability he could have or which might be within his family. So long as the reason was not frivolous, the tribunal would have no difficulty in accepting it.

On the second matter raised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition concerning the limitations which could be placed on certain appellants for certain positions, it has been agreed to extend this so as to allow temporary full-time teachers to appeal against recommended applicants other than permanent teachers within the department.

I have had amendments to the Bill drawn up and they will be submitted in another place for inclusion in the Bill. Regarding the latest amendments, the President of the Teachers Union was approached by the director-general and I am informed, and to use the words of the president of the union "that they meet the situation for the present but if in the light of experience this surmise proves incorrect, the union would like the matter reviewed". I have no doubt that will be done with the spirit of sweet reason which has generally emanated from the Teachers Union over so many years. I have no doubt that this attitude will continue and difficulties which might arise in the future can be overcome satisfactorily.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1965-66

In Committee of Supply

Resumed from the 19th October, the Chairman of Committees (Mr. W. A. Manning) in the Chair.

Vote: Legislative Council, £20,039—

MR. BRADY (Swan) [3.37 p.m.]: Members can raise quite a number of matters when speaking on the Estimates, and some are more important than others. As far as I am concerned, as the member for Swan, I want to bring forward at least half a dozen matters and try to get the Government to do something about them. For the benefit of the Minister for Railways, I do not intend to speak on railways today, but I will discuss them under the Loan Estimates. I will have quite a lot to say on that particular estimate.

Regarding the Revenue Estimates, and speaking on first things first, I want to refer to the activities of the Government in connection with youth work in Western Australia. To be honest, I am quite disappointed with the way the Government has been considering this matter. Despite the fact that a special committee was set up in Western Australia, and one of our ex-Ministers even went to London and made some investigation; and although a council has been set up to look after youth, it would appear that it has no money with which to do the job.

The council has been appointed for over six months; at least that is the impression one gets from the replies to a series of questions asked in this House. I inquired what money the Government had set aside for the Youth Council and I was told that up to date this matter was still under consideration by Cabinet. The Government is not treating this matter as seriously as it should inasmuch as it set up a public tribunal to inquire into all aspects of youth activities and created a council, but then left the council high and dry without finance.

Currently with my interest in the finance made available for the youth council, I notice that another member has been asking questions in regard to the financial support which the Government intends to give to the police boys' appeal. Here again, according to the answers given a week or a fortnight ago, no final decision had been made on that matter, although I have heard a rumour since that approximately £40,000 has been granted. However, I have not been able to verify that.

Mr. Craig: It was not a rumour: it was reported in the Press.

Mr. BRADY: In view of the Minister's interjection, apparently it was reported in the Press that the Government has granted to the police boys' clubs some money and some should have been granted to the Youth Council. What I am trying

to say is that thousands of boys and girls throughout Western Australia are represented by the Youth Council, and I was of the opinion that the Government should have done something for them before now, especially as I had drawn the attention of the Government, during the debate on the Address-in-Reply, to the fact that the previous Liberal Government in South Australia used to grant up to £50,000 a year in support of youth activities.

It would seem that the Government has not gone on with the job of looking after the Youth Council as expeditiously as it has proceeded to support the police boys' clubs appeal. Whilst on the question of youth, I intend to touch on other aspects of education, and what is happening to youth generally.

Recently I asked a series of questions on the Governor Stirling Senior High School. I asked whether it was being used to capacity, and I was told by the Minister that it was. I was also told, in answer to my question, that the Woodbridge annexe was also being used to capacity. Approximately 1,700 to 1,800 students are attending the Governor Stirling Senior High School. The Minister is no doubt thinking that I intend raising many questions on the annexe at that school, but I can assure him I will not worry him with the Woodbridge annexe, but will draw attention to the fact that there is an extremely high percentage of children attending the Governor Stirling Senior High School every year.

I have a feeling that the students at the Midland Technical School are not being catered for as well as they might be by the Technical Education Branch. That is going to be the main theme of my address on the youth of Midland. I want to say that, by and large, the technical branch of the Education Department is doing a magnificent job. Nevertheless, I am of the opinion it is centering too many technical education activities in the heart of the city instead of extending them to country districts and parts of the outer metropolitan area.

I understand that 1966 is to be Technical Education Year, and the technical branch of the Education Department has been responsible for issuing, as members no doubt are aware, a special publication entitled *Technews 66*. Recently the Duke of Edinburgh complimented the Technical Education Branch by letter on its initiative in featuring 1966 as the technical education year. In the latest edition of *Technews 66*—No. 3—the following appears:—

The State of Technical Education in W.A.

At the apex of technical education in Western Australia stands the developing Institute of Technology situated on a 270-acre site at Collier six miles from the centre of Perth.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.7 p.m.

Mr. BRADY: I was referring to the new journal of the Technical Education Branch which it published in connection with the proposed activities for 1966, and to the setting up of a new establishment at Collier. The journal goes on to say—

I: is the most ambitious development project yet commenced in the Commonwealth for such an Institute.

In the past two years, the State Government has spent £1,000,000 on the Institute. At present, some 480 students are studying there in chemistry and the medical ancillaries including pharmacy.

The Institute, which will offer tertiary technical education, will ultimately provide for all the professional level studies at present housed in the Perth Technical College.

It goes on further to say—

At Fremantle, the centre of a fast growing industrial area, well over £500,000 will be spent during the next three years on a new technical school providing courses for skilled workers and technicians in business and industry. In the past three years student enrolments in the Technical Education Division have climbed by nearly 10,000. Enrolments this year will approach 55,000, with people of all ages studying in more than 800 courses.

