

# Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 18th October, 1956.

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## QUESTIONS.

### POTATOES.

#### (a) Prosecution and Delicensing of Growers.

Mr. HEARMAN asked the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Is he aware that potato growers who have remained loyal to the Potato Marketing Board over recent months expect legal proceedings to be initiated against growers who have sent potatoes to the Eastern States since the Potato Marketing Act was amended recently?

(2) When will a decision be reached as to whether such prosecutions are to be launched or not?

(3) In view of the numerous statements from the Minister and the chairman of the Potato Marketing Board to delicense growers who sent potatoes to the Eastern States outside the board, can he say how many, and what growers will be delicensed?

(4) Is the Government satisfied with the way the present legislation has worked?

(5) Have any discussions taken place between the Government and the Potato Growers' Association as to what action is necessary, if any, after the new Section 21A of the Potato Marketing Act lapses on the 31st December, 1956?

(6) What are the Government's views on the possibility and desirability of amending the Potato Marketing Act so that the Potato Marketing Board can enter into enforceable contracts with licensed growers to deliver all potatoes grown under licence to the marketing board?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Agriculture) replied:

(1) No.

(2) and (3) The board intends to cancel or reduce the licences of approximately 57 growers. Names of growers are not for publication.

(4) Yes—under the difficult circumstances.

(5) No.

(6) This is a matter of Government policy.

#### (b) Certificates of Quality, Eastern States Supplies.

Mr. ROBERTS asked the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Is it a fact that the officers of the Department of Agriculture would not issue certificates of quality on potatoes in transit to the Eastern States by certain growers recently?

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

(2) If so—

- (a) Who issued such instructions not to inspect the potatoes?
- (b) Under what authority were the instructions issued?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Agriculture) replied:

(1) Since the recent amendment to the Marketing of Potatoes Act, 1946, certificates of quality for shipments of potatoes by licensed growers have not been requested, except in one case.

(2) No instructions have been issued not to inspect such shipments, but action is being deferred pending consideration of the position under the recent amendment to the Marketing of Potatoes Act, 1946.

### EMU POINT.

#### *Leases, Rents and Expenses.*

Hon. A. F. WATTS asked the Minister for Lands:

(1) When do existing leases of land at Emu Point terminate?

(2) Do all leases there terminate at the same date?

(3) If not, what are the different dates and why are they different?

(4) Have notices of impending termination of leases been sent this year to any lessees?

(5) If so, to how many and for what reasons?

(6) Are rents reassessed from time to time?

(7) If so, how often; when was the last reassessment made, and when is the next reassessment likely to be made?

(8) To what extent have rents been increased in the last three years?

(9) What revenue did the State Gardens Board derive from the lands at Emu Point for each of the last five financial years?

(10) What other revenue (if any) was derived from Emu Point during each of such years?

(11) What amount was expended by the board during each of such years on—

- (a) administration;
- (b) improvements?

(12) Regarding No. (11) (b), what improvements resulted in the period of five years?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Lands) replied:

(1) All household leases expire on the one date—the 31st October, 1971.

(2) Yes, with two exceptions—the hostel lease 42 years—the 31st October, 1991. Camping and caravan park 21 years—the 13th March, 1972.

(3) All household leases are for 21 years. The reason for the different dates is that the other leases are for land used for commercial purposes.

(4) No. Letters have been sent to 21 lessees intimating that, on the expiration of their leases, the land will be required for other purposes. These lessees have been advised that another lot will be made available to them.

(5) A planning scheme prepared by the Town Planning Commissioner has been adopted by the board. Under this scheme it is proposed to develop the whole of the foreshore area for the use of the general public. This development will not commence until the 21 leases, mentioned in No. (4), expire.

(6) Yes.

(7) Every five years: the 1st November, 1955; in 1960.

(8) Lots were reappraised on Taxation Department's values. Values increased, but the board reduced the basis for rental from 5 per cent to 4 per cent. on household lots; business areas from 7½ per cent. to 6 per cent. Rents varied—approximate increases in annual rent were from £10 to £27. No rates are paid by lessees.

(9) Nil. The reserve is controlled by a special board known as the Emu Point (Albany) Reserve Board. The attached statement gives the revenue and expenditure for the last five years. The financial year ends on the 31st October each year.

(10) and (11) See answer to No. (9).

(12) Roads have been surveyed and a number graded and metalled; old buildings removed, large areas grassed, a considerable number of trees planted; three separate water services established; children's playground completed; caravan and camping park established and now leased. Electric light extension arranged and street lights erected to serve the Point, the expense being met by the board. Retaining walls have been erected along part of the beach frontage. Financial assistance given to residents to establish tennis courts and lighting for night play. In course of construction is a brick and tiled structure containing dressing sheds, ablution block and lavatories, a separate water service being established for this block. A fire line has been bulldozed and cleared.

The financial statement referred to in No. (9) is as follows:—

Emu Point (Albany) Reserve Board.

Receipts and Payments for Five Years—31st October, 1952, to 18th October, 1956.

Receipts.	31/10/52	31/10/53	31/10/54	31/10/55	18/10/56	Total.
Rents received	£ 612	£ 741	£ 755	£ 1,030	£ 1,730	£ 4,868
Rubbish removal fee (see contra)	68	85	114	121	118	516
Camping fees	188	167	149	164	68	736
Telephone	—	—	—	3	4	7
Ingoing Lot 956 (H. M. O'Halloran) (see contra)	—	—	1,025	—	—	1,025
Fire insurance claim (lavatories)	80	—	—	—	—	80
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>2,043</b>	<b>1,318</b>	<b>1,920</b>	<b>7,232</b>
<b>Payments.</b>						
Travelling allowance, mileage and Board fees	97	111	116	92	159	575
Wages—caretaker	133	130	130	148	183	724
General maintenance	151	239	363	244	365	1,362
Rubbish accounts from Albany M/C (see contra)	31	96	135	124	131	517
Roads, maintenance and improvements	29	54	310	249	128	770
Water supply—maintenance and improvements	40	57	31	238	152	518
Fencing—improvements	—	—	—	71	44	115
Levelling and clearing	108	—	96	274	234	712
Grant to tennis courts	—	—	200	100	150	450
Improvements Lot 956 (see contra)	—	—	33	—	—	33
Sanitary conveniences	5	—	44	—	—	49
Electric light installation	—	29	—	—	—	29
Parking area	—	78	—	—	—	78
Tools and equipment	—	—	—	—	4	4
Retaining wall	—	—	—	—	341	341
New change rooms and conveniences*	—	—	—	—	6	6
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>£594</b>	<b>£794</b>	<b>£1,458</b>	<b>£1,540</b>	<b>£1,897</b>	<b>£6,283</b>

\* Under course of construction.

## RAILWAYS.

### (a) Employees' Claim for 35-hour Week.

Hon. A. F. WATTS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

(1) If the Arbitration Court awarded a 35-hour week to railway employees as asked for by the unions concerned, what additional estimated expense would this cause the railways to incur in a period of one year?

(2) Is the claim still before the court, and if so, at what stage are the proceedings now?

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT replied:

(1) It is estimated the cost would exceed £1,000,000.

(2) Yes. The unions are still in the process of presenting their claims.

### (b) Increased Amount of Interest.

Hon. A. F. WATTS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

(1) As interest payable in respect of Railway Department is stated in the Press to be likely to be £385,000 greater this year than last year, will he explain on what increased capital expenditure this interest is calculated, and upon what it was spent during the year?

(2) If last year's deficit has been capitalised so as to account for part of this increase, will he state whether this practice has been followed earlier, and if so, in respect of what years?

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT replied:

(1) Interest for the year ended the 30th June, 1956, was at the rate of 4 per cent., while the interest for the year ended the 30th June, 1957, is calculated at a rate of 4½ per cent.

It is estimated that capital expenditure will be increased by £3.75 millions and the total interest will amount to £2,118,000.

Capital expenditure is to be spread over essential works.

(2) That is not the practice.

### (c) Reballasting and Resleeping of Track.

Mr. HALL asked the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

(1) What is considered a safe, economical cycle of years for relaying, reballasting and resleeping of railways tracks?

(2) Will he give the date when the Great Southern line was last reballasted and relayed:—

(a) Section 1, between Perth and Narrogin;

(b) Section 2, between Narrogin and Albany?

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT replied:

(1) Relaying—40 years.  
Reballasting—20 years.  
Resleeping—20 years.

(2) Relaying:

Perth-Spencers Brook, 1923-1924.  
Spencers Brook-Beverley, 1893.  
Beverley-Albany, 1908-1914.

**Complete reballasting:**

Perth-Bellevue, 1946-1947.

Bellevue-Spencers Brook, 1924.

Spencers Brook-Albany, 1908-1914.

Apart from complete reballasting, make-up ballast has been added from time to time.

**BETTING.****(a) S.P. Bookmakers' Licences for 1956-57.**

Hon. A. F. WATTS asked the Minister for Police:

(1) Is it a fact that s.p. bookmakers' licences for the full year ending the 31st July, 1957, have been issued on payment of one quarter of the licence fee paid in respect of last year?

(2) If so, in what month of this year were these licences issued?

(3) If so, upon what justification were such licences issued for the full year seeing that new licence fees have not been gazetted?

(4) In these circumstances, are these licences legal in the opinion of the Crown Law Department?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) The month of July, 1956.

(3) The procedure did not involve new licence fees, but merely the payment of the fees originally prescribed. This procedure is authorised by regulation published in the "Government Gazette" dated the 3rd August, 1956, at page 1916.

(4) Yes.

**(b) Off-Course Bookmakers' Turnovers.**

Mr. CORNELL (without notice) asked the Treasurer:

In view of his refusal to give the information requested by me yesterday, will he state the aggregate of the holdings of the five bookmakers each of whose turnovers exceeded £300,000 last year?

The TREASURER replied:

I desire to thank the hon. member for having forwarded a copy of the question to me earlier in the day. In reply to the question, there is only one bookmaker in each of the categories shown above £300,000 by the hon. member and, if the information is given, it would break down the confidential requirements of the Act.

Mr. Cornell: I think some confusion has arisen. That is in reply to the question I asked yesterday; or is the repetition by way of emphasis?

**AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS.****Recognition by Singapore City Council.**

Mr. COURT asked the Premier:

With reference to my questions of the 9th and 22nd August regarding the acceptance or rejection of qualifications of

Australian engineering graduates in Singapore, is there any further information to hand?

The PREMIER replied:

No.

**CIVIL DEFENCE.****Attendance at Eastern States School, etc.**

Mr. ROBERTS asked the Premier:

(1) How many people have so far attended the Civil Defence School in the Eastern States from—

(a) Government departments;

(b) local authorities;

(c) public organisations?

(2) Has a civil defence organisation been set up in this State. If so, what is its title and address?

(3) Are local authorities being kept up to date on latest trends covering civil defence?

The PREMIER replied:

(1) Twenty people have so far attended the Commonwealth Civil Defence School at Macedon, Victoria, viz.—

(a) 12 from Government departments;

(b) 1 from a local authority;

(c) 7 from public organisations.

(2) This matter has been receiving active consideration for some time on a planning basis. An officer will be appointed in the near future to take charge of the practical side of developing an organisation on a restricted basis. It should be emphasised that these steps are being taken for purely precautionary reasons and not because of any thought or fear that the organisation will be required to meet actual war conditions.

(3) Local authorities will be advised of progressive steps as they are being taken and will, when thought necessary, be brought into the civil defence organisation.

**EDUCATION.****(a) Bridgetown Junior School Toilet Facilities.**

Mr. HEARMAN asked the Minister for Education:

Has any decision yet been made in connection with the provision of extra classroom and toilet facilities at the Bridgetown junior school?

The TREASURER (for the Minister for Education) replied:

It is not proposed to erect an extra classroom on the old site at Bridgetown. Three new class rooms are to be erected at the new school.

The provision of a septic installation at the old school is listed for attention when funds are available.

*(b) Amplification of Reply.*

Mr. HEARMAN (without notice) asked the Treasurer:

When will the Government be able to say what funds are available as regards these school facilities? I submit this question because every time I ask a question on education, I nearly always get a reply to which there is a qualification, "if funds are available." In other words, the answers have no real meaning.

The TREASURER replied:

If the Government felt so disposed, the easiest way to answer the questions would be to say, "No" to all of them. However, the Government is anxious to do the best possible with the funds available and when members ask questions about requirements for their districts, the Ministers concerned are anxious, if possible, to meet the individual requests and that is why, generally, that type of answer is given.

