

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: With respect, Sir, I submit that the matter which should come before you is a ruling as to whether this Bill is in order to be proceeded with without a Message; without having with it an explanation why an honourable member of this Chamber does not think it competent for the Bill to be proceeded with. This is a matter for you to decide.

The PRESIDENT: I was allowing Mr. Wise to make his point, because it is possible that we could proceed immediately. So I would ask Mr. Wise to make his point and permit me to make a determination. I will find any references that may be necessary.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Without elaboration, may I respectfully draw your attention, Sir, to page 713 of the Seventeenth Edition of Erskine May's *Parliamentary Practice*, particularly to the first page of the chapter dealing with the scope of financial procedure, and charges upon the public revenue.

Might I further comment on the points I wish to raise to enable you, Sir, to consider this matter? In doing so, I draw your attention to page 782 of the same edition in which appear the words—

The following examples may be given of such charges which require the Queen's recommendations.

- (2) Contingent or prospective charges on the Consolidated Fund (such as might arise from a Treasury guarantee).

Therefore, in the light of the words "such as might arise from a Treasury guarantee" having application to clause 13 of the Bill, I seek your ruling.

The PRESIDENT: It is my intention to give a decision on the request made by Mr. Wise for a ruling on whether this Bill is in order at the next day of sitting. Standing Order 402 provides that all questions of order which have arisen since the last sitting of the Council shall, until decided, be given precedence over any other question appearing on the notice paper. Therefore, I propose, at the next day of sitting, to give my determination on the question that has been raised.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [8.50 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 20th September.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 8.51 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 14th September, 1966

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

QUESTIONS (14): ON NOTICE

POINT SAMSON JETTY

Maintenance Programme

1. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Works:

What is the maintenance programme for the Point Samson jetty for the current financial year?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

The completion of repairs to the head of the jetty, which was damaged during cyclone "Shirley." Included in this work is the replacement of 11 timber piles.

The routine maintenance of the neck of the jetty, together with the associated shore works, and the maintenance of plant connected with port operations. Included in this work is the replacement of 40 piles.

MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Visit to Rotterdam

2. Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

- (1) Is the purpose of Industrial Development Minister Court's visit to Europe, for which he left Perth on Friday last, to enable him to give a paper at an international management congress at Rotterdam?
- (2) Under whose auspices is the congress being held?
- (3) Does the visit involve the State in any expenditure?
- (4) If "Yes," what is the estimated amount?
- (5) Will copies of the Minister's paper be available in Western Australia?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Yes, as well as following up industrial development opportunities in England, Holland, and West Germany.
- (2) C.I.O.S. The name is derived from the initials of Congress International Organisation Scientific, which is commonly known as the International Management Congress.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Fares — \$1,850; accommodation and incidentals—\$1,000 approximately.
- (5) Yes, copies can be made available.

VICTORIA DAM

Utilisation of Bickley Catchment Area

3. Mr. DUNN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Has a final decision been made to utilise the upper and lower Bickley catchment area as a supplementary area for the Victoria Dam?
- (2) If so, what number of properties are affected?
- (3) Was any action taken to advise the people on whose properties "Water Catchment Pollution Signs" were recently erected; if so, what are the particulars of such action?
- (4) Does the erection of these signs mean that all work or improvements (which could be interpreted as causing pollution, e.g., the application of manures or running of stock) on these properties must cease forthwith?
- (5) In the event of the Metropolitan Water Board being requested to resume any property or properties in these catchment areas, what is the anticipated time within which settlement could be expected?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No, but present planning is for a dam to be built on Bickley Brook below the confluence of Munday Brook.
- (2) The actual number is not known. However, all properties on the proclaimed catchment above the confluence are affected.
- (3) No. As far as can be ascertained the signs recently erected are on Crown land.
- (4) No; the matter is covered by the board's by-laws.
- (5) Resumption is not contemplated. The present policy is to negotiate purchase. Settlement is effected as soon as possible.

POINT SAMSON

Provision of Reticulated Water Supply

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

Will he supply latest details concerning a permanent reticulated water supply for Point Samson?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

The possibility of providing a permanent reticulated water supply for Point Samson by desalination of sea water or from underground sources in the vicinity of Roebourne has been investigated. In view of the high cost and the uncertain future of the port, no firm decision has been taken at this stage.

NURSES

Special Training Scheme

5. Dr. HENN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

In *The West Australian* of the 8th September, 1966, under the heading "Few Seek Nursing Training," the Minister is reported as saying—

- (a) that the Medical Department had hoped to attract certain types of women to study for a long term career, with the possibility of higher posts in the nursing profession;
 - (b) that a number of inquiries had been received but in many cases the qualifications of the applicants were not of the required standard.
- (1) How many women over 21 years of age have applied for this special nursing training (with special rates of pay)?
 - (2) How long has the scheme been in operation?
 - (3) What are the qualifications required for this special training?

- (4) How many of the total have been rejected because they did not have the required educational standard?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Two so far, although a large number of enquiries have been received.
 (2) Approximately three months.
 (3) Minimum educational qualifications:

Third-year high school certificate of the Education Department of W.A. with passes in—

English;
 and either Arithmetic,
 Maths A or Elementary
 Maths;
 and either History, Geo-
 graphy, Social Studies
 A or Social Studies B;
 and two other subjects.

—or—

Such other qualification acceptable to the Nurses' Registration Board as an equivalent or higher qualification.

- (4) None, although four have been advised to undertake further education designed to bring them up to the required standard.

OMBUDSMAN

Appointment in Western Australia

6. Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware it has been reported that the Victorian Employers' Federation has renewed its plea for the appointment of a State ombudsman?
 (2) Does he concur in the view expressed in the federation's weekly newsletter that "It is fundamental to our free enterprise society that the rights of the individual should be adequately protected against a growing bureaucracy"?
 (3) Is it correct that an announcement has been made of the intention of the Government of New South Wales to appoint an ombudsman?
 (4) Will he ask Parliament to legislate for the appointment of an ombudsman in Western Australia?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) to (4) The appointment of an ombudsman has been discussed by this Parliament and has been rejected. In any case, the Government does not agree that such an appointment is necessary in Western Australia. However, the Government will continue to watch any developments within Australia and in other countries.

FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

Pyorrhoea: Scientific Authority for Statement by Minister for Health

7. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Did he say at a graduation ceremony at the Perth Dental Hospital on the 8th September that, "If the Bill providing for the fluoridation of water supplies were passed by the present session of the State Parliament, many trainee nurses now attending the Perth Dental Hospital might see victory over dental decay and the virtual elimination of pyorrhoea"?
 (2) Has this statement in its reference to the fluoridation of water supplies bringing about "the virtual elimination of pyorrhoea" any scientific basis whatever?
 (3) If "Yes", will he give the curriculum vitae concerning his authority?
 (4) Does he regard Professor Sigurd Ramfjord, professor of periodontics in the School of Dentistry, University of Michigan, as an authority whose opinion of pyorrhoea would have to be respected?
 (5) Is he aware that speaking on A.B.C. radio last month Professor Ramfjord said, "We do not have the same advantage in the treatment of gum disease that we have in caries prevention." "The addition of fluoride to drinking water can give at least a 50 per cent. reduction in cavities in a completely safe way but there is nothing you can add to the water to prevent gum disease"?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) to (3) Not in this form. The section of the speech reported to the honourable member apparently reached him in a somewhat garbled form. The section to which the honourable member is probably referring reads as follows:—

We are on the point of a complete change in dental care. This, of course, you also know. If our methods are successful you will no longer have to be faced with the mutilated and distorted mouths which are so often your lot to handle. A few years from now you will be extremely busy in a completely different class of dentistry and, who knows, many of you here may live to see the day when, through dental education, further scientific research, added to the fluori-

dation of water supplies, we will see not only a victory over dental decay, which will in itself give people good teeth into middle age, but a victory over pyorrhoea which will ensure them a release from dental crutches until the end of their days.

(4) Yes.

(5) Yes.

T.A.B. BETTING TICKETS

Erroneous Issue: Policy on Losing Bets

8. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

(1) Have there been any instances since the establishment of the T.A.B. when losing tickets have been wrongly machined and refused by the bettor and through inadvertence were not cancelled before the running of the event and the board has directed that such tickets be subsequently cancelled and the amount of the stake and investment tax were recouped to agents?

(2) If "Yes", will he give particulars of the number of instances, the amount involved, and the agency numbers?

(3) If "No", will he explain why the board keeps the stake and investment tax in some instances and in at least one instance is prepared to refund the money although in every such case it is not a bet under the Betting Control Act because of the board's ruling that in no circumstances will the bet be paid?

(4) Have there been any instances where tickets relating to bets "through the board" were machined in error and not cancelled prior to the event and the board collected a winning dividend from a racing club and refused to pay it to an agent who provided the stake and the tax?

(5) What valid reason is there why an agent or employee of the T.A.B. who is responsible for the issuing of tickets in respect of wagers made with the board should be treated differently, in connection with tickets machined in error, to persons employed selling tickets from windows of course totalisators?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) No records have been kept from which the particulars sought can be given.

(3) Answered by (1).

(4) From recollection, there has never been such an instance.

(5) I am not aware as to how persons employed selling tickets from windows of on-course totalisators are treated under such circumstances.

LAND AT NORSEMAN AND SALMON GUMS

Agreement with Western Australian Development Corporation

9. Mr. MOIR asked the Premier:

(1) Has the Government reached agreement with the Western Australian Development Corporation in its application for the right to study and carry out research into the practicability or otherwise of utilising land east of Norseman and Salmon Gums for agricultural or pastoral purposes?

(2) What rights had the Government previously granted to the corporation for this purpose?

(3) Will he detail the current proposals of the corporation to the Government regarding this land?

(4) If the Government has not yet reached an agreement, when can this be expected?

Mr. BRAND replied:

(1) No.

(2) None.

(3) Answered by (1).

(4) Discussions are continuing.

MAIN STREET-SCARBOROUGH BEACH ROAD INTERSECTION

Median Strip: Effect on Mr. Vinciullo's Store

10. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Traffic:

(1) What is the nearest practicable route for vehicles travelling east along Scarborough Beach Road to take in order to reach Mr. S. Vinciullo's store at the corner of Scarborough Beach Road and Brady Street?

(2) What extra distance is involved by the construction of the median strip, about 130 yards long, immediately east of the junction of Main Street and Scarborough Beach Road?

(3) Is he aware that the construction of the median strip referred to is adversely affecting Mr. Vinciullo's business?

(4) Is it practicable or possible to modify this traffic control scheme for the locality to enable vehicles to conveniently approach the junction of Brady Street and Scarborough Beach Road?

(5) If "No," can he suggest any redress for Mr. Vinciullo?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) A right turn into Jugan Street from Scarborough Beach Road, then a left turn into Gibney Avenue, followed by a left turn into Brady Street.
- (2) 500 feet.
- (3) No. The slight inconvenience is for eastbound vehicular traffic in Scarborough Beach Road only. All other vehicular traffic movements to Mr. Vinciullo's business are unaffected by the channelisation.
- (4) Not without seriously affecting the efficiency and the designed safety of the channelisation treatment.
- (5) No.