I read those extracts to enable members to become aware of the very big job which the Technical Education Branch is doing. Whilst I was able to point out that £1,000,000 had been spent in Perth, and £550,000 will be spent in Fremantle, I find that no money is to be spent in the eastern suburbs, according to this journal.

I am surprised to learn of the number of youths and teenagers in my electorate who attend technical colleges in the Perth area, and for that reason I am raising this matter. The Perth Technical College provides 24 associate courses, 36 diploma courses, 25 certificate courses, and 12 other major courses which have outside examining bodies. We can see that over 100 courses are arranged at the Perth Technical College, but in the Midland area only 20 courses are provided at the technical school. As the member for the Swan electorate I must draw the attention of the Minister to what I believe to be a very serious shortcoming.

The Principal of the Perth Technical College should be encouraged to direct his viewpoint to the eastern suburbs which are growing rapidly. As over 100 courses are available at the Perth Technical College, I consider well over 20 courses should be provided at the Midland Technical College. I would like to see at least another 20 to 30 courses being provided.

I have given this matter a great deal of thought over the years. I am amazed to find what happens to our young people when they become interested in studies. I recall speaking in this Chamber some five or six years ago on this subject, when I drew the attention of members to one particular case. Two young men travelled all the way from York, through Midland to Perth for the purpose of undergoing a management course. They should have been able to obtain the course in York or at the nearest technical school. I am pleased to say that since those days a management course has been instituted at the Midland Technical College.

On one occasion I came across a young man travelling by train from Perth to Midland. When he alighted from the train at the station he had to ride a bicycle for three or four miles to get home. He had to do that in order to take a mathematics course at the Perth Technical College, because such a course was not provided at the Midland Technical College.

The other day I asked a question of the Minister as to how many students were coming from the eastern suburbs to the Perth Technical College, and the reply was the department did not know. I would have thought the principal and his staff would have made a survey of the suburbs from which the students came, and of the technical schools in those areas. One of the reasons why we are experiencing difficulties with motor vehicles cluttering up the city is that many technical students travel by motorcar to Perth. They should not have to do that; they should only have to travel a few miles to the Midland Technical School if they are living in the eastern suburbs. The students from those suburbs only attend the Perth Technical College, because the requisite classes are not available at Midland.

I would like the Minister to discuss this with the principal of the Technical Education Branch to ascertain whether more classes could be conducted in the schools in the eastern suburbs. Let me refer to one which should have been instituted at the Midland Technical College; that is, food technology. I advocated that as a possibility some years ago. Now we find that a food technology class is being conducted at the Leederville Technical College, although in the Midland area there are meatworks, the factory of Foggitt Jones, the factory of W. O. Johnston & Sons, and a dried fruit factory. In Guildford there is a flourmill, the head of which teaches students in Perth in the subject of food technology. One could go on quoting the food activities in the eastern suburbs; and yet these young people have to go to Leederville to be trained.

I was amazed to know the department had decided to establish an engineering or motor technical school in the vicinity of Belmont or Redcliffe and yet we have

a major engineering works of the railways at Midland and we had the Midland Railway Company there, as well as a multiplicity of small engineering works.

I feel the situation is getting out of balance and the Government is bringing a lot of troubles on itself by centering all the activities in the one area of Perth when some of them could be taken out into the suburbs and the young people could be kept in their own homes and social atmosphere and be involved in only a minimum of travelling.

Mr. Lewis: Would you say that Carlisle was centred in Perth?

Mr. BRADY: Not exactly, but the fact remains that the students at Midland cannot get there. It is bad enough for them to have to go to Perth.

Mr. Lewis: What about the Fremantle boys?

Mr. BRADY: I am not worrying about the Fremantle boys. I am worrying about my own at the moment. Everything is being brought into the western suburbs; and that is most unfair to the eastern suburbs, which have been established for many years, before even some of the western suburbs were thought of. Midland started off about 1870 and half the western suburbs were not even heard of 20 or 30 years ago; yet those young people are being catered for, but the pioneers and their families are being left high and dry in the eastern suburbs.

However, I did not want to cross swords with the Minister on the parochial angle to that extent. I merely want to draw his attention to what is happening in the eastern suburbs. During the depression years and subsequent to the second world war, families could get houses in Midland and Midvale and in the eastern suburbs provided they had four, five, or six children. That was the prerequisite for getting a house from the State Housing Commission. Those children have now grown up and they want the best education they can get.

According to a census taken in 1961 the following are the statistics concerning children under the age of 21:—

	Males	Females
Midland	2,075	1,946
Swan-Guildford	1,608	1,103
Mundaring	1,753	1,603
Kalamunda	1,635	1,592

The total number of those under 21 is 12,000. I asked the Minister how many teenagers are attending the technical school at Midland and I was told 1,000, which is one-twelfth of the potential offering for technical training in the eastern suburbs.

With the dearth of tradesmen, professional people, and those trained in commercial pursuits, the Principal of the Perth Technical College, his staff, and the

Minister might well give some regard to what can be done in connection with this problem which is raising its ugly head in my area. If only 1,000 out of 12,000 potential children are attending the technical school, it is about time someone investigated the problem.

I started my remarks by saying that the department was doing a grand job; and I think it is, but those in it are busy and could be limited in their viewpoint in regard to where they should have some of the activities located. I have quoted a classic example of the food technology section being centred at Leederville when it should have been in the eastern suburbs.

Mr. Lewis: It is in Mt. Lawley, not Leederville.

Mr. BRADY: Well, in that area. I feel we are approaching a time when the Government might double the numbers. We know 50,000 are attending the technical school and we know that there are 1,000 in Midland. I cannot for the life of me see why out of 12,000 there should not be 2,000 preparing themselves in higher education.

