was built in an established community, such as at Kwinana. It is interesting to note that within a period of 20 years it is foreshadowed there will be 6,000 additional houses in the district.

I think this is a very important agreement and I commend it to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Davies.

BILLS (2): MESSAGES

Appropriations

Messages from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the following Bills:—

1. Marketing of Linseed Bill.
2. Alumina Refinery (Pinjarra) Agreement Bill.

House adjourned at 6 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 7th October, 1969

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

JOINT STANDING ORDERS

Amendments: Governor's Approval

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): I have received the following message from the Governor:—

> The Governor has the honour to inform the Legislative Council of Western Australia that he has this day approved of amendments to the Joint Standing Orders made by the Legislative Council on 9th September, 1969, and by the Legislative Assembly on 30th September, 1969.
>
> (Signed) DOUGLAS KENDREW, Governor.

QUESTIONS (4): ON NOTICE

1. TOWN PLANNING

Controlled Access Road at Churchlands

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON asked the Minister for Town Planning:

Further to my question on the 17th September, 1969, regarding the controlled access road at Churchlands, will the Minister give an indication of when route details will be completed as planning and development of this area of first class suburban land is being delayed to the detriment of the local community?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

Though the detailed alignment of the proposed controlled access road has not been decided upon, there has been no delay to the overall planning of this area.

Planning in the area to the north of the proposed road is in its final stages. Proposals for land use on the southern side are now being considered and an early decision is expected.

2. HEALTH

Appointment of Dentist at Exmouth

The Hon. G. W. BERRY asked the Minister for Health:

(1) Has a dentist been appointed to Exmouth?

(2) If so, when will he be taking up his appointment?

The Hon G. C. MacKINNON replied:

(1) Yes, a dentist has been appointed to Exmouth.

(2) The officer will take up this appointment at the conclusion of his present duties. It is anticipated that this will be in December. In the meanwhile, a visiting service is provided from Carnarvon.

3. MINES

Weebo Stone Site

The Hon. G. E. D. BRAND asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) Following the recommendations of the Government committee which inquired into the Weebo Stone site, is it correct that Mr. W. H. Hoffman of Leonora has been refused the right to return to the site?

(2) Does the 20 to 30 tons of stone mined by Mr. Hoffman prior to the report of the committee, remain on the site?

(3) If the reply to (2) is "No"—

(a) under whose authority was the stone removed;

(b) where is the stone; and

(c) will action be taken to recover the stone?

(4) What authority will be responsible to ensure that there will be no future unlawful removal of stone from the site?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) Action by the Governor pursuant to section 29 of the Mining Act exempted the prospecting area in question from occupation for mining.

(2) Action by the Governor, as above, on the 2nd May, 1969, prevented the removal of any stone after that date.

(3) Answered by (2).

(4) At the present time, a ministerial reserve under the Mining Act has been created over the area of interest but it is thought that the area should also be created a native reserve, which would preclude unauthorised persons entering the reserve.

4. COUNTRY SEWERAGE INSPECTORS

Appointment

The Hon. G. W. BERRY asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) Is it permissible for country shire health inspectors to be given authority to act as country sewerage inspectors?

(2) If not, is a course of instruction available so that they can perform these duties?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) No.

An inspector appointed to administer the by-laws and the Country Towns Sewerage Act, 1948-1967, is required to hold a full sewerage and water supply plumbers' license as issued by the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board, or its equivalent.

This in turn requires the inspector to have the same qualifications as is required of a master plumber; namely, the completion of an apprenticeship in the trade and a certificate of competency issued by the Plumbers Examination Board of Western Australia.

(2) No.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 4)

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government), and transmitted to the Assembly.

DOG ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Upper West —Minister for Local Government) [4.45 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is to amend the Dog Act and it contains only one operative clause. This clause—clause 2—provides for an amendment to section 34A by the addition of subsections empowering local authorities to make by-laws—

(a) limiting the number of dogs which the occupier of any premises may keep, or cause or permit to be kept, thereat;

(b) imposing a penalty not exceeding $20 for the breach of any such by-law.

A further subsection provides that these by-laws must be applied to the whole of the district or such part or parts of the district as prescribed by the by-laws for the purpose.

Complaints have been received from time to time about the fact that councils are experiencing difficulty in controlling the number of dogs which may be kept in residential districts within the metropolitan area and advice has been received that at present there is no legislative power enabling councils to exercise control through their by-laws.

Several councils have expressed the wish to promulgate such by-laws and when the question was referred to the Local Government Association and the Country Shire Councils' Association they approved of the proposal for the amendment.

As members are aware, dogs can create a considerable nuisance, particularly to adjoining owners, if they are kept in large numbers. This Bill is not designed to restrict entirely the keeping of dogs in residential areas, but it is felt that two is the maximum number which should be kept in a residential area. However, the Bill does not specify the number, but merely grants the council the right to include in its by-laws a provision limiting the number of dogs which the occupier of any premises may keep thereat.

In view of the support for this proposal there can be no logical objection to its being passed, because it is a necessary amendment to ensure the health and comfort of residents of urban areas.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. R. F. Claughton.

FAUNA CONSERVATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Report

Report of Committee adopted.

THE PERPETUAL EXECUTORS TRUSTEES AND AGENCY COMPANY (W.A.) LIMITED ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [4.48 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Trustee companies in Western Australia are empowered by their private Acts—in similar terms—to establish "common trust funds" for the purpose of enabling trusts and estates to be combined or amalgamated in a common fund investment.

The relevant sections of The Perpetual Executors Trustees and Agency Company (W.A.) Limited Private Act are 21A and 21B.

Section 21A authorises the company, in addition to other modes of investment permitted by law for investment of trust moneys, to invest trust moneys as part of a fund to be called a "common trust fund." The moneys constituting the common trust fund may be invested in any of the modes of investment permitted by law for the investment of trust moneys.

Section 21B authorises the company, where it holds moneys belonging to more than one estate, to invest such moneys as one fund in one or more investments authorised by law or by the instrument creating the trust.