I would say that the final allocation of the total amount of loan funds available will be decided within the next week or 10 days. When that final allocation has been made, individual Ministers will be in a position to give decided answers, yes or no, to particular requests.

**POLICE.***Donnybrook Station Renovations.*

Mr. HEARMAN asked the Minister for Works:

When is it considered that projected renovations to the police station and quarters at Donnybrook will be completed?

The MINISTER replied:

The contract provides for completion by the 6th January, 1957.

**NORTH-WEST.***Air Freight Subsidy on Perishables.*

Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Minister for Transport:

Is it the intention of the Transport Board to authorise the commencement of the air freight subsidy on perishables to the North at the usual date, that is, the 1st November?

The MINISTER replied:

The commencing date for the subsidy this year is at present under consideration.

**GOVERNMENT CARS.***Numbers, Makes, etc.*

Mr. ANDREW asked the Premier:

(1) What is the total number of cars in the Government garage?

(2) Will he give the makes, and the country of origin?

(3) Is it the intention of the Government, in its future purchase of cars, to give order of preference as follows:—

- (a) Australian make;
- (b) British make;
- (c) foreign make?

The PREMIER replied:

- (1) 24 cars.
- (2) No. Make Country of Origin
 

10	Holden	Australia
5	Dodge	70 per cent. Australia
1	Humber	England
1	Ford Prefect	England
7	Chevrolet	America

(3) Yes.

**BUS SERVICES.***Commencement at Bentley.*

Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Transport:

When is it anticipated that the bus service along Hill View Terrace, terminating at Holder-st., Bentley, will commence?

The MINISTER replied:

A service will be inaugurated as soon as road surfacing has been completed, which it is anticipated will be in mid-November.

**ALBANY DISTRICT.***Aerial Surveys.*

Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Lands:

(1) Have aerial surveys been made, and photographs taken, of the Albany district?

(2) If the answer to No. (1) is "No," can he advise when this will be carried out?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Lands) replied:

(1) No.

(2) This is a first priority flying project. Subject to the weather being suitable, the area should be flown within one month.

**NARROWS BRIDGE.***(a) Anticipated Traffic and Access Road.*

Hon. D. BRAND asked the Minister for Works:

(1) What number of motor-vehicles is anticipated to cross the Narrows bridge on to Mounts Bay-rd. when the project is opened?

(2) What preliminary work (if any) has been done on the proposed access road?

(3) When will the first construction work be started in connection with the access road?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) It is estimated that at morning peak period 1,800 vehicles per hour will cross the Narrows bridge towards the city when the project is opened.

(2) Preliminary work on the access road from the south of the Narrows bridge has comprised engineering surveys of hydrographic and topographical character. Planning of road geometrics is in progress.

(3) When work on the northern approaches has progressed sufficiently, plant will be released to commence work on the reclamation necessary for the southern approach road.

*(b) Road Connections.*

Mr. COURT (without notice) asked the Minister for Works:

In view of the report of the evidence by the chief engineer of the Main Roads Department before the Grants Commission that there would be no road connection with Malcolm-st., from the Narrows bridge in the initial stages—presumably after the completion of the bridge—will he advise the House of the Government's plan to handle the heavy volume of traffic that will flow to and from the Perth side of the bridge, additional to existing traffic to and from Perth along Mounts Bay-rd.?

The MINISTER replied:

I wish to thank the hon. member for giving me prior notice of this question the reply to which is as follows:—

For outward flows, Riverside Drive west of William-st. will be a one-way road and will lead traffic for South Perth on to the bridge and Mounts Bay-rd. traffic under the bridge without conflict at grade. Although total traffic will be increased, it is expected that the flows will be handled more smoothly than they are today.

**CAUSEWAY.**

*Cost of Roundabout, etc.*

Hon. D. BRAND asked the Minister for Works:

(1) What was the total cost of the Causeway Bridge and roundabout approaches?

(2) What amount was paid from Main Road funds?

(3) What was the total loan money expended on the whole Causeway project, including reclamation work?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) £846,000.

(2) £846,000.

(3) No loan funds were expended on the Causeway bridges, rotary approaches, or associated reclamation works.

**GRANTS COMMISSION.**

*(a) Premier's Election Statement re Freights.*

Hon. Sir ROSS McLARTY asked the Premier:

In view of his definite statement, as reported in "The West Australian" of the 3rd April, 1956, during the election campaign, that freights would not be increased, has he indicated to the commission that this promise will be fulfilled?

The PREMIER replied:

This question was discussed with the Grants Commission in camera, on the decision of the Grants Commission.

*(b) Premier's Evidence in Closed Hearing.*

Hon. Sir ROSS McLARTY asked the Premier:

(1) Does the fact that he gave evidence in a closed hearing before the Grants Commission on the 16th October, 1956, after he was reported to have stated that the Railway Department had budgeted for a deficit of approximately £6,000,000 this financial year, mean that the information given at such hearing will not be made available to Parliament?

(2) If so, does he think it proper, in the public interest, that such information should be withheld?

The PREMIER replied:

(1) The evidence given is the property of the Grants Commission.

(2) The Grants Commission made the decision to hear the evidence in camera.

It would not be proper for me or the Leader of the Opposition to try to dictate to the Grants Commission in connection with this matter.

**COMMONWEALTH UNEMPLOYMENT GRANT.**

*(a) Allocation of Extra £2,000,000.*

Hon. Sir ROSS McLARTY asked the Premier:

Can he indicate in what directions the extra £2,000,000 received by the Government from the Commonwealth Government has been allotted, and to what extent, and in what way, it has relieved unemployment?

The PREMIER replied:

Not yet.

*(b) Drainage Work, West Coolup.*

Hon. Sir ROSS McLARTY asked the Minister for Works:

As an additional amount of £2,000,000 has recently been made available by the Commonwealth to the State Government, can he state whether money can now be made available to carry out urgent drainage work in the West Coolup district?

The MINISTER replied:

It is expected that the allocation of the special grant will be made next week.

**TRANSPORT.**

*Personnel of Trust.*

Hon. D. BRAND (without notice) asked the Minister for Transport:

Following publicity given to the Government's transport trust proposals, will he indicate to the House whether the private companies will be fully represented on the board?

The MINISTER replied:

A decision has not yet been made by the Government in connection with this matter, therefore it is somewhat premature to hazard a guess as to who might comprise the members of the proposed trust. I might add, however, that I think it would be extremely unlikely, in the event of the Government deciding to establish this trust, that private operators would be represented upon it because, in fact, there would be no private operators and, therefore, they would be representing nobody but themselves.

#### AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

##### *Presentation to Parliament.*

Hon. Sir ROSS McLARTY (without notice) asked the Treasurer:

Can he arrange that the Auditor General's report be made available to Parliament immediately after the introduction of the Budget? If that were done members could fully appreciate the meaning of the Budget.

The TREASURER replied:

I will do my best.

#### **BILL—METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE ACT AMENDMENT.**

Introduced by the Minister for Works and read a first time.

#### **BILL—CHILD WELFARE ACT AMENDMENT.**

Report of Committee adopted.

#### **BILL—PIG INDUSTRY COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT.**

##### *Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 16th October.

MR. MANN (Avon Valley) [2.39]: I have had a look at the speech made by the Minister when he introduced this Bill and I can see very little wrong with its provisions. The idea of it is to keep the scheme on a basis of £50,000. It involves a sliding scale and at the moment the figure is at £57,000. But if it should fall below £50,000, the Government has the right to increase the payments made.

This Act is of benefit to the Allied Meat Council and the buyers in the pig industry more than it is to the pig breeders. The diseases in which the question of compensation arises are tuberculosis, swine fever, swine erysipelas, paratyphoid and any others that may be proclaimed. Among the small breeders in the country areas some pigs are dying. Having been a pig-breeder myself for many years, I have interviewed some of these farmers to try to ascertain the nature of the diseases which are causing the death of their pigs.

There are some complicated cases. A breeder may lose a pig or two or three sows of a value of £40 per head and may receive no compensation whatsoever. I would like to see the whole position investigated by the department with a view to introducing a Bill to provide a wider basis for the payment of compensation.

This legislation was brought about by the very severe outbreak of swine fever during the last war when many Americans who were stationed in this State, brought infected meat to Australia. A strong stand was taken by the department and a great many pigs were destroyed. The department was successful, however, in saving the pig industry of this State. Unless there is an extreme outbreak of some pig disease, I cannot possibly see how any known disease could have any ravaging effects in this State today. The department is very strict in its control of the imports of meats which may carry disease, particularly sausages and other meats brought into the State from overseas countries by new Australians.

The farmer himself must accept some responsibility for the position that obtains today if he is not rearing his pigs under hygienic conditions. Our climate is most suitable for rearing pigs. We do not suffer a violent winter and in the warmth of spring and summer any diseases can be kept down to the minimum. In passing, I would like to mention that in this State today we are producing a particularly fine type of pig, both porkers and baconers.

After my trip overseas, I am convinced that we can produce in this State and in other parts of Australia, some of the best types of bacon that it is possible to obtain. We are now getting our pig strain down to a finer type—a leaner type—and I am anxiously waiting for the day when there is a big increase in the export of pig meats. I do not rear pigs myself now, but my son does, and there is a great deal of money invested in the pig industry at the present time. I hope that my remarks will reach my many farmer friends. If we are anxious to retain the trade in pig meats that we now have, it is our task to produce in the right way and to keep the very fat pig out of the market. We should try to improve our herds so that eventually we can produce the best pig in the world.

I hope the Minister will take notice of my remarks in regard to compensation. In some of the farming areas where a farmer has lost a couple of sows or four or five young ones, the payment of compensation is a big help to him because if there were a severe outbreak of any disease among the pigs, his losses would be considerable. I remember, during the hard days of the depression, when farmers were practically broke, that we had an outbreak

of swine plague and I was forced to destroy 50 pigs in one morning. I could ill afford that loss.

Nowadays the scheme has done some good and has helped to reduce the heavy losses that are incurred by some farmers. Whilst a breeder can rear a pig quickly, if a disease starts among pigs, the losses overnight can be tremendously heavy.

Hon. D. Brand: Do you think, if we could promote a scheme to use the swill effluent, we would experience the same trouble that pig breeders have experienced in Victoria?

Mr. MANN: I might be narrow in my views, but my contention is that swill from the metropolitan area, no matter how it is treated, should not in any circumstances be fed to pigs. Pigs are subject to many diseases. If we are going to feed good pork to the people of this State and the rest of the Commonwealth and, further, if we are anxious to increase our exports of pig meats, the pigs should be fed properly and the only way to feed them is with grain. Any pig breeder will agree that there are men who feed their pigs on swill, but when the animals are sold it is necessary for the curers to hold the animals for a fortnight on a grain diet in order to harden them up and to cleanse their system of the impurities of swill feed. I am strongly opposed to swill-feeding because it is not healthy.

Furthermore, there should be no piggery within a radius of 50 miles of the metropolitan area. I do not believe in the establishment of small piggeries in the vicinity of the metropolitan area. It is impossible to keep conditions up to standard and, as a result, flies around these piggeries are extremely bad. How the breeders who conduct them can make a living, I do not know. Today the whole pig industry has changed. It is a much better industry now.

Hon. L. Thorn: Fifty miles radius from the metropolitan area is too great.

Mr. MANN: I agree that 50 miles may be too great and I could have said, say, 10 miles. What I am really objecting to are piggeries such as those at Riverton and other adjacent places. I think it is entirely wrong to rear pigs in the sandy soil surrounding the metropolitan area. A few years ago I saw a herd of pigs which were surrounded by a mass of flies and if I had owned them, I would have knocked them on the head. The value of pigs has increased to a great degree and today chop-pers are worth approximately £50 a head. Maiden sows are also worth approximately £50 a head.

It is quite right that the compensation rate should be increased. Nevertheless, I hope that the fund will not become unwieldy, because £50,000 is a great deal of money. I am doubtful whether any serious outbreak of disease among pigs can occur

in this State at the present time. Australia is the only country today which is comparatively free of swine fever. Nowadays pigs can be inoculated to prevent a spread of disease, but it is a costly procedure. Therefore, we are indeed fortunate in the fact that Australia is a country where pigs are clean and comparatively free of swine fever. I support the Bill because it will put the payment of compensation to pig farmers on a better basis.

MR. NALDER (Katanning) [2.49]: I am sorry the Minister of Agriculture is not in his place because it helps the discussion when some of the points that are raised in debate can be answered by the Minister through an interjection.