I want to point out to the Minister and to the Committee that, over the last 20 years, commercial firms such as Hemingway & Robertson and commercial schools have had canvassers out encouraging people to take up accountancy and other commercial subjects. I feel that something like this should be done by the department although perhaps not to the same extent. The commercial colleges have paid canvassers who travel round the suburbs going from door to door raising enthusiasm for their courses.

The technical school could perhaps do something through the various works and industrial and commercial concerns. Something should be done to encourage young people into the technical schools for this higher training. I could go on and quote a number but my time is running out and I want to deal with other subjects.

In recent times I have asked the Minister for Health about setting up a "C"-class hospital in the Midland area to be attached to the new general hospital. The Minister does not seem to give me much encouragement. I do not know whether he thinks the number is not there or that the expenditure is too great. However, while I have been advocating this in Parliament, no fewer than six privately conducted "C"-class hospitals have been established in the area over the last nine or ten years.

In addition to the "C"-class hospitals there are the slow learning schools and now the Minister is building a hospital in Bassendean for the psychiatric treatment of young people. In the technical school at Midland something might be done about setting up classes to train young women and men in the nursing profession. I am frequently asked about trained professional people for these hospitals. In fact, one of

the "C"-class hospitals is now seeking to train nurses itself. However, I feel that the technical school could do something about training nurses, nursing aides, domestics, cooks, gardeners, and other people associated with hospitals. That is only one example of half a dozen I could quote.

The technical school has, I think, a diploma or certificate for hostessing. Which is the more important to the community—a diploma or certificate in hostessing or one obtained for training as a nurse, nursing aide, domestic, gardener, or cook?

I am not too sure whether the technical school is not going overboard and training technicians for the building trade and other trades which could well look after themselves. As it is, the social courses are left.

First things should be put first and I hope the Minister will ask his Cabinet to increase the funds set aside for the new Youth Council because I think those on the council are doing a worth-while job.

I would like the Education Department, through the Minister, to ensure that classes in the Midland area are expanded. There is no question about the fact that students come to the technical school in Perth from Midland and when they get there and see what is offering they switch to other classes and make a success of them. I think that there are about 80 more courses offering in Perth than there are in Midland, and this is not right.

The next matter on which I wish to touch is the information that the Government intends to raise fares on M.T.T. buses. It is recommended that the fare from Midvale to Midland be increased from 3d. to 6d., under the pretext that the trust is getting ready for the new currency in February. To have a 100 per cent. increase on the single fare from Midvale to Midland is an extreme. There was a letter in the paper about a fortnight ago from Mr. H. H. Side, which reads—

I agree with H. E. Beard's remarks on pensioners' bus fares.

The fare from Midvale to Midland has been increased from 3d. to 6d.

If the M.T.T. must have a 6d. minimum why not give pensioners a return ticket for 6d.?

I thought I should have something to say on that because it is not very good policy for the Government to be the first in on the band wagon to take advantage of the decimal currency changeover to increase fares by 100 per cent. If the Government is going to do that through a Government department, what will private enterprise do when we have changed to decimal currency? I hope the pensioners and others who must pay these fares will be offered a return fare for the sixpenny ticket instead of a single fare.

I now want to pass on to the next item which is causing great anxiety in my electorate. It concerns the wholesale slaughter of trees. We know that half a dozen letters have appeared in the Press—I am not going to quote them because it would take time—complaining that the Main Roads Department and the State Electricity Commission are continuing to slaughter trees around the Bushmead area, much to the disgust of the tree-loving members of the community. I think sometimes these people go out to have a real picnic, and I wonder whether they do not do it to tantalise the community. In the Bushmead area they have not left as much as one tree standing over the acres of land they have cleared.

I think the Tree Society has a genuine complaint and I hope that the Minister will ensure that the S.E.C. and the Main Roads Department discontinue this wholesale slaughter of trees. Apart from the beauty the trees create in the area, and apart from the interest they provide to nature students, they very often give a much appreciated shade from the hot sun in the summertime.

The next matter I want to refer to concerns the Minister for Education's department. A number of matters in my area seem to be lacking finalisation by the administrative section of the department. The Minister is aware that the Guildford Parents and Citizens' Association has for some time been trying to get extra playing grounds for the primary school. For the last two or three years, however, this matter seems to have been pushed from department to department. I would like the Minister to see whether he can exercise his influence with the metropolitan planning organisation and the Public Works Department to try to make a firm decision this year so that the P. and C. will be able to get contractors on to the job of establishing an extended playing area for the use of the children at the Guildford State school.

About four years ago I was asked by one of the Midland parents and citizens' associations to request the department to make an area on the north side of Morrison Road available for a playing field. This school has less than one acre of ground for recreational purposes, whereas we know it is the policy of the department to provide a minimum of five acres; and it is desirable that there should be five acres.

I had an excellent afternoon last week when a number of schools held their annual sports. More than 1,500 people congregated on one school ground, and there the sports activities were carried out. But I would say that you could not swing a cat in the playing grounds of the Guildford school and the Morrison Road primary school. The administrative officers of the department might be asked to do something about stepping-up the provision of areas for additional playing grounds.

I know the Minister recently received a deputation from the Governor Stirling High School Parents and Citizens' Association with a view to something being done to expedite the provision of a playing ground for the students at that school; and there are approximately 1,700 children attending there. They would not have half an acre of playing grounds. That is a shocking thing.

