5. Pig Industry Compensation Act Amendment Bill.
   Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture), and read a first time.
6. Companies Bill.
7. Companies Act Amendment Bill.
8. Welfare and Assistance Bill.
   Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Watts (Attorney-General), and read a first time.
9. Explosives and Dangerous Goods Bill.
10. Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Bill.
    Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Watts (Attorney-General) for Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Chief Secretary), and read a first time.
11. Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act Amendment Bill.
    Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Perkins (Minister for Native Welfare), and read a first time.
12. Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust Act Amendment Bill.
    Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Perkins (Minister for Transport), and read a first time.
13. Metropolitan Region Improvement Tax Act Amendment Bill.
    Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Perkins (Minister for Police), and read a first time.
14. Civil Aviation (Carriers' Liability) Bill.
    Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Perkins (Minister for Transport), and read a first time.
15. Spearwood—Cockburn Cement Pty. Limited Railway Bill.
    Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Court (Minister for Railways), and read a first time.
16. Alumina Refinery Agreement Bill.
    Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Court (Minister for Industrial Development), and read a first time.
17. Western Australian Marine Act Amendment Bill.
    Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Wild (Minister for Works), and read a first time.
18. Fruit Cases Act Amendment Bill.
    Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture), and read a first time.
19. Death Penalty Abolition Bill.
20. Painters' Registration Bill.
    Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Graham, and read a first time.

House adjourned at 6.11 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 5th September, 1961

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CONTENTS—*continued*

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

DE-SALINATION OF WATER

American Information and Cost of Plant

1. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Works:

   (1) Is the information from America, regarding de-salination of water, available from the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department in Perth?

   (2) Will the general public, on application, be given information on the various systems for de-salination?

   (3) What is the approximate cost of providing a de-salination plant?

   Mr. WILD replied:

   (1) Information on de-salination of water is available in the Metropolitan Water Supply Department; but as the subject is more applicable to country areas, fuller details are recorded in the Public Works Department.

   (2) Yes—on application to the Public Works Department.

   (3) A plant to produce 250,000 gallons per day would cost about £200,000 installed.

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS ACT

Tabling of Papers on Boundaries Case

2. Mr. HAWKE asked the Attorney-General:

   Will he please lay upon the Table of the House, all papers relating to the electoral districts boundaries case?

   Mr. WATTS replied:

   Papers up to the 18th August, 1960, were tabled during that month. Since that time papers mostly concern the litigation in which various members of the Labor Party were plaintiffs. It is not proposed to table those papers.

3. *This question was postponed.*

IRON ORE: MT. GOLDSWORTHY DEPOSITS

Sir Arthur Fadden's Press Statements

4. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

   (1) Were the statements made in *The West Australian* of the 29th August, 1961, by Sir Arthur Fadden in connection with Mt. Goldsworthy true or false?

   (2) Will he give a full explanation of the following statements to the House:—

   (a) That the Japanese steel industry is not prepared to make any capital investment to develop the Mt. Goldsworthy iron ore deposits;

   (b) that there were great discrepancies in the figures of the supposed tonnage of iron ore contained in the deposit;

   (c) that there was a big difference of opinion over the quality of the ore;

   (d) that very little reliable information was available in connection with the Port Hedland harbour proposal;

   (e) that the Commonwealth Government's restriction of 1,000,000 tons a year for export made it an uneconomic proposition;

   (f) that the tender terms and conditions of the Western Australian Government were completely unattractive;

   (g) that he (Sir Arthur Fadden) still had the Japanese Steel Mills sole accreditation for all matters relevant to the recovery and disposal of iron ore from the Mt. Goldsworthy deposits?

Tenders from Sir Arthur Fadden's Organisation

(3) Did Sir Arthur Fadden's organisation tender for the Mt. Goldsworthy iron ore when the previous tenders were called?

(4) If so, how does he account for Sir Arthur Fadden's changed outlook?

Correspondence between Mines Department and Sir Arthur Fadden

(5) Has there been any correspondence between the Mines Department and Sir Arthur Fadden dealing with iron ore; and if so, will he table all papers?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) to (5) The Minister for Mines is not responsible for the statements made by Sir Arthur Fadden. The fact that the Japanese Steel Mills have expressed willingness to purchase Mt. Goldsworthy iron ore from the successful tenderer and that six tenders have been received for the mining and export of Mt. Goldsworthy iron ore appears to make no further explanation necessary.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Officers' Resignations

5. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) How many officers in district offices of the Department of Agriculture have resigned in the past two years from the following positions:—

(a) Officer in charge;

(b) Advisory officers?

(2) From which section of the advisory service has each resigned?

(3) Was the department advised of the reasons for the resignations; and if so, what were they?

(4) Have all positions been filled? If not, which of the nineteen districts are now short of officers, and in what categories?

Mr. NALDER replied:

(1) (a) Three.

(b) Five including (a).

(2) Wheat and Sheep (2),
Sheep and Wool (1).
North-west (2).

(3) Yes. One to settle in Adelaide. Four to accept positions in private industry.

(4) Four positions have been filled. The fifth occurred only on the 31st August. Vacancies now exist at—

Esperance—Wheat and Sheep Adviser.

Carnarvon—Tropical Adviser.

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

Investments Placed on Course Totalisators

6. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

(1) Was it not the spirit and intention of paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 20 of the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act that as much of the money invested with the board on local races as it was practicable to place in the totalisators on the race courses would be placed in those totalisators?

(2) How long before the advertised starting time for races on country courses, in order to be fair to on-course patrons, would the prescribed closing time for the acceptance of bets need to be to enable the T.A.B. to transmit the bets received to the totalisators on the course?

(3) Why is it that a much larger percentage of the money invested with the board on country races in Western Australia is invested on the totalisator on the course than is the case with respect to investments on metropolitan races?

Payment into Separate Bank Account in August

(4) What was the total amount paid by the T.A.B. into a separate bank account during August in compliance with section 26 of the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

(1) Yes, but that the board be the sole judge as to what is practicable or otherwise. It is the policy of the board to place as much of the money received as is possible on the on-course totalisators.

(2) Generally speaking, 50 minutes.

(3) Mainly because the board decided that, by reason of the ease with which country totes can be manipulated, it would cease betting in sufficient time to enable all of the money received on country events to be placed on the appropriate on-course totalisators. In addition, the volume of money handled on country events makes it far more practicable to place all the money received on the on-course totalisators.

(4) £2,104.

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

Use of Chlorine

7. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

(1) How much chlorine was used by the Metropolitan Water Supply Department during last December, January and February?

(2) How much chlorine was used during the same months over each of the previous summers?

Mr. WILD replied:

(1) December, January, February, 1960-61—17.37 tons.

(2) December, January, February, 1959-60—7.87 tons (restrictions reduced quantity of water). December, January, February, 1958-59—10.08 tons. December, January, February, 1957-58—6.52 tons.

TAXI-CAR LICENSES

Transfers

8. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) Have any taxi-car licenses been permitted to be transferred since the 30th June, 1960?

(2) If so, how many?

(3) Who were the transferors and transferees, and what were the reasons for permitting the transfers in each case?

(4) How many applications for transfer have been rejected since the 30th June, 1960?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Thirty-six.

(3) J. H. Pinkerton to B. Burke, on medical grounds.
C. J. Bridgeman to B. K. Bryhn, on medical grounds.
D. I. Bryant to E. Rutter, on medical grounds.
A. E. Oldfield to B. W. Stagoll, on medical grounds.
M. Smith to D. Smith, order of Supreme Court.
H. C. Stephens to Yellow Top Taxis, on medical grounds.
A. F. Hargrave to Yellow Top Taxis, exceptional circumstances creating a domestic problem and hardship.
A. J. Leonard to L. A. Wood, on medical grounds and old age.
H. A. Day to P. Grogan, on medical grounds.
C. B. McKay to N. Williams, on medical grounds.
S. Tomic to A. Clifford, exceptional cricumstances because of Tomic's imprisonment and hardship to family. Also debts incurred to A. Clifford, transferee.
N. R. Pennefather to H. C. Vaisey, on medical grounds.
N. R. Pennefather to A. S. Van Den Hoek, on medical grounds.
R. H. Murdock to G. A. Stuart, exceptional circumstances created by Murdock selling and accepting money for the taxi, then leaving the State.
A. Meskauskas to L. A. Wood, exceptional circumstances owing to loss of transferor's licence to drive.
J. Sallinger to E. Sallinger, transferor killed in accident. Transferee is the wife.
R. Nikolic to C. Bernardi, transferor sold taxi and left State. Approved because of hardship to transferee who had paid full price for taxi.
L. M. Wheatley to L. A. Armstrong, transferor had taken lease of Rottnest Hostel and needed finance. Been in taxi business for some time.
M. J. Dicton to K. B. Foley, husband (driver) died suddenly and transferor unable to carry on business.
W. H. Morrow to A. Auguste, transferor sold taxi and left State. Hardship to transferee who had paid full price for taxi.
J. W. Morrison to K. J. Steedman, transferor accepted money for taxi from transferee, who was caused hardship.
D. M. Forbes to R. Cavinato, transferor's husband had license suspended, could not drive and they accepted money for the taxi from transferee who could not obtain repayment.
P. A. McGinn to J. de Boer, transferor sold taxi for full price and hardship caused to transferee who could not obtain taxi or repayment.
E. Sallinger to F. J. Attwood, transferor is a widow who could not conduct taxi business profitably.
A. B. Philpott to S. R. Baldwin, on grounds of old age and ill health.
V. J. Francis to F. G. Mackie, on grounds of ill health.
V. C. Armstrong and wife L. I. Armstrong, to Yellow Top Taxis. Transferred to a business name only. Owners proprietors of Yellow Top Taxis. Seven taxis transferred.
J. P. Rohan to A. Calogeri.
M. B. Rohan to W. C. West.
M. B. Rohan to N. A. Anderson. Domestic reasons caused exceptional circumstances. Transferors leaving State.

(4) Twenty-seven.

ROUND HOUSE, FREMANTLE

Use as Marine Life Aquarium

9. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Premier:
Will he, when considering the request from the Fremantle City—relevant to the establishment of a marine life aquarium project in the Round House—keep in mind that—

(a) the £50/70,000 establishment cost could be met entirely or in part from the Fisheries Development Trust Account;

(b) such expenditure is justified on the grounds of valuable developmental research facilities to the advantage of the fishing—particularly the crayfishing—industry; and

(c) that such an aquarium would be a very desirable tourist and public attraction, while at the same time retaining a building of valuable historical significance?

Mr. BRAND replied:

(a) and (b) The Fisheries Development Trust Fund is administered by the Commonwealth Government. Generally speaking, the money can be spent on developing fisheries in extra-territorial waters, whether the fisheries are confined solely to those waters or extend into territorial waters. Because of the constitutional limitation, direct financial assistance to the States from the fund itself cannot be given. I am advised that the proposed aquarium is not a project which could be financed from the fund.

(c) A proposal to establish an aquarium in another part of the metropolitan area was raised with the Tourist Development Authority last year. The authority considered there was merit in the project as a tourist attraction and stated its willingness to give consideration to some financial assistance should the proposal be substantially financed by other interests.

ROAD SAFETY MARKINGS

Use of Luminous Paint

10. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Transport:

As white pedestrian crossings and zigzag warnings are difficult to pick up on wet nights on account of the reflection from street lighting and motorcar headlights, will he endeavour to arrange more suitable markings (preferably luminous)?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

There is no more suitable marking for pedestrian crossings known at present than the zebra road-marking, together with reflectorized "walking legs" signs, reinforced by the advance warning zigzag marking as used in this State. This State's use of advance warning zigzag markings, in addition, is a considerable improvement on pedestrian crossing marking in use elsewhere, and over and above that recommended by the S.A.A. Road Signs Code. At present there is no luminous paint available for markings on the road pavement itself.

HOUSING IN GUILDFORD-MIDLAND ELECTORATE

Erections in Koongamia, Midvale, Eden Hill, and Bassendean Areas

11. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

(1) Is it intended to build any further houses in the Koongamia, Midvale, Eden Hill, Bassendean areas?

(2) If the answer is "Yes," will he state in what place the houses are to be built?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) In Ashfield-Bassendean area during 1961-62. In Koongamia, Midvale, and Eden Hill—when number of applications warrant.

BUSHMEAD ORDNANCE STORE

Road Construction in Vicinity

12. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Have arrangements been completed to enable the Abattoir Board to have a new road built around the ordnance store at Bushmead?

(2) If the answer is "Yes," will he state when the work will be completed?

Mr. NALDER replied:

(1) Arrangements have not been finalised in regard to boundary alignment of the ordnance store.

(2) The road is 95 per cent. completed and in use by through traffic.

GAOLS AND POLICE STATIONS

Authority for Detentions

13. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Police:

Under what conditions and by what statutory authority can persons be detained by police at a gaol or station without being charged and, accordingly, without facing a court appearance?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

Persons are not detained by the police against their will, other than when arrested and charged, and there is no statutory authority for them to do so.

WATER RATES

Valuations of Properties of Former State Building Supplies

14. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

(1) Has the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department finalised the rating valuations on each of the properties owned until recently by the State in the name of the State Building Supplies?

(2) If the answer is "Yes," what are the rating valuations?

(3) If the answer is in the negative, when will the valuations be finalised?

Mr. WILD replied:

(1) and (2) No.

(3) It is anticipated that the valuations will be available on the 12th September.

WYNDHAM MEAT WORKS

Audit: Tabling of Papers

15. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for the North-West:

(1) Why were the papers relating to the audit of accounts of the Wyndham Meat Works for the year ended the 31st January, 1960, not laid on the Table of either House?

(2) Will he table them forthwith?

Mr. COURT replied:

(1) This was an oversight.

(2) Yes.

"SPREAD SERVICE"

Proposed Agreement with Superspreading Contractors

16. Mr. ROBERTS asked the Attorney-General:

(1) Has he seen a copy of the proposed agreement between bulk superphosphate spreading contractors and "Spread Service"?

(2) Is there any company or firm registered in this State under the name of "Spread Service" that is in any way associated with spreading of fertiliser?

Mr. WATTS replied:

(1) Yes; but the department has no copy in its possession.

(2) Inquiries at the Companies Office reveal there is no such company or firm registered.

"AUSTRALIND"

Operating Costs and Revenue

17. Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) What is the present cost per day of operating the *Australind*?

(2) What is the average revenue per day of the *Australind* for the months of—

(a) December, 1960;

(b) June, 1961?