The Minister for Native Welfare: I think he is attending an important committee meeting at the moment.

The Minister for Transport: Arrangements have been made to ensure that everything that is said by members this afternoon will be passed on to the Minister.

Mr. NALDER: It is a good idea for the Minister to be in his seat when a Bill of this description is being discussed because there are points which are raised on the spur of the moment respecting which the Minister can supply the information on the spot. So it would have been most helpful had he been here. It is interesting to know that there is a need for this increase in the amount payable to the fund and I do not think anybody will be opposed to that, because I understand—as was mentioned by the member for Avon Valley—that the price of pigs is increasing, and therefore there is a need for the compensation fund to be increased so that those who lose the higher-priced pigs can be compensated.

At present the maximum compensation payable is round about £16, and, of course, that is only a very small amount when compared with the actual cost of the number of pigs that may be condemned and have to be slaughtered. The losses could be rather high. It is interesting to see how quickly the amount paid into the compensation fund has increased over the years. In 1950 a question was asked in this House by the then member for South Fremantle—the late Mr. Fox—which reads as follows:—

What amount is standing to the credit of the pig industry compensation fund?

The answer was—

To the 30th June, 1950, £16,527 5s. 10d.

The amounts that have been payable during 1947, 1948 and 1949 to breeders who have claimed against the fund for losses that they suffered were contained in the answer given by the Minister. It is as follows:—

To the year ended the 30th June, 1947, £2,789 9s.; 1948, £2,288 17s. 5d.; 1949, £3,004 11s. 3d.; 1950, £2,042 6s. 9d.



I mention that because it is interesting to see that for all the years up to the present time, that is approximately the amount that has been paid out every year—round about £2,000 or £3,000.

On the 11th September, 1956, I asked the Minister what the amount of compensation was to breeders in the metropolitan area of this State and I was informed that it was £1,631 1s. 8d. The amount of compensation paid to breeders who had lost pigs in the country totalled £824 12s. 6d. This makes a total of approximately £2,400. If we look at the figures over the other years from 1949 to the present day, we will find that that fund has been responsible for paying out to breeders, approximately, £2,000 or £3,000. We can see that the present compensation fund is gradually increasing and from the figures we have it looks as though it has increased at the rate of £8,000 to £9,000 annually. As the member for Avon Valley pointed out, we have £57,621 0s. 1d. in the fund as at the last day of August, 1956.

There is another interesting matter to which I would like to refer and that is the reference by the then member for South Fremantle in 1950 to the question of the cancellation of the levy paid to the fund by pig-raisers. In that year the hon. member asked—

Is it the intention of the Government to cancel the levy paid to the fund by pig-raisers?

If not, why not?

The Minister replied "No," and continued to say—

It is considered that a reserve fund of £50,000 at least should be established. It is probable that this amount would be required to cope with an outbreak of swine fever.

We now have a fund that totals well over £50,000.

The Minister for Transport: In modern money, £100,000 would be necessary now if £50,000 was necessary then.

Mr. NALDER: That is not so. The figures I have quoted prove that that is not correct. Ever since 1947 to the present day, the amount paid out annually was approximately £2,000 to £3,000. That means that the amount paid out as compensation has not increased to the extent that the Minister for Transport suggested it might have.

The Minister for Transport: I did not suggest that. But £50,000 in 1950 would only be worth half that today.

Mr. NALDER: But the amount payable has not altered very much.

Mr. Ackland: When the Minister introduced the legislation he said he did not want a fund greater than £50,000.

Mr. NALDER: The amount of money that has been paid out each year since the inception of the fund to the present day

has averaged £2,000 to £3,000. I think that proves that it is not necessary to keep building up the fund until it reaches enormous proportions in the next two or three years. Why continue to increase the subsidy payable to this fund by the breeders when there is not the necessity for it?

I am not opposing the Bill because I understand the Minister will reserve the right to increase this fund if he finds that necessary. I do not think it is right that we should build up an enormous fund at the cost of the producer. The member for Avon Valley suggested that the producer should pay something towards this fund. I might have misunderstood the hon. member but I would like to point out that it is the producer who is paying in to the fund and the people who reap the benefit are the firms that buy the pigs from the market. The producer is actually paying in to subsidise the person who buys the pigs out of the market.

There is another important factor and I hope the Minister will give consideration to it. The member for Avon Valley mentioned that the people living near the metropolitan area are those who are receiving the most out of this fund, because if there is an outbreak of paratyphoid, swine erysipelas or tuberculosis, the breeders near the metropolitan area are readily able to call upon an officer of the department to come out and make an inspection. If there is somebody at Armadale, Rivervale or Mundaring whose pigs are affected by an outbreak of these diseases and they suffer a loss of stock, all he has to do is to ring up the department and an officer is sent out to the farm in an hour or two.

But what would happen to the breeder who lives at Albany, Kalgoorlie or Geraldton and finds that he loses one or two of his pigs? He could call on his neighbour or ring up somebody to ask advice and perhaps within two or three days he could lose 20 or 30 pigs. He phones the Department of Agriculture and it might be two or three days before the department is able to send an officer out to investigate the position. We all know that on hot days bodies decompose very quickly, and it might be difficult for the officer to decide what was the cause of death.

The people living further out in the country miles away from Perth are the ones who will not benefit from this fund to the extent that they should. I know from experience that many hundreds of pigs have died in the country areas and the breeders were not able to obtain compensation because of the long distance they were away from the services of an officer of the Department of Agriculture. I suggest that where there are stock inspectors or officers of the department in county centres, they should be given some training in determining diseases in pigs so that they can be called upon by breeders who suffer losses.

I do not know how the Minister will define the country and the metropolitan area. The figures in reply to questions asked prove that the incidence of pig diseases occurs more in the near metropolitan area than in the country. Stock inspectors and other officers of the department stationed in the country should receive training to enable them to diagnose these diseases so that they could advise farmers who suffer losses in their herds of pigs. That service should be made available because the farmers in the more distant country districts have also been contributing to the fund.

It is not my desire to oppose the Bill. I appreciate that the discretionary power suggested by the Minister will not be used unless it is really needed. I hope it will not have to be used. The State will be very much the poorer if there is an outbreak of swine fever. Every effort should be made by the department to see that any meat brought in by new Australians is closely watched and confiscated so that there will be no chance of diseases being introduced into this State and thereby possibly detrimentally affect the pig industry.

This is an extremely important industry, as outlined by the member for Avon Valley. That is one section of the primary production of this State which can be increased. Last Friday I went to Robbs Jetty and inspected the carcasses of pigs produced from all over the State for the bacon competition. The chairman of the Australian Meat Board, who had just returned from a tour of England, Europe and the U.S.A., was present and stated that the quality of the pigs he saw in the chiller room was equal to, if not better than, any he had seen in his travels. That is something of which we can be justly proud. The pig producer in this State is trying to meet the needs of the consuming public. If he does that, it is up to the department to see that he is given every encouragement to produce the bacon pig that is so necessary to increase our overseas income.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

# **BILL—POLICE ACT AMENDMENT** (No. 1).

## *Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 16th October.

**HON. A. F. WATTS** (Stirling) [3.5]: I propose to support this Bill because I think that the case put up by the Minister a couple of days ago for some amendment to the law was a very sound one. I do not think anybody would question the need for some reasonable authority to be given to police officers to deal with something which, so far as the Western Australian is concerned has been a very recent development, namely, the use of what are called in the

Bill "lethal weapons," in breach of the peace. Unfortunately such breaches are beginning to happen here more than we would like.

In my opinion, the place it is proposed to insert the amendment in the Act is the best place, because Section 65 provides—

Every person who shall commit any of the next following offences shall be deemed an idle and disorderly person within the meaning of this Act, and shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six calendar months with or without hard labour.

Hence there are a number of offences to which we propose to add the clause appearing in the Bill which reads as follows:—

Every person who, without lawful excuse carries or has on or about his person any rifle, gun, pistol, sword, dagger, knife, club, bludgeon or truncheon, or any other offensive or lethal weapon or instrument.

So this fits very well into Section 65 of the Police Act and it will provide officers with an excellent opportunity of checking to some extent any possible increase in the type of offences to which the Minister made reference.

We ought to have a look at the amendment to make quite certain that all the weapons he referred to have been included in the Bill. I have read quite a lot about the sharpened bicycle chain which I imagine would be a horrible instrument if it were used in anger or with intent to do bodily harm. I question very much that it comes under any of these headings mentioned in the Bill. The clause does state "any other offensive or lethal weapon." There have been interpretation cases before High Courts and other tribunals in past years where the use of this word "other" simply means other weapons of a similar kind.

The sharpened bicycle chain, which seems to be a fairly common weapon carried by the young people we read about, who gain notoriety in these days, is something which does not appear to me to come under these headings at all, and might ultimately, if anyone challenged the point as to whether it was a club, bludgeon or truncheon or any other offensive weapon of a similar kind, be not deemed such a weapon. I know that rule has been applied in a number of cases when an interpretation has been called for. In circumstances like this, when the article in question can be named but is not specifically included in the clause, it is unnecessary to run a risk by its exclusion in the wording.

As is believed, according to Press reports, this kind of instrument is being used by the type of person I mentioned, we should make sure that it is included without any

doubt whatsoever. Those are the only comments I have to make. So far as the principle behind the Bill is concerned, I am thoroughly satisfied that it is desirable. I have no wish to take up the time of this House unnecessarily when I am in support of the measure, except for the query that I have raised.

**MR. MOIR (Boulder)** [3.10]: Like the previous speaker I am in accord with this measure. However, I would like to see the Minister take a look at one definition in Clause 2 and I refer to the word "knife". I think everybody will agree that anybody who carries a knife for offensive use should be very severely dealt with indeed. But in this Bill a knife is enumerated amongst other lethal weapons, although nobody will deny that in certain circumstances a knife can be a lethal weapon.

We have it laid down that it can be an offence to carry a knife without lawful excuse. The question arises as to what is a lawful excuse. There are many people who would have a lawful excuse for carrying a knife in connection with their work. I suppose on the Goldfields every miner who has to deal with explosives carries a knife and, of course, while it is only necessary to carry a knife at his work, he may on occasions carry one away from his employment, perhaps taking an old one home in order to sharpen it or buy a new one to take back.

However, the question arises, should that man inadvertently have a knife in his pocket when he is interrogated by the police, maybe respecting a traffic offence or for some other reason and he is discovered to have a knife in his possession, whether a charge could be laid against him. There are members in this Chamber at the present time who have knives in their pockets. I have noticed two or three. Probably my colleague, the member for Gascoyne, will have a knife in his pocket now, and I also saw the Minister for Housing in possession of one.

While, of course, some of these people can become very aggressive at times, I do not think they need a knife to back up their aggression on the matters about which they get upset. I am just pointing out how some citizen of this State could find himself in a very awkward position if the occasion arose where he had a knife in his possession, probably quite innocently, but could not satisfy the representatives of the law that he was carrying it lawfully. Because, to carry something lawfully, he would require to have some purpose for carrying it.

I suppose 75 per cent. of the schoolboys in the State carry a knife of some description in their pockets, together with their bits of string and their marbles, and under this Act they would also be guilty of an offence. Without enlarging on it any more, I think the Minister should

consider that aspect to see if something cannot be done which will retain the provision to cover the people who carry knives for unlawful purposes, while making sure that no person innocently carrying one is going to be in any trouble.

**MR. NORTON (Gascoyne)** [3.14]: I wish to commend the Minister for bringing in this amendment to the Police Act, as it is time this was done. Like the member for Boulder, I am somewhat concerned regarding the definition of "knife," and I might add to this the word "dagger." I look at it in the same light as he has done in regard to any employee who finds it is necessary to carry a knife, and maybe a steel for sharpening purposes. I have in mind the person who is obtaining his living as a kangaroo shooter or hunter. Nearly always when such a man went into town he would carry a knife and steel on his belt, which is almost a part of his dress, and I think some protection should be given him. Provided he does not commit an offence but is carrying the knife or dagger as something required for his lawful work, I would suggest that provision be made so he will not be unduly penalised.

**MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe)** [3.16]: I, with other members of this Chamber who have spoken, support this Bill. I feel, however, there are one or two interesting points arising from it. Mention has been made of the fact that youths have a tendency these days to carry sharpened bicycle chains, coshes and knives. I think history does record over the centuries that youth has been addicted to the carrying of such weapons, with the possible exception of the bicycle chain.