TOURISM

Promotion of Coolgardie: Survey by Malcolm Uren

11. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Tourists:

In the *Kalgoorlie Miner* newspaper of the 9th September, 1966, he is quoted as expressing approval of a scheme propounded by a journalist, Malcolm Uren, which placed Coolgardie as the focal point for tourist attraction. The article further stated that Mr. Uren had carried out the feasibility study at the request of the Tourist Development Authority—

- (1) Will he state what special qualifications and knowledge of tourism Mr. Uren possesses which would enable him to give an informed opinion?
- (2) Is the Tourist Development Authority unable to avail itself of the services of a qualified officer within the Department for this type of survey or obtain the services of a suitable officer from another Government department?
- (3) Were the services of Mr. Uren given in an honorary capacity?
- (4) If not, what was the remuneration paid to him for the survey?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) and (2) The Tourist Development Authority has for some time been considering the best means by which the eastern goldfields might be developed as a tourist area, including the preservation of a suitable mining ghost town. To assess the possibilities of a successful project, the authority felt it necessary to research the history of the goldfields and to ascertain the availability and the probable tourist value of places, buildings, and relics of historical

interest. The authority felt that, before committing itself to a decision which could involve substantial expenditure, it would be prudent to allocate a sum for an exhaustive investigation. It knew of no suitably qualified Government officer who could be released from his normal duties for the required time, and Mr. Uren, by virtue of his wide knowledge and experience in the field of Western Australian historical research, was considered eminently suitable for the task. Mr. Uren devoted a great deal of time to his assignment, including a period at Coolgardie. His recommendations were endorsed by the authority and received enthusiastic and unanimous support at a well-attended meeting held in Kalgoorlie on the 8th September, 1966, to which local members of Parliament, local authorities, interested organisations and individuals were invited.

- (3) No.

- (4) \$1,000, including travelling and other expenses.

BEACON TOWNSITE

Survey and Redesign

12. Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) What is the reason for the delay in completing the survey and redesign of the Beacon townsite?
- (2) When is it anticipated—
 - (a) that this matter will be completed;
 - (b) that an auction of townsite blocks, particularly industrial and commercial sites, will take place?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Instructions for the first stage of the survey and redesign of Beacon townsite were issued in February, 1966. Three survey plans have been drawn for the 97 lots involved in this subdivision and are now ready for examination of survey. It is considered that no undue delay has taken place regarding this subdivision because of survey work involved.
- (2) (a) It is anticipated that the completion of the examination of survey and the closing of the necessary roads will take approximately three months.
- (b) Early 1967.

CROSSWALKS

Installation of Sodium Lighting

13. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Traffic:

- (1) What progress has been made in extending the lighting of pedes-

trian crossings by sodium coloured illumination?

- (2) What authorities will meet or share the cost of installation of such lighting?
- (3) Can the pedestrian crossing—
 - (a) across Albany Highway at Duncan Street, and
 - (b) across Great Eastern Highway outside Rivervale Hotel,
 be given priority in any work to be done?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) The six sodium floodlights installed in Stirling Highway are experimental and are under observation.
- (2) The Main Roads Department has paid for the installation of such lighting in Stirling Highway. The apportioning of costs of future installations has yet to be decided.
- (3) No programme has been prepared for the extension of sodium lighting, but these crossings will be considered when a programme is being drawn up.

14. *This question was postponed.*

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE ANSWERS TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Inaccurate Newspaper Report

Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Works:

As Works Minister Wild is twice reported in this morning's south suburban supplement of *The West Australian* as answering questions in this Parliament recently, could the present Minister tell us whether he is properly appointed, or whether Mr. Wild still exercises some influence in the department; or can the Minister tell us whether the word "Wild" indicates the temperament of the Minister when answering questions? If this is so, does not he think it is carrying reporting accuracy too far?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

The answers in order are "Yes," "No," and where appropriate, "Yes."

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by Mr. May, leave of absence for four weeks granted to Mr. Fletcher (Fremantle) on the ground of urgent public business.

SWAN RIVER CONSERVATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Minister for Works), and transmitted to the Council.

PUBLIC WORKS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Report

Report of Committee adopted.

EASTERN GOLDFIELDS TRANSPORT BOARD ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 13th September.

MR. MOIR (Boulder-Eyre) [4.46 p.m.]: This Bill seeks to amend the principal Act which came into being in 1947 and enabled a board to be formed to take over from the tramway company which had conducted the tramway traffic in Kalgoorlie and Boulder for many years. The board in question had some initial problems, most of them being concerned with the changeover from the tramway system to the bus system. Since the company has been in operation it has given very good service over the years to the public of Kalgoorlie and Boulder. Like all transport systems in populated areas, however, the company has had its problems with the increasing amount of traffic with the introduction of the motorcar. Kalgoorlie and Boulder have also been faced with this problem.

The transport board handled the position very well, and from time to time it was given substantial assistance from the various Governments which have been in power since 1947. The principal assistance rendered to the board was a gift of buses, which may have become redundant in the metropolitan area. As I have said, however, a very good service was rendered to the towns of Kalgoorlie and Boulder.

When the Act first came into operation, we did not have the present legislation concerning local governing authorities; and, as members know, there has been a considerable change in regard to the districts which have been transformed into shires. For many years now the Kalgoorlie Road District, which is named in the Act, has been the Shire of Kalgoorlie and, of course, the reference in the present Act is not appropriate.

The Bill proposes to put that little matter right; and it also seeks to straighten out a small problem which came into being at the time of the takeover by the Eastern Goldfields Transport Board of the tramway company's rolling stock. I think it was in November that the members who were appointed and elected took over their duties.

We have the anomalous position where—

The SPEAKER: Order; There is too much talking in the Chamber.

Mr. MOIR: —a member of the shire district or municipal council for either Kalgoorlie or Boulder can be defeated at the May elections and still continue to represent those bodies on the transport

board for about six months. The Bill will rectify that position because it provides that the retiring members of the board will not continue to serve if they are defeated at the local authority elections in May. That is also a very good provision.

The Bill makes several alterations to the Act that will be of considerable benefit. Regarding auditing, accounts will be made up at a more appropriate time of the year than has been the practice in the past, even though it has always been carried out in accordance with the Act. This amendment will enable the financial year to coincide with the accepted time for these matters.

The transport board has had difficulty in running its system profitably. When I say "profitably," I mean, to cover expenses, because the board has never endeavoured to show a reasonable profit over and above working expenses. As I said before, the motorcar has taken a lot of people away from public transport; and, no doubt, this is the position in places other than Kalgoorlie and Boulder.

Again, the climate operates against the transport system, inasmuch as motorists proceeding from Kalgoorlie to Boulder or *vice versa* in the summertime are prone, on the way, to pick up passengers who are waiting for a bus. They do not charge these people. It is hard in the summertime on a very hot day to see women and children standing at the bus stop waiting for a bus to come along in, perhaps, 20 minutes' time, so it is quite a practice in Kalgoorlie and Boulder for motorists to pull up and offer these people a lift.

This is an admirable practice, but the transport board suffers because it is deprived of fares. However, I do not think anybody would want to do anything about that practice. Over the years it has been the general consensus of opinion on the goldfields that the transport board has done a remarkably good job. It should be said that the board could not have done the job it has done if it had not been for the actions, not only of this Government but the previous Labor Government, in making buses available to the board, from time to time, when its rolling stock was getting beyond repair or too expensive to repair.

The position has now been reached where the board wishes to purchase new buses; and here, let me say, the local authorities have agreed to be responsible for so much of the cost. The other day I received notification from the Premier's Department that the Municipality of Boulder had been granted permission to raise a loan of, I think, \$6,000, which would be put in the common pool for the purpose of purchasing new buses.

That money, in the ultimate, will be paid for by the ratepayers; but I think the ratepayers have a responsibility to shoulder some of the burden even though they may

not be passengers using the transport service. After all, even though the people may not use the service, they derive a benefit from it as they have the knowledge that it is there if they wish to avail themselves of it. With those few remarks I support the second reading of this Bill.

MR. BURT (Murchison) [4.55 p.m.]: I would like to add a few brief words in support of this Bill. As was said by the honourable member who has just resumed his seat, the main purposes of the Bill are, firstly, to change the date for the end of the financial year for the Eastern Goldfields Transport Board from the 30th November to the 30th June, which will also have a corresponding effect on the election of officers; and, secondly, to attend to one or two other matters.

It is interesting to note that over the years the transport board, although it has suffered some losses from its operations, has been in a fairly sound financial position and has been able to contribute in no small way recently to the purchase of six new Albion diesel buses.

The operating loss last year was \$11,800, half of which was borne by the Government and half by the three local authorities concerned—the Town of Kalgoorlie, the Shire of Kalgoorlie, and the Town of Boulder. I do not think that the board at any time has had new buses. When it was first established I think secondhand buses were supplied from the metropolitan area, and it is felt that with the provision of the new buses, the overall costs will be considerably lessened. It costs roughly about \$13,000 per annum to operate one of the old buses. That figure is for wages and spare parts; and spare parts alone account for half the amount. Therefore a great deal will be saved in the first few years with the operation of the new buses.

Two of the buses have already been delivered, and the remainder are to be delivered at regular intervals with the sixth and final bus expected on the 15th November next.

It is interesting to note that last year 713,000 passengers travelled on the Eastern Goldfields Transport Board buses—an average of 13,500 per week. Of this number, 318,000 were children. In addition, special trips for picnics and sporting events carried 55,000 children. So the board is providing an essential and worth-while service to the people of the goldfields, albeit it is up against great competition from private vehicles, as is the case with public transport wherever one goes.

Regarding the purchase of the new buses, the Government agreed to pay half the capital cost, while the other half is to be raised by the three local authorities concerned. These local authorities have gone to the extent of raising loans to meet their cost in this matter.

I think everybody on the goldfields will appreciate the action of the board and the

Government in providing new buses; and it is hoped that with the amendments contained in this Bill, the Eastern Goldfields Transport Board will carry on in the way it has done for many years in providing an essential service and possibly, in the future, running it at a profit. I support the Bill.

MR. EVANS (Kalgoorlie) [4.59 p.m.]: My few remarks will bring up the Minister's hat trick. There will have been three separate speakers, and that is a very good effort. This particular Bill, although not having a tremendous effect in its consequences, is well worth supporting.

I do not intend to analyse the provisions in detail but merely to indicate that, as the Minister said, the Bill is to facilitate better housekeeping methods for the Eastern Goldfields Transport Board. The Bill deals primarily with the internal functions of the board. The Minister met two members of the board at a deputation last year, and I am sure it was the first time he had met any of the personnel of the board. I feel certain the minister must have been heartened by the enthusiasm of those officers, and have been impressed with the confidence they held in the future of the board and its capacity to serve the public; and that capacity will continue for many years to come.

This Bill is a result of the deputation to the Minister; and another more dramatic result has been the provision of six new buses for use by the board. The financial arrangements concerning the purchase have already been outlined by the member for Murchison and explained by the member for Boulder-Eyre. I do not wish to go over the same ground, but I do want to indicate my support of the Bill. I would also like to thank the Minister for the expeditious response to the request by the board to have these amendments formulated and placed in the parent Act.

There is one question I would like to ask and I expect the Minister to make some comment on it. The question deals with the clarifying of the provision dealing with a quorum at meetings of the board. I understand from what was said by the member for Murchison, that at the deputation the members of the board indicated to the Minister they were quite happy with the existing conditions. The provision is new to me and I would appreciate some comment from the Minister.

Having regard to the task the members of the Eastern Goldfields Transport Board have undertaken since the inception of the board in 1947, I would pay a tribute to them. The board has had to face those problems which are common to all public transport systems and which, if anything, would be emphasised by the conditions prevailing in Kalgoorlie and Boulder. The board has done a wonderful job in the

provision of a service for the public, especially when it is remembered that the members of the public mostly catered for and who use public transport are the young people and the aged.