Both sections authorise the company to use funds which come to its hands from a variety of sources for the purpose of investment in a common trust fund in the company's name. In addition, the company is empowered by its Act to act as agent for investment, for which purpose it operates what are loosely called "contributory mortgages," or "common mortgage funds"—these are simply types of contributory mortgages.

The company has recently been advised that the operation of common funds could possibly conflict with the provisions of division 5 of part IV of the Companies Act. In 1960 the Companies Act, 1943, was amended to place restrictions on the issue or offer to the public of "Interests" and these provisions in substantially the same form are now contained in the Companies Act, 1961.

When these restrictive provisions were enacted in 1960, and re-enacted in 1961, no thought appears to have been given in this State to the possibility that the operation of the common funds of the trustee companies might be affected by the legislation. In Queensland, however, it is evident that the possibility was foreseen because there the trustee companies and the Public Curator are specifically exempted.

By section 76 of the Companies Act, 1961, "Interest" is defined as meaning "Any right to participate in any common enterprise . . . in which the holder is led to expect profits, rent or interest from the efforts of the promoter or the enterprise of a third party." In addition, the definition of "Interest" extends to "Any right to participate . . . in any investment contract." The definition of "Investment Contract" is "Any contract, scheme or arrangement which in substance and irrespective of the form thereof involves the investment of money in or under such circumstances that the investor acquires or may acquire an interest in or right in respect of property that under or in accordance with the terms of investment will or may at the option of the investor be used or employed in common with any other interest in or right in respect of property acquired in or under like circumstances." It follows from this that whatever a company is called in such a scheme, it will be a "Management Company" for the purposes of division 5 and must conform with the requisite statutory provisions.

Trustee companies — and the Public Trustee—are bound by very strict rules in respect of their investment of trust funds. They are also subject to audit and must operate strictly within the purview of their private Acts, which involve the lodgment of deposits and the giving of security to the Treasurer.

At the present time, the company has invested in its funds some $13,000,000 which is secured by mortgages over the following:—

flats

homes

city properties, and business premises.

With regard to flats, there are approximately 3,000 in number involved in the company's lendings and these are situated in many districts of the metropolitan area and comprise blocks of various sizes. The rentals vary according to the size and locality of each flat but the majority of the flats are available for persons of moderate means.

In this rapidly developing State, the availability of mortgage finance for homes and flats is of great importance as it assists materially in providing accommodation for so many people who are unable to finance their own homes. It seems certain the demand for finance for these purposes will continue.

It would be quite impracticable for a trustee company to operate its common fund investments within the framework of division 5, nor, it is submitted, was it intended that it should do so. However, the wording of the division is so wide that the possibility cannot be overlooked.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Justice) [4.53 p.m.]: I see no reason for delaying the passage of this Bill, particularly as I have had an opportunity to look at it. Of course, it bears a great similarity to the Bill which follows—Order of the Day No. 5.

I am bound to say they were very pleasing words for me to hear when Mr. Willesee spoke of this rapidly developing

State and the availability of mortgage finance for homes and flats as being of great importance to assist materially in providing accommodation for so many people who are unable to finance their own homes.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I was addressing myself to the Bill; not expressing my own opinion.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The honourable member also said that it seems certain the demand for finance for these purposes will continue. The Government has no objection to this Bill; in fact, it supports it and, as far as I am concerned, the measure can proceed immediately.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN TRUSTEE EXECUTOR AND AGENCY COMPANY LIMITED ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Second Reading

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [4.56 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

In view of the support given to the previous Bill it is not my intention to take up the time of the House with a lengthy introductory speech. This measure is identical with the one just passed and applies to the same division of the Companies Act and for the same purposes.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Justice) [4.58 p.m.]: I support this Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

SUITORS' FUND ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 2nd October.

THE HON. J. DOLAN (South-East Metropolitan) [5 p.m.]: When the parent Act was debated in October, 1964—as the Minister stated in his second reading speech—it met with the general approval of the Opposition. I might add that it also met with the general approval of all other members.

The Minister stated that the Bill was a step in the direction of achieving a measure of social justice, and was one which would fulfil a long required want. I can agree with the Minister that it is, to a certain extent, serving the purpose for which it was introduced.

When the parent Act was passed it provided for the setting up of a suitors' fund and, as the Minister stated, that fund now has a very healthy balance of something over $40,000. As the total collections have been only $47,000 it can be seen that the fund is quite solvent.

An Appeal Costs Board comprising three members was also set up—these members were: the chairman appointed by the Governor; a member appointed by the Law Society; and a third member appointed by the Barristers' Board. The present composition of the board is Messrs. Ruse, Sharp, and Reilly—all names very well known in the legal world. Evidently, those gentlemen are doing an excellent job.

The suitors' fund was financed by giving authority for a levy of between 10c and 20c to be placed on the issue of any writ or summons in the Supreme Court, the entry of plaints in local courts, and the issue of any summons to a defendant upon complaint under the Justices Act of 1902, whereby any proceeding is commenced in a court of petty sessions. The fee was paid to the proper officer of the appropriate court.

The fact that it has not been necessary to increase the charge beyond 10c indicates, of course, the solvency of the fund. Provision is made under the Act, should the occasion require it, for the fee to be raised to 20c.

The Law Reform Committee, which gave the parent Act its approval, stated that it would have much preferred the fund to be financed from Government revenue. Although the Law Reform Committee in no way opposed the Bill, it felt the legislation was designed to benefit all persons who may be involved in litigation. As all members of the community were involved the Law Reform Committee felt that the 10c charge would be a tax on those persons who issued processes. To a certain extent I can agree with that argument but, of course, it is not a matter to be concerned about at the moment.

I will not refer to all the circumstances under which payment may be made but, briefly, under the original Act—just to give a couple of examples—when civil or criminal proceedings are rendered abortive by the death or protracted illness of the presiding judge, magistrate, or justice, before whom the proceedings are being heard, or by the disagreement of a jury, payment may be made.