Time-table.

(3) On days other than Wednesday, what time does the *Australind*—

(a) depart Perth;

(b) arrive Bunbury?

(4) On Wednesday of each week, what average additional time is being taken for the journey Perth to Bunbury?

(5) If the *Australind* stopped at all stations south of the suburban service, for the purpose of picking up and setting down passengers, and light mail—

(a) what additional time would be needed for the Perth-Bunbury journey;

(b) what would be the additional cost of operating the service?

Mr. COURT replied:

(1) Train-operating costs are not recorded for separate trains. A separate survey is necessary to determine the cost of a train, and then a number of arbitrary distributions of certain costs have to be made. The problem of costing particular trains is one that has confronted and continues to confront railway systems throughout the world. Direct costs such as crew wages are straightforward, but other costs have to be distributed either on the basis of general averages, or by some formula such as train-miles, train-hours, train-hours-miles, vehicle mileage, route mileage, staff employed, etc.

(2) Records are not kept of revenue received from individual trains. However, for the information of the honourable member, a comparison of the number of passengers carried on the *Australind* for the months of December and June, 1959, 1960, and 1961 is set out hereunder:—

	Perth-Bunbury		
	1959	1960	1961
December	3,476	3,825	—
June	1,909	1,930	1,977
	Bunbury-Perth		
	1959	1960	1961
December	2,624	3,287	—
June	2,304	2,192	2,600

(3) (a) 9.30 a.m.
(b) 12.35 p.m.

(4) Fifteen minutes. On Wednesdays the *Australind* departs Perth at 9.30 a.m. and arrives in Bunbury at 12.50 p.m.

(5) (a) If the *Australind* from Perth were to stop at all stations south of Armadale, approximately fifty-five minutes would be added to the journey from Perth to Bunbury.
(b) For the reasons given in answer No. (1) above, this information is not readily available.

HOUSING COMMISSION HOMES

Applications and Proposed Erections in South-west Centres

18. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

(1) What is the number of applications for State Housing Commission houses in—
(a) Manjimup;
(b) Nannup;
(c) Pemberton;
(d) Northcliffe?

(2) How many houses will be built in each of these centres during the current financial year?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1)

	Rental		Purchase
	2 units	3 or more units	
Manjimup	6	12	7
Nannup	2	7	....
Northcliffe	....	....	....
Pemberton	....	....	....

(2)

	Rental	Purchase	Estimated Vacancies
Manjimup	10	2	7
(Plus one under Government Employees' Scheme)			
Nannup	5	1	....
Northcliffe		....	At present one home vacant.
Pemberton		....	No demand for homes.

Evictions for Arrears of Rent

19. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

(1) How many tenants were evicted from State Housing Commission accommodation for rental arrears during last financial year?

(2) What was the total outstanding amount involved?

(3) Were any such tenants owing less than £10?

(4) If so, how many, and what were the respective amounts?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) Twenty.

(2) £1,605.

(3) Yes.

(4) Two—£4 and £6.

20. *This question was postponed.*

BAUXITE

Operations of Western Aluminium

21. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

(1) What is the area that Western Aluminium holds under reservation for the purpose of examination and prospecting for bauxite?

(2) Has the company applied for and been granted mining leases in this reservation; if so, how many, what is the area, and where are they situated?

(3) What tonnage of bauxite has the company mined from the area and what percentage of alumina does it contain?

(4) What tonnage has been proved on the areas and what further tonnage is estimated?

(5) What tonnage has been sent to other States for processing and what tonnage to other countries?

(6) What is the capacity of the reduction plant which the company and its partners propose to erect in the vicinity of Kwinana?

(7) Will the company be permitted to continue to ship unprocessed ore after the proposed plant is in operation?

(8) If so, what quantity and to what destination?

(9) What royalty will the Government receive for the bauxite mined, and what other payments?

(10) What is the reason that the company is only building a reduction plant in this State and is establishing an integrated aluminium industry in Victoria at a reported cost of £40,000,000?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) 5,538 square miles.

(2) An agreement has been executed between the company and the Government, and will be presented to Parliament for ratification—probably next week. Information will then be given which will reply to this question and Nos. (6), (7), (8), and (9).

(3) 36,741 tons have been reported with a metallic content of alumina of 17,548.36 tons.

(4) Approximately 80,000,000 tons, and exploratory work is proceeding.

(5) 7,277 tons to Tasmania.
29,464 tons to Japan.

(6) to (9) see answer to No. (2).

(10) Bauxite is to be treated at a refinery to be constructed at Kwinana, and the product of this refinery—namely, alumina—will be sent to Victoria for processing. The capitalisation of an industry

such as aluminium is very high, and any company entering into such a transaction could do so only if its raw materials and power costs are assured for a very long period. The company could not be assured of sufficiently large quantities of cheap fuel over a long period of years in this State to provide the right power costs. It has obtained coal deposits at Anglesea, Victoria, which will, it is understood, give them reserves of about 400,000,000 tons extractable at very low cost per ton consistently over the life of the deposit.

COAL DEPOSITS AT WILGA

Exploration by Western Mining Corporation

22. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

(1) What exploration work has the Western Mining Corporation or any of its subsidiaries carried out on the Wilga coal deposits which are held as a reserve?

(2) Has the company tested the deposits by drilling?

(3) If the answer to No. (2) is "Yes," will he state the number of holes drilled, the respective footage, and with what result?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) The Western Mining Corporation has carried out considerable exploratory geological and geophysical work for coal in the south-west. Particular reference was paid to the area from Treesville southwards through Collie to Bridgetown and eastwards to Lake Muir. A detailed gravity survey similar to that successfully made at Collie some years ago was carried out in large sections of the area. The results at Wilga show that the basin is much smaller in extent than originally supposed—the total area being only 5.5 square miles. Gravity work disclosed small sedimentary basins at Treesville, Wilga East, Wilga South, and near Lake Muir.

(2) and (3) The company drilled two holes at Treesville and encountered basement at less than 100 feet.

On the Wilga East basin one diamond drill hole was sunk to 925 feet. The best coal intersection made was 3 ft. 10 in. at 50½ feet. The remainder of the hole showed only occasional thin intersections of coal of usually less than one foot in thickness.

On the redefined boundary of the Wilga Basin, earlier drilling of 26 holes was considered sufficient to evaluate its coal potential.

COAL AT MUJA OPEN CUT

Source of Information on Quantity Available

23. Mr. MAY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

With further reference to my question No. 8 answered on Wednesday, the 30th August, 1961, and his reply, will he inform the House whether it was an officer of the Mines Department who estimated the quantity of coal available within the Muja open-cut area?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

See *Geological Survey Bulletin No. 105, Part 2.* At the request of the Collie Miners' Union, the Muja open-cut was also examined by an independent coal mining engineer, Mr. C. W. Marshall, of New South Wales.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

CLOSED RAILWAY LINES

Sale of Dismantled Rails

1. Mr. W. A. MANNING asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) Under what price and conditions are rails being offered to farmers along closed railway lines about to be dismantled?

(2) Will he arrange for a Government representative to visit such areas to decide special problems which may arise in particular districts?

Mr. COURT replied:

(1) In respect of the railways listed in the Railways (Cue-Big Bell and other Railways) Discontinuance Act, 1960, the prices for rails to be made available to farmers in accordance with Government policy will be:

£14 per ton ex stack.
£11 per ton *in situ.*

(2) Yes.

MEMBERS' CORRESPONDENCE

Removal of Envelope Addressed to a Minister

2. Mr. GRAYDEN asked the Speaker:

(1) Is the action of the member for Beeloo, who admitted that he had taken possession of, and removed, and retained in his possession an envelope which was addressed to the Minister for Industrial Development, and which had been

inadvertently left in the Strangers' Room, ethical by usual and accepted parliamentary standards?

(2) Is there any action that can be taken to prevent a repetition of this type of conduct?

Mr. Graham: Yes; do not leave envelopes about.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) replied:

(1) The question of ethics of a member of Parliament, which has been raised by the member for South Perth, refers to an action taken outside this Chamber, and does not come within the jurisdiction of the Speaker. However, the whole question of parliamentary ethics does depend entirely on the ethics of the member concerned. I am afraid I will have to leave that question at that.

(2) So far as taking action to prevent it is concerned, I do not know how I am going to prevent things that are inadvertently done.

Contents of Removed Envelope

3. Mr. GRAYDEN asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

In view of the fact that the member for Beeloo has cited the envelope which was left by the Minister in the Strangers' Room, as so-called "evidence" in support of the member for Beeloo's entirely unsupported charges that people associated with the Cockburn Cement Co. are "friends" of the Minister, will he explain the contents of the letter and the purpose for which it was delivered?

Mr. COURT replied:

In the course of his work a Minister receives a tremendous amount of correspondence both at the House and in his office, and it would be impossible for me to be absolutely certain of all the mail I received. I receive mail from the most extraordinary quarters. I suppose it is just as well I did not leave the envelope of the letter addressed to me by Mr. Chamberlain, or he might be in the position of having the member for Beeloo make accusations against him. The only letter I can recall having received from the Cockburn Cement Co. during this session is one in which Sir Halford Reddish sent a copy of a letter he was about to release because it mentioned my name. He referred it to me, as Minister for Industrial Development, as a matter of courtesy. He asked that the letter be sent to me by safe hand. Whether I left the envelope around or not, I do not know. If this place has become so low that one cannot leave an envelope around, we have come to a sorry pass.

Several members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Graham: Even important papers.

Containers for Burning

4. Mr. GRAYDEN asked the Speaker:

In view of the importance of ensuring the sanctity of members' private and official mail, will he consider having all existing wastepaper-baskets in the precincts of this House replaced with steel containers having insulated bottoms in order that members might burn their discarded papers?

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) replied:

If the wastepaper-baskets that have been in existence at Parliament have not been changed, then they are about to be changed for steel containers. I do not think we can accept the proposition that correspondence should be burned under these circumstances.

Information from Discarded Envelopes

5. Mr. GRAYDEN asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

(1) In view of the frequent complaints by members of the Opposition that they do not receive sufficient information from Ministers when the Ministers reply to questions, and in view of the amount of information which members of the Opposition claim they can derive from a discarded envelope, will the Minister consider leaving a number of envelopes in the Strangers' Room so that members of the Opposition might appropriate them and thus make up for the alleged lack of information?

Mr. J. Hegney: You are wasting the Assembly's time.

Mr. Graham: Just an ass!

Mr. GRAYDEN: Continuing—

(2) Is there any truth in the rumour that all State Government Departments have been instructed to forward all their discarded envelopes to Parliament House in order that the members of the Opposition might obtain so-called information from them?

Mr. COURT replied:

(1) and (2) I will answer the second question first before I forget its contents. I have not given instructions to my office to send all its discarded envelopes to Parliament House. So far as the first part of the question is concerned,

I can say quite frankly that I have no intention of taking the precaution of destroying all envelopes as I have nothing to hide. Surely it is of no great moment if I leave them around this place.

IRON ORE: MT. GOLDSWORTHY DEPOSITS

Tenders from Sir Arthur Fadden's Organisation, and Correspondence with Mines Department

6. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

In regard to question No. 4 on today's notice paper, I would remind the Minister that he did not answer part (3) and part (5) of that question. Is he in a position to answer those questions now; and, if not, can he obtain the information for me?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

I cannot answer those questions off-hand. As they deal with the portfolio of another Minister, I think it will be more appropriate if I obtain the answers and subsequently advise the honourable member.

NATURAL THERAPISTS BILL

Tabling of Royal Commission's Report

7. Mr. CROMMELIN asked the Minister for Health:

(1) Has the Minister received the report of the findings of the Honorary Royal Commission which inquired into the practice of natural therapists?

(2) If so, can he advise of the probable date when he will lay the report on the Table of the House?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) Yes, at long last I have received the report of that Honorary Royal Commission; but as yet I have had no opportunity to look at it.

(2) I propose to study this report and take it to Cabinet as soon as possible; and I should think that consideration can be given to tabling the document within a week or two.

TOBACCO INDUSTRY

Assistance

8. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Premier:

Further to question No. 6 on the 31st August, is the Premier now in the position to give information to this House as to any assistance Cabinet has decided to give the tobacco industry?

Mr. BRAND replied:

The Minister for Agriculture brought certain recommendations and suggestions to Cabinet as to how some relief could be given in certain circumstances, and that proposition is now being examined by the Treasury. I may be able to say something further about this later today. If not, I should be able to say something no later than tomorrow.

RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT

Tabling of Standardisation Agreement

9. Mr. COURT: An undertaking was given to the member for Fremantle that the rail standardisation agreement between South Australia and the Commonwealth would be tabled; and I have a copy here.

The agreement was tabled.

HEALTH EDUCATION COUNCIL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Health) [5.1 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

I introduce this short amending Bill to correct what I consider to be an anomaly which has existed since the Health Education Council Act was passed by both Houses in 1958. The whole purpose of the measure is to make provision for statutory representation on the council of a member of the Australian Dental Association.

The Health Education Council of Western Australia was formed as an advisory body to the Minister for Health in March, 1956, but on the 1st May, 1959, the council was made a statutory body under the Health Education Council Act of 1958. At present the council is composed of 17 members, who represent a wide cross-section of professional and community interests. It will be remembered that at the time of the passing of the parent Act members on both sides of the House were in complete agreement with it.

Since its establishment, the council has done a considerable amount of good work in the community. In collaboration with other departments—principally the Education Department and the Department of Public Health—it has played no small part in the introduction of a new health education course in Western Australia's high schools. Its teaching-aids programme has aroused considerable Australia-wide interest in health education circles.

As was pointed out by the member for Eyre when he introduced the parent legislation, the council exists because of new needs in modern health. In the last 20

years there have been dramatic changes in the nature of health problems which affect the life of the community as a whole, and, particularly, the lives of children. Perhaps it might be said that there has been almost a complete reversal of the public health pattern because infectious diseases such as typhoid, diphtheria, tuberculosis, and more recently polio, to a very great extent have been brought under strict control. This has been achieved because of governmental action, medical advances made in both the curative and preventive fields, and also by the intelligent use by large numbers of people of the protective measures for children.

While governmental action in the provision of good legislation and community services must continue, problems now facing the community depend to a great degree for their solution—that is, in terms of control—on the knowledge and actions of individual people. Some of the major community projects undertaken by the council have been accidents in the home; food handling; nutrition; fly control; and, more recently, in the field of dental thealth.

