

Mr. Speaker: I think the Leader of the Opposition knows—

Hon. C. G. Latham: That is not the case so far as you, Sir, are concerned. After all, the laws we pass are highly important, and we at least should have the fullest possible knowledge concerning them. If we do not possess such knowledge, how can we expect the public to be fully informed? I hope therefore, Mr. Speaker, you will be lenient in your ruling. In this case I fear you are making a mistake.

Mr. McDonald: While I appreciate to the full the need for relevancy, especially at a time like this, when there should be a minimum of talk and a maximum of action, I do feel that this is a most important Bill, and covers such matters as variations in the cost of living. Cost of living means cost of commodities, and the cost of commodities today is of vital importance, because through rationing and shortages the problem of commodity costs and supplies is quite abnormal, and might well be considered to be an extremely important factor bearing on the cost of living as related to workers whose conditions are fixed by the Arbitration Court.

The Minister for Labour: The member for East Perth could easily have said all that he did say in a tenth of the time he has taken.

Mr. Speaker: Order!

Mr. McDonald: I might be open to the same complaint, because I took much longer than did the member for East Perth. But I do feel that we want to do the right thing in a very important aspect of our law touching many thousands of people. As far as I am concerned, I shall be glad to hear as many contributions of views as possible in order to assist in the determination of this matter. I prefer, if I may express an opinion, the widest reasonable latitude in the discussion of a matter of such great importance to the people of the State.

Question put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	12
Noes	18
Majority against	..		6

AYES.

Mr. Boyle
Mrs. Cardell-Oliver
Mr. Hughes
Mr. Kelly
Mr. McDonald
Mr. North

Mr. Sampson
Mr. Seward
Mr. Shearn
Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Watts
Mr. Doney

(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Coverley
Mr. Cross
Mr. Fox
Mr. Hawke
Mr. J. Hegney
Mr. W. Hegney
Mr. Leahy
Mr. Marshall
Mr. Millington

Mr. Needham
Mr. Nulsen
Mr. Panton
Mr. Rodoreda
Mr. F. C. L. Smith
Mr. Tonkin
Mr. Triat
Mr. Withers
Mr. Wilson

(Teller.)

Question thus negatived.

Leave to Continue.

THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR WORKS: I move—

That the member for East Perth be granted leave to continue his speech at the next sitting.

Motion put and passed.

House adjourned at 6.15 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 15th September, 1942.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTION—BETTING.

Fines and Premises.

Hon. J. CORNELL asked the Chief Secretary: 1, How many convictions for breaches of the betting laws have been recorded in the metropolitan district from the 1st July, 1940, to the 1st July, 1942, and what was the total amount of fines imposed? 2, How many persons were fined—(a) once; (b) twice; (c) three or more times? 3, What number of S.P. shops or other premises used for that purpose were involved within the district and period mentioned wherein convictions were recorded? 4, Has the Police Department any record of how many S.P. shops or other premises used for that purpose are actively operating within the metropolitan area? 5, If so, how many of these are so operating? 6, Were any of the owners or tenants of the S.P. shops or premises wherein convictions for breaches of the betting laws were secured, known to the police?

7, If so, how many were—(a) owners; (b) owner-tenants; (c) tenants only; and if any of them were known, why was no attempt made to prosecute them, too, for breaches of the betting laws?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, Convictions, 701; fines, £48,819; costs, £664 19s. 2, Once, 645; twice, 50; thrice and more, 6. 3, 71. 4, Yes. 5, 61. 6 and 7, Fifty-one (51) tenants were known to the police, and of that number 14 were prosecuted as users or keepers and convicted. The owners of some premises are known, but in no case are they the occupiers, and under the existing law it is almost impossible to obtain a conviction against them.

ASSENT TO BILL.

Message from the Lieut.-Governor received and read notifying assent to the Supply Bill (No. 1), £2,350,000.

BILLS (4)—FIRST READING.

1. Criminal Code Amendment (No. 1).
Introduced by Hon. J. Cornell.
 2. Dried Fruits Act Amendment.
 3. Road Districts Act Amendment.
 4. Feeding Stuffs Act Amendment.
- Received from the Assembly.

House adjourned at 2.28 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 15th September, 1942.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (2).

W.A. MEAT EXPORT CO'S. WORKS.

Mr. SEWARD asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, Has an authority been appointed to control the recently acquired works of the W.A. Meat Export Co.? 2, If not, will he make provision for the appoint-

ment of at least one producer as a member of the controlling body? 3, If not, why not?

The MINISTER replied: 1, A departmental committee has been appointed in addition to the normal arrangements for management continuing. 2, and 3, See answer to 1.

AGRICULTURAL BANK.

Mortgagors' Insurances.

Mr. BOYLE asked the Minister for Lands: 1, With what company are Agricultural Bank and Industries Assistance Act insurance policies effected? 2, What total amounts of commissions or rebates, if any, are received by the Commissioners of the Agricultural Bank on insurances of their mortgagors' crops, wool clips, buildings, and other insurances effected? 3, What is the rate per centum of such commissions, if any? 4, Do the Commissioners of the Agricultural Bank insist on their mortgagors insuring through the bank's agency? 5, If insurance commissions or rebates are secured on Agricultural Bank or Industries Assistance Act mortgagors are these commissions or rebates paid into the Treasury or to whom?

The MINISTER replied: 1, State Insurance Department and Harvey Trinder (Aust.), Ltd. 2, 1941-42—crop insurance £2,191 1s. 11d., house insurance £1,687 4s. 9d. 3, Crop insurance—tariff rates less 27½ per cent., house insurance—tariff rates less 37½ per cent. less 7½ per cent. which is allowed to the mortgagor. 4, No. Clients can effect house insurance with any company. If they fail to do so, however, insurance is arranged by the bank through the State Insurance Office. Clients are at liberty to effect crop insurance with any company they choose. Where advances are made for seasonal assistance clients are required to effect such insurance by the 21st September in each year, otherwise crop insurance is effected by the bank both in the client's and the bank's interests. 5, Commissions or rebates received by the bank are credited to the bank's expenditure in this connection.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motions by Mr. Wilson, leave of absence for one month granted to the Premier (Hon. J. C. Willecock, Geraldton) on the ground of ill-health, and to Mr. Styants (Kalgoorlie) on the ground of military service.