I know the Minister is doing his best to see that something is done expeditiously, but I think he ought to send a memo to his officers to say: Cannot something be done in an urgent way to have these schools provided with proper recreational facilities? It is unfair to the children; it is unfair to the municipalities; and it is unfair to the parents of the children—indeed, it is unfair to all in the electorate—that one of these schools should have a playing ground of an area of one acre; one with less than an acre, and another—a school with 1,700 children—with about one acre of playing grounds.

It looks to me as though the departmental officers might be given a lesson in what are urgent matters in regard to recreational facilities for school children. I have a file here with 20 or 30 letters on it that has been passing backwards and forwards from one department to another year after year in the hope that something might be done, but nothing has yet been finalised.

Mr. Graham: It is time there was a change of Government.

Mr. BRADY: I now wish to deal with the question of the 1871 superannuated Government servants. It may be ironical that in these days of 1965 there are people in our community too proud to accept social services from the Commonwealth, because they feel they are entitled to better treatment from the State Government under the 1871 Act.

One man bailed me up last week and said that he gave the Government, from 1903 to 1949, 46 years' service, and he was told he would be given superannuation on his retirement. At the date of his retirement in 1949 he received superannuation of £7 5s. a week, which was £2 12s. over the then basic wage. Today that man is only getting about 50 per cent. of the basic wage. In other words, he is only getting about half the value of the superannuation he received in 1949. He is getting £10 a week, which is £520 a year. He is entitled to get £11 10s., but he feels the Government has an obligation to pay him a higher rate. Apart from that he owns certain property at Scarborough which he uses as a summer recreational home, and that precludes him from getting a full pension under social services.

He feels the Government has let him down badly by allowing him to receive only £10 a week as a superannuated officer. This gentleman pointed out to me that originally there were 896 superannuated officers under the 1871 Act, but by death this number has been reduced to about 100. He feels—and he has asked me to ventilate the matter in the House—that morally he is entitled to be paid a higher pension. I hope some other members will support me in my argument to the Government that the 1871 men be given a pension commensurate with the value of their pension when they retired from the Government service, irrespective of the department they worked in.

This man told me that as a young man he worked long hours during the day and in overtime, and that he was loyal to the department at times when manpower was short. He was offered a job in the National Bank and would have retired on a substantial pension; but because he stayed with the Government he is now suffering financially. I promised him I would ventilate the matter in the hope that the Government would give consideration to it.

I now wish to bring forward something which I do not want to overlook. On the 12th June, 1962, a woman who was previously residing in my electorate caught a bus in Hay Street, and within a short time the bus pulled up and she had an accident. The bus pulled up, according to the statement of the driver, because somebody crossed in front of it. As a consequence of the sharp pulling-up of the bus the ticket collector, I think it was, fell on the woman to whom I am referring, and she was disabled.

This lady has incurred about £150 worth of doctors' expenses, physiotherapists' expenses, and legal expenses. The Government paid her a nominal amount. She tried to get some redress through the law courts, but she was left without anything.

I am building up a huge file in connection with this case. This lady, who was a paying passenger on the bus, has received nothing from the Government. Yet only about a fortnight ago there was, in the paper, a report of a case concluded on Tuesday, the 28th September, in which an injured woman—this was an almost identical case—got £2,168 because, apparently, the Government agreed to pay that amount. I want to know why a differentiation is made between paying passengers. Here is the letter which the Minister for Justice wrote to me; I received it today—

Dear Mr. Brady,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 7th October, 1965, enclosing a letter from Mrs. M. Bell.

The matter involves an important question of principle which has been engaging the attention of many governments and law reform bodies in recent years.

As you know, our law relating to accident cases has, for over a century, been based on the general principle that there is no liability for damage or injury to another without proof of fault, particularly negligence; and insurance, insurance premiums and budgeting generally have been based on this concept.

In Mrs. Bell's case, the Supreme Court held that the bus driver was not negligent at all, and therefore Mrs. Bell is not entitled to recover damages for her injuries from the driver, his employer or his insurer. In the other case to which you refer, judgment was given by consent, which, of course, implies an acknowledgment that the defendant driver either was or might be held guilty of negligence, notwithstanding that negligence had been officially denied. A settlement was therefore effected.

If the Government, the Trust or its insurers should now compensate Mrs. Bell, a precedent would be set for acceptance of absolute liability in the ordinary accident case without proof of fault. You will appreciate that if compensation is paid to Mrs. Bell, similar concessions should be made to all accident victims who are unable to recover damages through the courts. You will appreciate that this cannot be done in this State without funds being provided for the purpose. No such funds have been provided, and not even the wealthy States and countries have yet found a way in which to make such funds available. Our State would be penalised by the Grants Commission if and to the extent that it should provide funds for the purpose mentioned.

I am sorry indeed for Mrs. Bell in her misfortune and regret that there is no action which the Government may properly take to pay her compensation.

Yours sincerely,
ARTHUR F. GRIFFITH.
Minister for Justice.

I feel there has been no justice in the treatment given by the Government to this paying passenger, and I consider the least the Government could have done was to offer her an *ex gratia* payment in order that she could pay her legal and medical expenses, and the expenses of the people who helped her to keep her business going at the time. She has since lost this business as a consequence of the accident, for which she was not responsible.

I think the Government should at the earliest opportunity introduce legislation to protect paying passengers; but, the fact that the Government has paid another paying passenger the sum of £2,168—and the case was almost identical—shows that the Government is preferring one passenger to another. To that extent I think this woman has received rank injustice, and I hope the Minister for Justice and the Government will, even at this late stage, review this case to see that at least her actual out-of-pocket expenses are paid and that the people who tried to help her with legal and medical attention, are compensated.

I wanted to touch on that case whilst I had the opportunity, because I felt it required ventilating here. There could be other members who have similar cases, and it is just as well to know how the Government is acting in regard to them.