The board has displayed good business acumen, and it is with confidence, particularly as the people are now going to have the use of an additional six new buses, that we look to the future; and we can expect a fine system of public transport to be operated by the Eastern Goldfields Transport Board. I support the Bill.

MR. O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Transport) [5.4 p.m.]: I would like to thank members for their contributions to this debate and for the general support of the Bill. As has been pointed out by members, generally, the Eastern Goldfields Transport Board has come up against problems in recent years similar to those we have in the metropolitan area. The major problem is that the motorcar is becoming more popular and is taking a lot of the trade normally expected to go to the bus systems. I realise, as was pointed out by the member for Boulder-Eyre, that this is a problem which faces the board in the Kalgoorlie area, and it is one which is not easily overcome.

The amendments which have been brought forward cover domestic matters, generally, and I do feel they will assist considerably the internal management of the board and should help it in the years to come. The board will operate more efficiently with the new buses; and we are very pleased to see that three are operating on the goldfields now. The operation of those buses will reduce the maintenance costs, which have been a burden and a bugbear to the board. The new buses will allow the board to provide a better service in the area.

I very much appreciate the manner in which the board has liaised, in all cases, with the M.T.T. Whenever the board has had any problems it has always contacted the M.T.T. When the board purchased the new buses, discussions were held with the Chairman of the M.T.T. and his advice was accepted with regard to the type of bus and the method of operation. That indicates how far the board is prepared to go to provide an efficient bus service for the eastern goldfields area.

As the member for Kalgoorlie said, I was impressed with the personnel who came to the metropolitan area with the deputation. Those members were certainly enthusiastic, and if that enthusiasm is any indication of the type of operation we can expect in the future, the operation of the buses will be a success.

The member for Kalgoorlie asked a question in connection with quorums. This was discussed at the deputation but I believe it was decided to leave the matter

as it was. However, I will make a further check and will advise the honourable member at a later date. I thank members for their support.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

BILLS (3): RETURNED

1. State Housing Act Amendment Bill.
 2. Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act Amendment Bill.
 3. Country High School Hostels Authority Act Amendment Bill.
- Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD BETTING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 6th September.

MR. CORNELL (Mt. Marshall) [5.12 p.m.]: This Bill proposes five amendments to the parent Act. They were enumerated by the Minister during the course of his introductory remarks, and I do not propose to reiterate what he said.

The principal amendment in the Bill is the change in the basis of distributing the surplus from the Totalisator Agency Board between the racing and trotting interests. At the present time the surplus of betting transactions is distributed to the racing and trotting interests in relation to tote turnover. After an adjustment to apportion turnover derived from betting on interstate racing, between W.A. Racing and W.A. Trotting, the turnover is divided between the racing clubs and the trotting clubs. In making this adjustment, the turnover from betting on Eastern States racing is allocated 75 per cent. to the Western Australian racing interests, and 25 per cent. to the Western Australian trotting interests.

After taking this factor into consideration, the dividend which each of those bodies receives works out at approximately 61.43 per cent. for racing, and 38.57 per cent. for trotting. Of the amount available to the racing interests, 20 per cent. goes to the country clubs and 80 per cent. is retained by the W.A. Turf Club. Of the amount available to the trotting clubs, 15 per cent. is passed on to country clubs, and 85 per cent. is retained for use by the W.A. Trotting Association and the Fremantle Trotting Club.

Before dealing with the alteration to the basis of distribution, it is interesting to notice the manner in which the racing and trotting clubs have benefited from the operations of the T.A.B. In 1963-64, for instance, the W. A. Turf Club received

\$434,000. For the year 1965-66, the figure was \$670,000—an increase of \$236,000 in two years. In 1963-64, country race clubs received \$108,000. In 1965-66, those clubs received \$167,000—an increase of \$59,000 in two years. In 1963-64, city trotting clubs received \$280,000; and in 1965-66, those clubs received \$444,000—an increase of \$164,000.

Country trotting clubs, in 1963-64, received \$50,000. In 1965-66, they received \$78,000—an increase of \$28,000 in two years.

I have already given an overall breakup of the distribution of the T.A.B. surplus and, ignoring fractions, the detailed breakup is as follows:—

	Per cent.
W.A. Turf Club	49
Country racing clubs	12
The W.A. Trotting Association	26
The Fremantle Trotting Club	6
Country trotting clubs	6

These are round figures; as I have said, I have ignored any fractional percentage.

Assuming that the amending Bill is carried, and no doubt it will be, under the proposed formula the future distribution will be—

	Per cent.
W.A. Turf Club	48
Country racing clubs	12
The W.A. Trotting Association	25
The Fremantle Trotting Club	7
Country trotting clubs	8

In my view, this new basis still does not redress the justifiable grievances relating to the difference in moneys received by racing interests as against those received by trotting interests. The proposals in this Bill merely effect an internal transfer within the share received by the trotting interests. Admittedly the Turf Club, theoretically or notionally, will receive less; but, in the main, the adjustment takes place within the share received by trotting interests. Approximately \$30,000 will be drawn off the share of the Trotting Association and added to the amount available to the Fremantle club and the country trotting clubs.

The question of the reallocation of the T.A.B. surplus in order to give a more equitable distribution has been under consideration for a long while but, due to the situation of the Totalisator Agency Board, the position has been most difficult. As members know, the position is that the board comprises three representatives of trotting interests and three representatives of racing interests and the decision on this point has always been split down the middle, as it were. It has been virtually impossible to reach a decision in respect of the reallocation of the surplus. This stalemate has persisted for some time and, after a considerable period, this amending measure has been brought forward.

Let us look at the position of those clubs which, under these proposals, are alleged to give something away. In 1964-65, under the old formula, the Turf Club received \$577,000. Had the basis contained in the amending measure applied to 1965-66, the Turf Club would have received \$653,000 and, therefore, still would have been \$76,000 better off than it was in the previous season. In 1964-65, under the old formula, country racing clubs received \$144,000. Had the new basis of distribution been applicable to 1965-66, country clubs would have received \$163,000. Despite the fact that they would have lost something, they still would have been \$19,000 better off in 1965-66 than they were in 1964-65.

In 1964-65, under the old basis, the Trotting Association received \$305,000. Had the new formula applied to 1965-66, the Trotting Association share would have been \$340,000. Therefore, that body still would have been \$35,000 better off than it was in the previous year. In 1964-65 the Fremantle Club received \$76,000. Had the new basis applied in 1965-66, the club's take would have been \$95,000. In 1964-65 country trotting clubs received \$80,000. Had the new formula operated in 1965-66, their share would have been \$109,000.

Had the new formula applied to the 1965-66 season, the increase in the net surplus of the T.A.B. would have had the effect of cancelling out the reduction in moneys available to those clubs which, under the altered arrangements, are said to have lost something. There is no reason to suppose that this position, brought about by increasing turnover, will be anything different in the future.

At this stage, I think it is pertinent to look at the stakes paid out by racing and trotting clubs and relate these items of disbursement to the dividends they have received back from the T.A.B. According to my reckoning, the position is as follows; and I deal with metropolitan racing first:

In the 1964 season the Turf Club paid stakes to the value of \$502,900 and received back from the T.A.B. \$434,800. Therefore, from its own resources, it paid out \$68,000 in stakes. In 1965 it paid \$583,000 and received back from the T.A.B. \$577,000. The difference that it was asked to find from its own funds was \$6,000. In 1966 the position reversed itself. It paid in stakes the sum of \$654,000 and received from the T.A.B. \$669,000. Therefore, in 1965-66 the Turf Club paid in stakes less than it received from the T.A.B. to the extent of \$16,000. Once again, I would mention that I am quoting in round figures.

I now turn to metropolitan trotting. In 1964 the Trotting Association and the Fremantle club paid out in stakes the sum of \$477,000 and received from the T.A.B. \$280,000, the difference being \$198,000. In 1965 the Fremantle club and the W.A. Trotting Association paid out in stakes

the sum of \$556,000 and received back, by way of T.A.B. dividend, \$381,000, a difference of \$175,000. In 1966 the stakes paid by those two bodies totalled \$596,000 and their return of dividend from the T.A.B. was \$444,000, a difference of \$152,000.

Thus, in the three years to which I have just referred, the W.A. Trotting Association and the Fremantle club expended \$525,000 from their own resources in stake money. In the same three years, the amount found by the W.A.T.C. from its funds was \$58,000. That is not a bad position for a once unwilling participant in this joint venture, such as the W.A. Turf Club was, to find itself in.

The position regarding stake money paid by country racing and trotting clubs is as follows: In 1964, country racing clubs paid out in stakes the sum of \$155,000 and received back the sum of \$108,000, which is a difference of \$47,000. In 1965, country racing clubs paid \$175,000 in stakes and received back \$144,000, a difference of \$31,000. In 1966 country racing clubs paid out \$217,000 in stakes and received back \$167,000, a difference of \$50,000.

Thus, in the three years I have just mentioned, country racing clubs paid out in stakes from their own resources the sum of \$127,000. When one relates this sum to the amount of money received from the T.A.B., the figure is 31 per cent.

I now turn to country trotting clubs. In 1964, country trotting clubs paid out \$87,000 in stakes and received back \$49,000 from the T.A.B., a difference of \$38,000. In 1965, they paid \$96,000 in stakes and received back \$67,000, a difference of \$29,000. In 1966, they paid out \$120,000 in stakes and received back \$78,000, a difference of \$42,000. Therefore in three years, and from their own resources, country trotting clubs found \$109,000 in stakes. When this amount is related to their dividend from the T.A.B. it represents 55 per cent.

To quote a case in isolation, but indicative of the generally disproportionate position, in the 1962-63 season the Northam Trotting Club conducted 16 meetings and received from the T.A.B. the sum of \$6,100. In the same season, the Northam Race Club conducted seven meetings and received \$7,600 from the T.A.B. Since that period, the gap has widened still further. In my view, this disproportionate allocation of T.A.B. profits between racing and trotting interests cries out to be rectified, but this Bill does not go that far.

I would be the first to admit that it costs more to administer racing than it does to administer trotting, but for racing to receive half as much again as trotting is not, in my mind, an equitable distribution of the share of a joint enterprise. On the question of administration, it might be interesting, too, if someone were to have a look, for instance, at the office staff of the Turf Club as compared with that of

the Trotting Association. The comparison may well bear investigation. Therefore, for a partner in an enterprise which tried to "chicken out" of the arrangement in 1960, the Turf Club receives very, very, very favourable treatment.

At this stage I would like to quote a statement which was made by the W.A. Turf Club two years ago when talks were going on between the two bodies with a view to arranging a fairer split-up of the T.A.B. profits. This is the statement which was issued by the Turf Club—

As an alteration to the present distribution which totals 62.27 to racing and 37.73 to trotting as at the last annual balancing date, the Turf Club would transfer such portion of £15,000 annually to the Trotting Association as is necessary to bring the respective proportions to 58.75 per cent. and 41.25 per cent., respectively.

The purpose of this offer by the Turf Club is to avoid amending legislation being brought before the House in view of the possibility of any amendments to open the Bill permitting further amendments to the detriment of both racing and trotting to be brought before the House.

Members will see that, two years ago, the Turf Club considered 59 per cent. to itself and 41 per cent. to the Trotting Association was a fair and equitable distribution. However, this Bill does not go as far as that.

