

# Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 14th October, 1958.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE.

### RESERVES.

#### Upper Blackwood Road Board Area.

1. Mr. HEARMAN asked the Minister for Lands:

(1) What number of reserves, such as timber for settlers' reserves, water reserves, townsite reserves, etc., exist in the area controlled by the Upper Blackwood Road Board?

(2) Can he state the number of each type of reserve, and the approximate acreage of each reserve?

(3) Have any representations been made over the last two years with the object of having any of these reserves put to other uses by—

- the Upper Blackwood Road Board;
- any other organisation;
- any private individual;

and with what results?

(4) What is departmental policy in connection with reserves such as townsite and timber for settlers' reserves, which reserves can no longer serve their original purpose?

Mr. KELLY replied:

(1) One hundred and forty reserves within the Upper Blackwood Road District are in existence at present. This figure does not include reserves which may have been released during recent years.

Reserves.	Acres.
(2) 18 for Churches and schools	
—aggregating approximately	90
38 for public buildings or like purposes	477
12 for timber	7,351

Reserves.	Acres.
18 for water .. .. .	1,948
17 for recreation .. .. .	2,329
12 for camping or stopping places .. .. .	1,955
6 for railway purposes .. .. .	358
2 for flora and parklands .. .. .	554
5 for road board purposes .. .. .	20
3 for quarrying .. .. .	50
3 for cemeteries .. .. .	28
3 for racecourses .. .. .	183
3 for rifle ranges .. .. .	455
<hr/> 140	<hr/> Approximately 15,798

(3) A number of requests for alienation of reserves within the Upper Blackwood Road District have been received. Each application is considered on its merits. To advise the result of all applications over a given period would involve a considerable amount of research; but if the hon. member requires information concerning any specific reserve, this will be supplied on application to the Lands Department.

(4) The departmental policy is to protect the interests of the public and State by ensuring that sufficient Crown land is reserved for likely future requirements.

### BULK HANDLING OF GRAIN.

#### *Effect on Residents in Locality, etc.*

2. Mr. SLEEMAN asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Has the land which is used for the bulk handling of wheat, oats and barley yet been leased to Co-operative Bulk Handling?

(2) If so, what are the terms, conditions and amount payable for the lease?

(3) Is he aware that on page 82, 1941 Hansard, he stated that for residents in close proximity to these works living conditions have become intolerable, and that they cannot continue to live there without being driven mad?

(4) Is he also aware that conditions will be much worse now as oats and barley are to be handled in bulk?

(5) Seeing that he was chairman of a Select Committee which inquired into the conditions in close proximity to these works, will he, if he is determined that the bulk handling of wheat, oats and barley are to proceed there, at least see that the recommendations of the Select Committee are carried out?

(6) If not, why not?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

(1) No. The Fremantle Harbour Trust is in process of negotiating a lease agreement with Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. in respect of the bulk grain installations at North Wharf.

(2) The terms of the lease, including the rental which Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. will pay for the sites, are now under active consideration.

(3) Yes.

(4) No. Oats and barley have been handled in bulk for some years past; oats from November, 1952, and barley from January, 1953.

(5) The locality will be visited this week and conditions observed, following which such action as is deemed appropriate will be taken.

(6) See No. (5).

### FREMANTLE RAILWAY BRIDGE.

#### *Resiting and Commencement, etc.*

3. Mr. SLEEMAN asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Is he aware that a new railway bridge is an urgent necessity over the Swan River at Fremantle?

(2) Seeing that all work in connection with the boring for a site of a new bridge was stopped on his orders, when and where is the new bridge likely to be started?

(3) Will he see that the groyne that was built out into the river for the boring plant is removed now that it is no longer required?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

(1) I am aware that, owing to the condition of the railway bridge, it is most desirable that finality regarding its replacement should be reached at the earliest practicable date.

(2) The position is under review and finality will be reached at the earliest practicable date.

(3) Answered by No. (2).

### FREMANTLE HARBOUR.

#### *Requirements for Efficient Berthing.*

3A. Mr. SLEEMAN asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Is he aware that berths, to be efficient, require to have eight acres of land for direct contact with the shore?

(2) Is he aware that Fremantle has only four acres to a berth, and therefore is only 50 per cent. efficient, and that up-river berths would have much less?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

(1) and (2) I am aware of the information set out in the Tydeman Report on the Port of Fremantle, and also that the up-river berths are acceptable to the General Manager of the Fremantle Harbour Trust.

### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

#### *Dress Requirements on Building Jobs.*

4. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Has any recent order been issued to building workers employed by the Public Works Department in regard to dress requirements on building jobs?

(2) If so, what were these instructions?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The instructions are as follows:—  
Circular to Works Managers.  
Employees—Suitable Clothing.

Complaints have been received that, on some jobs, workers are wearing so very little clothing as to offend common decency.

As a consequence, you are requested to ensure that employees are suitably clothed—e.g., cease working in singlets and wear shirts.

(Sgd.) E. T. Dickens,  
Principal Assistant,  
(Construction).

## RURAL AND INDUSTRIES BANK.

### *Method of Construction.*

5. Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Has a decision been made by Cabinet whether the Perth building for the Rural & Industries Bank is to be built by day-labour or by tender?

(2) If not, will a decision be made before the end of October?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Probably.

## TEACHERS' TRAINING COLLEGES.

### *First-Aid Instruction and Injuries to Students.*

6. Mr. CROMMELIN asked the Minister for Education:

(1) What provision is there for the teaching of first aid to students at Claremont and Graylands Teachers' Training Colleges?

(2) How many instructors are there, and how often and to how many students is this teaching given?

(3) Are first-aid rooms available at each of the colleges?

(4) In case of accident during working hours, who is available to render necessary medical assistance?

(5) If a student suffers injury to the extent of having to lose work for some weeks, is he covered by workers' compensation?

Mr. W. HEGNEY replied:

(1) Instruction in first aid is an integral part of the course of health education at both teachers' colleges. In addition, at the beginning and end of their course of training all students undergo an intensive first-aid course.

(2) Three at Claremont and two at Graylands. First aid forms a section of the total programme in health education, which continues throughout the whole of the first year of the training course.

(3) Yes.

(4) All members of the physical education staff are fully qualified to render first aid.

(5) Yes.

## STATE BUILDING SUPPLIES.

### *Withdrawal from Associated Sawmillers and Timber Merchants.*

7. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

(1) In view of answers given on Thursday, the 9th October, and Royal Commissioner Smith's sixth interim report, in which certain criticism was levelled at the activities of the Associated Sawmillers and Timber Merchants, would he now give consideration to the withdrawal of membership of the State Building Supplies from this organisation?

(2) What was the reason for withdrawal of membership in 1950?

Mr. BRADY replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) The letter from the General Manager at the time, to the association, confirming resignation and dated the 29th May, 1950, states, *inter alia*:—

I regret having to inform you that, acting on instructions received from my Hon. Minister, it is considered advisable, in view of the inevitable diversion of timber output for West Australian requirements, that State Saw Mills resign as a member of your Association.

## STOCK.

### *Imports from the Eastern States.*

8. Mr. NALDER asked the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Are all stock imported into this State from the east and brought by rail inspected at Kalgoorlie?

(2) If any quarantine regulation has to be observed, who is responsible for notifying the owner?

Mr. KELLY replied:

(1) All stock entering the State by rail are inspected immediately upon arrival by the Government Stock Inspector at Kalgoorlie.

(2) Where quarantine regulations are required to be observed, the importer is notified by the Chief Inspector of Stock.

### *Details of Transport Costs.*

9. Mr. NALDER asked the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

(1) What would be the cost of transporting—

(a) one crated sheep;

(b) one crated pig,

from Port Pirie to Parkeston?

(2) What would be the cost of transporting—

(a) one crated sheep;

(b) one crated pig,

from Parkeston to Kalgoorlie?

(3) What would be the cost of transporting—

(a) one crated ram;

(b) one crated pig,

from Kalgoorlie to Midland Junction?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

(1) From Port Pirie Junction (not Port Pirie) to Parkeston:

(a) 1 sheep (in private crate) gross weight 2 cwt.: freight £2 11s. 8d.

(a) 1 sheep (in private crate) gross weight 2 cwt.: 2 qrs.: freight £3 4s. 2d.

(b) 1 pig (in private crate) gross weight 2 cwt.: freight £3 5s. 9d.

(b) 1 pig (in private crate) gross weight 2 cwt. 2 qrs.: freight £4 1s. 6d.

(2) From Parkeston to Kalgoorlie:

(a) 1 sheep (in private crate) 10s. (minimum charge).

(b) 1 pig (in private crate) 10s. (minimum charge).

(3) From Kalgoorlie to Midland Junction:

(a) 1 ram (in private crate) gross weight 201-300 lbs.: £3 11s. 8d.

(b) 1 pig (in private crate) gross weight 201-300 lbs.: £3 11s. 8d.

The freight for through consignments from Port Pirie Junction to Midland Junction would be as follows:

1 sheep 2 cwt.—£6 3s. 9d.

2 cwt. 2 qrs.—£6 16s. 3d.

1 pig 2 cwt.—£6 17s. 10d.

2 cwt. 2 qrs.—£7 13s. 7d.

### BADGINGARRA BORE.

#### *Availability of Water to the Public.*

10. Mr. LEWIS asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) Is he aware that the bore at Badgingarra has reached a depth of 702 feet, and that a good supply of water has been secured?

(2) What is the analysis of the water?

(3) Has any request been made by the operator of the plant for a silt screen and suitable pump in order that the bore may be completed and a proper test of the quantity of water made?

(4) Will these be supplied?

(5) Will he give favourable consideration to having the pumping plant left at the bore in order that the water can be made available to the public?

Mr. MOIR replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) A field test gave 20 grains sodium chloride per gallon. Further analyses will be carried out by the Government Chemical Laboratories.

(3) Yes.

(4) Yes.

(5) The pumping plant will form part of our general testing gear and cannot be left. The Mines Department is endeavouring, at considerable expense to locate supplies of water in dry districts, but the matter of equipping such supplies is for local interests.

### FISHERIES.

#### *Legal Definition of "Fisherman."*

11. Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON asked the Minister for Fisheries:

Is it felt that the definition of a fisherman in the Fisheries Act should be newly defined to cater more adequately both for the interests of professional fishermen and the interests of the crayfishing industry in general?

Mr. KELLY replied:

It is not felt that any real benefit would accrue to the industry by amending the Act at this stage.

### NARROWS BRIDGE.

#### *Progress of Construction.*

12. Mr. BRAND asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Is progress in accordance with the original schedule being maintained in the construction of the bridge over the Narrows?

(2) Will he give details of constructional difficulties, if any, which have been experienced by the contractors and/or the Main Roads Department in work on the bridge and its approaches?

(3) What was the completion date originally estimated?

(4) What was the revised completion date?

(5) What is the anticipated completion date as at present?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

(1) No.

(2) A delay was caused when the first permanent piles were being driven at the south abutment because of a weakness in the type of welded joint in the steel casing. An amended detail overcame this weakness. The major delay was occasioned by a suspension of pile driving at the site of the river and shore piers and the abutment at the north end. The suspension was ordered by the consultants because of an observed slight movement in the temporary staging piles. During the suspension remedial measures were taken by redesigning the

piles in the north shore pier to safeguard against any earth pressures from the changed conditions which had been observed. Manufacture of the piles to the amended design was commenced at the State Engineering Works. In addition, fill, in excess of the ultimate height was placed on the north bank to ensure that earth movements, if any, would occur before the permanent piles were driven. The need for these measures was not revealed in the original bores taken to determine the foundations, but disclosed itself during the progress of the work and as reclamation proceeded.

Another difficulty arose early in August. At the point where 80 per cent. of the individual steel strands had been stressed and a total tension of 900 tons had been applied at the ends of the beams through the anchor blocks, signs of overstrain in the blocks was observed. Further stressing was suspended whilst the cause of the overstrain was investigated. Steps have already been taken to counter the effects of overstrain, and work on this part of the construction is proceeding according to plan.

(3) April, 1959.

(4) On the 4th January, 1958, an extension of two months was given. This brought the revised completion date to June, 1959.

(5) Following upon the difficulties described in the answer to question No. (2), the anticipated completion date is September, 1959.

#### **MT. LYELL SUPERPHOSPHATE WORKS.**

##### *Gold Assay and Smelting.*

13. Mr. SLEEMAN asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) Does the Gold Buyers Act state that "no person shall assay or smelt gold unless he is the holder of a licence as a gold assayer"?

(2) If so, is the Mt. Lyell Superphosphate Works at North Fremantle the holder of such a licence? In whose name is it held, and where was the application made?

Mr. MOIR replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes; Peter John Colreavy holds licence No. 4265, and application was made to the Mines Department, Perth.

#### **QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.**

##### **UNFAIR TRADING AND PROFIT CONTROL ACT.**

##### *Proposed Amendments.*

1. Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Labour:

(1) Have the proposed amendments to the Unfair Trading and Profit Control Act been submitted to the Chambers of Commerce and Manufactures for comment?

(2) If so, what was the result?

Mr. W. HEGNEY replied:

The hon. member for Nedlands was good enough to let me have a copy of this question at my office. The answer is—

(1) Yes; but that refers only to the proposed amendment in regard to the consultative committee.

(2) That matter is still being considered.

#### **RURAL AND INDUSTRIES BANK.**

##### *Method of Construction.*

2. Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Works:

Arising out of question No. 5, could he indicate the reason for the continued delay in the announcement by the Government as to its decision whether to build the Rural and Industries Bank Perth office by day labour or by contract?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

The reason for the delay is that the Government is not yet in a position to make a decision.