It will be seen that if a trial had gone on for a number of days and then, due to one of those unfortunate circumstances I have mentioned, it was necessary to hold a fresh trial, the litigant would be involved in further expense and the measure of social justice which the Bill proposes would be granted. Of course, in those circumstances assistance is most desirable.

I would like to raise one point for consideration by the Minister—I refer to the necessity to include the unusual circumstances where a judge or a magistrate may have been suspended. I have in mind a couple of instances of this particular circumstance which I can recall having occurred in my lifetime. I do not want to dwell on the point but I think it is very often the unusual circumstance for which provision should be made.

Assistance may also be given where an appeal on a question of law is upheld and a new trial is ordered. In those circumstances the extra costs involved by a litigant could be such as to deprive him of an opportunity to receive real justice. There have been cases in the last couple of days—although they are not covered by this Bill—which would be the type to which assistance would be applicable. I refer to the sailor who was charged with rape. A fresh trial was ordered but that case does not come under the provisions of this Bill. However, an Australian citizen in smiliar circumstances will be entitled under the proposed amendments to receive benefit from the fund.

I was quite interested, when I read through the Bill, and the previous debate, to notice that proceedings under the Workers' Compensation Act are covered. I also noticed a case reported in the Press yesterday where a claim against the Workers' Compensation Board was refused. I think it related to a woman who had been injured at work and who eventually died. The husband applied for compensation on the ground that she contributed to the support of the family. The claim was wiped out at the first count but an appeal was allowed and an amount of over $3,000 was granted. That would be a case to which the fund could be applied, if necessary.

There are a couple of other matters I wish to raise with the Minister. I would like to know whether in the future the Government has in mind a further extension of the Act to cover all sources to which the suitors' fund could apply. I would refer, first of all, to the Third Party Claims Tribunal which was constituted in 1967. The tribunal is the equivalent of a court, and it has been set up since the Suitors' Fund Act was passed in 1964.

Section 16F of the Motor Vehicle Third Party Insurance Act gives the tribunal power to delegate all or any of its powers. In other words, if the tribunal so desires, it can delegate authority to the Local Court and allow it jurisdiction. Any determination which the Local Court makes is as binding in law as if it were actually made by the Third Party Claims Tribunal.

In those circumstances I feel that where there is provision in the Act for an appeal to be made to the Third Party Claims Tribunal—in the event of one of the parties being unhappy with the decision reached in the Local Court—then to a certain extent there is a parallel between the operations of that particular court and the operations of the courts which are covered by the present Bill.

Then, of course, there is the provision that any decision of the tribunal may be referred to the full bench of the Supreme Court, which is very similar to the processes with regard to references from the Local Court to the Supreme Court. As those cases are covered I would like the Minister to explain why tribunal cases are not included. Possibly there are grave difficulties involved with which I am not familiar; I am not associated with the legal profession in any shape or form.

I would also refer to the courts which are set up under the Industrial Arbitration Act. Several courts are constituted under that Act and the first is the court to be presided over by an industrial magistrate. Many of our magistrates regularly preside over those courts. In the annual report of the Western Australian Industrial Commission some of the magistrates who have exercised jurisdiction as industrial commissioners are listed. I refer to Messrs. A. L. F. Taylor; N. J. Malley; J. F. Syme; P. V. Smith; K. A. Philp; and T. R. McGuigan. Those magistrates preside in areas ranging from Albany in the south to Broome and Derby in the north, so they cover a rather wide field.

The second industrial court is the Industrial Commission, generally composed of one commissioner. The third, is the Commission in Court Session which numbers more than one—usually three—but I understand that two would constitute a court. Finally, there is the Western Australian Industrial Appeal Court which is presided over by three judges. At the present time they are Mr. Justice Burt, Mr. Justice Nevile, and Mr. Justice Wickham, and this shows the importance placed on their jurisdiction.

Appeals can go from one court to the other. For example, there is provision for an appeal from the industrial magistrate to the Industrial Commission and, if necessary, to the Western Australian Industrial Appeal Court. There is also provision for an appeal from the Commission in Court Session to the Western Australian Industrial Appeal Court. As those provisions

are very similar to the processes which are involved in the cases which are rendered assistance by the suitors' fund I feel that there is a need to include industrial courts and there must be some reason that they do not operate.

I feel an examination could be made of the two courts I have mentioned. Perhaps an extension of the provisions of the suitors' fund to cover these courts might result in the fund being strained but I would point out that the appeals in this particular section of our law are very few. In the year under review in the report, to the 30th June, 1968, the appeals from decisions of industrial magistrates were only five in number. Three were allowed and two were pending. Appeals from the decision of an industrial commissioner numbered two, only one of which was allowed. There were only two applications for penalties; and so the details go on.

The total appeals or matters dealt with in the period under review numbered 11, and I feel that any decisions made in those circumstances would not, in any respect, interefere with the solvency of the fund.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Not in any respect?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: Not to any great degree.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: There must be some difference. The more appeals allowed the greater the impost on the fund.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: That is right. However, what I am implying is that in view of the fact that the fund has shown a great solvency, and in view of the fact that appeals held in industrial courts are so few—taking the average of the actual appeals I think there were about seven, and in other cases about four—they would not involve a big drain on the fund.

We support the Bill. We feel that the amendments which are proposed to widen the scope of the legislation are desirable. Any amendments which widen the scope of legislation, as long as they contain some merit—I do not mean that these amendments should be made willy-nilly—will be applauded.

I shall not delay the passage of the Bill but, when the Minister is replying, I would like him to tell me—or perhaps any other members who are perhaps more conversant with these proceedings at law than I am could tell me during the debate—whether there are any difficulties in extending the scope of this legislation to cover the operations of the Third Party Claims Tribunal and the Industrial Commission. With those few remarks I support the Bill.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. V. J. Ferry.

MARKETING OF CYPRUS BARREL MEDIC SEED BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 2nd October.

THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North) [5.16 p.m.]: I think it is rather strange that this Bill is before Parliament. One could, I feel, agree with the principle of establishing controlled marketing for very many commodities, but this Bill is designed to create a pool and establish a board to control the marketing of cyprus barrel medic clover seed only. This variety of clover has not been grown in this State for very long and the production of seed has varied considerably since it was introduced in quantity with a booming reputation in the early 1960s.

Since that time the seed produced and sold is of this order—

Year	Tons Produced
1962-63	110
1963-64	1,250
1964-65	240
1965-66	660
1966-67	1,080
1967-68	547

Of the 547 tons produced last year, 400 tons were certified and therefore came under the attention of the Department of Agriculture—under that very fine and effective division which deals with the certification of seed.

When we bear in mind that the total production of seed for all pasture legumes—and that includes all clovers—is about 15,000 tons in this State we can see that barrel medic clover is one of the lesser varieties in the tonnage produced for sale. The value, as at yesterday, was $23 a ton in hundredweight bag lots. As a result of a quick piece of mental arithmetic it can be seen that the production last year was worth in the vicinity of $8,000 to $9,000.

Having had a good deal of experience with the establishment and conducting of marketing boards and pools, from the days of the start of the Queensland legislation —which legislation, with adaptations, was introduced in this State—I can say quite frankly that I know of no instance of a board being required to control the marketing of only a few hundred tons of seed of any kind. No matter how we may be in sympathy with the principle in this Bill, the House has been given very little information as to the cost of administration, the manner of administration, and the manner of dealing with the authorities given under the Bill, when it becomes

an Act, to the board of six which will be constituted by the passing of this measure.

It is pertinent to note—and this, too, was said by the Minister—that 36 ballot papers were issued, and with the valid papers there was unanimity among the growers affected, in regard to the establishment of a pool. It is important to observe that this Bill deals with one class of seed, and one class only. There is no provision in it to cover any other type of small seed. It is not intended to embrace any other type of pasture seed, and as many different pasture seeds are produced in this State—we have a substantial export of many thousands of tons—I am gravely concerned whether it is the right approach for a Bill to cover a single commodity of this type only, particularly when the total tonnages being produced are of the order I have already related.

I wonder whether this approach is in the best interests of producers, or those who are to use the seed. For example, it could be considered that the price for the seed of this very valuable type of clover is insufficient to recompense those engaged in seed production and to enable all the care that is necessary to be taken. Great care has to be exercised in regard to all types of certified seed. Farming members in this Chamber would know how careful they have to be in preparing paddocks for the production of seeds to ensure that certification is approved and marketing can be effected with an assurance that the seed contains very few, if any, impurities, including the seeds of weeds. This is as a result of the planning of a very good section of the Department of Agriculture which, I repeat, does a great job.

I think we should approach this subject along these lines: a skeleton Bill could be introduced to provide for an authority which could specify any type of commodity or seed as coming within its jurisdiction. That would be a better approach than to have a board of six to control the destiny of a few hundred tons of production in regard to one seed only. My suggestion is the adoption of the situation which prevails in more than one State of Australia. Queensland, which led the Commonwealth in controlled marketing, has used to great advantage Acts which enable that State to declare certain types of commodities as coming within the control of a board.

However, boards cannot be run for nothing; some of them are very costly luxuries, and when we are dealing with a commodity the value of which a prominent seed merchant in Perth gave me yesterday as being $23 a ton—

The Hon. C. R. Abbey: Are you sure that is correct?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: That is the figure given to me by a representative of Wesfarmers seed division.

The Hon. C. R. Abbey: That is a little over 1c a pound.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: That is the figure given to me, as I said, by a representative of Wesfarmers seed division.

The Hon. C. R. Abbey: It seems very low to me.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: It does. I can only assume the figure is correct. I asked the man what the price was and then I asked him whether it was per hundredweight. He said "No, but it is in one hundredweight bags."

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That is about 1c a pound.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I am only repeating the figure I was given over the telephone by a representative of the seed division of that firm.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It does seem quite low.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: You will have all the farmers going in and buying some at that price.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: It does not concern my argument whether it is $23 a ton or not.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It does.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: It does not matter for the purposes of my argument. The tonnage of seed produced is so small in this instance.

The Hon. E. C. House: The price would be about 23c a pound.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I stand to be corrected in this situation, but I am giving the House the exact figure given to me. As members know, as a rule I take no chance in verifying my information. However, whether it is $23 a hundredweight or, as Mr. House said, 23c a pound, it does not, in my view, prove the necessity for this legislation. In addition, it is not for me to give information to the House because there was a paucity of information in the introductory notes. If members read the speech they will see there is very little justification for the Bill—and that is not the fault of the Minister who introduced it in this House. He was dealing with the notes prepared for and handled by him.

I was about to reach the stage where a levy will have to be struck. There will be no way in which a board such as this can function without the necessary finance, and it will have to be vested with considerable authority. If members look at clause 17 of the Bill they will see that that provision clearly shows what strength the board is having vested in it and the authorities under which it will be able to operate not only to deal with seed but, I emphasise, with all the usual circumstances the control of which is vested in almost every board.

So I get back to the point that it would be very much more acceptable—and I do not intend to oppose the Bill, let me say at this stage—if we had a plan for an Act which would provide for the control of all pasture seeds by the one authority. Under the system proposed by this Bill we could have eight or 10 different kinds of boards dealing with clover seeds alone. For example, I do not know the production of yarloop, woogenellup, clare, or any of the other varieties of clover which are grown in this State.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: They are all bulked together.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: It is possible to buy certified seed of the different varieties.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: For the statistical returns they are all bulked together.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: That is so but they are not all of the same variety.

The Hon. E. C. House: It would be a bit like the two religions if you tried to put these two different types together.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: That is so, but they do mix. As members know, it is possible to get black and white clover seed in the one bag. Have we not all had that experience? When the control of this seed is vested in the board, as is provided for in clause 23 of the Bill, the board would have the responsibility of arranging the necessary machinery for the marketing of the product. Agents will have to be appointed; all sorts of things will have to be done and that expenditure will be involved is quite evident because I had a look at the situation the moment the Bill hit my desk. I did this because the implementation of the legislation will impose a charge on the Crown.

