

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Blaikie): The honourable member has five minutes.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Education also provides the only real opportunity for social mobility. Education is vitally important on the national scene and I would briefly cite the situation with regard to Japan which was reduced to its lowest ebb after the war. Japan could boast no natural resources, no areas of arable land, and no mining to speak of, but today Japan is one of the leading nations of the world. That country achieved its position by the effective development of human resources and this is the extent to which national importance must be placed on education.

From that point of view education must, necessarily, become part of our considerations. Governments make funds available, and in the ultimate it all comes back to finance. So it is that Governments have to be cognisant of the importance of education, and they develop their policies either from political or genuine motives. In this case I suggest the motives which inspired the Liberal Party are a little hollow.

The Liberal Party is aware that education has been a major plank in the ALP platform. The Liberal Party, on the eve of the election, told its planning committee that it would have to come up with something, which it did with a minimum amount of research. Difficulties will stem from that particular exercise and the result will be alarming.

Sir Charles Court: A lot of research was done by competent people, and not on the eve of the election.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Oh yes; and we have gone back to the expert committee. The committee will tell us all about it and come up with a shiny new penny! Can someone tell us how the programme will be implemented and how it will work at this time?

That is a fair assessment of the shallowness of the Liberal Party approach to the education programme during the last election.

Sir Charles Court: Just sour grapes.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Clarko.

*House adjourned at 11.06 p.m.*

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## Legislative Council

Thursday, the 12th September, 1974

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. A. F. Griffith) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### QUESTIONS (3): ON NOTICE

#### 1. SUGAR PRODUCTION

##### *Kununurra*

The Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) During the visit of Premier Bjelke-Petersen of Queensland, was the opportunity taken to discuss the possibility of sugar being allowed to be grown at Kununurra in commercial quantities?
- (2) If not, and as world contracts are being negotiated and signed by Australia for sugar export in the long term, would not now be the time to expand, with Queensland's blessing, the sugar industry into Kununurra which undoubtedly has ideal soil and conditions for an exportable sugar exercise, and which needs an industry "shot in the arm"?
- (3) If the barrier continues on Western Australian participation in the sugar export market, can at least agreement be reached to supply Western Australia's needs from Kununurra?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (1) The possibility of growing sugar at Kununurra in commercial quantities was not formally discussed.
- (2) and (3) The opportunity has been taken to have the feasibility of growing sugar on the Ord further examined with a view to producing a report on the long-term future of sugar growing at Kununurra. Should this report be favourable, it is considered that the opposition to Western Australia entering sugar growing, which has existed, may no longer be apparent. This is due partly to the increased world demand for sugar, partly to the ultimate limit to expanding production in Queensland, and also due to the fact that the domestic price makes a monopoly of local market now unattractive.

#### 2. WUNDOWIE CHARCOAL IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY

##### *Castings*

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Education:

Further to the granting of a loan of \$700 000 in June, 1972, to the Wundowie Charcoal Iron and Steel Works, will the Minister indicate—

- (a) how many castings have been produced from the purchased machinery for sale to other industries;

- (b) how much of the loan remains;
- (c) how many of the forecast sales have been obtained for the new castings both Interstate and Overseas;
- (d) if the answers to (a) and (c) are "nil"—
  - (i) what reasons can be given for the inordinate delay; and
  - (ii) when is it expected to commence production and sales?

The Hon. N. E. Baxter for the Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (a) Nil.
- (b) All of the funds will be used as the plant is installed during the coming months.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) (i) The programme was initially delayed for 12 months so that alternate equipment could be studied. Further delays have been encountered in supplying plant since orders were placed late last year.
- (ii) Production is expected to commence early next year.

3.

### DRAINAGE

*Maddington*

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS, to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Has a Government contract been let for the erection of a fence around the extension of the Helm Street drain adjacent to Westfield Street in Maddington?
- (2) If so—
  - (a) when was the contract let;
  - (b) what is the completion date for the contract;
  - (c) what percentage of the contract has been let to date; and
  - (d) what, if any, is the total amount of progress payments made to the contractor?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) 23rd July, 1974.
- (b) 13th September, 1974 (weather permitting). I understand that the contract is running to schedule.
- (c) 100% of the recently completed drain.
- (d) \$2 500.

### TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT BILL

*Third Reading*

**THE HON. N. E. BAXTER** (Central—Minister for Health) [2.39 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

**THE HON. R. THOMPSON** (South Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [2.40 p.m.]: During the second reading debate and also in the Committee stages of this Bill, I questioned the Minister for Health about his statement relating to exemptions. I asked him where this section could be found in the principal Act and he said he would inform me during the third reading stage. That was fair enough. I do not want to be pedantic about this, but I should like to clear up the confusing statements which have been made. I shall read to the House very briefly the remarks made by the Minister for Health and the Minister in another place, because I want to know and I think the public and, particularly, the pensioners are entitled to know about the intentions of this Bill. I have quoted several times the answer given to a question directed to the Minister for Transport by the member for Collie in another place. He asked whether pensioners were to receive any vehicle license fee concessions. The Minister in another place replied—

... Cabinet has set up a committee to investigate whether some special action can be taken to assist the pensioners with the payment of the vehicle license fees.

The answer was specific; it referred to vehicle license fees. At page 3 of the Minister's reply to the second reading debate in this place, he said—

As stated in the Legislative Assembly by the Minister for Transport the Government has appointed a committee to investigate the whole question of concessions to pensioners.

That is not what was said by the Minister in another place. At page 6 of his reply in Committee, the Minister said—

At the moment the Government is in the process of setting up a committee to consider the granting of all concessions to pensioners.

I asked the Minister whether the committee would report on the proposal to reduce license fees paid by pensioners and this is what the Minister said—

No committee was set up to look into the reduction of license fees to pensioners. I think I said earlier in my speech tonight that a committee will be set up to look into all concessions that possibly may be granted to pensioners. The committee will make inquiries as to what the position is in the other States; what concessions are granted to pensioners

in those States, and what concessions we can afford to grant to pensioners in Western Australia. The committee will be inquiring into many aspects apart from the granting of concessions in the payment of license fees.

I asked what progress had been made and the Minister went on to say—

The committee is in the process of being formed. We are awaiting the return of people who are outside the State at present so that we may obtain their consent to serve on this committee.

So, the position was obvious from the start. I questioned the Minister in respect of an answer given in the Legislative Assembly on the 31st July, but we find that the Minister has given us three different replies. Will the Minister for Health clarify the matter and tell us just what is the actual position? Was the Minister in another place telling the truth in reply to a question or are we to believe the three different versions the Minister for Health has given us during the course of this debate? I think it is most unsatisfactory and I should like the two points I have raised clarified.

**THE HON. N. E. BAXTER** (Central—Minister for Health) [2.45 p.m.]: I have just been endeavouring to locate in the Act the section which deals with the first part of the question raised by the Leader of the Opposition in relation to invalid pensioners.

The Hon. R. Thompson: It is not there.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: It is in the Act somewhere. I will try to check it out and advise the member afterwards.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You told us that last night, but it is not in the Act.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I know it is in there somewhere, but I cannot place the section of the Act at present.

In relation to the other question raised by the Leader of the Opposition, the committee that was originally set up was established to examine specific pensioner concessions. It had nothing to do with concessions for motor vehicle licenses. I think perhaps this was where the Minister for Transport became confused when he replied to that question. At that time, no committee had actually been established to inquire into license fee concessions to pensioners. Another committee had been set up, but to examine concessions of a different type.

The Hon. R. Thompson: That is a reflection on the Minister in another place. You are saying that he did not tell the truth on this question.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: It was not a case of the Minister in another place not telling the truth; rather, the Minister was under the impression that the committee had been set up to deal with pen-

sioner concessions generally whereas in actual fact it was dealing with specific concessions. I am sure the Minister in another place made his reply under that misconception. Surely that is a clear enough explanation and will be accepted by the Leader of the Opposition.

In regard to the other committee referred to, I probably used the wrong words when I said that a committee had been set up, because two committees have been established. I have already referred to the first committee; the second committee is a general, overall committee established because of the inquiries and applications which have been made to us in relation to the various facets of pensioner concessions. These include concessions for intra-state and interstate travel by pensioners, pensioners travelling from the north-west and from other areas of the State and many other aspects of the problem. We must interpose these facets of the problem and also consider the question of concessions for motor vehicle licenses.