An arbitrary division of profits, such as is provided in this Bill, goes for easy reckoning as far as the T.A.B. is concerned; and, on that basis, it is considered that we do not have much to argue about. However, it does not take into account certain elements to which due regard might be had; namely, it is an indisputable fact that the profit on turnover on trotting is a good deal better than it is on racing, both in the Eastern States and locally. The auditors for the W.A. Trotting Association have issued a table and that table has not been disputed. I will not give the details of this table but I repeat that the percentage for trotting is a good deal better than it is on either Eastern States or local racing.

In my opinion the minimum which trotting interests should receive is 45 per cent. of the gross profit from the T.A.B., and 47.5 per cent. would be a more realistic figure.

Dealing with the distribution of moneys to clubs, I have noticed from the Victorian T.A.B. report and from the New Zealand report that details are given of moneys received by the individual clubs from the profits of the Totalisator Agency Board. This information is not available to the T.A.B. in this State because payments received by country racing and trotting clubs are not known by the T.A.B. and,

for that matter, the T.A.B. does not concern itself with the correctness of amounts received by individual clubs.

It may be desirable if the T.A.B. did satisfy itself that the moneys which the clubs are entitled to are, in fact, received. I put forward that suggestion to the Minister to consider. It would need a further amendment to the Act, but at the moment the distribution to the country racing and trotting clubs is carried out not by the T.A.B., but by the two parent racing bodies.

The late J. P. Stratton always supported the T.A.B. and entertained no doubts as to its ultimate success. He was so anxious that the board should be established in this State that he was willing to commit the Western Australian Trotting Association to underwrite the T.A.B. to enable it to get off the ground, as it were. It is now rather ironical, therefore, that the organisation of which the late J. P. Stratton was president for such a long period should receive such a lousy deal from a board which he worked so hard to create.

Dealing generally with the position of the T.A.B. surplus, I submit that a review of this question could be made with advantage at periodic intervals with a view to bringing it up to date, as it were, and to ensure that an inequitable situation would not continue for as long as this one has. Perhaps such a committee could consist of the Under-Treasurer and/or the Commissioner of Stamps assisted by an assessor with accountancy qualifications to investigate the question of the T.A.B. surplus and its appropriation each year, following which it could make recommendations to the Minister accordingly so that the position could be rectified from time to time.

I put that suggestion to the Minister for his consideration so that he may either introduce a further amendment or take administrative action—preferably the former—because I think it is warranted. I previously made reference to the even division of representation on the Totalisator Agency Board. It comprises three representatives of racing interests and three representatives of trotting interests. It might be desirable, in view of the fact that the board comes under criticism from time to time, for the Government to consider the appointment of another member to the board.

Mr. O'Connor: A consumers' representative?

Mr. Bickerton: What about a horse?

Mr. CORNELL: Other boards have a consumers' representative. The consumers' representative on the onion board, for example, is a pretty nebulous sort of an appointment, so what would be wrong with appointing, say, an investors' representative on the T.A.B.? The position of chairman also may be worthy of consideration

by the Government. The present chairman is also general manager. He virtually determines the policy and then implements it. Might I suggest that an independent chairman be appointed and the present chairman continue in the position of general manager of the board, in which position he would carry out the directions of the board and implement the policy as the board lays it down from time to time.

In very few semigovernment boards is the chairman actively engaged on full-time administration. All the marketing boards we have constituted; the Swan River Conservation Board; the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority; and the Fremantle Port Authority—to quote just a few—have full-time administrative officers who are not board members.

The Victorian Totalisator Agency Board has a general manager. The chairman of that board is Sir Chester Manifold, who is the representative on the board of the Victorian racing clubs. The board there may elect its own chairman. There is nothing fundamentally wrong with that principle. In New Zealand the positions of chairman and general manager are not combined.

Therefore, we have ample precedent to warrant a change and a separation being made of the positions of the chairman of the board and the chief administrative officer in this State. There is no doubt that such a move warrants close and careful examination, and I urge the Minister to give it that.

Another amendment proposed in the Bill is one to increase penalties for illegal betting. In my view this ties in somewhat with the operations of the board on obscure country meetings in Victoria and New South Wales. Some reference to this has been made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. The reason given for the board's functioning on these meetings is that if the T.A.B. did not provide a service for the meetings the illegal bookmakers would. I cannot buy that one!

When the S.P. bookmakers were in full swing they were selective as to when they operated, where they operated, and on what meetings they would give the odds. Therefore, the argument that illegal bookmakers would swing into action if there were no betting facilities provided by the T.A.B. has no validity and has no room in my book.

I often wonder whether the full-scale operations of the T.A.B. on these small meetings conducted in the other States really pay. I doubt whether they do, but, of course, one cannot obtain the balance sheet and the profit and loss account on the operations of the T.A.B. on these small rural meetings in the Eastern States. However, I repeat that I doubt very much whether they do pay. Apart from that, of course, these operations cut right across the assurance given by the late Charles

Perkins that the T.A.B. was designed to reduce betting and not to encourage it. So one could say now, after the board has been in operation for some time, that never has an organisation set up to abridge an evil done so much to extend it.

The Bill proposes to fix limits. These are never popular with the punters. If the T.A.B. was, in fact, conducting its own tote on all events, limits would not be necessary, because the amount of the total payout could not exceed the total in the pool less the usual retention money. But so long as the T.A.B. acts as a bookmaker, limits are a necessary evil. Here again it is interesting to speak about the selective manner in which the T.A.B. operates. It is quite happy to act on most Eastern States events, but where a Western Australian horse is likely to be heavily supported here and there is a danger of a large payout, it is not so happy to act as bookmaker and conduct a local pool. Therefore the bloke who says the punter gets crucified all the time is not far wrong.

The investment tax, of course, is not popular with the better who pays it. It is bad enough to back a loser without being taxed for an error of judgment. However, I should not think the Treasurer would give up this tax. It is rather lucrative and easy to collect; unless, of course, he licenses poker machines. I was wondering if some method could be evolved, seeing that this tax is not popular with the average punter, whereby the tax could be integrated into the tote turnover tax and so cease to be a direct and separate tax.

Mr. Hall: If you put money into a poker machine you have a better chance of a return.

Mr. Brand: Not while I am Premier.

Mr. CORNELL: The Bill also seeks the establishment of agencies on racecourses to enable the T.A.B. to provide facilities for doubles betting on Eastern States races. Obviously these facilities could only be provided, in my view, on metropolitan racecourses. To establish such agencies in the country would not achieve very much because by the time the average country meeting commenced, the races in the Eastern States would be half over and therefore the T.A.B. agencies would be operating on only half the programme, which, of course, would be farcical. So the agencies could operate only on metropolitan courses; and the Minister, when introducing the Bill, said the board had nothing really definite in mind regarding this particular phase of betting, except the power to conduct the doubles tote on the course.

At all metropolitan race meetings, specially licensed bookmakers conduct doubles charts on Eastern States racing. In fact, I understand that one can select a double with one leg in Victoria and one leg in New South Wales. That is a facility

which the T.A.B. is not likely to provide. Doubles betting on Eastern States' events seems to be well catered for on metropolitan courses in this State by specially licensed bookmakers, and as the necessity to provide the facility for doubles betting on a country racecourse does not arise, I cannot see the virtue of this proposed amendment. Perhaps the Minister could have reconsidered.

I have noted a comment contained in previous T.A.B. reports concerning the utilisation of the board's contributions to State revenue to defray the cost of social services, including medical, hospital, education, etc. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition took exception to this, but the comment still appears in the 1965-66 report. I agree with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that, on these grounds, it is just as logical to justify the imposition of stamp duty or probate duty.

Another comment contained in the 1965-66 report to which exception might be taken is that which relates betting to the personal disposable income of the community to prove that off-course betting has declined. I consider that the escalation in the cost of living has had much more to do with any reduction in betting—that is, assuming this has taken place—than the graph contained in the report is inclined to show.

Mr. J. Hegney: That is not the experience in New South Wales.

Mr. CORNELL: The question of rising T.A.B. surpluses and their return *in toto* to racing bodies, some of which still have to conduct elegant hat contests to attract patrons to the course, is one to which some future Government will be forced to direct attention. The utilisation of portion of T.A.B. profits in financing a community charitable chest, as mooted by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, may be nearer to adoption than many of us realise. In fact, I can see it casting its shadow now.

Whether we can go on returning large amounts to racing and trotting and at the same time see other sports and charitable bodies languishing is a question which someone in the very near future will have to tackle. Obviously there will be strenuous objections to the channelling of T.A.B. profits in other directions, but the return of large amounts to racing bodies in excess of their reasonable requirements will cause future Governments to take a very close look at the position.

I have just about said all I wish to say, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Craig: You have done very well.

Mr. CORNELL: In conclusion, may I finish in a lighter vein by paying tribute to the blokes who pay all the bills associated with the operations of the T.A.B.—those who pick up all the "tabs", and without whose lack of judgment the T.A.B. could not function, let alone flourish. I

refer to the punters—the whipping boys of racing. If ever the T.A.B. designs for itself a coat of arms, may this depict the punter nailed to the cross-arm of the "T", or chained to the triangle of the "A"; or may he just be the silly "B".

I understand that recently in a spate of poetic enthusiasm, an advertising master penned this about a well-known tinned milk product—

Carnation Milk is the best in the land,
Here I sit with a tin in my hand;
No teats to pull—no hay to pitch,
Just punch a hole in the sonofabitch.

The punter stands in the same position as that tin of milk. Someone punches holes in him and milks him dry. I have pleasure, with reservations, in supporting the Bill.

MR. JAMIESON (Beeloo) [5.45 p.m.]: I would like to pass a few comments on the Bill before the House. In my view the country and metropolitan trotting clubs should be encouraged far more than they are, while the country and metropolitan racing clubs should be discouraged far more than they are. As the member for Mt. Marshall indicated, the Government has the opportunity to do this by increasing the proportion of the money that is allocated to the trotting clubs, and reducing the proportion that is allocated to the racing clubs.

I put this suggestion forward not without some degree of thought, because in recent times I have experienced the situation which now exists in Victoria where country race meetings conducted in close proximity to Melbourne are televised fully. As soon as the telecast starts, many office boys are sent by their superiors to the nearest totalisator agency with lists of bets on various horses. Naturally the superiors themselves cannot go into the agency during working hours. The tendency is for these people to sneak away from their offices to the nearest television set to see how their fancies are running. I have seen this happening, and betting on mid-week country meetings has been encouraged by the T.A.B. of Victoria.

As the member for Mt. Marshall pointed out, in the near future we will see mid-week race meetings being televised in this State, and betting will be encouraged rather than discouraged by the racing clubs. The encouragement of a distraction of the people during working hours is a bad method to raise revenue. It would be far better for the Government to assist the trotting clubs to a greater extent, because they conduct trotting meetings during the leisure hours of the people, and these meetings do not interfere with commercial activities or the vocations of the people.

The suggestion for rendering some form of assistance to participant sporting bodies through funds raised by the T.A.B. from

racing and trotting is a very good one. This would encourage the youth of the community to become more active in sport. I have been very closely associated with the financial aspect of amateur sport for a number of years, and I find that when a youth reaches the age of 20 years and gets married most, if not all, of his earnings are used in getting together a home and in becoming established.

A young person in that situation cannot afford to pay a heavy fee in order to participate in amateur sport. Besides the annual subscription, he has to pay all sorts of other expenses. A pool of finance made available from the surplus profit of the T.A.B. could subsidise the amateur sporting organisations and so keep the youth of our community well occupied. I think the sporting bodies have achieved a very desirable objective.