I want to get on to another matter which, in some respects, has been treated in a similar way to the case I have just mentioned, and this is a matter of resumption of property. We all know that property-owners in the metropolitan area are paying a regional tax to enable certain properties to be resumed under the metropolitan regional plan. Recently I had a case referred to the metropolitan regional planning authorities regarding a couple who, because of health reasons, desired to vacate their property which the town planning people want to resume eventually for town planning purposes. I referred the case to the board and was told that the town planning authorities might not want to use the property for another 15 years and therefore they were not prepared to buy it at the present time. They concluded by saying that the owners could sell it if they could get a buyer.

One can imagine how difficult it would be for people to sell properties under those circumstances, when the general public, and particularly the local residents, know that the town planning authorities have planned the area for highway purposes and that construction will begin in 10 or 12 years' time. In cases like this greater consideration should be given to those involved. I have read lists in this Chamber of wealthy companies being paid huge sums of money because their properties have been resumed for an extension of the Mitchell Freeway. Yet here is a case where a humble couple on the pension have asked the metropolitan planning authorities to pay for their property; and they are told that as it will not be required for 15 years that cannot be done but they can sell it if they can get a buyer.

I do not think that is a fair way to deal with elderly people, whether they are living in my electorate or in some other electorate. In my view they are entitled to more consideration than that and I

hope that the town planning authorities will in the future adopt a more humane attitude in cases like this. Preference should be shown to elderly couples on the pension who for health reasons want to move away from their present locality, where there is a blanket on the area because of town planning requirements. I hope that as a result of my raising the matter here someone in one or other of the departments will do something about it.

At the risk of being held up to ridicule I want to have a few words to say about the traffic slaughter on our roads. Along with everybody else I view with alarm the terrific loss of life through traffic accidents. In this morning's paper, as members can read for themselves—I do not intend to quote from the newspaper because apparently the Speaker frowns on that being done at length—a correspondent was attacking people who were responsible for the issuing of traffic or safety first slogans. He took them to task for it and said that he felt they were not doing the job which they purported to be doing to minimise traffic accidents.

I could quote the remarks which are reported in the paper but I do not want to do that. However, I think we could take some cognisance of what other countries are doing to reduce the road toll. I read in a Guildford-Bassendean newspaper last week that in America the traffic authorities paint certain police traffic motor vehicles with a distinctive colour and those vehicles move around the metropolitan area as a warning to motor vehicle drivers that if they break the law they can be taken to court and prosecuted for it. In a way that could be unique; and, as I said, although I do not want to be held up to ridicule, I wish to make a suggestion which I think would help to reduce breaches of the traffic laws.

I hope the Minister for Police is listening because I think it is of considerable interest. My suggestion is that we have erected in the metropolitan and country areas 500 to 1,000 semi-silent cops. By that I mean we should erect figures to represent policemen on motor cycles. This could be done in areas where accidents are occurring. Several members have recently asked questions of the Minister about what is being done to warn people that they are committing breaches, instead of waiting until they commit them, and then prosecuting them for it. I have seen policemen under the Mt. Lawley subway, night after night, waiting to catch somebody breaching the traffic laws. When they see this happen they take the names and the people concerned are prosecuted. Instead of doing that, these policemen could have been on the other side of the subway riding around and showing themselves and giving the public a chance to do the right thing. But no, the department prefers to see the

public commit breaches and then it goes through with all this red tape and prosecutes instead of warning them.

My idea of the semi-silent cop would be to have a real live policeman at these points every now and again, instead of the silent cop, and in that way the public would not know whether they were passing a semi-silent cop or a live policeman who could show himself and do something if people were breaking the traffic laws.

Those members who have driven into Busselton along the Perth-Busselton road will have seen in front of one of the garages on the lefthand side a figure of a policeman sitting on a motor bike. I venture the opinion that 99 out of every 100 drivers driving into Busselton for the first time, and seeing that policeman, would immediately slow down. Their conscience pricks them whether they are breaking the law or not. The figure is very lifelike and the same sort of thing could be used if my suggestion were adopted.

Mr. Lewis: You know what they do to scarecrows.

Mr. BRADY: I do not know what they do to them; but if it is good enough to use this scheme in America—and apparently it works quite well there—of having vehicles specially painted and moving around the heavily populated areas, it is good enough to give my suggestion a trial here. I realise I could be the subject of ridicule because of it but I think it could receive some attention and it is worth trying in an effort to reduce the slaughter on our roads. It is no joke to refer to scarecrows and I am mentioning this matter seriously in the hope that something will be done. It is all very well for the Minister for Education to interject like that.

Mr. Lewis: It is after they leave school that they cause trouble.

Mr. BRADY: If the idea of the semi-silent cop had the effect of reducing the toll, even to the extent of saving only one or two lives in a year, it would be well worth adopting. It might have the effect of making the general public realise the value of not breaking the traffic regulations. I commend the suggestion to the Minister because even if it proved to be a failure it would be worth a trial.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Mitchell): The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr. BRADY: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman. There are many other matters on which I could speak but I shall leave those until I speak to the Loan Estimates. I hope that some of the matters I have raised this afternoon respecting my electorate will be given some consideration by the Government. I am pleased to be able to report that although I complained during the Address-in-Reply debate that it

seemed a waste of time to speak on such occasions, I received a letter from a departmental head about a month after I made the speech, setting out in detail what was being done by his department to deal with the matters I had raised.