3. Mr. BRAND asked the Minister for Works:

I refer to a reply given to a question I asked concerning the reason for the Albany Regional Hospital being built by day labour. The reply was that it was Government policy. Can he say whether the delay referred to in the answer to the previous question, asked by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, is occasioned by a conflict of Government policy with the sound commonsense of building by contract?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

No.

4. Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Works:

Do I take it from the answer he gave to the Leader of the Opposition that there is no conflict of policy, that it follows that the Rural and Industries Bank Perth Office will be built according to Government policy—by day labour?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

One would have imagined that the hon. member for Nedlands would know that circumstances call for changed policy from time to time to meet those circumstances. If it is found that these circumstances now are similar to what they were when it was decided that the Albany Hospital should be built by day labour, that is what the decision is likely to be. If it is found there are circumstances which would

recommend that an alteration of policy is desirable, the Government is flexible enough to meet that situation.

I would remind the hon. member for Nedlands of something that one would expect him to know without being told: that there are other considerations which might determine the question, such as the length of time taken to have a building constructed if one were to call tenders, as against the length of time taken by day labour. For example, in a large building it is necessary to have complete specifications drawn up before tenders are called; and that takes, in some cases, as long as three, four, or five months.

Mr. Court: And saves a lot of money.

Mr. TONKIN: As the time taken might be a considerable factor, it is one which must be taken into consideration.

### AMALGAMATED COLLIERIES.

#### *Approach to Government re Mine Closure.*

5. Mr. WILD asked the Premier:

(1) Referring to "The West Australian" of the 9th October, and an article headed "Company Warns of Mine Closure", can he advise whether Amalgamated Collieries indicated it might not continue operations on the coalfields, and whether it made representations to the Government?

(2) If so, what action has been taken?

Mr. HAWKE replied:

(1) and (2) As far as I am aware, no representations have been made by the company concerned in connection with the question asked.

### VICTORIA PARK SWIMMING POOL.

#### *Approach by Councillor Hawthorne to Premier.*

6. Mr. HEAL asked the Premier:

Has any local authority in the metropolitan area approached him in relation to the building of an aquatic centre in the metropolitan area?

Mr. HAWKE replied:

The Perth City Council did approach the Government in connection with this matter.

Mr. Heal: In the last three months?

Mr. HAWKE: Yes, unofficially. I think the person concerned, is a councillor in the district of Victoria Park, by the name of Hawthorne. He did not see me on behalf of any road board or council, but a local committee at Victoria Park. He offered to name the pool at Victoria Park "Howard Hawke Pool" if the Government advanced £80,000 or £100,000 to have the pool built there.

Mr. Brand: If you eliminate the word "Hawke" I will support the proposal.

### WATER RATES.

#### *Deputy Premier's Statement to Press.*

7. Mr. COURT asked the Deputy Premier:

Has he had an opportunity to reconsider the answer given to my questions of the 9th October, 1958, regarding his Press statement of the 14th May, on the subject of water rates?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

Yes, I have had an opportunity to reconsider the answer, but there was no necessity so to do. I gave the hon. member more information, when I answered his question, than I need have done, in order to enable him to appreciate what the true position was. I would have been completely justified in answering his question in this way—

(1) Yes.

(2) See answer to No. (1).

But instead of that, I explained that the reason why there was an increase in the amounts people had to pay was increased valuation. For the further enlightenment of the hon. member, I remind him that on the 27th June, 1952, the present Leader of the Opposition, who was then Minister for Works, made a similar statement about rate increases. When he was subsequently called upon to explain why some people had received assessments which appeared to indicate that they had received increases in rates, he explained it in this way; and I quote now from Hansard of the 12th August, 1952—

Mr. Styants asked the Minister for Water Supply:

Is it correct that for the ensuing year, although the water rate in the metropolitan area has not been increased, the valuations on many properties have been increased as much as 15 or 20 per cent?

The Minister replied:

Yes. There has been no general review of valuations by the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department in respect of the current rating year.

Normal reviews, which progress throughout each year, have occurred consequent upon improvements, additions, etc., to properties.

Variations of valuations by those municipalities whose valuations are adopted by the department necessarily reflect any increase or decrease.

I repeat that the announcement made to the Press that there was no increase in water rates was a correct statement of the position.

Mr. Court: No, it is not.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. TONKIN: It is as correct as was the statement in 1952; and the position then was stated correctly.

Mr. Court: If you had said "water rate" you would have been right, but you said "rates."

Mr. W. Hegney: Let us have a fight over the letter "s".

The SPEAKER: Order! This is an answer to a question; not a debate.

Mr. TONKIN: The position is that there has been no increase in the water rate; but as has been the practice each year, because of changes in valuations in some places, some people are called upon to pay more when they get their notices. But the water rate remains unchanged.

Mr. Court: In your statement you said "water rates"—plural.

### HIRE-PURCHASE LEGISLATION.

#### *Introduction During Current Session.*

8. Mr. WATTS asked the Premier:

Does the Government, as was suggested by the Premier in the Press some time ago, still intend to introduce this session, legislation to deal with hire-purchase matters?

Mr. HAWKE replied:

Yes.

### LORD MAYOR'S VISIT TO COUNTRY CENTRES.

#### *Purpose.*

9. Mr. MAY asked the Premier:

(1) Is he aware that the Lord Mayor of Perth is visiting country centres?

(2) Will he advise the House if these visits are related to an aquatic centre in King's Park, and with the object of exerting pressure on country members of this House to support any move that may be made to have such an aquatic centre constructed?

The SPEAKER: I point out that this question has no relevance to the administration of State departments, and the Premier is not bound to answer it.

Mr. HAWKE replied:

Briefly, I would think not.

### COALMINING COMPANIES.

#### *Representations to Government.*

Mr. TONKIN: Earlier, the hon. member for Dale asked the Premier whether any representation had been made by the coal companies to the Government in connection with the proposal for some alteration on the coalfield. The Premier answered correctly, so far as his knowledge went, that no representation had been made.

I did not have a chance to see the Premier this afternoon, before the House met, to tell him that this morning representations were made to me by representatives

of the companies, and I assured them that their representations would be taken into consideration.

### BILLS (2)—RETURNED.

1, Supply (No. 2), £18,000,000.

Without amendment.

2, Health Education Council.

With amendments.

### BILLS (2)—THIRD READING.

1, Municipal Corporations (Postponement of 1958 Elections).

Passed.

2, Weights and Measures Act Amendment.

Transmitted to the Council.

### TOTALISATOR DUTY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

#### *Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 9th October.

MR. WILD (Dale) [4.58]: This Bill, which seeks to amend the Totalisator Duty Act, was introduced by the Treasurer last week in order to give some relief to racing and trotting clubs in the State. The Treasurer did not have much to say about the measure when he introduced it; and when one sees the total amount of relief that the clubs are to get, one can realise that he apparently did not consider it worthwhile saying much about it.

In effect, the Bill means that the amount to be retained by the clubs will be lifted from 6 per cent. to 10 per cent., and this will only mean, as far as the W.A. Turf Club is concerned, an increase of between £80 and £100 per meeting. I know little fish are sweet, but it is hard to follow when one looks at some of the Press statements that have recently appeared, and at the report of the Betting Control Board as laid on the Table of the House only a few weeks ago, showing that the s.p. bookmakers' turnover has gone up to £27,000,000.

In addition, when one sees that two of them hold over £400,000 each per annum, and three of them hold between £300,000 and £400,000 each, one appreciates that here there is a terrific amount of revenue that could be tapped in order to assist the racing and trotting clubs in the State.

I notice that the Treasurer had this to say towards the end of his speech—

The Bill is quite apart from what could be a further piece of legislation to deal with what I understand is to be a general request for greater financial assistance which will be made to the Government, if it has not already been made.

I would like to know what the Treasurer has in mind; because I take it that if the Government intended to give further assistance in this way, it would have been covered by this amending legislation. The only alternative, as far as I can see, is that some move will be made to alter the amount of tax which is paid by book-makers, whether it be on course or off course. I would like to hear about that from the Treasurer when he replies to the debate.

It is rather interesting to note the niggardly amount that the racing and trotting clubs in this State are allowed to retain, as against the position in South Australia. I know that some hon. members do not like to hear this comparison made. Be that as it may, during the past 12 months the W.A. Turf Club has received in all only £61,026, which is 16.3 per cent. of the total sum of money invested through the totalisator in this State, as against a receipt in South Australia of £342,113, which is 40.1 per cent. of the turnover in that State.

When hon. members from this Parliament were visiting South Australia earlier this year, they were entertained by the South Australian Jockey Club, and the South Australian Trotting Association. There we saw the two clubs really flourishing. We were entertained at Morphettville. Some years ago, the grandstand at that course was burnt to the ground. But because of the funds that have been made available to the club, it has been able to erect a beautiful new structure; and as we went around the course, we saw amenities that would be a delight to the racing patrons in this State.

Yet the clubs in Western Australia have been bled white, and we have given the s.p. men more or less an open go, even though we have legislated for them. The people who are providing the sport, like the band at a dance, are being asked to continue to function, and yet they are receiving only a niggardly amount to enable them to do so.

I understand that when representations were made to the Government, through a deputation to the Minister for Police, several counter proposals were put forward by which the clubs could be assisted. I believe that the Minister was asked to include jackpot and quinella betting, as well as doubles betting, in the proposals. When we get into Committee, I shall ask the Treasurer to add two other words to the sections that are being amended, in order to cover quinellas, jackpots and doubles, and what is known as triella betting. I believe that this form of betting—triella betting—is under discussion with both the W.A. Turf Club and the W.A. Trotting Association. It is a novelty type of betting which apparently originated in America. The betting is done through the

totalisator, and the patron has to try to pick the three placed horses; whether they have to be in their correct order I do not know.

Both of those committees are giving some thought to this form of betting as another added attraction to try to get the people to go to the courses. When one looks at the figures, one realises that we as a Parliament are being dreadfully niggardly with the people who provide the sport. Only last week I read in the Press that a site for an s.p. shop at Nollamarra had brought £5,500. That was for the land only, and the block measured 31ft. x 42ft. Surely it is sufficient indication to anyone that there must be something in s.p. betting when a buyer pays £5,500 for a block of land; and that is before the hotel has been built. Surely it is an indication that we are allowing these s.p. book-makers to have the thick end of the stick!

When we look at the terrific turnover of the s.p. bookmakers, we realise that if the Treasurer is looking for some means of assisting the clubs, and the people who are providing the sport, this is an avenue to tap, and one from which he can drain off some of the money that is being invested off the course. An amendment was passed in 1951 under which the country clubs were permitted to retain 10 per cent. of the straight-out and place bets in addition to the jackpot and quinella bets. Even if the Government saw fit to allow the metropolitan clubs to have the same percentage, it would mean only another £18,000 to £19,000 per annum. But at least it would give them some capital to enable them to build up their courses and so try to attract the people who are now mostly congregating in the s.p. shops.

We have to do everything possible to encourage these clubs to carry on and provide the sport at a high level; and the only way we as a Parliament can assist is to ensure that they receive sufficient of the taxation that is levied, whether it be by way of a totalisator tax or a tax on the bookmakers. We should ensure that the clubs have sufficient money to enable them to carry on. As this amendment will mean only another £80 to £100 per meeting it is a niggardly amount, and I think the Treasurer should have gone a bit further and at least given to the metropolitan clubs the same percentage as he has already given to the country clubs who are permitted to retain 10 per cent. of all the money invested on the totalisator.

I know that both the racing and trotting clubs are investigating ways and means of providing the novelty type of betting. The Turf Club has decided not to carry on with the jackpot tote because it has found that so far as the club is concerned it does not pay. Because of this the club is investigating the triella system, about which I spoke earlier.



So I hope the Premier will bend on this occasion and allow the metropolitan clubs to take a bigger percentage of the tax. It would not amount to much, and even if he allows the quinella and jackpot betting, judging on the turnover in recent weeks, the Government will receive only £80 or £100 less, and I think it could go that far in helping these clubs which are providing the sport. However, I would like to hear the Premier in reply, because it is my intention to move in Committee that these two other types of novelty betting be included in the Bill. I support the second reading.

**THE HON. A. R. G. HAWKE** (Treasurer—Northam—in reply) [5.11]: I have listened with interest to what the hon. member for Dale has had to say. Having been on the Opposition benches, I know how easy it is to urge the Treasurer to give away more and more money. I also know how easy it is—when in Opposition—to oppose very strongly any efforts of the Government to collect more revenue.

**Mr. Wild:** This would not cost you very much.

**Mr. HAWKE:** One could easily think, in listening to the hon. member for Dale, that the Government is budgeting for a surplus in the Consolidated Revenue accounts for the current financial year; but those hon. members who have studied the Budget will know that we are budgeting for a deficit of nearly £2,000,000, which could easily be increased by a further £200,000 should the Legislative Council be financially irresponsible enough to defeat the Government's measure in connection with land tax on improved farming land. Clearly, therefore, the Government is not in a position to hand out moneys in large sums in addition to the normal commitments of the Government.

Provisions in this Bill have been brought about as a result of a request made to the Government, and at present they represent the maximum the Government has decided to make available to assist racing and trotting clubs in the metropolitan area. I think it is a matter of some doubt as to whether the Government of any State or country should make available large sums of money to assist racing and trotting when other far more deserving causes in the community are still in need of financial assistance from the Government, or from some other direction. For instance, I am sure the hon. member for Dale could, by considering the question for a moment, think of at least a dozen very deserving causes in Western Australia to which the Government, were it in a financial position to do so, could give much more financial help than it is giving at present.

Clearly then, the task of any Government is to try to apply the fairest and the most just methods possible when considering the distribution of the moneys

which come to it from time to time. If a majority of hon. members in this Chamber think that racing and trotting are activities which deserve consideration above many other claims upon the finances of the Government and cared to say so by separate resolution, the Government would probably give further consideration to the matter.