In all but one of these fields the council has in its membership adequate resources of professional and community advice and opinion. The one to which I refer is that of dental health. The council has co-opted representatives of the dental profession to committees, and very much good work has been done; but it is felt that now, in view of the increasing awareness by the community of the need for something to be done in the field of dental health, permanent representations by the Australian Dental Association would be of value to the long-term dental health programme which will be necessary before dental disease, which is one of the last of the great diseases affecting children, is brought under adequate control.

Mr. Nulsen: The council has done excellent work, and this additional representation would be an advantage.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I think everyone will agree that dental health is tremendously important to the community because decayed and decaying teeth, besides being localised health nuisances, aggravate and, indeed, initiate health disturbances into much wider physiological spheres.

Mr. Nulsen: It is more important in children up to the age of 12.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Yes. The treatment of the teeth of children up to the age of 12—or during the formative years—is the most important. That is the time when the best form of dental work in the field of prevention can be adopted with greatest satisfaction.

Therefore I think that everyone who is interested in this particular field of public health and in improving what is already a very high standard of performance by the Health Education Council will approve of this additional representation.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Nulsen.

FIRE BRIGADES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Chief Secretary) [5.10 p.m.]: I move—

> That the Bill be now read a second time.

This short amending Bill is brought before the House because a doubt exists whether the powers conferred on the West Australian Fire Brigades Board by section 25A of the Fire Brigades Act are enforceable at law.

Very briefly, section 25A of the Fire Brigades Act makes it mandatory for fire-fighting appliances to be installed in buildings, and certain actions taken by the board to ensure that fire-fighting appliances are installed have been unable to be put into effect because of this difficulty concerning a doubt which exists with regard to whether the powers conferred on the Fire Brigades Board are enforceable.

An amendment to the Act, which was assented to on the 30th October, 1959, included, among other things, this new section 25A which gave the board power to direct the owner or occupier of premises to install equipment, apparatus, and appliances for the purpose of preventing or extinguishing fire, or preventing injury or damage to persons or property by fire.

In July, 1960, the board requested the Crown Law Department to prosecute a firm for non-compliance with an order under this section. The department then advised the board that the section, in its present form, does not impose any obligation on the owner or occupier of premises, as it was thought it did do. It was understood by Parliament, at the time this amending Bill was introduced and this new section placed in the Act, that the intention—the obligation—was there.

This matter has been discussed between the Crown Solicitor and the Chief Parliamentary Draftsman, and it is considered that to validate this matter, which it was thought was already covered by the Bill, and to rectify the position, an amendment should be made to section 72 of the Act providing that it shall be an offence not to comply with an order issued under section 25A. This small amending Bill does just that.

Since September, 1960, when the board ceased to issue orders under section 25A, 134 firms have complied with the board's

recommendation to install fire extinguishers, fire-fighting appliances, etc., but aproximately 80 firms have not complied, and of this number nearly 40 concern new premises in course of construction. Naturally enough, it is desired by the board that the position should be rectified as soon as possible in order to make it a legal obligation to install such appliances.

While the board's inspector reports that most firms are becoming more fire conscious and desire to co-operate in the installation of fire-fighting appliances, there is still a minority who will not co-operate in the interests of fire prevention unless it can be shown that compliance is required by statute.

That, in essence, constitutes the amending Bill. It is unfortunate that I have to bring it before the House again, as I thought the position had been well covered when I introduced legislation on a previous occasion. However, I trust the House will view this Bill sympathetically.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Moir.

[*The Acting Speaker (Mr. Crommelin) took the Chair.*]

UNAUTHORISED DOCUMENTS BILL

Second Reading

MR. WATTS (Stirling—Attorney-General) [5.16 p.m.]: I move—

> That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill has been suggested over a great number of years. In fact, Western Australia is now the only State in the Commonwealth of Australia, with the exception of Tasmania, which does not have legislation along the lines of this Bill.

It is interesting to go back over the files in the Crown Law Department dealing with this matter, and to find that over a period of 50 years there have been complaints against persons issuing documents in colourable representation of those issued from local courts of the State under the authority of State statutes; and, indeed, in some cases adorning them with a very colourable imitation—if not the actual thing—of the Royal Arms.

In the early 1930's, the Hon. T. A. L. Davy—who some members of this House will remember as Attorney-General—at that time prepared a Bill to deal with this matter. Unfortunately, his untimely death shortly after appeared to put an end to legislation at that time. In view of continual representations from the Law Society—and, indeed, from some of our own clerks of court as well—it has been deemed advisable to bring down this Bill, which is a very reasonable measure, designed to prevent the practice, which has been growing.

I might say, in explanation, that various debt-collecting firms send out these notices on beautiful blue paper, of exactly the same shade as that used by the local courts. At the bottom, one might read, "Sealed with our seal, Clerk of the Court." There, as I have said, is a colourable imitation of the papers and documents which are issued by the local courts in regard to their normal transactions under the Local Courts Act.

Mr. Nulsen: It looks like a summons of the court.

Mr. WATTS: Yes; it is meant to look like one. In one case there was an alleged summons. That was followed, in five days' time, by a warrant of execution on the same type of blue paper.

The Bill proposes to declare illegal the unauthorised used of the Royal Arms or other arms; that the issue, use, or the false or misleading process is an offence. A provision has been placed in the Bill to provide that proceedings under this Bill, when it becomes an Act, shall not be commenced against any individual without the certificate of the Attorney-General; so that every case, before proceedings are taken, can be investigated, and there will be no frivolous proceedings taken by some individual.

The penalties in the Bill are not very heavy. It will be found that the penalty for unlawfully using the Royal Arms or any colourable imitation thereof is £20—that is a maximum penalty, of course—and the Bill provides that the onus of proving that a person had authority to use the Royal Arms shall lie upon the person charged; because obviously only a person with authority should use these particular insignia.

The next provision stipulates that persons who send or distribute the documents to which I have made reference—so as to explain more particularly what they are like—can, if convicted, be subject to a penalty not greater than £50; and, of course, as I have said, the proceedings cannot be taken without the certificate of the Attorney-General.

The Bill provides that a man cannot be charged twice for the same offence. It will be observed that the final clause of the Bill states—

> Nothing in this Act shall be held to affect any other proceeding, civil or criminal, which might have been taken against any person if this Act had not been passed, but a person shall not be punished for the same offence under any such proceeding and under this Act.

So I think the intention of the Bill is quite clear; and the need for it is equally clear. Its provisions are reasonable enough to warrant its acceptance.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Nulsen.

WELFARE AND ASSISTANCE BILL

Second Reading

MR. WATTS (Stirling—Attorney-General) [5.24 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

I introduce this measure on behalf of the Minister for Child Welfare; and perhaps members will forgive me, therefore, if I am not as completely familiar with it as I would like to be.

For a long time it has been considered that the methods by which the Child Welfare Department deals with the granting of financial assistance to so many people, and in so many circumstances, should be the subject of regularising legislation. There are certain instances where moneys that have been advanced by the Child Welfare Department could be recovered, because the persons concerned are capable of repaying them; but those moneys cannot be recovered, we are advised, in the absence of this regularising legislation.

The Child Welfare Department has been advised, concerning its difficulties in recovering the relief expenditure which ought to be recovered, that to facilitate the recovery of moneys advanced, it will be necessary to enact a short measure which will, firstly, authorise the Minister responsible for the department to advance moneys to wives either for themselves or for their children; or to institutions which are concerned with the maintenance and welfare of children who have been deserted by either or both parents; and it is also necessary to give a right of recovery to the Minister where moneys have been so advanced.

From a practical point of view, the widest discretion will be necessary in the persons who have to make the advances so that proof that the moneys were advanced for necessaries will be avoided. The Bill will carry out the intention which is implicit in that statement.

It is not proposed, as I understand the position, to make any substantial changes in the methods adopted by the Child Welfare Department in the handling of relief. The other day, at the request of the Leader of the Opposition, I tabled a list of the financial assistance that could be granted in certain cases, and is granted, by the Child Welfare Department; and there is no intention to vary that state of affairs other than, perhaps, if it is found necessary to do so, to increase it at some future occasion.

The Bill deals with the right of the Minister to grant relief and to lay down conditions as to repayment; and the Minister is given power to delegate his authority for this purpose. Obviously in this case the delegation would be to the director.

The Bill also deals with the avenues of recovery in cases where advances have been necessitated through the wilful neglect of persons to meet their maintenance obligations. Members will realise that a wife is frequently in the position of having the right to make a substantial claim for maintenance against her husband—it has probably been established by an order of the court; but it takes time in which to make the order effective. In the meantime the woman—probably with children to maintain—finds herself without means of support; and it is there that the Child Welfare Department steps in and provides her with the money which is necessary to enable her to carry on pending the recovery of the maintenance from her husband.

But there have been cases where money has been paid out in that way by the department, and the woman has subsequently recovered the full amount from her husband, but has then made no attempt to reimburse the department the amounts which it has, in good faith, advanced to her in the intervening period. It is thought, therefore, that there should be greater surety that those amounts can be recovered.

Advances are also made on a refundable basis to persons awaiting payment of compensation, or insurance, or the finalisation of an estate, or payment of a debt that is due, quite apart from family maintenance. Here again it is expected that when the funds are recovered by the person concerned, a recoup, wholly or in part, will be made to the Child Welfare Department; but sometimes that does not happen.

The Bill provides ways and means whereby the Minister or his delegate can go to the source of this money and put in his claim so that he will not be in the position of missing the bus in the manner I mentioned a few moments ago.

Another provision in the Bill is to determine the liability for the funeral expenses of persons dying in necessitous circumstances, where advances are made by the Child Welfare Department. From memory, I think the figure is up to £26 in any one case; and it is provided in the Bill that certain relatives are to be liable to recoup the amount to the Child Welfare Department. In the case of a person, other than an unmarried child, it is the husband or widow, as the case may be, and the adult children of that person; in the case of an unmarried child it is the father, the mother, the step-father, or the step-mother. That does not mean to say, of course, that the Minister will necessarily take action to recover the money. It will depend largely, as in all other cases, as I understand the position, on the circumstances of the particular case.

I have some interesting statistics regarding the amounts advanced by the Child Welfare Department and what the department is able to recover. For the year 1959-60, the amount advanced was £270,992, and the department thought that it ought to recover approximately £50,000, which would be less than 18 per cent. The figures show that the department recovered only £25,000, or approximately half of what it estimated; and much less than 10 per cent. of the total advanced. In 1960-61 the total advances were £275,359—and that, I should say is the figure that is pertinent to this Bill, so the director advises me. Again the department thought it might recover £50,000, but actually it recovered only £26,000.

Therefore the figures indicate that a great volume of assistance is not regarded as recoverable but as a contribution for the relief of families in distress on behalf of the community through the Child Welfare Department. I think that is a very proper state of affairs. However, when there are circumstances such as I have indicated, and when there have been ways and means available with relative ease for paying in whole or in part the amount that has been advanced; and also when the advances are made in expectation of funds coming in for the benefit of the person concerned, and in all similar cases, I think we are justified in asking the person concerned to make his contribution to that repayment.

My period at the Child Welfare Department was some 12 or 13 years ago, but I recollect very well that at that time sympathetic consideration was given; and the figures, if I remember them rightly, just about bear comparison with those I have just quoted. But in order to lay down very clearly what is required in this matter; and in order to ensure that in certain cases the department shall have the right to recover, which hitherto, the department has been advised, has been doubtful, and to put the whole procedure on a firm basis so that all may see their obligations, this Bill is produced to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Hawke (Leader of the Opposition).

PIG INDUSTRY COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [5.35 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

I think it might be just as well if, before I explain this measure, I briefly remind members of the provisions of the parent Act, so that they will recall the reasons for the passing of the original legislation. The Pig Industry Compensation Act was introduced in the early days of the second World War, because of an outbreak of swine fever in Western Australia. The breeders of pigs, and the West Australian Pig Breeders' Association agreed that it would be desirable to establish a compensation fund; and, with the assistance of the Government, legislation was introduced and passed. From then on, every farmer who sold pigs had a small sum deducted from his returns, and stamps were affixed to the back of the statements before they were posted to the sellers of the animals.

That fund has gradually built up over the years, and I will quote the present state of the fund at a later stage. It has been a desirable move; and a number of breeders who from time to time have suffered losses because of the various diseases that are named in the principal Act have been recompensed by a payment for each beast that has been slaughtered or has died.

Under section 14 of the principal Act, exemption may be granted to livestock agents relieving them from the necessity to affix pig duty stamps to sales statements. Firms so exempted remit a monthly sum together with a statement of the total purchase price for all pigs and pig carcases handled. The purpose of this Bill is to extend provision for such exemption to two of the largest processing firms which, between them, handle the greater portion of the State's bacon pigs. It will be recalled that the Act was amended in 1957 to provide this concession for stock agents. Although at the time some doubts may have existed as to the possible abuse of such a scheme, five stock firms have been exempted and there has been nothing to suggest non-compliance with the Act in respect of collections.

It is obviously necessary to limit such concessions to large firms to facilitate the matter of supervision and control which would not be practicable in the case of numerous small operators. In this instance, therefore, only two of the largest processing firms are involved, a third company having indicated that it is not interested due to its limited purchases of pigs.

Although the amendment proposed is a minor one, it could not be effected shortly in the principal Act; because, as originally drafted, it fixed the liability to pay duty upon the owner and a selling agent only; and, as previously stated, the 1957 amendment provided for exemption to be given to selling agents.

As purchasers from owners or their agents the processing firms are not selling agents, and are therefore not liable, under the existing Act, for the payment of duty, although they have made a practice of doing so for a number of years.

Although compensation is payable for diseases such as tuberculosis, swine fever, swine erysipelas, paratyphoid or such

other disease as may be declared by proclamation, receipts have far outweighed payments and the fund now stands at £113,643, of which £100,000 has been invested; and £13,643 was held at the Treasury as at the 31st July, 1961. However, a substantial sum must be retained for use in the event of outbreak of a scourge such as swine fever. You may have read, Mr. Acting Speaker, from Press reports, that recently in New South Wales, there has been an outbreak of swine fever which has caused some concern in other States of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Rowberry: What about South Perth?

Mr. NALDER: Every effort is being made to contain the outbreak in the affected area of New South Wales to prevent its spread to other States. Action, by regulation, has already been taken by other States to prohibit the sale of live animals or processed meat. We in this State have to take every precaution, of course, because the danger of an outbreak is ever-present due to the shortening of distances as a result of fast, modern means of transport. This Bill has been discussed with the parties concerned and an agreement has been reached.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Rowberry.