I finally got around to what the Leader of the Opposition was driving at. The committee is almost completely established at present. We are waiting on one member to return to Western Australia so that we can obtain his permission to appoint him to the committee. This has delayed the committee's establishment, but he will be a key member of the committee. I know the Leader of the Opposition would realise that we cannot put just anybody on a committee of this type and hope that it will come up with a reasonable answer relating to pensioner concessions.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: It is a question of finding the people, is it?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Mr Cloughton should keep out of this. I am talking to the Leader of the Opposition. I hate people mumbling.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: Then speak up.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I am the one who is speaking up. Mr Cloughton is mumbling through his beard.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: Mr Withers has the beard.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I think the Leader of the Opposition would know that if he were setting up a committee of this nature he would want to establish a committee which could return with those answers which would be in the best interest of the pensioners.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You should appreciate that I have been trying for three days to get the answer that you are now giving.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: The Leader of the Opposition tackled this problem at the wrong time. I said the time he should raise his queries is during the third reading, not during the Committee stage.

The Hon. R. Thompson: In view of what the Minister in another place said, it was important that I should raise this matter.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: May I say that the proper place to raise a matter of this type is during the third reading of a Bill, not in the Committee stage.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I raised it during the second reading stage as well as the Committee stage and I received three different answers.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: No, I may have given the Leader of the Opposition two different answers.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You gave me three different answers.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: The Leader of the Opposition is splitting straws on this issue.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Read what you said; I have got it here.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: The Leader of the Opposition is trying to make out that something exists, which in fact does not exist.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I have read out to you what was said.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I am aware of that. I have given my explanation; surely the honourable member should be prepared to accept that reasonable explanation.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I am prepared to accept it, but you have made a serious admission. I think it is your duty to get the Minister in another place to correct the answer he has given, if what you are telling us is correct.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I do not think what I have said will go unpublished. It is recorded in *Hansard*. Why is there a need for the Minister in another place to go to the trouble of correcting his statement?

The Hon. R. Thompson: You said he was under some misconception.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: He probably was.

The Hon. R. Thompson: That is a serious allegation.

The PRESIDENT: The Leader of the Opposition has made reference to certain questions and answers in the Legislative Assembly. I consider that to be out of order. Because I have permitted that to be done, the Minister is now trying to answer the question that has been raised. I would like the Leader of the Opposition to give the Minister the opportunity to do so.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I have accepted the answer.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I have given a sufficient answer to the Leader of the Opposition. Surely he does not expect me

to get on my knees and beg for forgiveness. He is merely trying to flog a dead horse.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You are the one who has killed the horse.

The PRESIDENT: My understanding is that the Leader of the Opposition has accepted the Minister's explanation.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I conclude my contribution on that note.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

#### NICKEL REFINERY (WESTERN MINING CORPORATION LIMITED) AGREEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

##### *Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. N. McNeill (Minister for Justice), read a first time.

#### TOWN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

##### *Recommittal*

Bill recommitted, on motion by the Hon. N. McNeill (Minister for Justice), for the further consideration of clause 3.

##### *In Committee*

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (the Hon. R. J. L. Williams) in the Chair; the Hon. N. McNeill (Minister for Justice) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 3: Section 4 amended—

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I am grateful to the Minister for Justice for agreeing to the recommittal of the Bill for the further consideration of clause 3, particularly as the amendment which I have proposed did not appear on the notice paper until the Committee stage had been concluded.

The reason for my amendment is that in the second reading debate and in the Committee stage of the Bill my colleagues and I felt that the provisions in clause 3 were inadequate, and the Bill had been prepared hastily without sufficient thought being given to it.

After one amendment which we on this side proposed in the Committee stage was defeated, the Minister allowed us more time to examine the Bill. Hence, I have placed on the notice paper the amendment which I am now proposing. However, there is a slight error in that amendment. The whole purpose of it is to provide the Minister with some avenues that are open to Ministers under other Acts, where they are required to appoint members to boards and committees.

The amendment I am proposing will have no effect on the Local Government Association, that being the organisation

which will nominate a panel of three names to the Minister, from which he is to select one for appointment to the Town Planning Board.

This amendment merely adds a safeguard that, if the Local Government Association does not submit a panel of three names, the Minister may appoint someone he considers fit to be a member of the board. That is all the amendment seeks to do. It will not affect the Bill as a whole.