**Mr. Heal:** They do create a certain amount of employment, I suppose.

**Mr. HAWKE:** Yes, they may create a certain amount of employment; and if we were to look very closely into the question of racing and trotting, I think we would find that they cause some things which are a disadvantage to the community. So I think it may not be advisable at this stage to try to work out whether, on balance, the sports of racing and trotting are an advantage or a disadvantage to the community as a whole. Nevertheless, it is a question which we ought to think about to some extent when we are urging the Government to make more and more money available to the racing and trotting clubs.

I understand that, generally, the racing and trotting clubs are to submit a case to the Minister for Police—if they have not already done so—for a general increase in the amount of financial assistance which is granted to them by the Government.

**Sir Ross McLarty:** They had better see the Treasurer and not the Minister for Police.

**Mr. HAWKE:** During my speech on the introduction of the Bill, I referred to that point and the certainty of the Government giving consideration, in the reasonably near future, to the general question. This measure deals with two particular questions which are related to jackpot and quinella betting.

**Mr. Wild:** From your remarks, do I take it that some relief can be expected this year?

**Mr. HAWKE:** Not necessarily. As I say, the racing and trotting representatives are to put up a general case for further assistance from the Government; and when it has been submitted to the Ministers of the Government for consideration, the Government will then make a decision on the basis of the case put forward, and on the basis, also, of the financial resources available to the Government.

**Mr. Wild:** Is the Treasurer not aware that the Minister for Police has already received that deputation?

**Mr. HAWKE:** That may be; but the general case has yet to come before Cabinet for consideration by the Government. The answer to the hon. member for Dale, therefore, is that when the case as a whole comes before the Government for consideration, it will make a decision which will be based on whether the Government is

able, in the circumstances, to give this further assistance, consistent with the requirements of many other deserving causes and activities in Western Australia.

Mr. Andrew: Would racing help the economy of Western Australia?

Mr. HAWKE: As I have said, this Bill sets out to cover only two matters—namely, jackpot and quinnella betting—and the purpose of the measure, as explained by me when I introduced it, and as explained by the hon. member for Dale a moment ago, is to increase the percentage which the metropolitan racing and trotting clubs will, in the future, receive from the total deduction made by the Government from investments in these two particular classes of betting. Therefore, the Bill is simple to understand. There is nothing difficult about it.

The hon. member for Dale told us that the racing and trotting clubs would receive only £100 additional per meeting as a result of this legislation. Another way of putting that would have been for him to say that the Government would receive £100 per meeting less than it receives at present from the metropolitan racing and trotting meetings. So the racing and trotting clubs in the metropolitan area will be that much better off, and the Government will be that much worse off.

The question of doubles betting was raised by the hon. member for Dale. This question was submitted—either by letter or personally—in the last few days, by the President of the Western Australian Trotting Association to the Minister for Police, but has not yet received consideration by me as Treasurer or by any members of the Government. However, the matter will be looked into and decided during the next six or seven days.

Should the Government make a favourable decision in this matter, then the necessary amendment to the Bill could be made in another place. Should the Government agree to include doubles betting, and the other type of betting mentioned by the hon. member for Dale, about which I have not heard previously, then clearly the Government would agree to those proposals, should they be inserted into the Bill in the Legislative Council, as a result of the initiative being taken by the Leader of the Government in that House. I think the hon. member for Dale realises what I mean when I put the situation that way.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee.*

Mr. Sewell in the Chair; the Hon. A. R. G. Hawke (Treasurer) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—put and passed.

Clause 2—Section 3 amended:

Mr. WILD: I have listened with interest to the remarks of the Treasurer in regard to what Cabinet will do following submissions made to the Minister for Police. I only want to correct him in two respects. Firstly, it is a little unfair to say that I am asking for something which originally did not belong to the trotting or racing clubs. From what he said one would have thought that I was asking him to give the clubs £100 for a meeting from the funds of some other party. All I am asking is that the clubs be permitted to retain £100 which they receive by way of turnover.

The Treasurer tried to make out that I wanted him to give to the racing clubs money which rightly belonged to somebody else. Under the Act this money is regarded as a tax on turnover. The Government must have considered the higher percentage as a fit and proper payment to country clubs, because it amended the legislation to give those clubs 10 per cent. instead of 6 per cent.

The second point is that representations have been made to the Government, as a result of which the Bill is now before us. In the report which has been sent to all hon. members, and in the annual report of the president of the Trotting Association, it was stated that he had made submissions to the Government for the introduction of a doubles totalisator. I am informed that was one of four submissions.

The important point is that the Treasurer has agreed that Cabinet will reconsider this matter. I hope that in doing so Cabinet will consider the other type of novelty betting I mentioned. It is another means to increase the patronage at the race meetings and trotting meetings. In view of the undertaking given by the Treasurer, I do not propose to move the amendment to bring in doubles as well as triella betting.

Mr. Hawke: What is the triella system?

Mr. WILD: I am told it is a system used in U.S.A. The bettor has to pick the three placed horses. I have not been informed whether he has to pick them in the right order.

Mr. Hawke: One would be optimistic to try.

Mr. WILD: This system is like the jackpot, which has at times reached astronomical figures in the U.S.A.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 3, 4. Title—put and passed.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

# **ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 3).**

## *Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 9th October.

**MR. BOVELL (Vasse)** [5.27]: In introducing this Bill to bring about compulsory voting for the Legislative Council, the Minister gave no valid reason whatsoever why a system of compulsion should be imposed on the electors enrolled for the Legislative Council. That House has always been, and I hope it will continue to be, one in respect of which enrolment and voting are voluntary.

How it would be possible to control effectively compulsory voting, when enrolment is on a voluntary basis, is beyond my powers of comprehension. I would have appreciated it if the Minister had explained how the Chief Electoral Officer could conduct compulsory voting with enrolment on a purely voluntary basis.

**Mr. Nulsen:** What does that mean? It doesn't make any difference to the rolls; and the Chief Electoral Officer said the system could operate.

**Mr. BOVELL:** It would be the responsibility of the Government through the Chief Electoral Officer, to see that every person enrolled for the Legislative Council was advised, prior to the election, of the election date, and of his responsibility to vote. With voluntary enrolment, no system—except the existing one—could be operated under fair and democratic principles. It is quite impossible to visualise a scheme with voting on a compulsory basis, and at the same time, enrolment on a purely voluntary basis.

I feel that the Minister has not given fair or mature thought to the Bill that he has brought down. I cannot understand why he introduced this Bill when other electoral amendment measures are before the House. It is unnecessary that members of the Legislative Council should be elected on a compulsory basis; and I oppose the second reading.

**MR. ANDREW (Victoria Park)** [5.31]: While listening to the hon. member for Vasse, I was reminded of the speech he made last Thursday in connection with another section of the Electoral Act. He stated that the Minister had given no reason—

**Mr. Bovell:** Neither he had. I have his speech before me.

**Mr. ANDREW:** I think we can give a very good reason why people should be compelled to vote at elections, particularly when we of the Labour movement have battled for the betterment of conditions for ordinary people; and many years ago our forbears battled for and obtained the right of ordinary people to vote. It is recognised that when people obtain a

privilege or right, they should be compelled to accept their responsibilities; and it is the responsibility of every person, particularly in a democracy, to exercise his right for the benefit of his country.

Some consideration should be given by the hon. member for Vasse, and those who are of the same mind, to the fact that only 20 per cent. of the people who are compelled to vote for the Legislative Assembly are entitled to vote for the Legislative Council. But, of course, anything that is right and just is generally passed over by the hon. member for Vasse and his colleagues; and the reason for their opposition to this particular Bill is that it does not suit their particular party.

The hon. member made a statement that the Chief Electoral Officer should inform every person on the Legislative Council roll that he is compelled to vote. I do not know why he should say that, because members of the public are not informed personally at the present time that it is compulsory to vote for the Legislative Assembly. Advertisements are placed in the Press, and the matter is also advertised by the various candidates during their campaigns. But that is only collectively.

As is well known, supporters of the Country Party are generally much further away from the polling booths than are people in the city areas. Some of the farmers are, I suppose, anything from 20 to 30 miles—maybe further—away; therefore great distances have to be travelled and it could not be expected—

**Mr. Brand:** Due to the Government's policy of closing certain booths.

**Mr. ANDREW:** They were closed because most people did not use them, and it was not worth while to operate them for the small number that did. If voting were compulsory, more people would find it necessary to record their votes, thereby making it worth while to keep the booths open. I am surprised that as yet a Country Party member has not spoken on this matter; but I do not believe that Country Party members would oppose this Bill, because, if passed, it would be of great advantage to them. The Liberal supporters in country areas are mainly situated in the town. I am saying mainly, not all.

**Mr. Brand:** Don't talk rot!

**Mr. ANDREW:** That is the usual interjection to be expected from the Leader of the Opposition. He tells others not to talk rot but talks plenty of rot in this House himself.

**Mr. Bovell:** Does the hon. member for Victoria Park advocate compulsory voting for pre-selection ballots?

**Mr. ANDREW:** I have said earlier in my speech that people should accept their responsibilities, and I will not be tied up on that particular interjection, because I

do believe that everyone should be compelled to accept his responsibility by voting when the issue affects his welfare. The hon. member for Vasse has not advanced any real argument, because the only reason he and his party oppose this Bill is that it does not suit them. I support the second reading.

**THE HON. D. BRAND** (Greenough) [5.36]: I think that the hon. member who has just sat down hit the nail right on the head—except that the reason for this Bill is, of course, the failure of the Labour Party in the Suburban Province, and particularly in his own area. It is now intended that the unfortunate people who volunteered to have their names placed on the roll will be forced to vote.

Mr. Andrew: Don't you use force in the Assembly?

Mr. BRAND: I am talking about those who volunteered—

Mr. Andrew: You are talking about forcing.

Mr. BRAND: —without the knowledge that they would be forced to vote.

Mr. Andrew: If they don't want to vote, why do they place their names on the roll?

Mr. BRAND: I would like to point out that during the last election, dozens of small polling places in the country were closed, with the result that people could not vote. The solution to this problem, according to the knowledgeable remarks from the other side of the House, is that—

Mr. Jamieson: Jealousy is a curse!

Mr. BRAND: —a law will be introduced forcing all farmers, in whom the hon. member for Victoria Park has taken a sudden kindly interest, to go along and vote, even though, when they placed their names on the roll, they believed it was to be a voluntary vote. The issue cannot be confused. We support the principle of keeping this franchise for the Upper House different from that of the Legislative Assembly and thereby avoiding the mere process of one House being a rubber-stamp for the other. As I said, I believe it would be very wrong in principle to pass this law and so force people to vote, when, in fact, they have voluntarily enrolled in accordance with the provisions of the Act at present. I speak for the people in the country, whom I represent, when I say that they would be very opposed indeed to being forced, irrespective of distances of travel and availability of polling places and postal vote systems, to vote for Upper House elections when, in fact, the whole basis up to this point has been voluntary.

**THE HON. A. F. WATTS** (Stirling) [5.39]: I find myself in something of a quandary with regard to this measure. It

has been flung upon me at very short notice; and while I can pay some attention to some of the remarks made by the hon. member for Victoria Park, I am by no means convinced that in the ultimate result the Bill would confer the benefits upon the party I have the honour to lead, or anyone else, that he alleges it would.

It seems to me that a proposal of this kind, which fundamentally changes the system that has prevailed in regard to the Legislative Council for so many years, ought to have been the subject of very careful inquiry before it was brought forward in the shape of legislation. When I say "inquiry", I mean one in which members of the House could participate. In the absence of data and information, I find it extremely difficult—and I think I can speak for those associated with me, too, and say that they find it extremely difficult—to assess whether, from our point of view, it is desirable or not.

Unfortunately, in a matter of this kind, the desirability or otherwise so far as one personally is concerned is of importance. It is useless to jump from the frying-pan into the fire without knowing the facts. It may be that if all the facts, and the background of the position, were known, it would not be considered as jumping from the frying-pan into the fire at all.

In my opinion, this is the sort of Bill which should be referred to a select committee of the House so that an investigation could be made, in which we could participate. But if that were done properly, it would take too long this session. So my attitude towards this Bill is that I prefer to defer the question of whether it is desirable or otherwise; and in deferring it, I propose to vote against the measure.

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

#### Ayes—24

Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Lapham
Mr. Brady	Mr. Lawrence
Mr. Evans	Mr. Marshall
Mr. Gaffy	Mr. Moir
Mr. Graham	Mr. Norton
Mr. Hall	Mr. Nulsen
Mr. Hawke	Mr. O'Brien
Mr. Heal	Mr. Potter
Mr. W. Hegney	Mr. Rowberry
Mr. Jamieson	Mr. Sleeman
Mr. Johnson	Mr. Toms
Mr. Kelly	Mr. May

(Teller.)

#### Noes—17

Mr. Bovell	Mr. Oldfield
Mr. Brand	Mr. Owen
Mr. Court	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Crommelin	Mr. Roberts
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Thorn
Mr. Lewis	Mr. Watts
Mr. W. Manning	Mr. Wild
Sir Ross McLarty	Mr. I. Manning
Mr. Nalder	

(Teller.)

Ayes.	Pairs.	Noes.
Mr. Rhatigan		Mr. Cornell
Mr. Tonkin		Mr. Mann
Mr. Andrew		Mr. Hutchinson
Mr. Sewell		Mr. Hearman

Majority for—7.

### Point of Order.

Mr. BOVELL: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, as this Bill has a bearing on the election of representation in Parliament, does it not require a constitutional majority?

The Speaker: I have had this question examined. When a similar question was involved in regard to voting for the Legislative Assembly in 1936, no constitutional majority was required. As this measure does not fundamentally alter the Constitution, as two subsequent measures dealing with the matter do, I rule—

That this measure does not require a constitutional majority and the second reading has therefore been agreed to.

