

Clause put and passed.  
 Clause 10 put and passed.  
 Title put and passed.

### Report

Bill reported with an amendment, and the report adopted.

House adjourned at 11.30 p.m.

## Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 25th October, 1961

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The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### JETTIES FOR DERBY AND BROOME

#### Government's Intentions

1. The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Mines:

As the Government has abandoned its election policy to provide one deep-water port in West Kimberley, when can the public expect to be enlightened as to the Government's intention regarding deep-water jetties at Derby and Broome?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The Government has not abandoned its decision to provide a deep-water port in West Kimberley. The matter has been and still is, under active consideration, and it is hoped shortly to make a statement in regard to the priorities of improved harbour facilities in Western Australia.

### FREMANTLE PASSENGER TERMINAL

#### Overway Connection with Beach Street

2. The Hon. E. M. DAVIES asked the Minister for Local Government:

(1) Have plans for the pedestrian overway connecting the Fremantle passenger terminal to Beach Street been prepared?

(2) Will the City of Fremantle be consulted respecting the siting of the overway and its location in relation to Beach Street?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

(1) No.

(2) Yes.

### JETTY FOR NAPIER BROOME BAY

#### Government's Intentions

3. The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Mines:

As twelve months have passed since a hydrographic survey of Napier Broome Bay was completed, is the Government yet able to advise whether it will provide jetty facilities in the bay to serve the North Kimberley district?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The matter is still under consideration and a decision must be deferred until the necessary finance can be made available.

## CLOSING DAYS OF SESSION

### Standing Orders Suspension

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [4.34 p.m.]: I move—

That during the remainder of the session so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary

to enable Bills to be passed through all stages in any one sitting, and all messages from the Legislative Assembly to be taken into consideration forthwith.

I would like to say, briefly, that this is the usual type of motion moved by the Leader of the House when the parliamentary session is drawing to a close. As will be seen, the Government is hopeful that the session will finish about the second week in November; and it is for this purpose that I ask the House to agree to this motion.

I would, however, like to assure members that in the event of this motion being agreed to, the authority given by the House will not be used without discrimination; which means to say that unless it becomes necessary, I most certainly will not—and my colleague will not—take a Bill through all stages at any one sitting. Adjournments will be given upon request, and the various stages will be taken from day to day in the usual way. Where it becomes necessary, and where there is no basis of contention in regard to a particular Bill, this authority, with the approval of the House, can be used.

**THE HON. H. C. STRICKLAND** (North—Leader of the Opposition) [4.36 p.m.]: I am pleased that the Minister has given us an assurance that he is not going to rush legislation through as it comes along. I was getting a little bit worried about what his attitude might be, after the attitude recently adopted towards adjournments of debates. Now that the Minister has assured us that he will not refuse an adjournment until a later stage of the sitting, to give us an opportunity to read a Bill or a message, the position is not as bad as I had visualised. It is sometimes a terrible thing that might become right. I am interested in the period when the Government hopes to finish this session of Parliament. Could the Minister give the House some target date which the Government may have fixed upon as the final day of the session?

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [4.38 p.m.]: I did indicate, when I moved this motion, that it was hoped the parliamentary session would end about the second week in November. I realise these target dates are not always possible of fulfilment; but I feel sure that members do not want to see a repetition of the sort of thing that has happened before. There have been occasions that I can remember, in my relatively brief history here, when we have still been sitting around about the 22nd or 23rd December.

So long as there is sufficient time allowed—and I have given an assurance that there will be—for consideration to be given to legislation, I think it is very laudable that the parliamentary session should end and

not go on too close to Christmas, bearing in mind that Ministers and every member in the House have functions to attend and have electoral obligations. I am sure this factor will be appreciated by the majority of members.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: We are not complaining; only making arrangements.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: There should be ample opportunity for attention to be given to the important part of the duties we have as members of Parliament.

Question put and passed.

## NEW BUSINESS: TIME LIMIT

### *Suspension of Standing Order No. 62*

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [4.39 p.m.]: I move—

That Standing Order No. 62 (limit of time for commencing new business) be suspended during the remainder of the session.

Little explanation is necessary. As you know, Sir, Standing Order No. 62 provides a limitation of time and says that no new business shall be introduced after 11 p.m.; and it is usual for this motion to be moved concurrently with the motion we have just dealt with so that we can at times sit longer than we normally do in order to get through our business.

Once again I would like to say that it is not our intention to keep members here burning the midnight and early morning oil, but to exercise discretion in the matter, having regard for the progress we make from time to time.

Question put and passed.

## BILLS (3): THIRD READING

1. Railway Standardisation Agreement Bill.

2. Railways (Standard Gauge) Construction Bill.

Bills read a third time, on motions by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), and passed.

3. State Housing Act Amendment Bill.

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Housing), and passed.

## JUDGES' SALARIES AND PENSIONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### *Report*

Report of Committee adopted.

### *Third Reading*

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), and returned to the Assembly with an amendment.

# MEDICAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

## Report

Report of Committee adopted.

# METROPOLITAN REGION IMPROVEMENT TAX ACT AMENDMENT BILL

## Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 24th October.

**THE HON. L. A. LOGAN** (Midland—Minister for Town Planning) [4.45 p.m.]: There are only a couple of matters to which I wish to reply; and one in particular is a statement made by Mr. Strickland regarding finances connected with the Kewdale marshalling yards. The honourable member had this to say in respect of the marshalling yards—

That is part and parcel of the plan. It would not matter two hoots to the people living within the region, who are paying the tax for this plan, if there were no marshalling yards at all within the region. They get no service from goods trains—none whatever. The establishment of the yards is purely and simply for people in the country; and the cost is for something to serve people in country areas; yet they are not expected to contribute one penny.

I ask members: Fancy an ex-Minister for Railways making a statement like that! I wonder where the honourable member thinks the railways get their £16,000,000 revenue, which is the only sum the railways can spend other than the loan funds which are applied to that department? Ninety-five per cent. of the railway freights are paid by people who live in country districts. Yet the honourable member says that those people contribute nothing towards the cost of the marshalling yards. I thought an ex-Minister for Railways would have had a better approach to the problem than that. Of course the people in the country are paying for the cost of erecting marshalling yards at Welshpool!

**The Hon. H. C. Strickland:** What with?

**The Hon. L. A. LOGAN:** Most of the railway revenue comes from freights, 95 per cent. of which are paid by country people. The person in the country pays both ways, and the £16,000,000 revenue—

**The Hon. H. C. Strickland:** They have been showing a loss for 15 years.

**The Hon. L. A. LOGAN:** And they are making a profit today.

**The Hon. H. C. Strickland:** The first time since—

**The Hon. L. A. LOGAN:** Therefore the users of the railway system—the country people—are paying the greater proportion of the cost of the marshalling yards. Yet the honourable member says they are paying nothing.

**The Hon. H. C. Strickland:** Wait till they make £3,000,000 a year!

**The Hon. L. A. LOGAN:** What an approach from an ex-Minister for Railways!

**The Hon. H. C. Strickland:** Talk sense!

**The Hon. L. A. LOGAN:** I thought I had better bring the honourable member into line in that respect.

**The Hon. H. C. Strickland:** Is that the best you can do?

**The Hon. L. A. LOGAN:** I should now like to refer to a statement made by Mr. Wise, and I thought he was somewhat unfair to the authority. In the course of his remarks he said—

One thing appears obvious, namely, that the authority itself is thinking much more along the lines of Parliament's thinking than it was two years ago.

Two years ago the authority was not even functioning; it was not established until April of last year; and at its first meeting—its very first meeting—the committee recommended that representations be made to the Government based on the substance of its report that the limitation on the life of the authority and the metropolitan improvement tax be removed. It went on to say that in principle, and subject to Government action on the above, the authority should seek to meet the cost of implementing the regional scheme through long-term loans.

That has been the policy of the authority from the day it came into existence; and so I think it was rather unfair for Mr. Wise to make the statement he did in regard to the authority.

I would now like to refer to the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act, and to deal with the repeated request that has been made in this House that the money connected with the scheme should be paid out of Consolidated Revenue. Parliament agreed to the legislation; it is law; and if we look at its implications we find that section 38 makes provision for giving effect to the scheme, and for this purpose a fund called the Metropolitan Region Improvement Fund is to be established at the Treasury. That is the authority for setting up a fund at the Treasury. Subsection (2) of section 38 says—

The Authority shall pay or cause to be paid to the Fund—

- (a) the proceeds of the Metropolitan Region Improvement Tax referred to in section forty-one of this Act;
- (b) money borrowed by the Authority from time to time under authority conferred by this Act; and
- (c) any other payments made to the Authority.

When we analyse this we find that paragraph (c) provides purely for exigencies which might arise from buildings which

have been purchased and leased or rented out for the time being; and while paragraph (b) refers to money borrowed by the authority from time to time, members will see that the reference in paragraph (a) is to the proceeds of the metropolitan region improvement tax referred to in section 41. Let us have a look at section 39 which says—

(1) If the money represented in the Fund is insufficient at any time to meet expenditure incurred or proposed to be incurred by the Authority in carrying out its functions, the Treasurer with the approval of the Governor, who is hereby authorised to grant the approval, may make, and the Authority may borrow, from the Public Account advances of such amounts as the Governor approves, on such conditions as to repayment and payment of interest as the Governor imposes and is hereby authorised to approve and impose.

(2) When an advance is made under this section—

- (a) the Authority shall repay the amount of the advance; and
- (b) shall pay interest.

If the regional tax was not in keeping with the fund, how could the authority refund any money which it borrowed from the Treasury under this Act? It could not do so because there would be no revenue there. Section 40 makes provision to carry out these functions and the authority has power to borrow money. The money so borrowed must have the approval of the Governor. The Governor must approve the particulars of the proposed loan and the guarantee by the Treasurer and advise the authority accordingly; the authority shall not finalise the negotiations until the form has been submitted to and approved by the Treasurer. Subsection (6) of section 40 provides—

The due payment of money payable by the Treasurer under a guarantee given by him under the authority of this section—

- (a) is hereby guaranteed by the State; and
- (b) shall be paid out of the money referred to in section four of the Audit Act as "Public Monneys."

Subsection (7) says—

By virtue of this subsection any sum paid by the Treasurer under any guarantee given under this section is a charge on the Fund.

So irrespective of whether money is borrowed from the Treasurer, and no matter what the conditions are, the money must be paid back with interest. If it is borrowed on a long-term or short-term loan it must still be paid out of the fund. That

is the Act of Parliament under which the authority is working. To deny the authority revenue from the fund would immediately put it into the position of not being able to borrow money from the Government since it would have no revenue of its own.

If the House does not pass this taxing measure the authority will not be able to exist. So I ask members to pass this measure and let the authority get on with the job, which is to present to Parliament at the earliest possible time a regional plan; and I assure members that every opportunity will be given both to Parliament and the public to study the plan, to examine it, and to raise objections, if necessary.

Let us not stifle the authority. I read an article this morning about the authority in Sydney being stifled; and the business people in Sydney are most anxious because of the falling off of revenue. We want the city to remain the lifeblood of the State; and the object of the authority is to ensure that the lifeblood of this city is not squeezed out through bad planning.

**Question put and passed.**

**Bill read a second time.**

*In Committee*

The Chairman of Committees (The Hon. W. R. Hall) in the Chair; The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Town Planning), in charge of the Bill.

**Clauses 1 and 2 put and passed.**

**Title—**

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: The Minister took me to task for suggesting that the country people were not contributing to the establishment of marshalling yards, etc. He roared and said that the people in the country were making their contribution through revenue. I have done a hasty calculation and I find it is 15 years since the railways had a surplus of revenue over operating expenses; and the Party to which the Minister belongs has been in Government for a substantial portion of that time. The total deficit between the cost of running the railways and the revenue received is £22,000,000; and the Minister had the hide to take me to task. To say that the people in the country have paid for the marshalling yards is beyond my comprehension, after we find a deficit of £22,000,000.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The honourable member said the people in the country did not contribute one penny.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: What was I supporting?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The honourable member said the marshalling yards were not worth a cracker to anybody. Does he not think there should be marshalling yards where goods can be delivered? Or does he believe that they should be dumped

out at some place like Bellevue, for instance? Of course marshallings yards are of some value; and the country people are contributing £16,000,000 towards the revenue of the railways. Does that not mean anything to the honourable member?

**The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND:** I fail to see how the farming community is paying anything towards these marshallings yards, or towards the improvement of the city, if there are many more successful and above-average farmers of the calibre of Mr. Jones, who made a personal statement to this House that he had paid no income tax for some years.

**Title put and passed.**

### *Report*

**Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.**

## **SUPPLY BILL (No. 2), £22,000,000**

### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 24th October.

**THE HON. R. THOMPSON (West)** [5.0 p.m.]: It is not my intention to speak at any great length on this Bill. The main purpose in my speaking is to deal with something that is going on in the community and about which I think the Government should take direct action. I refer to poker or pinball machines. Throughout the cities of both Perth and Fremantle we have, over the last several years, seen a rapid increase in the number of establishments that have put these machines into operation.

I, myself, on two occasions visited a place in Perth where one of these machines had been installed. I stood watching for one and a half hours; and noted a chap lost £86. The time was 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and this chap had been there since 11 in the morning. He lost £86 playing the one machine. In Fremantle, very late one night I purposely visited a cafe that is rather notorious. I saw that youths were playing these machines in that establishment and I said to one lad, "How much have you lost here?" He said, "I have lost my wages and have borrowed £2 from my mate."

**The Hon. L. A. Logan:** What type of machines were they?

**The Hon. R. THOMPSON:** They were pin ball machines. I noticed that this lad fed 21 single shillings straight into the machine in an attempt to get the jackpot. I was not able to follow the method by which these machines were operated, although I watched them in Perth for quite some time. Despite this, I was not able to comprehend how one went about it.

However, I found out how one could lose. This lad fed 21 shillings into the machine and after having the number of shots which the 21 shillings entitled him to, he had 54 shillings to collect. That is how

much he should have been able to get back from the cafe proprietor. But instead of doing that, he wound the machine down so he could have 54 chances or 54 shillings' worth of shots at the jackpot. As a consequence of this, he lost everything. The Labor Government saw fit to ban—and rightly so—one-armed bandits.

**The Hon. J. M. Thomson:** Who wound it down?

**The Hon. R. THOMPSON:** He wound it down himself by pushing and shaking the machine in order to obtain a credit of 54 shots.

**The Hon. A. F. Griffith:** I can tell you that this matter is receiving the Government's consideration.

**The Hon. R. THOMPSON:** I sincerely hope it receives early consideration. We have been advised in the Press that it is hoped the session will conclude by the middle of November. However, it is my sincere wish—and I would compliment the Government if it did this—that the Government should bring down legislation to ensure that these traps will be taken out of business places that have mushroomed up during the last couple of years.

That is the only contribution I wish to make to the debate. I sincerely trust action will be taken in the near future to see these things are thrown on to the scrap heap.

**THE HON. W. R. HALL (North-East)** [5.5 p.m.]: This particular Bill gives me the opportunity of saying something which has been brought about as a result of the question I asked the Minister for Mines last Thursday and which was replied to yesterday.

First of all, I contend that we have a duty to the people of Western Australia; and the Minister, as Leader of this House, has a responsibility to see that when a simple question is asked by an honourable member, that question is given a reasonable and sensible reply. The question I asked was this—

In view of the statement in *The West Australian* of the 19th October, 1961, by the Postmaster-General that it was the intention to establish national and commercial television stations in three country areas in Western Australia, will the Government make immediate representations to the Postmaster-General and/or the Australian Broadcasting Control Board to give consideration to having a television station established on the Eastern Goldfields where the population is approximately 23,000?

The reply I received from the Minister was as follows:—

Mr. Peter Browne, M.H.R., Federal member for Kalgoorlie, has given notice of his intention to move a motion in the Federal Parliament to have Kalgoorlie and Geraldton included in the

TV expansion programme. The State Government is sympathetic and the Premier has discussed the matter with Mr. Browne. I suggest the honourable member should also lend Mr. Browne his support.

If that answer is not tainted with political inspiration I do not know what is. I asked a sensible question of the Leader of the House and that is the reply I received. I would like to tell him in suitable language, outside, just what I think about it; I cannot do so in this House. I feel that the Minister for Mines was not responsible for that reply; but on the other hand he has an obligation and a responsibility to see that the answers to questions are framed decently and without any political taint which, I say without fear of contradiction, this answer appears to contain.

Since that statement appeared in *The West Australian* on the 19th October, the headlines in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* have, on one or two occasions, featured TV as this medium is of interest to the people of Kalgoorlie and Boulder—or perhaps I should say the towns surrounding the Eastern Goldfields. Those people are hostile to the statement that appeared in the Press on Thursday; and the responsibility which one is supposed to have towards one's constituency led me to ask this question. It was in *The West Australian*, but not in the *Kalgoorlie Miner*. I do not think it was mentioned.

After all is said and done, this is the State Parliament; and I asked that the State Government make representations to the Federal Government in regard to television for these country areas, and the first thing I saw in the reply was, "Mr. Peter Browne, M.H.R." What do I care about Peter Browne or anybody else? I asked a sensible question and expected a sensible reply. I do not ask many questions and I do not want to, because sometimes one knows the answers before one asks. However, on this occasion the question was warranted, but it received scant consideration.

The goldfields people are not well served by the national broadcasting stations; and it is a poor show. I might mention that even in the metropolitan area, if it were not for commercial stations, it would not be possible to listen to decent radio programmes. Half the time when one turns on to the national stations one has to listen to highfaluting stuff which the ordinary person cannot understand. Therefore, if any people are entitled to television it is those in the Eastern Goldfields, and the ones in the outback—those people who are away from the metropolitan area. The people in the metropolitan area are supplied with many amenities.

I know full well that the 23,000 people on the goldfields would not have very much respect for their member if he did not try to do something about this, but just sat

down and said nothing. After all, television is here to stay, even though we may be 20 years behind the times. Television was established in England 20 years ago. For goodness sake, do not let Western Australia always be the last with the latest, which we always have been. We have never been first with the latest.

I think the State Government has a responsibility towards these people, whether they are in the Eastern Goldfields or Geraldton; and it should make representations to the Federal Government in regard to television for them. This is an amenity which people want for their children. As far as I am concerned I have no doubt that television, so long as the programmes are suitable, will play an important part in preventing delinquency.

I do not want to say much more about this, but in conclusion I wish to repeat that the reply to my question was well tainted politically. I did not ask for the name of another member; I asked one simple question which could have been replied to by "Yes" or "No."

It was not my intention to bring politics into television; but I did not want to let this opportunity pass without saying that I am hostile about the reply I received. Fortunately the Supply Bill has given me this opportunity. I hope this will serve as a reminder that in future, when a sensible question is asked in this House, the honourable member concerned should receive a sensible reply—and in the terms to which he is entitled.

As members of Parliament, we all have a responsibility to the people we represent; and I do not want the people I represent to think I am going to sleep on the job. There has been no mention about this question in the *Kalgoorlie Miner*.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: It was not in *The West Australian*.

The Hon. W. R. HALL: There may be a reason for that. It is obvious that the Opposition can get plenty of publicity when the Press wants it to. The *Kalgoorlie Miner* is a fair paper, but it has not known about this. I have not known the *Kalgoorlie Miner* not to publish something when one asks it to do so. However, on this occasion there has been no mention of the question asked last Thursday; and this is Wednesday, a week later.

I repeat that the Eastern Goldfields is not well served with radio; and I would not mind being on a deputation with someone else to help get TV to those areas, because the time will come when there will be booster stations at Merredin and the people will get TV. We might profit by the experience gained in other countries. The programmes of the national station are not worth listening to; but it is just as well that we have not all the same tastes as regards radio programmes.

It is my opinion that it is the people in the outback that we should look after particularly as there is a tendency for everyone to come to the metropolitan area. That has been the position with regard to Wiluna, Leonora, and Laverton, where the population has dwindled away. There is no doubt that TV is a great amenity for the population of any town. I support the Bill.