That was my first reaction. I then immediately checked to see whether the Bill was accompanied by a Governor's Message, and it was. So some of the lessons of the past have been well and truly learnt.

However, being very serious about the matter, the authorities given in the Bill—and it is also the responsibility of the Crown—are, firstly, that the Treasurer is to guarantee money borrowed—members will find that in detail in clause 32—so the Crown does not place on the board the complete responsibility for the initial finance, or for guarantees that are necessary. Further, the Crown even takes the responsibility of paying interest on money borrowed.

I believe most strongly in the policy of certifying true types of seeds, because Western Australia, both nationally and internationally, has built up a reputation for its seeds. If necessary, I hope greater strength will be given to that section of the Department of Agriculture which deals so effectively with this matter.

I return to my starting point that I do not know whether we can strongly justify the need for a board to control a pool of a few hundred tons of seed a year. There are already in existence voluntary pools ably handled by the seed producers of this State, some of which have not been wound up. I would like a great deal of thought to be given by the Minister for Agriculture to the question of not insisting that Parliament should approve a Bill for this purpose, but to have a sort of master Statute so that, if it is necessary, one board could operate to handle all clover seed.

I would like to see an extension of the voluntary pool system to enable this commodity to be handled, fully appreciative of the referendum that was taken and the result of it. However, if the need had been proved, and the objective assured, we could have no qualms whatsoever about a Bill of this kind. As I said earlier, I support the principle. A group of farmers has decided the Bill is necessary and has requested the Government to introduce it. The Minister gave us the history of the referendums previously suggested and effectively taken, and the result of the one that became the reason for this Bill. Nevertheless, I do not like the prospect of a multiplicity of boards where, in many spheres, one might suffice. However, I support the measure.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. N. McNeill.

PLANT DISEASES ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 2nd October.

THE HON. F. R. H. LAVERY (South Metropolitan) [5.34 p.m.]: As the late Hon. Emil Nulsen used to say, this is a little Bill. It is little in wording, because it seeks to add only two words to a section of the principal Act. However, if mature consideration is given to the effect of the amendment one will realise it is worth a good deal of study, and on doing so it will be found to be an education. The inclusion of the two words proposed will be an added safeguard in regard to the transport of fruit and vegetables both intrastate and interstate, because the amendment, when passed, will cover both the "bringing" and the "sending" of fruit.

When introducing the Bill in another place the Minister made the following comment:—

> With the current trend of consigning goods to a second or third party, there is a very real need to maintain

> the regulations pertaining to "sending" in order to have some control over the consigning of such fruit or plants.

He then went on to say that unless the amendment in the Bill was agreed to there was doubt that the relevant regulations could be legally enforced.

We often hear it said that Western Australia is making great advances, and it must be admitted that our transportation systems, rail, road, and air, have also made great advances. To my mind the amendment will further assist the department in controlling the movement of fruit, vegetables, and plants from place to place in Western Australia, and from other States, especially in those instances when some people give no thought to the producers of this State and either deliberately, or accidentally, convey diseased produce from one place to another.

I have one query. I cannot understand why two persons can be charged with the one offence. For example, if fruit and vegetables are brought from the south-west to the Perth market, the agents then buy the produce on the market floor and repack it for consignment to other parts of the State. In some instances it is consigned without being repacked. At any stage it could be the person consigning the fruit, or the transport operator who knows that the produce is suspected of being diseased, and when it arrives at its destination an inspector could decide that the produce or plants should be condemned.

As I read the amendment, the inspector could then charge the individual who consigned the produce and also the person who was responsible for transporting it. Therefore it seems to be a two-edged sword, and I would be happier if the amendment provided that only one or other of those persons were to be charged.

In view of the fact that it will not be long before fruit can be consigned at Brisbane, Queensland, for delivery to Kewdale, Western Australia, or that fruit can be picked up in South Australia by road hauliers and by travelling along the back roads conveyed to the north through Meekatharra, it does seem that the department will have to impose stringent rules as a safeguard against any diseased fruit and vegetables arriving in Western Australia from other States, or being transported from one part of the State to another. Therefore it is essential that we give great consideration to this legislation.

I have also given some thought to what will happen in regard to the containerisation system. Will our State inspectors have authority to open containers in order to check them? Such a container could be consigned at some point in Queensland and delivered in Perth by road hauliers who travel to the north, and there could be disease in the container itself. These are points that will have to be watched very carefully.

When the Minister in another place was asked about what would happen in regard to the establishment of a check point at Norseman on the Eyre Highway when it is completely bituminised, I was rather surprised that, in his reply to the debate on the second reading, he said—

> Because of the changed circumstances which exist at the moment, a final decision on this matter has been deferred. The facilities being provided by the standard gauge railway for rapid transit between Sydney and Fremantle, and the fact that very soon, probably, the road between the Eastern States and Western Australia will be completely bituminised, make it necessary for the board to reconsider the whole situation, including a check point at Norseman. The board has deferred its decision in order that it might have more time to obtain further evidence as to the movement of stock, plants, tourists, and so on from the east to the west.

Those comments by the Minister in another place lead me to the conclusion that the establishment of this very necessary check point will be further delayed, and although the Minister has given a reason for the delay I hope it will not be long before such a check point is provided at Norseman. I am very conscious of how people behave in regard to the handling of fruit when travelling in private passenger vehicles or on bus tours. I know there are some honest transport operators, but there are also some very careless people. I support the Bill.

THE HON. V. J. FERRY (South-West) [5.44 p.m.]: I rise to support the Bill, but in so doing I will not take up much time of the House. Although it has been said the measure is rather small, nevertheless its effect will be far-reaching. The fruit industry in this State could be vitally affected by the provisions contained in the Plant Diseases Act, apart altogether from their effect on the growing of fruit and vegetables.