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

### In Committee.

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

## ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2).

### Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 9th October.

MR. JAMIESON (Beeloo) [5.50]: As has been said by previous speakers, this measure is well known both in this House and in another place, and it seeks to do something that is necessary for the welfare of the people of the State, inasmuch as its purpose is to straighten out the existing position with regard to the franchise of the Legislative Council. At present there exists too much confusion as to the rights of voters to be on different rolls, and the sooner the position is clarified the better it will be for all concerned. That is particularly so now that there are so many new Australians on the rolls. The present position must be extremely confusing for them—

Mr. Court: I do not think they are as uninformed as all that.

Mr. JAMIESON: It must be very confusing for them when they attempt to sort out the ramifications of the qualifications to vote.

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

Ayes—26	Noes—17
Mr. Andrew	Mr. Bovell
Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Brand
Mr. Brady	Mr. Court
Mr. Evans	Mr. Crommelin
Mr. Gaffy	Mr. Grayden
Mr. Graham	Mr. Lewis
Mr. Hall	Mr. W. Manning
Mr. Hawke	Sir Ross McLarty
Mr. Heal	Mr. Nalder
Mr. W. Hegney	
Mr. Jamieson	
Mr. Johnson	
Mr. Kelly	
Mr. Lapham	
Mr. Lawrence	
Mr. Marshall	
Mr. Molr	
Mr. Norton	
Mr. Nulsen	
Mr. O'Brien	
Mr. Potter	
Mr. Rowberry	
Mr. Sewell	
Mr. Sleeman	
Mr. Tomas	
Mr. May	

(Teller.)

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. Rhatigan	Mr. Cornell
Mr. Tonkin	Mr. Mann

Majority for—9.

The SPEAKER: I have counted the House. There is an absolute majority present and voting and I therefore declare the question carried.

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

### In Committee.

Mr. Sewell in the Chair; the Hon. E. Nulsen (Minister for Justice) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2—agreed to.

### Clause 3—Section 7D amended:

Mr. BOVELL: I will not contest the clauses of this measure individually, but I oppose this one, which provides that electors over the age of 21 years shall be entitled to vote at Legislative Council elections on a universal franchise basis. During the debate on the second reading, I indicated my reasons for opposing the measure which seeks, firstly, to entitle persons of 21 years of age or more to vote at Legislative Council elections; and, secondly, provides that any person 21 years of age or more may contest a Legislative Council election.

Mr. W. Hegney: Don't you think they are entitled to?

Mr. BOVELL: I have already explained my views on the matter. I oppose this clause, which I do not think is in the best interests of the good government of the State.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 4 to 16, Title—put and passed.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

# CONSTITUTION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2).

## Second Reading.

Order of the Day read for the resumption of the debate from the 9th October.

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

### Ayes—26

Mr. Andrew	Mr. Lapham
Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Lawrence
Mr. Brady	Mr. Marshall
Mr. Evans	Mr. Molr
Mr. Gaffy	Mr. Norton
Mr. Graham	Mr. Nulsen
Mr. Hall	Mr. O'Brien
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Potter
Mr. Heal	Mr. Rowberry
Mr. W. Hegney	Mr. Sewell
Mr. Jamieson	Mr. Sleeman
Mr. Johnson	Mr. Toms
Mr. Kelly	Mr. May

(Teller.)

### Noes—16

Mr. Bovell	Mr. Oldfield
Mr. Court	Mr. Owen
Mr. Crommelin	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Roberts
Mr. Lewis	Mr. Thorn
Mr. W. Manning	Mr. Watts
Sir Ross McLarty	Mr. Wild
Mr. Nalder	Mr. I. Manning

(Teller.)

### Pairs.

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. Rhatigan	Mr. Cornell
Mr. Tonkin	Mr. Mann

### Majority for—10.

The SPEAKER: I have counted the House and satisfied myself there is an absolute majority of the whole House in favour of the Bill. I declare the question carried.

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

### In Committee.

Mr. Sewell in the Chair; the Hon. E. Nulsen (Minister for Justice) in charge of the Bill.

*Clauses 1 and 2—put and passed.*

*Clause 3—Sections 15, 16 and 17 repealed.*

Mr. BOVELL: I would like the Minister to say whether there is a safeguard in any other legislation concerning Section 17 of the Constitution Acts Amendment Act, because Clause 3 seeks to repeal that section which reads—

Every person nevertheless shall be disqualified from being registered as an elector who—

- (1) Is of unsound mind or in the receipt of relief from Government or from any charitable institution; or
- (2) Has been attainted or convicted of treason, felony, or any infamous offence in any part of Her Majesty's dominions, and has not served

the sentence for the same or has not received a free pardon for such offence.

If we agree to Clause 3, I presume that all persons above-named would have the necessary franchise for the Legislative Council.

Mr. NULSEN: The hon. member has not raised this point before, and the Bill has been before this Chamber on several occasions. The lawyers and draftsmen would not deceive the Minister by putting up anything that was illegal. I rely on my legal advice; but if the hon. member wants an investigation, I might be able to tell him more about it a little later.

Mr. BOVELL: In fairness to this Chamber, we should know the position. Clause 3 seeks to repeal Sections 15, 16, and 17 of the Constitution Act. I have already read Section 17 of that Act which appears on page 171 of our Standing Orders. The Minister should investigate the position. I am sure his legal advisers must have covered the point, but they do not appear to have done so in this legislation. We should be given this information.

Mr. NULSEN: I will have an investigation made; and if the hon. member objects, he will have his opportunity to say so on the third reading.

Mr. BOVELL: These Bills were introduced last week; and, as the Minister knows, I represent a country constituency.

Mr. Nulsen: You secured the adjournment for one week.

Mr. BOVELL: This only came to my notice this afternoon; and had I had more time, I would have investigated it further. There is no point in the Minister accusing me; he should be able to explain these things. We are entitled to such an explanation.

*Clause put and passed.*

*Title—put and passed.*

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL.

### Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 9th October.

MR. W. A. MANNING (Narrogin) [6.12]: I wish briefly to record my attitude on this Bill. I want to do it briefly because I feel we should all co-operate to get the measure through this House, to enable it to be dealt with this session.

Mr. Hall: What do you mean "dealt with"?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I mean so that it can be finalised and become an Act. I would like to see it dealt with and passed.

Mr. Watts: As amended, I take it.

**Mr. W. A. MANNING:** Yes; I was just coming to that. This matter has been investigated over a number of years, and a Royal Commission was appointed in connection with it in, I think, 1949. For all those years the local governing bodies have been waiting for something to be done. We have had this measure on our notice paper for some weeks; and it is still there. I do not propose to do anything to delay its passage, but I do wish to record my attitude today, which is exactly the same as it was when the measure first came before this House two years ago. I do not want to mention any particular clauses of the Bill; because if I did so, the omission of others might indicate that today I do not feel the same about them as I did two years ago.

This Bill should be passed subject to the amendments we sought to introduce when it was first brought to this Chamber. On this occasion it has been delayed not because of anything that has been done by the Opposition side of the House. Any delay that has been caused is the result of the Government's actions; and I feel the Government must accept the blame, because it introduced the measure in a form that was totally unacceptable. The Government must have known that.

**Mr. Graham:** To whom?

**Mr. W. A. MANNING:** The contents of the measure, for the most part, were not recommended by the Royal Commission; and the Government knows that the local governing bodies do not desire many of its clauses. Accordingly, I feel the blame for the delay must be sheeted home to the Government. It is difficult to understand the Government's attitude; and it makes one wonder whether it wants the Bill to be passed at all.

**Mr. Graham:** You have a great deal of concern for the privileged people, but not much concern for a democratically-elected local government.

**Mr. W. A. MANNING:** I have great concern for a democratically-elected local government. Our local government system is operating exceedingly well at the moment.

**Mr. Graham:** It is prehistoric.

**Mr. W. A. MANNING:** It expresses the will of the people; and if we accept some of the clauses in the Bill, as they stand, we will be defeating the purpose of good local government. As I have said, however, I only wish to record my attitude on this Bill. I will not say very much more, because I feel we should not delay the passage of this measure. I consider it should be passed, subject to the amendments we have already sought to make, in order that it may go on to the statute book as an Act under which local government can operate successfully. We should seek to accomplish that as quickly as possible.

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

**MR. JOHNSON** (Leederville) [7.30]: There is just one item to which I wish to refer. It is a provision which does not appear to be covered in the Bill. The measure is fairly long; but there is one more thing which I feel should be in it, and that is a method of reorganising the balance between wards.

Hon. members may have noticed that several of the questions that have been asked recently have been in relation to the balance of the wards of the City of Perth; and the answers revealed that, of the electors entitled to vote at Perth City Council elections—that is, the ratepayers—three wards have 68 per cent., and five have the balance. Each ward has the same number of representatives. These wards have been in existence unchanged, except for very minor variations, since the passing of the Greater Perth Act; and it is long past the time that they should have been adjusted.

The provisions in the Act as it now stands make it extremely difficult for ratepayers to have any say in this matter. The ward in which my electorate remains—Leederville—has 8,150 ratepayers, which is 23 per cent. of the city, or very nearly one-quarter; and only three of the 24 councillors. Victoria Park has 8,956 ratepayers, or more than one-quarter of the city and still has only one-eighth of the 24 members. The south ward and the east ward have only 1,800 electors, which represents approximately 5 per cent. each of the electorate; and yet they have the same proportion of councillors as Leederville, Victoria Park, or North Perth.

It is of interest that the three wards which do carry such a very large over-proportion of ratepayers are the three districts which were previously municipalities in their own right. The five wards that were Perth prior to the amalgamation are those that represent one-third, or something less than one-third of the ratepayers, but they still carry five-eighths of the representation. The previous municipalities of Victoria Park, Leederville, and North Perth are being badly under-represented.

We have panegyrics from opponents to the improvements in this Bill as to democratic rights in local government. There is an outstanding denial of democracy in the figures I have given, because there is nothing at all resembling equality in those establishments. I feel that the City of Perth could be represented by the same number of councillors quite properly, but to enable this to be done would mean dividing Victoria Park and Leederville in half and completely destroying north, south, east, west and central wards and reducing them to three, adding a portion to North Perth and making it into two.

That is one of the provisions which I feel has been neglected and which would make for ease of change when ward boundaries are out of balance. We, as practising politicians in government—not local

government but State government—are well aware of changes in boundaries; how they should be made; how they can be made; and are going to a great deal of trouble to get something in the nature of a balance. We do not give exactly one man one vote, because under the circumstances of our extreme exterior areas the matter is not quite as simple as it would look in a book.

Something nearer equality could be achieved in municipal government where the distances are not very great; and something nearer equality could be achieved in some of the road board districts where the areas and distances could be quite great. However, the City of Perth is plainly out of balance. It is time it was changed, but I feel that the opposition to change will come from the same group of interests which opposed change in the Legislative Council as well as the city council, because it does appear to me that these present unbalances do favour large property-owners as against the people who have only their own homes. For the majority of the people in Victoria Park, Leederville, and North Perth, their only entitlement to a vote in the city council elections is their own homes and no other property. I feel we can expect some objection to a proposal which will give a greater degree of fairness, but effect should be given to it.

In passing, I strongly support adult franchise. I know I have the backing of the whole of the people of the Leederville ward of the City of Perth in saying that I support the unimproved capital valuation method of rating. We had a couple of very large meetings which passed resolutions to that effect some little time back. I can say these things with the knowledge that I have the backing of the people I represent. I support the Bill.

**THE HON. E. NULSEN** (Minister for Justice—Eyre—in reply) [7.40]: I want to thank those hon. members who have spoken to the second reading of this Bill. I think they have shown a nice example of being conciliatory and, generally speaking, they have been brief.

This Bill is a matter of policy as far as the Government is concerned. The Government has a definite policy in regard to adult suffrage, plural voting, valuation, auditors and matters dealt with in other clauses of the Bill. When this measure was debated last year, hon. members discussed it very thoroughly, after which it went to a conference. I think the conference, so far as the Government was concerned, gave a definite signal to the people of this State that we were anxious to get the Bill through; and everything possible was done.

I do not want to say very much in reply, as so much has been said previously that there is very little to be said on this

occasion. I will refer hon. members to Hansard so they can, if they wish, read through the various speeches which were made in 1956. Speeches will be found on pages 1736, 1892, and 1898 of Hansard No. 14; pages 1945 and 2115 of Hansard No. 15; page 2824 of Hansard No. 18; and pages 3733 and 3941 of Hansard No. 21.

**Mr. Watts:** Can you tell us on what page you said the chairman of a road board was a creature of members?

**Mr. NULSEN:** No; but I remember saying it. I do not put the same construction on that remark as the hon. member. Chairmen of road boards are and have been creatures of members. I have been chairman of the Dundas Road Board and was a member of road boards for about 10 or 15 years before I came into this House. There is no doubt about it; they are creatures of members. However, we gave way in the conference.

**Mr. Watts:** That is right.

**Mr. NULSEN:** I have read Mr. Gifford's report, and he dealt mostly with Clause 6 of the Bill. Clause 6 deals with definitions; and, generally speaking, he has only dealt with the drafting of the Bill. I feel the information will be very handy to the draftsman. Mr. Gifford said he would be impartial; and by that I think he meant he was not going to deal with the policy of any party, whether it be that of the present Government, the Country Party, or the Liberal Party.

There is quite a lot one could deal with, but I want to point out that even "The West Australian" is anxious this Bill should become law; and I think every hon. member of this House is, too. I want to stress that this Government has sacrificed its own policy so that this Bill can become law. I can bear that out in a few moments when I read my report.