**THE HON. E. M. DAVIES** (West) [5.15 p.m.]: I wish to raise one or two points in the hope that the Minister will give some consideration to them. The Supply Bill provides funds for the Government to carry on the affairs of the State. The Bill is necessary and all members support it; and it gives one the opportunity to raise matters that are important to the district in which one lives and which one might represent in Parliament.

I have been told on quite a number of occasions that quite an amount of land will be resumed as a result of an extension of the plans in connection with the renewal of the railway bridge.

I do not propose to raise that question tonight, but I am given to understand that because of the port development it is proposed to widen Beach Street to East Street. It is expected that this work will interfere with the water supply depot and other Government utilities that occupy land in that area.

I am also given to understand that it will be necessary to relocate the water supply depot; and some land in the district has a frontage to Knutsford Street and Blinco Street, adjacent to the memorial to the fallen soldiers, sailors, and airmen, and that land was at one time vested in the Education Department, for educational purposes. Because of that, town planning and zoning in Fremantle has been difficult.

Certain pieces of Crown land are vested in various departments, and sometimes they are transferred to other departments. I regret to say that the piece of land to which I have referred was vested in the Education Department but is now vested in the Water Supply Department; and there are rumours around Fremantle that the water supply depot in Beach Street will have to be removed; and it is also currently rumoured that it will be relocated on the land to which I have referred.

I draw the Minister's attention to that matter as I think it is wise to do so before the transfer is made. If it is the intention to relocate the Water Supply Department depot and establish it on the land which I have mentioned, serious objection will be raised by the Fremantle City Council.

**The Hon. L. A. Logan:** Have you an alternative area?

**The Hon. E. M. DAVIES:** Another important question is this: We all appreciate that there is a new passenger terminal at

Victoria Quay. Some of us who have had the opportunity to go overseas have noticed the depressing effect of the embarkation and disembarkation facilities in some of the principal ports of the world. So I think it is a credit to Western Australia that at Fremantle, which is the first port of call from the United Kingdom and Europe, we endeavour to create a good impression on the people who arrive here.

I believe the new passenger transport terminal is an asset and will give people a good impression when they arrive at Fremantle, the western gateway to the Commonwealth of Australia. So I tell the Minister, for what it is worth, that complaints have been made to me that certain people conducting businesses in the terminal take advantage of the position that exists when overseas ships arrive on Sundays. They take sterling from the passengers and give change, but they do not take into consideration the exchange that sterling is entitled to receive in Australia. So actually they are deliberately taking money, to which they have no right, from people. This is creating a very bad impression, and reputable business proprietors in Fremantle fear that they might be classed in that category. I am therefore raising the matter here in the hope that the Minister will have some inquiry made with the idea of preventing anything like that in the future; because I doubt whether any definite charges could be laid against any individual.

I am particularly interested in Fremantle, quite apart from the fact that I represent that town, which is in the West Province, in this Parliament. We are all jealous of Western Australia's reception of people from the United Kingdom and Europe, and we endeavour to create a good and lasting impression. But if we allow something like this to continue, people will get a bad impression not only of the business section in the transport terminal, but of the business people in Fremantle and throughout Western Australia as a whole.

Another matter I wish to raise—I have endeavoured to deal with it on numerous occasions here—concerns the burning off of Crown land. This matter was raised last session, and at the beginning of this session I asked a question concerning the matter and I was told that it had been referred to some committee or other with a view to something being done about it.

I wish to bring to the notice of the Minister for Local Government that we are getting near the time of the year when it is necessary for burning off to be done. Owners of private land are called upon, under the Fire Brigades Act, to burn off; but the Crown does not appear to be interested, and has not been for a number of years. But, indeed, the Crown is responsible for many fire hazards that exist. I would like the Minister to ascertain how

far the committee that I have just mentioned has gone in dealing with this matter, and whether there is any intention on the part of the Government to ensure that the Crown stands up to the same responsibility that the owner of private vacant land has to.

Most people would know from the latest statistics that the population of the City of Fremantle has dropped to somewhere in the vicinity of 21,000. In the past we, in Fremantle, have endeavoured to make available certain lands for the establishment of industry, as we believed—and I personally believe this—that secondary industry in Western Australia was necessary.

For a long time we have put forward arguments and suggestions to overcome the difficulties that arise from our isolation due to the thousand-odd miles of No Man's Land between Western Australia and South Australia, and it is now gratifying to know that industries in other States and other countries are realising the importance of establishing branches here. So the Fremantle City Council—and I am pleased to be associated with it—has endeavoured to help in this respect by making land available for industry. By doing that, it has encouraged quite a lot of industry to come into its district.

The Fremantle City Council area is, in extent, the vicinity of 5.9 square miles. A lot of the land has been taken up by industry, and we now have the spectacle of residences being demolished in the central part of Fremantle to make way for the erection of warehouses. So the population is gradually being driven out of Fremantle proper into some of the contiguous areas.

In the past, certain Government departments decided to make use of land for the purpose of establishing pine forests, because approximately 15 years ago the proposition to plant pine trees on certain areas on the fringe of the Fremantle City boundaries was brought forward. It was generally realised that the land which had pine forests established on it would be tied up for something in the vicinity of 50 years.

Whilst at that time it might have been necessary to establish pine forests, we have got to the stage now where we require for industry more land than we have available. It has been suggested that the Fremantle City Council should re-zone some of the residential areas for industry, but that is something I personally am not prepared to do.

I am prepared to assist industry to the fullest degree, but I feel that we cannot have a town or a city without population; and we have people who are in business in Fremantle and who depend on the population of Fremantle and the contiguous districts for their business progress. So if we continually have to utilise for industry land that is zoned for residential

purposes, we will find that people will gradually move out of Fremantle into other areas. It is because of this trend that our population now is down to a little more than 21,000.

The department has suggested that the council should re-zone some of the land that has been zoned for residential purposes; but that does not meet with my approval; and I have some little say in the matter because I happen to be chairman of the Fremantle City Council Town Planning Committee, and I am also chairman of the Group A Planning Committee in Fremantle.

My council believes that the time has arrived when something should be done with the area that has been used for a pine plantation. The pine trees have been growing for 15 years, but of course they have not yet matured or reached the stage when it is regarded as a financial proposition to remove them. But I feel that industry would play a far more important part in the progress of the district than would the growing of pine trees in and around the fringes of the Fremantle city area. So I ask the Minister to make some inquiries into this matter to see whether or not some of this land can be used for other purposes.

We feel that Fremantle has played its part, because we have encouraged quite a large amount of industry to come into our district: we have given certain concessions to industry. In addition we have found that whereas at one time some of our endowment land was not revenue-producing at all—in fact, the local authority had to pay vermin tax—we are now receiving rates from the industries that are established on that land, and those industries are providing work for the people who live in the residential areas.

So we realise the importance of industry, but to expect us to re-zone land that is now zoned for residential purposes is expecting too much. We ask the Minister to take this question up with the Department of Industrial Development to see whether there is any possibility of the land which is now tied up with pine plantations being used for industrial purposes.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: What did you wish to do with the area on which the Wool Exchange is situated?

The Hon. E. M. DAVIES: I know where the Wool Exchange is, and as far as I can recall that land was zoned for residential purposes.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: And the council wanted it for commercial purposes?

The Hon. E. M. DAVIES: I know the council has re-zoned it for some other purpose. That does not meet with my approval, but democracy exists in this country the same as it does in other places, and one must abide by the decision of that particular body. Nevertheless, I do not



know that that land would be of great importance, because it represents only a small area. The Wool Exchange is in a street which backs on to warehouses; and, by some people, it is considered that whilst one can permit buildings to be erected to allow for the assembling of the public, the Wool Exchange can come within this category in view of the fact that it is a building in which the public can assemble.

So these matters are arranged accordingly, and that is how that state of affairs arose. I repeat, however, that it is only a small parcel of land. It would not represent a great area, even if it were reserved for residential purposes. It could be used, perhaps, for the building of a few flats. In the central part of Fremantle, particularly along Queen Victoria Street, which forms the entrance to Fremantle from Perth, congestion is now taking place with the erection of business-houses and warehouses; and, as a result, the people are gradually leaving Fremantle to live in the contiguous areas.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: What area did the council ask to be re-zoned?

The Hon. E. M. DAVIES: I do not know that it has any particular area in mind. It has been suggested that this might be done, but I do not think it will meet with a very good response. Unlike many other cities, Fremantle has several buildings and vacant allotments which are owned by the Commonwealth and State Governments. These properties are fairly considerable in number, when one adds up the areas of land that do belong to the Commonwealth and the State.

So I ask the Minister to make some inquiries to ascertain whether it is possible for some of the area which is now being used for pine plantations to be used in the future for industry. If that could be done it would be of great benefit, because it is well known that land is still badly needed for the establishment of industry. This would be preferable to re-zoning land which is already set aside for residential purposes.

**THE HON. J. T. TEAHAN** (North-East) [5.33 p.m.]: There are one or two matters which I wish to raise whilst I have this opportunity to speak on the Supply Bill. Firstly, I want to deal with the rail traffic to Kalgoorlie. As most members know, I travel almost weekly to Kalgoorlie, and there is certainly room for improvement in the rail service. I think the Commissioner of Railways stated recently that improvements will soon be made. I can only hope that when they are made he will not overlook the comfort of the second-class passengers. In almost all States there seems to be a tendency to improve the accommodation for first-class passengers and to forget the second-class passengers.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: You want to have a look at the Mullewa rail service.

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: I have not travelled on that line recently, but I have heard about it. Too often the second-class passengers are neglected. There is no doubt that the Eastern Goldfields rail service could be improved. To some people a cup of tea may appear to be only a minor matter, but to second-class passengers it represents a major complaint. Five or six years ago I made representation to the then Minister for Railways (Mr. Styants) to have morning tea served to second-class passengers in the same way as it is served to first-class passengers. The service was given for a few months, but suddenly ceased.

I place a great deal of value on a cup of tea that is served in the morning, together with a copy of the newspaper, and I am sure that most passengers travelling on the railway take the same view. They value such a service to a much greater extent than the actual cost.

If that amenity were afforded second-class passengers it would represent a great improvement in the service. Why it was suddenly stopped five or six years ago, I do not know, but probably the reason was that there were not sufficient facilities in the second-class coaches for it to be provided. Nevertheless, if it is possible to serve morning tea in the first-class coaches, surely it can be done in the second-class coaches.

A passenger who has been subject to a great deal of discomfort during a night rail journey would probably overlook much of that discomfort and forget many of his grumbles if he finished his journey by being served with a cup of morning tea. I strongly recommend to the commissioner that he give thought to this suggestion; and by acceding to it, I am sure he will earn the gratitude of those people who travel second-class on that line.

In regard to traffic offences, some time ago it was announced that magistrates would suspend driving licenses for any breaches of the Traffic regulations involving speeding; and, in fact, that policy was carried out. In my opinion, the action of the magistrates in this regard was having quite a good effect in reducing the speed of vehicles on the road. I noticed particularly that drivers were showing a little more courtesy to their fellow drivers on the road, and perhaps they were respecting their own safety as well. However, one magistrate—I think it was a few weeks ago—announced that he would suspend licenses only in those cases where an element of dangerous or negligent driving had been proved. That is similar to the poster that is published by the National Safety Council which depicts a motorist up above playing his harp and underneath is the caption, "I only had one accident and I was driving for 30

years." The moral of that poster is, of course, that one needs to have only one accident.

The same applies to the suspension of licenses. A magistrate should not wait for a serious or fatal accident to occur when he has an offending motorist before the bench. He should take the necessary action to prevent any future accidents occurring.

There seems to be some inconsistency in the penalties awarded. Perhaps that is because the minimum penalty is not very severe. Only a day or two ago, most members would have read in the Press a report of a motorist who was driving along the Causeway weaving from one lane to another. One could almost picture him as he made his way across the Causeway. Other motorists barely avoided having a collision with him. The report stated that prior to his being apprehended towards the end of the Causeway, it was noticed that he was drinking out of a bottle whilst he was driving the vehicle.

That report seemed to indicate the commission of a serious offence. However, the penalty awarded in this case was only a £10 fine and one month's suspension. A much greater penalty would seem to have been more fitting in view of the facts that were published in the newspaper report. Perhaps his counsel submitted that there were some mitigating circumstances, but in my view there could not possibly have been any mitigating circumstances even if the driver had been sober whilst he was drinking from a bottle and driving his vehicle over the Causeway at the same time.

Recently there has been a great deal of publicity about a certain country trader who was prosecuted for backloading goods to his home town. Perhaps the Traffic Act might be amended by the introduction of a Bill on which we could voice some comment in regard to that incident. That trader may have had some good reason for his action. He may be a small trader and, by backloading was endeavouring to compete with chain stores or supermarkets.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: He was trying to give service.

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: There is another angle to this matter about which goldfields members know a good deal. When train services were being discontinued in the country and outback areas, we were extremely sympathetic to the people who were affected; and a good deal of protest was raised against the closing of those lines. Most of those protestations came from country traders, and, following inquiries being made, it was discovered that those traders and other commercial people in the country were breaching the transport regulations and evading the use of the railways when, in fact, they should have legally and morally used them. They were the people who complained the most when the lines were discontinued. But they cannot have it both ways.

They said, "We want the railways because whilst they continue to operate they keep up the values of our properties"; and that is very true. They want the railways to continue in operation so that the value of their properties will not depreciate, but they do not want to use the rail service if it is not in their interests. They cannot have it both ways. If they want the railways to continue in operation, so that they may be used when they so desire, and; if they also wish that the value of their properties shall remain stable or even appreciate by the continuance of the railways, they should ensure that they give the railways reasonable patronage.

**THE HON. N. E. BAXTER** (Central) [5.41 p.m.]: I can think of no more appropriate occasion than this to bring forward a matter which I intend to raise now, particularly as it deals with funds for Consolidated Revenue. The question I wish to bring before the House is that of taxation values on land, particularly on unimproved capital values. In my opinion, the situation is almost completely out of hand in many country districts, because much discrepancy in valuations is found not only between one district and another, but also within each district.

I would like to cite one particular country district in the wheatbelt area, where certain farmers south of the main line have had their properties valued by taxation valuers at £6 an acre. This is wheat and sheep farming land. These properties have been assessed at that valuation notwithstanding that other farms in the district have been valued at a figure as low as approximately £1 an acre. In my view, this does not add up.

For example, the unimproved value of my own property in the hills is slightly under £3 per acre; and anyone who tried to tell me that the properties I have mentioned—which, incidentally, are in the Cunderdin district—should be valued at £6 per acre on capital value, would have to submit some very convincing facts to prove that the valuations are justified. In my opinion, the valuations that have been assessed indicate the attitude that is adopted by valuers and their lack of clues in regard to assessing valuations of farming properties.

I saw these properties when I was a boy and I have seen them again only recently, and I fully realise the effort that has been made by the owners to develop the properties from their semi-improved condition in those early days. I did not see this land when it was in its virgin state, but knowing the type of country it is, one could not properly assess the value of the work that has been required to bring these properties up to their present state of development. I can clearly recollect what had to be done. Trees had to be felled, roots had to be cleared and picked up for years afterwards, and the land had to be cleared of any stones that were on it.

When the taxation valuers visit those properties, however, they see the land in its cultivated state, with all stones and roots removed, and they place an unrealistic unimproved capital value on the land. This is absolutely ridiculous. I am greatly concerned about this trend, particularly in view of the increases in the costs of the various commodities required by farmers; and they are forced to bear those increases without obtaining any recoup.

One can itemise a few of the commodities and goods that are required by a farmer in these days to carry on his farm, such as machinery, fencing wire—in fact, practically everything that one can think of. He has also to meet increases in rail freights. In addition to all these added burdens, he has to pay the increases in rates which have been made by the local authorities, and the increases in land tax following on the increased valuations by the land valuers who place an unreasonable valuation on this type of land.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: There is no land tax on agricultural land.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I am wrong in that respect. The increase in valuation will increase the cost to the farmer all along the line. In this instance the increased valuation will add a further burden of two shillings per year per acre on this agricultural land, because the unimproved capital value has been rated at £6. It means that from such agricultural land a further profit of 2s. per year has to be made on each acre, in order to break even.

I have yet to see any land in the wheat-belt area, used for wheat production or sheep-raising, worth £6 per acre as the unimproved capital value. It is high time the Government took a good look at this matter, to find some other method of assessing the true value of these rural properties.

Some valuers in the Taxation Department are at present assessing this land at £6 per acre as being the unimproved capital value; that means the market value is £27 an acre. No-one can tell me that such a price can be obtained for agricultural land in the area to which I am referring, although it may be obtained for land in the Avon Valley.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What relationship does the unimproved capital value bear to the market value?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I am not prepared to make any assessment of the market value in relation to the unimproved capital value. We should consider the unimproved value of such land as the value in the virgin state. That is the true unimproved capital value—the value assessed when the land was in its virgin state, with rocks, stones, and roots all over it. We have to picture what the land was like years ago to arrive at the true unimproved capital value. The present method of valuing sheep and wheat-farming properties is ridiculous.

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: You mean without the provision of roads and that sort of thing?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I am not referring to the provision of roads. I am referring to the assessment of the unimproved capital value. The provision of roads has been paid for time and again by the farmers over the years.

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: Do you not think this assessment is related to the provision of roads and that sort of thing?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: No. This assessment is based on the unimproved capital value. The idea is not to arrive at a valuation taking into account the roads, but to assess the unimproved capital value.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You think that a farm without a road is as valuable as a farm with a road?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: That is a ridiculous argument. Roads in old-established districts, such as Cunderdin, have been paid for years ago. The costs of construction and maintenance have been met time and again by the rates that have been paid. There is no need to increase the rating in respect of a certain section of the community. If it is desired to impose a tax for the provision of roads, let all land be assessed at £3 per acre—not £2 in some cases, and £6 in others.

I have before me a letter from the Lands Department relating to valuations. Many years ago the Government resumed, or established a drain reserve in Newcastle Street. Probably it acquired this land for nothing. I do not know how old this reserve is, but it has been in existence for many years and has not been used.

This reserve runs off Newcastle Street from a northerly to a southerly direction, and then at an angle roughly from north of east, to slightly south of west. Several years ago the Government decided to sell the land to the owners of the contiguous blocks. It obtained a valuation from the Taxation Department. This reserve comprises only 10 links, but the department declared a valuation of about £600 in respect of each contiguous block. On the average the blocks in this area average 33 ft. in width.

The Government now wants to capitalise on this reserve by imposing on the adjoining property owners a value of £600. There is only one section of the reserve with a road frontage. It starts and ends nowhere. The value of this land to the adjoining owners is very low. Just because the land is contiguous to their properties a value of £600, on the average, has been placed on each block. Can one think of anything more stupid than to make an assessment as high as that?

It is high time the Government had another look at the existing method of valuation. It should try to work out some other method to arrive at fair valuations.

By doing that the public would receive much more satisfaction than it receives at present, and fewer anomalies would arise.

Because properties in certain areas are sold at high prices, above the true market value, the Taxation Department has taken into account such high purchase prices and valued the surrounding properties at the same level. It has neglected to take into account the true value of the properties. The Government should give consideration to what I am saying in order to overcome the anomalies which now arise when the departmental valuers make high assessments in regard to the unimproved capital values.

**THE HON. C. R. ABBEY** (Central) [5.53 p.m.] : I wish to draw attention to what I consider could become a future financial commitment of the Government and the primary producers of this State. I am referring to the infestation of noxious weeds in the agricultural areas of this State, and in particular in the Kalgoorlie pastoral district.

Reference was made by Mr. Cunningham to this matter in a speech in this House approximately 12 months ago. He referred to the heavy infestation of Bathurst burr in the Kalgoorlie area. This led to investigations, and finally to the appointment of a committee of five parliamentary members in the Government parties for the purpose of thoroughly investigating noxious weed infestation in Western Australia.