However, the point I want to raise is that this officer did not read my remarks in *Hansard*; he did not hear them in this Chamber; and they were not referred to him by the Minister in charge of his department; he read them in the eastern suburbs supplement of *The West Australian*. I do not think it is right that departmental heads should have to obtain information from that source. Ministers in the other House get departmental heads, occasionally, to read members' speeches, and I think the same should apply in this Chamber. Departmental heads should be asked to read members' speeches on the Address-in-Reply and the Estimates, and members should be given some information from time to time in regard to what is happening about the important matters that they bring forward.

MR. RUSHTON (Dale) [4.56 p.m.]: I wish to add a few thoughts to the debate, and as I am the most recent member to be elected to this Chamber I wish to make the comment that I appreciate the courtesy and kindness that has been extended to me during my short stay here. I made the comment before I entered the Chamber that I was fully aware of the tremendous efforts of the Premier and his Ministers to make themselves conversant with the problems confronting the State. Being close at hand, and having observed their work, I can only say I am not surprised with the results I have been able to achieve through them on behalf of my electorate.

While I am commenting on my own electorate particularly, I am also more than favourably impressed with the results that the Premier and his Ministers have achieved on behalf of the State generally. In today's issue of the *Daily News* there was a comment about the Premier visiting Kwinana on the issue of the beaches in that area. That comment was not quite correct and I wish to take this opportunity of mentioning that I and Mr. Abbey, M.L.C., will also be in attendance at Kwinana to look with interest at the issues involved down there in relation to beaches generally and to Rockingham and Safety Bay in particular because they are in our electorates.

I should now like to discuss the question of education and I shall run generally through some of the items that have been attended to in the few months since I have been in this Chamber. Since I have been elected I have received considerable courtesy from the Education Department and a good deal of assistance in having practical results achieved throughout my electorate. We have every hope of having

a new school built in the following year in Karragullen. It is urgently needed and it is to be hoped that it will be built then.

Prior to my coming here, and since I have been here, I have been impressed with the great upsurge in interest and in what is being achieved in the schools throughout the electorate. I shall not name them all but in each school in my electorate something has been done—something of considerable magnitude. More importantly, I suppose, has been the will and enthusiasm which has been instilled into the teaching staffs, and I wish to pay a compliment to the teachers for the results they are achieving. No doubt this practical approach to education which we are seeing in the Estimates before us has brought confidence to our teaching staff, because they know they have not got to wait years before they receive an answer to their prayers concerning things which they feel they need.

The Government must feel great satisfaction in what it sees before it, certainly in the will that is being shown and the tremendous effort that is being made by the teaching staff. Naturally I go through my electorate with my eyes open, and I do have one comment to make to the Minister for Education. I wonder whether it would not be worth while in a very large school to appoint an administrator. I see a headmaster engaged in administration as something of a loss, because of his academic training. From the Treasurer's point of view it is possible that we might see some reduction in the cost of running these schools, because I think that a headmaster with tremendous academic qualifications must be very expensive to train and bring to the pitch required of an administrator.

Mr. Jamieson: What do the teachers think about this?

Mr. RUSHTON: These are my own personal comments. I think the senior teachers see great credit in the suggestion.

Mr. Brand: Who would be the boss?

Mr. RUSHTON: The teaching staff generally feel it is frustrating to engage in matters which are really not in their line. There would be no restriction on the headmaster of a school with 1,500 pupils if there were an administrator looking after things for which he himself may not have the aptitude. So I make this suggestion to the Minister for Education as something worth considering. I have not gone into the matter in great detail, but I have discussed it with numerous teachers, and they also see great credit in the suggestion.

When I was first elected I had a pressing problem before me, and many of my electors were worried in regard to the winter that was near at hand. I feel this is the appropriate time to pay great credit to the Minister for Works, to the manager of the Metropolitan Water Board, to the

Chief Engineer, and to the drainage engineers, for the consideration they have shown in relation to the flooding that could have eventuated from the overflow of the Serpentine Dam.

Their action has certainly impressed me and made me feel that if this could have been achieved in my electorate in the very few months that I have been here then there is every reason for confidence that other matters of substance could also be solved; possibly not today, but in due course, I feel sure they would consider any issue that might arise, and I have been delighted with the results that have been achieved in my own electorate.

The farmers who are handy to the Serpentine River have certainly expressed their gratitude, because they felt they had a most worrying time ahead of them as a result of their fears that they might lose production. If members had studied the papers as I have throughout the winter season, they would appreciate with what great skill these engineers have manipulated the overflow at the Serpentine. As a matter of fact, we rarely saw it totally filled, and to me this has been a wonderful experience.

In the coming year further development is to take place in the Baldivas area in the way of normal drainage. But we are looking forward to future years when possibly man-made manipulation will not be able to cope with the overflow, and we trust that the drainage that is to take place will provide great relief to the many farmers in the area. In the next month or so I have every intention to travel through these parts to get further acquainted with the problem.

In and adjacent to Armadale we have a very worthy trotting track. My predecessor and I have requested the Chief Secretary to give further consideration to this matter. We see it as a means of decentralisation of business, if we could call it that; and whilst we do not expect quick results we feel that a gradual upgrading of this course could be of some benefit to the public generally in that area and to the sporting activities as a whole.

In this area there is considerable room for the training and paddocking of horses, and now would be the appropriate time for the planning of this horse-track area. Accordingly, I commend that for the further consideration of the Chief Secretary, and trust that the upgrading of this course will be carried out.

Prior to my entering into Parliament consideration was given to the reticulation of water in the Jarrahdale area, and I am pleased to say that some results have been achieved, though they are relatively minor when one considers the full job ahead. Because this area is situated in the Metropolitan Water Board area there are certain

difficulties relating to the economic running of the reticulation system. Most members would be aware that in Jarrahdale there is great production of timber; that the bauxite industry is progressing at an ever-increasing rate; and that the agricultural output has been tremendous over the years past.