Despite that fact we live in an enlightened age and there should not be the necessity for youths to find themselves so unoccupied and so uninterested in the world about them that they feel the need for some showmanship; that they feel the need to express themselves in this particular way. Therefore I suggest that the problem facing us and arising out of the necessity for this Bill is what is to be done with our leisure time, now that leisure time is becoming an increasing part of our way of life.

I think I can submit that—I know so far as I am concerned myself and I say this with no little sincerity and I believe with a good deal of truth—we have as a whole—when I say "we," I include everybody—failed in our educational system to cater properly for the full education of our children.

**Mr. Oldfield:** That is because we cannot get good teachers.

**Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON:** Too many of us tend to just look at the result of faults in education and blame the end result of these educational faults. I feel we should endeavour with every means at our disposal to so assist our young that

they will not find the necessity to express themselves in the bodgie cult and various other cults that exist, wherein these people find some way of filling their leisure hours. The problem is going to be increasingly important because of the continued impact that automation will have on our way of life. Therefore, let us not for a moment feel that by bringing down laws to prevent this and that we are doing all that is required of us. The problem goes much deeper than that.

In the most recent issue of "The W.A. Teachers' Journal" appears a most interesting article headed, "Automation and the Task of Education." Many of the statements in the article have a great deal of bearing upon the problem I have posed to the House—the problem out of which arises the necessity for this type of legislation. Reference is made in the article to the minds and personalities of the young human. It refers to the child mind as one being a union of perversity, divinity, stupidity and profundity; and, indeed, there is a great deal of truth in that. We all are a very complex mixture, and usually it is only in maturity that we shed, to some extent, the perverse and stupid parts of our make-up and, it is hoped, retain the divine and profound elements in some part.

A couple of paragraphs of this article are pertinent to the question, and with your permission, Sir, I intend to read them. The article states—

There will be those who, at the very mention of the word automation see an immediate solution in the provision of bigger and better technical schools and hasten to effect quantitative improvements on such schemes as those contained in the H.M.S.O. document on Technical Education which was reviewed in this journal some weeks ago. We would be the last to deny the value of furthering our technical education, but we feel that there must be not only attendant but superior to all schemes, a concern for the human spirit if automation is not to turn the second half of this century into a nightmare of robots and neurotics.

For vast numbers of people technology has taken much of the essential joy of labour out of life without any attempt beyond paltry concessions to material welfare to replace the spiritual and emotional subtraction which it has made. Psychologists who are today so preoccupied with the problem of the deprivation of love in childhood should give more publicity than they do to the form of deprivation—every bit as harmful—which results from the atomising of the crafts that formerly supplied by virtue of their psychological nexus, a sense of personal worth to those engaged upon them. It is little wonder that there is such a collective feeling of worthlessness abroad in contemporary

society. If, as we are led to believe, prevention is better than cure, it should be our job as teachers to guide young personalities in such a way that they will have no need in later life for disciplinary or psychiatric treatment.

Therein, I feel, lies the solution to wiping out the necessity for such legislation as is now before us. I say that in all sincerity. I suggest that we should give even more attention than we are at present to channelling further moneys into the educational field, and to ensuring that adequate requirements are made in all avenues of professional and technical education. If we are able to do that, then I suggest that these cults that are created out of some inner urge of the young, will be done away with.

I do not intend to oppose the Bill. While I support it, I feel we should bear in mind some of the problems I have put to the House.

**THE MINISTER FOR POLICE (Hon. J. J. Brady—Guildford-Midland—in reply)** [3.26]: I thank those members who have contributed to the debate; I think their remarks have been helpful. I would have no objection to the member for Stirling introducing a reference to sharpened bicycle chains if he cares to move on those lines in the Committee stage.

With regard to the remarks made by the members for Boulder and Gascoyne, I think there is ample protection in the use of the words, "without lawful excuse" in the proposed section. If a miner, kangaroo hunter, or worker on the whaling station in the Gascoyne were carrying a knife, I do not think any member of the Police Force would attempt to cause him embarrassment by charging him under this provision.

But I can visualise that a man, even with an ordinary pen knife, if he had a lot of liquor in him and was running around a bar threatening to use the knife, might have action taken against him. Even if a man working in an abattoir, or whaling station, or perhaps a kangaroo hunter, were to act in this way and the attention of a police officer was drawn to the likelihood of damage resulting, he would have the right to intervene and charge the person concerned.

Various matters were mentioned by the member for Cottesloe. He said it was alleged that they came about because youths had so much time on their hands that they were resorting to the use of knives and coshes, and that various youths of today were developing the ideas of bodgies and widgees. Sometimes, however, I feel that a lot of these things are exaggerated. I recollect that last year in Bassendean an unfortunate incident happened on Anzac Day, and the papers gave quite a lot of space to commenting upon it. I even heard

it mentioned subsequently by His Excellency the Governor when he was issuing degrees at the university.

It was most unfortunate that this incident was played up as it was. It was a simple matter of some lads throwing tea leaves over a memorial on Anzac Day, as a consequence of some remarks made by boy scouts; but quite a lot of paper talk was made of it. There is an old saying that sometimes out of evil comes good. I was subsequently asked to discuss the question at the Bassendean R.S.L.; and, as a consequence, a good youth club has been formed in the district. I understand that 28 different organisations are associated with that youth club, and no doubt something well worth while will be achieved in the district as a result.

If an offensive weapon is being used, it is desirable that the police should have the right to charge the person concerned if they consider he has no lawful reason for having the weapon with him. I am pleased to know that most members support the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee.*

Mr. Moir in the Chair; the Minister for Police in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Section 65 amended:

Hon. A. F. WATTS: I would have been better satisfied if the amendment I proposed had been agreed to by the Minister; but in order not to lose the opportunity of making some reference to it, I move an amendment—

That after the word "knife" in line 8, page 2, the words "sharpened chain" be inserted.

I will not specify bicycle chain, as some other kind might be involved.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with an amendment.

### **BILL—BETTING CONTROL ACT AMENDMENT.**

#### *In Committee.*

Mr. Moir in the Chair; the Treasurer in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2—agreed to.

Clause 3—Section 15 amended:

Mr. WILD: I move an amendment—

That the words "forty per centum" in line 15, page 4, be struck out with a view to inserting the words "the whole" in lieu.

I do not suppose that much further evidence has come forward to substantiate what we had to say the other evening but

I will reiterate some points I made then, and deal with one or two matters raised by the Treasurer and the Minister for Works during the debate. When the legislation was introduced, there was little or no mention by the Minister who introduced it, or by the Treasurer, of its being for the purpose of taxing the racing people to raise revenue for the State. In fact, they both indicated that it was to do away with the operations of s.p. operators in back lanes, and so on, and the position at Collie was referred to in particular. The Minister for Works indicated that he wished the Government were in a position to place the clubs on such a basis that they could balance their budgets and give us a high standard of racing, which seemed to indicate a different line of thought from that originally outlined. He said it would be an extraordinary state of affairs if the Government could place the clubs on a basis where they had no worries.

We could argue for hours whether the clubs with what they are getting are able to carry on at the present standard. I intend to make a few suggestions which I think would place them in a better position than at present to maintain a high standard of racing. We know that the attendances at racecourses have decreased considerably in the past two years and economic circumstances have been blamed; but if that is the reason for the decline, it is strange that week by week betting in s.p. shops has risen slowly but surely.

The racing and trotting grounds were referred to by the Treasurer as gambling bazaars. I think that was a rather unfortunate choice of words because, if that is so, they have gambling bazaars all over the world. Probably there are countries that have no racecourses; but from my knowledge of it, there are racing and trotting grounds in practically every country. There are also greyhound clubs, tin-hare clubs, and many other clubs where people who like to wager their few shillings can watch the sport to which they are attached.

Hon. D. Brand: Even in Gaza.

Mr. WILD: That is so. I do not think anyone would have a better knowledge of the position in this State than the Treasurer. He must know of the high standard of the racing clubs in Western Australia.

The Treasurer: How long would they last without gambling?

Mr. WILD: I have no doubt that there is something in that; but to refer to them as gambling bazaars was a rather unfortunate choice of words.

The Treasurer: But true.

Mr. WILD: The Treasurer said that the proposal to increase the rate from 1½ to 2 per cent. was rather substantial, even allowing for the proposed reduction in the licence fees. It is an increase of 60 per

cent. That sounds a lot; but when one reads the answers to the questions asked by the member for Mt. Marshall regarding the turnover of the 200 licensed bookmakers in this State, one realises that that increase does not mean much to them. The licence fees are to be reduced from £500 to £100, for those who operate in the metropolitan area; and with a turnover of between £50,000 and £60,000, the increase in the rate of tax will mean little or nothing to them.

Also, the Treasurer said that he had no sympathy for the bigger operators, and if he could lessen their profits he would do so. If the Treasurer cannot afford to lose revenue, then surely, going on the figures given to us the other evening, he has an opportunity to lessen their profits.

The Treasurer: I was speaking on a personal basis.

Mr. WILD: The Treasurer also said, when referring to these bookmakers, that they had the use of what is known as hot money, and they do not have an opportunity to get rid of it. The Treasurer, like myself, frequently visits the racecourse, and he knows that this so-called hot money gets back to the racecourses like greased lightning.

The Minister for Works: Only a small proportion of it.

Mr. WILD: The bookmakers hold only what they want to hold. I would like to know—and I am sure the Minister for Works would, too—how they get it back to the racecourses; but they do get it back. I would say that the big bookmakers—the men whose profits the Treasurer would like to do something about—are in exactly the same position in relation to hot money as any other bookmaker who carries on an s.p. business.

*Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.6 p.m.*

Mr. WILD: I was discussing the question of hot money to which the Treasurer referred, and I was about to say that this hot money is to a large degree of great advantage to the big s.p. bookmaker, because when he channels it back he is able to get a higher price than he pays for it on the market. It is to his advantage to get it back and quit this hot money.

It was also said by the Treasurer that the racing clubs could do something more for themselves; but the only constructive suggestion he could put forward was that there should be extra races. He mentioned the large number of races in the Eastern States, and indicated that we should have a similar number here. While I am happy to listen to his suggestion that more horses and more races could mean better attendance, I do not think that would be the case, particularly in the off-season when we are racing at Belmont and Helena Vale, because the attendances there are much

smaller than they are at Ascot. So if we had eight and on occasion nine races in one afternoon, I do not think it would tend to bring in any more people to the course.

I would prefer to say that the constructive approach would be to provide more money for the stakes. This would ensure better types of horses and a cleaner and better standard of racing. If we consider for a moment the prospect of bringing over here top-flight jockeys from the Eastern States I feel sure that will be the answer to increased attendance. This fact is quite easily established when one considers the number of people who attend the Belmont Cup and other meetings at which jockeys from the Eastern States are riding. Because of the financial position, the clubs are able to offer only low stakes, and the poorer type of horse is entered. People prefer to stay at home and ring the s.p. shops to place their bets on Eastern States races.

The Treasurer stated that the clubs should attempt to put their house in order, but in that regard he was not constructive. The only constructive thought that I can offer is allow the clubs to retain more of the tax that is collected. In their turn, they can offer higher stakes and attract bigger attendances. When one compares the pittance allowed to the clubs in this State as compared with South Australia and Tasmania, it is very hard to understand the Government's line of action.

I trust that the Treasurer will give favourable consideration to the views of the representatives of the racing clubs who waited on him. By comparison with the mere pittance of £47,000 given to the clubs in this State, South Australia gives £371,000; and Tasmania, £160,000. Is it any wonder that the clubs in Tasmania and South Australia are able to offer their patrons a higher standard of racing? Whilst I was not able to compare the stakes paid in Tasmania with those in this State, I was able to make a comparison between the stakes in this State and those in South Australia. The lowest stake paid in South Australia is greater than the highest stake paid in this State.

Mr. Heal: That has always been the case.

Mr. WILD: Since the s.p. shops were closed in that State that has very definitely been the position. When the s.p. shops were operating in South Australia between 1934 and 1936, the racing clubs reached a very low ebb, comparable with the position of the clubs in this State today. As I mentioned previously, the young people in South Australia at that time could not be attracted to play sports because they were having bets in the shops. The Premier of South Australia very wisely decided not to reopen the s.p. shops after the war.

The Minister for Works: There are some s.p. shops today in South Australia.