METROPOLITAN (PERTH) PASSENGER TRANSPORT TRUST ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. PERKINS (Roe—Minister for Transport) [5.44 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This is a simple Bill to give the Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust the power to sell and dispose of unclaimed lost property. Under the Act at present, the trust does not have such power. The legislation under which the Western Australian Tramways & Ferries Department worked before the acquisition of its activities by the trust contained this power; and the Tramways Department disposed of such property accordingly. Without statutory authority, all unclaimed lost property found in vehicles operated by the Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust must be forwarded to the Police Department for sale by that department.

The Commissioner of Police has not the facilities to handle this lost property, and it is desirable that the Act under which the trust works be amended to give it the necessary authority to sell unclaimed lost property. It would appear to be rather trivial to have to make an amendment to the Act for this purpose, but I am advised by the Crown Law Department that the amendment is necessary. In the drafting of parts of this legislation there are small matters such as this which have been overlooked, and complications can ensue if the law is contravened.

I am informed there is a great deal more material to be handled than any member in this House might expect. At the present time there is a considerable amount of lost property on hand; therefore it has been considered advisable to make an amendment to the Act so that the matter can be put in order and the M.T.T. can carry on in much the same way as the Tramways Department did years ago in regard to lost property. As soon as the Act is proclaimed, steps will be taken to deal with the accumulation of lost property now on hand.

It is necessary to hold these articles which have been inadvertently left by passengers in buses, trolley-buses, or, formerly, trams; and I think that on all counts members will realise that it is not just a trivial matter that can be handed over to the Police Department. I have been advised by those officers who were previously in charge of the tramways, and who have since been transferred to the M.T.T., that this amendment is necessary in the interests of the trust itself and its patrons.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Graham.

METROPOLITAN REGION IMPROVEMENT TAX ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. PERKINS (Roe—Minister for Transport) [5.50 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to impose for the year ending the 30th June, 1963, and thereafter, a metropolitan region improvement tax at the rate of three-eighths of one penny for every pound of the unimproved value as assessed by or under the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act, 1959, and the Land Tax Assessment Act, 1907, of all land chargeable with the tax. The present Act imposes a tax at the rate of half of one penny in the pound for a period terminating on the 30th June, 1962.

Members will recall that a similar Bill associated with the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act Amendment Bill was introduced at the previous session. The Bill now brought forward differs from the previous Bill only to the extent that it is now proposed to reduce the amount of the tax from half of one penny to three-eighths of one penny. These measures have been debated at considerable length, and members may agree that it is not necessary to recapitulate extensively matters fully recorded.

Two conclusions which can be deduced from previous debates as no longer contentious are that the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority must have available to it sufficient funds to do the job entrusted to it; and that essentially the capital cost of implementing the metropolitan region scheme should be met through long-term loans. Three possible means by which such long-term loans could be funded have been put forward. They are as follows:—

(a) through loan funds or revenue already available to the Government;

(b) through a special tax related to the value of real estate and imposed through the State as a whole; or

(c) through a similar tax to be imposed only within the metropolitan area.

The Bill implies that reliance will be placed on the third means of financing metropolitan improvement.

With regard to the first possible course, it is important to recognise that the special grant payable to this State on the recommendation of the Commonwealth Grants Commission is determined by comparison of our financial operations with those of the standard States: Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria. If the cost of capital works of the kind embraced by the metropolitan region planning scheme were to be met from Consolidated Revenue, this State would be out of line with the standard States, with inevitable unfavourable adjustments to our grants.

The second alternative of financing the authority by allotting money from State land tax collections is equally unacceptable. It would have no difference in effect, so far as the working of the Grants Commission is concerned, from a direct charge to Consolidated Revenue, with a consequent unfavourable impact on State finances.

The justification for funding a loan through a metropolitan region improvement tax is, quite shortly, that works related to the metropolitan improvement tax will be to the advantage and gain, overwhelmingly, of the metropolitan area, and not the rest of the State.

Mr. J. Hegney: Have you the total amount of revenue you collected last year under the provisions of the tax?

Mr. PERKINS: It will be necessary to take those figures from the files, because any answer I give will need to be accurate. I would suggest that queries such as this, from the member for Middle Swan, or from any other member, be placed on the notice paper, or mentioned to me privately, so to enable me to obtain the necessary information. It is obviously desirable that all members should have information of that nature, if they are to discuss the legislation in an objective manner.

There was very long debate, both in this Chamber and in another place, during the last session of Parliament when legislation very similar to this was before Parliament; and I think all possible argument must have been canvassed at that time. It is possible that some of the financial implications of the tax, and the work of the Town Planning Authority, could be answered with much more experience now than might have been the case at that time.

I am most anxious that all information should be available to members on this matter. So if there are any queries as to the financial operations of the authority, or as to technical details; or if members have any amendments they might like to suggest, I trust they will give me some notice of them, because members will appreciate that I represent the Minister in another place when dealing with this legislation; and I admit frankly that I am not altogether conversant with the details, and will have to obtain them from the files.

I will arrange for the commissioner (Mr. Lloyd) to be in the Chamber and to hear the second reading debate. He will also be available to me to answer any queries which members may raise when the Bill is in Committee. At this stage I do not think there is anything more I need say on this matter.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Hawke (Leader of the Opposition).

NATIVES (CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. PERKINS (Roe—Minister for Native Welfare) [5.59 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

We all know that at times various controversial amendments have been introduced to legislation dealing with natives. Whatever views members may hold on this matter, I am sure they will recognise that the amendments contained in the legislation before the House are steps in the general direction in which our legislation has been moving for quite a long time. I am certain this will be appreciated even by those members who wish to go further than the legislation before us.

The principle of the Bill is to provide that restrictions contained in the statutes of Western Australia on natives will be removed from those who were born after the 1st January, 1955. At the same time this opportunity has been taken to introduce into the legislation drafting amendments which are comparatively unimportant; although some of them are far-reaching in that they deal with criticisms which have been levied from time to time against this legislation.

Mr. May: Restrictions will be removed from those who are six years old?

Mr. PERKINS: That is so.

Mr. May: What about natives who are today under six years of age?

Mr. PERKINS: The provisions in the Bill will also apply to them. They will apply to all native children born after the 1st January, 1955. Such children will be treated on the same basis as any other children born in this State.

Mr. Moir: What about native children who were born in December 1954? Will they miss out, under this Bill?

Mr. PERKINS: Members must recognise that a dividing line has to be drawn somewhere. If I were to include the month of December, 1954, I am sure some other member would query why a prior date had not been adopted.

Mr. W. Hegney: Why should there be any restrictions at all on the natives?

Mr. PERKINS: I shall deal with that aspect as I proceed. There is a good reason to draw a line at some particular point of time. I want to emphasise what I have said in public on many occasions: I would not attempt to defend the terminology of the legislation, because it dates back to many years previously. There has been a general change in our thinking in respect of the native population. When we see ways in which this legislation can be improved, it is natural for us to take steps to amend it. Notwithstanding the terminology in the Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act, the natives born before or after the 1st January, 1955, will be regarded as Australian citizens in the same manner as natural-born Australians are regarded; and no-one will be able to take their citizenship rights away from them.

The two principal restrictions imposed on our native population relate to the franchise, and the obtaining of intoxicating liquor. One restriction in regard to franchise applies to natives as well as the white population: everyone in these two categories has to be 21 years of age before he can have the right to vote. Similarly, he has to be 21 years of age before he can enter licensed premises to purchase intoxicating liquor.

Mr. May: Not all natives are registered at birth.

Mr. PERKINS: They are supposed to be registered at birth. Perhaps some are not. That brings me to the real point of this Bill. I have already said this publicly: It is something of a sham to say that if these two rights I have just referred to are extended to the native population—the right to vote and the right to obtain intoxicating liquor—they will accept their responsibilities in this regard. Partly because of their nature, and partly because of the environment in which they have been brought up, we would need to place restrictions on our native population in regard to the obtaining of intoxicating liquor, if we wished to prevent them from causing trouble to their coloured brothers or to the white citizens in the community.

The first principle which should be recognised in extending these rights to the native population is that once a native assumes full responsibility of citizenship in our community, he is expected to live up to our standards and to conduct himself properly. It would not get us very far if we were to grant, forthwith, to these people the two rights I have referred to, and then proceed to take those rights away from them because of their abuse of them. Where that policy has been followed elsewhere in Australia, many complications have ensued.

[*The Speaker (Mr. Hearman) resumed the Chair.*]

From time to time, members in this House have made strong representations to me regarding the disorderly conduct of natives when they were able to obtain intoxicating liquor. Riotous behaviour by such natives developed to such an extent as to become very disturbing to the residents in the area. Worse than that, it has developed very strong antipathy in this community towards our native population.

Mr. May: They are often the cause of it, too.

Mr. PERKINS: Who, the white people?

Mr. May: Yes.

Mr. PERKINS: Some are; but I get tired of having representations made to me—particularly by people in the metropolitan area—about what we should do to help the native population. Yet, if I attempted to move a native family to a spot adjacent to these people in the metropolitan area and publicity were given to the fact, violent objections would be raised. That has happened too often.

This Government has had its problems. We inherited Allawah Grove; and when I first inspected it I was absolutely horrified at the conditions under which these people were living and the poor outlook that existed for the families there. One of the first worries I had as Minister for Native Welfare was trying to sort out these families to see which ones could be helped. At first I thought we might establish a separate native reserve somewhere else in the metropolitan area. If members inspected the files relating to some of the investigations I carried out—and there were rebuffs from people in each area where I tried to establish such a native reserve in order to provide better facilities than were available at Allawah Grove—and discussed the matter with officers of the Native Welfare Department, and particularly the officer in charge of the central district, they would know of the many

personal inspections that were made and the number of days I spent investigating alternative sites.

Finally, it was decided to retain Allawah Grove as an area in which these families could stay if they could find nowhere else to go. Family by family, we have moved the better ones into homes elsewhere in the metropolitan area; and the position has been arrived at now where many families are living happily throughout the metropolitan area adjacent to white families. No complaints have been received from the neighbours of these native families; and that is in line with our experience in large country towns.

Mr. Graham: I think that is the answer to it rather than concentrating them in the one locality, which has been responsible for nearly all of the outbursts.

Mr. PERKINS: I agree with the member for East Perth. I think the present Commissioner of Native Welfare gave me very good advice indeed when he told me that there would be much less trouble as we arranged for native families to be accommodated in much smaller groups. That is what has been done. I remember that representations were made to me by the member for East Perth regarding the disorderly conduct of natives in portion of the East Perth area. I think the member for East Perth will agree with me that the fairly drastic action taken did result in a very big improvement in the conduct in that area. Apparently some of the disorderly elements there either mended their ways or moved a long way from East Perth.

Once we have convinced the families who move into homes that they have to obey the ordinary laws of the land in the same way as other citizens of this community, we have made a big step forward. I do not want to dwell too long on these particular aspects, but I realise that in dealing with this subject it is inevitable that discussion will range over a very wide field. I realise, too, that when the debate takes place on this Bill it will be difficult for you, Mr. Speaker, to restrict it to any particular aspect of native welfare, because obviously there are many aspects to each problem. I believe the consequences of this Bill will be felt right throughout the State.

What I really want to make clear to members is that the policy we, as a Native Welfare Department, are following dates back much further than when this Government assumed office. However, without being unduly critical of any previous Administration, I would say that in the past, there have not been many concrete results from the numerous efforts that have been made to improve the outlook of our native population. Therefore, when introducing a Bill of this nature, I think it is necessary for me to give some indication why I, and the officers of the Native Welfare Department, think we have really turned the corner and that there are prospects in the very foreseeable future of improving the position of our native population so that it will be possible to treat them in the same way as we treat other citizens in the community.

Children born after the 1st January, 1955, who are therefore six years of age at present, will have the opportunity to obtain a similar education to that of any other children in this community; and they will have the same opportunity for trade-training and employment. I hope the standard of housing will be considerably improved, and that by the time these children grow up and marry and have families of their own, their children will be able to share in the general Australian way of life.

Mr. Brady: There are quite a lot of apprentices around the State now.

Mr. PERKINS: Yes; and they are doing extremely well. However, the percentage is too small. I agree with the member for Guildford-Midland that the experience we have had so far gives us sufficient encouragement to believe that these numbers can be increased. However, it will mean a fairly heavy impact on governmental facilities and resources at a time when there is so much other development on our hands.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. PERKINS: Before tea, I was making some general remarks about the atmosphere in which a Bill such as this had to be considered. The policy of all Australian Governments—Commonwealth and State—since a conference about 1948 has been the assimilation of the aborigines in the Australian population. Although that has been the official policy, there has not been very much action except in too few instances, several of which are known personally to members in this Chamber. By the development of the circumstances which have made it possible for those particular people to become assimilated and take their full place in our Australian economy, an increasing number of our Australian natives will be able to do likewise if we give them the opportunity.

I have gathered from my experience as Minister for Native Welfare that if that particular objective is to be achieved, it is necessary to develop education, trade-training, and housing opportunities for our native people. If we try to do one without the other, we will run into a great deal of trouble. Previous experience has proved this.

Mr. Nulsen: Don't you think the educated ones now should be entitled to a vote? Half-castes are entitled to a vote in the Commonwealth elections.

Mr. PERKINS: I think that has very little to do with the matter. Surely obtaining the right to vote is rather an

empty gesture for people who live in camps and are not able to enjoy the ordinary amenities available to other Australian citizens! The indications are—and the previous Government found it to be so—that if housing is provided for some of these people, but they do not have trade training and the other opportunities to which I have been referring, many troubles arise. Various members in the Chamber have discovered that to their personal discomfort.

For instance, the member for Guildford-Midland has had to make very strong representations to me regarding disorderly conduct in his electorate; and the member for East Perth is another member portions of whose electorate have been affected. All members have been able to quote instances where families have been provided with a house, notwithstanding which, because they have not been ready for that way of life, great troubles have resulted. A lot of tribal relatives have camped with them, and the situation has developed to such an extent that it has been necessary for the State Housing Commission, in the instances where the properties belonged to it, to evict such families.

Mr. Nulsen: The conditions of the natives today are the responsibility of the whites in the past; there is no question about that.