This committee thought it would be a good idea to invite the co-operation of the Farmers' Union, with the result that Mr. Grant McDonald (General President of the Farmers' Union) and Mr. W. G. Pearce (the Farmers' Union representative on the Agriculture Protection Board) were appointed to accompany the committee on its investigations. The committee comprised The Hon. J. M. A. Cunningham, M.L.C., The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson, M.L.C., Mr. E. H. M. Lewis, M.L.A., Mr. R. P. S. Burt, M.L.A., and myself. Unfortunately Mr. Burt, because of illness, was not able to take part in the investigations.

Initially the committee made a comprehensive survey by undertaking a six-day trip starting from Northam and proceeding through Kalgoorlie to Esperance and Lake Grace. We met members of the local authorities in all the centres visited during this trip. In most cases the representatives of the pastoralists, the Farmers' Union, and the grazing interests also met us.

We found what could only be termed an alarming situation in regard to weed infestation—not so alarming as yet in the agricultural areas, but certainly alarming in the pastoral areas around Kalgoorlie. I would like to trace the trip we undertook to enable members to appreciate the coverage that was given to the problem.

We commenced at Northam; and very widespread and serious infestation of Patterson's curse was manifest in the district around Northam and York. We proceeded to Kellerberrin, Merredin, Southern Cross, and Kalgoorlie.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: Did you see any Cape tulip infestation?

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: Yes, we did see very serious infestation of this weed. Unfortunately not very great success has been achieved with the present methods of control. That aspect was considered by the committee. In view of the indifferent results achieved by the present spraying and cultivation methods, the committee felt that a recommendation should be made to carry out much more investigation through the Department of Agriculture and the C.S.I.R.O.

From my own experience of my district, and from evidence tendered to the committee, it appears that very little lasting success has been achieved by the existing methods, and that a great deal of money has been expended, without avail, by landholders to rid their properties of this noxious weed.

It was not the intention of the committee during this trip to investigate Cape tulip infestation. We were charged, in particular, with the investigation of infestation of Bathurst burr, caltrop, and saffron thistle—three weeds which have been reported by Mr. Cunningham as causing serious problems on the goldfields, and which in his opinion were spreading into the agricultural areas far too rapidly for the good of the State.

We were met by the representatives of the local authorities immediately we arrived at the various centres on the tour, and received excellent co-operation from them. It appears that caltrop is a weed which is very difficult to eradicate, or even to control. It has spread from Kalgoorlie down the line to the vicinity of Northam where the Agriculture Protection Board and the local authorities of the district are making a determined attack to control it.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: This weed has also appeared in Fremantle and Spearwood.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: I was not aware of that. The weed is obviously carried by stock being transported on the railways.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: The Fremantle City Council has spent a lot of money to eradicate this weed.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: That points to a further spread of the weed. It is obvious that caltrop is spreading rapidly throughout the State. I fear this weed will become as widespread as the double gee. We know that the double gee is practically beyond control.

Caltrop is a summer weed and should a caltrop-infested area suffer a storm, the seed speedily germinates. The plant grows very rapidly and seeds in a matter of two or three weeks, thereby ensuring survival. Unfortunately, too, caltrop has a hard seed which will survive for up to 10 years in the ground. It appears that dieselene is one of the best control methods which can be used.

Unfortunately in areas such as Kellerberrin and Merredin, the townships and railway yards are infested, and rubber-tired transport trucks carry the seed to the farming areas. We were informed that in the Kellerberrin-Merredin area at least 90 properties are infested with caltrop, mainly around the yards adjacent to buildings. It is obvious therefore that the trucks have carried the seed. On agricultural properties, stock—and particularly sheep—will control caltrop to a large extent. It is a summer weed and is relished by the sheep, but unfortunately at a certain stage it becomes toxic if eaten in too great a quantity.

We proceeded to Kalgoorlie the first day and were briefed as to some of the infested areas. We had a quick look at the railway yards where sheep are taken off for inspection by the very good officer of the Department of Agriculture, stationed at Kalgoorlie. He inspects the sheep introduced into the State, for infestation of Bathurst burr, mainly.

Unfortunately the facilities there are not adequate. The yards are very good, certainly, but very little provision is available for feeding and watering, and it will be readily realised that when a large consignment of sheep has to be untrucked and inspected by the one officer at Kalgoorlie, he has a mighty job on his hands. He has to inspect them as expeditiously as possible to allow them to proceed on their journey. The check point at Kalgoorlie in our opinion is not adequate, and requires further investigation in regard to a suitable method of preventing the introduction of these serious weeds.

There are others such as Noogoora burr not yet present in this State and we must guard against their introduction. It is not possible with the limited facilities at the railway yards to adequately inspect these sheep, although a very good job is done in the circumstances. I here want to pay a tribute to the officer stationed at Kalgoorlie. He has a very good knowledge and grasp of the problem of the infestation of these noxious weeds, although he has been there only two years.

The area which is infested surrounding Kalgoorlie is approximately 80 miles by 100 miles and on this area is depastured a very large number of sheep. The introduction of bulldozers into the agricultural and pastoral area has meant that large dams have been installed by the station

owners and on some properties up to 20,000 sheep are being run. Of course, as the Kalgoorlie area has a 9 in. to 10 in. rainfall, excellent results are being recorded. Some of the cuts per head of wool were very considerable, and I guess people in the agricultural areas would be very pleased if they could manage 12 lb. which seems to be something like the average.

The serious infestation of Bathurst burr around Kalgoorlie is truly alarming because the situation is going to be reached in the near future, perhaps even in the next 10 years, when a number of surplus sheep will be sold from the Kalgoorlie pastoral area to agriculturists in the Esperance area.

In Esperance there is a potential of something like 10,000,000 or 12,000,000 acres which can finally be used for agriculture. Surely that must lead us to regard the infestation of Bathurst burr in the Kalgoorlie pastoral area as very serious. A great demand exists for sheep and cattle in Esperance, and naturally many sheep from Kalgoorlie are going to be transported to that area.

I might mention at this point that it is known that at least one trailerload of sheep, consisting of approximately 250 head, came across the Nullarbor by road and went to the Esperance area. Of course, no notification was possible to the authorities, and no doubt that load of sheep, which came through about 18 months ago, went direct to Esperance without inspection. I sincerely hope that the owner was aware of the danger of Bathurst burr and did not, in fact, introduce any on to his property.

But I would stress this point: The officer recently appointed to Esperance to inspect and certify clover seed, during the course of his duties last December, I think it was, noticed on a truck a header which had obviously just arrived from the Eastern States. He noticed also that it was covered in chaff, probably just having been taken from a paddock after the harvest. On investigation he found that header to be heavily infested with Bathurst burr. On instruction from his superiors he just about took the header to pieces and discovered, I believe, something like 200 Bathurst burrs in the chaff on the machine.

I mention that point because we have in Kalgoorlie and Esperance at least two very good officers of the Department of Agriculture who are doing a mighty job, and I pay a tribute to them. But two are not enough to properly cover the duties required of them. This leads me to the point which I wish to make as the Bill before us is a Supply Bill and therefore a finance Bill. I feel that with all the dangers inherent in the introduction of noxious weeds into the State from heavily-infested States such as New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, we will require in the future to make a further

large fund available to the Agriculture Protection Board to enable it to properly attack this very serious problem.

I would also like to pay a tribute to the Minister for Agriculture for his immediate reaction to our report. The Minister, being a farmer himself, and much concerned about the situation, has taken certain steps which will, we feel, at least ensure that the measures needed will be commenced. But I do want to make the point that next year we should introduce legislation to enable a further contribution from pastoralists and farmers to be made to the vermin fund; and I hope the Government will see fit to match that further contribution.

I consider it vitally necessary that we arm the Agriculture Protection Board so that on the one hand it may properly investigate the problems of eradication, and on the other it may apply methods that we know are available for the destruction of these very serious weeds. We know that in most cases hormones are very effective with Bathurst burr, saffron thistle, and caltrop.

I would also like to mention a recent infestation of ragwort at Walpole, brought to the notice of the committee and the department by The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon, M.L.C.; and the infestation was, in his opinion, serious. I fear that if we do not take constructive action immediately, ragwort could become a serious problem. It is, again, a blanket weed which blankets out the growth of pastures; and it is also toxic. In Victoria it is regarded as a very serious weed.

I would like to make mention of a leaflet issued by the South Australian Department of Agriculture. This particular leaflet refers to Noogoora burr, Californian burr, and Buffalo burr, and states: "These weeds must go." I desire particularly to quote the reference to Bathurst burr which is as follows:—

With Bathurst burr firmly established throughout South Australia, the burr problem is already serious enough. The three others which occur here—Noogoora burr, Californian burr and Buffalo burr—threaten to make the problem far worse. Prompt action must be taken to eradicate them while the infestations are still small.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: Before the tea suspension I was referring to a leaflet of the Department of Agriculture in South Australia, and I mentioned the Bathurst burr being firmly established throughout South Australia where it is regarded as—and is, in fact—a very serious problem. It appears that the stage has now been reached where it is impossible to eradicate this weed. I propose now to refer to its origin and distribution throughout Australia.

The weed was introduced into Australia in the 1840's. It is believed to have come here in the manes and tails of horses which were imported from Valparaiso in South America. In a few years the weed had spread to Bathurst, New South Wales, since when the plant has become known as Bathurst burr throughout Australia.

Although it is believed to have come originally from Chile, the plant has unconsciously—and I stress that word—been spread by man throughout most of the warm parts of the world; and, to this extent, there has been some doubt as to the plant's native home.

That is the point I wish to make. We know that because of the disregard of people in-charge of eradication in New South Wales, South Australia, and Victoria, Bathurst burr has become widely spread in agricultural areas, and is now beyond eradication in those States. The best that can now be hoped for is some control. In the areas where cropping takes place, the ploughing of the ground and the growing of crops does provide some control; and it is possible to spray. The difficulty with Bathurst burr, as with many other noxious weeds, is that the seed remains fertile for up to nine or ten years, and therefore we have almost an eternal problem.

In Kalgoorlie we found along water courses, plants which were no more than two or three inches high; and in good seasons, with good summer rains, the plant will grow to something like four feet in height. These noxious weeds have a very good survival rate.

The Hon. W. R. Hall: There is plenty of Bathurst burr at Parkeston.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: Yes. In the reserves at Parkeston we found along water courses and on excellent land where heavy rainfall had resulted in a rush of water that the burr had spread very rapidly. That is a method of furthering its spread: there is a rush of water from high ground, and then there is infestation further down the creek.

The Hon. W. R. Hall: This burr could have been brought over here by means of cattle from South Australia.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: It was brought to Kalgoorlie by horses in the early days—in their manes and tails. The areas of infestation in Western Australia are known to the Agricultural Department. At Kirup there is a small amount of infestation. At Tammin there are scattered plants in one paddock. At Mingenew there are scattered plants on one of the stations. At Broomehill—and this is a shocker—there are approximately 30 acres of Bathurst burr on one property.

Opponents of control methods of this weed have stated that at Esperance and in the agricultural areas we have no need to

fear the spread of Bathurst burr, because they believe the climate is not suitable for it. However, we know that the Agricultural Department has evidence of infestation in the four townships I have named. In one township there is infestation covering 30 acres. Surely that goes to prove there is considerable danger of Bathurst burr spreading in our agricultural areas!

The list includes Kellerberrin, Naremburn, and Beverley—there are a few plants on several properties at Beverley. At Jandakot there are a few plants in the vicinity of the wool-scouring works. At Coogee there are some plants in vegetable gardens. Since this list was made up, I have received a further report that Bathurst burr is known to exist at Dandin. On the infested property there is a water course, and each year seeds are washed down—as happens in Kalgoorlie—from high ground to lower ground, which makes for the spread of the infestation. All this points to a very serious situation, and one that we cannot afford to have in this State. It cannot be ignored.

I hope that in the future the Government will make provision in legislation to secure further finance from pastoralists and agriculturalists, and that the Government will match that money from the Treasury to enable our Agriculture Protection Board, first, to contain, and, finally to eradicate the weed.

In the Midland areas we have what is known as a regional scheme, similar to the rabbit scheme, where an attack is being made on several very serious noxious weeds, all of which are, of course, primary weeds. I believe that very good results are being achieved. This can, I hope, be regarded as a pilot scheme and one that should be extended to any infested area. Surely it is better to keep the infestation of Bathurst burr, saffron thistle, and caltrop in the pastoral areas around Kalgoorlie for a time, and prevent them from spreading to the agricultural areas. Let us deal properly and effectively with Bathurst burr in the Kalgoorlie area first, so that we can control and eradicate it there. While the weed exists it constitutes a very definite danger.

Perhaps members have seen the fleece of a sheep that has been through an area of Bathurst burr. The effects would amaze and shock members. On the fleece they would find a heavily matted infestation of burr; some burrs being nearly as big as the top of one's little finger. The burrs hook onto the fleece and become so entangled that they are difficult to remove in the scouring process. This means that it is necessary for buyers to make allowance in the price they pay for any wool infested with Bathurst burr. If burr is found in wool inspected at Fremantle, the property of origin is immediately placed under quarantine and the wool can only be sold

for export. Sheep from that particular property have to be shorn before they are allowed to be sold.

We can therefore see that there are many disadvantages arising from this very serious weed. I have mainly concentrated on Bathurst burr, because the committee felt that this was the number one enemy from the point of view of agriculture in this State. Saffron thistle is considered by many people in the pastoral areas and agricultural areas around Kalgoorlie as being of very great consequence also.

Saffron thistle is much more widely distributed in the wheatbelt than is Bathurst burr. The greatest concentration is in the northern agricultural districts extending from Northampton to Mingenew, Mullewa and Carnamah. In this area it is estimated that the weed occurs over more than 100,000 acres. Other infestations of some magnitude occur in the Yilgarn, Ballidu and Walebing districts, and in smaller areas in a number of other localities throughout the wheatbelt.

That is a very serious situation because saffron thistle has a very large seed. There may be 10 per cent. of saffron thistle in a wheat crop, and it cannot be graded out because the seed from the saffron thistle—I have not seen it personally—is about the size of a grain of wheat. It cannot be taken out by grader or any other means. This means that if wheat containing any saffron thistle seed is delivered to the siding, it has to be rejected or used for stock feed. That points to a serious situation and one that must be tackled on a very wide scale.

I am particularly pleased that the Minister for Agriculture has seen fit to declare Patterson's curse a primary noxious weed in Western Australia, and has taken action to allow all local authorities to supply weed-killers at a greatly reduced rate to primary producers. This is a very constructive approach, and one that I personally hope—and I am sure the committee hopes—will lead to considerably more action and control measures being taken in regard to Patterson's curse.

In Northam great concern is felt by the local authority—and likewise in York—and I feel sure that those authorities will do all in their power to control Patterson's curse now that it has been declared a primary noxious weed, and it is possible to enforce control measures. One of the measures that I feel should be given great attention by the Department of Agriculture is an increase in publicity to make the public, generally, fully aware of what these weeds look like. In our investigations we found that many people did not have a clue as to the appearance of Bathurst burr, caltrop, or the thistle I mentioned.

If measures are taken to supply a greatly increased number of leaflets—and the department does publish a very good leaflet—I feel sure it will be of some help. Junior farmers' organisations, and schoolchildren

from the higher classes, could be instructed in the recognition of these very serious pests, and publicity on the subject given full coverage. By this means we might make it possible to have quick recognition of a small patch of weed in the agricultural areas; and prompt action could be taken to control it.

I would like to see a five-year period declared during which a concentrated attack could be made on the problem. By the end of five years we would know what progress could be made, and whether it was economically possible to proceed with control measures. I believe that such an attack would be successful; and something worth while from the State's point of view would result from it.

In conclusion I would again like to express my gratification for the way the Minister for Agriculture has received our report, and for the action he intends to take. No doubt he will make a public reference to it in the near future. I would also like to express appreciation for the co-operation the committee received from the officers of the Department of Agriculture. At all times the Director, the officer in charge at Kalgoorlie, Mr. Meadly, and other officers gave their utmost co-operation. They were able to prove to us that they had a wide knowledge of this subject. Nevertheless much more action than is at present being taken is needed; and in the future we must make a concerted attack on the problem; and the Government must provide finance to arm the department to enable it to play its part. I support the Bill.

**THE HON. S. T. J. THOMPSON (South)** [7.50 p.m.]: I shall not delay the House very long, but I would like to deal with the same subject dealt with by the previous speaker. I think the honourable member has given a very faithful report of the findings of the committee, of which we were both members, but I believe that the matter is so important that I should make a few comments to support his statements; because there are a couple of aspects of the position that he did not mention.

In recent times a lot of emphasis has been placed on the fact that we must keep these weeds out of the State; and control measures have been taken to prevent the weeds from being brought here from the Eastern States. While that is very necessary I believe it is also urgent for us to take some steps to control the weeds that we already have in the State; I refer particularly to Bathurst burr and to the areas in which it can be found at present. As an agricultural man I was really alarmed to see how the weed had spread in the goldfields area, and I realise how it could affect a man's wool clip.

If that weed were to spread throughout the agricultural areas, as it could in a very short time, the cost of producing wool, or

any crop for that matter, would be so greatly increased that it would leave only a very small margin of profit. One of the greatest dangers that I saw was the tendency of people in the areas affected to discount the danger of this and other weeds; in other words they have grown so accustomed to seeing them that they discount their danger, and this could be very important to those districts which are not infested.

As Mr. Abbey said, education of the people in regard to these weeds is urgent; because I realise it would be possible for Bathurst burr, in particular, to become widely spread, and it could get a firm hold in many of our country districts before people realised what it was. Because of that alone I believe considerable sums of money could be used to great advantage.

As regards the other weeds, I believe that probably Cape tulip would come second to Bathurst burr in importance. I have had some experience with Cape tulip, and this is another weed that started off as a garden pest. Few people realised how dangerous it was and once it became acclimatised to a particular district away it went. We had an experience of how much a danger it can be on a property situated on the Perth-Albany Road. This property has been cleared only in recent years, but now there are hundreds of acres which are just waving fields of tulip with very little pasture at all. Judging from the rate it has spread in that particular district it will certainly be a menace.

In my view the Government has to support the department, because the department is doing the best it can with the limited means at its disposal. The officers of the department are fully aware of the dangers; we saw that, and they are also fully aware of just where these outbreaks have occurred. However, from the limited means at their disposal they are unable to do very much about it.

As regards caltrop in particular we were told that two local authorities are spending a considerable sum of money in their own areas, and even in their own townships, in an effort to get rid of the weed. This particular weed, which I think will probably be much worse than the double gee, unless we can control it, has made its appearance as far afield as the railway line at Lake Grace, which is a considerable distance from any other area where it has been found. At the moment the railway seems to be the main method of spreading weeds. I realise that caltrop is of the same variety as the double gee, and, of course, it can be spread by the rubber tyres on motor vehicles. A vehicle will be driven into the railway yards, where the weed happens to be, and the seeds stick into the tyres and are then spread. It would be easy, by this means, for it to spread to properties all over the place.



It is a serious problem and I believe that Mr. Abbey has done a good job in bringing this matter forward. I would like to endorse his remarks concerning the alarming situation of weeds in this State. With those few remarks I support the Bill.

**THE HON. R. F. HUTCHISON** (Suburban) [7.55 p.m.]: I have a short contribution to make to the debate. Firstly I wish to refer to a subject in which I have been interested for some considerable time: the preservation of our wildflowers. I have a project in mind and I have spoken on this matter on previous occasions when the party I support was in power, and since this Government has taken office. I have asked both Governments to take cognisance of the position along the Northam road. The sides of this road could be such an asset to the State because of the number of wildflowers that could be grown there. This road traverses undulating country through the hills, and the 60 miles to Northam could be a beautiful drive if we cultivated wildflowers along both sides of it.