Now and then an appeal is made to the Government for funds to assist in defraying the expenses of competitors in international competitions such as the Olympic Games and the Commonwealth Games. For such purposes the Government usually donates a sum from the public purse. If a pool of money were established through the means I have advocated then provision could be made in advance for donations to sporting organisations. This would be a far better method than the one which is now adopted, because often the Government is faced with the problem of deciding whether it is more desirable to donate the limited funds at its disposal to certain organisations in our community or to sporting bodies. On occasions it has difficulty in arriving at a decision, because of the limited finance that is available for this purpose.

In my view the trotting clubs should, in regard to the distribution of the funds from the profits of the T.A.B., receive greater consideration than they have in the past, because they put on a more spectacular type of sport for the public. Midweek race meetings attract only a few people of independent means, and others who conduct their own businesses; they certainly do not cater for the general public. If one of the two types—trotting and racing—is to be encouraged, then in my view trotting should be allocated a bigger percentage and racing a smaller percentage than is now allocated. The Government could make the proportions much fairer than they are at the present time.

The previous speaker indicated very clearly that initially the racing clubs were not very much in favour of the establishment of the T.A.B., while the Western Australian Trotting Association was, and it was even prepared to underwrite the establishment of the T.A.B. The racing clubs do not care very much whether the existing attendances are increased; and if they do not have an increase in the attendances they would be just as pleased,

because they would not have to provide additional facilities and amenities. But they would still receive money from the Government through the T.A.B. to provide the stakes that are necessary in the conduct of race meetings.

On the other hand, the trotting club have to make their sport attractive in order to attract the crowds. They have done that successfully, because there has not been a great falling-off in attendances. Attendances at trotting meetings are more regular than those at the races, and the trotting clubs should be allocated a greater percentage of the funds which are distributed to enable them to maintain the stakes at a high level. If one of these two types of sport is to be encouraged then the one that is deserving of consideration is the sport that conducts its meetings during the leisure hours of the people—not the one that reacts detrimentally against commercial life and the vocations of the people, by encouraging the people to indulge in absenteeism to some degree during working hours.

If the position could be policed properly it would be possible to determine how much it costs Government departments through loss of time, when midweek country race meetings are conducted and officers are absent for half an hour at a time to invest on their fancies at the nearest totalisator agency.

Mr. Bickerton: On those days it seems that some people have dead grandmothers!

Mr. JAMIESON: I agree. I suppose about 10 per cent. of those attending midweek country race meetings in the State would have used the excuse of attending the funerals of their grandmothers.

Mr. Burt: Would that not apply to cricket matches?

Mr. JAMIESON: I suppose it would, but they occur less frequently, and people do not bet on them. If it were possible to check the costs of telephone inquiries from Government departments to ascertain the latest scores, I am sure those calls would make up a good proportion of the total on those days. When a public facility is made available it is very difficult to police it.

On the contrary it is not difficult to predict an increased interest in midweek country race meetings, because before very long with the televising of such meetings in places like Bunbury, York, and Northam, the public will be able to see the races being run, as people in Victoria are able to see the races conducted at Werribee, Colac, and other country centres as a result of television.

I suggest the time has arrived when the Government should discourage the racing clubs, and change the basis on which the allocations are made so as to make it fairer. Possibly the basis could be established on the requirements of the

clubs, rather than on the amounts that were paid out in stakes in the past. If this were done the community would be far better served in the long run than by trying to cut out midweek race meetings.

MR. BURT (Murchison) [5.55 p.m.]: I am mainly concerned with the proposed alteration in the method of allocating the surplus profits from the T.A.B. to the racing and trotting clubs. Since I have been a member of this House I have noticed that much criticism of the T.A.B. has been raised by the Opposition, principally by one of its members; and, to a degree, there has been criticism of the racing clubs, as compared with the trotting clubs. I say this because I am quite certain that had it not been for the establishment of the T.A.B., racing and trotting in Western Australia would have come to a sad and ignominious end.

Mr. Bickerton: Is that a good or a bad thing?

Mr. BURT: It is what we are discussing, whether or not we think racing, trotting, and gambling are good for the community. I say these things are inevitable, and they become part of the life of the peoples of the world.

Mr. Bickerton: The only reason horse racing exists at all is that it has a monopoly on betting. No other sport has such a monopoly.

Mr. BURT: It has a monopoly of betting, and probably this is the best means to enable the public to bet. I do not say it is a fair means, because we know it is not altogether fair; but it is conducted in the open and it provides a sporting element which is not provided in many other forms of gambling.

Mr. May: Do you think gambling should be encouraged?

Mr. BURT: I do not think it should be encouraged.

Mr. Tonkin: That is a new philosophy!

Mr. BURT: In the critical years of the last war every country engaged in it and provided some form of horse racing to entertain the people and the servicemen, because it was found that this form of gambling and excitement was necessary.

Mr. Hawke: Did you say every country in the world?

Mr. BURT: As far as I know. I do not think there were many countries which did not conduct race meetings during the critical years of that war.

Mr. Hawke: I think you are guessing.

Mr. BURT: Up to a point I might be guessing, but everyone will admit that racing has become part and parcel of the life of the western world. It is very big business, and is one of the biggest industries in Western Australia. With the

establishment of the T.A.B. a few years back, many more amenities have been provided by the racing and trotting clubs for the general public.

I was not present last week when the debate on this measure commenced, but I have read the speech of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. He was inclined, as was the member for Mt. Marshall, to discredit the figures given in the Sixth Annual Report of the Totalisator Agency Board, in which it is pointed out that the turnover in off-course and on-course betting has not increased very much in the past five or six years. The actual figure given is \$33,400,000 for 1955-56 when legalised off-course bookmakers were operating, and \$35,800,000 in 1964-65 when the T.A.B. provided the means of betting. This is an increase of only 7½ per cent.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition said in the course of his remarks that the total turnover in betting during the days of the legalised off-course bookmakers was false, because a great deal of that amount was money that had been laid off; that what was the original investment had been passed on from bookmaker to bookmaker in lay-off bets, and that they all formed part of the amount which went to make up the total of the betting turnover. To a degree I agree with him; I am aware that bookmakers do lay off their holdings; but we should realise that this is done more often on-course where advantage is taken on some occasions of the prices that are offering, than it was by the legalised off-course bookmakers who operated in shops.

Today the turnover of the T.A.B. can be attributed to money which passes through the tote more than once. In these days bets made off-course through the T.A.B. are regarded as turnover, and very often a certain proportion of its holdings are transferred to the course, where it is regarded again in the overall picture as turnover.

Therefore I do not think the increase in betting is as much as we were given to understand by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, particularly when we consider the personal disposable income figures, which are very interesting. In 1955-56 the amount was \$504,000,000, and in 1964-65 it was \$816,000,000. In addition to this we must remember the great increase in the population of the State.

Speakers have also referred to the unfairness of the split-up of money invested on Eastern States racing. It was felt that the Turf Club or racing interests should not get any more than the trotting interests, because these are investments made by the public in another State. I cannot agree with that, because galloping is galloping, and people who invest in galloping are people more interested in that particular sport. Quite an amount of money is invested on the Eastern States racing when

a Western Australian horse happens to be running in events over there. The additional money wagered on a well-known horse such as "Aquanita" or "Royal Coral" is tremendous and that, of course, is money invested on something produced by racing interests in this State.

Racing involves a great deal more in the way of overheads and administration than many people realise. As we all know a racecourse is a track, usually turf, and it has three or four training tracks in addition to the main circuit. In order that courses can be spelled, more than one racecourse must be available in a capital city. Therefore the Turf Club has at present three very fine courses with all the necessary amenities, whereas the W.A.T.A. has only one.

A member: What about Fremantle?

Mr. BURT: Fremantle comes into it as well, but neither of those courses requires anything like the upkeep necessary for Ascot, Belmont, or Helena Vale.

Mr. Jamieson: Fremantle is owned by the association. It is only leased.

Mr. BURT: Yes, it is. It is a separate entity. However, as far as headquarters are concerned, the Turf Club has a great deal more to provide in the way of overheads than has the Trotting Association. We must remember also that a thoroughbred has to be trained and looked after, and this costs far more than it does for a trotting horse.

Mr. Jamieson: Gallopers have a natural gait; trotters take years to train. You don't know what you are talking about.

Several members interjected.

Mr. BURT: We do not see any milk carts now. A galloper costs a great deal of money to train, and, no matter what members of the Opposition say, it costs a lot more to train a galloper than it costs to train a trotter.

As far as country trotting is concerned, I have a slight bias in favour of racing, because, in the districts I represent, trotting has not yet made a great impact. Racing is the only type of recreation that brings people together throughout the whole of the north-west, the Murchison, and the eastern goldfields. The annual and biannual race meetings conducted in those centres take the place of the agricultural shows of the more settled parts of the State. The people look forward to them and use them as an excuse to get into town to see each other and generally fraternise.

The T.A.B. has meant a tremendous lot to these country racing clubs. The chief effect of the T.A.B. has been in the increased stakes, which naturally help the sport. However, the modern or scientific additions to the racing industry, such as mobile barriers and photo finishes, etc., have been making their way into clubs, which a few years ago never even dreamt

they would be able to purchase such amenities. As anyone who follows the sport would know, a mobile barrier overcomes the greatest bugbear of the old open starting barrier.

The T.A.B. has made these amenities possible, and nothing else could have done this; and in Kalgoorlie last year the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Racing club installed the first photo-finish equipment in country districts. So, by and large, the T.A.B. has meant a tremendous lot to country racing; and, although the clubs are going to sacrifice about \$3,000 under this amendment, I feel they have received quite an appreciable amount; and, provided they go on receiving their share of something like 80c in the dollar of stakes given, then they will be able to continue to provide the sport for those who need some recreation in those areas.

Country trotting I know has been on the thin end of the handout wedge, if I might put it that way. The Kalgoorlie Trotting Club has been able to arrange a carnival once a year in conjunction with the local racing carnival and I am told that under these amendments, the club will be able to arrange a second carnival. Therefore I feel this Bill is going to assist trotting clubs to the detriment of country racing, perhaps, but not to a great extent.

Members referred to T.A.B. agencies on the racecourse, and I feel that is a worthwhile provision. Also under this legislation, fines for illegal betting have been increased. I cannot say that I agree that a great deal of illegal betting is carried on in this State, but, no doubt, the police and others know more about that than I do and apparently it is necessary to take steps to deter would-be offenders.

In conclusion I would say that no matter whether we like racing or not, it is very necessary to society as a whole. I know only too well that if it were not for racing, the public would engage in some other form of gambling.

Mr. Graham: Not many go to the races.

Mr. BURT: I agree. The average punter is far more interested in a name on a blackboard than in a thoroughbred, but I do not think anything can be done about that.

Mr. Cornell: Do you think admission charges are too high?

Mr. BURT: No. I do not think that with the prosperity today, the admission charges make any difference. The crowds are no different now from what they were before. Occasionally when an interstate jockey is visiting, the crowd is slightly bigger; but generally speaking the average punter is quite satisfied to go to the T.A.B. shop, look at a blackboard, pick his fancy, and listen to the race on the radio.

Mr. Graham: People do not like racing; they like betting.

Mr. BURT: That is right. I agree with the honourable member entirely. How-

ever, if people did not have the opportunity to bet in this manner they would find some other way of risking their money. I support this measure in full.