The safeguard contained in the amendment is that if the Local Government Association fails within 21 days to submit a panel of names the Minister may appoint someone else. This procedure is followed in other legislation, for example in respect of appointments to the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Board, the Tourist Council which was set up last year, and in connection with other bodies. The Minister concerned does have the right to ask these organisations to submit, within 21 days, a panel of names from which he can make an appointment.

The amendment I propose could assist the Minister. As the Bill is drafted, if the Local Government Association does not submit a panel of names, there is no provision for the Minister to appoint any other person. That is perhaps the most important reason for putting forward my amendment.

Another reason is that we are dealing with the Local Government Association. We have been told that it is essential to appoint another member to the Town Planning Board so that a quorum can be formed more easily.

Without my amendment, if the Local Government Association submits a panel of three names, the matter could drag on for two or three months and the whole exercise would be defeated. If my amendment to increase the membership of the Town Planning Board by the appointment of a nominee of the Local Government Association is agreed to, the Minister is required to write to that association for the submission of a panel of three names within 21 days in order that he can select one of the three to be appointed to the board.

There is a further safeguard to the effect that if the Local Government Association is in default and does not submit a panel of names within the 21 days—which I think is reasonable—the way will be open to the Minister to select somebody else to be appointed to the Town Planning Board.

At this point I seek your guidance Mr Deputy Chairman, because there appears to be a small grammatical error in the last line of paragraph (b) of proposed new subsection (2A) of my amendment. The word "shall" should, I think, be placed after the numeral (i) which follows paragraph (b) of proposed new subsection (2A).

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (the Hon. R. J. L. Williams): If the honourable member will move his amendment in the form he thinks it should be moved I will have the necessary adjustment made.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: Very well, Sir. I move an amendment—

Page 2—Insert after paragraph (a) the following new paragraph to stand as paragraph (b)—

(b) by adding immediately following subsection (2) a new subsection to stand as subsection (2A) as follows—

(2A) (a) Prior to the first occasion on which an appointment of a member is made after selection of his name from a panel of three names submitted to the Minister by The Local Government Association of Western Australia (Inc.) and on every occasion thereafter when such an office becomes vacant the Minister shall in writing request the said Association to submit to him in writing a panel containing the names of three persons willing to act as a member of the Board.

(b) Where a request has been made pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection the Minister—

(i) shall if the panel is submitted to him within 21 days after the request was made nominate one of the persons whose names appear on the panel for appointment to the office of member to be the representative of the said Association and—

(ii) may if default is made within that time in submitting the panel to him nominate for appointment to the office of member to be the representative of the said Association such person as he thinks fit.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: I acknowledge the comments made by Mr Dellar when he thanked the Minister for Town Planning for his co-operation in being prepared to delay the Bill in order to further consider this clause. Members will notice that in addition to the amendment moved by Mr Dellar there is an amendment on the notice paper which I propose to move and which in fact, corresponds entirely with the place in the Bill in which Mr Dellar's amendment would be inserted. In effect it may be said that the two proposed amendments are almost identical.

There are, however, some differences and I will make an explanation as to how this circumstance comes about. It will be recalled that in his address to the Committee and again during the third reading debate, when Mr Dellar raised the question of whether the Minister would be prepared to have a look at the proposition—to make provision that where a local government representative could not be appointed, possibly because of some default on the part of the association in submitting a panel of names to him—no period of time was mentioned as to when this should be done.

Mr Dellar said it would be proper for a time to be introduced if a submission were not made by the Local Government Association and the Minister could have the opportunity available to him to make the appointment of another person.

Mr Dellar's amendment states that in default of any submission by the Local Government Association within a period of 21 days—and I place emphasis on the period of 21 days, because that is one of the dissimilarities to which, with your indulgence, Sir, I make reference—the way would be open for the Minister to select somebody else to be appointed to the Town Planning Board. As I have said this is one of the dissimilarities between the two amendments on the notice paper.

The other proposed dissimilarity arises in relation to the person who is to be appointed by the Minister in the event of such default. Mr Dellar's proposed amendment spells out that the member shall be a representative of the said association, but it leaves it to the Minister to appoint such person as he thinks fit. It is spelt out that he would be the person to represent the association. I had discussion with the Minister—as I conveyed to Mr Dellar—but if I remember correctly it was not indicated by Mr Dellar at the time that he proposed to place the amendment on the notice paper.