I drove up that way last Sunday week and I noticed that people who own land along the road are developing it almost to the roadside. All the beautiful trees that used to be there are being cut down, and we will not be able to replace them in two lifetimes. They were beautiful big jarrah trees and it seems such a pity to see this destruction taking place when it would cost so little now to reserve, say, two chains on each side of the road for the growing of wildflowers and trees. If that were done the State gardeners could work a couple of days in each week to cultivate the flowers and within a short while these reserved areas would be a thing of beauty. Leschenaultia and kangaroo paws grow profusely in that country; and I am mentioning this because it is so close to the city.

I know one can see wildflowers—thousands of them—in other parts of the State, and there may be reserves that I do not know of; but I think something could be done about the Northam road. I have spoken before of the sandplains on the way to Geraldton where Morrison grows so profusely. But that is some distance away; whereas if a strip on each side of the Northam road could be made into a reserve it would be a wonderful attraction from the tourist point of view. Tourist buses could take people to see the wildflowers growing along the sides of the road during the wildflower season, and I think that would be some contribution to the wealth of Western Australia.

I hope that on this occasion the suggestion will not fall on deaf ears, and that whatever Government is in power in the near future steps will be taken to preserve this land on each side of the road to prevent further destruction. As I said, the

land is now being cultivated and fenced off right up to the side of the road; and to me it is a waste of a tourist potential, particularly when we hear and read so much about the beauty of Western Australian wildflowers. As a flower lover I think it is imperative that something should be done along these lines.

People could be taken on a scenic drive and could branch off along the side roads to see the beauty of the countryside. My suggestion would not require very much money, and I appeal to the Government to do something about it. The flowers were beautiful this year when I drove up there, and I got out of the car to look at them. I walked over quite a depth of flowers but, as I said, unfortunately cultivation is being extended right to the road and if something is not done soon all this beauty will be destroyed. I hope the Government will not treat this as just an idle thought but that some notice will be taken of it.

Now I come to the other side of the ledger and I intend to speak about a matter that concerns me greatly. I was astounded to read in the daily Press that children of 17, and even down to 14 years of age, were being committed to the Fremantle gaol. I think that is an indictment against everyone of us; it is an indictment against the Government which is in power to allow a thing like this to happen. The Government talks about the progress it is making, and about all the things it hopes to do; but it is terrible when a member has to stand up in Parliament and admit that such things are happening these days; but there is no place except Fremantle gaol to send an incorrigible child.

**The Hon. A. F. Griffith:** What happened to them when your Government was in power?

**The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON:** That makes no difference. I have referred to this matter ever since I entered Parliament, and I propose to continue to do so until somebody pays heed to my entreaty. I am a mother and I feel very strongly about this sort of thing. Surely some Government should take action in this matter. There has been a great deal of flamboyant talk, particularly with regard to social services, from this Government but nothing has eventuated. As I have said, not long ago in the Press I saw an article to the effect that a 17-year-old girl had been sent to gaol for having assaulted a youth with a knife. The police said that she had struck at a youth outside a city dance hall; and magistrate Arney told her—

You have a bad record for a girl of your age and you have been given many chances. You apparently prefer the company of criminals to decent people.

This girl was sent to gaol for three months on each charge, the sentence to be served concurrently. I do not say anything in defence of the actions of this

girl, but as the custodians of the public good it is our duty to see that these people are placed in an institution suitable for adolescents; because they can be taught and reclaimed.

It is wrong for us to say they cannot be reclaimed because they definitely can while they are still young. Thousands of pounds are wasted daily on other matters which are far less important. This girl could have been anybody's daughter. She could have been your daughter, Mr. President, or she could have been mine; and there should be educational facilities provided together with a suitable place to which these adolescents could be sent.

I emphasise this tonight in the hope that something might be done; I stress here that I will not let up until something is done, no matter what Government is in power. I had hoped that something would be done during my seven years in Parliament, and I feel it is an indictment on the Government of the day when it countenances such happenings. I thought we had got away from that sort of thing when we prohibited the publication of unsavoury details in the Children's Court. But it is too much to take when we hear of a girl like this being sent to gaol.

I would now like to touch on the question of mental health. We were given a great many promises as to what was going to be done so, on the 14th September, I asked the Minister the following question:—

- (1) What steps have been taken by the Government to provide separate and suitable accommodation for female children inmates at Claremont Mental Hospital?
- (2) How long will it be before such accommodation will be available?
- (3) Are any arrangements being made to provide a separate ward for adolescent boys who are now in adult wards?
- (4) Is the Minister aware of the distress and discontent among parents of these adolescent boys in the present circumstances?

The Minister replied—

- (1) The department is planning to remove all children—male and female—from the Claremont Mental Hospital to a new, modern hospital and the preliminary detail is in course of preparation for forwarding to the Principal Architect.

The answer was that the preliminary detail was in course of preparation for forwarding to the Principal Architect. Yet I know for certain that the Hawke Government had plans and specifications ready to proceed with this undertaking; and I was given a promise by Mr. Hawke that the children would be removed from the Claremont asylum within a year. About

that time, unfortunately, the present Government took office and nothing was done about the matter. So in spite of all the flamboyance in the Minister's answer it is nothing but a lot of eyewash! Nothing has been done.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Even if something were done it would make no difference to you.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Some steps were taken to cater for the boys because of the public outcry, but the girls have yet to be catered for. There must be a lot of unknown little sufferings which can be attributable to nobody in particular; nor can we say they are caused purposely.

I find there is to be no provision at all for another block for the nursing staff. Female nurses are in very short supply, particularly at Claremont, and I am convinced that the reason is the shortage of accommodation. This Government has been in office for three years and has done absolutely nothing in this respect. A lot of answers are given but when we analyse them they amount to very little. I admit there is a little teaching taking place, but when we consider what is happening in other countries it makes us wonder why we should be so far behind; and why with our standard of living we should treat our mental patients the way we do.

If the Labor Government's programme had been gone on with, money could have been drawn from Commonwealth funds; and these have not been drawn on yet, because they must be spent on amenities and buildings. I was promised this by the Hawke Government before it went out of office. I knew that everything was ready to go forward, but this Government simply scrapped all the plans and then said that this action was taken on further advice. I would like to know what the advice was. The Government's actions are like a patchwork quilt; and the patches are not too good either. There is another matter on which I would like to be informed.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: When you are informed you will not believe it.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I am not as silly as the Minister thinks. I know what is going on in spite of all the flamboyance that is contained in the Government's assertions. Members will recall that there was a debate on the legislation dealing with married women during which I was promised by Mr. Logan (Minister for Local Government) that if I withdrew my amendment—and this was after a wordy debate when I wanted the money for deserted mothers who were left with children dependent on them to be paid to the Director of Child Welfare—he would bring the matter forward early the next session.

I maintain that all a woman should be asked to do is to prove her case in court, and then leave it to the Child Welfare

authorities. It should not be incumbent on her to have to make the father pay. I strenuously object to the law which forces a woman to take out a warrant of commitment to place her husband in gaol before she is able to get the money.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You were given the opportunity to discuss that.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I am making this speech and I will continue.

The Hon. R. C. Mattiske: You never interfere.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: It is wrong socially and every other way to force a woman to take out an order for commitment to imprison the father of her children. The father should be answerable to the court. I would like to quote what the Minister for Local Government (Mr. Logan) said when he asked me to withdraw my amendment. It is as follows:—

I appreciate that the honourable member has been trying to accomplish a solution such as this for some years. Unfortunately, however, her amendment would not achieve what she desires. It would create so many anomalies that I suggest to her that she withdraw this new clause for the time being, and I give her my promise, together with that of the Attorney-General, that the whole position will be investigated in readiness for the introduction of another Bill next session. The provision in this new clause means that the money will be paid to the Director of Child Welfare, but there is no provision for him to pay the money to anybody. That is the first obstacle.

I then said—

I will withdraw this proposed new clause provided the Minister will assure me, through you, Mr. Chairman, that he will bring the matter forward early next session. If he will give me that assurance I feel sure we will be able to do some good for the community at large. In view of the Minister's assurance of co-operation, I ask leave to withdraw this proposed new clause.

We are now in the dying hours of this Parliament and I felt it my duty to protest. In spite of the promise I was given, nothing has been done and as far as I can see nothing is likely to be done.

I would now like to quote a letter written on the 9th March which I received while I was in England. It is as follows:—

During the passage of the Married Women's (Summary Relief) Act in the Legislative Council last session, you raised certain matters re the enforcement of maintenance orders, to which I promised to give some consideration.

In order to make these investigations in the proper manner and refer to the departments concerned for advice, it

would be appreciated if you would let me have your submissions in writing.

Yours faithfully,

L. A. Logan, M.L.C.

Minister for Child Welfare.

The provisions and the full debate are to be found in *Hansard*. I informed the Minister so and I told him I was taking a six months' educational tour to study mental health and I would see him when I came back. The Minister said he understood. On the 20th September I asked the Minister a question concerning the Married Persons (Summary Relief) Act as follows:—

In view of the Minister's statement on Tuesday, the 22nd November, 1960, when a promise was given to me that an investigation would be made to enable the introduction of amending legislation to the Married Persons (Summary Relief) Act this session, will he advise whether the investigation has been made and when it is anticipated the amending Bill will be introduced?

The Minister replied as follows:—

Mr. Clohessy of the Child Welfare Department recently investigated the position in South Australia.

Mr. McCall, Director of Child Welfare, has been asked to arrange an interview between the Hon. R. F. Hutchison, Mr. Clohessy, and himself, to discuss this very problem.

I devoted an afternoon to this interview, and although the Director of Child Welfare was most courteous and helpful, he asked me what my ideas were. At the end of this session I find myself a frustrated person. This Government has failed in its duty and certainly in its promises to me.

I am hoping that in the very near future there will be a change of Government; and if that be so, this Act will be amended next year. However, I am also hoping that that will be the position irrespective of what Government is in power. The subject which I brought forward was quite in order, as it is something that is wanted very badly. I think it is time these things were seen to.

It is no good giving lip-service in regard to social services; and it is no good giving lip-service to social conditions unless we are prepared to back up what we say and do something about it. Talk is cheap.

That concludes my contribution, Mr. President, to the Supply Bill. Perhaps I will have more to say later on. However, in the meantime, I hope the Minister will take cognisance of what I have said. He has let me down badly—both Ministers have.

I make no apologies for what I have said; I am only doing my duty when I speak as I have done on this Bill. It is

time the Government stopped white-washing things so much. This money will not be squandered if what I have suggested is carried out; it will save expense by relieving institutions if the proper facilities are available for the rehabilitation of these people.

**THE HON. A. R. JONES (Midland)**  
[8.17 p.m.]: I wish to make reference to the lack of water in some of the areas in the Midland Province. I asked questions in this House and the Minister requested me to wait for the replies. I was hoping to receive those replies in time for me to make reference to them tonight, but since that is not the case I can only hazard a guess. What I say will not be authentic but will be in accordance with what I have read in regard to the costs of de-salination of water through atomic power.

I know this Government has made quite appreciable grants of money available for water supplies in the Midland Province during the last two years; and it intends to extend the existing comprehensive scheme as far northward as Dalwallinu. The improvements which the previous Government made to the water supply at Geraldton together with those made by the present Administration, have been increased by virtue of the fact that more bores have been put down. Additional mains have been placed in the township and greater storage reservoirs have been made available.

In regard to the rest of the area, with the exception of small town supplies, nothing has been done by way of a comprehensive scheme which would cover the whole situation. Whilst I know that all Governments are embarrassed when it comes to discussing amounts of money and the availability of that money for the purposes of supplying water schemes, I feel it is the most important factor in the development of Western Australia and one to which any Government should give very earnest consideration.

I am not going to suggest that earnest consideration has not been given in the past, but I want to stress that if it is necessary to do so, further earnest consideration must be given to this matter. It is four or five years since I first raised the question; and we had meetings throughout the whole of the territory followed by a meeting with the then Minister for Works (Mr. Tonkin), who promised a survey would be made of the Gingin Brook area, and any other area which might yield sufficient quantities of water to supply this particular area.

That quantity of water was mentioned by the engineers as being in the vicinity of 6,000,000 gallons per day. I know that up to a point that promise was carried out, because certain investigations were made in Gingin. A gauging of the brook was taken and it was found that the mean flow in the month of February was

3,750,000 gallons down the Gingin Brook, leaving 2,250,000 gallons to be found elsewhere.

When it was learned by the Gingin people there was a possibility they were going to lose that water, there was a hue and cry, although it had been there for the last hundred years and no one made any attempt to use it. However, when somebody else wanted it there was a local cry about such a matter—and there always is about such things.

I do not think any Government could be blamed for going warily on this project. The fact that the additional quantity of 2,250,000 gallons of water per day has not been found, plus the possibilities seen in the de-salination of sea water by nuclear power, I suggest has had a retarding effect.

Everybody seems to be hanging on to this particular subject and wondering when it is going to be brought to fruition in Western Australia; or in any other part of the world for that matter, although it is Western Australia we are particularly interested in. As regards the economics of this method, it seems on the evidence we have today that we must forget all about it—at least for the immediate future.

Many people have received quite a lot of publicity in the columns of the newspapers in regard to this proposition. The latest figures I have were supplied by Mr. Wild (the Minister for Works and Water Supplies) after one of his officers had been to America to make a thorough investigation into the costing of the de-salination of water. The figure given was £1,000,000 alone to set up the plant to de-salinate 1,000,000 gallons of water per day, which would amount, in the case of this Geraldton area in the Midland Province, where 6,000,000 gallons a day are required, to a cost of at least £6,000,000, plus the setting up of the plant. That does not take into account the cost of the electricity that would be needed; nor does it take into consideration the cost of pumping the water away from wherever it might be de-salinated. Therefore, it can be readily seen that the costs at the present time are something which would prohibit any Government from entering into a scheme unless water had to be found at some particular place where no other water was available. A Government might be forced to do this in respect of defence.

What I am going to ask the Government to do is to further the search for the available water. I have mentioned this before, but I have had no report from the Ministers in regard to it. I maintain water is shedding from the Dandaragan area from springs which eventually find their way into the Moore River and that river becomes contaminated with salt which normally comes through the Moore area by way of a salt lake system from as far up as Morawa. In the summertime when

there is no water coming from those other areas, the water in the Moore River, is reasonable fresh, but not fresh enough for a domestic supply. I believe that if that water were taken before it entered the Moore River, there would be sufficient water, if added to the 3,750,000 gallons from the Gingin Brook, to give a supply of water to the area I have mentioned.

Failing that, we should investigate the claim which has been made by the Ampol boring people who are boring at Eneabba. They state they have found oceans of fresh water there. Just how authentic the information we have received is, we do not know; but if there is any water to be found in that area, the Government should investigate it as soon as possible. If there exists an unlimited supply of water and it is good potable water, would it not be reasonable to send it to those parts of the Midland Province which so badly need it?

I will leave these thoughts with the Minister and trust that when moneys are to be spent in the future, this particular area will receive further consideration for the finding of a water supply to cover the whole situation.

**THE HON. H. C. STRICKLAND** (North—Leader of the Opposition) [8.27 p.m.]: This Bill authorising the expenditure of £17,000,000 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and £5,000,000 from the General Loan Fund during the remainder of this financial year is to finance the works in hand and the works that it is hoped to put in hand in the coming months.

When a Supply Bill comes before Parliament it gives members an opportunity to speak on almost every subject that can be imagined; and I am going to speak on some which are very important. I also hope that some money will be made available out of this £22,000,000 which Parliament is authorising at the moment to finance some of the suggestions which I intend to submit to the Minister.

There are some very important works which should be carried out in the Kimberleys—works which, in my opinion, have been under consideration by the present Government for far too long. I asked questions today concerning the provision of jetty facilities at Napier Broome Bay to open up the North Kimberley area, and the reply to the question was that it was still under consideration and any decision dependant upon available finances.

That is quite understandable, but in my opinion there is some priority attached to this particular project because in 1957 no less than 6,000,000 acres of pastoral leases were granted in that area. The lessees have not a ghost of a chance of complying with the provisions of the pastoral leases in respect of stocking or improvements within certain periods unless they can be given access to their leases. It is just impossible to gain access to the leases at the moment, and it will be impossible to

do so until a jetty is provided in Napier Broome Bay; or alternatively until coastal roads are built into the area.

I know that this year the Government submitted to the Commonwealth Government a proposal for special finance to construct roads into that area, but the Commonwealth Government turned the proposal down in favour of constructing more important roads; and those roads have been constructed and they are now serving pastoral leases. Those roads are the Nicholson-Wyndham road, and the road from Derby in towards North Kimberley as far as Mt. House Station, to open up the Glenroy and Mt. House tableland area. One must agree somewhere with the Commonwealth Government along those lines, because there are pastoral leases already established alongside those roads, and they have been established for many years.

But in 1958 the Commonwealth provided funds for the surveying of Napier Broome Bay in order to establish a jetty to allow people to occupy the 6,000,000 acres I have already mentioned. The hydrographical survey was completed 12 months ago; and allowing for three or four months for the plotting, following the field work, the survey has now, I am suggesting, been in the Government's hands for nine months. Surely the pastoralists occupying that area are entitled to have some public statement from the Government to the effect that the Government is satisfied that a practical site has been selected and that jetty facilities will be provided in the area.

Not only would jetty facilities open up the 6,000,000 acres of first-class cattle-producing country, but it would serve the Kalumburu Mission which has been established since 1904 and which has a native population of between 200 and 250 persons. At the present time those people lighter their goods ashore from the State steamers, which anchor 12 or 14 miles away at the mouth of the bay. But that is a costly business, and the cost comes back to the Government in subsidies of some sort or another, because the Government pays air freight subsidies at various times of the year. So the provision of these jetty facilities would mean a saving to the Government. I suggest to the Minister that he discuss this matter with his fellow-Ministers, and that he try to push it along because it represents real development of a high-class nature.

I went into the Lands Department only yesterday as a result of a letter I received from a person in the Kimberleys asking me to find out whether there was some land vacant in this unoccupied North Kimberley area, which is as big as the State of Victoria. When I saw the public plan, I found that all the area has now been taken up. On top of the 6,000,000 acres which were surveyed for selectors, I found that selection had been made without proper surveys; so that the fault, whereby selectors are

selecting land right along the river frontages and leaving the rough stuff alone, instead of having a percentage of river frontage and a percentage of back country, has been re-established.

Even since Mr. Wise introduced his motion in this House—and it was agreed to—to set up a committee to inquire into pastoral leases, the Government has issued leases allowing people to pick the eyes out of the country; which is wrong. It will be left in a sorry condition, as much of the north-west and the Kimberleys has already been left.

All of the good country will be used—and I hope it will not be brought to the state of erosion which some pastoral properties have been brought to in the Murchison, the north-west, and the Kimberleys—and the tougher country will be left unoccupied by selectors; but it will be occupied by vermin and will become another charge on the public purse.

I am only speaking from memory, but I recall that back in 1950 or 1951 some figures were supplied by the Surveyor-General in connection with the area of land north of the 26th parallel, and those figures dealt with occupied and unoccupied areas. It was amazing to note that of the total area north of the 26th parallel in Western Australia, much less than half was occupied or taken up under pastoral lease; because the accessible and most fertile areas had been picked out, and the rougher and poorer areas had been left.

That is a fault that has extended, as any rural members know, through many parts of our wheatbelt, too. Fortunately, as a result of scientific progress, some of that poorer land is being brought into production in the wheatbelt, but that is not possible with the pastoral leases because they are too huge and the rainfall is too erratic.

In the 6,000,000 acres that I am speaking of, the pastoral properties average something like 800,000 acres. Those are tremendous areas, and the properties are in new country where it is impossible to gain access, or take stock in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Hence my continued complaint and pressure in connection with the area.