"The West Australian", in referring to the Local Government Bill on the 6th October last, under the heading, "There would be No Excuse for Further Delay," had this to say—

Parliament will have to act quickly if it is to pass the 681-clause Local Government Bill before the general election. It would be shocking if local authorities were again denied an up-to-date charter.

The Bill has gone back to Parliament in the same form as it left the Legislative Assembly last year. The Legislative Council is sure to make many amendments—as it did last year—so the Assembly should send the Bill to the Upper House as soon as possible. Moves to reorganise local government have been going on since 1949. The Bill has already become the most expensive in the State's history.

The most hotly debated clause is bound to be the provision for adult franchise.



From a policy point of view, the Government made a big sacrifice, because that is our policy. We feel that adults should, as we are living under a democracy, have a right to vote; and that the right should not be reserved to just a favoured few. We know perfectly well, and so does the hon. member for Murray, that there is a plutocratic feeling on the other side; that hon. members of the Opposition want to look after the wealthy. The only time they give consideration to the worker is when they want his vote.

Mr. Bovell: I will change financial positions with the Minister for Justice.

Mr. NULSEN: The hon. member would not have very much.

Mr. Watts: He has less now.

Mr. NULSEN: "The West Australian" goes on to say—

Because it would be unfair to rate-payers and would lead to party politics in local government, the clause will almost certainly be rejected by the Upper House.

If that happens, as it did last year, the Government will suffer a policy reverse. But so many of the provisions of the Bill are worthwhile and generally acceptable that it would be inexcusable for the Government to sacrifice them all for the sake of this new and highly controversial principle.

If the Government is determined to press for adult suffrage in local polls it ought to take the first opportunity before or after the election to introduce the issue separately as an amendment to the Act. But it would be better employed in renewing its commendable attempt to reduce the inordinate number of local authorities in the metropolitan area.

If local government in Perth were entrusted to a handy group of financially strong bodies working under up-to-date legislation the way would be paved for cheaper and more progressive administration and the creation of a board of works to assume some of the Government's responsibilities.

Mr. Watts: Did you see the statement by an hon. member in another place that your statement on the conference was not true?

Mr. NULSEN: I did; but, of course, the statement was not true.

Mr. Court: Your statement, or the other statement?

Mr. NULSEN: The other statement. We do not make untrue statements in this House; especially when we have the cooperation of the Opposition, as we did have.

Mr. Court: You are not being very fair to the other party. First of all, he is not here to defend himself; and, secondly, he has been just as categorical that you were not correct.

Mr. NULSEN: I do not want to raise the matter here; but if I were to mention names and tell the whole story, hon. members would be astounded. However, I will not do that but will read my report. I had this to say—

I beg to report that the conference managers met in conference on the Bill and reached the following agreement:—

1. Agreement was reached that adult suffrage should be abandoned. A satisfactory compromise was arranged on plural voting, methods of valuation, appointment of auditors, and in regard to election of shire presidents.

If anyone in this Chamber or in the Legislative Council can say that the Government was not anxious to get the Bill through, after it made those sacrifices, then I will be surprised. I ask my friends on the other side: Did they make any sacrifices on the Electoral Bill in 1947? Not one amendment was agreed to; yet on this occasion we made sacrifices which had not previously been equalled, just to have the Local Government Bill passed. In my report I went on to say—

2. These were dealt with first in the belief that they were the most contentious provisions, and when agreement, as abovementioned, had been arrived at, it was expected that a satisfactory conclusion could be reached on other amendments made by the Legislative Council.

3. This, however, was not the case. The Legislative Council had proposed in amendment No. 23 that if a person on the first day of January in any year was the owner or occupier of ratable land he was entitled to be enrolled. It had further proposed that the owner and occupier should not be separately registered in respect of the same land.

4. One member of the conference—not a member of the Legislative Assembly—

No names were mentioned; and there were three hon. members from the Legislative Council—

—refused to agree to both owners and occupiers being registered unless there were two different systems, namely for cities and towns, the present municipal council system where the occupier is automatically registered to the exclusion of the owner, while in shire councils the occupier would have to make application for registration.

5. It was clear from the Report of Proceedings in Committee in the Legislative Council that that House had rejected a proposal that the owner should have preference over the occupier.

No hon. member who is really honest can blame the Government after the sacrifices it made in regard to policy, for the fact that the Bill did not go through. As far as the present Bill is concerned, everything in connection with it has been said in the past; and I hope we will be able to get the measure through in at least a couple of nights, without much argument. The Opposition, I feel, is entitled to its policy; but I also consider the Government is entitled to its policy. We made a sacrifice, as far as policy was concerned, to get the Bill through, so that it would be helpful to the local governing authorities of the State. The local governing bodies are anxious now that it should be passed; but I cannot make any promises, as far as the Government is concerned, in respect to policy.

Last year the Minister for Local Government (the Hon. G. Fraser) was most conciliatory, and gave way on practically everything. But because he would not give way on one point—I do not want to labour this—the Bill was lost. I feel, however, that there was a little more behind the question than we all know.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee.*

Mr. Sewell in the Chair; the Hon. E. Nulsen (Minister for Justice) in charge of the Bill.

*Clauses 1 to 5—put and passed.*

*Clause 6—Interpretation:*

Mr. COURT: On behalf of the Leader of the Opposition, I make it clear that if we co-operate by remaining silent on some of the clauses which were previously regarded as highly contentious, it is not to be taken as an indication that we have changed our views.

I would like an assurance from the Minister that he accepts our co-operation in that spirit. If we have to rise and debate every clause, a lot of time will be taken up—unnecessarily, we consider—because there was a lot of debate on the Bill when it was before us on a previous occasion. However, it is important from our point of view that the Minister should appreciate our position; that it should be clearly understood by the Minister, on behalf of the Government—and by the Committee generally—that silence is not consent in respect of these clauses, particularly the very contentious matters of principle where there is a great difference

between the Government and the Opposition. I would like the Minister's assurance that he accepts the spirit of co-operation on that understanding, so far as the Committee stage is concerned.

Mr. NULSEN: I accept the position that silence does not mean that the Opposition has waned in any way in regard to its policy. I feel that as far as this side of the House is concerned, it will mean the same thing.

Mr. WATTS: As I endeavoured to say on the second reading, I am in exactly the same position as the hon. member for Nedlands. We do not propose to agree to matters which we disagreed with previously; but in order to enable the Minister to make rapid progress with the Bill, we propose to keep quiet on our disagreement. As he understands the position quite well, that is quite all right with me.

Mr. NULSEN: I recognise the hon. member's attitude.

*Clause put and passed.*

*Clauses 7 to 124—put and passed.*

*Clause 125—Ascertaining result of election where preferential system of voting applies:*

Mr. EVANS: It is not my intention to impede the progress of the Bill, or to move any amendment to it; but I shall have an amendment moved in another place in regard to Subclause (5). The essence of this subclause is that where a returning officer has ascertained the number of first preference votes cast by each particular candidate, he shall then decide which candidate has the highest number of first preferences and declare that candidate elected. That having been done the process is to allocate the preferences of the successful candidate to the continuing candidates until such time as the positions required to be filled have been filled.

If there are two different views expressed in a community, we may find that one side, which has a majority of the votes, gets all the representation under the system proposed in the Bill. The same sort of thing happened in the Senate; and out of 36 members, the Labour Party had three members and the anti-Labour Party had 33. Then the pendulum swung and the Labour Party had the majority of members, and the other parties had very few. As a result, both parties agreed to wipe out that iniquitous system.

Mr. Nulsen: What would you call your system? The first past the post?

Mr. EVANS: I would say that my system was the full preference system. The Senate now provides for proportional representation; but it is not my intention to advocate

such a system in local government elections, because the local authorities would either have to employ Commonwealth returning officers or send their secretaries to a school of instruction for some weeks. I think the system proposed in the Bill should be altered, because that system has already been condemned by the three major political parties in Australia.

We normally understand preferential voting to be a system where the preferences from the deleted candidate are allocated. Under my system, where the election is to fill more vacancies than one, and there are more candidates than vacancies, the returning officer shall—

- (a) in the manner prescribed by subsection (4) ascertain the number of first preference votes polled for each candidate;
- (b) exclude as a defeated candidate the candidate who has polled the lowest number of first preference votes and distribute his votes amongst the remaining candidates in accordance with the preferences indicated thereon;
- (c) exclude as a defeated candidate the candidate who now has the lowest number of votes and distribute his preferences among the remaining candidates in accordance with the previous preferences indicated thereon, and those preferences would include the previous second preferences;
- (d) repeat this process of excluding the candidate with the lowest number of votes and distributing his votes amongst the remaining candidates in accordance with the preferences indicated thereon until there shall remain the number of candidates required to fill the vacancies;
- (e) the returning officer shall declare such remaining candidates to be duly elected to fill such vacancies.

I do not think anything could be more clear-cut or equitable; and this system is a much fairer method of deciding the result of elections where the ward system does not apply.

Mr. Nulsen: Where is that system in operation?

Mr. EVANS: It is operating in regard to the Senate in America. I think my amendment should be agreed to, and I shall have it moved in another place.

Mr. O'BRIEN: I also oppose Subclause (5). Under the method prescribed in the Bill it would not be a true vote, and I support the amendment foreshadowed by the hon. member for Kalgoorlie.

Mr. WATTS: I think the Committee should be indebted to the hon. member for Kalgoorlie for drawing our attention to this matter. It is strange that it was not given more consideration last year. I think that substantially the hon. member is correct, and that the method proposed in Subclause (5) closely resembles that which operated in the Senate prior to 1948. Under such a system we could have 100,000 people voting for one group, and 99,000 voting for another group, and the second group would have no members returned at all, because of the system of transferring preferences from the leading candidate on the first count.

That seems to be implied in this clause. Therefore, hon. members together with hon. members in another place should give careful consideration to this proposition, so that it may be discussed there to achieve what is intended.

*Clause put and passed.*

*Clauses 126 to 172—put and passed.*

*Clause 173—Members prohibited from taking part in consideration of or voting on a matter in which they are interested:*

Mr. WATTS: This clause contains the matter to which I referred at some length on the second reading. I do not propose any amendment at this stage, but I ask the Minister to give further consideration to it, so that his colleagues in another place may move an amendment there. The clause purports to overcome the difficulty which arises when a member of a local authority is also associated with some other organisation which is doing business with the local authority. The clause is endeavouring to clear up the rights of members of a local authority so that the position will not arise whereby a quorum of members will not be available. The clause ends up with a provision that when all else fails the Minister shall decide, but I do not think that is a very satisfactory proposition.

I consider—particularly on reading a communication from the much-discussed Mr. Gifford, that there are alternatives to this proposition which may be acceptable to the Crown Law Department and the Government—that the Minister should look at a copy of that document which, I understand, has been supplied to the Premier's Department. He could then come to some conclusion as to whether this clause cannot be improved, particularly with a view to ascertaining if it is at all practicable to wipe out the necessity for the Minister to decide whether it is advisable for a member to vote on a given question.

*Clause put and passed.*

*Clauses 174 to 681, First to Twenty-sixth Schedules, Title—put and passed.*

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

# CANCER COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA BILL.

## Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 9th October.

**MR. MARSHALL** (Wembley Beaches) [8.49]: When introducing this Bill, the Minister said that its purpose was to help people in regard to the dread disease of cancer; and that an amount of research work had been done, but no means had been found as yet for curing or preventing cancer.

He also made reference to a cancer conference held in Canberra during 1955, and said that the purpose of such conference was to discuss ways and means of effecting some form of national co-operation and co-ordination between the Commonwealth, the States, and the existing anti-cancer organisation; and on the return of the Western Australian representatives, they recommended that a body, similar to that operating in the other States, should be formed here.

As a consequence, the Anti-cancer Council was duly formed, with the object of improving facilities and techniques for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. The main objective, as far as I have been able to ascertain, was to conduct an appeal for funds for the provision of a linear accelerator, but it is not anticipated that it will be installed until the end of 1959.

The Minister has not stated what other work the Anti-Cancer Council has been engaged in during the period of its inception, or whether any research has been undertaken. It is proposed by this Bill to make the Anti-cancer Council a statutory body, and the objects are set out in the preamble of the Bill and also in Subclause (2) of Part III. I consider it is necessary, therefore, to deal with that aspect in the first place. No-one can deny that the disease is one that requires very urgent, effective action to be undertaken.

The establishment of a cancer institute with the requisite facilities and the installation of a linear accelerator, the research work which will be needed, and the trained staff which will be necessary, will involve large sums of money. I have no doubt that the public of Western Australia will continue to respond generously to appeals of this nature to assist financially the Anti-Cancer Council to provide the essential means of prevention and treatment of cancer.

I might mention that the Victorian Anti-Cancer Council was formed in 1936; and since that time there has been established in that State various places where cancer research is carried out, and every endeavour is made to alleviate the increasing dangers of this disease. I think hon. members will recall that only in the last few months an appeal for approximately £500,000 was made with the resultant receipt, beyond all expectations, of

well over £1,000,000. It is, therefore, indicative of the great public interest towards an appeal of this nature.

The N.S.W. State Cancer Council became a statutory authority by the passing of an Act for that purpose in 1955, and it is well to note that this council consists of the following seven members:—

Emeritus Professor S. H. Roberts, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney—Chairman.

Dr. A. B. Lilley, Chairman of the Hospitals Commission of New South Wales—Deputy Chairman.

The Hon. R. R. Downing, M.L.C., Attorney-General, Minister of Justice and Vice-President of the Executive Council.

Dr. B. T. Edye, a pharmaceutical chemist.

Professor E. Ford, who is Professor of Preventive Medicine and Director, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, the University of Sydney.

Sir Edward Hallstrom, who, as everyone knows, is a great philanthropist.