In the absence of such notification and in the light of the assurance I had given Mr Dellar that I would discuss this matter with the Minister for Town Planning, it subsequently occurred that the Minister for Town Planning indicated to me that, as a result of the points raised by Mr Dellar—and the transcript of his remarks were examined by the Minister—he would be prepared to have placed on the notice paper

an amendment that would meet his own requirements as the Minister, and would probably and hopefully meet the requirements as stated by Mr Dellar in the third reading.

That is the nature of the circumstance in which these two notices of amendment appear on the notice paper. Let me indicate that as a consequence of further discussion with the Minister, and after an examination of Mr Dellar's amendment on the notice paper, the Minister for Town Planning has indicated that he would prefer the Committee not to agree to Mr Dellar's amendment.

I daresay it will be appreciated by the Committee that the Minister would prefer his own amendment—which has, in fact, been prepared in conjunction with his department and with the necessary drafting background, to meet the requirements as he sees them as the responsible Minister after considering the circumstances that might be arrived at.

Therefore the spirit in which Mr Dellar has phrased his amendment is, I believe, to all intents and purposes the same as the alternative amendment which I will place before the Committee.

I therefore suggest that the Committee do not agree to Mr Dellar's amendment but that it accept as an alternative the amendment I have placed on the notice paper, which will achieve the same purpose and which presumably I will subsequently have an opportunity to move.

I am grateful for your indulgence, Mr Deputy Chairman, but I felt it desirable to allude to both the amendments as they deal with the same matter. I ask the Committee not to support the amendment moved by Mr Dellar.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: When I spoke earlier this afternoon I did not refer to the amendment the Minister has placed on the notice paper, but as he has referred to it I would like to make a couple of points.

The amendment I placed on the notice paper was prepared by the Parliamentary Draftsman and was based on information I gave him that this was my idea of what should happen. I realise there is not a great deal of difference between the two amendments, the major difference being that my amendment states a period of 21 days and the Minister's amendment a period of 30 days.

There is another difference between the two amendments and perhaps the Minister can enlighten me on it. My amendment states that the Minister shall request the Local Government Association to submit a panel of names before a representative of the association is appointed to the Town Planning Board for the first time, and it provides further that whenever that office becomes vacant the Minister shall ask the association to submit another panel of

three names, when it might submit the same three names. I cannot see any such provision in the Minister's amendment.

The Minister's amendment means that in the first instance the Local Government Association will be asked for a panel of names but I cannot read into it a provision for the Minister to ask the association for another panel of names at the expiration of the term of office of the first appointee, either to reappoint him or to appoint someone else. If my amendment is defeated and the Minister's amendment is adopted, on the first occasion only would the Local Government Association be required to submit a panel of names within a stipulated time.

The first difference between the two amendments is the period of time in which the association must submit a panel of names. A period of 21 days applies in most other cases. Perhaps there is a good reason for the Minister extending the period to 30 days in this case. If so, I would like to hear it.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: First of all I refer to the difference of 30 days as against 21 days. I am not aware of the particular significance of the choice of 30 days but I believe at the time the Minister had his amendment prepared he was unaware of the terms of the amendment to be proposed by Mr Dellar. Therefore, in the spirit in which Mr Dellar had spoken, the Minister was prepared to make provision for a period, and I presume that following inquiry and discussion a period of 30 days seemed to him to be reasonable in the circumstances. I know of no other significant factor making 30 days necessarily better than 21 days.

There is the advantage of an additional nine days for the association to submit its panel of names. Thirty days is a month and, bearing in mind that meetings of the association and local authorities are usually on a monthly basis, this may well have been the reason for it, in order to keep it in line with the meetings of the local governing bodies. That is my understanding of the reason for the 30 days.

As regards the other point, it is true there is no reference in the amendment I have on the notice paper to a requirement that a panel of names be submitted prior to the first occasion and subsequently on every other occasion it is necessary to appoint a representative to the board. I have had a quick look at the Act which this Bill seeks to amend. Section 4 indicates that the members of the board are appointed for a period of three years and are eligible for reappointment.