This is something in respect of which any Government could call itself a pioneer because it would be dealing with an unoccupied part of Australia. I suppose this is one of the largest unoccupied areas in the world with a 30-in. to 60-in. rainfall. It is producing absolutely nothing; and the ocean off the coastline is abounding with fish.

Mr. Jones made the sea trip to Wyndham a while ago, and I am sure he must have noticed that all day long he could see from the steamer schools of fish and flocks of birds over them. Mr. Norton produced some figures in another place to show that tremendous quantities of these fish have

been taken by the Japanese. They fish outside the three-mile limit; or they might fish inside the limit, because nobody would know. But each year they are taking many thousands of tons of fish from that area.

If the Minister will read the reports of Morgan, Eastman, and Brockman on North Kimberley, he will become as infatuated with it as I am; and I hope he will have the success I had in getting it surveyed in two directions: in respect of the land; and for a port. I hope also that he will get some work done on the jetty, and I am sure he will if he presses it far enough.

Another question I wish to raise is one that is more current: the native question. We know there has been a lot of controversy over this question which is before Parliament at the moment; but we have not yet had the opportunity to discuss it.

In tonight's newspaper there is the report of a statement by the Premier which seems to provide cause for asking the Minister whether the Premier is correctly reported. The statement by the Premier is to the effect that the Government will give the aborigines equal voting rights with the rights granted by the Commonwealth Government.

We know that the Government spends a lot of money—some of the money provided for in this Bill will no doubt be expended in this way—on the Native Welfare Department for the uplifting of the aborigines.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: A large amount.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: The Premier's statement says that the Government will give the aborigines voting rights equal to the voting rights of the Commonwealth when the Commonwealth introduces legislation to give the aborigines voting rights. There are two statements, and if they could be reconciled there would be some sense in them. The Premier says that when the Commonwealth Government legislates for voting rights for the aborigines, this Government will do the same. Then he says it is undesirable that there should be any variation between the Commonwealth voting rights for aborigines and the State voting rights for aborigines. Well, there is a variation.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What is it now?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: It is that under the Commonwealth electoral law aborigines of mixed blood have the right to vote. They may be only half-castes or quadroons, or they may be any natives of less than full blood, and they are entitled to be enrolled on the Commonwealth roll. If the Premier is correctly reported in this statement, then his Government will need, this session, to introduce a Bill to give these castes the same right to vote in respect of the legislature of Western Australia as they have in regard to the Commonwealth.

So I ask the Minister to make some inquiries to see whether the information in the newspaper is correct, and to advise

us whether the Government does intend to implement what the Premier states in the newspaper; that is, to put the natives of this State on a par with the natives elsewhere in Australia as regards voting for a Federal election and voting for a State election.

I have only one other small item to deal with, but it is a most important one for the people of West Kimberley. When the Premier was in Broome in May this year, he met the Broome Road Board. I was fortunate enough to be in Broome at the time and the board invited me to sit in and listen to the discussion, for which I was very grateful.

The board was very interested in the economy of Broome itself. Broome was elated over the statements regarding plans that had appeared in the Press, and over the publicity in connection with the report of Maunsell and Partners, who had selected Broome as the best site for the carrying out of this Government's policy of having one deep-water port to serve the West Kimberleys.

The plan was for a fabulous port, to cost something in the vicinity of £3,500,000, but without any statement from the Government that it was not accepting the recommendation, naturally the people of Broome reached the stage where they expected it to be built. When the Premier visited Broome he was expected to make a statement that he was going to go along with this deep-water port.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Did he make that announcement?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: The Premier did not make such an announcement, but it was explained to the Premier that the people of Broome did not need a £3,500,000 port. The Premier had told the shire council that he could not see where the trade through Broome could justify the establishment of such a port; and he was quite right. It was pointed out to the Premier that the people had never asked for such a fabulous port; they merely want a jetty in deep water. That was promised to them by the previous Government; they only desired to keep abreast of the needs of modern shipping. It was explained to the Premier that there was certainly not the volume of cargo going out of Broome, or Derby, or the whole of West Kimberley, to justify the expenditure of £3,500,000 on the establishment of the deep-water port.

One has only to imagine the quantity of cargo that goes over the jetty at Bunbury to satisfy oneself that a jetty is quite adequate to meet the needs of shipping at Broome. Of course, the Premier became more impressed then, and a little relieved to think that the people there would be satisfied with something much less than a £3,500,000 deep-water port—harbour facilities costing approximately

£500,000 would meet Broome's requirements. The Premier said, there and then, that he would raise the question with Cabinet and would explain to the members of Cabinet the different complexion that had been placed on the provision of a port at Broome.

However, we have not yet heard a statement made on the Cabinet decision, but yesterday I gave notice of a question which I asked the Minister today, and as a result I received the information that the Government is still not in a position to enlighten the people of Broome on its intentions in regard to the provision of a deep-water port or a deep-water jetty. That is rather unfortunate, because the Government is now nearing the completion of three years in office, and the answer has been constantly the same; namely, the matter is under consideration.

Heavens above! One would think a statement would have been made by now saying either Yea or Nay about the completion of this job, or when a decision would be made, or else telling the people that as soon as it could obtain the money it would build a deep-water jetty or deep-water port. But for goodness' sake do not let the Government keep these people hanging in the air awaiting a decision one way or the other!

The life of Broome depends wholly and solely on a shipping service and the trade through the port, which is very little at the moment. However, there is a meat export works there, which is a totally different establishment from an ordinary abattoir, and which is valued at a figure between £60,000 and £100,000. Nevertheless, it could not be replaced today for £250,000.

The point is that its life depends upon freights and the economy of shipping because it has to purchase its raw material in the shape of bullocks from the producers in the surrounding districts and if it cannot offer a price to the producer as good as, or even better than its competitors offer, it must be driven to the wall. If the meatworks closes down what would be left in Broome? There would be absolutely nothing, because pearling is at an extremely low ebb at the moment and it does not look as if that industry will ever amount to anything of substance in the future. These days cultured pearls have a good market and, quite often, cultured pearls are better than the natural product. Also, pearlshell, which was the backbone of the industry, has been replaced by plastics.

The existence of the meatworks depends upon a jetty; and what would prove of great advantage to it would be the up-grading of the south-of-the-river road up past Fitzroy Crossing to Christmas Creek, which would open up the Halls Creek area for it. That proposition was also put to the Premier by the shire council and after

consulting with the Commissioner of Main Roads Department, he advised the shire council that the department would upgrade that road. It would not amount to much. There are places where the road is in very good condition because when Wapet and Freeney were oil drilling in the area, 80 or 90 miles of good formed road was constructed. If the road were upgraded it would be quite suitable for carrying cattle trains.

Notwithstanding that, not one penny has been spent on the road in the meantime. Further, there does not appear to be any intention to upgrade the road in the near future. Of course, it would be useless for a grader to be put into operation on that road now because the rains will commence shortly. It was 140° in Broome today, and when the temperatures reach that height it is a sure sign of early monsoons. I would suggest that the Government should at least give some idea, whether it is going to do something about these works which are so vital to the continuance of the meatworks in Broome, or what its intentions are in the immediate future. It is a question of helping private enterprise and providing something of value for the cattle producers of the Kimberleys.

At the moment they have three outlets for their cattle. They have shipping which transports the cattle to the metropolitan market. I will interpolate here to point out that cattle cannot be held in store. They must be sold as slaughter cattle because they come from a pleuro-pneumonia area. Another outlet is through Glenroy Station which operates the Air Beef scheme. That is not economical, of course, because the same price cannot be offered for cattle as producers get if they can ship them to Robb Jetty or send them to the Broome meatworks.

So Broome is a vital outlet; and it is most important for the Government to let the people of that area know its decision on the establishment of a port, or a jetty, and the provision of good roads. It is those two important transport factors upon which the economy of the cattle industry in West Kimberley depends. I support the motion.

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [8.54 p.m.]: Usually, when a Minister introduces a Supply Bill, he makes a relatively short speech to explain its provisions to members. This Supply Bill seeks to appropriate £17,000,000 for Consolidated Revenue and £5,000,000 for loan purposes. A measure such as this provides members with an opportunity to make speeches and draw the attention of the Government to various questions in which they are interested. Many of these questions are, naturally, parochial, because they affect members' provinces; and the speeches are the speeches that are to be expected from members in order that these

matters can be raised. Some of the speeches are constructive and others are destructive.

I never cease to wonder how little must have been done in the past when one realises the amount of blame that is placed on the Government for what has not been done in the last couple of years. I have said that before, but it is fitting that I should say it again. However, my practice in the first two sessions of this Parliament in this House has been to ask for the adjournment of the debate on the Supply Bill, and to go away, consult with Ministers who handle other departments for the purpose of obtaining the information that is required by members and then address myself in considerable detail to the House to give explanations of the problems which members have raised.

On this occasion I might be forgiven if I do not follow the same course, but tell members generally that I will bring to the notice of the various Ministers and their departments the matters that have been brought forward. There are, however, one or two comments I would like to make in certain respects upon matters that have been mentioned this afternoon, and again this evening.

Dealing firstly with the complaint made by Mr. Hall in regard to the answer to a question I gave him yesterday afternoon, which he did not like, I am going to tell that honourable member that I do not intend to hide myself or place the blame on anybody else by saying that the preparation of this answer was not my responsibility, although it would be very convenient for me to put the blame on somebody else. I am merely going to say that I am sorry the answer did not suit him and hope that the next time he asks a question he will not have the same ground for complaint. Beyond that I think he will appreciate, as I have informed him privately, that I am not going to try to shift the blame on to somebody else's shoulders in an effort to excuse myself.

Mr. Ron Thompson raised the question of pinball machines, and I can tell him that this is receiving the attention of the Government. Mr. Davies spoke about the resumptions that will be necessary for the Fremantle railway bridge, and how the adjacent land will be affected. The whole project is being properly planned and I will advise the Minister concerned of the matters brought forward by Mr. Davies. That honourable member also rightly mentioned that the Fremantle harbour passenger terminal was one of which we could be justly proud. I heartily agree with him; it most certainly is. As a result of my short travels in some portions of the world, I consider it is one of the best I have seen.

In respect to those people who are taking advantage of visitors in the manner described by Mr. Davies, I think this is an extremely unfortunate practice. Anyone



who short-changes a visitor by not giving him the composite amount of change in the difference between sterling and Australian money is, I think, guilty of a despicable practice and should be severely punished if he is apprehended and found guilty of thus defrauding his customers.

I think Mr. Davies also raised one or two other questions concerning the population of Fremantle and the desire to make certain lands available for industry. The Government has given a great deal of impetus to the establishment of industry in this State, generally, and is endeavouring to give every encouragement to attract industry to this State. The re-zoning of certain land is, of course, a matter for the Minister for Local Government, and he was present in the Chamber this evening when the honourable member was addressing the House. Mr. Teahan referred to the need for an improvement of the Kalgoorlie rail services, particularly in relation to second-class passengers. He also dealt with the question of traffic offences and of traders being penalised for backloading goods to their home towns in the country. These three matters I will bring to the attention of the Minister concerned.

Mr. Baxter dealt with quite an important matter. He talked about the unimproved value of farming properties. In some cases, as a result of the high valuations, local authorities have assessed the rates at much too high a figure. The ability of such properties to sustain a high rate can be looked into.

I disagree with him that land located alongside a road or a railway line, or near a railway siding, has not a greater unimproved value than land not so located. It is logical to assume that land located in areas which are provided with the various services must have a greater value.

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: Land which is connected with the various services must be valued higher.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I feel sure that a block of land with such facilities has a greater unimproved value than a block without them.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: His complaint was that the Taxation Department valuation was too high for land in some districts.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am aware of this complaint. People who own property are inclined to complain about the road board rates and about the unimproved value being too high, but when they are selling their land they like to obtain as much as they can.

An informative dissertation on noxious weeds was given by Mr. Abbey. He has given a great deal of attention to this matter. The committee of which both he and Mr. Syd Thompson were members has done a great deal of work on this important subject. I know that my colleague,

the Minister for Agriculture, is appreciative of the work which this committee has done in investigating noxious weed infestation in the State.

Regarding the matters brought forward by Mrs. Hutchison, I do not know what one has to do to satisfy the honourable member. I understand that she has been invited to the Child Welfare Department and has had a discussion with the officers of that department. However, I shall bring to the notice of the Minister for Child Welfare and the Chief Secretary the matters about which she complained.

Mr. Jones spoke about the lack of water in his province and referred to the possibility of using atomic power to bring to reality the de-salination of sea water. To my mind he rightly thought that this was a matter to be achieved in the distant future, because of the cost involved. Research is being carried out by various countries on the de-salination of salt water. Such research will ascertain the possibility of economically employing this method. The solution of this problem will be a godsend to Western Australia where the problem of water storage and water shortage is very grave. This Government is extremely water conscious.

The formation of a new Government department has been proposed—one to be formed between the Mines Department and the Public Works Department—to undertake the search for underground water. We have reached a point of agreement at which the department will operate. In the coming financial year I hope there will be sufficient staff of the right type available to put into effect the work of searching for underground water.

I shall discuss with the Premier the matters dealt with by Mr. Strickland. I understand that the trip made by the Premier to the north-west was quite successful, and he was very well received. Whilst I have not at this moment information as to what took place at Broome, I would like to refer from the Premier's point of view to what transpired. I shall certainly convey to the Premier the views expressed by Mr. Strickland.

Regarding the report which appeared in this evening's newspaper relating to citizenship rights for natives, and their right to vote, I believe the Premier was substantially correctly reported. He might have been quite correctly reported, for all we know. Since I did not give the report to the Press I cannot say whether it is correct, word for word. The important part is that the Government has introduced a Bill to give to native children, born after the 1st January, 1955, citizenship rights. This Bill has come under fire in the Legislative Assembly.

The Commonwealth Government has appointed a Select Committee to investigate the rights of natives to vote. This committee has made certain recommendations. I believe the Premier made his statement

along the lines that when the Commonwealth introduced its basis of voting on the part of natives, it would be foolish to have an inconsistency in Western Australia and this Government would introduce a Bill to bring our legislation into line with the legislation passed by the Commonwealth to improve the existing position.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: I want to point out there is an inconsistency.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: In the opinion of some people there has been an inconsistency for a long time. No-one can deny that the present Minister and past Ministers for Native Welfare have been conscious of their obligations to do all they could to uplift the natives in Western Australia.

I thank members for their contributions to the Supply Bill. This is the last one which I shall have the privilege to introduce during this session of Parliament. I shall wait till next year before I introduce the next Supply Bill.

The Hon. J. D. Teahan: That is being very optimistic.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not think I am being optimistic in saying that.

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.

*Third Reading*

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), and passed.

## **BILLS (2): RECEIPT AND FIRST READING**

1. Licensing Act Amendment Bill.
2. Laporte Industrial Factory Agreement Bill.

Bills received from the Assembly; and, on motions by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), read a first time.

## **PAINTERS' REGISTRATION BILL**

*Second Reading*

**THE HON. G. E. JEFFERY** (Suburban) [9.14 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

In introducing this Bill I am conscious of the remarks made earlier this evening by Mr. Hall, when he said with some regret but truthfully that on many occasions Western Australia was the last with the latest.

This Bill is pioneer legislation in Australia, but I am led to believe that the other States are watching what is taking place

here. Queensland, in particular, will be very interested in the final determination of the Parliament of Western Australia.

The intention of this Bill is to try to bring some order into the trade—probably the most chaotic of all trades in Western Australia. I speak of the painting trade. Anyone who has had any association with the building trade—whether it be in the capacity of an architect, a master builder, or an operative—will agree that since the termination of the last World War, more troubles have been experienced in the painting trade than in all the other allied trades put together.

This Bill has the blessing of the Master Painters' Association of Western Australia and also of the appropriate trade union, the Painters' and Decorators' Union. Its intention is that a board shall be established to control the activities of the painters in this State.

The people in the trade at present who are operating as master painters—whether they be genuine master painters or some of the inferior gentlemen, or gentlemen who perform inferior work—would, on application, be accepted as registered painters. This is nothing new of course. I think it has applied in quite a few industries and professions. The one that comes to mind is the dental profession. Those operating as dentists at the time the legislation relating to dentists was passed were automatically registered.

In my opinion it will take some two or three years after the passing of this Bill before any noticeable effect will be experienced, the reason being, of course, that unsatisfactory so-called master painters or pseudo master painters operating today will take two or three years to run out of business because of their bad workmanship and their consequent bad reputation. Others in the meantime will become bankrupt for the same reason.

The situation at the moment of course, is that when one fly-by-night or get-rich-quick type leaves, another is equally keen to try.

As is well known, the painting trade in Western Australia is governed by a five-year apprenticeship similar to the other building trades, and at the completion of the five-year apprenticeship the apprentice has to pass the particular examination set by the Western Australian Arbitration Court. He is then an operative painter and has the right to work in the industry.

The Hon. R. C. Mattiske: Do you know how many operative painters there are in the State?

The Hon. G. E. JEFFERY: I think the figure would be approximately 1,500. That figure would be very close although it could be a few either way. There are between 100 and 120 apprentices.

This measure does not apply to the whole of the State but only to the area set out in the Second Schedule of the Metropolitan Water Supply Act. I read the appropriate statute and frankly it is on my table at present but it is a document that only a surveyor could understand. To anyone else it would not mean a great deal at all. I hope to have a map to present to the House at a later stage.

I would say of the figure I quoted that there would be approximately 1,200 operative painters in the metropolitan area and approximately 100 apprentices.

As I have said, if this Bill is agreed to and becomes a statute, those in the industry within six months of the date of proclamation of the Bill would, on application, automatically be registered. So, in effect, anyone of any substance who is operating at present as a master painter, and who has a real interest in the business of painting other than the making of money, will not be affected. Unfortunately those who produce a lot of unsatisfactory work leave the industry subsequently and, quite often the State, only to repeat the process in South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales. Only when they have been to all the States and have run out of gullible clients do they cease in the business unless they leave the country to try abroad.

However, this Bill does no damage to anyone who is a master painter of repute. In fact it gives him protection. It certainly gives the operative painter protection, too, because when he works for a master painter of repute he will be paid the appropriate wage. It also protects the general public; which is its most important feature. When a person engages a master painter under this Bill he can expect a job to be done well, and if it is not the Bill has provisions which allow the board to take appropriate action. The board may either have the person concerned correct the errors to the satisfaction of the client, or it may have the work done itself and send the bill to the contractor.

Incidentally, when I talk of the painting trade, I point out that most of those who are engaged in it—whether master painters or operative painters—have served an apprenticeship under the Arbitration Court system.

When members consider the various clauses of the Bill they may think that they are harsh. But I think the Bill is one of the fairest; and that is not because I am handling it. Actually although I am handling it I had nothing to do with the drafting of it. Perhaps I should say that in spite of the fact that I am handling it, members should agree that it is a very fair Bill. As I have said, the master painter, his employee, and the general public are all equally protected and it places no strain on anyone.

Later on I will draw attention to legislation of a similar nature existing in Holland, and when I do I think members will agree that by comparison the measure before the House could be called a milk-and-water measure.

The Arbitration Court recognises painting as a craft trade and there is no doubt about the fact that painting is a craft trade. It has one weakness in that the fly-by-night or pseudo master painter is not easily detected. He does a job and it does not become obvious for some time that the work is not up to standard. It is very hard to distinguish whether a painting contractor has given two or three coats of paint. Quite often by the time the work has deteriorated sufficiently for a client to realise that he has been robbed, the so-called master painter is out of business or in another place.

I have some records of the complaints received in the last four or five years by the Master Painters' Association. There are 166 cases where the association has been able to do something for the aggrieved persons; and I am assured that there are as many cases, or even more, where, because of the nature of the complaints and the way in which the contracts were entered into, the association was not able to assist the aggrieved persons.