**Mr. WILD:** There are only a few: six or seven in Port Pirie. The Premier of South Australia gave the people the opportunity of holding a referendum to decide whether s.p. shops should be reopened, and only one centre acquiesced. If we are to maintain a decent standard of racing the clubs in this State must be given more of the tax than is being offered to them.

**Mr. Hall:** South Australia is closer to Victoria and there is an intermingling of the horses racing.

**Mr. WILD:** In this State the breeding of good horses is being undertaken and many good animals have been bred. When an owner breeds a good horse, he generally takes it to the Eastern States where the stakes are much higher. I hope the Treasurer has seen fit to give favourable consideration to the views put forward to him today by the racing clubs.

**The TREASURER:** I am prepared to support the amendment to delete the words "forty per centum." I desire to indicate in advance that I am not prepared to agree to the insertion in lieu thereof the words "the whole," as is proposed. The effect would be that the racing and trotting clubs would get the whole of the turnover tax collected in respect of on-course operations of the bookmakers. The Government is not prepared to go that far.

As a result of a meeting of Cabinet held this afternoon, the Government is prepared to increase the 40 per cent. to 60 per cent. All members are aware of the proposal in the Bill in connection with the turnover tax of on-course bookmakers and the subsequent distribution of the tax revenue. The complete proposal in the Bill is that the Government should take 60 per cent. of the total collections and the racing and trotting clubs 40 per cent. The Government is prepared to agree to reverse those figures. That would mean that the racing and trotting clubs would take 60 per cent. of the tax collected on on-course operations of bookmakers, and the Government would take only 40 per cent. In that regard members would no doubt want additional information as to how the suggestion would work out in figures. I will, of course, give that information when the next amendment comes up. There is no need to give it at this stage because the Government agrees to the amendment deleting the words "forty per centum."

Amendment (to strike out words) put and passed.

**Mr. WILD:** I move an amendment—

That the words "the whole" be inserted in lieu of the words struck out. I have already given the reasons.

**The TREASURER:** As I indicated previously, the Government is not prepared to accept this amendment. If the member for Dale is prepared to withdraw his amendment I shall move to insert the word

"sixty" in lieu. Under the offer of the Government, the financial position of the clubs in regard to the tax would alter along the following lines:— Of the 40 per cent. of on-course turnover tax proceeds, as proposed in the Bill, the racing clubs would receive from that source in round figures £32,000; under the 60 per cent. suggestion they will receive £49,000, or an increase of £17,000 based upon the figures of last year. The trotting clubs under the 40 per cent. proposal would receive £14,000 on last year's figures; and under the 60 per cent. proposal they would receive £21,000, also based on last year's figures. I should say in fairness to members that the Government is not prepared to agree to any further alterations to the percentages set out in the Bill in respect of turnover tax obtained as a result of off-course operations.

I would point out that the suggested amendment which I have put forward on behalf of the Government is the limit to which the Government is prepared to go. We gave this matter a great amount of consideration before the Bill was finally drawn. However, as a result of a joint deputation today from the W.A. Turf Club and the W.A. Trotting Association, and following a meeting of Cabinet which was held this afternoon, it was agreed that the Government would be prepared to go this much further to give the racing clubs and trotting clubs some further financial assistance. As I have pointed out, the net financial benefit to the racing clubs will be £17,000 per year based on last year's figures and to the trotting clubs £7,000 a year.

It has to be remembered that the Government has a great many heavy financial responsibilities, and therefore it is essential for it to have some sort of reasonable priority in regard to the distribution of the moneys which come into its hands during the currency of a financial year. It is well-known that the Government could make itself very popular with racing and trotting clubs by handing out money with a free and easy hand, but action along these lines would make it more difficult for the Government in many essential directions, and therefore more difficult for the community. We feel it is not the duty of Government to make it easy for sporting clubs and at the same time make it hard for other sections of the community who are carrying out essential productive work and useful activities in many other directions.

**Mr. Hearman:** Do you list the s.p. bookmakers among these people?

**The TREASURER:** I did not say it is necessary to list s.p. bookmakers. Whether on the course or off the course, they are engaged in the same class of activity, and I am not here to list the bookmakers. They exist; and I presume that if some bookmakers are so undesirable as some people would lead us to believe, the trotting clubs and racing clubs should debar them from

operating on the courses. If they are undesirable and their operations are undesirable on the course, that is a problem particularly within the hands and jurisdiction of the clubs.

Mr. Court: I take it from your remarks that the Government proposes to stand this increase out of its own share without imposing any additional tax.

The TREASURER: That is correct. The Government will lose from turnover tax imposed on on-course bookmakers £17,000 additional which will go to the racing clubs and the £7,000 additional which will go to the trotting clubs.

Hon. D. Brand: The licence fees you have given away amount to £53,000.

The TREASURER: The matter of licensing fees has not been determined beyond alteration because the changes in the licensing fees are made by regulation and not by legislation. Therefore the Government might have a second look at the question of licence fees and might, following a second look, decide on some amendment to the alteration which has already been agreed upon. However, the Government's offer to the Committee is that it is prepared to increase the 40 per cent. share of on-course turnover tax to the racing and trotting clubs to 60 per cent.

Mr. WILD: In view of the statements of the Treasurer, whilst it is obviously most disheartening, because I do not think he is going half the way he should go, I intend to reserve the rest of my remarks to the second amendment on the notice paper and ask leave to withdraw the amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

The TREASURER: I move an amendment—

That the words "sixty per centum" be inserted in line 15, page 4, in lieu of the words struck out.

Mr. JOHNSON: It is my intention to oppose this particular matter and my intention to vote against the whole clause. I feel the Committee is being led astray in the intention of the Act. The intention of the Act as introduced last year was to bring some semblance of order and decency into a situation that then existed. But this clause converts the Act from one of producing decency in an established system to one of supporting the racing clubs and doling out to them charity at the expense of the taxpayer. If the idea is that sporting clubs are to be protected and assisted out of Government funds, it is far more preferable that those sports which are participant sports should be supported.

Mr. Wild: It is their own money that they are asking to have returned to them.

Mr. JOHNSON: It is taxation.

Mr. Wild: From whom are you taking it?

Mr. JOHNSON: We do not give the liquor tax to the beer drinkers. If we are to use legitimately-gained taxation for the benefit of sport, it would be far better to spend it on sports in which the supporters are the players. Many sports have a direct beneficial effect on the youth and the not-so-young of the community.

Mr. Wild: You are going to give us a moral lecture now.

Mr. JOHNSON: No one suggests that this sort of money should be used for sports such as bowling, golf, football or basketball; but the clubs fostering such sports are far more entitled to it. Racing is not a participant sport.

Mr. Rodoreda: Very few people take part in any sport.

Mr. JOHNSON: Quite a large number of people take part in the other sports, but only the jockeys take part in racing. Many of the people who attend a football match have played football in the past.

The Treasurer: Hear, hear!

Mr. JOHNSON: Very few of the people who go to race-meetings are ex-jockeys. No one will say that to take part in the activities of the betting ring is in itself a sport. It is a business; a method of making money. No one will suggest it does the country any good. I do not think that betting in any shape or form is a good thing. There is no doubt that in the commercial world betting is a disease and it does a great deal of harm. However, it exists and must be regulated, and it should be carried out in a decent manner.

The laws in relation to the betting shops are, I think, sound. There is no need to use them to support this proposition. The people who do the harm are not those running the betting shops but those who glamorise the betting on races as if it were a good thing. Those who do the most moral harm on that particular aspect are the proprietors of our daily Press. It is of interest to see that there is a close connection between the pressure for the support of racing and the directors of our daily Press. If there is any group who do more moral damage to the people of Western Australia than the proprietors of our paper, then I do not know who they are.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I point out that the hon. member is getting right away from the question under discussion.

Mr. JOHNSON: The clause and the amendment both tend to change the Bill from being one to regulate a vice, or part of our way of life, to one to raise taxation that may be used for the support of an industry which is not of benefit to the country. I oppose not only the amendment but the clause as a whole.

Mr. RODOREDA: I am pleased to hear that the Treasurer is agreeable to grant an increased amount to the racing clubs. I do



not know whether it is sufficient, but the Treasurer, by granting this extra money, has come a long way from the position created by the Bill. He suggested that the clubs do something to help themselves. Various speakers on the Opposition side, including the member for Nedlands, stated that the clubs, particularly the W.A. Turf Club, were doing a very good job. The Bill should not be allowed to pass without someone putting forward the viewpoint of the ordinary average punter who goes to the races and so makes it possible for them to be conducted. A few suggestions that I could put up, although they concern only minor matters, would do a great deal to induce the public to go to the courses.

The W.A. Turf Club should provide facilities on the course that cannot be provided off the course; otherwise the people will not attend. I can see no reason why the Helena Vale course should be maintained. It must be a tremendous financial burden on the club. The few meetings held there each year do not appear to make it worth while retaining the course. It is ridiculous for a community of the size of that in the metropolitan area to keep three race courses going. I suggest that aspect should be examined to see whether a considerable amount could not be saved by closing that course. The toilet facilities are shocking, and it is scandalous that a pan system should be allowed on a metropolitan racecourse.

Mr. Hearman: That applies to many schools, also.

Mr. RODOREDA: The Betting Control Board would not allow such conditions in s.p. shops. Other points are that no seats are provided for the people and the doubles tote and concession bookmakers, which were an inducement to people to visit the course, have been done away with. The course bookmakers are not allowed to bet place on local races but can do so on Eastern States events, and that is a further anomaly. The jockeys are not posted up except for the immediately following race, and that is another facility which could be provided for the public. The prices for refreshments and liquor at the courses are over the odds, and one can buy liquor cheaper 25 miles further from Perth than it can be obtained at the course.

Another idea that could be followed by the W.A.T.C. is that of one Melbourne club, which includes about 12 pages of advertisements in its race-books and by that means probably pays for the publication. I hope notice will be taken, by those concerned, of the suggestions I have made for improving the facilities available to the public on our racecourses.

Mr. O'BRIEN: I am glad that the Treasurer has indicated his intention to increase the percentage from 40 per cent.

to 60 per cent. Since the measure was introduced I have received correspondence from various clubs in my electorate, and only today I received from the secretary of the Meekatharra Race Club the following letter:—

Further to our wire of recent date re the small proportion of betting tax being allotted to the W.A.T.C.—our parent body—our committee-men are desirous of pointing out the following facts:—

The Meekatharra Race Club holds two meetings a year, i.e., in October and during the Easter period or nearby to that date. Over the last few years racing has been established on the Murchison—particularly Meekatharra—as a very clean and popular sport. The people of the district now look forward to our two meetings. Our patrons come in from the outback travelling hundreds of miles.

Our meetings are conducted very efficiently under the guidance of our committee plus the assistance of a Stipendiary Steward from the W.A.T.C. (generally a Mr. P. R. Morrell).

Recently the W.A.T.C. was compelled to cancel all financial assistance usually given to country clubs—Meekatharra always received this assistance yearly from the Turf Club. With this aid we were able to plan ahead, particularly re improvements to our racecourse buildings, track, etc., etc. Also to improve amenities on the course, to make conditions better for the public.

We had plans to erect a wire fence around the enclosure, saddling paddock, etc., and to grow a hedge, to act as a break against wind and dust, two handicaps which we often experience.

All work carried out on our course is performed by voluntary labour, thus saving considerable expense. However, we require financial assistance from time to time to effect improvements.

We consider the Meekatharra Race Club a body worthy of support and assistance. Thus we solicit your earnest support re obtaining a better deal from the Government in the form of a bigger proportion of betting tax being made available to the W.A.T.C. This body will in turn pass some of this assistance on to us.

Note—Improvements which we have effected over the last few years are—

- (1) Set down a new track—surveyed and measured identical with Helena Vale.
- (2) Drained the track—as a protection against heavy rains.
- (3) Railed the entire track.

- (4) Erected more horse stalls.
- (5) Installed a public address system.
- (6) Sunk a bore, obtained water and then erected a mill. We still have to erect a storage tank, reticulate the water to bar and other buildings. We intend to sow a lawn for the comfort of patrons, erect showers for the jockeys.

Note—Our club always assists other sporting bodies and charitable organisations, i.e., we allow the St. John Ambulance Branch complete use of our course and buildings free of charge, when required to conduct their annual Gymkhana and sports meeting—to raise funds; also free use of our public address system; also drinking glasses, etc.

We have also assisted the Local Fire Brigade, Local Hospital, Churches and other bodies in a similar way.