The Hon. J. A. Weir, M.L.C., Secretary of the Australian Timber Workers' Union (N.S.W. Branch).

I shall make some reference to this later on.

In every country in the world today, research work is being conducted; but it is only in recent years, as a result of the diagnosis of the disease, with the aid of the ever-increasing facilities and knowledge gained in the treatment of cancer, that any worth-while, successful treatments have come into use.

I was interested to read the remarks of Dr. Ralston Paterson, C.B.E., M.C., who is the director of radiotherapy at the Christie Hospital, Manchester, England, and who stated that cancer is nothing new, despite the fact that there are many who mistakenly believe it to be a disease of modern times. An ancient Greek historian and traveller wrote a concise account about the year 430 B.C. of persons suffering from cancer of the breast, and there are records in various libraries that indicate that the ancient Egyptians suffered from this disease. Dr. Ralston Paterson said—

The effects of cancer can be recognised in remains from centuries of three thousand years ago. And an even older papyrus discovered in the 1870's by Georg Ebers, apparently used as a textbook for medical students, contains recipes for the treatment of ulcers and swellings, some of which were probably cancers of the skin. One of these remedies from the Egypt of the Pharaohs, a caustic paste, was in common use in Europe until

well into the sixteenth century. It was known even then as "Egyptian Ointment."

But our final and most astonishing piece of evidence requires yet another great extension backwards in time. A fossilised bone from the tail of a giant dinosaur, now in the British Museum, was found to have been affected during life by tumour growth. It was even possible to check this diagnosis by microscopical examination of a section of the bone in a famous London hospital. And a well-known geologist tells us that this dinosaur bone is about eighty million years old!

Clearly, then, man is not the only creature affected by cancer. These giant reptiles, now extinct, got it; insects get it; so do fishes and birds. Let it be said at once, however, that you can't "catch" cancer from animals used as food. Since there is no germ involved, it is not catching in the way that chicken pox or scarlet fever is; those who have to nurse a case of cancer, therefore, run no risk whatever of "catching" the disease.

Two factors have helped to foster the idea that cancer is a disease of modern times. It is recognised more often nowadays, because doctors have more information and better diagnostic tools than they had some years ago.

The name Cancer covers a whole group of diseases, each with its special characteristics and each responding best to a particular form of treatment. Surgery and radiotherapy, or a combination of both, are still the best treatments for most types of cancer. Radiotherapy simply means the destruction of the cancer cells by man-made or naturally occurring rays. Radium and x-rays are still the most familiar forms of radiotherapy.

In the modern world today, in the nuclear age, one could say many people are concerned about the apparent dangers associated with the exposure of the human body to excessive radiation. Many conflicting opinions exist among highly eminent professional men of the dangers attributed to the exposure from such sources and scientific experiments being carried on in many parts of the world. For the treatment of cancer, in all its various forms, and possible prevention, very large sums of money and intense research work will be required. Dr. Paterson continues—

Supervoltage x-ray machines, like the 4 million volt linear accelerator and the 20 million volt betatron, which owe much to wartime research on radar, and, the "Cobalt Bomb," have been installed in several hospitals. They are providing us with even more effective weapons against tumours deep in the body.

One of the happier by-products of atomic research, the radioactive isotope, has given us new methods of diagnosis and treatment for some forms of cancer. Radioactive iodine, for instance, making use of the fact that iodine taken into the body always finds its way to thyroid tissue, can be used in minute doses to track down malignant changes in the thyroid gland. In suitable cases it can be used to treat the gland by getting it to take up radioactive iodine, which gives off rays that destroy the cancer from within.

New machines and new methods are important, but each one of us has in his or her hands what is potentially an even more effective weapon against cancer. Simply, a readiness to seek out doctor's advice at once whenever we notice a small, painless lump appearing anywhere in the body, unexpected loss of blood from any body opening, or a sore that doesn't heal properly.

If everyone could be persuaded to act on this advice we should probably see a much greater improvement in the numbers of people cured of cancer than would ever come about from any foreseeable refinements in present treatment.

Apart from the use of radiotherapy, many people are actively engaged in research for chemical drugs; and as in the case of many other life-saving drugs, there is no doubt that with initiative and concentration on this form of research, there is no reason why success in the fight against cancer will not be achieved.

Hon. members will recall that on several occasions I have stressed the need for an investigation of drug-bearing flora, known to exist in our State of Western Australia, and the setting up of a laboratory to clinically test these extracts. Much has been said about alleged cures from the chemical extracts from various types of plants, and I desire once against to refer to an extract from one of our native plants—*scaevola spinescens*.

This has been known for the past 12 years to have some extraordinary effects as a palliative to persons suffering from cancer; and owing to a considerable amount of unnecessary publicity, it has been inferred that this extract could be a cure. The first intimation of this was given in a Press report in "The West Australian" on the 26th June, 1947, and was a result of a report submitted to the West Australian Historical Society. A letter, submitted to the Department of Native Affairs by a police constable in charge of the Yalgoo police station, included in this Press report, reads as follows:—

An examination of Neebrong's papers has disclosed the following information:—On the 10th January, 1935, Dr.

Anderson of Dalwallinu, reported that a native, Albert Neebrong, was suffering from cancer on the tongue and recommended that he be transferred to the Perth Hospital for medical treatment. After receipt of the above advice, this department made many attempts to arrange for Neebrong to submit for treatment, but he refused. In July, 1937, the matter was again raised, and in October, 1937, the Commissioner of Native Affairs requested Constable Tully, of Dalwallinu, to locate Neebrong and bring him in for treatment. On the 14th February, 1938, Constable Tully reported that Neebrong had been examined several weeks previously and that the sore on his tongue had healed, therefore medical attention was not necessary.

Proof that this plant and others have been known to exist is contained also in "The West Australian" of Thursday, the 19th June, 1947, in a statement by Dr. D. E. White, who was a member of the drug panel which was in existence at the time, and also the lecturer in organic chemistry at the University of Western Australia. This is what he had to say—

#### Reputed Cancer Cure.

##### Plant Properties Being Investigated.

"Recent discoveries of plants with potentially high medicinal properties have started a train of research into possible uses for them," said Dr. D. E. White, a member of the West Australian Drug Panel, on Sunday. He is lecturer in organic chemistry at the University of Western Australia.

Dr. White said that the report that a certain West Australian plant had medicinal qualities which might assist in the cure of cancer was being investigated. The evidence at the moment did not enable anyone to make up his mind about it. Only one case, that of a native, had been reported, and there was no evidence apart from the native's word that he had cancer.

That was after Dr. Anderson had given a police constable the information that the native was suffering from cancer. The report continued—

The only thing obvious from the report was that the native had been cured of something. It appeared that the drug concerned might contain antibacterial properties, but whether it would rival or outclass penicillin would be determined only by scientific research.

It would be interesting to know what were the results of the scientific research referred to by Dr. White, if any was carried out; for, as far as I have been able to ascertain, he did nothing. Six days earlier, on the 13th June, 1947, he refuted any possibility that this extract had any medicinal properties which might assist in the

cure of cancer. I maintain that this extract was in their possession 11 or 12 years ago, but they did nothing to investigate it. Hon. members are aware of my interest in this matter, and my endeavour to ensure that a thorough investigation into the question is carried out, and that facilities are provided to conduct research work into cancer.

The questions of the hon. member for Claremont were pertinent, as to the cost of establishing a cancer institute and the installation and maintenance of the radiotherapy apparatus which I have referred to. Expert opinion has been freely expressed that the solution to overcome the disease of cancer would be found by chemotherapy—or, in other words, by chemical means, and the use of drugs, rather than by the excessive use of radiation.

Some difficulty has been experienced, and there is a reluctance on the part of the medical fraternity to allow patients known to be suffering from cancer to take the extract which has been prepared at the Government Chemical Laboratories since August last year. It is interesting therefore, to quote from "The Record" of the 17th July, last year. There a fairly lengthy article stated, briefly, that a patient in the Royal Perth Hospital had been operated on by a surgeon because a malignant growth was suspected. After several delays an operation was performed and inoperable cancer of the stomach was found.

As a consequence of the patient finding out what his condition was and seeing the report that had been published by the police constable regarding this native plant and the use to which it could possibly be put, he requested that he be given a supply of the drug and be allowed to act as guinea pig for this extract. Inquiries were made of The West Australian Drug Panel, and the Historical Society initiated further inquiries, and it appeared that the cure of the native was attributed to the use of this plant.

Supplies of the herb were procured and investigated by the drug panel. Meanwhile the patient was still in the Royal Perth Hospital; and, grasping at a last chance, as it were, he offered himself for experimentation. He was willing to sign all the documents necessary for the protection of the hospital, the doctor, and the staff. The report continues—

The Drug Panel was most co-operative, offering to supply the plant and whatever knowledge their specialists had acquired. The patient was duly informed that the doctor in charge of his ward would administer the drug, and the psychological effect on him was astonishing. After a fortnight's delay, the honorary physician in charge of the case, accompanied by two other doctors, calmly informed the patient that no patient of his

would be treated with the native drug, and that its administration in the Royal Perth Hospital would not be permitted. Approaches to the medical officer, and even to the Minister of Health, produced the same irrational results. The effects on the patient can be imagined.

It is evident, after reading an article published in 1947, and in view of the difficulties experienced in the last 12 months, that a similar attitude remains in the minds of some of the medical profession. I have a number of letters in my possession, but will not read them all. However, there are two that, with the indulgence of the House, I will read. I will not give the names of the persons concerned, but any member who is interested can read the letters and obtain the names and addresses of these persons. One of them says—

My wife suffered principally in the bowel and later in the abdomen generally from carcinoma. In early December my wife received the extract *scaevola spinescens* from the Government Laboratories. I believe that it was the 4th December when she received the first supply. Prior to this she suffered considerable pain, she was able to get around but the pain was pretty constant and at times fairly severe. When she commenced taking the extract it was found that it afforded relief, the pain diminished and was not so frequent and it appeared to stimulate her mentally. This was proven by reason of the fact that on New Year's Eve I was due to collect the extract from the Public Health Department, I usually visited there at about 5 p.m. to collect same, but on this occasion when I arrived at the Public Health Department I found that the building was closed and subsequently ascertained that the extract had not been delivered there from the Government Laboratories. As a result my wife did not have the extract for a matter of three days. During these three days when my wife did not have the extract the pains were more severe and far more frequent and when the next supply was received the immediate effect was noticed, the pains subsided and she appeared easier in mind.

The other letter, from a gentleman suffering from cancer of the lung, reads—

Dear Mr. Marshall,

I feel that I must express my sincere thanks to you in helping me to obtain Sergeant Monck's medicine and also my sincere thanks to the Hon. E. Nulsen, Minister for Health for making the same available to me, for this medicine, I think, has undoubtedly helped me greatly in my fight against cancer.

As you are aware some six months ago it was discovered that I had a deep seated lung cancer and I was not told exactly what was wrong with me.

I was in severe pain and spent a short time in hospital followed by seven weeks therapy treatment, after this treatment I asked to be allowed to go back to work; after a short time I became gradually worse. Eventually I could neither work or sleep and could not walk without assistance, I was in great pain and distress, my wife even had to dress me.

The doctor advised that I enter hospital to ease the burden on her, however I would not go but agreed to his suggestion of further deep therapy but after ten days I felt little improvement.

I was worried and begged my wife to tell me the truth of my condition which she did. It was in the last hope that we decided to try Sergeant Monck's medicine and after a little difficulty when the Hon. E. Nulsen and you Sir assisted me to obtain it I commenced to take the medicine.

Within two days of taking same I started to feel relief from pain and within a week all pain had completely disappeared and I was able to do things for myself and drive my car again. From then on I have improved considerably week by week and I am now back at work again and feel really well.

Since taking the medicine I have not had to take any pain killing tablets of any description. I honestly feel that Sergeant Monck's medicine has played a very big part in my recovery for I was in pain and severe pain before I started taking it and within two days of taking the medicine I started to feel relief from pain and within seven days all pain had gone and is still gone, at the present time I am feeling very well and as I have previously stated I am back at work.

There are many more such letters, but I will not weary the House by reading them all. I am convinced that there is great need for full investigation into this question, because in Western Australia we have a number of plants that are on record and of which a list has been submitted to the Government in a report from the Government Botanist. I feel sure that the setting up of a laboratory to investigate the medicinal properties of some of our flora might lead to the discovery of something that would alleviate the suffering of those afflicted by this distressing disease, cancer.

A further feature is that there is an enormous amount of money involved in hospitals and institutes in the installation of x-ray apparatus which is considered necessary for diagnosis and treatment of cancer; and anything that we can do to reduce the cost of treatment to the patient would make well worth while the time and research involved.

The other portion of the Bill deals with the constitution of the cancer council, and I do not think that the council, as proposed to be constituted, will achieve the necessary results. I was very disappointed that the Minister, in his wisdom, could not have followed a similar organisation, such as operates in Victoria or in New South Wales, rather than confine the proposed council to control by the B.M.A., as I feel that the objects of the Bill and the benefit to be derived by the people it proposes to assist will be met with nothing but stultification, and negative and frustrating results.

I wish now to quote from the New South Wales Hansard of the 31st March, 1955, page 3625, where Mr. Kelly, who introduced the Cancer Council Bill in that State, made reference to the personnel of the council proposed there. He said—

Subclause (2) of clause 4 vests in the council the powers essential to permit these objectives to be carried out. The constitution of the council is set out in clause 5, which prescribes that the number of members of the council shall be restricted to seven, of whom one shall be the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney. The remaining six members will be appointed by the Governor as follows: (1) The medical practitioner member of the Hospitals Commission. (2) A professor in the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Sydney. (3) A business executive. (4) A representative of industrial interests. (5) The nominee of the British Medical Association, New South Wales Branch, and (6) a nominee of the Minister. There may be differences of opinion whether the council is sufficiently representative of the interests concerned and whether because a surgeon is on the council a radiotherapist also should be appointed. When I mention the names of the gentlemen concerned, I am sure that the House will be satisfied. In my view if a council consists of members whose personal interests are not involved, and they are sound sensible men in the business and commercial world, better results will be obtained than by appointing those who have interests in radiotherapy or surgery.