Mr Dellar is in fact saying that on all subsequent occasions after the first occasion he would like the opportunity to be available to the Minister to appoint another person. In other words, the 21 or

30 days would still be an operative period during which the association would be required to submit a panel of names.

From a quick look at the Act I believe the situation will be that while a member of the board would be eligible for reappointment at the end of three years, there are certain circumstances in which a member would not be able to be reappointed. The Minister or the Governor might decide not to reappoint a particular person. I think that prior to any new appointment being made it would be necessary for the association to make its submission within the period laid down, otherwise the Minister would appoint some other person. Other than the situation in which the Governor agreed that an appointment should be renewed at the end of the statutory period, I believe the amendment would commence to operate. I hope I have conveyed to Mr Dellar my interpretation of the way this would work out in practice.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I thank the Minister for his explanation. He has had only a brief time to look at it, as I have, but I still feel the situation I referred to is better covered by having it written into the amendment as I propose, which means at the end of the three-year term the Minister would know what he has to do.

Naturally, I prefer my amendment, and I do not see any reason for the Local Government Association being given 30 days when other organisations, including the regional councils under the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme, have only 21 days. I ask the Committee to support my amendment because I believe it covers the situation in the way the Minister requires but has the added safeguard to which I have referred.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: As has already been indicated by Mr Dellar, the amendment he proposes has been made necessary through the Government's failure to accept the proposal we previously put forward. When that failed it was necessary to examine the amendment in the Bill to see in what other ways it was deficient. I have said previously probably this would come about as a result of the inexperience of the Minister.

The Hon. N. McNeill: Get back to the point of what we are really discussing.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: If the Minister allows me a few minutes I will elaborate further. I believe it is unwise to continue with the proposal in the Bill. I do not think it will act to the benefit of the Town Planning Board; but obviously the Government is determined to have its way.

Let us have a little sense, perspective, and rationality in regard to the amendment. It seems that little consideration has been given to the alterations being made to the Act, because the provision

we suggested has not been included. The Minister has accepted that what we have said does have merit, because he has produced a counteramendment which is deficient in that it does not provide for the Local Government Association to be alerted when a vacancy occurs. The appointments are to be made for three years.

The Hon. N. McNeill: You are now demonstrating your own inexperience.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: I will be quite happy to hear the Minister demonstrate the truth of his remark after I have concluded. It has been pointed out to me now that the appointments are for two years. I admit my mistake; I am quite prepared to do that. I only wish the Minister was prepared to admit that he is making a mistake.

When the appointments expire the departmental executive officer will notify the Minister, and the Minister must make a decision regarding the new appointments. In that respect, if the Act so requires, an advice will be sent to the Local Government Association. Previous Administrations, including Liberal-Country Party Governments, have seen fit to place similar provisions in legislation under circumstances akin to these. They have proposed that when a vacancy occurs written notice must be given to the organisations which are required to submit names so that they will know in advance of the vacancies.

In the case of the Local Government Association, what will happen if for some reason a selected member is not able to complete his term? Obviously the Minister should be required to give written advice of this to the association. That is hardly provided for in the amendment proposed by the Minister.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (the Hon. R. J. L. Williams): I cannot allow the honourable member to speak about the Minister's amendment. We are dealing with the amendment moved by the Hon. S. J. Dellar, which appears on the notice paper. I know it is difficult, but that is the position.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: I must submit to your ruling, of course, Sir. I only wish you had made that decision when the Minister was speaking.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I allowed the Minister, at his request, and the Hon. S. J. Dellar to use the comparison for the purpose of explaining the two amendments. I realise this is difficult, and I do not wish to restrict the honourable member in any way. However, at the moment we are dealing with Mr Dellar's amendment.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: Let us visualise the situation for the purpose of understanding the amendment. If a casual vacancy occurs a process should be

laid down by which the Local Government Association is advised of the vacancy so that it may set about selecting names to submit to the Minister. If no such requirement is made at the beginning of the process, but it is provided—as has been suggested—that the requirement will be applied 30 days after the vacancy has occurred, would the Minister wait for what he thinks is a reasonable time for the Local Government Association to communicate with him? What is a reasonable time? Is it one, two, three, or six weeks? Then, if he has not heard from the association he might decide to get in touch with it; and possibly another 30 days would elapse over and above the period of six weeks. Again, if the Minister still did not hear from the association he might decide to give it a reasonable time to select a panel of names, and a further month could go by. That is a hypothetical example, but I suggest the situation could occur.