Improvements which we have in mind for the next few months are—

- (1) Erection of a storage tank—for water.
- (2) Reticulation of the water to bar, afternoon tea stall, jockeys' room, etc. Also erection of showers for the jockeys.
- (3) Planting of a lawn and hedges.
- (4) Erection of a small homestead—to be used by an old age pensioner, who will look after the trees, lawn, buildings, etc.

The above works will need finance. Thus we earnestly solicit your support in obtaining more financial assistance from the Government, i.e., a bigger proportion of the betting tax to be given to the W.A.T.C.

Hon. D. Brand: What is the date of the letter?

Mr. O'BRIEN: The 17th October, 1956.

Mr. Cornell: It is a pity you did not read it on Tuesday night because I am sure the Treasurer would have agreed to an increase there and then.

Mr. O'BRIEN: I am glad that the Treasurer has agreed to an increase.

Mr. HEAL: I support the amendment because it will afford some relief to the racing and trotting clubs and, unlike the member for Dale, I think they should be very happy that the Government has seen its way clear to give them an increase. If, as the member for Dale said, the only way to improve racing and trotting in this State is to increase the stake money, I would like the Treasurer to make sure that some of this extra money is paid out in increased stakes.

In his remarks, the member for Pilbara mentioned the upkeep of racecourses. There are three racecourses in the metropolitan area, and they cost a good deal to keep in a decent condition. In 1945 I lived in the area near the Helena Vale racecourse; and at that time, even though there was a good deal of racing, I do not think the W.A.T.C. used that course. During his speech the member for Nedlands said that he blew his trumpet on the racecourse for 20 years. I do not want to deprive a man of the opportunity of blowing his trumpet, but surely some economies could be effected and approximately £1,000 or £1,500 a year could be saved.

Mr. Court: It must be a long time since you have been to the races because they do not have them now.

Mr. HEAL: I think they do. I know that they do at the trotting course; but if they took the lead of the Fremantle Trotting Club they would play light music over the loudspeaker system and that would save a good deal of money. I support the Treasurer's amendment.

Mr. CORNELL: As the Treasurer has indicated the extent to which the Government is prepared to go, we on this side who have put up a slight case for extra contributions for the racing clubs, in the words of Shakespeare, say, "For this relief some thanks".

The Treasurer: Did you ever hear him say that?

Mr. CORNELL: The whole debate has developed into an argument regarding the two classes of operators. The racing clubs have asserted for some time that it would be impossible for them to carry on without added assistance, and the s.p. operators have said that it would be impossible for them to pay more. Apparently the Government has accepted certain figures submitted by the s.p. operators and has accepted the view that they could not afford to pay any increase in the prescribed rate of tax. But in an article in this morning's paper, a spokesman on behalf of the S.P. Bookmakers' Association said, in unequivocal terms, that his organisation opposed any further grants to racing or trotting clubs without an inquiry being made into their administration.

Mr. Oldfield: Is that a statement by one of the journalists or was it fair dinkum?

Mr. CORNELL: I would not know. No doubt the hon. member, having the ear of the Press, would be able to answer that; but if he is trying to involve the Minister for Transport, I think he is trespassing on dangerous ground. The inference to be drawn from the statement to which I have referred is that those two bodies are not carrying on as economically and efficiently

as they might do. I refuse to accept the other inference that someone has suggested—that they were cooking their accounts.

There are two sides to every question; and whilst I agree with the member for Pilbara that better amenities ought to be provided for the public, I think that the inquiry suggested by the s.p. bookmakers could be carried out with advantage to the racing and trotting clubs, the public and the Government. Similarly the s.p. operators have submitted a "white paper" to members of Parliament stating that they are hard-pressed to pay the tax involved.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Poor fellows!

Mr. CORNELL: They have put up facts and figures in support of that contention. I find it difficult to believe that an s.p. operator with a turnover in excess of £200,000 will eventually finish up with only £2,300. If the Government agrees to such an inquiry to clear the air generally, I would suggest that there should be a similar inquiry into the financial set-up of the s.p. operators. That would save a considerable amount of time in the future in wrangling over their ability to pay more. A further suggestion is that the Auditor General or his staff could conduct that inquiry.

I agree that the overheads of s.p. operators are high because of many reasons. I think that where money is handled in such quantities, there is an intention or desire to conduct the business rather extravagantly to whittle down the incidence of income tax. But I would like to correct an impression which has gone abroad, and which emanated from the Treasurer, that prior to the introduction of this legislation, because s.p. bookmakers operated illegal businesses they did not pay any income tax. That is not so. I am informed that they were particularly good clients for some accountants.

Hon. D. Brand: And still are.

Mr. CORNELL: They were very keen to see that their accounts were submitted to the Taxation Department in proper order. All things considered, I think that the s.p. bookmakers should contribute more to the maintenance of the sport. The Treasurer has indicated that that is the limit, and I am afraid we must accept the position.

Amendment (to insert words) put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4—Section 16 amended:

Mr. WILD: I move an amendment—

That after the word "section" in line 35, page 4, the word "ten" be struck out with a view to inserting another word in lieu.

This afternoon, the Treasurer said that he was prepared to go part of the way on the amount that can be retained by the

clubs from the tax imposed on on-course betting. However, I still want to fight to obtain more for the racing clubs from the tax obtained from off-course bookmakers. Are not these clubs in effect the band and, if the band stops playing, what do we propose to do then?

The Treasurer: Take up a collection!

Mr. WILD: That is what we might have to do. Even at the moment, if the races in the Eastern States are not broadcast in Western Australia we often get people saying, "We do not want to have a bet." As a result, the betting turnover is decreased. Therefore, if we do not have the band which, in this case, is the racing clubs, we will not have the sport on which to make our bets. Can anyone deny that when we get a high standard of racing then, in turn, the s.p. betting shops benefit? One has only to consider the betting that takes place on the running of the Melbourne Cup.

I would also like to point out to the Committee that in the not too distant future television will be in operation in this State. There is no doubt that it will be in Western Australia within two or three years. Then we will have the spectacle of the s.p. betting shops wanting to put up a television screen so that their patrons can watch a televised description of the race. In America they still have not reached the stage when they can transmit televised photographs 1,250 miles; so unless there is a great improvement in television within the next two or three years, we will not be able to enjoy televised programmes of Eastern States racing, and if we kill the racing clubs we will have a decreased attendance in the s.p. betting shops.

The Treasurer: How far did the hon. member say they transmit televised pictures in America?

Mr. WILD: From what I have read, I understand that in America they are getting televised pictures transmitted up to 200 and 250 miles.

The Treasurer: I thought the hon. member said 1,250 miles.

Mr. WILD: I said that they are not yet able to transmit pictures by television over that distance and, when television reaches Western Australia, televised pictures of Eastern States racing will have to be transmitted over that distance if we are to maintain the interest of people who bet on Eastern States events. As the people who attend the s.p. betting shops would not be able to place their bets if somebody did not conduct racing fixtures, in my opinion the bookmakers are in a position to bear a greater portion of the financial burden.

No one has yet advanced any constructive ideas as to what they can bear, but I wonder if the Treasurer has given any

consideration to making their contribution on a sliding scale as they do at the races. For example, that they pay 1½ per cent. on amounts up to £50,000 and 1½ per cent. on amounts in excess of that. If an inquiry is to be made into the question of finance, that is one aspect that could be looked at.

We could make the tax 3d. on each ticket instead of 1d., in the same way as it is imposed on the racecourse, and we could have a progressive increase in the tax paid by the bookmaker on the amounts that he handles on Saturday afternoon. If the Treasurer is concerned about the State's finances, he could impose a greater burden on the s.p. bookmakers and ease the burden on those who are providing the racing and maintaining the sport in Western Australia.

The TREASURER: I intend to oppose this amendment for the same reason I gave when opposing the previous one.

Hon. D. BRAND: Everyone should know that I vigorously opposed the licensing of s.p. bookmakers in this State.

The Minister for Transport: On-course.

Hon. D. BRAND: Perhaps I might be a little biased in regard to this subject. In answer to the Minister for Transport, whatever was said on that occasion, I was opposed to the licensing of s.p. bookmakers off-course. It is a pity that action was not taken by my own Government to tackle this problem. It is a pity that the law was not put in order and on-course bookmakers were not licensed and controlled and then taxed. I know that a form of tax was applied, but the whole set-up was most unsatisfactory. I deny the suggestion made by the Minister for Transport that I was opposed to the licensing of on-course bookmakers.

The Minister for Transport: You did nothing to license them in six years, anyhow.

Hon. D. BRAND: The racing clubs in this State have put forward a case to members of Parliament for financial assistance from the Government to keep them out of the financial difficulties which are confronting them at present. The member for Pilbara and others have made certain suggestions as to what should be done on the racecourse to attract greater patronage, and I agree with them. It is not very often I attend a racecourse so I am not clear on what the true situation is. The member for Pilbara, however, no doubt knows what he is talking about, and his suggestions are worth-while.

However, not only from the W.A. Trotting Association, which serves a built-up area in the metropolis, but also from clubs all over the State, correspondence has come to us indicating that financial assistance is necessary—by way of subsidy or grant—if those clubs are to carry on.

The Minister for Transport: There are more important things in this State than racing clubs that need finance.

Hon. D. BRAND: Exactly; and I would suggest to the Minister for Transport that before he increases freights and fares and taxes on water he should turn his attention to a section of the community that is making large profits and get from them the money necessary to solve this problem. I support the amendment. Everyone appreciates the action of the Government in agreeing to an amendment giving 60 per cent. of the takings on the course to the clubs. But why is it that the Bill was first introduced on a 40-60 basis; and now—as a result of pressure, I should imagine—the position having been referred to the Treasurer, he has seen fit to hand to the clubs 60 per cent.?

Mr. May: It shows he is always open to reason.

Hon. D. BRAND: I do not deny that.

The Treasurer: What type of pressure would the hon. member have in mind?

Hon. D. BRAND: The hon. member who sits behind the Treasurer—

The Treasurer: He never said a word.

Hon. D. BRAND: Private members receive correspondence and are subjected to pressure from their electors; and whether the person concerned spoke to the Treasurer or not, the Treasurer was well aware of the feeling not only among the public but among his own supporters.

The Treasurer: I think you should give credit where it is due and give it to the joint deputation from the racing and trotting clubs.

Hon. D. BRAND: I am not averse to that. In pressing for a greater amount than he is prepared to grant, I would say to the Treasurer that before he received that deputation, a more thorough inquiry should have been made into the situation. Had that been done, he would have been saved a lot of money.

The Treasurer: On that basis, we would not amend any Bill in the future.

Hon. D. BRAND: Not at all. The trotting association forwarded to each one of us an outline of what it proposed to do with that money on the courses. I should imagine better facilities would have been provided for patrons. It may be said that more seats could be provided and that septic tanks should be installed; but I feel the greatest need is for better stakes, if we are to provide better racing. I have heard people say it is not worth going to the races because of the poor standard. In the absence of the Leader of the Opposition, I would like to read a copy of a letter that was received by the Treasurer. It is indicated in that letter from the Goldfields Racing Club that over the last two years

there has been a decrease in the revenue of their club of £2,956. It is proposed in the letter—

that all s.p. betting shops within a radius of 20 miles of the Kalgoorlie post office be closed from 12 a.m. to 5 p.m. on all days on which racing is conducted by the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Racing Club, the number of such racing days not to exceed 16 per annum.

That all betting on such days and between the hours stipulated must be conducted on the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Racing Club's course and that dual licences must be taken out on such days by all proprietors of s.p. shops.

The letter continues—

The leger is free on all race days except the three days of the annual carnival when a nominal charge of 2s. is made. The same facilities are available in the leger as in the enclosure.

Our committee have done everything possible to make racing programmes attractive and to increase attendances and are open to suggestions from any member of the legislature for the improvement of our efforts on the strengthening of our financial position.

However, it is becoming increasingly obvious that racing in this district cannot continue, even on the present restricted scale, unless the present legislation is amended along the lines suggested, or unless a much greater proportion of the turnover tax is allotted to the club.

It is earnestly recommended that the proposals put forward in our letter of 10th July should receive full consideration by Parliament when amendments to the Act are being considered.

That is only one letter, and we have received many more.

Mr. Heal: Did you say the s.p. betting shops are responsible for the condition in which the club finds itself?

Hon. D. BRAND: I did not say anything of the kind. If in South Australia the Government is prepared to give back to the racing clubs 40 per cent., and in Tasmania 60 per cent., it is fair that the Government of Western Australia should pass back more than 12 per cent. It must be evident that that would be in the best interests of racing and trotting in this State. Unless the Government is prepared to assist these people financially, racing in this State will continue to deteriorate. I support the amendment in the hope that the Government will see fit to consider the matter further.