MR. HALL (Albany) [6.10 p.m.]: It is a shame that the member for Murchison has resumed his seat now and was not able to go the extra five furlongs or five minutes. I do not very often disagree with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, but I do this evening on one or two points.

The amendment which disturbs me particularly is the one contained in clause 3, which reads—

3. Subsection (1) of section twenty of the principal Act is amended by adding after the word, "courses" being the last word in the subsection, the passage, "but with the prior approval of the racing club having the control and management of a race course, totalisator agencies may be situated on that race course for the purpose of bets being made and received or placed and dividends paid in respect of those bets as provided in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this subsection".

Under this amendment many of the country clubs will suffer. At the moment they gain financial assistance from the totes which they conduct, and because of that financial assistance they are able to function more efficiently.

The amendment will also affect the bookmakers. We must realise that the bookmakers who live in the country areas and frequent the distant racecourses are not in the same category, financially, as the bookmakers in the metropolitan area. They travel many miles to render a service to the country racing clubs. This amendment will act to the detriment of country racing. I do not know if that is intended, and perhaps the Minister could enlighten me when he replies to the debate. These country bookmakers are in an entirely different category from the metropolitan area bookmakers, because they must travel vast distances from town to town.

I think it must be admitted that if we did not have the bookmakers and the totalisators operating in association with the clubs, the attendances in the country areas would be greatly reduced. If it is not possible to bet, people do not desire to go to the races, because there is not the same enthusiasm. When the fields are increased by the stimulation of finance—and consequently there will be bigger bookmakers' rings—the totalisators yield bigger profits to the clubs and this in turn stimulates an interest in racing itself.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. HALL: Prior to the tea suspension I was talking of the assistance that the country racing clubs have received from the T.A.B. through the auspices of the W.A.T.C. I also mentioned the assistance that the T.A.B. has given to racing gener-

ally in country districts. There is no doubt that prior to this assistance being given, racing and trotting in the country were in the doldrums, so much so that many of the clubs in the smaller country centres had to curtail their events and, on many occasions, abandon meetings completely.

The finance which has been made available to these country clubs has stimulated them to such an extent that they have been able to improve the standard of racing and trotting, as well as increase the size of fields generally. In addition, the amenities on the courses have been improved and for this I think we can pay a tribute to the T.A.B. for the assistance it has given.

The improvement in racing and trotting, generally, particularly in the southern portion of the State, has helped to stimulate the tourist trade, and the increased amounts of money made available to clubs in the metropolitan area have enabled them to improve facilities and conditions. Clubs which are operating within 50 or 60 miles of the city are dependent upon the metropolitan area for their fields and for the jockeys who ride the horses—in fact, for all those who follow this trade or calling, or sport, if one likes to call it that.

Many meetings in country areas are held on a seasonal basis and the only place from which many of these centres can draw the horses which are to compete, the trainers, and jockeys, is the metropolitan area, where part-time amateurs, part-time professionals, or full-time professionals, are operating. Therefore, in order to attract these people from the metropolitan area the country clubs have to provide some incentive as well as a round of activities throughout the various districts to make the trip for these people worth while. The money the country clubs have received from the T.A.B. has made it possible for that object to be achieved.

The racing clubs in the lower great southern have an association and each year that association has a round of activities. I would like to list the racing fixtures for the coming season to give members an idea of how it is possible for competitors in these events to travel from one centre to another and be continuously engaged. The list of fixtures is as follows:—

- November 16th, 1966—Narrogin Race Club.
- December 26th, 1966—Albany Racing Club, Inc.
- December 31, 1966—Albany Racing Club, Inc.
- January 7th, 1967—Mt. Barker Amateur Turf Club.
- January 14th, 1967—Albany Racing Club.
- January 21st, 1967—Albany Racing Club.

January 28th, 1967—Mt. Barker Amateur Turf Club.
 January 30th, 1967—Kojonup Polo and Polocrosse Club.
 February 4th, 1967—Albany Racing Club.
 February 11th, 1967—Mt. Barker Amateur Turf Club.
 February 18th, 1967—Albany Racing Club.
 February 22nd, 1967—Narrogin Race Club.
 February 25th, 1967—Albany Racing Club.
 March 4th, 1967—Katanning Picnic Race Club.
 March 11th, 1967—Pingrup Sports Club.
 March 19th, 1967—Nyabing Sports Club.
 March 22nd, 1967—Narrogin Race Club.
 March 25th, 1967—Lake Grace Sports Club.
 April 1st, 1967—Lake Biddy Sports Club.
 April 12th, 1967—Narrogin Race Club.
 November 15th, 1967—Narrogin Race Club.

Mr. Bickerton: Don't they do any work down there?

Mr. HALL: That brings me back to the interjection of the member for Pilbara about grandmothers attending week-day race meetings.

Mr. Bickerton: Dead ones!

Mr. HALL: Maybe! However, members can see from the list I have just read, that there is an interweaving of race meetings between adjacent districts, and the same would apply to Pinjarra, York, and Northam. Those centres have midweek race meetings because they are so close to the metropolitan area. This is borne out by the fact that the Bunbury racing club has to hold its meetings midweek so that those meetings do not clash with racing in the metropolitan area. If they did, it would be to the detriment of the country districts.

The list I quoted indicates that the meetings in the lower great southern are spread over the months of December to April. This is the time when most people are on holidays, or when many people travel to Albany for their holidays. Therefore, having race meetings at this particular time of the year caters not only for the farmers who have been working long hours on harvesting, and other work around their farms, and who are on holidays, but also for the other tourists who are in Albany at that time of the year.

This financial stimulus from the T.A.B. has enabled the racing clubs in the lower great southern to improve their meetings. It has enabled those clubs considerably to improve their standard, and by the installation of such things as start-

ing gates they have stopped a lot of the hanky-panky nonsense that used to go on at some of these race meetings, when the jockeys put the spurs into the horses at the wrong places. I agree with what the member for Murchison had to say in that regard and I think we can pay a compliment to the T.A.B. for the assistance it has rendered to country clubs. Had it not been for this injection of finance from the T.A.B. I do not think country racing would have survived, particularly in Albany and Mt. Barker. These centres look to the tourist trade, and race meetings are a means of boosting that trade.

The country clubs, both racing and trotting, will have to face up to the prospect of extending their courses, or building new ones, because of the increased population of the State and the increase in the number of patrons attending meetings. Considerable expense will be involved in the provision of courses, but I do not think the provisions of the Bill before us will have much effect in that regard. I think the trotting clubs are quite justified in wanting this extra money from the T.A.B.

Country clubs will have to improve their courses or build new ones in the same way as clubs in the metropolitan area have had to do over the years. I suppose if one could look back at the types of courses that were provided in the early days of the metropolitan clubs one would find that they, too, had to face considerable hardships in redesigning and building new courses to cater for increased patronage, and to meet the demands of the sport.

As the member for Murchison said, racing will be with us forever. It has been recognised as the sport of kings, and it is supported by kings, queens, and the financial hierarchy. If clubs want to expand, and they must expand, there is only one source from which they can get the necessary money, and that is from the T.A.B., or maybe the Government. The designing and building of new courses will have to be carried out in Albany as well as in many other country centres of the State. These courses will have to cater for the needs of the racing fraternity as well as the public who patronise race meetings. Therefore a high standard will be required.

When talking about racing, dividends, and so on, including sources from which money for clubs can be obtained, I was wondering if we could get some assistance from commerce and industry; because undoubtedly ladies' fashions to a large extent depend upon racing and trotting. In Victoria there is a ladies' day—I think it is called Oaks Day—and no doubt this particular event has a big impact on ladies' fashions. Perth Cup day, and country race days also, must have an effect on the fashion for women's dresses and must stimulate the sales of dresses in the centres concerned. A race day in a country town is something like a celebration day.

Take the mini skirts. That fashion started in Melbourne and has had a terrific impact on the sales of dresses. The shortened hemline has stimulated sales.

Mr. Cornell: It is no good to the wool industry.

Mr. HALL: No, I do not think it is.

Mr. Bickerton: It is all right for the stimulation.

Mr. HALL: The other point to which I wish to refer is the idea of a community chest, put forward by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I am not actually against the idea of a community chest so long as there is a ceiling to the funds paid into it, and provided its administration is in keeping with the State's requirements and demands. I think it could be controlled because it would be a central fund in the same way as funds which are started for the relief of victims of floods or fires are centrally controlled.

There is some virtue in the suggestion of a community chest, because it would provide funds for other sporting activities which, at the moment, are unable to benefit from money provided by the T.A.B. I commend the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for his suggestion because, basically, it is sound; but, as the member for Mt. Marshall intimated, probably it was casting shadows before itself. No doubt we could all support the establishment of a community chest, but a ceiling would need to be placed on its funds otherwise these associations which now depend upon the T.A.B. to keep them going would be crippled. It is of no use building something up when at the same time something else is destroyed. If a community chest were set up, and no ceiling were placed upon the funds paid into it, country racing and trotting would ultimately be destroyed.

I believe the T.A.B. has materially assisted country areas and I do not think this Bill will have any effect on the present position. However, I am a little frightened of the power that might be given to some authority to go onto the country racecourses and the effect this will have on country bookmakers to the disadvantage of the sport. Country bookmakers are not making a great deal out of the sport at the moment. However, I commend the measure because I think it is in the best interests of the sport.

MR. RUNCIMAN (Murray) [7.45 p.m.]: I would like to make a few comments on this Bill, which I support. Considering the large number of bettors who go to the racecourse it is remarkable that the bookmakers on the course, the starting price bookmakers, and the T.A.B., should come in for so much criticism from time to time. It would seem that one cannot win. If these people are not at fault, the bettors then criticise the horses, the trainers, or something else, and claim the game is

crooked. It is remarkable that we should have this approach to racing and trotting, because I believe racing is not nearly as crooked as a lot of people believe it is.

Mr. W. Hegney: Would you say it is crooked?

Mr. RUNCIMAN: All the clubs, both the country clubs and the metropolitan clubs, take all necessary precautions and do a good job to help keep the game clean. When a bet is laid with a bookmaker and the person concerned does not win, he is inclined to criticise the bookmaker on the course, the starting price bookmaker, or the T.A.B. I believe the T.A.B. has done a wonderful job in this State. Without it quite a number of the country racing clubs would have ceased to exist.

Mr. May: It has also caused a lot of misery, and you know it.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: The finance forthcoming as a result of the operations of the T.A.B. has helped country racing clubs to provide better amenities. It has also done a great deal in connection with the horse breeding industry, because it has provided an incentive to the breeders to breed better horses.

It is not quite correct to say that all the people who go to race meetings do so to bet. Quite a number of them attend because of their love for horses; and it is really something to see a thoroughbred horse well turned out. As we all know the fields have improved considerably over the past few years, and I hope this trend will continue.

The Totalisator Agency Board has been responsible for channelling a great deal of money back into the racing game. This also applies to trotting which, over the last few years, particularly in the country areas, has become increasingly popular. There are, of course, several reasons for this.

The SPEAKER: Which part of the Bill are you dealing with?

Mr. RUNCIMAN: I am referring to the legislation in connection with trotting. The Bill proposes to establish agencies on racecourses. The member for Mt. Marshall said this would not do very much good. The honourable member said that the T.A.B. agencies on racecourses would only deal with Eastern States races, and he added that perhaps the race meetings in the Eastern States would be half over by the time the local meetings commenced.

I know quite a number of people who attend the race meetings early—an hour or so before the actual race meeting starts—and while they are there they would be able to place bets on the Eastern States races. We all know, of course, that the bookmakers and the horses also arrive early.