Mr. PERKINS: I do not think it is any good for the member for Eyre to talk about whose responsibility the present problem is. We have to improve the way of life for these people, and there have been plenty of opportunities in the past for policies to be followed to achieve this. I submit that if we do not cover those three particular aspects—the education, trade-training, and housing of these native families—we are not going to make any great improvement in their way of life.

In the agricultural areas there is one set of problems. On the fringe of the agricultural areas the problem is again varied; and out in the station country there are other problems still. Varying approaches are necessary in order to cope with the problem in its different aspects in each environment. The principal provision in this Bill is for all those children who were born after the 1st January, 1955—

Mr. W. Hegney: What made you hit on that date?

Mr. PERKINS: —and who come from—

Mr. Rhatigan: Why pick 1955?

Mr. PERKINS: —some of the pastoral areas where we are developing these educational facilities and trade-training the native, to take their place in the community.

Mr. Nulsen: They were exploited to the stage where all their dignity was taken away from them.

Mr. PERKINS: When the time comes the member for Eyre can make a speech along those lines, which is very negative of course.

Mr. Nulsen: I am not negative; you do not know the conditions.

Mr. PERKINS: The member for Eyre will find that these people who have been living under poor conditions for a long time on the outskirts of our towns will not gain very much satisfaction from hearing what happened a long time ago. What they are interested in now is what their outlook is for the future. As I say in the agricultural areas concerned, the principal need is for housing and the development of the trade-training facilities. We have schools which the kiddies can attend.

Mr. W. Hegney: There are hundreds of schools which natives can attend with the white children.

Mr. PERKINS: I probably know a good deal more about this matter than the member for Mt. Hawthorn because I live in a country district, and our own children have gone to school with native children and I know some of the problems involved.

Mr. Rhatigan: Why have you chosen—

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order!

Mr. PERKINS: The problem is somewhat simpler in the agricultural areas. As we move into the pastoral areas it becomes much more complicated in that it is difficult even for white children to obtain education; it is very costly to send them to school. The idea of native hostels to cope with the problem originated at Cue. Actually, the original meeting was arranged by the present member for Murchison; and I must confess that at the time I was not sure that the idea would succeed. But in fairness to him and the local authority, and the other people at Cue, because of their enthusiasm and their willingness to accept some share of the responsibility for the running of the hostel if we developed it, there has been wonderful success.

At present, as many of us in this House know, these hostels have been developed at Cue, Yalgoo, and Onslow; and tenders have either been let or are about to be let for another one at Halls Creek. Similar types of facilities will also be necessary at various other points in the station country.

However, to return to the point I mentioned earlier, these provisions originated at the opening of the Cue hostel when I met the local committee, which had held a preliminary meeting. The chairman of that committee is Mr. Charles Lefroy, a very well-known pastoralist in that particular area, and he raised the matter officially with me and said: "Mr. Minister

I think that these children who are now growing up, and who are being given the opportunity to learn proper hygiene—and in view of the education and trade-training which will be available to them from thereon—should be treated exactly the same as any other children in this community."

Mr. W. Hegney: They have been training them in the missions for years.

Mr. PERKINS: They have been partially training them in the missions in some instances. How can the member for Mt. Hawthorn say that when we have all these people sprinkled around the community having no trade skills and no opportunity for employment? It is useless to say this has been done. It has not been done, and there is no school to which the member for Mt. Hawthorn can point where this training is given, apart from the single, solitary example of the technical school at Derby.

Mr. Rhatigan: Tell us why you chose the date 1955?

Mr. PERKINS: There was very little made of it until this Administration took over.

Mr. W. Hegney: You are trying hard to make excuses.

Mr. PERKINS: I am not making excuses; I am just stating facts. In fairness to the people in many of these country areas, it is necessary to say that this kind of approach has come from the residents of these areas whom I have heard referred to all too often from members of the other side of the House as the people who want only to exploit the natives.

Mr. Nulsen: I know. I was up there in 1898. I know what they did, and I know the value of the natives.

Mr. PERKINS: I suggest the member for Eyre go to some of these areas and make his comments to the electors. He will have plenty of opportunity later on to go out and repeat his interjections in Yalgoo or in the member for Kimberley's electorate, and he will see what response he will get. An entirely different attitude is taken by members on the other side of the House when they are out on the hustings. It is all very well to come here and throw cold water on some positive approach being made other than just fair words offered to these people who have been living under very substandard conditions; and who, I agree, have had little opportunity in the past to improve their way of life.

Mr. Brady: Have not the missions been training them?

Mr. PERKINS: To a degree. But the missions are primarily concerned with the evangelising of the natives, and in a great many instances after the formal school training has been given there has been a gap where the natives have tended to slip back because a very big proportion of them have not been assimilated into employment subsequently.

Mr. Rhatigan: That is how little you know.

Mr. PERKINS: After the meeting I had with the Cue committee, I went to a meeting of the Murchison branch of the Pastoralists' Association at Wooleen Station. It was a very representative meeting, and the representation covered a large area. The Murchison branch endorsed the views put forward at the Cue meeting; and, as a matter of fact, the meeting independently expressed the same opinion as that expressed by the committee at Cue. I think it indicates that provided the Government is prepared to provide the necessary facilities, there will be great co-operation from these various areas.

In each centre in the north-west—it is somewhat difficult with regard to small centres like Halls Creek, where the local population is not very big—I have insisted that a local committee be formed before the project was approved by the Government; and in the case of these three hostels that are operating at Cue, Yalgoo, and Onslow, there are excellent committees.

Mr. Rhatigan: Whom do these committees consist of—the Pastoralists' Association?

Mr. PERKINS: The committees are representative of the pastoralists, townspeople, permanent residents, and some civil servants. I have tried to encourage the committees to be as widely representative of the local community as possible. At Cue, Mr. Charles Lefroy, a prominent pastoralist, is the chairman; at Yalgoo, Mr. Bill Broad—again, a prominent pastoralist—is chairman; and, at Onslow, I think the chairman is Mr. Shanks, the local carrier.

In each case it has been found that local co-operation has been very wonderful indeed; and when the couple who were running the hostel at Yalgoo became sick and were unable to carry on, one of the committee members and his wife took over the hostel; and they have done so well that they have been appointed permanently in charge of that particular hostel.

Mr. W. Hegney: What is the maximum age of the children in those hostels?

Mr. PERKINS: I suppose the oldest would be about 14.

Mr. W. Hegney: So they would not come under these provisions.

Mr. PERKINS: No. I was going to refer to that point in a moment. Those children who do not come within this category will still have the opportunity of applying under the ordinary provisions of the Act—and the way the member for Mt. Hawthorn scoffs, one would think there was a deep-laid plot to prevent these people from obtaining their full status.

Mr. W. Hegney: No; it is a deep-laid plot for you to prevent them.

Mr. PERKINS: If the member for Mt. Hawthorn cared to study the situation, he would find that all our native welfare officers have instructions from me to encourage these people to apply, and to encourage them—

Mr. W. Hegney: Why should they have to apply?

Mr. PERKINS: —and to help their applications through.

Mr. W. Hegney: Why should they have to apply? That is the question.

Mr. Brand: Who first introduced this business of citizenship rights?

Mr. W. Hegney: I beg your pardon?

Mr. Brand: What Government introduced this business of citizenship rights?

Mr. W. Hegney: I think it was introduced about the year before you came in.

Mr. PERKINS: The problem is probably much more complex than some members in this House realise; and when the recent Commonwealth Select Committee was here I had very lengthy discussions with it. We made the facilities of the department available to the committee so that a full investigation could be made. I think most members of that committee were convinced that where natives had very close tribal affiliations it was difficult for them to become assimilated in the ordinary way of life in the community in the particular centres where they lived.

I am sure the member for Eyre will agree with me on that particular point, because tribal associations of natives are very strong, and it is difficult for a family placed in a home to refuse access to their tribal relatives. Quite obviously if assimilation means anything at all it means living the same kind of civilized life as the ordinary Australian, and living according to the health standards of the community. If we are going to allow houses to become overcrowded, that becomes impossible.

So I think we have to be realistic in this matter; and in my view the date, the 1st January, 1955, is a realistic one to set, because the kiddies affected will have the opportunity of education and trade-training for employment. They will be able to live the civilized kind of life which other people in the community expect to live.

Mr. Nulsen: I think you are a bit long-winded about it though because there will not be many alive in 1976 to see its effect.

Mr. PERKINS: The others obtain their rights under the rest of the legislation. While I have the opportunity, I want to pay a tribute to the various committees, spread throughout the length and breadth of Western Australia, who are playing such an important part in the type of assimilation to which I am referring. Unfortunately a great deal of publicity is sometimes given to troubles that arise at different points.

For instance, when the Select Committee on voting rights was in the Gnowangerup district recently, there was a lot of unfortunate Press publicity about what was referred to as racial discrimination in that part of the State. It was most unfair because in the past there have been a great many problems in districts such as Gnowangerup. That district has a bigger native population, in proportion to the white population, than almost any other agricultural area, and that in turn brings with it a great many difficulties. The members for East Perth and Guildford-Midland have had that experience; because naturally where there is a great number of these, shall I say partly-civilised people—it almost amounts to that—living on the fringe of civilisation, there is a fertile breeding ground for disturbances of one kind or another. They are the cause of great dissatisfaction.

Mr. Nulsen: Are you referring to the half-castes there?

Mr. PERKINS: Not actually; it does not matter what colour they are. I am satisfied that this is not a colour prejudice; it is a social and hygiene problem.

Mr. Nulsen: Do you think it is fair that the half-castes should be asked to look after the natives rather than the whites?

Mr. PERKINS: I think it would be better if the member for Eyre would discuss these subjects at some other time, because they have nothing whatever to do with this Bill.

Mr. Nulsen: But there is only one thing—

Mr. PERKINS: The honourable member could get this information from somewhere else.

Mr. Nulsen: The Commonwealth Government now only gives the half-castes—

Mr. PERKINS: In districts such as Gnowangerup, I have found that in developing these education, trade-training, and employment projects, and improved housing, it is possible to get wonderful local co-operation. In the Gnowangerup Shire Council area, which embraces Gnowangerup, Borden, and Ongerup—I was down there only a fortnight or three weeks ago, opening some of the transition houses we have erected there—the committee, headed by some of the most prominent citizens in the district, combined with the enthusiastic co-operation of the local authority, gave strong and active support to everything that was being done in the area.

The same thing applies in many other districts. I could refer to Narrogin. Members who have not been there recently would find the native camping reserve a marvellous improvement on what it used to be; and that is largely due to the co-operation obtained from the local

committee. The member for Narrogin knows the work that has been done there. The same thing applies in the Beverley area.

In the past, some of these areas have been referred to as places in which there is discrimination against the native population. Actually I think that is changing, and it is necessary to have legislation such as this at the moment when we are getting this kind of co-operation in these areas.

Mr. Nulsen: I think you are moving in the right direction, but it is too slow.

Mr. PERKINS: In the Beverley area the chairman of the road board, Mr. Alec Miles, is the chairman of the local committee, and my officers in the Native Welfare Department tell me that the department has received wonderful co-operation from that committee. I hope that in the near future there will be an official opening of some of the new facilities there, and that some publicity can be given at the time to what that committee is doing.

Mr. May: It has done a pretty good job in Collie.

Mr. PERKINS: Yes; that is another point; and the same story could be repeated of a great many centres. The point I want to emphasise is that with this kind of development, and with the project getting under way to train the generation that is growing up, at least we can say that the children who are now enrolling at school can be expected to be capable of living the same kind of lives as any other children growing up in this community. Unfortunately there will still be some who will not get that opportunity.

Mr. Rhatigan: Will you tell the House how you arrived at that line of demarcation?

Mr. PERKINS: I know there are still areas, and I am sure there will still be a few, where it will not be possible to extend these facilities; but I have made the statement publicly at a great many points that I hope the day is not too far distant when we can truthfully say that every child in this community will have the opportunity, the same as any of our other children, to go as far as his or her inclinations and talents will permit.

I could speak at great length on other aspects of the picture because of the developing facilities in the metropolitan area, particularly at the Riverton Hostel, which has been developed by the Pallottine Fathers. That is situated in the electorate of the member for Canning, and I have taken a great many visitors to that hostel to show them the excellent work being done there. Also the work being done by the South-West Native Mission at given points is very much appreciated. That mission has caravan units, and its members help natives to improve their housing.

Mr. Rhatigan: You must agree, too, that the missions in the Kimberleys have done a remarkably good job.

Mr. PERKINS: I agree with all that; but it is a matter of harnessing all this enthusiasm to help us get somewhere. Too often in the past these projects were carried so far and then came to a dead stop. It is not of much use educating children unless we can take the other necessary steps to get them into employment; and it is necessary to make the training as comprehensive as possible. I realise that a great deal of what I have said has only a very general bearing on the Bill; but, on the other hand, I have to explain why we fixed the date at the 1st January, 1955.

Mr. W. Hegney: You have been making heavy weather of it for the last half-hour.

Mr. PERKINS: If members do not want to be convinced that this is a good date from which to work, then anything I can say at this stage will probably not assist to any great extent. On the other hand, I am convinced, from the many discussions I have had with people throughout the community, that there is at least a reasonable expectation that these children, who are now growing up and taking advantage of the training available to them at the various points throughout the State, will be able to enjoy the same kind of life as other children in the community.

If members try to alter that date to an earlier year, there could, in many instances, be families that would do quite well. On the other hand, considerable risk could be taken; because if any attempt were made to fit a native family into our community and they failed to make the grade, not only would they be a failure themselves, but they could be pointed to by people all around them who, in effect, would say, "There you are; you are wrong in trying to civilise native people in this particular way."

Therefore, I think it is wise to hasten slowly; otherwise we will find that we will experience the same sort of trouble as we had with the 79A houses which were allocated through the State Housing Commission and which, in far too many instances, resulted in great antipathy being developed by the neighbours of the native people who occupied those houses in the different towns and suburbs in which they were placed.

Mr. Nulsen: In 1966 what will happen to those who do not make the grade from an educational or technical point of view?

Mr. PERKINS: I have no doubt that they will make the grade. Of course, it is unreasonable to expect that every child who reaches adulthood will measure up fully to civilised standards, whether he be white or coloured. There are many people in this community who, for some reason or another, fall by the wayside in this regard.

All I want to ensure is that of these children with whom we are dealing, at least a reasonable proportion will have that chance of being properly assimilated into the community. It is, of course, impossible to obtain suitable employment without proper training; but I think that with educational and technical training, plus the provision of employment and adequate housing, we will reach the goal at which we are aiming. Housing, of course, is extremely expensive and we have an extremely big programme. but it is heartwarming to obtain such excellent cooperation from the various bodies interested in native welfare.