Recently I asked a question in this House, and received a reply, in respect of control over the entry of fruit to the Kimberley area of this State. I was pleased to hear that only recently an inspector had been appointed at Kununurra to attend to any problems that might occur there. Although Kununurra is a long way from the recognised fruit-growing areas of this State, nevertheless the regulations and the Act apply State-wide.

Mr. Lavery has drawn attention to the need to prevent the entry of fruit and plants from the Eastern States by way of the Eyre Highway across the Nullabor. The Western Australian Fruit Growers' Association has been very concerned about this for a considerable time, and I know that the question of establishing a check point at the location mentioned is receiving the closest consideration.

I feel that the tightening of the provisions of the Act, as envisaged in the Bill before us, is all the more important today, because at the moment we are negotiating to establish a fruit and vegetable canning industry in Western Australia. If we can achieve that it will be a tremendous breakthrough and be of outstanding benefit to this State, particularly to those people who are engaged in fruit growing. I believe there is a tremendous future for the growing of fruit and vegetables in this State, but if we permit diseases to hinder the development of this sort of industry we will have a lot to answer for. So the provisions contained in the Bill are very worthy.

I can add to that by saying that it is well known there is a very big market for our fruit in Japan, for instance, and maybe in other Asian countries, but because those countries associate Western Australia with the problems that are besetting the fruit industry in the Eastern States it is not practicable for us in Western Australia to market overseas the fruit we would like to export; therefore it is doubly important that we should ensure that these industries are well and truly protected.

I support the Bill.

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (Lower West—Minister for Health) [5.47 p.m.]: Two questions were raised in this debate; one was raised by Mr. Lavery in regard to the charging of two people in association with the one offence. This can apply in a number of avenues. If I wittingly and knowingly accept a request by another person who wittingly and knowingly wants to send someone in another State a bush or a plant of some sort—knowing this to be an offence—and send that bush or plant it is only reasonable that I, along with the person who requested it, should be charged; in the same way as the person driving a get-away motorcar in a robbery is charged.

The other point which was raised, of establishing a check point, has received attention. Probably both Mr. Lavery and Mr. Ferry know about this: the suitable points for entry into Western Australia from the Eastern States along the roads happen to be fairly isolated, and they are not conducive to attracting the staff required to fill the positions at these check points.

The Hon. E. C. House: Norseman could have been bypassed.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Yes. I would not consider that point, because a motorist could turn off to Esperance before reaching there. The check point would have to be a long way further east, but as Mr. Stubbs is present I am not game enough to suggest that Norseman is not an attractive town in which an inspector might be prepared to live. I was thinking about some spot more to the east than Norseman. Some of these places are too remote to attract the staff required.

Those were the two queries raised. I trust that the information I have given will help members.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

TIMBER INDUSTRY REGULATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 2nd October.

THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North) [5.51 p.m.]: It will be recalled that last year an amendment to this Act was introduced; the amendment was brought about by the recommendation of a committee consisting of officers of the Forests Department and representatives of the sawmilling industry. That measure introduced quite effective changes in the desire to effect safety measures, in particular. As the Minister advised us, when regulations were drafted under that measure and sent to the Crown Law Department for ratification, the point of view was expressed—and it was quite a valid one—that there was no authority under the Act for the Minister to have such regulations drafted, because there was no power of delegation by the Minister to his inspectors. That is the reason for the Bill before us.

In the main the Bill gives to inspectors the authority to act, rather than simply authority to inspect and report, and then to await the direction of the Minister. So we find that the delegation of power by the Minister is provided for to enable, in the terms of the Bill, the discretionary power of the inspector to be used to ensure that working conditions are safe.

In the case of section 10 of the Act, which is to be repealed, at first glance it appears there is a considerable variation in the Bill compared with the desires and the requirements of the Act as it stands; but in essence it simply means that the inspector will have the power to enter premises, or to require the owner,

agent, or management concerned to furnish him with different sorts of information, in order to facilitate his inspection. The provision in the Bill will ensure that the directions of the inspector will be observed by those within the industry. There is also a provision to ensure that no-one shall hinder an inspector in the pursuance of his duties.

The amendment to section 23 of the Act refers to the regulations now in existence. This section enables regulations to be drafted in all sorts of particulars; indeed, to the extent of providing ventilation, to prevent people who cannot speak the English language from being issued with a permit if it affects their ability to control the use of machinery, and so on. In short, section 23 of the Act has a very wide ambit, and it gives regulation-making powers of a very strong and definite kind.

The Bill proposes to add a new section, to be known as section 23A. This also gives very wide scope under the regulations. It is in this particular that the inspectors will have definite authority vested in them, as compared with the authority now given them to inspect and to report.

There is no need for me to labour the Bill. Its objectives are to ensure that the most rigorous safety measures may be imposed in the industry, and to correct any difficulties arising from the delegated authority of the inspectors appointed under the Act.

THE HON. V. J. FERRY (South-West) [5.56 p.m.]: I wish to support the Bill. It would seem that when we passed the last amendment to the Act there was an oversight in omitting to allow the inspector of machinery to take appropriate action as he saw fit. I believe that to make the Act effective the provisions in the Bill must be agreed to.

In particular, the Bill refers to the timber industry. For some considerable time the major sawmilling industries have been concentrating on safety measures. I know of one firm which employs a safety officer and I also know that other firms are giving attention in one way or another to this factor. There is no doubt that education in safety measures pays dividends not only to the company concerned, but to the employees in respect of their welfare and health—and if the employees have dependants, then to their dependants also. Under the relevant amendment in the Bill it seems to me there is an excellent chance for us to enable the safety record of many sawmilling establishments to be continued.

I can see nothing wrong with the amendments in the Bill. Coupled with the remarks I have made on safety measures, I refer to the requirement to position certain first aid equipment in the milling establishments. I support the measure.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 2nd October.