Mr. CORNELL: As printed, the clause proposes to give the racing and trotting clubs 10 per cent. of the proceeds of the turnover tax on off-course tax. The amendment doubles that amount. The Treasurer

has already indicated his unwillingness to go any further. Perhaps my remarks will fall on deaf ears. It is quite obvious that just as a tradesman cannot carry on his occupation without tools, so s.p. betting will not be able to function without racing and trotting. The s.p. industry should pay more for the cost of conducting racing and trotting than it is paying at the moment. In the absence of the desire on the part of the Government to increase the rate of tax, any relief that is granted to the racing and trotting clubs must be at the expense of Consolidated Revenue.

The attitude of the Treasurer is that in view of the other commitments of the Government, he has gone as far as possible in this regard. He is also satisfied that the s.p. operators cannot pay more than they are paying at present. I would point out that an increase of  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in tax on turnover exceeding £250,000 per annum would bring in at least another £15,000. Perhaps in his present frame of mind, he will be prepared to meet the Opposition part of the way and agree to this suggestion.

Mr. JOHNSON: I oppose the amendment. There is little use in giving away Government funds to organisations that cannot manage their own sports. Other sporting organisations than racing and trotting clubs are able to manage their sports within their finances.

Mr. Court: They do not pay tax, and you overlooked that factor when you spoke before.

Mr. JOHNSON: On what do the racing clubs pay tax?

Mr. Court: The sport they conduct produces the tax.

Mr. JOHNSON: The sport does not produce the tax.

Mr. Court: What does?

Mr. JOHNSON: The silly punters who spend their money betting are the ones who produce the tax.

Mr. Court: If racing and trotting were discontinued the Government would not be able to collect this tax. You have to follow this to its logical conclusion.

Mr. JOHNSON: That is not the logical conclusion. People who indulge in racing fall into two categories—those who race purely for the stakes, and those who go along to watch. The same applies to football, although on occasions people attending football matches do have a bet on the side. The point is that football and other sports pay their own way. I would remind members that the racing clubs have indicated that they have some thousands of pounds saved and invested in Commonwealth bonds; yet they are asking for support.

Mr. Court: Have you looked at their overdraft on the other side of the ledger? They have very little left over.

Mr. JOHNSON: What right have the clubs to approach the Government to ask for money to be spent on septic tanks, when money is required by the Government to be spent on septic tanks for schools? I oppose the amendment.

Amendment (to strike out word) put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	12
Noes	19

Majority against 7

Ayes.

Mr. Brand	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Cornell	Mr. Roberts
Mr. Court	Mr. Thorn
Mr. Crommelin	Mr. Watts
Mr. Nalder	Mr. Wild
Mr. Owen	Mr. Hutchinson

(Teller.)

Noes.

Mr. Andrew	Mr. Lawrence
Mr. Brady	Mr. Marshall
Mr. Gaffy	Mr. Norton
Mr. Graham	Mr. O'Brien
Mr. Hall	Mr. Potter
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Rhatigan
Mr. Heal	Mr. Rodoreda
Mr. Jamieson	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. Johnson	Mr. May
Mr. Lapham	

(Teller.)

Pairs.

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. Bovell	Mr. W. Hegney
Mr. Hearman	Mr. Hoar
Mr. I. Manning	Mr. Kelly
Mr. Mann	Mr. Nulsen
Mr. W. Manning	Mr. Sewell
Sir Ross McLarty	Mr. Sleeman
Mr. Ackland	Mr. Toms
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Evans

Amendment thus negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with an amendment.

# **BILL—BOOKMAKERS BETTING TAX ACT AMENDMENT.**

## *Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 9th October.

**HON. D. BRAND** (Greenough) [5.30]: In the absence of the Leader of the Opposition, I would like to say a word on this Bill. The Treasurer, when dealing with it in the second reading, gave most of the details in respect of the proposed income and expenditure of the Government. The legislation to amend the Betting Act would bring into the Government coffers a net amount of some £55,000 after the deduction was made of the anticipated relief of £53,800 which the Government will lose in licensing fees. It is on this question that the Opposition finds itself puzzled; that the Government should see fit to reduce the licensing fees to the extent of some £50,000.

Hitherto the fees in the metropolitan area amounted to £500 and according to the Treasurer it is proposed through regulation issued under the Act, to reduce these

licensing fees in the metropolitan area to £100. Admittedly the Treasurer pointed out that there are anomalies with respect to this matter which he recognises. By way of interjection he indicated that the Government was going to have a second look; and no doubt it will have a very hard look because of the decision made to allow the racing clubs a greater proportion of the finance from the tax. It is proposed to reduce the licence fees in the country to a flat rate of £50.

I fail to see why the big bookmakers—numbering, say, four or five in the metropolitan area, with the colossal turnover figures which have already been published—should pay the same licence fee as the man at the corner s.p. shop at Scarborough or Marmion or some other small place. The Government should have another look at this matter and apply a system of licensing fees on a sliding scale, which would be fair and just. I do not know whether it is right to say this—I really do not know—but one would imagine that the bigger man should either pay more or the little man is paying too much both in the metropolitan area and in the country.

The man in an s.p. shop in Geraldton, Northam or some of our provincial centres is certainly making a greater amount of money; and, if there is goodwill attached to this business, has a greater degree of goodwill than a man in Dongara, Mukinbudin or some other small place. So surely the Government or the Minister in charge must have a second look at this with a view to imposing a fair licence fee on the men who can afford to pay and giving some relief to the men in the small centres. In my own electorate there have been cases where the local s.p. bookmaker was forced to close down. I am not suggesting that illegal bookmaking is going on as a result; but we have heard in this Chamber that Australians will bet and nothing can stop them. So if it is lawful in this country to provide for off-course bookmaking, then we must give relief to the man either on a full-time or part-time basis who is acting in his capacity as s.p. bookmaker in country towns.

As I said at the Committee stage of the previous Bill, I am opposed to the legalising of betting shops in this country. Western Australia has the only set-up in which s.p. shops are licensed throughout the length and breadth of the country where the shops are open all day Saturday, and at night in order to deal with the trots. In South Australia, s.p. shops are licensed only at Port Pirie; and in Tasmania, all shops close on Saturday afternoon—

The Minister for Works: No, they don't!

Hon. D. BRAND: —and the bookmakers go out to the race clubs.

The Minister for Works: Where did you get that idea from?

Hon. D. BRAND: I understand that is the position.

The Minister for Works: Only within 15 miles of the course.

Hon. D. BRAND: I do not agree. I imagine the case is as I stated. They close the shops in the metropolitan area and go out to the races. Therefore Western Australia stands alone with respect to this betting legislation. It is of interest to me to learn from Mr. Cahill, the Labour Premier of New South Wales, that he was not going to legalise bookmaking in that State because he felt there was enough gambling already and there were many other associated problems. I just wonder why it is that in that State, where there must be a great demand for the legalising of off-course bookmaking, the Government has not agreed to the request.

Mr. Potter: They are not as progressive as we are.

Hon. D. BRAND: I would not like to have it held up that because we have legalised s.p. bookmaking in this State we are progressive as against any other State, because I do not feel that statement can be justified.

The Treasurer: The hon. member formerly advocated bigger and better race-meetings.

Hon. D. BRAND: I agree with that suggestion; but if there is to be betting, it should be on the racecourse.

The SPEAKER: I want to suggest this is a taxing Bill and the hon. member is not in order in following the discussion which took place on the other Bill. He should confine himself to the taxing Bill now before us.

Hon. D. BRAND: I was following the footsteps of the Treasurer.

The SPEAKER: He may have set a bad example.

Hon. D. BRAND: I feel the Treasurer has the advantage. However, I accept your ruling that we are dealing with a tax on bookmakers. In that respect, I would like to suggest that the system applying on-course should apply off-course. Both the Treasurer and the Minister for Works have had a go at answering questions from the member for Mt. Marshall with respect to amounts of turnover from the big five off-course bookmakers, and the answer was given that to disclose this confidential information would be contrary to the regulations in the betting Act. I still think these people—and I am wondering why the figures are not disclosed—should be able to bear a greater tax burden than the men lower down the scale, and not only because of turnover.

The Treasurer: They do.

Hon. D. BRAND: I feel they should bear a greater tax than they do. If it is right for the scale system to apply on-course, then is it not fair that above a certain turnover, the off-course bookmaker should bear no greater responsibility than the man with the small holding? I am hopeful that before the legislation becomes law, some further consideration will be given to the matter by the Government. I fully recognise the urgent need for more money for schools, hospitals and water supplies. I know that the Government is hard-pushed, and I would say that here is a means of getting more money. If I am wrong in this assertion, then I would like to hear from the Treasurer or his Minister why.

Mr. Marshall: You had the opportunity for six years.

Hon. D. BRAND: It might be that the member for Wembley Beaches is right; but again, in the words of the Minister for Works, I would say that two wrongs do not make a right. If it is necessary to have more money, I would urge that we ask the s.p. bookmakers to bear a greater degree of the financial contributions to the Treasury. A suggestion has been made that an inquiry would reveal that they could bear a greater degree. The member for Avon Valley has said that a man with a turnover of £300,000 to £400,000 must surely finish up with a profit greater than £3,000 or £4,000. Though not knowing a great deal about it, I would hazard a guess that he is right.

I support the Bill, but I hope that the Treasurer and his Ministers will give consideration to the suggestion for a complete review of the licensing fees with a view to obtaining more money, and that they will not, outright, give away £50,000 which is so urgently needed. I consider also that a tax on a sliding scale should apply to the off-course bookmaker who, since the inception of the Act, has made hay while the sun has shone. The Government has the benefit of the experience it has gained since the Betting Control Board was first established, and I am surprised that as a result of that experience only a small increase in the tax has been imposed.

The Treasurer: It is a 60 per cent. increase.

**THE MINISTER FOR WORKS** (Hon. J. T. Tonkin—Melville) [5.43]: The question before the House really is: What is a fair and equitable rate of tax to impose upon the bookmakers, having regard to the revenue requirements of the Government, the needs of the racing clubs, and the necessity to prevent the system of betting from reverting to what it was before this legislation was introduced?

Hon. D. Brand: There is no hope of that.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Of course there is!

Hon. D. Brand: Of course there isn't!

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: If we reach the point where the tax takes all the income—and that is highly possible—

Hon. D. Brand: Highly improbable.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: We shall see. It would not be improbable on what the hon. member suggests. If we reach the stage where the tax takes the income, then the bookmakers will turn in their licences; but they will not stop betting. The betting will then be carried out over the telephones, and that is almost impossible to police. No revenue will then be obtained from a large volume of betting, so that in the long run the Government and the clubs will lose. All these factors must be kept in consideration.

Mr. Roberts: What percentage would be paid?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I will come to that in a moment. "The West Australian" has had a lot to say about this question.

The Treasurer: From the gutter.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: It has taken a very definite line. "The West Australian" considers that a much higher tax is possible and desirable, so the leader writer for that newspaper has for a long time argued in a most emphatic way. What "The West Australian" writes is not Holy Writ, although it might be inspired. But, like all of us, "The West Australian" makes mistakes, and sometimes it makes serious mistakes—and I can give examples if necessary. It has made a serious mistake in its advocacy of the rate of tax which should be imposed on bookmakers. The leader writer of "The West Australian" reaches his conclusion by saying that the totalisator can stand a 13½ per cent. deduction and then pay approximately the same return to punters as the bookmaker pays.

Hon. D. Brand: Is that not true?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: He also implies that there must therefore be a margin of 13½ per cent. within which one can play if one wishes to impose taxes upon the bookmaker. Let us examine the position. The tote does not pay 3d. on every betting ticket, but the bookmaker on the course does.

Mr. Court: Does the bookmaker on the course pay 3d.?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes, on every ticket that he issues. The average bet in Western Australia on the course is £1. So, on a turnover of £100,000 the bookmaker has to pay approximately £1,250 in betting tax for his tickets. That much is not paid in South Australia nor in Tasmania; and the tote does not pay it. That

is one thing that we have to keep in mind. I have in front of me the actual figures of a bookmaker who operates on the course, and whose turnover is something less than £100,000.