I point out again that the amendment is not something we on this side have dreamed up; it is taken from existing legislation presented by previous Governments. The process has been found to work effectively in practice under other legislation. I would ask the Minister to consider the matter in that light. We have reached a basic agreement; we both think the situation should be provided for. We may have a slight disagreement in regard to the length of time allowed. We have suggested 21 days because that period is accepted in other legislation. However, we have a basic agreement that written advice should be given. The difference is that we on this side believe that advice should be given at the beginning of the process and not at a later stage.

The Hon. N. McNeill: I will not comment further on the question of the 21-day period, as I have already made my explanation of it. However, I would like to refer to the need to notify the Local Government Association prior to the recommendation being made by the Governor for the appointment of a new member. The Act lays down that members shall be appointed for a period of three years, after which period—and this is relevant to the point raised by Mr Cloughton—the Act requires that the member of the board, other than the commissioner, shall be appointed for a period of three years and shall be eligible for reappointment. It does not say that he shall be reappointed. It says that he shall be eligible for reappointment. The panel of names will be required to be submitted to the Governor-in-Executive-Council prior to any appointment being made. The position would be that the body in question has to be notified and it is required to submit a panel of names prior to the completion of the current term of the member. That has certainly

been the position in regard to any board of which I have been aware in those cases where the appointment has to be made by the Governor.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: That is what I was saying.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: That is exactly what happens.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: Yes, but that requirement is not in the Minister's proposal.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: It does not have to be in the proposal, because we are talking of the appointment of a member for a three-year term. If a three-year term expires and a person has to be appointed, the appointee does not have to be the same person that held the position previously; that person is only eligible for reappointment. In order to be appointed he has to have his name among the panel of names submitted by the Local Government Association, and in order that the Minister should receive such a submission from the Local Government Association, he is required—

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: From where?

The Hon. N. McNEILL: From the Local Government Association.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: You do not have that in the amendment. That is the point we are making.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: Our amendment, as does the provision in any other piece of legislation, provides that the Minister must advise the Local Government Association or whatever association it happens to be.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: You could, like myself, admit you have made a mistake.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: For the information of Mr Claughton, the point I am trying to establish is that the requirement does not have to be spelt out in the amendment. I do not know what Mr Claughton was talking about when he mentioned a reasonable period for the appointment. He then went on to speak about 30 days in regard to the nomination and that therefore another 30 days would elapse before an appointment was made. That is absolute nonsense.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Not actually. I waited for seven weeks for nominations on one occasion.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: That may be so, but under this proposed amendment if a submission is not made within 30 days the Minister is free to appoint another person.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: This is after he has written to the association, but when does he write?

The Hon. R. Thompson: I wrote and telephoned about 10 times, to be honest.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: Probably that would be the position where there was not any statutory provision governing the submission of a panel of names.

The Hon. R. Thompson: The instance I am referring to related to the setting up of a committee, but the body concerned did not reply to my letter.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: I can understand that sort of situation arising where somebody was not reappointed within a reasonable time.

The Hon. R. Thompson: In the instance to which I am referring, I finished up appointing someone else.

The Hon. D. K. Duns: Would it hurt the legislation to have such a provision inserted in the Bill?

The Hon. R. Thompson: Both the amendments mean the same.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: If I may make the point again, I believe that the Minister's amendment was drafted following the remarks made by Mr Dellar on the second reading of the Bill. In the circumstances he has tried to meet the requirement, as he sees it, to fit in with the provisions of the Act itself, inasmuch as the practice is that first of all the requirement is to obtain the submission of a panel of names.

Having gone through that exercise, if the panel of names is not submitted within 30 days the Minister has the opportunity—as the Opposition was originally arguing—to select any person he wishes. That is my understanding of the position. I do not think we are contributing anything more to an understanding of the clause or the amendment, and I am quite happy to leave the decision to the Committee.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I make one point only. If my amendment is rejected by the Committee and the Minister's amendment is accepted, I can only point out that in my hand at the moment I have two Acts of Parliament which are administered by one Minister, and in one Statute a panel of names is submitted by one method, and in the other it is submitted by another method which is different altogether. On that point, and the one I originally raised, the Committee should accept my amendment.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: One can understand the embarrassment of the Minister in trying to defend his amendment.

