

the Government services which are necessary to make social life more attractive, and to bring that area into its own.

On motion by Mr. Norton, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE HON. A. R. G. HAWKE (Premier—Northam): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 3 p.m. tomorrow.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 9.51 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 30th October, 1958.

CONTENTS.

	Page
BILLS :	
Electoral Act Amendment (No. 4), 3r.	1881
Totalisator Duty Act Amendment, report	1881
Traffic Act Amendment, reports	1881
Cancer Council of Western Australia, 2r.	1881
Workers' Compensation Act Amendment, 1r.	1883
Inspection of Machinery Act Amendment, 2r.	1883

The **PRESIDENT** took the Chair at 3.30 p.m., and read prayers.

ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 4).

Third Reading.

Read a third time and transmitted to the Assembly.

TOTALISATOR DUTY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Report of Committee adopted.

TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Reports of Committee adopted.

CANCER COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA BILL.

Second Reading.

THE HON. H. C. STRICKLAND (Minister for Railways—North) [3.36] in moving the second reading said: The object

of this Bill is to create a statutory body corporate to take the place of the Ministerially appointed Anti-Cancer Council of Western Australia. The history of the Anti-Cancer Council commenced in January, 1955, when the State Government accepted an invitation from the Commonwealth to attend a cancer conference in Canberra. The purpose of this conference was to discuss, on an Australia-wide basis, certain aspects of anti-cancer control. On the invitation of the State Minister for Health, Drs. Alan Nelson and Leslie Le Souef represented Western Australia at the conference.

After their return they advised the Minister that Western Australia was the only State without an anti-cancer council. They recommended the appointment of such a council which, they said, could act for Western Australia in any future interstate deliberations. They suggested also, that the time might not be opportune for the formation of a statutory body, and that one appointed by the Minister could act for the time being. The two doctors' recommendations were accepted and formation of the Anti-Cancer Council of Western Australia was approved by the Minister for Health on the 7th October, 1955.

The first members of the council were Drs. L. Le Souef (Chairman) and A. J. Nelson (both representing the Royal Perth Hospital); Dr. M. E. Minchin (Fremantle Hospital); Dr. H. C. Callagher (King Edward Memorial Hospital); the Hon. J. G. Hislop (British Medical Association); Dr. L. Henzell (Commissioner of Public Health); Dr. W. S. Davidson (Deputy Commissioner of Public Health); and Mr. B. Dunlop (Commonwealth X-ray Laboratories). Dr. Davidson has acted as secretary of the council.

The responsibilities of the council were to advise the Government in the development and direction of anti-cancer activities within the State; to undertake from time to time any tasks allotted or approved by the Minister; and to collect information from or enter into arrangements with individuals and institutions with the objective of improving anti-cancer measures in the State.

The council at its first meeting on the 24th April, 1956, recommended that it be registered as a charitable organisation, under the Charitable Collections Act, in order to raise moneys by public subscription and utilise those moneys. At its second meeting on the 5th June, 1956, the council resolved to advise the Minister that a cobalt bomb should be obtained to assist in the treatment of cancer in the State, and that adequate information regarding cancer could not be obtained without some form of cancer registry being introduced to collect data about cancer cases in the State.

In February, 1957, the council was registered under the Charitable Collections Act so that it might receive donations and spend funds on providing anti-cancer facilities. The council decided that its first two objectives would be to introduce a cancer registry and obtain one of the high energy radiation units known as linear accelerators.

With the formation of an interim faculty of medicine at the University, the council recommended to the Minister in July, 1957, that two representatives of the faculty be added to the council. The Minister agreed, and approved of the appointments of Professor C. W. Lewis and Professor R. E. ten Seldam. A physicist, in Professor C. J. Birkett Clews of the University, was also appointed at the same time to the council.

In August, 1957, the council formed a cancer appeal committee to raise and collect funds, the ultimate objective being to establish a cancer institute for treatment and research. The immediate objective of the appeal for funds was to commence the institute by acquiring a linear accelerator and providing suitable accommodation for it. Mr. D. W. Brisbane was appointed chairman, and Mr. A. E. Lewis the organiser of the appeal committee.

The council had first, as I have said, favoured the obtaining of a cobalt bomb, but owing to the change that was taking place overseas in the use of high-energy radiation equipment, the council realised early in 1957, that a linear accelerator had many advantages over a cobalt therapy unit, and would be applicable to a larger number of patients than would such a unit.