Mr. Kelly then refers to Dr. Ralston Paterson and says—

I was Minister for Health when Dr. Ralston Paterson came here and it was tragic to hear the differences of

opinion between radiotherapists and surgeons. That cleavage wrecked much of the work that Dr. Ralston Paterson had done. The surgeon bitterly opposed the suggestion that he should be relegated to an inferior place.

I would like to point out to the Minister that we all support the objects of the Bill. There is no doubt that it is a sound move to make this council a statutory body to administer the provisions of the Act. But I am not entirely satisfied that the Minister, in his wisdom, should see fit to have at least ten honorary members of the medical profession, together with an officer of the Department of Health, who is to be the Commissioner of Health or his deputy.

I feel a more representative body of people, not associated with the medical profession, would ensure that the cancer council would be more workable under this Act. Confining the powers and duties of the cancer council to the medical profession will result in frustration; and, instead of achieving the objectives set out in the Bill, we will meet with little success by the appointment of this personnel.

**MR. LAPHAM** (North Perth) [9.19]: The incidence of cancer throughout the world has been of such tremendous proportions, that all thinking people are giving considerable attention to this subject. In Western Australia alone, 16 deaths take place each week as a result of cancer. It has been found that one out of every four people in the world will die of cancer. In New South Wales 12 people die of cancer each day. When one considers those figures, one appreciates that it is high time something more than normal was done to find a cure for this scourge.

I would like to compliment the Minister on introducing this Bill. I agree entirely with the objective it seeks to achieve. I can see plenty of imperfections in the measure; but, nevertheless, I must congratulate the Minister for introducing it, because it indicates that the State is at least accepting its responsibilities, and that it intends to do something to assist other parts of the world in endeavouring to find some treatment for cancer. It is true, of course, that doctors and medicos generally have assiduously applied themselves to the question of a cancer cure for many years.

These men have done all they can, in the circumstances, to alleviate the pain and suffering involved, even though a cure is not possible. I think we all appreciate the fact that it is impossible today to cure cancer. Occasionally, of course, we all hear of a little success by the methods of radium treatment, or the equivalents of such treatment. Generally speaking, however, cancer has the world of science completely baffled. One of the reasons for that fact is, I think, that the world of science is moving along a certain channel in its endeavours to find the cure.



The institutes that have been set up have spent enormous sums of money in an attempt to find a cure; but most of those treatments have not been directed towards finding a drug to combat this scourge, but in trying to utilise other sources for this purpose. That has not been at all successful. Any body that deals with the treatment of cancer should, I feel, be one on which both laymen and the medical profession are fully represented. Personally, I would prefer to see more laymen represented than members of the medical profession.

Mr. Watts: Hear, hear!

Mr. LAPHAM: I say that because laymen can always obtain the necessary knowledge from the experts when the occasion arises. What is more, the laymen, because of their normal business ability, are able to follow more businesslike methods in reaching a conclusion. For instance, most businesses today use graphs and statistics. This is commonplace, and has been found to be very beneficial to industry. In looking for a cure for cancer I feel that the same statistics and graphs could be utilised. Accordingly, it is my opinion that we should frame a measure that would enable both the medical men and the laymen to co-ordinate their activities and resources to that end.

The Bill before us provides for the co-ordinating, stimulating, promotion, and subsidising of research into the cause, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer and allied conditions. In fact, it provides for the setting up of a body to be known as the cancer council of Western Australia, which will inquire into all the causes of cancer; and which will take steps to put into operation all the provisions for the treatment of cancer, and the setting up of cancer institutes. To my mind the success, or otherwise, of those who are to help in this fight against cancer, is dependent on who is to constitute the cancer council. There, I feel, is the whole crux of the position.

Part II of the Bill deals with this aspect, and it is that part with which I am not very happy. We find that 16 members are to comprise the council, and they are to be drawn from four hospitals, from the British Medical Association, from the University, and from the Department of Health; two are to be selected by the Minister; and the remaining two are to be selected by those already selected. Why that should be so, I do not know.

Those from the hospitals are to be honoraries, and will be five in number. Whether they are to be top cancer men is not indicated, but they are to be chosen by the boards of management of the hospitals. Generally speaking, honoraries are busy men. It is only natural to assume, therefore, that the honoraries to be appointed to this council will be the least busy of the group.

Why the B.M.A. should have the right to select two individuals to represent it on the cancer council is beyond me. I feel the other medicos who are represented on the council will see that no dictum of the E.M.A. is infringed. It is also beyond my comprehension why the Faculty of Medicine should have two members nominated by the Senate of the University; and, again, why that University should nominate a physicist.

I cannot understand why these departments should be given the right to nominate anybody. Surely we can find the best people available to place on this council without asking the bodies referred to! In this system of selection of personnel the cancer council will, in effect, be under the indirect control of, firstly, the boards of management of the hospital; secondly of the B.M.A.; and, thirdly, of the University, because they are the groups which nominate those who are to be appointed members of that council.

The grouping of these three bodies will be the voting strength. They will control ten nominees, and that ten will nominate two more, which makes the number 12. One will be the Commissioner of Public Health, who is also a medical man. Therefore, within the 16 of the council, 13 are to be medicos.

I have a lot of regard for medicos; but at the same time I have a lot of regard for laymen who are capable; and I feel that in the circumstances, having 13 medicos out of 16, is out of proportion. I say it will be a nice little cultural cocoon. That is what the cancer council will be; and it will fail to operate because the medicos' minds, due to years and years of study along one particular line, are all channelled in one groove. Their thoughts are fixed, and there will be no departure from the normal channels.

Yet these 13 men, if this Bill is passed in its present form, will be those who act as the directors. They will hold the key to the question whether research should be done in this particular sphere or that particular sphere, or whether all avenues are to be investigated. I say they will be the pivot point on which the whole of the success or failure of the cancer council will revolve.

Therefore, the selection of this council is most vital; and what is activating my mind is: Will the cancer council investigate new ideas, or will it be a body to carry out the purchasing of new machines, perhaps some of them of very doubtful value? For instance, we have already purchased a linear accelerator at a cost of £100,000. I understand from other countries of the world that this type of machine is on its way out; yet we have not got ours operating.

Mr. O'Brien: On the way out already?

**Mr. LAPHAM:** Yes. In effect, what will this cancer council accomplish? One must remember it has a predominance of fixity of view; it has 13 medicos thinking along the one line; it will conform to a certain pattern as a result of years and years of training along a particular line. I do not think they will ever move away from it. My experience has been that if one mentions anything other than the normal thing to a medico he lightly pooh-poohs the idea.

**Mr. Court:** With the effluxion of time there will be changes in personnel.

**Mr. LAPHAM:** That is true; and with the effluxion of time, cancer might get me, and I would like to get on with the job of finding a cure. Each week, 12 people in Western Australia die from cancer.

**Mr. Court:** Some of the best medical research brains in the world are actively engaged in this.

**Mr. LAPHAM:** That is true. But it only takes one person to find a cure, and he could be in Western Australia. If we utilise the brains of the medicos, and have the driving force of laymen with them, possibly we will get somewhere. I do not want to stultify any medico; I want to give him a hand.

**Mr. Court:** What will laymen do to speed up research?

**Mr. LAPHAM:** They can direct policy. The hon. member for Wembley Beaches drew attention to what has happened in regard to the native flora of this State. Twelve years ago a plant was found which had a beneficial result on what were supposed to be cancer cases. Yet, during that 12 years, nothing whatever has been done to find out whether there is any medicinal quality in that plant.

I have been told that the Government Chemical Laboratories are not equipped to do the job, which is all boloney. They have £20,000 worth of equipment there. Some of the finest plant obtainable is at the Government Laboratories. The trouble is they have not the incentive.

We have the ability and the plant at the Government Laboratories, but what are they doing? Finding out a bit about cement or print or dealing with something that does not matter, when they should have been, over the 12 years, finding out about this native plant, because it has given beneficial results. I have tried it out on friends of mine with cancer, one of whom is alive today; and he swears that he would not be alive if he had never had the extract from this plant.

While I am on this subject I feel that everybody in this House should realise what has happened in regard to *scaevola spinescens*. As I have already said, it was known 12 years ago, but it is only in the last 12 months that anything has happened at all at the Government Laboratories.

They have moved to the extent where they are obtaining an aqueous extract from this plant, in the same manner, unfortunately, as did Sergeant Monk who found this plant almost 12 years ago.

The method Sergeant Monk used to find his dosage was of a type one would expect from any layman. He tried it out on himself. He put the bark and the root in water, evaporated the water, and drank the solution. If it had no effect, he took more water out of it and boiled it up more. I cannot remember the quantity it finally contained, but he became violently ill, and said it was too strong.

**Mr. O'Brien:** He didn't have enough water.

**Mr. I. W. Manning:** Not enough water with it.

**Mr. LAPHAM:** To be on the safe side, he doubled the quantity of water and said that was to be the dosage or the prescription. That is the method they are using at the Government Laboratories, and they are not allowed to alter it. I wrote to the Minister and asked him when the Government Laboratories would be allowed to get down to a basis to find out what was a decent dosage, and whether this stuff could be spun-dried, and whether it could be analysed to find out what it contained. This is the reply I got from the Minister—

In reply to your letter of the 20th ult., in which you express regret that the method employed to prepare the extract from the plant *Scaevola Spinescens* by the Government Chemical Laboratories was only that which was originally applied by Sergeant Monk, I wish to point out that in the absence of requests for some alteration in the preparation by the Medical Department, this must of necessity be the case.

The Minister said "in the absence of requests by the Medical Department." The Medical Department has known of it for 12 years; and what has it done? Absolutely nothing! And if we put 13 medicos on the cancer council, they will do absolutely nothing also.

**Mr. Court:** I do not think that is fair comment.

**Mr. LAPHAM:** We have a body called the Anti-Cancer Council on which we have the busiest medicos, who cannot give it very much time.

**Mr. Court:** The busiest men get things done. It is the same in all walks of life.

**Mr. LAPHAM:** A lot of thought must be given in a cancer council to find a cancer cure. But honorary medicos are extremely busy men, and if we get them together, how much time can they give? Very little. How much thought? I would say very little. They are not the right men to put

on a cancer council. They have the knowledge, and it should be put to the best use. For instance, if we want to have specialists as members of a cancer council, I would say that firstly we would want a general practitioner—

Mr. Crommelin: Who says you are not going to have one?

Mr. LAPHAM: That is O.K. We should have a specialist physician, a specialist surgeon, and specialists from all the various branches. We should also have a pathologist, a radiologist—both diagnostic and therapeutic—a physicist, a biochemist, a pharmacologist, and a medical statistician; but few of these people will waste their time. I do not think it necessary to waste their time. They are prepared to give time in the job they are trained to do; they do not want to deliberate at meetings. What they require is somebody to direct them as to what to do.

Take the pharmacologist: He could have been finding out what was in this plant—*scaevola spinescens*—but of course, over the 12 years no particular effort has been made by the Medical Department to find out something of the plant, and nothing has been done. Even though nothing has been done, the medical men argue that it might be necessary to find new drugs for the cure of cancer. I have a cutting here from the "Sunday Times" which indicates that a top Sydney doctor, who returned to Sydney from Japan, said that new drugs had achieved 40 per cent. of cures of cancer and leukaemia in mice, and he looked forward to similar success with human beings.

I do not know what drugs he used, but there is plenty of scope in Western Australian to look at the drugs which are available here. They are not wrapped up in packets; they are growing in the bush. The natives had been using them for generations before white men came here, and they got along all right until we polluted them. Because they got along all right, they must have had something which could be beneficial to us. The trouble is that these natives are dying out. The methods they used for treatment of their ailments are going also, because they are not passed down from father to son; it is the witch doctor process with the natives.

As a result, we could lose a lot of these native cures if we do not take advantage of the time remaining to us to investigate these things. I feel it would be advisable to appoint a field officer to get out and collect specimens of the plants, and to find out the method used by the natives to prepare them. If we did that, we would at least have a statistical record of what the natives used as medicines; and then we could investigate those medicines and see whether they were beneficial to us.

Mr. Court: What do you envisage as the actual work of this council? I think you have a slight misunderstanding of its real mission.

Mr. LAPHAM: According to the Bill, the cancer council is to co-ordinate and stimulate research into the causation, prevention, and treatment of cancer and allied conditions etc.

Mr. Court: You have given the impression that these men are going to sit down and be responsible for the detailed research.

Mr. LAPHAM: I am not saying they are responsible for the detailed research: I am saying we are putting on medicos who could be better utilised. After all, they are the ones who will direct the manner in which the research is to take place. Could the hon. member for Nedlands, in the circumstances I have just outlined—for 12 years we have known of something that could possibly have a beneficial effect on cancer—honestly consider that the people who have been dormant for that period will suddenly decide that research into our flora should now be undertaken?

Mr. Court: They have not been dormant for 12 years.

Mr. LAPHAM: I have been here for six years, and during that time I have been trying to stir someone up to do something about the plants in Western Australia. It is disgraceful that we, in this State, have done nothing in regard to cancer. Other countries have, as a first step, investigated their own flora, but Western Australia has done nothing. Australia, the oldest country in the world, could possibly have something in its plants. But, no, do not disturb Western Australia; we would not have anything here; we would have to get it from overseas! That is the attitude that has applied for many years in this State. We have had opportunities to do something, but we have done very little.