It will be my earnest endeavour to see whether ways and means cannot be found to bring the level of amenities in the town of Jarrahdale to that of amenities enjoyed in other parts of our State. Given time I am sure this will eventuate, but there are many problems, and at the moment I think the company that is running the timber mills seems to have considerable confidence in its future milling operations in that area. I feel it is the desire of that company to see that its employees enjoy all the standards of living that are evident in other parts of the State.

Any address on the Estimates by me would not be complete if I did not mention the rapid transport system which we look forward to seeing established in due course. I say that, because we must first see the trial periods of the Midland issue completed. But in part of my electorate—in the Serpentine-Jarrahdale and the Armadale-Keimscott area—we are looking forward with great interest to the establishment of this rapid transport system. Naturally, it is our desire that the terminal to be situated on this line be established as far on as it can be, and we hope that the town planners will give what we feel is logical consideration to the densification and to the urban aspect in this area, so that we can see the economic utilisation of our services. This also has the added attraction of assisting decentralisation. If we could convert people to train travel in Western Australia it would ensure that the city developed on better lines.

It is with great interest that I have read, in recent times, the various problems related to the preservation of our native flora. The comments I have to make on this issue are, I feel, in all our minds. We all wish to see the maximum protection of our natural flora, but we also recognise the need for the development that is taking place. We realise that allowance must be made for the installation of the various services required.

I am one who delights in our natural flora, and it pains me to see any tree or flower removed in any way that I feel is unnecessary. But we have all read and heard the great concern that has been expressed about this issue, and I would like to suggest to the Minister for Forests a practical solution of the problem—one which would bring results.

It is some time now since I have driven from Walpole to Manjimup, but it would grieve me no end to see removed, for the

installation of power lines, etc., the beautiful stands of trees created along our roads. I would suggest to the Minister, therefore, that a body be appointed to look after this matter. We have the road safety organisation which educates people on road safety problems generally. One that I know a considerable amount about, and have practical knowledge of, is the Metropolitan Region Town Planning group. A similar organisation could be used to educate people or to consult with the engineers, and anybody else who might be taking part in the unnecessary removal of flora. They could provide the necessary advice, obtain the benefit of world-wide knowledge, and mention the best way to achieve results. It would be of great advantage to appoint a voluntary organisation consisting of technical men, departmental officers, and members of the Tree Society and of local authorities.

As a matter of fact, when the Minister was mentioning the land allocation board, it occurred to me that here was a practical solution to the problem. Something along these lines would be very worth while before any great removal of our flora took place. These interested bodies would consider the matters at hand, and make any suggestions necessary to the S.E.C. in relation to the placing of power lines underground or through paddocks. The local government representatives would specialise in their own field, and make a very valuable contribution to the solution of this problem. So though this suggestion is in very general terms, I would commend it to the Minister for Forests.

In concluding my comments, I would add the thought that I am looking forward to a very full life in this activity of ours. I have certainly enjoyed the friendship of all members of the Assembly, and I have been most impressed in the manner—small though it might be—that I have been able to obtain assistance for the electorate in the few months that I have been here.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again on motion by Mr. Tonkin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition).

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. CRAIG (Toodyay—Minister for Police) [5.17 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that you will agree the subject of weights and measures is one of a highly technical nature so, with your permission, I will refer to these notes from time to time.

Mr. Brand: He will look up every now and again.

MR. CRAIG: The Commonwealth Government by the Weights and Measures (National Standards Act, 1948) which was subsequently repealed by the Weights and Measures (National Standards Act, 1960) has legislated to provide for the establishment and use throughout Australia of uniform units of measurement, and uniform standards of measurement of physical quantities, and thereunder the individual State standards which are in existence throughout Australia will be replaced by the Commonwealth standards. Members will recall that we have what we call our own State standards of measurement, but now, as I have just explained, this will be replaced by the Commonwealth standards.

In anticipation of this change, steps were taken in this State to facilitate its progress by passing the weights and measures amending Act of 1958, to which assent was given on the 11th November, 1958, and it was proclaimed to come into force on the 16th August, 1963.

The Commonwealth Government has made available to this State, sets of standards of the avoirdupois and metric series which are to become State standards in the substitution of those now deposited at the Treasury.

The gift of the new Commonwealth standards has been made to this State and, the 1st January, 1966, has been set down as the date in which the Commonwealth Weights and Measures (National Standards) Act will become operative.

It is essential that the new standards be available to permit the subsidiary standards of this State to be calibrated in relation to them. This is possibly one of the main purposes of the Bill. We have to legislate on these lines so that we can accept the Commonwealth standards.

Ministerial discussions over the past two years between the Commonwealth and State weights and measures authorities have reached unification on the weighing and measuring practices which are to be adopted.

These discussions have essentially centred around defining and proclaiming of the following:—

All units of measurement.

That would include avoirdupois and metric standards of measurement.

The provisions of standards of measurement.

Approving of patterns of weighing and measuring instruments.

The verification of such instruments.

At the conference of Federal and State Ministers in Canberra on the 23rd of June this year—to my knowledge there have been many such conferences over the past

three years—the Ministers gave an undertaking that necessary complementary legislation would be introduced to become effective on the 1st January, 1966. Our legislation would then be uniform with both the Commonwealth and all of the other States.