Those eligible to be registered as master painters are—

1. A person who is 21 years of age and of good character, who has served his apprenticeship in the painting trade.
2. A person who has been a master painter or supervisor in his daily duties.
3. A person who has come from overseas and can produce credentials which indicate that, although he has not served an apprenticeship under the Arbitration Court, from his experience and qualifications overseas he is equally as good as those in Western Australia.

I think that is quite fair. A sincere man who comes to this country has no trouble whatever in obtaining employment. We have only to look at any of the building trades to know that a man with the qualifications is able to obtain a job in his profession or craft trade. Therefore the Bill is fair on the question as to who shall be registered under the Bill if it becomes law.

I might point out that the Bill contains the safeguard that whatever decisions are made by the board they are subject to the Minister. This ensures that there is no chance of a miscarriage of justice. Unfortunately there are times when personalities enter into matters and perhaps a person will not get the fair deal to which he is justly entitled; but, as I have said, in every case the decision of the board is

subject to the Minister. If a person's application for registration is rejected, the board must supply reasons in writing for such rejection and these must be submitted to the Minister for his approval. He has the overriding power and I think that is quite a fair proposition. I think it is most important that all parties to legislation should be fairly represented and be given equal opportunity of receiving justice.

The tragedy at present is that people enter this country as so-called journeymen. It is easy to see when we read the Dutch legislation why a Dutch painter, although not accepted by the Dutch people, could set himself up here as a painter. On the other hand others make application to join a trade union and are not accepted because of lack of qualification. However, in some ways it would be better for all concerned if they were accepted because the moment they are rejected they buy a tin of paint and a few brushes and set themselves up as painting contractors.

I have downstairs the complete folio containing the 166 cases to which I have referred. I did not bring it with me because it is a pretty big folio, but if needs be I would be prepared to table it and members could go through each and every case to see for themselves exactly what is taking place. The people hoodwinked by so-called master painters are not always the uninformed. If members go through the list they will find that those who have had reason to complain about bad workmanship are people from all walks in life from the intelligent and well educated to the humble folk. Complaints have been received in regard to humble cottages and in regard to hotels.

It is amazing to realise that if a person buys a utility or a van and has his name painted on it in attractive colours, and sets himself up in business, the pretty signs have a soothing effect on people who think that because of the highly decorated van or utility, the person concerned is all right and there is no need for any worry.

One case I have here is of a woman pensioner whose home in Subiaco was painted by one of these contractors. Eight days after it had been finished the calamine was peeling and falling. I must add that although this particular contractor was not a member of the association, the members of the association redid the whole of that job with no cost to the lady concerned.

I know of an even worse case. A blind woman in Maylands who worked at the School for the Blind paid one of these fly-by-night painters to paint her residence. Because of her affliction she was not in a position to judge whether the work had been done satisfactorily and it was not until some of her friends told her of the state of the work that she was able to make a complaint.

In all these cases the Master Painters' Association has played a very good part. They have been able to obtain justice for the aggrieved persons on many occasions by various methods.

Another instance I can quote is that of two Dutch cleaners. Members might say, "Who would fall for them?" If members were to read the name and address of the aggrieved client they would realise it is a business in the heart of the city. All sorts of people, from architects down, are being cheated in respect of work done on private residences and large public buildings.

The tragedy, as I say, is that a man who might not be good enough to join the craft union as a painter can immediately set himself up as a painter and do a lot more damage as a contractor than if he were an operative working for some other contractor, because as an employee of a contractor it would not take long for his shortcomings to be detected.

The board proposed is to consist of five. The president will be a person who has no pecuniary interest in the industry. The chairman will be the person who is for the time being the chairman of the Builders' Registration Board of Western Australia.

At the present time he is a man we all know very well; namely, the lately retired Principal Architect, Mr. Clare. The other members of the board will be two members of the Master Painters' Association of Western Australia, one member of the appropriate trade union, and one representative of the Western Australian Chamber of Manufactures.

The inclusion of a representative of the Chamber of Manufactures is due to the fact that many of the people who are brought to bay for bad workmanship immediately blame the brand of paint that was used. The fact is, in most cases, the person concerned used unsuitable paint due to lack of knowledge of the trade. On many more occasions—and predominantly so—painters have failed in the job they were supposed to be doing because of the excessive use of turpentine, kerosene, and—in the case of cold water paint—water.

When a board has to investigate a complaint concerning the quality of workmanship, it has to take into consideration the aspect of materials as well as labour. The representative of the Chamber of Manufactures will probably be a paint manufacturer in Western Australia. I do not think we can quarrel with that.

It is very easy to get away with bad workmanship for a time. It is very easy, when painting roofs, to give two coats of paint when three should be applied, if the work is not personally supervised by an architect or someone in authority. I think the Minister for Housing would agree that the State Housing

Commission, in its time, has had quite a few complaints regarding standard of workmanship.

I was for a number of years a member of the board of the Pollard Hospital for Women Pensioners. Because of bad workmanship which has been done in the painting and other branches of the building trade we sought and were granted by the Minister, the assistance of a representative of the State Housing Commission. The person concerned was a building supervisor, and a very good one. His duty on the board was to advise on all matters affecting building and renovation. We had a major painting job done at the hospital and, on the recommendation of the supervisor, a painter was engaged who had undertaken work for the State Housing Commission on a satisfactory basis. According to his record he was a good master painter. At the completion of the job, the supervisor was fully awake to the poor workmanship; the preparation of the work; and the breaking down of the materials. The work was repaired at the expense of the painter.

The tender would not have been submitted had the tenderer, in the first place, intended doing a proper job.

The amount would have been ridiculously low for the nature of the work. As it was, it cost the painter concerned much more than it would have done had he done it properly in the first place. In the ultimate justice was done, but in the meantime a bad experience had to be gone through in connection with the painting contractor.

Any Western Australian in a building trade depends a lot on advertising. He depends on the recommendation of clients, so that when friends and business associates of his clients require work done he will be recommended. He has a big stake in Western Australia, and it is to his advantage to do good work. Bad workmanship ultimately leads to bankruptcy, and no reputable citizen wants that. If a man is a business man, he is as careful in his choice of the person he employs to carry out painting work as he is in other matters. I think the Bill meets most of these situations. It will not meet all the circumstances which may arise; but if it is passed, it will go a long way towards rectifying a number of faults. I am certain that if amendments are required at a later date Parliament will review the situation and will, in the course of time, agree to them.

The Bill provides for the splitting of contracts. I think this is covered in the building trade. Work up to the value of £20 can be done without coming within the orbit of this proposed Act. I think that is a fair proposition. Contracts can be used as a devious means of evading the law. A painter could enter a home, and, instead of saying the whole job would

cost £20 or £30, he could make a price for each ceiling and each wall separately. This Bill will cover that situation. Where a painter would cut a job into several parts, he will not be able to do so under the provisions of the Bill.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What if there is time dividing the painting of two rooms?

The Hon. G. E. JEFFERY: That weakness can occur. However, if it transpires that there are loopholes in the Act it can be brought before Parliament, and amended. I would not allow a painter to paint the walls and not the ceiling. I think the Minister will agree that people will not want to shift their furniture around and then find that the painter will be away for a period. Any person who would agree to that sort of thing is inviting trouble; and we cannot legislate for fools. Again, if a painter says that he will paint each wall for £5, and the ceilings for another £5, he is inviting the sort of trouble that this Bill proposes to do away with.

I am not concerned with people who will evade the protection of this Bill; and I do not think that the master or operative painter is concerned either. I think that common sense will prevail, because the average person is fairly intelligent. This Bill will cover all those malpractices which exist in the industry at the present time.

The registrar of the board would also be the secretary of it, and he would be the Registrar of the Builders' Registration Board. In another clause the Bill provides that the board shall make a report of its activities to the Minister who shall control the Act. Also, a balance sheet will be forthcoming. Also, a list of those who were registered would appear in the *Government Gazette* annually, and a supplementary list showing additions and deletions would also appear in the *Government Gazette*.

It has been suggested to me, since the Bill was introduced, that a more appropriate place for the disclosing of the names of registered painters would be in the *Builders' Registration Gazette*. If that is so I will accept an amendment along those lines. I think it might well be an appropriate place, to enable architects and those engaged in the building industry to have the names of registered builders and painters in the one journal. I believe it is a better suggestion than that contained in the measure.

The Bill will apply only to the metropolitan area; the definition is quite clear. The Bill does not apply to the painting of motor-cars, and that sort of thing, which some people are concerned about. I do not think there is need for any concern.

Any rejected person has the right of appeal to the Minister, and the right of obtaining from the board the reasons for his rejection. It has been suggested that the fee covering application for membership should be £2 2s. and the annual fee

should be £10 10s. Perhaps I should make it clear that the Minister will decide the fee after consultation with the board. The maximum figure would be £10 10s. I do not think that is a great fee. An operative painter in industry pays for industrial coverage. The figure for the union is £6. A figure which has been suggested would be about £8 8s. However, that is the responsibility of the Minister to decide in association with the board.

I have received a couple of queries regarding penalties. The penalty upon a man who continues to paint while unregistered will be £10. The minimum may be £2. For a second offence the penalty will be £100, and the minimum penalty £10. A magistrate penalises according to the nature of the offence, and that is a matter for the courts. It is amazing when we consider the amount of money people have been robbed of by unscrupulous contractors. Even if the maximum penalty is imposed it will be a small penalty for the enormity of the crime.

An American citizen, who is a great advertisement for Western Australia, agreed to pay £350 for a painting job; but at this moment he has been rendered an account for £900. The contractor concerned apparently conjured up a picture of the almighty dollar and decided that he would have more than his fair share. If the job was worth £350 in one of our best suburbs, he was attempting to rob an individual £400 or £500 by charging him that much extra, a penalty of £100 would not amount to very much; and the sooner he got out of the industry, the better it would be for Western Australia.

I think everyone is entitled to a fair go in the amount of money spent. Anyone who spends a pound is entitled to a pound's worth of goods or value.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You said that the penalty was in the magistrate's discretion. What about clause 4 dealing with the penalty.

The Hon. G. E. JEFFERY: Quite frankly, the committee stage would be the appropriate time to deal with that.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You said the magistrate had a discretion.

The Hon. G. E. JEFFERY: According to the clause—I think that I had better read the whole of it.

*Sitting suspended from 9.45 to 10.5 p.m.*

The Hon. G. E. JEFFERY: I was about to read clause 4 of the Bill which is very clear. It reads as follows:—

4. (1) From and after a period of six months after the commencement of this Act no painter shall carry out painting (otherwise than as a *bona fide* employee) where the charge, fee or reward paid or payable in respect of the undertaking exceeds twenty pounds unless he is a registered painter.

Penalty: Ten pounds in respect of a first offence and one hundred pounds in respect of any subsequent offence.

I am told that this is covered in the Justices Act. What I said previously is correct, that one-fifth of the penalty is the minimum in both instances. In other words, on appearing before a magistrate, one-fifth of the maximum amount is regarded as the minimum; and according to the magistrate's assessment of the seriousness of the breach the appropriate penalty will be imposed.

I promised earlier I would read a couple of letters, and I also said that there were all strata of society from which complaints were lodged on the types of jobs done. I have here two letters which I will read to the House. They come from two vastly different types of people who both happen to be smitten with the same disease of being overcharged for unsatisfactory work. The first letter is from the Master Painters, Decorators and Signwriters' Association. I would point out that I do not want to mention the names of either of these people concerned, but I will lay the letters on the Table of the House if it is necessary for me to do so. The letter reads—

Further to our recent telephonic communication, I submit herewith an estimate of costs for "making-good" of paintwork recently done on the ——— Hotel.

The vice-president of this Association and whose calling for the past forty years has been that of a painter and decorator, has submitted these figures. He accompanied the writer on 13th February when the work in question was examined.

Refer to my letter to ——— dated 15th February, 1961.

Item	1.	.....	£14	12	0
"	2.	.....	24	0	0
"	3.	.....	1	10	0
"	4.	.....	2	0	0
"	5.	.....	8	0	0
"	6.	.....	4	0	0
"	7.	.....	5	0	0
"	8.	.....	2	0	0
"	9.	.....	5	0	0
"	10.	.....	10	0	0
"	11.	.....	4	0	0
"	12.	.....	1	5	0
"	13.	.....	2	10	0
"	14.	.....	8	0	0
"	15.	.....	2	0	0
"	16.	.....	2	10	0
"	17.	.....	6	0	0
"	18.	.....	28	0	0
"	19.	.....			
"	20.	.....	15	0	0
"	21.	.....			
"	22.	.....	1	10	0

£149 2 0

Add travelling, 2 men 47 10 0

Excluding Board and Lodge £196 12 0

He then listed 22 items which he considered were not satisfactorily done. The total cost of this bad workmanship was £196 12s. The report on the work reads as follows:—

With reference to the paintwork recently completed on the — Hotel, I have to inform you that the inspection of same—as requested by yourself—was carried out by the Vice-President of this Association—accompanied by the writer on 13th instant.

Generally it was found that the work had been executed in an untradesman-like manner and the following points will help illustrate the reasons for this conclusion:—

- (1) The pale blue coat of paint applied to the ceiling of the verandah—as visible from ground level—has been very poorly applied in that brush marks and streaks are evident. This should be redone.
- (2) All posts appear to have been painted without any attempt at preparation, viz. burning-off, stopping-up etc. This remark applies to practically all the woodwork inspected.
- (3) Side door of hotel leading to store-room and bar has been very badly done as no preparation is evident. Likewise runs are evident at edge of door.
- (4) Cement bands in brickwork have been badly “cut-in” and that portion at bar entrance has not been painted.
- (5) Windows have not been stopped-up and are badly splattered with paint.
- (6) Brickwork in stucco wall has evidently been painted in error and a very poor attempt made to cover this by the application of a coat of emulsion paint.
- (7) East windows show signs of paint peeling. Inspection disclosed the fact that the primer coat applied was not, under the circumstances, the correct one. Very untradesmanlike.
- (8) The top returns and sides of the stucco wall have not been painted.
- (9) Rabbet on main door not painted.
- (10) Brick walls and cement floor under verandah badly marked with paint splashes.
- (11) All window sills facing west require stopping-up and an additional coat of paint applied.

- (12) Return of gutter and fascia on west side is unpainted.
- (13) Inner sides of flyscreens not painted.
- (14) Three gables on roof have received only one coat of roofing paint—contrary to normal practice of priming and finishing paint. The colour should have been cream to match other work. This likewise applies to spires.
- (15) Back stairway splattered with roof paint.
- (16) Vent pipes and stays on roof unpainted.
- (17) Pipes (i.e. down) do not match brickwork in colour.
- (18) Upper floor: Verandah posts and rails. No sign of preparation prior to application of paint. Certain portions, viz. post bases and rail supports have been unpainted. Also external areas of the rails have been missed in parts.
- (19) Upper floor: Window panes not cleaned.
- (20) Upper floor: Paint spilt on linoleum.
- (21) Upper floor: Drops of paint on brickwork.
- (22) Upper floor: French doors require additional finishing coat.

In other words, nearly £200 worth of work was required to be done on a hotel to meet the cost of the work required to be redone through defective workmanship. This, generally speaking, is a fair-size job where a legitimate contractor would be anxious to do a good job, because it would act as an advertisement for his firm. The letter I will now read is to a lady in Bicton who had the same experience. From the address it would appear that it was a home of quite good standard. The letter reads—

Dear Madam,

With reference to your request that this Association inspect paintwork recently done to your residence situated at 5 Durdham Crescent—BICTON—I have to inform you that this inspection was carried out on 22nd inst. by the Vice-President of this Association Mr. E. Flade, accompanied by the writer and the following is, in Mr. Flade's opinion, in need of rectification:—

Lounge: Cracks in walls not stopped up prior to painting. Woodwork has not been rubbed down. A further coat of white finishing paint should be applied to the woodwork. Opacity is poor.

This remark regarding woodwork is applicable to ALL interior painting.

Door frame where the position of the old lock is obvious is in need of filling.

Front Hall: Crack in wall not patched up. It is recommended that a further coat of paint be applied.

Cupboard—woodwork not sanded down especially so on inner panel of door. Additional coat required.

Main Bedroom: Walls and woodwork require additional coats. Paint spots on bedroom floor should be removed.

Inner Hall: Additional coat of paint required.

Inner Passage (rear): Ceiling requires additional coat.

Nursery: Woodwork—additional coat required.

Exterior: Rear Door: Additional coat required.

Windows: All west windows to be rubbed down, primed, under-coated and finishing coat applied.

East window—to be burnt off—primed, etc.

Paint spots on various glasswork to be removed.

Sleepout: Right entrance asbestos wall—additional coat of paint required.

Those are only two letters of the 166 cases I have in my folio illustrating that both hotels and private residences are having the same difficulties. The amounts vary from small sums of £40 to £50 to amounts as large as £150 to £200. I believe the passage of this Bill will obviate a lot of the bad workmanship which is being put in by people who have no standing other than that they possess a vehicle, a paintbrush and a pot of paint.

I have here three statements by different people and organisations on the importance of training in industry. If the painting trade or any other trade is not to be put on a proper footing in order that the public might be protected, then it is a waste of time for a person to serve his apprenticeship in any industry; particularly if the law of the jungle is to prevail.

I believe that America did for a period allow everybody to engage in various industries without registration, but they discovered the error of their ways and returned to the apprenticeship scheme. I have had a look at the American system and I find it is similar to our system, particularly as to the number of hours an apprentice serves, or technical training, and so on. These aspects are identical with those provided here. The only difference is the rate of pay.

I would like to quote the comments made by the Honorary Royal Commissioner (Mr. Baxter) who inquired into the ramifications of builders' registration. They read as follows:—

Your Commission is firmly of the opinion that the Builders' Registration Act is desirable to provide a means of assuring that only properly qualified persons are conducting building operations, and the public are protected from exploitation and inferior workmanship, so far as possible, and in addition are provided with an avenue through which complaints can be channelled and adjusted to mutual satisfaction without the necessity of litigation.

I think the remarks of the Royal Commission on the subject of builders' registration apply equally to the painting trade in this State.

The other comments I wish to read are those made by Mr. Logan when he opened the Commonwealth Technical Training Week at the end of May. I do not intend to read all he said, but just a few comments from the bottom of the first page. He said—

The aims of Technical Training Week are—

- (1) to persuade young people and their parents of the value of technical training in meeting the challenges and opportunities of modern life;
- (2) to persuade employers of the economic advantages to themselves and the nation of an investment in the training of their staff;
- (3) to bring home to the community at large the essential contribution of technical training in maintaining and improving their standard of living.

There is another extract I wish to read from the remarks made by the Duke of Edinburgh in opening the same "Week." As you know, Mr. President, he is President of Commonwealth Technical Training Week in the British Commonwealth of Nations, and he had this to say—

I believe, therefore, that it is one of the responsibilities of parents, teachers and employers, to help those who are on the threshold of their working lives by displaying for them the wide field of employment possibilities and the qualifications needed so that they can choose a career which gives full scope to their aptitudes. They must also be made aware of the opportunities that exist for further education and training and the very considerable improvement in their future prospects which will result if they make proper use of the facilities available.



The last quote I wish to make is in regard to the qualifications which are required in Holland. I cannot read the Dutch name as I cannot pronounce it. It contains about 26 letters. This translation sets out the pertinent things which are required before anyone can set up a painting practice in Holland. It reads as follows:—

Without the consent of the Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures it is forbidden to establish a business destined for or also destined for the carrying out of painting, as far as regards the carrying out itself.

This is apparently to show he has the requirements regarding skills. Among the requirements that are insisted upon, the minimum requirements are as follows:—

The minimum requirements, in accordance with Article 3 of the Act, regarding the creditworthiness in the painting business are:

- (a) to be in the possession of sufficient working capital to—
  - (i) be able to carry out the business for the period of one year, to be judged against the background of local conditions and situations;
  - (ii) be able to finance at least half the cost of establishing the business;
- (b) to be in the possession of evidence that—in case the working-capital consists wholly or partially of borrowed moneys—these moneys will not be claimed inside two years of the date mentioned in the Small Business Establishment Act, 1937.