The target set by the council in its quest for funds was £100,000. The response by the public was magnificent, and by the end of January, 1958, the main money-raising activities were virtually concluded. On the 14th February, 1958, Mr. Brisbane handed to Dr. Le Souef a cheque for £100,000, and on the following day the appeal committee officially terminated its activities. For some subsequent time, donations continued to arrive and, to date, the total collections have exceeded £120,000. The total expenditure on the appeal was £3,247 which is about 2.5 per cent. of the amount so far collected. An order for a 4 McV "Orthotron" linear accelerator has been placed with Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co. Ltd. of England, and planning has been put into operation for its installation. The proposed cancer institute will at first accommodate the linear accelerator only. Subsequent developments will successively embrace—

1. Other deep therapy radiation equipment.
2. Diagnostic x-rays for location of tumours.

3. Radium and isotopes.
4. Physics laboratory.
5. Cancer research laboratory.

It is intended that the institute will retain its identity as a separate organisation whatever its association with hospital or University. This is essential to comply with the wishes of the majority of private contributors to the appeal fund.

The major contribution to the maintenance cost and future capital cost of the institute will be borne by the Government. Public assistance will be derived from fees and donations directed specifically to the institute, and the Anti-Cancer Council may allot whatever funds it has available. There has been a division of opinion as to the site of the institute, some favouring a position near the new Chest Hospital, which has many advantages, and others considering it should be by the Royal Perth Hospital which may remain the major teaching hospital for some years. I understand the majority of informed opinion now agrees that the advantages of the site near the Chest Hospital are overwhelming.

On the 16th May, 1958, the Anti-Cancer Council reported to the Minister that, as over £100,000 had been raised for a linear accelerator and cancer institute, it considered the control of the institute and the funds raised and to be raised should be placed on a sound statutory basis. The council recommended that the control of the institute and the future raising of funds would be facilitated by appointing to the board of control a number of influential non-medical members of the community. The council submitted a draft of a proposed constitution for a new cancer council and for a board of control for the institute.

As a result of the council's recommendations this Bill is submitted for the consideration of Parliament; and it provides for the establishment of a body corporate to be known as the "Cancer Council of Western Australia" which will be concerned with research into the cause, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of cancer and allied conditions, and which will have the power to establish and maintain cancer institutes.

The Bill proposes that the council shall be composed of 16 persons, 10 of whom, including the Commissioner of Public Health, shall be qualified medically. Of these, two are to be nominated by the board of management of the Royal Perth Hospital, one each by the boards of management of the Fremantle, Princess Margaret and King Edward Memorial hospitals, two by the British Medical Association and two by the Senate of the University.

The six other members of the council will be non-medical persons. Three of these, one of whom will be an officer of the Department of Public Health, are to be nominated by the Minister, and one is to be a physicist nominated by the Senate of the University. The two other non-medical members will be decided on by the council at its first meeting. The council is to have the privilege of selecting these two members as it is felt the council would be in the best position to know from whom it would get the best service.

As the treatment and prevention of cancer is essentially a medical problem, the proportion of 10 medically qualified to six non-medical members seems to be quite reasonable. The composition of the new council is exactly that recommended by the Anti-Cancer Council. The Department of Public Health should be represented on the council, as the major contribution to the maintenance cost and future capital cost of the cancer institute will be borne by the Government.

The Bill provides for the Minister to fix the time and place of the first meeting of the council, which will then elect its own president and deputy president. Provision is made for the appointment of a deputy for each member. The members first appointed will hold office for three years, all subsequent appointments being for two years. These periods have been recommended by the Anti-Cancer Council. Seven members will constitute a quorum, and the president does not have a casting vote.

The council is given powers to appoint committees and to delegate any of its functions and powers to a committee. Provision is made for the council or the board of management of a cancer institute to obtain the benefits of the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act for employees if so desired.

The council may recommend to the Minister that cancer institutes be established, and the Minister may then appoint a board of management for each institute. A board will consist of one person nominated by the Senate of the University, four nominated by the cancer council—of whom not more than two shall be medical practitioners—and two persons selected by the Minister. Each board will be a body corporate and a teaching hospital within the meaning of that term as defined in the University Medical School, Teaching Hospitals, Act of 1955. Three of the persons first nominated by the council and one of the persons first selected by the Minister will hold office for three years and the remaining members for two years. All subsequent appointments will be for two years.

The cancer council is given the right to appoint one of its nominees as chairman of a board. Each chairman will serve

for one year and be eligible for re-appointment, but may not be chairman for more than three consecutive years. This gives effect to the wishes of the Anti-Cancer Council. The Minister is given power to dismiss members of a board and replace those dismissed. If so many members are dismissed that a board cannot function, the Minister may appoint a commissioner to carry on the institute until a new board is appointed.