If the club concerned so desires, it can establish a T.A.B. agency on the course and thus permit the people to bet on the

quinella and doubles races. This would be a good thing, because it would provide an amenity for the people who are waiting for the races to commence; particularly for those who like to bet on Eastern States races. As we all know, betting on the Eastern States races is very popular.

The Bill also proposes to adjust the formula of distribution between the racing and trotting interests. The formula it is intended to adopt is one of a 60/40 basis. Apart from this the amounts given to country trotting clubs will be raised from 15 per cent. to 20 per cent., while that given to racing clubs will be 20 per cent.

The increase of 5 per cent. to the trotting clubs is a very good thing indeed, because it will help those clubs to provide better fields and more amenities for their patrons. Country trotting is growing in popularity, and there are really some very good trotting clubs in the country areas. They are very well run indeed, and the fields contain some really good horses. I would like to see more money channelled into country racing and trotting, but perhaps this could be done at some future date. I have pleasure in supporting the Bill, because I believe it will considerably help both trotting and racing.

MR. CRAIG (Toodyay—Minister for Police) (7.52 p.m.): I thank the members who have contributed to this debate. As a result of their remarks, I am sure the knowledge of quite a few members has been improved considerably as regards the racing and trotting industry. I suppose that overall there are quite a number of members who really do not have much interest in racing or trotting; and they do not have much interest in betting, nor in the Totalisator Agency Board for that matter.

But when the Deputy Leader of the Opposition rises to his feet on this subject he certainly arouses the interest of members because of the forceful and impressionable manner in which he approaches his subject.

I am sorry the honourable member is not in his seat, because I would like to make a few comments in relation to his contribution to the second reading debate. A number of members might gain the impression that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and possibly certain other members of the Opposition, are opposed to the T.A.B.

That is not my impression, however. I feel they do support the board in its function of legalised betting. There are certain members, however, who do oppose some of the functions in which the board engages. It will be recalled that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition expressed very strong views on the question of credit betting. When I say "credit betting", I am referring, particularly, to telephone betting

by certain clients who do not themselves arrange to lodge the required cash deposit with the agent.

This is where the honourable member, and the Government and I, have had a difference of opinion for some considerable time. Bearing in mind that you, Sir, drew the attention of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to the fact that he was not speaking to the Bill when he touched on this subject of credit betting, I seek your indulgence to make a few brief references on this point.

The **SPEAKER**: Make them brief.

Mr. CRAIG: They will be brief. The reference made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to credit betting possibly gave the impression to the House that this feature played a very important part in the overall turnover of the T.A.B. This is not so. It accounts for approximately 3.6 per cent., I think it is, of the total turnover of the T.A.B. This is not very much, when we bear in mind that the total amounts to some \$36,000,000.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition referred to appropriate sections of the Act. He referred to section 33; but he did not mention section 34, which also has relation to this form of betting; and the honourable member made no reference at all to the regulations that are appropriate to these particular sections of the Act. The regulations in question make it quite clear that any such form of betting handled by an agent must be treated through the cash register, which is part and parcel, of course, of the agency's equipment.

So, in effect, it means that any transactions of this nature are on a strictly cash basis as between the agent and the board. If the agent wishes to make his own personal arrangement with a bettor that he, the agent, will provide the necessary deposit, this is quite lawful, according to the advice of the Crown Solicitor. It is also lawful according to the advice given by the board's own solicitors, Messrs. Parker and Parker. According to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, however, this method of betting is *ultra vires* the Act.

I have gone so far as to supply the Deputy Leader of the Opposition with copies of the rulings given by the Crown Law Department, and by Messrs. Parker and Parker. I have even gone so far as to say that the Government will do everything possible to assist him in proving his point. The logical place to do this, of course, is in Parliament, or in the court.

I do not think there is any necessity for me to say anything further in regard to the credit betting aspect of the T.A.B. If an agent does, by personal arrangement with one of his clients, arrange to keep his account in credit, he is doing so knowing that his commission as an agent will be approximately only 3 per cent.

How many people will lend money, particularly to someone who is unknown to them, and as a result of a telephone conversation, and give unlimited credit knowing that the return will be only 3 per cent.?

From the remarks of the speakers who have contributed to the debate it appears that there is no opposition to the second reading of the Bill; although some members do have some reservations, particularly in regard to the formula for the distribution of the surplus, and also in regard to the establishment of T.A.B. agencies on the racecourse.

It was explained during the second reading speech that agencies on the racecourse would only be established with the approval of the Turf Club; and then again such agencies would only handle certain types of betting. This would be restricted to one selected double only; not to doubles on successive races. It would also be restricted to quinella betting.

At the moment there are 10 licensed on-course bookmakers who handle bets on Eastern States races. There are three licensed on-course bookmakers who handle doubles on Eastern States races. In addition to this they also handle doubles on local races. So far as the T.A.B. agency is concerned, there would be no conflict with the bookmakers, in this connection. There would be no conflict so far as the quinella betting is concerned, because the bookmakers do not handle this particular form of betting.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition suggested that with the agency being placed on the racecourse there would be an increase in the incidence of betting. This would possibly be so; but I suggest it would only be in a very minor way. We suggest that this agency should be on the course to assist on-course patrons who prefer this particular type of betting. Possibly this will be the means of encouraging more people to attend the racecourses.

In fairness, I should mention that I did have a meeting with a representative of the Western Australian Turf Club Bookmakers' Association who expressed some concern about this proposal. However, I feel he was under the impression that the T.A.B. agency established on the course would be in direct competition with the licensed on-course bookmakers. I have explained that the competition would be virtually negligible and they had nothing to fear. I consider their concern was that they thought this was the thin edge of the wedge and that agencies would take over from licensed on-course bookmakers.

Mr. Bickerton: What would be wrong with the totalisator doing all the betting on the course?

Mr. CRAIG: I am trying to convey the concern of the bookmakers. Personally, I would not like to see all the betting on racecourses handled by totalisators.

Mr. Jamieson: New Zealand gets along very well.

Mr. CRAIG: Not only New Zealand, but also Hong Kong, Malaysia, United States, and other countries in the world. I am an infrequent visitor to the racecourse or to trotting meetings, but as one of the uninitiated in this form of entertainment, I derive some pleasure from moving around in the ring. I think that is one of the attractions of the racecourse, so I assured the bookmakers' association that complete betting on the totalisator on the course was not the desire of the board. The association must also remember this: The licensed on-course bookmakers who handle bets on the local races have to compete with the on-course totalisator, whereas the licensed bookmakers on the course handling Eastern States betting have no competition from the totalisator at the present time.

Some doubts were expressed by members in relation to the adjustment of the formula. It is proposed that the basis be 60 per cent. for racing and 40 per cent. for trotting. At the present time it is 61-odd per cent. to 38-odd per cent. As a result of this new adjustment proposed in the Bill, it will mean that the Turf Club will lose approximately \$18,000; and the W.A. Trotting Association will also lose a like amount. The Fremantle Trotting Club will gain slightly, and the country trotting clubs, from memory, will gain about \$18,000.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition suggested that another formula should be used so that the whole of the profits derived from Eastern States racing would be devoted to a community chest which would be available for charities and sporting bodies. I would remind the House that Eastern States racing accounts for roughly half the turnover of the T.A.B. If it accounts for approximately half of the turnover, then it must account for half of the profits; and, if the suggestion of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition were agreed to it would mean there would be approximately \$500,000 available for this particular purpose.

I do not disagree with the principle of giving assistance to worth-while charities and sporting bodies, but I would remind the House that the Government does its part and is not unsympathetic to its responsibility in this connection; so much so that in a period of 12 months something like \$1,300,000 is allocated for this purpose. Similarly, the Lotteries Commission makes quite a generous amount available to charities and sporting bodies; and this would be in the vicinity of \$500,000.

Mr. Hawke: Does the Lotteries Commission make money available to sporting bodies?

Mr. CRAIG: Yes; as a matter of fact only a couple of weeks ago I was with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition at the annual meeting of the Surf Lifesaving Association which reminded me of the generous help that is given.

Mr. Hawke: Is the Surf Lifesaving Association a sporting body?

Mr. CRAIG: Partly so.

Mr. Hawke: I would not have thought so. Does the Lotteries Commission make money available to cricketering and athletic associations?

Mr. CRAIG: No.

Mr. Hawke: Of course not.

Mr. CRAIG: A surf lifesaving association is one that is available for sporting activities.

Mr. Hawke: You are drawing the long bow.

Mr. CRAIG: The Leader of the Opposition is drawing the long bow. We must not overlook the reason why the Totalisator Agency Board was established in the first place. Some members, and particularly the member for Albany, have drawn attention to this. It was established to rehabilitate the racing and trotting industry in Western Australia. Those who are more conversant with this particular form of entertainment than I am will recall the condition the industry was in before the board was established in 1961.

I think the efforts of the board have been appreciated, not only by the clubs themselves, but also by the people who desire this form of entertainment. I would also remind the House that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition introduced a Bill—it must be two years ago—to apply unclaimed dividends from the operations of the board towards a community chest on similar lines to those he has suggested on this occasion. I suppose the time will come when the amount that is made available to both the racing and trotting industries will have to be pegged. At the present time it is in the vicinity of \$1,200,000.

We know that both the turf club and the trotting association have made the greatest use of this money towards rehabilitating the industry and improving conditions for the on-course patrons. They are, of course, budgeting ahead in anticipation of what profits are going to be and what their percentage of those profits will be.

Mr. Brady: It is encouraging betting in the community.

Mr. CRAIG: That could be so. As I have said, it is possible that in time to come—I do not know when—a halt will have to be called as to the amount of money that will be made available to the racing industry as a result of the operations of the T.A.B.

I think the member for Mt. Marshall referred to the composition of the board which, at the present time, is made up of

three members from racing, three members from trotting, and an independent chairman, who is also virtually the manager of the board and in charge of its operations. Here, I must commend the chairman of the board (Mr. Maher) for the part he has played in the establishment of the board. The board had a most difficult time initially, but today it is on a level that meets with the approval of the betting public and the racing and trotting industries.

Mr. May: What is the difficult time you are talking about?

Mr. CRAIG: The member for Collie has been in this House long enough to be aware of the difficult times experienced by the racing and trotting industries before the establishment of the Totalisator Agency Board; and he knows full well the difficulties the board had to overcome.

Mr. May: I would not know; I am asking you.

Mr. CRAIG: I am saying that the member for Collie knows what the difficulties were in combating the activities of betting in forms other than in the legal manner.

Mr. Jamieson: I do not think the board did much about it, but the gaming police may have.

Mr. CRAIG: I did not say the board did; but there were difficulties that had to be overcome in order to get the public to accept the T.A.B. in preference to an illegal form of betting.

The member for Mt. Marshall also had some doubts about the formula and felt the trotting industry should possibly gain more than the racing industry, as proposed in the Bill. I would remind the House that some two years ago the turf club offered to assist the trotting association to the extent of making something like \$30,000 available to assist the country trotting interests, but this was not acceptable at the time to the trotting association. As a result, the country trotting clubs lost the benefit of this offer during that period.

The country trotting clubs have been endeavouring for some time to resolve their difficulties with the parent body but without success. That is the reason why the recommendation had eventually to come from the board itself. As a result of this, the country trotting clubs will benefit considerably. They will benefit to the same extent as the country racing clubs.