Mr. Rhatigan: I have not seen any action in regard to housing in the Kimberleys.

Mr. PERKINS: There has been a lot more evidence of it up there during the last two or three years than there was during the term of the previous Government.

Mr. Rhatigan: What about the technical school at Derby built by the Labor Government? You have not provided anything like that.

Mr. PERKINS: I think the member for Kimberley had better get to know his electorate a little more.

Mr. Rhatigan: You brought the matter up.

Mr. PERKINS: All I wish to say about other portions of the Bill is that they have been drafted partly as a result of some of the suggestions that were made by the Commonwealth Select Committee which visited this State recently. Mr. Kim Beazley, M.H.R. for Fremantle, in particular, took strong exception to the State legislation in regard to what he said was purported to be the conferring of citizenship; whereas, in his opinion, citizenship is something which Australian citizens enjoy by right. I agree that all Australians, white or coloured, do have citizenship by right, but so far as natives are concerned there are a few limitations. Therefore, Cabinet has agreed that that implication should be removed as far as possible by altering the wording in the Act with this amending Bill.

If members look at the other amendments, they will find that, in the main, they are machinery amendments. In conclusion, I would emphasise that in considering this measure it must be borne in mind that it dovetails with the conception of raising the way of life of these people. Some of them have become fully assimilated into the community, and they no longer are the responsibility of the Native Welfare Department; but, so far as those who really need the help of the Native Welfare Department are concerned, I feel that the action that is being taken at present will bear increasing fruit; and as a result of the discussions I have had with people from one end of Western Australia to the other, I am of the opinion that this move will be well received by all classes of the community, whether they reside in the urban areas, the agricultural areas, or the far north.

At some points, although, on the one hand, doubts have been raised as to how quickly it will be possible to improve the way of life of these people, on the other hand, I think if a sufficient number of the local community is willing to make the effort to help the Government and the officers of the department in the steps that are being taken at present, at least we will see some improvement. We do not expect changes overnight, but these steps will carry into effect, in a realistic way, the policy of all Australian Governments; namely, the assimilation of the Australian native into the white community.

We have problems in Western Australia because our native population is spread from the south coast to the north coast, and from the South Australian border to the west coast. That creates some problems, but it also has some advantages, because if assimilation means anything it means making the natives part of the community wherever they happen to be. In some of the other Australian States they have greater problems, but it has been the custom to get native families together into segregated settlements; and the experience of those other States is that where segregated settlements have been established, although the natives are well treated and live under better conditions than many of our Western Australian natives, that is not—so I believe—true assimilation. People can be cared for well physically; but, if assimilation means anything at all, it means that the natives become part of our Australian way of life, take part in our civic affairs, and become subject to the enforcement of our laws and regulations. I hope the provisions of this Bill will take us a step nearer towards that goal.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Brady.

ALUMINA REFINERY AGREEMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Industrial Development) [8.10 p.m.]: I move—

> That the Bill be now read a second time.

This is a Bill to ratify an important agreement—an agreement to establish a refinery to produce alumina at Kwinana. The establishment of an alumina refinery at Kwinana, based on Darling Range bauxite, is a development of very great importance in the industrial history of Western Australia, and in the exploitation of its mineral resources.

The main Bill is to ratify the agreement, but other legislation will be needed to deal with the railway deviation at the refinery site and, later, with the Mundijong-Kwinana railway. It is desired that the agreement, dated the 7th June, 1961, between the State and Western Aluminium No Liability, be ratified as quickly as possible for two main reasons; namely—

(1) to enable work to proceed at the refinery site before the end of this year;

(2) to give effect to the ratifying provisions of the agreement and thus facilitate the company's operations in a number of ways so that the full benefits of the agreement may be realised as quickly as possible.

It is very pleasing to be able to report that the initial capacity of the refinery will be on a larger scale than provided in the agreement. Also, the anticipated expenditure in erecting the refinery, installing wharves, storage, etc., and in opening up and equipping the bauxite deposits will be in the order of £10,000,000 as compared with the figure of £5,000,000 referred to in clause 4 of the agreement for the development at Kwinana.

The company also expects that the refinery will, as the business develops, expand substantially beyond the initial size. Of equal importance is the fact that it is expected that the refinery will be completed quicker than foreshadowed in the agreement if early ratification can be achieved. It is pertinent to note that the agreement provides that the company will commence before the 31st March, 1965, to erect the refinery, including all necessary ancillary buildings, works, plant, equipment, services, wharf, etc.

The agreement also provides that the work will be completed by the 31st March, 1967, with some rights of extension of these times. When the agreement was negotiated, it was considered that in the light of all the circumstances at the time it was not possible to specify in the agreement tighter dates than those set out. However, it is now the objective of the company to commence work on the refinery site before the end of this year, and a completion date of two and a half years is aimed at; and there are good reasons why the company will want to adhere to that timetable rather than the one set out in the agreement. In other words, it is expected that the alumina refinery will actually be in operation before the latest commencing date provided by the agreement. All this is made possible by the successful negotiations that the Western Mining Corporation and others have been able to bring to completion with Alcoa of America, the world's largest and oldest aluminium company.

The background to the Government's negotiations with Western Aluminium N.L. is both interesting and important. Western Aluminium N.L. is a subsidiary of the Western Mining Corporation, and Western Mining Corporation acts as its general manager. It originally received the right to explore for bauxite from the previous Government—that is, the Hawke Government—and established geological and laboratory facilities at Kalamunda. The company has spent over £300,000 on finding and developing the Darling Range bauxite deposits. The company was also given the right to prospect for coal in an effort to find a deposit of sufficient size.

Western Mining Corporation is a name well known in this State. Over the last decade the Western Mining Corporation's prospecting and exploration programme, initially concentrated on goldmining, has extended to other minerals. In 1957 it brought to the notice of the Mines Department the possibility of commercial exploitation of the Darling Range bauxite deposits. These had been known to exist for many years, but were generally believed to be of low grade and of no commercial value.

Mr. May: Did not the company get the Wilga leases for that purpose?

Mr. COURT: It is pertinent to emphasise the fact that when the Western Mining Corporation came into the field at that date it was endeavouring to prove that something had a commercial value which, at that time, was generally regarded as being low grade and of no commercial value.

Initially, work involving heavy expense was directed towards establishing the quality of bauxite and proving large reserves. As prospecting developed, it became apparent that a very large deposit had been located. The question then arose as to the manner in which it could be brought into use. The company was faced with the fact that another large organisation had already begun operations to establish an industry based on Weipa bauxite and power from hydro-electric sources in Tasmania or New Zealand. That is a significant feature because it does, to a large extent, highlight the reason why it was necessary for the Western Mining Corporation and others in their negotiations with Alcoa to eventually settle on a partnership deal with Western Australia and Victoria. In the case of the Weipa deposits, it is understood that the main emphasis will be on a partnership with Northern Queensland deposits and New Zealand power.

Aluminium is a very competitive industry; and it was obvious that the huge sums of money needed to establish another company to produce metal could be found only if a highly economic scheme could be devised. This required not only economic bauxite, but also the availability of very large quantities of low-cost electric power. This in turn required the availability of an energy source that would permit the generation of such low-cost power.

Mr. Tonkin: Are these people allowed to write their own agreement?

Mr. COURT: I propose to proceed and explain the agreement to members; and those members who are fair-minded enough will realise that we have written a satisfactory agreement, and have achieved for Western Australia a major industry that was very nearly not available to us.

Mr. Tonkin: The sky is the limit!

Mr. COURT: The honourable member has not heard the details yet. If I may, I would like to proceed and try to get some semblance of order into the introduction of this Bill. If the smelter was to be established in Western Australia, the energy source had to be coal. The Western Mining Corporation was anxious to develop such a source in Western Australia, as this would enable the various phases of metal production to be carried out in the one location and would avoid the transport of the alumina. The Government was anxious to ensure that the maximum processing of the bauxite should be carried out in this State.

The coal exploration programme, using modern geological, geophysical, and drilling techniques, covered some 6,000 square miles of possible coal-bearing country, but unfortunately did not result in finding coal deposits of a size or type suitable as a fuel source for an aluminium smelter.

The company also examined the economics of using the known coal resources of Western Australia. I emphasise that, because a determined bid was made not only by the Government, but by the company itself—I refer in that instance to the Western Mining Corporation—to try to make it possible to establish a fully-integrated aluminium-producing industry in Western Australia, instead of having to terminate at the alumina process. The Muja seam, which can be worked by open-cut methods, is the most economic of the local coal resources.

The Mines Department report on this seam shows that, whilst it could be initially mined at a reasonably favourable over-burden to coal ratio, the ultimate average ratio would make it less favourable. This would be quite unsuitable for generating electric power at a cost which would enable the company to compete with other producers of aluminium metal. We must bear in mind that we have to reduce our power cost down to below .5d. per unit.

It was also considered that although the estimated reserves of 80,000,000 tons of coal would seem sufficiently large to support an aluminium smelter for many years, the industrial progress of Western Australia was certain to create heavy demands on power from this coal for other industries in the State in the very near future.

The State could not—I repeat it could not—have agreed to the Muja seam being exclusively committed to an aluminium industry to the detriment of power costs to all other users in the State. It is a matter of simple arithmetic that if the known reserves—and the reserves of the Muja seam have been stoutly opposed and queried by the Collie Miners' Union—are related to the industrial requirements of this State, the Government could not have agreed to make the Muja seam exclusively available for all time, throughout its life, to an aluminium smelter.

Mr. May: Why did the Government not go on with the Wilga seam? The company was given the leases for that very purpose.

Mr. COURT: I have tried to demonstrate in a clear and simple way that the company's exploration for a coal deposit of a suitable type and size proved fruitless.

Mr. Moir: It did not look very hard.

Mr. COURT: Yes it did. The honourable member is well aware that the Western Mining Corporation, a very reputable company, was most anxious to have the whole industry established in Western Australia.

Mr. Moir: It only diamond-drilled one bore in that field.

Mr. COURT: As part of the development and proving processes, shipments of bauxite were made to Bell Bay and to Japan with successful results. However, the overall facts determined that it was not economically possible to establish a smelter in this State, and both the Government and the company had reluctantly to accept the situation. Whilst there are certain people who believe we could insist on terms of the sort that would make aluminium in Western Australia, they must realise that this State is not the only place in which large-scale quantities of bauxite of the right quality exist.

We have to view the overall field of the aluminium processing industry to get a clear picture of the background of these negotiations. It is all-important to have a company like Alcoa and the Western Mining Corporation established in Western Australia as soon as possible, because when such huge industries are established in various parts of the world they get to the stage when several years elapse before further large-scale new development takes place. There is a tendency to develop the industry already established. Therefore, it was quite fortunate that the Western Mining Corporation was able to arrive at a deal with Alcoa of America and arrange for a fully-integrated aluminium-processing industry to be established in Australia, of which Western Australia is to get a very sizeable part through alumina production in this State.

When local coal reserves were not available in sufficient size or in the requisite type, the company then sought for coal in Victoria and developed a large field of high-grade open-cut brown coal at Anglesea, near Geelong. This field is known to exceed 400,000,000 tons of coal, which can be mined consistently at an average overburden to coal ratio of 1½ to 1. It is favourably located to provide a power supply for aluminium smelter and it can be reserved for this purpose.

The combination of Anglesea coal and Darling Range bauxite has provided the essential elements for an integrated industry in Australia, and not as a joint venture between Australia and New Zealand, as was indicated by the Federal Leader of the Opposition, who acknowledged the fact that we have to use cheap New Zealand power if we are to have a fully-integrated aluminium industry.

If members opposite have not read the policy announcement by their Federal Leader, it would be a good idea for them to do so. The said gentleman was at the time advocating a partnership between the Australian Government and the New Zealand Government in respect of Australian bauxite deposits. The result of our negotiations has brought about a very considerable industry being established in this State.

The scheme now decided upon by Alcoa of Australia, which is a combination of the American Alcoa company and Australian interests, means that a company has been formed in Australia to equip and develop these deposits. It does not preclude—but would, in fact, facilitate—the company going further in Western Australia if the further necessary physical conditions came about in the future. Neither the company nor the Government has abandoned for all time the prospect of an aluminium-processing industry being established in Western Australia; but we would have no chance unless we found coal of the same size and type as exists in Victoria, or unless some new technical development took place to enable us to produce power at an unprecedented low price in Western Australia.

The planned activities in Western Australia involve bauxite mining by open-cut methods, starting with the deposits at Jarrahdale and extending into other areas as necessary. The bauxite will be delivered by road trucks to the rail-head, reduced in a crushing plant, and rail-hauled to a storage building at Kwinana. It will then undergo the processes of grinding, leaching, filtration, and precipitation, followed by calcination, and storage in silos. Wharf facilities and conveying installations will be constructed for storage of raw materials coming in by sea.

I want to make some comments regarding the methods of mining, because these have been the subject of some uninformed criticisms. Rather than reply to those in the past, it was felt that it was better to wait until the Bill was before this House, when the provisions would be known to all, for an appropriate official explanation to be given. Many queries have been raised by timber and other interests regarding the methods of mining that will be employed.

Briefly stated, the general procedure for mining bauxite will be, firstly, to notify the Forests Department of the proposed area in which the company will operate. The Forests Department would then nominate or mark trees and poles which are to be recovered from the area to be worked in the first year. It would be the duty of the company to bulldoze these trees, taking out the roots with them, rather than to allow them to be felled in the usual manner. The Forests Department, or whoever is directly concerned, would then cut or recover all millable timber and poles. There would be a complete recovery of all millable timber.

For the area cleared in the first and subsequent years, the company would pay to the Forests Department in advance a charge of £100 per acre. That is set out in the agreement. It is anticipated that the total clearing for the first year would be in the order of 30 acres; and for subsequent years, and so long as the company was on an output of 550,000 tons per annum, 25 acres.

I stress these acreages because I think it has been conveyed in the public mind that huge areas will be involved all the time, and we will have ugly scars all over the place from one end of the State to the other. When one examines the methods of mining, it is apparent that full regard has been had by the company, the Mines Department, and the Forests Department for the need to mine in a modern and sensible manner, with due regard for the value of timber, and due regard for the future of this particular area.

Mr. Bickerton: What about reclamation?