Last year he paid £1,212 16s. 3d. in stamp tax; that is 1.2 per cent. on turnover. In addition, he paid to the W.A. Turf Club, in order to operate, £1,628, which is 1.6 per cent. on turnover. The tote does not pay that. This amounts to 2.8 per cent., that has to come out of the 13½ per cent., to commence with. But no notice is taken of that. In addition, the bookmaker from the amount left to him, has to pay for the wages of his clerks, including his penciller, and his other incidental expenses and then live himself. I shall show later, in actual figures, how much money there is for all this.

Mr. Wild: Would it not be better to strike a comparison with the s.p. bookmaker?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I will do that, also. "The West Australian" complains because the Treasurer saw fit to place before this House the situation as it affected the bookmaker and, because he did that, it said he was pleading the cause of the bookmaker. He has to put the other side of the argument in this House. "The West Australian" will not do it but will continue to put up only one side, and even that not fairly.

Mr. Court: But the Treasurer did not give figures in support of his case when pleading for the bookmakers.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: He was not pleading for the bookmakers. The hon. member should get that out of his head! The Treasurer was putting the Government's case and showing the actual position, and trying to knock some sense into those who have no idea what the figures are in regard to this matter.

The Minister for Transport: And that goes for the member for Nedlands.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: He would not supply the figures.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Nor should he. It is not the custom in this House to give figures relating to private incomes.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Then why supply the other figures?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Because they were lumped together and it was not possible to deduce from them to whom they referred. Even the hon. member would have been able to pinpoint some of the off-course bookmakers if the figures asked for had been given.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: A total was asked for.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The information sought would have enabled even the hon. member to arrive at a conclusion as to whom the figures referred to.



Mr. Court: The cat is out of the bag with the figures the Treasurer gave.

**The MINISTER FOR WORKS:** The Government did nothing improper with regard to the information it supplied. It supplied such information as it fairly could without giving away information about private individuals—which is not done in Parliament if it can be avoided.

Mr. Wild: You are a very good defending counsel.

**The MINISTER FOR WORKS:** I am defending nothing, except the Government; and that is my job. If there is all this margin between what the bookmaker could pay and what he is being called on to pay, why does not the Government of Tasmania take a lot more? Why does not the Government of South Australia take a lot more if all this great margin exists to be tapped? Let us see what the position is in Tasmania. The tax is on the bookmaker and it is 2½ per cent. on the course and off the course, on Tasmanian events only, but on events which are run on the mainland of Australia—and they form by far the larger part of the betting—the tax in Tasmania is 2½ per cent. if the bets are made on the course; and if they are made in betting shops off the course, it is 2 per cent.

Mr. Court: And the clubs are getting 60 per cent.

**The MINISTER FOR WORKS:** I am dealing with the rate of tax, at the moment. Do not shuffle! In Tasmania the rate of tax on the off-course bookmaker on the bulk of his business is 2 per cent. and the on-course bookmaker—and he is very often the same bookmaker in Tasmania, because in those cities where the races are being run the off-course bookmaker closes his shop at 12 o'clock and goes out to the race-course and bets there—does not pay £500 licence fee, or £100, but £1 only. So actually the rate of impost on the bookmaker in Tasmania is less than it is in Western Australia. Here the licence fee will be £100 or £50 on top of the 2 per cent. and in Tasmania it is 2 per cent. on the bulk of the business, with a licence fee of £1.

Let us examine the position in South Australia. If all this big margin exists—this 13½ per cent. to be tapped—what are they doing in South Australia? The tax there is 1 per cent. only on the bookmaker on the course and 2 per cent. on bookmakers in premises off the course. It is rather strange that both those States, where off-course bookmaking has been legalised for years, have a percentage of impost round about what is proposed in Western Australia. Is it not remarkable, if all this margin exists to play with, that those Governments have not taken advantage of it?

Mr. Court: They have not said they were going for the maximum.

**The MINISTER FOR WORKS:** I will show why they have not taken advantage of it, if I am given the opportunity. Book-making is a business and it is the same the world over. There are those bookmakers who work strictly to figures, and they will not lose. They might not make big incomes, because they cannot attract the volume of business if they stick tightly to the figures, but if they make their books properly over the years they will not lose. There are other bookmakers who will at times become punters and they run the risk that all punters run—the risk of losing.

Generally speaking, however, the bookmaker regards his calling as a business and carries it on as such, and so what happens in Tasmania or in South Australia would be common to Western Australia, with regard to costs and so on, with the exception that if the racing clubs charge higher fees in Western Australia than anywhere else—and that is a fact—the bookmaker here is that much worse off than he would be if he operated somewhere else, but on the business from the punters the position is much the same.

Hon. D. Brand: Have they a winning bets tax in South Australia?

**The MINISTER FOR WORKS:** Yes; the Government there takes far more money from the punters than from the bookmakers. If the hon. member is advocating that we should take more money from the punters, we might examine that aspect; but we do not like it, because that was the way his Government thought it should raise the revenue. It proposed to place no tax on the bookmakers at all and take all the money from the punters.

Hon. D. Brand: If South Australia was wrong in that respect they are wrong in the other, also, or right—

**The MINISTER FOR WORKS:** Are you saying they are wrong, or right?

Mr. Court. Are we entitled to assume—

**The MINISTER FOR WORKS:** We are not entitled to assume anything. We have the facts.

Mr. Court: Are we entitled to assume, from the argument you have put forward so far, that in the opinion of your Government the tax proposed is the maximum the s.p. bookmaker can afford to pay?

**The MINISTER FOR WORKS:** The hon. member certainly is; and if I am given time and opportunity I think I will prove it conclusively. I have had access to the reports of the Betting Control Board of South Australia, and the Auditor General's report in Tasmania. No reports are available on Tasmanian betting so I therefore could not get the figures. In South Australia, for the year ended June, 1953, the Government extracted from the bookmakers only £278,447; and in 1954, only £308,326. In 1955 it was £298,305; and in 1956, it was £333,796. When I tell

the House that this Government proposes to extract £574,651 from the bookmakers, it should appreciate that we are levying upon the bookmakers in this State a far greater impost than has ever been levied in South Australia where there is a bigger volume of business.

Mr. Nalder: You are probably getting it from more bookmakers here.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: No; we are not. There is a far bigger volume of betting in South Australia than in Western Australia.

Mr. Court: Is it much bigger when the betting on and off the course are added together?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes, it is about £5,000,000 bigger in South Australia.

Mr. Court: With a bigger population?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I do not care about the population. I am talking about the volume of business on which the bookmakers are operating.

Mr. Court: You have to relate the two.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The bookmaker makes his money from the money available and not the population.

Hon. D. Brand: The population makes the turnover.

Hon. A. F. Watts: There are some in South Australia who are not licensed. They must find it difficult to collect fees.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: They do not collect fees from the men who are not licensed. They are getting away without paying anything. But this Government's proposals, which "The West Australian" thinks are not drastic enough—and the same opinion is shared by members opposite—will extract from the bookmakers in Western Australia this year £574,641 if the volume of business is the same as last year. Yet in South Australia the total amount extracted from the bookmakers last year was only £333,796, and in Tasmania it was £317,659. By comparison, we show out very well.

Mr. Court: Have either of those Governments said that they considered they were taxing betting to the maximum that it would stand?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I am assuming that as they are just as short of money as we are, they would have imposed an additional tax on the bookmakers if they felt the money was there to collect.

Mr. Court: That does not follow.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I think it is a logical deduction. If the hon. member were Treasurer and wanted money, and he was shown where he could get it, does he not think that he would go after it?

The Minister for Transport: Haven't they reduced the rates in South Australia and Tasmania?

Mr. Wild: The way you are going, we will be killing the goose that lays the golden eggs.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: We will see who is killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. It could be the bookmaker who lays the golden eggs.

Mr. Wild: You are looking after him, don't worry!

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: In addition, in South Australia the Government extracts a lot of money from the patrons of racing, the figures for the respective years being as follows:—

	£
1953 ....	595,000
1954 ....	653,000
1955 ....	640,000

I have no figures for 1956, but that was the money collected from the patrons of racing.

Mr. Court: When you say that they extract that from the patrons, I take it that that includes entertainments tax, winning bets tax and totalisator tax.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: It is the winning bets tax.

Mr. Court: And totalisator percentage?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes. That money was taken from the patrons of racing. The punter pays the totalisator tax.

Mr. Court: You are not including the proportion of the overall turnover of the tote.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: What I am giving members is the actual amount of money which the Government obtained from the patrons or bettors as distinct from the bookmakers. It does not matter whether they got it through the winning bets tax, through the bookmaker, or the totalisator tax. It was money which the bettor himself put into the machine; it was money that the bettor no longer has because the Government has it.

Mr. Court: It would include a percentage from the tote in addition to the winning bets tax from the tote.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: That is so. The figures I gave regarding bookmakers are not mixed up with any money from the tote. I think that the figures I now propose to quote—and which are completely authentic and not my own figures but printed ones which have been submitted to Parliament—must be taken as a guide as to what happens on race-courses and off the courses. I will quote firstly from a summary of the Betting Control Board of South Australia for the year ended the 30th June, 1954. This has been taken out in the form of an analysis of what happens to the money. The first table is on-course bookmakers, local race meetings. The number of bets laid

totalled 6,005,476 and the total turnover was £12,936,095 and the winnings paid to bettors amounted to £12,687,789. Let us consider those figures, because it gives us something to work on. The total turnover—that is, the money which the book-makers had to handle over and over again on the local race meetings was £12,936,095 and they had to pay back to the bettors, out of that amount, the sum of £12,687,789. That left a gross profit, on the local race meetings, of £248,326, out of which they paid £129,366 in turnover tax, £14,013 in ticket tax, leaving them a profit of £104,947 on a turnover of £12,936,095, which works out at .81 per cent.

Mr. Wild: Those figures relate to on-course bookmakers?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes; we cannot deal with them both at once.

Mr. Wild: It is no good dealing with the others, because there are so few of them.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: In connection with trotting meetings, 2,001,763 bets were laid, which gave a turnover of £3,788,263. The winnings paid to bettors amounted to £3,555,768, making a gross profit of £232,495. The turnover tax paid amounted to £37,885 and the ticket tax amounted to £4,671, leaving a gross profit on trotting meetings of £189,939 or 5.01 per cent. So it must be more difficult to pick winners at trotting meetings than it is to pick them at race meetings. Even so, their gross profit, out of which they had to pay wages and other expenses, was 5 per cent.

The Treasurer: We allow more than that under the Profiteering and Unfair Trading Prevention Bill.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Do you now?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: At coursing meetings, 7,298 bets were laid, which gave a turnover of £23,536. The winnings paid to bettors amounted to £22,626, which left a gross profit of £910. The turnover tax paid amounted to £236 and the ticket tax was £17. This left a profit of £657 or 2.8 per cent. On interstate meetings a total of 3,675,307 bets were laid, involving a turnover of £4,915,279, from which the winnings paid to bettors amounted to £4,567,591, leaving a gross profit of £347,688, from which £49,157 was paid in turnover tax and £8,575 was paid in ticket tax, leaving a net profit, out of which wages and other expenses had to be paid—net profit remaining after tax and stamp duty had been paid—of £289,956 or 5.9 per cent.

The PREMIER: I move—

That the Minister for Works be given leave to continue his speech at the next sitting of the House.

Motion put and passed.

Debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 6.12 p.m.

## Legislative Council

Tuesday, 23rd October, 1956.

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

### QUESTIONS.

#### COKE.

##### *Availability and Possible Substitute.*

Hon. L. A. LOGAN (for Hon. A. R. Jones) asked the Chief Secretary:

In view of the serious position created by the lack of coke available for use in slow combustion household stoves, will he inform the House—

- (1) Is anything being done to alleviate the present position?
- (2) Will he have inquiries made through the Mines Department as to whether there is any foundation to rumours that there is a low-grade coal obtainable in the proximity of Mingenew which it is claimed has been used, and could be successfully mined for the purpose of burning in place of coke in slow combustion stoves?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

(1) This is a matter for the State Electricity Commission and the Fremantle Gas Co., or for importation by coal merchants of domestic coke from the Eastern States.

(2) The Irwin River and Eradu coal deposits were investigated in great detail by the Mines Department in 1949; and, as a result, the report of the Government Geologist was that the coal was of no economic value and that the deposit was of too low a grade, too thin or too lenticular to enable it to be exploited in competition with the very much better grade sub-bituminous coal in the Collie Basin. Full details are published in the Geological Survey of Western Australia Bulletin No. 108 in the chapter on economic geology.