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [6.1 p.m.]: This is quite a short Bill, and proposes two amendments—one to provide associations with a more convenient method to deal with registrations at the Land Titles Office, and the other to make more elastic under certain circumstances the use of the common seals of associations.

When introducing the Bill the Minister drew attention to the fact that these provisions were in line with those adopted under the Companies Act. I do not know whether the Minister meant by that remark that a section in the Companies Act contains the provisions or whether it was a practice under the Companies Act to operate in this manner.

There is only one point I would like to raise. If, for some reason, two trustees are out of the State and the remaining persons sign a document and affix the necessary stamp, with the signed affidavit that they are authorised to do so and that the other authorised persons are out of the State, would those absentee authorised persons be responsible in the event of something going wrong as the result of the action taken by the persons signing the document? I cannot see any other direct problem arising as a result of the application of this provision.

The affixing of the common seal is quite a serious issue at any time, and because of the importance of the seal such action is generally limited to very few people.

Those are my thoughts on the Bill. I can understand quite clearly that the amendments would improve and simplify procedure at the Land Titles Office, and as the practice is adopted under the Companies Act, it would appear the legislation is on very sound ground and there would be no point in holding it up in any way. However, in supporting the legislation I would emphasise my doubt as to whether some responsibility might be placed on an absentee trustee for something which was not in fact any of his doing.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. I. G. Medcalf.

Sitting suspended from 6.6 to 7.30 p.m.

INSPECTION OF MACHINERY ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 1st October.

THE HON. R. H. C. STUBBS (South-East) [7.30 p.m.]: The amendments contained in the Inspection of Machinery Act Amendment Bill (No. 2) are quite simple and straightforward. We of the Labor Party are in complete agreement with the measure, particularly because the union concerned—the Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen's Union—has been consulted and approves of the amendments.

Steam engines have fascinated people in many walks of life, and especially small boys. Steam locomotives have some irresistible influence on them. I suppose there are many men in very responsible positions today whose ambition, as a small boy, was to be an engine driver.

The first reference I can find about steam is that Hero of Alexandria used steam to drive a kind of turbine a couple of centuries B.C. Later, an Italian engineer, Branca, in 1629, made a wheel rotate by means of a jet of steam. Since that time many men have applied the energy of steam to useful purposes; namely, Watt in 1763 and Stephenson, of rocket fame, in 1829.

The earlier steam engines were used mainly to pump water from the mines. Steam engines are gradually being phased out of the mining industry. The process of phasing out started about 20 years ago on the Golden Mile and on many other mines with the result that almost all the equipment now in use is powered by electric motors.

In recent times it has been very difficult for a person who intended to apply for a winding driver's certificate to get any experience at all on steam engines. The economy of operation is the main reason that steam has been superseded. However, the early steam engines did a wonderful job. It has to be realised that in 1900 the early steam winders were capable of lifting 16,000 pounds from 4,000 feet. This shows that the engineering skill was rather high in those days.

Of course, wood fuel had to be carted long distances and, consequently, because of the economics the running of steam engines became impossible. With the price of gold and various other factors the mining industry had to cut down costs to a bare minimum and consequently the mines went over to electric winders. Electric power is generated by diesel-driven engines at big power stations and the power is reticulated underground and around residential areas in mining towns, and, of course, in other towns where electric power is used. Power is transmitted over long distances through high voltage lines and can be reduced to the required voltage by transformers.

Another feature is that diesel engine rooms are much cleaner and can be maintained much better than when the old fuel-heated steam engines were used. Consequently they are popular with the operatives.

Steam is being phased out of the railways, too, and diesel electric locomotives are hauling greater loads now, and it is all payload. In the old days it was necessary to carry approximately 10 tons of coal and quite a large quantity of water for the firing of the engine. Further, frequent stops were necessary to refill with water.

I do not think one should pass over the Inspection of Machinery Act before mentioning the wonderful engineering enterprise which provided for billions of gallons of water to be pumped to the eastern goldfields from Mundaring. I refer to the original Goldfields Water Supply Scheme, as it was called. This marvellous, hydraulic engineering work enabled water to be pumped a distance of 400 miles through 30-inch pipes using eight pumping stations. I think the head of one lift was 800 feet. There is only one steam engine now in use, as the others have all been electrified. They are wonderful pumps, however. They have been installed for 70 years and are as good now as the day they were put in—I am referring to the Worthington pumps. The pumps which are now installed are capable of pumping twice the amount of water and they will be an economy.

I shall come back to the Bill now, as I am sure you would like me to do that, Mr. President. Section 15 of the principal Act is to be repealed and re-enacted. It will provide that no boiler is to be left in the charge of a person who is less than 18 years of age. The word "male" will be eliminated which will leave the way open for females to be employed under certain conditions as boiler attendants. However, it provides that no boiler of six horsepower or more shall, at any time, be left in the charge of a female.

Previously it has been necessary for people in charge of boilers to have a certificate. The amending legislation will mean that this will no longer be necessary if the boiler is not more than six horsepower. This will mean that it will be possible for females to be in charge of small steam boilers, such as the ones found in coffee bars, and an autoclave, which is an apparatus for the sterilisation of articles by steam under high pressure and which is used in hospitals and other places. These are usually equipped with a pressure gauge, a safety valve, and, of course, the usual thermometer for temperature readings.

There are also sterilisers which use low pressure steam for boiling water. Further, boilers are used in drycleaning works.

These are the types of boilers, which are under six horsepower, which females will be able to attend. After all, women have been attending boilers successfully in the domestic field for many years. Some cook a very good meal with pressure cookers and many make a good cup of tea from a boiling kettle.

Section 36 deals with fees for the inspection of boilers and machinery. It is proposed to add a new section to legalise a practice which already exists; namely, the waiving and exempting of fees for charitable and educational institutions. The provision will legalise this practice and will mean that the Governor, on the recommendation of the Minister, will be able to waive the fees.

Section 53 deals with the certificates for engine drivers, crane and hoist drivers, and boiler attendants.