I am not saying that all the names on this list are those of Dutchmen, although I know that some are. They have never been painting contractors in Holland because there are about three pages of conditions that have to be met by anybody who wishes to set up in Holland as a painting contractor. This Bill does not go anywhere near as far or as long as the Dutch measure; and it is one I recommend to the House.

I think I have covered the major features of the Bill, and if not, I will answer any questions in Committee.

**Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. R. C. Mattiske.**

## BUILDING SOCIETIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

*In Committee, etc.*

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon) in the Chair; The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Housing) in charge of the Bill.

**Clauses 1 and 2 put and passed.**

### Clause 3: Section 3 amended—

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I move an amendment—

Page 3, line 14—Delete the word “interpretation” and substitute the word “interpretations.”

This amendment is necessary as later I propose to ask the Committee to agree to the addition of another interpretation.

**Amendment put and passed.**

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I move an amendment—

Page 3, line 14—Insert before the interpretation “Starr-Bowkett Society” the following:—

“Special resolution” means a resolution when it has been passed by a majority of not less than three-fourths of such members as being entitled so to do vote in person, or where proxies are allowed, by proxy, at a general meeting of which not less than twenty-one days’ notice specifying the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution has been given;

When I was winding up the debate on the second reading I said some little anomalies had been drawn to my notice and I would seek during the Committee stage to correct them. As we go through the Bill we find it deals with a special resolution without having anything in the interpretation. This amendment will add to the interpretation “special resolution.”

**Amendment put and passed.**

**Clause, as amended, put and passed.**

**Clause 4 put and passed.**

**Clause 5: Section 4 repealed and re-enacted—**

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: I move an amendment—

Page 7, line 30—Delete the words “dwelling-houses” and substitute the words “freehold or leasehold property.”

Briefly, the clause as it stands at the moment says that the funds of the society may be loaned on dwelling-houses. It has always been stated in the principal Act that loans can be made on freehold or leasehold properties. Dwelling-houses are a bit restricted and do not cover a shop and dwelling or even a block of flats. It is the practice of the permanent societies to loan on these properties from time to time. The amendment merely preserves the verbiage which has always been in the principal Act.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I have no objection to this amendment. As Mr. Watson says, these words are in the parent Act, and I can see no valid reason why they should not continue to operate in the same form as they have done for the last umpteen years.

**Amendment put and passed.**

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: I move an amendment—

Page 8, line 13—Insert after the word “not” the words “after the coming into operation of the Building Societies Act Amendment Act, 1961.”

On page 8, subclause (3), there is a provision which is designed to ensure that in the future a building society shall lend, and that for the periods of calculating the interest the rests shall not exceed quarterly rests. I have no objection to that proposal, but the position is that whilst most of the societies do loan on quarterly rests, there are some which do not. Some do lend on annual rests. The prohibition of lending on annual rests would be irksome so far as some loans are concerned.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not object to this amendment. The Bill provides for quarterly rests because I think that is the least a borrower can expect. I do not agree with the practice that is demonstrated by some that loans should be on annual rests. In effect, it is simply calculating interest over a rate of loan outstanding at the end of each 12 months; and I do not agree with that. I appreciate the point raised by Mr. Watson that some building societies are calculating their loans on monthly rests, and borrowers should be permitted to have the advantage of that. We cannot expect to make the thing retrospective.

**Amendment put and passed.**

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: I move an amendment—

Page 8, line 21—Delete the words “quarterly rests” and substitute the words “rests in respect of periods not longer than three months.”

While the clause contemplates rests at a period of not more than a quarter, some societies do, in fact, lend on monthly rests; and clearly it is a matter of drafting that they should not be compelled to go on to quarterly rests. For that reason I move this amendment.

**Amendment put and passed.**

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: I move an amendment—

Page 8, line 23—Delete the word “quarter” and substitute the word “period.”

**Amendment put and passed.**

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 6 put and passed.

Clause 7: Section 5 repealed and re-enacted—

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: I move an amendment—

Page 10, line 14—Insert after the word “occurs” the words “at any time.”

This subclause provides for the furnishing to the Registrar of Building Societies of particulars of directors, and so on. The clause is rather unfortunately placed in the Bill, in that it is placed in a section dealing with the registration of a society. The intention is that where any change occurs in a directorship, either during the formation of a society or any time thereafter, it shall be notified to the Registrar. This amendment merely makes that clear.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: These points which are being raised by Mr. Watson arise out of a conference of registrars of societies. I do not disagree with the amendment because it adds value to the particular clause. At the present time the clause is restricting and the addition of these words will make it stronger in its application.

**Amendment put and passed.**

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 8 to 10 put and passed.

Clause 11: Section 8A added—

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I move an amendment—

Page 11, lines 25 and 26—Delete the words “be deemed to form part of” and substitute the words “so far as applicable be”.

**Amendment put and passed.**

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 12 to 14 put and passed.

Clause 15: Sections 12A to 12C added—

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: I move an amendment—

Page 14, line 28—Insert after the word “persons” the words “or a wholly owned subsidiary of such company or corporate body”.

Paragraph (g) of page 14 provides that a person shall cease to be a director of a building society if he has a pecuniary interest in any contract with the society; unless that interest is simply as a member of a company consisting of more than 20 members—in other words, a public company. This amendment does not alter the sense of the paragraph, but makes it more workable.

**Amendment put and passed.**

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: I move an amendment—

Page 16, line 4—Delete the word “the” and substitute the words “a terminating”.

I understand that the Minister does not see eye to eye with me in respect of this particular amendment. As it stands at the moment, section 9 of the Act provides that the rules of a building society established under this Act shall set forth, among other things, the duties, powers, and manner of appointing, remunerating and removing the committee of management, auditors, and other officers.

That is a traditional condition in any building society Act. It first appeared in the Building Society Act of the United Kingdom in 1874, from whence it was copied. In all of the building society Acts in the other States and in New Zealand a similar provision occurs. That is quite natural: that the appointment and fixing of the remuneration of directors should be left to the society at its annual general meeting; and this is invariably a provision in the rules of building societies. Sub-clause 2 at the top of page 16 proposes to vary this old-established practice by providing that a director or other officer of the society is entitled to be paid such fees and expenses as are fixed by general meeting of the society but not exceeding such maximum amounts as are prescribed by the regulations.

That is the new and rather revolutionary proposal. Personally I would like to see the whole of subclause 2 deleted. On the other hand, I understand the Minister is somewhat concerned about the position in respect to terminating societies inasmuch as they function exclusively on Government money. I understand that in the Co-operation Act of New South Wales—as distinct from the Building Societies Act which governs these terminating societies, which do not provide any funds of their own—there is provision for this.

In Victoria, where building societies as such are governed by the Building Societies Act, these terminating societies, or co-operative housing societies as they are called in that State, are dealt with under a separate Act; but even under that separate Act there is no such provision as this.

This provision seems to be an infringement of the ordinary rights of freedom of action of shareholders in a society. As I said in my second reading speech, it would be just as logical to expect the Companies Act to say that the directors of a company should be paid such fees as were determined by a company at a general meeting and approved by regulation.

I can visualise all sorts of troubles arising in trying even to formulate a scale that would apply to a very small society on the one hand, a very large society on the other hand, and a variety of societies in between those two.

If the subclause is to be agreed to by the Committee I would earnestly suggest to the Minister that it be confined to terminating societies, and that is the object of my amendment. Alternatively, it could be confined to a society where advances by the Government represent half of its assets.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That sort of thing will not apply because even terminating societies will not depend for the genesis of their existence upon Government moneys.

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: Yes, they will.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: No, they will not; not necessarily.

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: With due respect to the Minister, I consider it will apply; and most of the old-established building societies in this State have been carrying on their business for anything from 75 to 99 years, and I do not think it will be fitting for them to be denied the ordinary right of fixing the remuneration of their directors, and so on. For those reasons I invite the Minister to delete sub-clause 2 from the Bill, but for the moment I am satisfied to confine this amendment to terminating societies.

As I said the other night rather feelingly, it may be that in recent months we have even had some of these new societies being established without substance. It is a fact that in recent months we have had two such societies formed as permanent societies.

I sympathise fully with the desire of the Minister to police the activities of such societies, but, taking everything into consideration, I believe that for the moment it would be unfair for the old-established societies to be brought under the general proposal simply because there are two permanent societies which may be suspect. I submit this proposition to the Minister: That he could delete the clause, or accept my amendment to the clause on the understanding that if my expectation is proved to be wrong, and he finds it necessary to take disciplinary action against any permanent society, he could then bring forward another amendment to the Act, because he would then have a definite example to present to us to justify its introduction.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It is much too late to close the stable door when the horse has bolted, and I do not want to have this situation prevailing for any period longer than that which has already passed. If the Committee agrees to the insertion of the word "terminating" it will mean that the Bill, when passed, will have limitations when providing the maximum fee on terminating societies only and not on permanent societies. I appreciate the good name that has been built up by old-established permanent societies; but, as Mr. Watson told us tonight and also the other evening, there are what he termed malpractices by these newly-formed societies, and it is my desire that they should be confined within the strict letter of the law. We are not going to alter the provisions contained in the Act to any great extent because section 9 reads as follows:—

The rules of every society established under this Act shall set forth—

- (1) the duties and powers of, and manner of appointing, remunerating, and removing the committee of management, auditors, and other officers.

All we are going to do is to ensure that within the limitations of the maximum amount provided by regulation, the society

will be able to continue to do that which is now written in the Act. The recommendations for the gazettal of any regulation will be made to the Minister by the advisory committee and on that committee will at least be one person well versed in the activities of permanent societies. So there will be ample opportunity for the advisory committee to indicate to the Minister how it feels about the matter.

I hope the honourable member will not proceed with his amendment, because the whole object of the Bill is to encourage more building society activities, but only within the strict limits of the law, and to keep as firm a hand as possible on them, without there being any possible deviation from the law by those who will form permanent societies now or in the future. I do not think the Bill will do any harm. I would prefer to turn Mr. Watson's suggestion round the other way. If, within 12 months, it is found that this legislation is proving to be harsh, we will review it. I would rather ensure that a steady hand is placed on the new societies that are to be formed, apart from the terminating societies.

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: I did not speak to the second reading of this measure because I would only have had to repeat the speech made by Mr. Watson when he covered all the points thoroughly. I recall vividly some of his words when he pointed out how unfortunate it is that we have only one piece of legislation to cover both terminating and permanent building societies. I consider that this is an excellent illustration of one of the many problems that must arise by trying to combine the two types of societies under one piece of legislation.

In New South Wales and Victoria terminating building societies have been operating for a great number of years, and their total annual turnover runs into many millions of pounds. In those States there are regulations to cover every contingency. A certain scale is provided setting out the contributions; certain charges are provided which have to be made by the contributors to the schemes; and certain payments to the directors are provided, including everything else necessary for the efficient administration of those terminating societies. I think it is all to the good that they have all those details clearly laid down.

If, in this State, we are going to try to lay down those same hard and fast rules to tie up completely the terminating societies and, at the same time, impede the operation of those permanent societies which, as Mr. Watson has said, have been operating for many years—

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: How will they be impeded?

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: For the simple reason that if the directors' fees can be reduced to what the registrar thinks they should be—

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That is not so.

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: That is so because, under the Bill, as printed, the maximum fees can be governed by regulation.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Who is responsible for gazetting the regulations; the Minister or the registrar?

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: The Minister, on the recommendation of the registrar, which, virtually is the same thing.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: No, it is not.

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: We should try to keep clearly in mind that we are trying to tie up the terminating societies, but that we have permanent societies which have been operating on a much different scale for many years and they should be allowed to continue to operate as they have done in the past. I consider the amendment is a sound one and I hope the Committee will agree to it.

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: The Minister has suggested that the advisory committee would recommend to the Minister what should be the maximum directors' fees. However, on reading proposed new section 3G., appearing on pages 6 and 7 of the Bill, I find that it sets forth the functions of the advisory committee. I can see no indication in that proposed new section of the question of fees being a matter on which the Minister would be advised.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Have a look at subparagraph (viii) of paragraph (a) of that proposed new section, where you will see the words, "such other matters as the Minister refers to the Advisory Committee from time to time."

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: That could possibly cover the situation, but the Minister would not be bound to refer such matters to the advisory committee. I suggest it would be an impertinence for a director of the Fremantle Building Society to tell a director of the Bunbury Building Society what remuneration he should get, or for a director of the Perth Building Society to tell the directors of either of those societies what remuneration they should receive. Essentially, that is a domestic matter and I ask the Minister to accept the representations I have made.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It is not proposed to direct any building society on what its directors shall receive, except to the point of creating a maximum. Surely that is not unreasonable! If Mr. Watson has another look at proposed new section 3G. he will see these words—

Subject to the Minister the functions of the Advisory Committee are—

(a) to make recommendations and submit proposals to the Minister from time to time with respect to—

(i) regulations and model rules to be made under this Act.

So, in fact, the advisory committee will have the duty of making recommendations to the Minister to draft regulations. In reply to Mr. Mattiske, it is the Minister who brings down regulations. On this matter, he does not have to follow the advice of the advisory committee. However, I repeat that the people whom we propose to appoint to the committee will be well versed and experienced in the activities of old-established societies, and one of them undoubtedly will be a representative of those societies.

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: There is one point I omitted to mention. The Minister referred to the new societies being without funds and competent auditors, and I would suggest to him that the proper way to prevent any malpractices lies not so much in the governing of the directors' fees, but virtually in preventing them, at the outset, from getting Commonwealth-State housing money until such time as they prove their *bona fides*.

The Minister has the remedy in his own hands. He should tell them to go out and raise so much money and they can then establish their *bona fides*. That could be done, because further on the Bill empowers the registrar to refuse registration, if he is not satisfied with the *bona fides* of a building society. It would be infinitely better to leave the provision as it is.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: What has prompted the proposed change from the traditional method of fixing the fees of directors to the method in the Bill? Even the most competent committee would find it difficult to assess the merits of a board of directors. If there is a difference between the directorates of terminating societies and the directorates of the established building societies which brings about the need for prescribing the maximum amount of emolument, then it would be more difficult to apply such a limiting factor to the established building societies.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Many of the provisions in the Bill were recommended by a number of people in the Eastern States who were invited by this Government to inquire into the activities of building societies in this State. It was on the experience of those people and on the practice adopted in the Eastern States that the clause was inserted in the Bill.

The established societies need not fear this provision. It is merely a protective measure designed to curb malpractices of newly formed societies. In this State there is the Building Societies Act and the Housing Loan Guarantee Act, one being complementary to the other. Some people saw loopholes in the legislation and quickly formed permanent societies, because there was no law to prevent that being done; and it is proposed to control the activities of building societies in this respect.

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: Those societies should be killed at birth.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: We are anxious to encourage the formation of genuine building societies to assist people to build homes in this State. We have introduced a measure which is designed to control the situation, but which is not perfect by any means, although it is an improvement on the existing legislation.

By inserting the words "a terminating" into the clause, the permanent societies would not come under the prescribed maximum, whereas the terminating societies would. I am not concerned with the affairs of societies such as the Perth Building Society, but with those which might be formed subsequently. There is still power in the Act to prescribe the fees of directors in these societies, and all that the clause seeks to do is to prescribe the maximum.

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: There are large building societies in which the directors have an important duty, just as there are small societies in which the directors have little work to do and are paid a small remuneration. That applies exactly as in the case of large and small companies.

The duties of directors of large building societies are out of all proportion to the duties of the directors in terminating societies which may comprise 25 members and which are formed for specific purposes. At the end of 20 to 25 years these terminating societies work themselves out of existence.

To prescribe the maximum amount of fees to cover the big building societies would be to prescribe a maximum far too high to be applied to the small terminating societies. If the maximum amount is prescribed by regulations to apply only to terminating societies, then that amount will not apply to the large societies.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The honourable member expects us to prescribe a maximum to be applied to all societies. That is not the idea. The maximum to be applied to a large building society will not be the same amount as that applied to a small society. The maximum prescribed for each category will depend on the capital involved.

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: The Minister said this provision was recommended by some gentlemen from Victoria and New South Wales, but in those two States the building society movement has not flourished as it has in the United Kingdom, Western Australia and Tasmania. There is no building society of the size of the Perth Building Society in Victoria or New South Wales. The only societies known to the gentlemen who made the recommendation to the Minister are those of a terminating nature. Such societies are altogether different from permanent societies.

**Amendment put and a division taken with the following result:—**

**Ayes—2.**

Hon. H. K. Watson      Hon. R. C. Mattiske  
(Teller.)

**Noes—17.**

Hon. C. R. Abbey	Hon. C. H. Simpson
Hon. N. E. Baxter	Hon. H. C. Strickland
Hon. A. F. Griffith	Hon. J. D. Teahan
Hon. W. R. Hall	Hon. S. T. J. Thompson
Hon. E. M. Heenan	Hon. J. M. Thomson
Hon. R. F. Hutchison	Hon. W. F. Willesee
Hon. G. E. Jeffery	Hon. F. D. Willmott
Hon. A. E. Jones	Hon. J. Murray
Hon. F. R. H. Lavery	(Teller.)

**Majority against—15.**

**Amendment thus negatived.**

**Clause, as amended, put and passed.**

**Clauses 16 and 17 put and passed.**

**Clause 18: Section 16 repealed and re-enacted—**

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: This clause provides a limiting factor on the shares being held by any one corporation or incorporated company to 10 per cent. of the subscribed capital of the company, or 40 per cent. of the subscribed capital for the time being where the shares in the aggregate are held by corporations or incorporated companies.

It has come to my notice that there is at least one case where a comparatively newly-formed building society holds so many shares as to be infringing this particular clause. It was not intended to make the provisions of this Bill retrospective because they could be harsh on those people who have invested with the company. It was legally pointed out to me that if this clause were passed in the form it was printed, from the moment the Bill was proclaimed, the building society in question and any others if there are any, would be immediately breaking the law and consequently be out of business.

Therefore we will have to have regard for those building societies which have been formed under that basis and provide that after the coming into operation of this Act it shall not be done again. I have an amendment on the notice paper, but I desire this to be slightly altered. After the words "share of" in the fifth line of the amendment as it appears on the notice paper, I desire to add a comma and the words "or to the nominee of," The situation could be overcome otherwise by a company or a corporation giving the shares to a nominee. I also desire to add the word "beneficially" after the word "held" in the first line of paragraphs (a) and (b). I therefore move an amendment:—

Page 17, line 5—Delete subclause (2) and substitute the following:—

(2) On and after the coming into operation of the Building Societies Act Amendment Act, 1961, a building society under this

Act shall not issue any of its shares to, or to the nominee of, a corporation or incorporated company that would result in—

(a) the shares held beneficially by any one corporation or incorporated company being in excess of ten per centum of the subscribed capital of the society; or

(b) the aggregate of the shares held beneficially by corporations or incorporated companies being in excess of forty per centum of the subscribed capital for the time being of the society.

**Amendment put and passed.**

**Clause, as amended, put and passed.**

**Clauses 19 to 22 put and passed.**

**Clause 23: Section 19A added—**

The clause was consequentially amended on motions by the Hon. H. K. Watson, as follows:—

Page 18, lines 27 and 28—Delete the words "a dwelling-house" and substitute the word "premises."

Page 1, line 31—Delete the words "dwelling-house is" and substitute the words "premises are."

Page 18, line 33—Delete the word "regulations" and substitute the words "uniform building by-laws made under the Local Government Act, 1960, as adopted by the council of the municipal district wherein the premises are situated, or which, if not so adopted, shall for the purposes of this section be deemed to have been adopted by that council."

**Clause, as amended, put and passed.**

**Clause 24: Section 21 amended—**

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: I move an amendment—

Page 19, line 12—Insert after the word "interest" the words "bonuses and profits."