It has been said the trotting association should share a higher percentage of the overall profits. We have to bear in mind the fact that Eastern States racing accounts for approximately half the total turnover and half the profits, and of this, 75 per cent. goes to racing and the balance of 25 per cent. goes to trotting. In the Eastern States, where the totalisator boards operate, the basis of distribution is racing to racing and trotting to trotting.

There is no question of sharing some of the racing with trotting or *vice versa*. But in Western Australia, because of the large turnover on Eastern States events and the fact that we have two hours' difference in time, and because of the desire of one particular section of racing to help the other, it was decided the basis be 75 per cent. and 25 per cent.

If, by chance, it was decided that the board would handle no investments whatever on Eastern States racing, I can assure members the basis would be far more detrimental to trotting than it is today. Admittedly, the turnover from trotting within the State is higher than the turnover from race meetings in the State; but, it has been proved on occasions when there has been a holiday in Western Australia—say, a Monday holiday—and there has been no similar holiday observed in the Eastern States, and there have been no racing events in the Eastern States, that the turnover on racing has increased considerably and far exceeded the turnover on a trotting meeting held that night.

Also, it does not increase the attendance on the course. This is only natural, I suppose, as there would be a certain section of the punters interested only in Eastern States racing. When those punters are denied the privilege of an Eastern States meeting, they divert their interest to the local meeting.

The proposals contained in the Bill are fair and equitable and if there is any large variation in the rate of turnover between the two forms of sport then some adjustment will be necessary to the formula. I am also reminded of the fact that the principle of 75-25 per cent. of the Eastern States turnover was accepted as a basis when the Act was first introduced in 1962.

Mr. Cornell: There was a damn good reason for that!

Mr. CRAIG: I do not know; that was before my time as Minister. I thank members for their contributions. I have been informed quietly that I am not allowed to speak too long because of other circumstances so I will save whatever else there is to say until the Committee stage. I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. W. A. Manning) in the Chair; Mr. Craig (Minister for Police) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 4 put and passed.

Clause 5: Section 28 amended—

Mr. CORNELL: On the question of the distribution of surplus, will the Minister give me an assurance that he will give some consideration to the setting up of some form of independent committee to review this matter?

Mr. CRAIG: I am not quite clear as to what the member for Mt. Marshall desires. He referred to the composition of the board during his second reading speech. I did say that possibly the composition of the board might need some readjustment in the future. This is a distinct possibility and it is apropos of my comments in regard to the future distribution of profits to both the racing and trotting clubs.

Mr. CORNELL: The gestation period of this proposal goes back a long time. With the board so evenly divided, it is quite obvious that the racing interests will not give way to the trotting interests. If some form of independent committee can be set up to advise the Minister when it considers a review of the distribution is warranted, the inequities which have existed for a couple of years could be corrected.

If the Minister is giving consideration to altering the personnel on the board, or increasing it in size, that would have the effect of breaking the stalemate which exists at the moment.

Mr. CRAIG: I am now clear in my mind as to what the honourable member desires. I have some thoughts on this matter which are very much in line with those he expressed. The solution is, as the honourable member suggests, to have someone entirely divorced from, or independent of, either interest. This will be kept in mind.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 6: Section 45 amended—

Mr. DAVIES: I expressed some concern that the Bill was again doubling the penalties provided under section 45 of the Act. Those penalties were doubled only as recently as 1962. I asked the Minister to give some estimate of the number of charges—successful or otherwise—which had been proceeded with in the courts since 1962. The Minister advanced no argument whatsoever, and I was hoping he would inform the chamber of the position.

We should not apply penalties of this nature merely to make people afraid to break the law. If there is evidence that the law is being broken, and that the present penalties are not a deterrent, there may be more argument to increase the penalties.

Mr. CRAIG: I did intend to refer to this particular matter, because the member for Victoria Park raised it during the second reading. The number of convictions has been small. There were eight in 1965 and none in 1966 regarding debtors. Regarding bookmakers, there were six in 1965 and one in 1966. However, this is not a necessary indication, or a reason as to why it is suggested that the penalties should be increased. The penalties have been doubled to act as a greater deterrent against the particular type of illegal bookmaker whom it has been found, it is most difficult to catch. The board is convinced that a certain number of

this particular type of gentleman are still operating in a big way.

Mr. DAVIES: On the figures quoted by the Minister I feel disposed to vote against this clause. Whilst the board may think certain things are happening, to my mind it is not sufficient to place in the Bill fines of this nature. I have not seen or heard of any evidence of illegal book-making throughout the length and breadth of my electorate. It possibly might happen, but generally one hears of those things.

Mr. O'Connor: Do you associate with betting circles or racing clubs?

Mr. DAVIES: No; my knowledge of the T.A.B. is very limited. The member for Murchison made an all-embracing statement that the Opposition is against the T.A.B. That is not so.

Mr. O'Connor: The reason I asked was that if you moved in those particular circles you might have heard about illegal betting.

Mr. DAVIES: I have not been to a race-course for 10 years. I have been to the trots occasionally but I learnt my lesson there. I have a drink in hotels occasionally but I have not seen any evidence of illegal betting.

The Minister also said that this provision was to be retrospective. Paragraph (c) reads as follows:—

(c) by adding a subsection as follows—

(4) A complaint for an offence against this section committed after the commencement of this subsection, may be made at any time within five years from the date the offence was committed.

I drew attention to this special provision being made in regard to betting, as opposed to section 51 of the Justices Act, and expressed opposition to it. It is a bad principle to isolate one particular offence which can be taken to court for a period up to five years after it was committed, as against six months as is set out in section 51 of the Justices Act. The Minister said it was not intended that the clause was to be retrospective. According to my reading of the Bill this clause is to be retrospective. I oppose the penalty, and I oppose this provision, which can go back five years.

Mr. CRAIG: This provision which extends the period during which action can be taken is, I am informed, also applicable to a couple of other Acts. One of them is the Local Government Act. The reason for it is that some of the evidence which is forthcoming is not available until well after the period of six months which is provided for in the Justices Act. The board has found this to be so in quite a number of instances where action could have been taken against an illegal

bookmaker. One case in particular was against a man who was operating in a very big way and who was the type of person we want to eliminate. However, action was prevented by the provision in the Justices Act. That is the reason for the extension; it is not retrospective. The provision will not apply until this Bill becomes law.

Mr. JAMIESON: The reply given to the member for Victoria Park with respect to the penalty provisions was a very weak one. Surely in regard to no other legislation would this Chamber contemplate increasing penalties where there was no evidence of any increases in a particular crime! I suggest there must be more than just a suspicion that something is taking place; and if the Act is properly administered—as the Minister claims—then the people who are taking part in the crime—if there is any crime—will soon be brought to book, because somebody will squeal. The turnover of somebody else is being affected.

Someone's turnover will be affected; and he would have to pay to get his turnover, whereas the other fellow would pay no fees at all. In view of the figures that the Minister gave, I would suggest that as there was only one bookmaker apprehended in 1966 and, in fact, no bettors at all, the penalties are quite sufficient. One could bring in the death penalty, but still the problem would not be completely eliminated.

Mr. Bickerton: One tries to frighten him out.

Mr. JAMIESON: It would frighten him out, perhaps, but I do not think it is desirable for Parliament to act this way, unless this is an indication from the Minister of what is occurring. On the contrary, I feel there is a good argument for the lessening of penalties in order to try to bring the offenders into the open so that they can be handled. The Minister argues that this will stop them from operating, but if they are driven further underground other precautions will have to be taken in order to bring them to heel. I would suggest that what is necessary is to include a provision so that we can find out who they are; and, subsequently, we could get evidence against them and take action. I do not think the answer is to increase the penalties so that their security will become far better than that of some of the international spy organisations.

Mr. DAVIES: In regard to being able to prosecute an offence up to a period of five years, I think the Minister has destroyed his own argument. He said this had been included because of a man who was engaged in illegal bookmaking or punting, being discovered after the period of six months had elapsed. Obviously the position had cured itself at that stage. The T.A.B. officials found him either because he was no longer a punter or a bookmaker;

or, alternatively, they found him illegally punting and they were able to prosecute. Therefore, the Minister has destroyed his own argument if that is the only case he can put forward to uphold retrospection for this type of offence.

I cannot see that any special requirement should be put into the Act for this type of offence. The fact that this provision is included in one or two other Acts has no bearing on the present case.

Had I been a member of Parliament at the time, I would have opposed it. I do not know what the circumstances are here, but this is putting bookmaking and punting into a class of their own. Frankly, in the absence of any argument that would prove what the Minister says, I do not believe what he put forward is correct.

If there had been a great amount of illegal bookmaking going on, it would have been evident before now. The report of the T.A.B., which is before us, says that the board is continuing to prosper and that it is still getting its fair share of the—

Mr. Jamieson: Spoils.

Mr. DAVIES: —spoils, as the member for Beeloo says. I feel that there is not the slightest justification for these particularly vicious clauses which are contained in the Bill.

As I said before, betting and punting seem to have been generally accepted. When the Labor Government was in office, the churches made a great outcry about trying to put some order into punting by the licensing of S.P. bookmakers. Suddenly the churches have gone very quiet about it. Apparently it is quite all right to bet if one bets through the T.A.B. In the churches' eyes, there is nothing bad about betting through this body. Everyone has accepted the T.A.B. as it is and there is no evidence of any wholesale illegal punting. In his excuse for putting this clause into the Bill, the Minister has destroyed his own argument.

Mr. BRADY: I did not take the opportunity of speaking on the second reading although I have very strong views in regard to betting generally. At this stage, I want to say that the Minister, in putting these penalties in and making it a period of five years during which people can be charged with illegal betting, is practically putting the seal on the present system of T.A.B. shops and the fostering of racing and trotting.

In the Minister's own words it is "encouraging betting." We have all been told the supposed purposes of the T.A.B. It was going to stabilise the racing and trotting industries; take them out of the doldrums; and improve the amenities and, generally, the social standing of racing and trotting in this State. However, for some reason or other all those who are advocating these things have lost sight of an-

other objective it is supposed to be achieving, and that is to control betting. The debate on this particular matter has disclosed that the amount of betting is achieving very great heights.

By putting this seal on this type of betting one is saying to the young people who are now engaging in a multiplicity of sports and activities, "You are only wasting your time; why don't you follow racing or trotting? There is a lovely night course provided for trotting, lit by electric light and with all the amenities and frills." Thus we go in a circle where betting is encouraged.

Let me make this point: In the miscellaneous vote every year a sum is provided to support the half a dozen organisations referred to by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member is speaking to clause 6 and he must confine his remarks to this clause.

Mr. BRADY: Clause 6 deals with doubling the fines and making it possible for the Minister, within a period of five years, to charge people with illegal betting. The point I am making is that now is the time for people who are opposed to betting to express the viewpoint that the Minister should be giving his undertaking that some of this money will be made available to the kinds of charities and organisations referred to by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. The miscellaneous vote indicates that a mere pittance is given to worth-while organisations.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I cannot allow the honourable member to continue on these lines.

Mr. BRADY: I think I have made my point that the Minister has a very big responsibility in this matter and should give some consideration to asking the T.A.B. to spend its money in directions other than those which encourage betting throughout Western Australia and which are for the benefit of the people who have indulged in betting.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 7 and 8 put and passed.

Title—

Mr. CORNELL: Mr. Chairman, I seek your direction as to what I can discuss under the title of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Very little—just the title.

Mr. CORNELL: Very well, I will scratch myself for the third reading.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

House adjourned at 8.40 p.m.