Section 56 relates to drivers' certificates and the privileges of these certificates—these are the first, second, and third-class drivers' certificates. The main certificate is the winding engine driver's certificate which allows the holder to haul men from underground. The scope of the first, second, and third-class certificates will be altered to take in steam turbine driving. Actually a first-class certificate covers that now.

Large steam turbines were in use mostly in big power stations. Now the smaller types are being installed more frequently and, consequently, second and third-class certificates will be altered to incorporate steam turbines.

New subsection (2) of section 58 will enable the board of examiners to depute a person to conduct an examination for crane and hoist drivers' certificates. Whilst the board will still retain the right to examine if it thinks necessary, this provision will allow the inspectors more time to devote to, perhaps, more important duties. Nevertheless, the board still retains the right to examine if it thinks fit.

The amendment to section 59 will allow people who are not British subjects to be issued with a certificate after all the requirements have been met or satisfied.

Section 60 allows for a certificate to be issued if certificates of equal value have been obtained in other States and places.

The amendment to section 63 will simply allow for reciprocity for the holders of motor certificates for diesel and motor ships to be issued with another equivalent certificate, and without examination. Apparently that aspect has been overlooked for many years. It will mean that people who hold marine tickets may be issued with a first-class winding driver's certificate without examination.

As I have intimated, we, on this side of the House, support the measure.

THE HON. J. J. GARRIGAN (South-East) [7.41 p.m.]: I rise to support the Bill. After listening to Mr. Stubbs I am afraid there is not very much left for me to say. He covered the amendments to this Act very thoroughly.

The Bill proposes certain amendments to the parent Act which are necessary as the machinery, and the power which is generated from different engines which use various kinds of fuel, have become streamlined.

At the present time the machinery which is used is very streamlined. I can take my mind back to 1934 when only steam engines fired by wood fuel were used. Even diamond drills which were being used 20 or 30 miles away from a centre were driven by wood fuel.

I think industry owes a great deal to the engineers of the world today. Through their engineering genius they have made it possible to provide industry with electricity and diesel-driven power which now obviate the use of wood fuel boilers to provide power.

I recall that many years ago men on the goldfields were classed as firemen, but they had to have a boiler attendant's ticket. They toiled and sweated when using huge logs of wood to fuel the boilers. I suppose one could say that wood fuel provided the power for industry and for domestic use in every industrial town within the State of Western Australia in those days.

In the old steam days it was necessary to have a ticket of competency. The object was to eliminate accidents. However, today, with the modern machinery I have mentioned, which has been made possible through engineers and inventors, this is no longer necessary. The engines have the safety devices needed to maintain the safety of the people manning them.

I will mention another matter, because I think it should go down in our history—perhaps the Historical Society could take it up. As Mr. Dolan knows quite well, the original Kurrawang wood line and the Lakewood line were two of the shortest narrow gauge lines in Western Australia. I suppose the wood trucks on those lines carried hundreds of tons of wood at a time, and they were hauled by the smallest locomotive that was ever seen in Western Australia. Strangely enough, the locomotive was fired by two-foot lengths of wood, and it hauled hundreds of thousands of tons of wood to

furnish the mines in Kalgoorlie and other mining towns with fuel to provide the necessary power for their operations.

As Mr. Stubbs has already stated, we have consulted the unions and they have no objection to any of the amendments brought forward. However, I would like to bring a query to the notice of the Minister. In the event of a male worker who is in charge of an engine, a boiler, or a small furnace being replaced by a female worker, would the female worker receive equal pay for the equal work? With those remarks, I have much pleasure in supporting the amendments.

THE HON. F. R. H. LAVERY (South Metropolitan) [7.47 p.m.]: Mr. President, the previous speaker mentioned a matter of historical interest. This prompts me to say that the Babcock boilers which are now in use at the Colonial Sugar Refinery works at Mosman Park—and they have been there for a considerable number of years—were the original boilers at the Bullfinch mine. They were brought here in about 1915 or 1916, and I used to fire them. At that time in our history it was necessary to have a boiler attendant's certificate.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [7.48 p.m.]: I thank Mr. Stubbs and Mr. Garrigan for their remarks in support of the Bill. I also thank Mr. Lavery for his comments; I am not aware of the particular matter that he mentioned. I am unable, of course, to give Mr. Garrigan any assurance in relation to the possible displacement of a male worker by a female worker, because this is not within the scope of the Bill, nor is it within the scope of anything else but the arbitration laws. However, where a female is to be employed to look after a boiler which she was not previously able to do by reason of the legislation, I imagine this would not mean that a male worker would necessarily be displaced. He would probably be employed somewhere else; however, I can say no more about that. I thank members for the support they have given to the measure.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

House adjourned at 7.51 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 7th October, 1969

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

JOINT STANDING ORDERS

Amendments: Governor's Approval

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Guthrie): I have received the following message from the Governor:—

> The Governor has the honour to inform the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia that he has this day approved of amendments to the Joint Standing Orders made by the Legislative Council on 9th September, 1969, and by the Legislative Assembly on 30th September, 1969.
>
> DOUGLAS KENDREW,
> Governor

QUESTIONS (14): ON NOTICE

1. HIRE-PURCHASE ACT

Amendment

Mr. BERTRAM asked the Premier:

(1) In view of the fact that most finance companies and organisations are wording their hire-purchase agreements so as to deprive hirers of the advantages which they used to have—and should still have—by voluntarily returning goods instead of allowing them to be repossessed by the owner, does the Government intend to amend section 12(6) of the Hire-Purchase Act and thereby protect members of the public who are unwittingly entering into hire-purchase agreements which could cause them to lose millions of dollars annually?

(2) If not, why?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

(1) The Hire-Purchase Act contains a provision which prevents the avoidance of certain rights of hirers, and this appears to be one of them.

(2) Answered by (1).

2. STOCK EXCHANGES

Legislation

Mr. BERTRAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

(1) Has the Standing Committee of Commonwealth and State Attorneys-General recently discussed matters relating to the establishment of stock exchanges and the