I will give another illustration. We have an organisation here—St. Just Laboratories—who wanted to find out the result of the analysis of *scaevola spinescens*. This organisation wrote to the Minister, and I shall read the relevant parts of its letter. It says—

Of recent date we have shown an interest in *scaevola spinescens* which substance has been developed by Mr. A. T. Monck and produced by the Government laboratory.

The difficulty at the moment is that of securing sufficient support from the medical profession to obtain an adequate medical evidence, one way or the other, as to the value in part or in whole of *scaevola spinescens*.

This is a typical example of the potential that may exist with some of the materials available from native plant life.

We understand there are some dozens of possibilities and it does seem vital that every advantage should be taken of the knowledge of the natives while they are available in Western Australia to pass on the information.

The reply received from Dr. Samuel, Director of the Government Chemical Laboratories, is as follows:—

In reply to your letter of the 6th June, I have to advise that work on *scaevola spinescens* is at a much too early stage to enable me to comply with the requests in your letter.

He had had only 12 years in which to do anything—

As you are no doubt aware, to have plant material "thoroughly analysed and its individual properties ascertained" is a task of no small latitude. All that we have done so far is to prepare, by the method described to us by Sergeant Monck, an aqueous extract of the roots of *scaevola spinescens*, for supply to the Public Health Department for testing. The preparation consists merely of an extraction with water and concentration by evaporation, so that there is no real point in observing its preparation.

If desired a sample of *scaevola spinescens* can be supplied for your laboratory to analyse, and I should be pleased to have the results of the analysis.

That was turning it around the other way. I have mentioned this matter simply to give an illustration of what will happen—to my mind at least—if 13 medicos are placed on the cancer council, and only three laymen. I would much rather have the group suggested by the hon. member for Wembley Beaches. I would say that seven would be sufficient. They would act as a sort of steering committee, or whatever we liked to call it. They would outline the policy. They could draw on the knowledge of all the medical profession if they so desired. The main point at issue is that we must use all the knowledge available to the medical profession; and, at the same time, not be hidebound by custom or by teaching, but go out of our way to examine all avenues, if we are to find a cure for cancer, or even a palliative for it.

I suggest we will not get it if we put these 16 men, including 13 medicos, on the cancer council. I consider we should have a preponderance of laymen, and not medicos, on the council. In these circumstances, whilst I think the Bill is good, and I will support it, I hope the Minister will take a second glance at Part II, because therein, to my mind, lies the success or failure of it. I would prefer that he had second thoughts with respect to this committee, and that he put a preponderance of laymen on it so that they could be the directive force behind the knowledge of our medical men.

**MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON** (Cottesloe) [9.53]: It might be fairly said that there are a number of things not written into the Bill which are worthy of comment on the subject matter of the measure; and I feel it is wise that some of these features should be aired in this debate. However, in brief, the main purpose of the Bill is to set up a cancer council to administer the fairly large sum of money contributed by the public for the purpose of fighting cancer and providing research into the control of cancer.

I support the Bill, which, in one of its provisions, seeks to constitute the cancer council of Western Australia. The objects of the council are clearly outlined in the measure; and, summarised, they are to co-ordinate and stimulate research into cancer; to promote and subsidise research into the disease; to provide, maintain (and assist institutes concerned with the treatment of cancer; to establish and maintain accommodation for patients at the institute; to invite and receive gifts of money and of land; and to assist in the provision of teaching facilities in connection with cancer and allied conditions.

I submit that these are admirable objectives; and, in theory, I doubt whether they could be bettered if the council could draw on an unlimited sum of money, and if it did not allow itself to be completely circumscribed by existing medical thought on cancer research. I believe this point has been touched on by several speakers already.

In the first place, I believe that the money will be severely limited, and the opportunity for research will be slight. In order to carry out research, or to use for research some of the money which will be available for the actual treatment of cancer, the council will need to exercise its collective wisdom and be most practical and economical. I will refer to this point at a later stage. Suffice it to say at present, that it is important that the amount of money that will be at the disposal of the cancer council should be utilised in a manner which will obtain the greatest benefits at the present time and in the future. In the second place, I think it important for the council to be receptive to ideas of cancer treatment; ideas that are not necessarily proven clinically, or that are not even medically sound at the moment. At this stage I wish to refer briefly, as other speakers have done, to the theory or the hope that the W.A. shrub, *scaevola spinescens*, has properties which could possibly be used for cancer treatment—if not as a cure, then as a palliative.

It appears to me that some of the results claimed for the extract obtained from processing the roots of this plant, have been extraordinary; and some medical men, who previously have been sceptical about the possibilities of the drug, have had to revise their ideas to a certain extent.

Therefore, I say it is imperative that we exhaust every avenue to ascertain just what is available to us, in this plant, for cancer treatment. I suggest to the Government that a Royal Commission be appointed to investigate and make recommendations on the medicinal properties of extracts from W.A. flora, with particular reference to the apparent cancer palliative properties of *scaevola spinescens*.

Mr. Nulsen: It has very great palliative qualities.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I am inclined to agree. But we do not yet know what its impact on cancer research could be, and I think it should be examined much further. I therefore suggest that the Government consider appointing a Royal Commission to inquire exhaustively into the subject, and subsequently its recommendations could go before the cancer council. By that method we might be better able to arrive at the truth of the possibilities of this extract which, in a rather crude form, has already given hope and relief to cancer sufferers. This crude extract has already achieved that.

I submit again to the House the view that if anything can give hope and relief to sufferers from this dread disease, it is a great step forward, as hope and relief mean a great deal to people in agony, who have no hope for the continuance of their lives beyond a very short span of time.

Mr. Nulsen: I think Sgt. Monck should be commended greatly for his research and persistence.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Yes; but all that is empty unless the subject is pursued further.

Mr. Nulsen: We have done a fair bit in that regard.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I will be satisfied when the Minister tells me he has exhausted every possibility. The other most important portion of the measure empowers the cancer council to recommend that cancer institutes be constituted. Possibly it should be "institute", as I assume that for many years it will have to remain in the singular. But that institute will assist actively in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer; and, as such, will be of great importance to the community. It will be doubly important as not only will it assist in this respect, but also in teaching students methods of diagnosing and treating cancer. It will be a teaching hospital under the Act, and, as such, will come under the purview of the medical school, and will in that way be most valuable in teaching students the ways and means of combating cancer.

I desire now to deal with a matter that is not directly referred to in the Bill and has not been referred to by the Minister, although it arises out of a consideration of the Bill. I refer to the site of the proposed cancer institute, which will

house the linear accelerator and which will, as soon as possible, house other radio-therapeutic machines and equipment. I understand that there is a sharp division of opinion in top-line medical thought as to the proposed site, which is given as some 280 yards from the chest hospital at Hollywood. An important and knowledgeable section of top-line medical opinion believes it should be adjacent to the Royal Perth Hospital.

Mr. Nulsen: I think you will find that those people have now changed their opinions, and agree that, as the medical hospital will be at Hollywood, this institution should be there also.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I will later ask the Minister to make a statement to the House in that regard, and I would like him to give that matter close consideration before arriving at a firm decision on the question.

Mr. Potter: Have you consulted the member for the district?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I have not. I believe this division of opinion exists between officers of the Health Department and the professional teaching staff of the Medical School on the one hand; and on the other hand, the medical men already skilled in use of the radiotherapeutic equipment housed at the Royal Perth Hospital. Whether that difference of opinion has been ironed out I cannot say, but I know that it existed until very recently.

Mr. Nulsen: I do not think that the Royal Perth Hospital would ultimately be the best site.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I hope the Minister can prove that contention. I will now refer to questions asked and answers given on Wednesday, the 8th October. A study of them in detail, in relation to this problem of the site, reveals some interesting features, and I feel that the problems posed require elucidation before any final and irrevocable move is made.

Mr. Nulsen: I think you will find that since the Treasurer has definitely promised that a new hospital will be commenced in 1962, these people all agree that that is where it should be.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I hope the new hospital will be started in 1962, but it is by no means certain that it will be finished by 1967.

Mr. Nulsen: It will be started, and there is no reason why it should not be finished.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: That is not sufficient. I know what the objectives are; but let us refer to the questions and answers regarding the site. Before dealing with them, I would point out that while it is apparently the present intention to house the linear accelerator 280 yards

from the chest hospital, all other radio-therapeutic equipment is housed at the Royal Perth Hospital—

Mr. Nulsen: Only until further accommodation is available.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Let us examine the answer which the Minister gave to the question asked the other day. He was asked: "Is it intended to duplicate existing radiotherapeutic equipment at the Royal Perth Hospital in the proposed building at Hollywood?" That building, incidentally, will only be commenced in 1962. The answer the Minister gave was "No duplication of equipment that is adequately meeting requirements is envisaged, but additional equipment may from time to time be added."

Mr. Nulsen: On what date was that question asked?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: On Wednesday, the 8th October. As I said earlier, it is very important, in the interests of one of the main objects of the cancer council, which is research, that the council should treat the money in its care in the most practical and economic way possible.

Mr. Nulsen: I think they should have some future.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I do too. However, we find that there will be no duplication of equipment at the proposed building to house the linear accelerator. If that is so, it will mean that treatment of cancer patients will have to be given at the Royal Perth Hospital, with deep therapy machines and superficial therapy machines; and there will also have to be treatment of cancer patients in the building which will house the linear accelerator.

So it would appear at present, from the knowledge that I have, that there may have to be a shuttle service between the two places. I do not know whether the Minister, in recent times, has arrived at a collaborative decision that the radio-therapeutic equipment at the Royal Perth Hospital should be shifted to the new hospital; but even so, this hospital is not going to be started until 1962.

Mr. Nulsen: That is only four years away.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: There is no guarantee when that hospital will be finished, or what our income from the Commonwealth Government will be. So our plans in regard to hospitals cannot be absolutely relied on.

Mr. Nulsen: We must be optimistic; we cannot be pessimistic.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: But we must be realistic.

Mr. Nulsen: That is realism, too.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I think the Minister appreciates what could be the disastrous effects of the drastically reduced prices of our primary products.

There is no real certainty as to when the new hospital will be built. In the meantime we are faced with the problem of having a shuttle service between the two institutions—

Mr. Nulsen: There will possibly be a little inconvenience for two or three years.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: —whereas the linear accelerator could quite easily be housed adjacent to the Royal Perth Hospital. It is quite possible that in the near future—in fact it is more than possible—the linear accelerator, which we hope to get very shortly, will be outmoded. These questions are most interesting to a student of this matter.

Mr. Nulsen: I think you are taking a pessimistic view of the future.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: No; I would prefer to say a realistic view.

Mr. Potter: It all depends on the point of view.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: It is certainly not a joking matter, as the hon. member for Subiaco would agree. A further question asked was—

Is it intended that this new building shall become a centre for all aspects of radiation treatment?

The answer was—

The institute will develop according to the need and the funds available, the objective being to provide treatment by all modern methods of radiation.

That is an admirable objective. But once again it highlights the fact that it might be a long while before we will be able to reach that objective, whereas we could reach it within a comparatively short space of time by using the linear accelerator adjacent to the Royal Perth Hospital. Following the question as to whether the building would be a centre for all aspects of radiation treatment, a further question was asked as follows:—

If so, what provision will be made for treatment by radioactive isotopes and by radium as is at present available at the Royal Perth Hospital?

I want hon. members to understand that the question asked was: What provision will be made in this new hospital for that form of treatment? The answer was—

When, and if necessary, provision will be made.

That is the most optimistic and unrealistic answer that any Minister could ever give.

Mr. Nulsen: I have always been optimistic.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: It is not sufficient merely to be optimistic.

Mr. Nulsen: One cannot be realistic unless one has some optimism.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I think that one must have the greatest regard to the whole series of questions asked, and answers given, concerning the site. I do not intend exhaustively to pursue each question and each answer; but I would say to the Minister that, in view of the sharp division of opinion that exists, and the anomalous situation that has been revealed by the questions and answers, further thought should be given to the matter of the proposed site.

I would like the Minister to have a close look at the matter, and, after he has replied to this debate, to give the question of the site further consideration to see whether or not the difference of opinion that exists can be resolved. It is a vital question; and, if he cannot resolve the difference of opinion that exists, I suggest that he call in some outside expert opinion to adjudicate in the matter.

With the Bill, I find very little fault. I think its aims and objectives are admirable; and, with one or two minor amendments to the constitution of the council, I feel sure that it will prove to be a great instrument in combating the disease. I support the measure.

On motion by Mr. Potter, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 10.18 p.m.*

## Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 15th October, 1958.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL.

#### *Standing Orders Suspension.*

On motion by the Hon. H. C. Strickland (Minister for Railways) resolved:

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended so as to enable the second reading stage of the Local Government Bill to be commenced at this sitting.

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE.

#### STATE BUILDING SUPPLIES.

##### *Sales Organisation for Overseas Orders.*

1. The Hon. J. MURRAY asked the Minister for Railways:

In relation to overseas orders for karri wagon scantlings and mine guides—

(a) Do State Building Supplies rely on sales organisation set up by other members of the Sawmillers' Association for quota of orders for above lines?

(b) If answer to (a) is "No," what other sales organisation has the State Building Supplies set up?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND replied:

(a) No, but State Building Supplies do co-operate to some extent with other sawmillers in overseas marketing.

(b) The following are active and long standing agencies:—

United Kingdom and Continent—  
Antony Gibbs & Sons Ltd., 22  
Bishopsgate, London, E.C. 2.

South Africa—Wm. Cotts & Co. Ltd.,  
417 Smith Street, Durban.

New Zealand—C. & A. Odlin Timber  
& Hardware Co. Ltd., Cable  
Street, Wellington, N.Z.

Nos. 2 and 3: These questions were postponed.