The Bill provides for the transfer to the new council of the assets of the Anti-Cancer Council. This transfer will take place at the first meeting of the council. A fund to be known as the "Cancer Council of W.A. Fund" is to be established and an account opened at the Treasury in the name of the council. The fund will consist of moneys received by the Anti-Cancer Council, gifts made to the new council, the income from any investments, the proceeds of borrowing on, or disposing of, property, and any moneys appropriated by Parliament.

The Bill permits the council to invest moneys from the fund, and provides that the council may, subject to the Minister, apply moneys from the fund generally for the purposes of the Act, and, in particular, to pay its officers and servants, and to make subsidies and loans to any organisations approved by the Minister. This latter provision is to enable the encouragement of research into cancer. The council is required to make an annual report and present a copy of the report to both Houses of Parliament.

Before concluding, I would like to place on record appreciation for the very fine and valuable work carried out, without remuneration, by the members of the Anti-Cancer Council to whom I feel the sincere thanks of the people of this State are due. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by the Hon. J. G. Hislop, debate adjourned.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

First Reading.

Received from the Assembly and, on motion by the Hon. H. C. Strickland (Minister for Railways), read a first time.

INSPECTION OF MACHINERY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading.

THE HON. E. M. DAVIES (West) [3.53] in moving the second reading said: Appreciable increases have occurred in

this State, in the number of installations of passenger, goods, and service lifts, including escalators over the last two or three years, and it is considered that an inspector should be appointed for duties confined to lift inspections. At the moment, it is expected that 19 lifts will be installed during the next six months or so. To implement this proposal, it will be necessary to amend the principal Act in order that applications from persons who have specialised in this class of machinery and have the appropriate qualifications can be accepted.

Section 6 (3) of the Act requires any applicant for the position of inspector of machinery to have served an engineering apprenticeship for at least five years; during which he must have been engaged in the actual manufacture and repair of engines, boilers, and machinery. He must also have had engineering experience of a satisfactory character following his apprenticeship.

A person who has specialised with lifts, having previously undergone technical and practical training to fit him for such work, could hardly be expected to have qualified with experience in engine and boiler manufacturing and repairing. It is, therefore, necessary that Section 6 be amended to permit of the appointment of a lifts inspector. At present, there are 463 lifts of all classes in operation in the metropolitan-suburban area. As the Act provides that every lift shall be inspected half-yearly, a minimum of 926 inspections per annum is necessary. However, the majority of these lifts are very old and many require more than two inspections yearly—as also do new lifts under erection—and the figure of 926 would be exceeded considerably. This results in an average of over four thorough examinations daily.

In addition, of course, an inspector has a certain amount of clerical work to do in preparing certificates and submitting reports and instructions for repairs, where necessary. Plans of proposed new installations have also to be examined for compliance with prescribed standards. Inspections of this class of machinery are now carried out by inspectors who are employed also in surveys of boilers, unfired pressure vessels, cranes, and general machinery; and also with examination and stress calculations relative to designs of new boilers and cranes.

To establish as much as practicable a good liaison between lift owners and construction-maintenance contractors and the Inspection of Machinery Branch of the Mines Department, it has been departmental policy to allocate, for periods of some months at any one time, a specific inspector of machinery for duties connected mainly with lifts; he in due course being relieved of such main duties by

another officer. At intervals, it is found necessary to allocate a second inspector for lift duties to relieve the pressure of work.

The stage has been reached, however, when this practice is not conducive to the utmost efficiency in the output aimed at in the work of an inspector who, for the time being, is engaged with lifts, as serious interruption to the flow of these inspections is caused by his having to be detailed frequently to cope with demands in inspectorial duties connected with boilers and general machinery, while in the case of lifts, such plants have also greatly increased; and this expansion steadily continues.

Lifts that have been in operation for many years naturally develop much wear and tear, and, therefore, more and more time must be given to these at each inspection and to the consideration of the repairs necessary for their restoration to a reasonably safe condition. Also, some of the modern lifts which are now being installed are equipped with many more intricate appliances than were those of past years. Here, again, such modern type installations occupy much more of an inspector's time.

In view of all the circumstances, it is considered that provision should be made for the appointment of an inspector who has been trained as a specialist in the construction and maintenance of lift machinery. There is ample work to keep an inspector occupied full time, and it is beyond doubt that such an appointment would definitely be to the advantage of lift owners and contractors.

In addition to being able to adhere to an uninterrupted programme of routine inspections, the inspector would be in a position to keep in contact with major repairs and alterations, and be available at all times for consultations with owners and contractors, instead of being obliged to have his activities divided because of other departmental duties. The appointment of a man for the inspection of lifts would reflect also in greater output of inspection work in other spheres by the present inspectors, who now must devote so much time to lift inspections to the prejudice of other departmental duties. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 3.58 p.m.