Mr. COURT: I am coming to that. The next step would be the clearing of waste timber into windrows for burning at the appropriate season. Overburden from the initially cleared area would be stockpiled. This overburden is expected to vary from nil to three or four feet, with an average thickness of two feet. Mining would commence by cutting a shallow slot in the order of 10 ft. deep and 1,200 to 1,500 ft. long by 60 ft. wide across the selected area. This opening would provide 30,000 tons of ore, which would be the first stock for the blending and storage pile at the refinery. At this stage, overburden would have been removed to a width of 200 ft. right and left of the slot, which is the economic distance for bulldozing under such circumstances.

When the mining area equalled 180 to 200 ft. in width, the initial overburden, which had been stockpiled, would be returned to the bottom of the shallow excavation and levelled in a strip 60 ft. wide.

Mr. May: Why don't they do that at Muja?

Mr. COURT: I have one problem on my hands at the moment, and I am not going to get involved with Muja.

Mr. Heal: More than one!

Mr. COURT: From this time onward, overburden would be moved directly to the pit floor as clearing, overburden removal, and mining progressed in its various stages, but always leaving a clean running strip 16 to 80 ft. wide adjacent to the mining face. In appearance the mined area will be a shallow depression following the slope of the hillside. The rock in the floor of the excavation of "pit" is porous and absorbs even the heaviest of rain immediately, thus eliminating any problems of erosion. Variations which may arise in this programme are increased tonnages and seasonal requirements, such as burning off waste timber and removal of overburden in the dry months of the year.

On completion of mining in an area, the existing benches or banks would be smoothed out to a reasonable batter, tracks graded, and a final clean-up made of all mining equipment. It has been agreed with the Forests Department that after levelling the overburden returned to the "pit," it would undertake to supply seedling plants and do the replanting. The company would undertake to add to the returned overburden whatever fertiliser or trace elements the Forests Department might recommend to encourage the growth of new timber.

In the face of these measures, the apprehension of permanent damage held by various interested parties is needless. I am sure they have not been fully and accurately apprised of the comparatively small areas that will be mined from time to time. For instance, the total acreage in one area would be, say, 25 to 30 acres.

Mr. Bickerton: What did you say the depth of the deposit was?

Mr. COURT: The pits are going to be down to 10 ft. The deposit varies from very shallow to several feet. It has been part of the company's rather extensive programme to determine as accurately as it could the actual pockets it could economically mine, both as to quantity and quality.

Some apprehension has also been expressed in respect of water-sheds. Let me assure members this agreement was negotiated only after the closest consultation between all the departments involved, whether it be the Forests Department, the Water Supply Department, the Mines Department, or the Transport Board. The whole lot were involved in this particular exercise. If huge areas were going to be laid waste, then there might be some argument that the water-shed problem would be accentuated; but in view of the fact that there will be comparatively small areas treated throughout a whole year, it will be appreciated it will not have any real effect on the water-shed problem. The engineers have no misgivings about this proposed method of mining whatsoever; and, as I said earlier, there is no danger of erosion.

Mr. Bickerton: Why not?

Mr. COURT: For the reasons I have mentioned. It has been established that the substance at the bottom of these pits is of a porous nature and the water can immediately run away. Therefore, it will not have the effect of creating erosion.

Mr. Bickerton: The overburden is put over the porous rock.

Mr. COURT: There is the planting of pines; and this has been taken care of, bearing in mind that the total acreage is not large against the total areas involved in water-shed areas. The honourable member can be assured that the officers in these different departments would not have agreed to these things unless they were thoroughly satisfied they were in the best interests of the State. I can assure members that every department involved is thoroughly happy with the agreement, whether that department be Mines, Lands, Forests, Water Supply, or Railways.

Mr. Moir: Have the departmental officers concerned had experience with this type of mining and the problems that would arise in the forests?

Mr. COURT: I should imagine that in the ordinary course of their professional duties they would. Most of our officers have had experience outside of the State as well as within it; and these men are not fools. They are men who will have to live with these problems; and they will have to live with this agreement; and the honourable member can be assured that they have considered this problem from all angles.

The Government is thoroughly satisfied that with the company's good reputation as a mining company, and in the light of detailed negotiations that have taken place over many months, there will be close co-operation between the company and the Mines Department and the various other departments. The company has a reputation of always honouring its obligations in respect of matters of this nature.

Some apprehension has been expressed in various quarters regarding the rights of the company to enter properties within mining leases or temporary reserves for the purpose of mining bauxite. The mining titles covered by the agreement apply only to Crown land within the mineral lease and reserve, and give no mining

rights over private land. Should the company at any time desire to mine on private land for bauxite, or any other mineral, it will have to comply with the provisions of part VII of the Mining Act—that is the part dealing with mining on private land.

Mr. W. Hegney: What about places like National Park?

Mr. COURT: If the honourable member wants me to deal specifically with National Park I will do so, and give him an answer which deals specifically with National Park. I would like to cover the main points in the agreement. What I have said up to date deals with the overall background of the negotiations; and now I desire to deal with the main points in the agreement itself because members will, by passing this Bill, ratify the agreement.

The refinery is to be commenced before the 31st March, 1965, and completed before the 31st March, 1967. This includes all necessary ancillary buildings, works, plant, equipment, services, and wharf. It is estimated to cost £5,000,000 and is to produce not less than 120,000 tons of alumina a year.

They are, of course, the bare facts stated in the agreement. I have already said earlier that not only will the capacity of this plant be greater, but the capital expenditure involved will be very much greater than the minimum set out in the agreement.

Under the agreement there may be extensions to these dates if the company can demonstrate to the Minister that it is unable to conform to these dates for reasons beyond its control. In such cases the commencement date can be extended provided the company can demonstrate it can commence within twelve months. The completion date can be extended to the 31st March, 1969.

The refinery must be operated in accordance with modern practices for the production of alumina and avoid as far as reasonably practicable the creation of any nuisance.

Perhaps I should go back and say that many of the points I have mentioned regarding the actual conditions and capacity of the refinery will now have little meaning in practice because something better will be implemented; but when an agreement is written it is necessary to write in certain binding requirements on both the Government and the company, and they were the ones written at that date.

The work-site which is defined on the plan marked "A"—and which with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I would like to table at the conclusion of my remarks—is approximately 137 acres at Kwinana. The area will be subject to some adjustment in size after provision is made for the deviation of the road and railway in accordance with clause 3 of the agreement. The rail deviation will be the subject of a special Bill. Following the deviation, the existing road and railway passing through the work site will be closed. This is provided for in the ratifying Bill.

The company is responsible for a contribution towards the cost of the construction of the deviation road and railway, equivalent to the extent of the cost which would be incurred if a road and railway, comparable with the existing road and railway within the work-site boundaries, were built at the same time—in other words it will have to pay at current-day costs, and not depreciated costs, of land and roads within their boundaries.

Also, the company will pay to the Commissioner of Main Roads an agreed proportion of the total cost incurred by the Main Roads Department in constructing the road approaches to the deviation road from the existing main Perth-Naval Base road, and of acquiring necessary land for the purpose. Without the deviation of road and rail, the work-site would be unsuitable for the purposes of the refinery, as members will see if they have a look at plan "A".

It has been necessary to give notice to tenants in holiday cottages near the work-site. I think this is known as Lilian Beach. These leases expire on the 30th September, 1961, and notice of termination was given on the 27th June, 1961, to conform with the three months' notice required.

The company hopes to submit a works timetable in the near future, and consideration will be given to the exact timing when vacant possession will be needed; although it must be realised, of course, that work on the project cannot be held up if we are to have the benefit of the industry at the earliest possible date; and, in any case, any deferment of vacant possession would be of a very temporary nature.

The land is being sold to the company at a price of £250 per acre, and the transfer of the land is subject to the company producing evidence of its intention and ability to construct and establish the refinery.

Effluent with large-scale industries is always an important consideration. Inquiries indicate that an alumina industry, conducted in accordance with modern practice, should not be troublesome. One of the major problems is the disposal of what is commonly known as "red mud" resulting from the refinery operations at the work-site. The residue is expected to consist mainly of iron oxide and siliceous sand, commonly known as "sands". Elaborate provisions are made in the agreement for the disposal of both "red mud" and "sands" at the expense of the company.

Initially, an area near the work site will be made available by the State and the company will conform to the procedures laid down in the agreement so that land which is at present unusable should be usable at least for light industry when the filling has taken place.

From information we are able to obtain from abroad, the use of this red mud with a covering of sand in accordance with the provisions of the agreement rehabilitates otherwise useless land to a position where it can be used for light industry and may have buildings of up to three storeys erected on it. The proposal is that the red mud will be pumped into this area initially made available by the Government and which is unusable land at the moment; and when it reaches within two feet of the agreed level for the filling in, the red mud will not be pumped into that area, but only the sand will be used as the top filling. The provision at the moment is that it will be done in 10-acre lots so that these lots will be cleaned up progressively until the whole area made available by the Government is completely reclaimed.

After the area made available by the State is reclaimed in accordance with clause 6, subclause (4) of the agreement, an area of not less than 500 acres to be made available by the company and to be approved of by the Government within two miles of the work-site, or other approved distance, will be used for the purpose. It is considered that, having regard for the amount of red mud and sands which will be available from the work-site at Kwinana, these two areas will take care of the effluent in the form of red mud and sands for as long as this Parliament needs to worry about. The disposal of surplus sands will be at a point or points to be mutually agreed; and, of course, at the expense of the company.

So far as wharves are concerned, the company will construct these at a site to be determined in conjunction with the Fremantle Harbour Trust. Likewise, the design and method of construction will be in consultation with the Fremantle Harbour Trust. For this purpose the company has to retain a recognised firm of consultants. Access to the wharf site will be given over a strip of land 300 ft. wide. The company will not have the whole of the beach frontage included in its freehold, but only an access strip of 300 ft. wide so that it will have access from the refinery site to the actual wharf.

The company has to construct the wharf and associated facilities at its own cost and maintain them. The wharves belong to the State but the company will have the use of them free of rental or license fee during the currency of the agreement. There is provision for the use of the wharves by others in certain cases. This is in clause 5, subclause (5), if anyone wants to follow it up.

Provision is made in the agreement for dredging. A main channel and swinging basin may be necessary. I stress "may be necessary," because it is not mandatory. The State will be responsible for dredging to 30 ft. below water level. For anything below 30 ft., the company will pay 25 per cent.

It is very important to read this agreement in conjunction with the B.H.P. agreement ratified by Parliament last year under which B.H.P. is committed to pay 50 per cent. The main channel to B.H.P. will also be the main channel for purposes of getting to the wharf of this company.

In effect, because of the operation of this alumina agreement the State will be relieved of half of the dredging costs in respect of the main channel below 30 ft. under the B.H.P. agreement, because B.H.P. is already committed to pay 50 per cent. Under this agreement, the company —Western Aluminium No Liability—will, of course, pay one-half of the 50 per cent. which, as a company, it is committed to pay in respect of the dredging below 30 ft. From the main channel to the wharf—the company's wharf—and in respect of the swinging basin, the Government will pay 50 per cent. below 30 ft. The State will maintain this dredging. The cost to the State is not expected to be very great, because of the way this agreement supplements the B.H.P. agreement. In the final analysis, the amount will be greatly influenced by the main channel finally selected for the B.H.P. project.

Those members who recall the dredging conditions under the B.H.P. agreement will remember that in that agreement the final location of the main channel has not been determined; and the location of the channel will materially influence the dredging costs.

I now come to the question of harbour charges. These are divided into two parts; namely, bulk cargoes and cargoes other than bulk cargoes. The rates are set out in clause 8 of the agreement; and in respect of bulk cargoes they vary from 1s. per ton to 6d. per ton on all inwards and outwards bulk cargoes. It is a graduated scale. Up to 100,000 tons per annum, the rate is 1s. per ton. Then the scale rises in stages of 100,000 tons, until we get to quantities over 500,000 tons per annum, when the figure is 6d.

Mr. Tonkin: Was the trust consulted with regard to this?

Mr. COURT: Yes. Wharf charges will be assessed on the aggregate of all inwards and outwards bulk cargoes during each financial year at the rate appropriate to such aggregate; and upon any alterations in the Harbour Trust Commissioners' general cargo inner harbour rate for wharfage on inwards goods, for which other specific rates are not provided as fixed at the completion of the review of rates in progress at the date of this

agreement, the rates shall be increased or decreased proportionately to the alterations in the basic rate. In other words, there is an escalator clause attached to the movement in the rates made by the trust in the inner harbour.

In respect of all other cargoes—cargoes other than bulk cargoes—the charges will be fixed at 25 per cent. of the appropriate prescribed general cargo rate applicable to Fremantle Harbour Trust inner harbour charges. As is known, the Fremantle Harbour Trust's costs in respect of the inner harbour are entirely different from those in the Cockburn Sound area; and it was felt by them that they were entitled to 25 per cent. of the inner harbour charges; and that was agreed to after negotiations by the company.

Members will find in the agreement that provision was made to tie this figure to any movements that take place in the inner harbour charges; and, furthermore, a base figure was put in in order to overcome any anomaly that might arise if there were any quick changes in the Fremantle Harbour Trust's charges shortly after the signing of this agreement. All in all, a very satisfactory basis has been worked out.

The company, in addition to these charges, pays all normal tonnage rates or other services rendered to vessels using the company's wharves. That is the same as in the case of B.H.P. It pays full tonnage rates for the ships that use the wharves and pays for all tugs and other services that are chargeable specifically to a particular vessel.

The plan marked "C", and referred to in the agreement, deals with the mineral leases and reserves; and, with your permission, Sir, I will table it at the conclusion of my remarks. Within the areas shown on plan "C" the company can prospect and mine for bauxite. A right of occupancy on Crown land on the temporary reserve is given for five years, and the charges as are follows: By way of rental in the mineral leases £2 10s. per annum for every square mile in the lease area. For the right of occupancy of the temporary reserve, the sum of £50 per annum. Royalties will be payable at the rate of 9d. per dry ton if it is produced for the purpose of processing in the State, and 1s. per dry ton if produced for the purpose of sale as ore outside the State. The royalty is pegged to the selling price of aluminium using £A250 per ton as the basis figure. The term of the mineral leases will be 21 years with a right of renewal for a further 21 years. Further renewals can be negotiated on the conditions set out in clause 9 subclause (5).