The Bill I am now commending to the House will include provision to bring about uniform legislation and to adopt the grades of standards in Western Australia similar to those in the other States. These grades are, firstly, primary State standards, which are the ones that will be donated by the Commonwealth; secondly, secondary State standards, which are the original standards held by the States; thirdly, tertiary State standards, which are intermediate standards used by departments; and fourthly, the inspectors' standards, which, of course, are the standards used by the inspectors.

The Bill also provides for standards to be verified in accordance with the Commonwealth Act and also that they shall not be so used unless verified.

Provision is also made in the Bill to empower regulations to be made for the uniform code for the marking and standardisation of packaged goods which was also agreed to by the Ministers in conference.

Although provision is being made in this Bill for the uniform packaging code, it has been agreed by the Ministers that the regulations will not come into effect until the 1st January, 1967. It is considered that legislative power to make regulations in the code should be included in this Bill.

This was one of the matters on which finality between the States could not be reached—even now it has not been reached—but I might say practically the whole of what we refer to as the uniform code has been adopted in principle by all of the States. There are one or two matters that still have to be finalised. This uniform code has been drawn up by the technical officers of all the States; and all parties involved in its adoption have been consulted. Our own Western Australian Chamber of Manufactures has taken a leading part so far as the expression of this State's views towards various features of the code are concerned. As I have said, it is a matter which has presented some difficulty, but I am pleased to know the stage is being reached when we trust it will be possible to adopt it in its entirety by the 1st January, 1967.

I have here a copy of the proposed uniform code dealing with the various features so far as describing the marking of packages of goods is concerned. We know considerable reference has been made, from time to time, about the deception shown to the public by "super duper" sizes of various packaged goods; and under the

code, it is proposed that the net contents of a package will be clearly marked and the markings will be of a size commensurate with the size of the package. These are some of the features that have yet to be decided upon, but I feel sure this will be so.

The administration of the Weights and Measures Act has been changed from the Police Department to the Department of Labour with effect from the 1st July, 1965, and amendments to provide for this change are included in the Bill. I feel sure my colleague, the Minister for Labour, will indeed be pleased to assume the responsibility of this particular function.

Previously the standard weights of the State had to be deposited with the Under Treasurer. This has always been an inconvenience both to the Treasury and to the Weights and Measures Department.

With the approval of the Treasury, it is proposed to house the standards under a proper security within the Weights and Measures Department itself in the future.

Provision is also made in the Bill for the sale of goods by the metric system of weighing as an alternative to the *avoirdupois* system. This is being done at the request of the Prime Minister's Department to achieve greater uniformity of legislation.

It does not mean we are adopting the metric system of weighing with the passage of this Bill, but like the decimal currency change, the question of the metric system will be under consideration by the Commonwealth as it is, at the present time, under consideration by the United Kingdom. Therefore an opportunity is being taken to amend our present Act to enable the metric system to be employed where necessary. In this matter, too, the Commonwealth is supplying the standards of metric measurement.

We have already adopted this system of weighing with pharmaceutical lines. However, as I said, it is an alternative.

Provision is also to be made for the insertion of the "Short Ton" and the "Cental" in place of the "Customary Ton" and the "Hundred Pounds" as now shown in our legislation. This, of course, refers only to milled products of grain, such as flour and the like.

Provision is also made to provide that the weight indications on machines—that is, weighing machines—can be easily seen by the purchaser. This, I feel sure, will offer a safeguard to the customer.

A fixed weighing or measuring instrument must be verified *in situ*; and provision is now being made for the situation where that weighing instrument, if removed to another site, is to be reverified. This is because removal affects the accuracy of a weighing machine.

Previously fees were prescribed by the Act. It is proposed to delete the schedule from the Act and allow fees to be fixed by regulation.

The new Bill provides for penalties of £20 previously fixed in 1915, to be increased to 1965 thinking. The penalties are being increased to £50 as it is felt that a maximum penalty of £20 is insufficient to act as a deterrent in certain cases. Of course, I have this in mind as an additional precaution for the customer.

Provision is also to be made in the regulation-making section allowing the Governor to make regulations to provide for the inclusion of "Petroleum product measuring instrument repairers." Previously, this classification of employee was not provided in the Act and the large companies today have these instrument repairers constantly attending to petrol pumps throughout the State. The function of this type of inspector would be restricted entirely to petroleum product measuring instruments. It is recommended in the Bill that these employees should be licensed similar to instrument scale repairers.

Finally, the existing schedule "A" attached to the Act is being deleted and a new schedule "A", which is that being adopted by the Commonwealth and all of the States, is being inserted. This schedule sets out the denomination of the standard and the maximum range within which values can be determined for verification and reverification.

Provision is also made for the Governor by Order-in-Council to amend schedule "A" to effect any alteration in tolerances which may be agreed by the Commonwealth and the States. The proposed schedule, of course, stipulates the tolerance that will be allowed.

That sums up the provisions in this Bill. Its main provisions are to enable us to accept the gift of the Commonwealth of the new standards both in the metric and the avoirdupois system. It also includes several provisions which give a greater degree of protection to the public, and also enables us to adopt a uniform packaging code. I will make a copy of this code available to the honourable member who takes the adjournment of this debate.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Norton.

BILLS (8): ASSENT

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:—

1. Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act Amendment Bill.
2. Bread Act Amendment Bill.
3. Jetties Act Amendment Bill.
4. Plant Diseases Act Amendment Bill.
5. Local Government Act Amendment Bill.

6. Builders' Registration Act Amendment Bill.
7. Rural and Industries Bank Act Amendment Bill.
8. Laporte Industrial Factory Agreement Act Amendment Bill.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Council's Message

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had disagreed to the amendments made by the Assembly.

FISHERIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Council's Message

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Assembly.

House adjourned at 5.33 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 26th October, 1965

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