This is merely to make it clearer as to what constitutes shareholders' funds.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I agree to the amendment but for a slightly different reason. This will permit the society to advance a little more money.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: No, it simply clarifies the position.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes but automatically it means the amount is increased.

**Clause, as amended, put and passed.**

**Clause 25 put and passed.**

**Clause 26: Section 29 amended—**

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: I move an amendment—

Page 20, line 8—Insert at the end of the clause the words "or the corresponding provisions of any Companies Act for the time being in force."

This is self-explanatory.

**Amendment put and passed.**

**Clause, as amended, put and passed.**

**Clauses 27 to 30 put and passed.**

**Clause 31: Section 34 repealed and re-enacted—**

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: I move an amendment—

Page 22, line 23—Delete the word "certify" and substitute the word "report".

This is simply to bring the verbiage into line with current practice whereby the auditor reports rather than certifies.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I have no objection to this amendment. I believe it is a common practice to accept the report rather than the certificate.

**Amendment put and passed.**

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: I move an amendment—

Page 23, line 14—Delete the words "return and auditor's report" and substitute the words "report and audited accounts".

**Amendment put and passed.**

**Clause, as amended, put and passed.**

**Clause 32: Section 35 repealed and re-enacted—**

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: I move an amendment—

Page 23, line 35—Delete the figures "1943" and substitute the words "for the time being in force".

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Is this consequential upon clause 26?

The Hon. H. K. Watson: It is of the same nature.

**Amendment put and passed.**

**Clause, as amended, put and passed.**

**Clauses 33 to 37 put and passed.**

**Clause 38: Section 48 repealed and re-enacted—**

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: This refers to an officer of a society who accepts a commission, fee, or reward, and the penalty set out. If the Minister is concerned about societies being properly conducted, there is a matter here of much more import than directors' fees, and it is not been covered by this Bill. I am referring to the question of a promoter promoting a building society virtually for no other purpose

than to get a rake-off on the commissions which relate to business done in respect to loans made by the society.

No well-conducted building society receives any insurance commissions itself; they go to the society and not to a promoter. In between now and the third reading of the Bill, since the Minister has expressed such concern about keeping building societies on the track, I would suggest that in respect of any society that is being promoted for the express purpose of the promoter getting insurance money out of it, a clause be inserted somewhere to provide that any insurance commissions payable in respect of business done by a building society shall go to the society and not to any promoter.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I will be glad to confer with the honourable member upon this point as the registrar has conferred with the building societies on other points. This is one that may have slipped their attention when they had a conference. However, I will be glad to confer with Mr. Watson in regard to the point.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clause 39: Section 48A added—**

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: There is a very old and well-established land agency business in Fremantle, and probably the land agent is the best known man in that city. He is a leading valuer in the City of Fremantle and he is a little worried in regard to the reference in this new section to blood relations. This man has something to do with the Starr-Bowkett Society and his query to me is whether, if this clause is agreed to, it will stop his acting as a valuer. I have his permission to use his name, and it is Mr. Fred Sampson the Mayor of Fremantle. If the clause is passed he believes he will have to resign from the board of the building society or stop valuing any property, which would mean a tremendous loss to him. Like Mr. Watson, I ask the Minister to investigate the position before the third reading stage.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I will have a look at the situation, but this clause is quite direct. I do not think it really affects the position of Mr. Sampson, but I will make sure for the benefit of the honourable member.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Thank you.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Title put and passed.**

**Bill reported with amendments.**

## **INDUSTRY (ADVANCES) ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Second Reading*

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [11.36 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to remove any doubt that the Midland Railway Company's activities constitute an "industry" for the purpose of the Industry (Advances) Act.

It may be recalled that an amendment of a somewhat similar nature was introduced in 1959 in respect of Canterbury Court Pty. Ltd. The passing of that legislation has unquestionably prompted the introduction of this Bill, for when the previous Government issued a guarantee for £600,000 in 1956 to the Commonwealth Bank to enable the company to purchase diesel locomotives and accessories, it was obviously accepted that such advance under the parent Act was proper.

The company desires to borrow money to the extent of £340,000 for the purchase of locomotives and wagons, and the Government is desirous of assisting the company to the extent of guaranteeing this amount.

However, the solicitors, acting on behalf of a prospective lending institution, which is willing to lend £200,000, subject to Government guarantee, has expressed doubts as to whether this could be done legally without the introduction of this Bill.

The Government has received legal advice to the effect that it is quite competent to issue the guarantees involved. Similar legal advice was given in 1956. Nevertheless, as the prospective lending institution in this case is obliged to accept the advice of its own legal advisers, this Bill is being introduced to assist the company in the direction intended, and is commended to members for their concurrence.

**THE HON. H. C. STRICKLAND** (North—Leader of the Opposition) [11.39 p.m.]: There is no objection at all to this measure. I well remember the question being considered in connection with Canterbury Court; and I also remember the guarantee—in fact it was a loan—in respect of the Midland Railway Company so that it could dieselise its system. That proved of great advantage to the company, and consequently to the patrons of the company's services. I feel that there should be no objection in this instance, and I support the Bill.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Thank you.

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.

*Third Reading*

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), and passed.

## **SPEARWOOD-COCKBURN CEMENT PTY. LIMITED RAILWAY BILL**

*Second Reading*

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [11.42 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The company, known as Cockburn Cement Proprietary Limited, holds the right under terms of its agreement with the Government to request the State to provide a spur line to connect the northern boundary of the company's works site with the main Jandakot-Armadale railway.

It is provided, further, that the cost of the railway to the company's boundary will be met by the Government, while the sidings within the company's works will be provided at the expense of the company.

Furthermore, the company is obliged to guarantee sufficient revenue to the State to meet actual costs of maintenance operations, interest, and depreciation until such time as the traffic over the line to the works exceeds 50,000 tons per annum in the aggregate. When that aggregate is reached, the company will be required to pay the normal freight charges for such traffic.

There is the additional provision requiring the State to comply with the request within a period of 18 calendar months of the request being made.

The company has, in fact, requested the Government to provide this railway connection, and as this request was made on the 4th April last, there is an obligation on the Government to have the line constructed before the end of September, 1962.

Following upon negotiations between the company and the Commissioner of Railways, a recommendation has been made by the commissioner that construction of the line be carried out at the earliest possible date.

The length of the line from the northern boundary of the works site to the most suitable point for the connection at Spearwood is 4½ miles, the estimated cost of which is £92,000.

While the route traverses freehold land in market-garden areas, the planned alignment of the line along rear boundaries of lots will cause a minimum of disturbance to occupants; some of the areas, of course, are only partly developed. It is pleasing to note from reports to hand that it is unlikely that any owner's use of land will be influenced to an extent requiring his relinquishing activities on his block.

The Cockburn Cement Works railed 20,000 tons of cement during the twelve months ending the 31st May last, and, during that period, received 4,480 tons of gypsum at the works. While no figures are available which would show the traffic increase, the company has recently embarked on a sales promotion programme, as a



result of which it is expected that greater tonnages will be railed when the connection has been made.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: They will want an increase to pay for it.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: No doubt an important contingency in this respect is an increased industrial activity, generally, the impact of which is expected to result in higher tonnages of cement being consigned by rail and, consequently, a proportionate increase in gypsum railage to works.

In fact, it may be expected that tonnages to be conveyed over the railway are likely to approach the 50,000 tons, previously mentioned, in a comparatively short space of time. The company is aware of the impending conversion of the Kalgoorlie-Kwinana section of the railway to standard gauge, but has requested this spur line, which will be connected to the 3 ft. 6 in. gauge line which will remain in this area.

By way of explanation, I would add that 87 per cent. of the cement forwarded by rail by the company during the period previously mentioned, namely, the twelve months ended the 31st May last, was consigned to destinations which are to remain on the 3 ft. 6 in. gauge. There is a tentative agreement with the company that standard-gauge facilities will be connected when constructed from Fremantle to Kwinana.

Irrespective of the future of the Armadale-Spearwood section, consequent upon completion of the Mundijong-Kwinana railway, it is intended that the Robb Jetty-Spearwood section will be retained to serve as a shunting neck for industry already dependent upon the facilities.

Obviously as the area has been gazetted generally for industrial purposes, rail access will need to be maintained. The purpose of this Bill is to seek the approval of Parliament for the construction of the new line, in accordance with section 96 of the Public Works Act. A description of the mainline of railway to be constructed appears in the schedule to the Bill. The plans came down, I understand, and are on the Table of the House with a message from the Legislative Assembly. That is an infinitely better way of getting them than having the mistake which occurred the other night in connection with the Scott River agreement and which I trust will not happen again.

I would add, further, there is a provision under section 11 subsection 7 of the State Transport Co-Ordination Act, which requires the board to inquire into any new railway and report on it before construction may commence. This has been complied with, and in accordance with the further provision that the board's report be laid before Parliament when the Bill to authorise the construction of the railway is introduced, I seek the permission of the House to table this report, together with a plan showing the course to be taken by the line.

**THE HON. F. R. H. LAVERY (West)** [11.48 p.m.]: As the Minister said, this Bill follows an arrangement made by the Government when Rugby Cement was first established at Coogee. My interest in speaking in support of the Bill is to point out that sometimes a protest here or a protest there can be of great advantage. In 1954 the company approached the then Government to bring this spur line off the Naval Base junction, in through a very heavily used and productive area of market garden, up between a hall and a school, both of which would have had to be pulled down, and across the Rockingham Road which would have raised a further hazard to the company or traffic flow.

The market gardeners raised a protest, and I was instrumental in having a meeting on the spot of the Minister for Railways (Mr. Styants), the Commissioner of Railways (Mr. Hall), two engineers, the company manager, and representatives of the Cockburn Road Board and of the Market Gardeners' Association. A decision was made then that subject to the road board being able to arrange with the Commonwealth Government to make land available across Russell Road, the company would deliver its cement by road to the rail at Naval Base. I was interested in the fact that this land was made available; the road was built and a great quantity of cement was carried down.

Whoever surveyed this area as now planned has done a wonderful job both for the State Railways Department and for the market gardening area, because now the railway is coming in from the Spearwood railway station to the eastern side of the Fremantle gas works; and the three or four market gardens it will cross will not be upset to any great extent. The Cockburn Shire Council, the Railways Department, and the company have been in consultation and an amicable agreement has been reached on this route. So it is with great pleasure that I say on behalf of the market gardeners that they are very pleased with the new route which is being taken from Spearwood instead of that previously proposed across valuable potato-growing land. This arrangement is acceptable to everybody and I have pleasure in supporting the Bill.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Thank you.

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.

*Third Reading*

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), and passed.

## EXPLOSIVES AND DANGEROUS GOODS BILL

### Second Reading

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [11.54 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Existing legislation dealing with explosives is considerably outmoded. Such legislation as we have relates solely to explosives to the exclusion of dangerous and flammable goods. During my explanation of this Bill, I shall be referring to such goods as "flammable goods." Though, according to the *Oxford Dictionary*, this is a word of rare usage and then mostly with reference to non-flammable goods or materials, its re-introduction, if I might put it that way, into common usage, is favoured by technical men dealing with explosives and dangerous substances. I understand there is a tendency on the part of some people living in this country who have come from foreign lands to regard our word "inflammable" as meaning non-flammable, and I think that this is one of the reasons why the word flammable is now more in favour in technical and certain industrial spheres.

Be that as it may, the substances to which I refer as being flammable goods, include all sorts of products of modern conception which are quite extensive in number and type. The purpose of this measure is to legislate for the regulation of such goods and to safeguard those people who use them. I shall refer in the first instance to explosives. It is interesting to recall that the present Explosives Act of 1895 was passed during the lifetime of a generation which witnessed the slow ascendancy of prototype dynamites over gunpowder which for some centuries up to 1870 was held in the highest regard as an explosive for commercial and military use. It will be readily appreciated, therefore, that the atmosphere surrounding the introduction of the 1895 Bill was not one conducive to the framing of appropriate legislation for the nuclear age; though that subject does not come specifically within the ambit of this measure.

It might be expected, therefore, that Crown Law advice is to the effect that the present Act would prove too complicated and quite unsatisfactory were attempts made to modify it to meet present-day requirements. This Bill, accordingly, presents an entirely new text to regulate the storage of dangerous goods and to amend the law relating to explosives. Similar views held in other States such as Queensland, New South Wales, and also in New Zealand, have led to the replacement of antiquated legislation in those places.

Control measures with respect to dangerous goods and flammable liquids which present hazards of a kindred character to

explosives have been effected in many parts of the world. The measures taken to control these hazards have been similar to those taken to control well-known explosives. The States of South Australia, Tasmania, and New South Wales introduced statutory control some years ago, and both Queensland and Victoria are at present preparing similar legislation.

We are all well-aware of the rigorous safety codes and controls promulgated by major oil companies; local authority by-laws have been drafted and put into effect to achieve some measure of control, but, up to the present, there has been no overall State regulation and co-ordination.

Rapid development of the State's industrial progress and the many technological advances made have brought about an assemblage of new chemicals, many of which are synthetic and quite unrelated to the well-known petrols, kerosenes, methylated spirits, and so on.

Added to these there are the various oxidising agents used in laundry preparations, weedicides, etc., not to mention important new types of blasting agents made by mixing fuel oil with ammonium nitrate used in mining just before the charging of a shot-hole.

While oxidising agents neither burn nor evolve flammable vapours, they will support combustion in complete absence of air, sometimes with explosive violence.

Members may be interested if I give a little background to the extensive studies and inquiries made here and elsewhere with a view to ensuring that the legislation to be brought to Parliament in this regard would be completely adequate.

The extensive experience of explosives in this State has provided a first-class background to the study of legislation in other States, as a result of which the inquiries and investigations which have been made have enabled the department to have drafted into this Bill sound provisions for the control of both explosives and dangerous goods.

Opportunity has been taken during investigatory stages to supply all sections of the community concerned with full details of departmental proposals. Additionally, every opportunity has been given to these people to study those proposals and their comments and suggestions sought.

They were placed before the Leader of the Opposition, the Chambers of Mines and Manufacturers, the Police, the Public Health and the Railways Departments, the Fire Brigades Board, and the Fremantle Harbour Trust.

Conferences were held where required, and all points were raised and carefully considered, which leads me to believe that this measure may be regarded as generally acceptable to all concerned with these matters. It is hoped that the passing of

this Bill into an Act will be for the betterment and welfare of the community and of industry.

I desire to mention in particular clause 6 which makes provision that this new legislation will support existing laws such as the Criminal Code, the Fire Brigades Act, and any other Act so far as they relate to explosives or dangerous goods and will in no manner be a substitution for their provisions, nor retract from their effects. For example, this measure does not invade the field of explosives usage defined by the Mines and Coal Mines Regulation Acts.

I made some previous reference to the nuclear age, and would emphasise now that radioactive and toxic substances remain outside the jurisdiction of this legislation, except in so far as they might partake of the properties of explosives or dangerous goods, as defined. As might be expected, Naval, Military or Airforce explosives or dangerous goods are exempted from the provisions of this Bill.

In view of the many great advances made in the manufacture and use of explosives of late, and the evolution by scientific means of substances of many types which require careful handling and transportation, it is considered most essential that our controlling legislation should be as up to date as possible; and I believe that fairly describes the provisions in this measure.

Finally, I might emphasise that all instrumentalities and parties which have been approached are in agreement as to the necessity for the introduction of this amending legislation and are in general agreement with its proposals.

I am making only these few brief remarks in moving the second reading of the Bill, as I consider it most desirable to leave any further discussion of technical details for the Committee stage, because the Bill is possibly one which can be dealt with particularly in the Committee stage.

So far as I am concerned, as Minister for Mines, I do not regard the Bill as being in any way controversial. It was, as members may recall, introduced into the Legislative Assembly last year, but because of the time factor and because deliberations were still going on among interested people, there was no opportunity to complete its passage. Now there has been a great deal of time—12 months in fact—since we first brought the Bill to the House last year.

I repeat, I do not regard it as controversial; and if honourable members, particularly those interested in explosives and dangerous goods, will make a study of the measure, I will be only too pleased to listen to any suggestions they may put forward.

**THE HON. H. C. STRICKLAND** (North—Leader of the Opposition) [12.4 a.m.]: I listened carefully to the Minister explaining this Bill. It is a most desirable

measure. The department has made a very wide examination of this subject and has given great consideration to the various parties who will come within the ambit of the provisions within the measure.

For my part, I think it is something which is really required. I looked through the Bill and I noticed that it makes provision for inspectors to thoroughly investigate premises. However, an inspection cannot be made in a dwelling without a warrant, which is a good point. Inspections can be made of mining quarries, stores, or any other such places; and that is something which is really required. Any of us who travel through the country have been through stores containing all manner of explosives and highly inflammable goods. These things are not stored, they are just strewn about.

I can remember one disastrous occasion when I flew from here to Darwin because an industrial dispute was holding up our ships at Darwin. I had to travel through Adelaide and up through the centre to get there quickly. About 20 minutes before the plane landed at Tennant Creek there was a terrific flash spotted by the pilots; and when we landed there was a roaring inferno alongside the aerodrome. The general store which stocked petrol, oils, high explosives, detonators, dynamite, gelignite, and that sort of thing had caught fire. There was no fire brigade because no water was available for that purpose. Therefore, all the people could do was to try to salvage whatever goods they could. Some 20 minutes later, while they were salvaging the goods, the raging fire reached the magazine which was in the store itself; and this certainly caused a lot of trouble.

It is a wonder the aeroplane in which we were travelling did not blow up as we were not very far from the fire. About 40 volunteers working in these salvaging operations were injured, and one injured person died while being taken by plane to Darwin. That could happen in numerous places that I can think of in my own province where people become a little careless in back country stores, although I do not think in this State they stack explosives in the stores, apart from ammunition that is intended for guns and rifles.

A lot of damage can be caused by explosions from highly inflammable oils, and so on. At the time of the fire at Tennant Creek there was no ordinance to prohibit the storage of dynamite in the stores in the territory, but an ordinance was smartly passed following that tragedy. As the Minister has said, the States have been consulted and inquiries have been made on a very wide and thorough basis during the past 18 months or two years in connection with this Bill; and I am of the opinion that it is something to which this Parliament should give its support and consideration. Any provisions which do not seem clear can be explained when we reach the Committee stage. I support the Bill.

**THE HON. F. R. H. LAVERY** (West) [12.10 a.m.]: In supporting this Bill I agree with Mr. Strickland that it is not only a good measure, but that it has not been introduced before time. I am speaking on this measure because in my own electorate we have a number of quarries as well as oil industries and paint manufacturers who use very volatile types of mixtures. If children could get amongst them great damage could result.

I have looked through this Bill quickly and I am of the opinion a penalty should be placed upon those people who have explosives and do not have them properly protected. We have had cases in my electorate during the last couple of years where the police have had to go to a lot of trouble to trace dynamite, fracture, and caps. Because that has occurred in my electorate, I wish to stress the importance of this Bill.

I spoke with Mr. Willesee with regard to the handling of tetra-ethyl lead. The precautions taken are almost fantastic. A 44-gallon drum of tetra-ethyl lead is sufficient to impregnate 320,000 gallons of petrol; and it costs the company £60 to provide protective measures for the two men who handle it. The tetra-ethyl lead is taken by suction from a drum; and the same precautions should be taken in respect of explosives as are taken by the oil companies.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

## ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (Suburban—Minister for Mines): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 2.30 p.m. today (Thursday).

*House adjourned at 12.13 a.m. (Thursday)*

# Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 25th October, 1961

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

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE RESERVES

*Action-on Vermin, Fire-breaks, Poison, and Noxious Weeds*

1. Mr. W. A. MANNING asked the Minister for Forests:
  - (1) Regarding reserves of various classifications for public use, what action is taken in regard to—
    - (a) vermin;
    - (b) fire-breaks;
    - (c) poison and noxious weeds?