An important point is that if the refinery is not operated by the 31st March, 1969, the leases determine on the 31st March, 1974. Further, there is a very important provision in respect of the period between 1969 and 1974, assuming that the refinery, by some mischance, has not been established. That, of course, is most unlikely at this stage in view of subsequent developments. But at the time of writing the agreement the negotiators on behalf of the Government had a responsibility to take care of this particular period.

During the period from the 1st April, 1969, to the 31st March, 1974, special higher rentals and royalties prevail. There is a rental of £5 per annum per square mile of the leased area—which is double the previous figure, and a considerable figure—quite a penalty figure—and the royalty is 2s. per ton on all bauxite produced and sold—again double the previous export royalty. Under such circumstances the company has the right to enter into fresh negotiations for the establishment of a refinery or other treatment plant.

In other words, if by some mischance the refinery has not been established by 1969, there are penalty conditions under which the company, if it sees fit to do so, can hold on to the lease from 1969 to 1974, by paying these penalty rates for rental and for royalties. It will not have an automatic right to continue with the arrangement related to the refinery; it will have to start its negotiations all over again. This is rather academic at the moment because it is expected that the whole show will be a going concern well ahead of what was originally intended to be the commencement date.

The export of bauxite is restricted by clause 9, subclause (8), which gives the company the right to export outside the State bauxite up to a total amount of 2,560,000 tons, with a maximum in any one financial year of 500,000 tons, unless otherwise mutually agreed, over a period of seven years from June, 1961. Thereafter, the export of bauxite is at the State's discretion and in such quantities as are reasonable in the light of all reserves of bauxite then known.

Transport is an important matter in these negotiations. In fact, so far as economics were concerned, in what transpired to be a marginal industry, transport costs became all-important. The company was most anxious to have rail facilities; and there are other good reasons why rail facilities are best suited to this type of haulage, because if these huge tonnages were being transported in that area by heavy road trucks, there would be not only the traffic hazard, but also the tremendous cost involved not only in building but in maintaining a road of a suitable type. It is envisaged that ultimately the ore will be carried from Mundijong to the Kwinana works-site along approximately the route shown in the Stephenson Plan from Mundijong to Kwinana. Separate legislation for this line will need to be introduced. When this line is agreed to, the company is obligated to use it for not less than 30 years; and, unless otherwise agreed, it will

use these rail facilities exclusively for the transport of ore from the leased area to the works-site.

Pending the completion of this railway, known as the "direct railway," arrangements can be made for the use of what is known as "the existing railway"; that is, the railway that now runs from Mundijong *via* Armadale and Jandakot. In other words, the more circuitous route can be used pending the completion of the direct route from Mundijong to Kwinana.

The rates for freight are set out in clause 10, subclause (11); and different rates per ton mile are shown with varying tonnages; and for the direct railway as distinct from the existing railway. Naturally we could not have the same per-ton rates for both railways, and a formula was worked out by the commissioner and eventually adopted by the company. An escalator clause is also provided to reflect changing rail costs. Obviously we could not allow an agreement of this duration to go on with the original per ton mile rates fixed for the whole duration of the agreement. They are fixed at the starting point but the railways get the benefit of a very satisfactory escalator clause.

I think I should quote the rates, so that they are recorded in *Hansard*, although they are actually in the agreement. There are two parts to the rail schedule within the agreement, and the first part deals with the direct railway. Column 1 sets out the figures in tons per financial year, and the second column shows the rates per ton mile expressed in pence. The figures are as follows:—

In Tons per Financial Year.	Rates per Ton Mile Expressed in Pence.
Up to but not exceeding—	
150,000	10
300,000	4.25
450,000	3.75
600,000	3
750,000	2.66
Exceeding—	
750,000	2.25

Part 2 deals with the existing railway, and column 1 sets out the figures in tons per financial year, and column 2 the rates per ton mile expressed in pence. The figures are—

In Tons per Financial Year.	Rates per Ton Mile Expressed in Pence.
Up to but not exceeding—	
150,000	6.5
300,000	3.5
450,000	3.25
600,000	3
750,000	2.75
Exceeding—	
750,000	2.5

So far as roads, electricity, and water are concerned, I think the details are clearly set out in the agreement and do not call for any special comment at this stage, unless members, in the course of reading the agreement, have any queries. The same applies to the provision of sea-water at the refinery site. I do not think that matter calls for any special comment.

So far as the forestry side of the matter is concerned, the method of operation and the arrangement for close consultation between the company, the Mines Department, and the various other departments, have been commented on earlier in my remarks. Suffice to say, close attention has been and will be given to this matter.

There are one or two points of a statistical nature I should mention before I conclude my remarks, and one is that to produce 120,000 tons of alumina requires 360,000 tons of bauxite plus 12,000 tons of limestone and 10,000 tons of soda ash. I understand that 120,000 tons of alumina, when converted to aluminium, produces approximately 40,000 tons, which will give some idea of the transport ratios in respect of the materials involved. We naturally hope that the large usage of chemicals by this company will make it easier for us to gain the establishment of a company to manufacture these chemicals locally. That will be an important point in the ultimate development of a chemical industry, or major chemical industries in the State.

Mr. Sewell: Will the soda ash have to be imported at first?

Mr. COURT: Yes; but we hope that this will be the necessary, or one of the necessary ingredients to help us establish a large-scale industry to produce these chemicals. The value of production is not accurately known, but it is estimated that 120,000 tons of alumina would be valued at about £4,000,000 per annum. That, of course, will increase with the greater volume that is proposed for this plant when it is initially established.

The work force involved, which is very important to us as a State, is estimated to be 350 to operate the refinery when it is in full production at the initial capacity. On the mining side, 40 to 60 men will be involved; and, in addition, of course, there is the number of men employed on transport. They are excluded from the figures of 350 to operate the refinery and 40 to 60 on the mining side. As I said, in addition there will be all the men engaged on transport, both to rail-head and in the actual operation of the additional rail services. It is expected that the construction force at its peak will reach 1,000 men.

The area of the leases is shown on the plan, which I will table; but so that the figures may be recorded, I will state now that the approximate area of the mineral leases is 2,779 square miles, and the temporary reserve 2,739 square miles.

The remaining clauses in the agreement, which I have not touched on in detail, will, I think, be found to be consistent with those that are normally found in the

machinery clauses of an agreement of this nature. If any member thinks there is anything special about them I will be only too pleased to explain the reason for the verbiage used.

In conclusion I want to pay a tribute to the work that has been done by the Mines Department in the early stages of the company's interest in bauxite; and that, of course, extends back into the time of the previous Government. I particularly want to pay tribute to what it has done during the period of negotiations, when its advice, in respect to the mining section of the agreement, was very carefully considered. It was of inestimable value in drawing up the agreement and framing clauses which were considered fair and equitable in an agreement of this duration. Naturally the Minister for Mines is the head of that department, and he has been very active in the negotiations.

The signing of the agreement is another example of how our mineral resources, in the hands of a company such as the Western Mining Corporation with the know-how and the desire to prove deposits, and with encouragement from the Government, can be the basis of a very important industry.

An agreement of this nature involves practically every Government department —there is hardly one that I know of which escapes—and the burden falls very heavily on the Crown Law Department. We have been extremely well served in our negotiations by the Solicitor-General and his team. The agreement, like all agreements of this type, took weeks and weeks of negotiation; and I must say that the Attorney-General shows great patience in the dislocation that my department, in particular, causes in his department; because in agreements of this magnitude he usually endeavours to oblige me by making available the services of the Solicitor-General himself. One has to see Mr. Good, the Solicitor-General, in action, when looking after the interests of the State, to appreciate the sterling work he does. It has been my privilege to be associated with him on several of these large negotiations, and I cannot speak too highly of the standard of his work, his wide knowledge of Western Australian law, and also his practical approach to the difficult drafting problems that arise.

I would also like to express my appreciation to all my fellow-Ministers controlling various departments for the close co-operation I have received from them; and, further, I express my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation I have received from their officers, who have gone out of their way, not only on this but also on other occasions, to try to make it possible for Western Australia to have established industries of this type, and to make sure that the people associated with the negotiations come here in the right atmosphere.

I am convinced that the alumina industry which is about to be established at Kwinana is destined to be one of the most important in this State; and, what is probably more important than that, one which will offer career opportunities for the young people of this State. I ask your permission, Mr. Speaker, to hand in plans lettered "A" and "C" for the information of members.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Tonkin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), until Tuesday, the 12th September.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MARINE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. WILD (Dale—Minister for Works) [9.13 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill can be divided into two sections. One is to overcome an irregularity which the Crown Law Department considers exists in connection with the licensing of mooring areas by the Harbour and Light Department. Since the inception of the Jetties Act, 1926, the Harbour and Light Department has issued, to yacht clubs and similar organisations, licenses for mooring areas in navigable waters. The Crown Law Department is now of the opinion that there is no power, under any Act, to confer by license or otherwise a private right to the exclusive use of any particular area for mooring purposes. The proposed inclusion of new section 16A will grant this power.

The second part of the Bill seeks to grant the department authority to license private pleasure boats propelled by engine or motor power. The increasing number of privately-owned power-boats used solely for pleasure in this State has been causing the department controlling the navigable waters of the State—the Harbour and Light Department—considerable concern and difficulty in its endeavours to exercise some form of control for the safety and enjoyment of everybody concerned, whether he be the owner of a power-boat or not.

Up to the present time the department has endeavoured to exercise this control, without requiring the owners to license their craft, purely by certain regulations which are designed to ensure that everybody using the waters can enjoy their pleasure without interference or danger from any other source. The terrific increase in the number of power-boats, particularly those of high power and high speed, has made this well-nigh impossible without some form of licensing being introduced.

Power-boats may be divided into two classes, viz.—

1. Speed-boats which are defined as craft specially designed for or capable of speeds in excess of 12 knots with either inboard or outboard engines.
2. The conventional type of motor-boat.

It may be asked why the licensing of these craft could not be confined to the first type, which are designed for speed, and thus exempt the conventional type. This would be difficult to justify for three reasons.

Firstly, it would not be fair to say to one power-boat owner that because he had a specially-designed craft he must license it, and to say to another that because he had a conventional-type craft he was exempt.

Secondly, some of the modern conventional-type craft are so highly powered that they are capable of speeds in excess of 12 knots, and yet would not come within the category of a speed boat.

Thirdly, the conventional-type craft is posing problems which are causing concern owing to the dangers of loss of life and expense in searching for missing vessels, which should not have been permitted to proceed into dangerous waters, either because of lack of equipment, overloading, or not being designed to be capable of proceeding into such waters with safety.

It was previously stated that the department has endeavoured to exercise control purely by regulation, without resort to licensing, but has met with little success. Particularly is this so in regard to craft of the class coming within the category of specially-designed speed-boats. To quote one example: One regulation provides that all these craft must have an identification name, number, or mark painted on both sides of the hull in such a manner as to be clearly visible to the naked eye in daylight, under clear atmospheric conditions, at a distance of at least 100 yards. This has been done by the owners of such craft, but the department has been faced with the position that, having obtained the identification of a boat, it has found, on attempting to locate the owner, that there are numerous boats having the same identification mark.

Under licensing, the department will allocate an identification number which will be registered in the name and address of the owner. Then again, an increasing number of people residing in country districts are acquiring these craft, and with the use of their motor-vehicles and trailers are taking them to the water and returning them to their homes. These people are complete strangers to everybody else, and one can easily imagine the difficulty the department has in locating these owners; in fact, it is impossible.

The problem of the second class of power-boats is entirely different. Numbers of these boats proceed to sea with little or no equipment in the way of life-saving gear, fire extinguishers, or the means of making distress signals should they get into difficulties. Owners proceed to sea in craft that are dangerous in open waters and which should never be permitted to proceed outside sheltered waters, or go out overloaded—and, what is still more serious, with women and children—and nobody can say them nay.

Governments, port authorities, and other services have been put to considerable expense in searching for such craft that have been missing, and many tragedies have resulted from such practices. If the system of licensing were adopted, a license would not be issued unless the craft was efficiently equipped. For a boat not fit to proceed to sea, a license would be issued only for protected waters, and the number of persons to be carried would be stipulated.

This matter is giving concern in all States of the Commonwealth; and the Australian Port Authorities' Association is urging all States to take legislative action. A precedent has already been established in Australia, as all power-boats in Queensland have, for some years, been required to be licensed.

It is not intended that license fees shall be heavy, or be a means of producing revenue, but that they shall be only nominal. It may be possible for the fees obtained to be returned to the various water-ways in the way of assistance to the owners of craft using such water-ways.

Finally, the fear of losing the license and being forced to lay up the boat for persistent breaches of the regulations, would have a more salutary effect than a mere fine. If the Bill is passed, I intend to set up a committee comprising the manager of the Harbour and Light Department, as chairman, representatives of the Swan River Conservation Board, the Aquatic Council, and local authorities concerned, to advise me on the administration of licensing powered motor-boats. This power for licensing is contained in the addition of sections 207A to 207R.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Tonkin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition).

BILLS (4): MESSAGES

Appropriation

Messages from the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator received and read recommending appropriation for the following Bills:—

1. Health Education Council Act Amendment Bill.
2. Welfare and Assistance Bill.
3. Alumina Refinery Agreement Bill.
4. Western Australian Marine Act Amendment Bill.

FRUIT CASES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [9.23 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The passing of this amending Bill will be of assistance to growers and others who have followed the current tendency to market fruit loosely packed for direct sale to purchasers such as supermarkets.

The Fruit Cases Act prohibits the use of second-hand cases for the sale or export of fruit except for a number of provisions which are set out in section 8, and which relate to such matters as labelling and cleaning, etc. However, one such proviso states that when bananas or pineapples have been carried within the State in a prescribed case, such case can be used again, only after undergoing inspection and treatment, for containing either bananas or pineapples or vegetables not being fruit. These cases are commonly known as banana or tropical fruit cases.

The Bill proposes to repeal that particular proviso and enable tropical fruit cases to be used for any fruit subject to the other provisions concerning cleaning and brands, etc. Because of their sturdy construction and comparative cheapness, these cases are valued for loosely-packed fruit; and as the department felt there was no reason for maintaining the prohibition, it readily supported the request of the Fruit Growers' Association for this amendment.

In recent years there has been an increased tendency to purchase direct from growers, and this has no doubt been brought about by the keen competition in the retail field and the consequent desire to cut costs. This Bill is therefore necessary to keep abreast of current trends.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. May.

House adjourned at 9.25 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 6th September, 1961

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