The Hon. N. McNeill: I am not embarrassed.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: It does not have much resemblance to the explanation the Minister was trying to give to the Committee. It has become obvious that the Government will, pigheadedly, go ahead with the amendment.

The Hon. N. McNeill: Pigheadedly? What! After the co-operation we have given?

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: The Minister can call it co-operation, but obviously it is good sense for the Government to accept our suggestion.

The Hon. N. McNeill: You have destroyed the good argument put up by Mr Dellar.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: I agree it was a good argument, and in support of the proposal we have put forward he made reference to two Acts that were administered by one Minister. That argument is the basis of the amendment he has moved. Further, it is not as though the Minister does not have a precedent as a guide. There is nothing in the proposal put forward by the Minister that requires official advice to be sent to the association at the time the vacancy occurs. It is at that point the association should be advised that it should take action to fill the vacancy, whether at the end of the term of a member or when a casual vacancy occurs during the term.

I ask the Minister to give a little further consideration to the amendment, but if he pursues the course of adopting his amendment we can only hope that the Minister responsible for administering the Act will have another look at it when the Bill is returned to another place.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result—

Ayes—7

Hon. R. F. Cloughton	Hon. R. Thompson
Hon. D. W. Cooley	Hon. Grace Vaughan
Hon. S. J. Dellar	Hon. D. K. Dans
Hon. Lyla Elliott	

(Teller)

Noes—12

Hon. C. R. Abbey	Hon. I. G. Medcalf
Hon. N. E. Baxter	Hon. T. O. Perry
Hon. G. W. Berry	Hon. I. G. Pratt
Hon. Clive Griffiths	Hon. J. C. Tozer
Hon. A. A. Lewis	Hon. W. R. Withers
Hon. N. McNeill	Hon. V. J. Perry

(Teller)

Pairs

Ayes	Noes
Hon. R. T. Leeson	Hon. T. Knight
Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs	Hon. D. J. Wordsworth

Amendment thus negatived.

Sitting suspended from 3.44 to 3.59 p.m.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: Without further explanation, and in view of what has been said, I move an amendment—

Page 2—Insert after paragraph (a) the following new paragraph to stand as paragraph (b)—

(b) by adding after subsection (2) a subsection as follows—

(2a) If The Local Government Association of Western Australia (Inc.) fails to submit to the Minister a panel of names for the appointment of a member in accordance with

subsection (2) of this section within thirty days after the receipt by it of a written request from the Minister so to do, the Minister may nominate for appointment as member of the Board, in place of that body's default, a person willing to act as member.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: It is obvious that with the rejection of my amendment this proposal will be accepted. I do not wish to delay proceedings but I still cannot see why one particular organisation should have a period of 30 days within which to submit a panel of names to the Minister.

Amendment put and passed.

Bill again reported, with an amendment.

### STAMP ACT AMENDMENT BILL

#### Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 11th September.

THE HON. R. THOMPSON (South Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [4.02 p.m.]: This Bill corrects a number of anomalies which have been discovered in the parent Act over a period of years. May I say, at the outset, I support the Bill.

The provisions of this measure will be of benefit to the people of Western Australia, particularly as it will now bring Western Australia into line with the other States of the Commonwealth with regard to stamp duty on transactions, and with regard to the short-term money market. That will be a good thing and will be of benefit to all Western Australians.

I do not believe anyone could find fault with the Minister's second reading speech; it was self-explanatory. I will not retrace everything the Minister has said. I am aware that queries were raised in another place, with respect to certain aspects of the Bill but they were answered to the satisfaction of the questioner. The question raised concerned those people who were not charged the current rate of interest as from the 1st June of this year, and a provision in this Bill will condone that action. It should also be noted that the people who were relieved of the burden of paying the current rate of interest were not left with any illusions at the time. They were informed that if Parliament did not agree to this provision they would have to pay the necessary duty.

We should condone the action which was taken for the simple reason that it has been—and will be—of great benefit to the people of Western Australia. The short-term money market will be extended in this State, rather than extended to the other States to our detriment.

Another anomaly which the Bill will overcome is the availability of stamps which have to be applied to bills and transactions carried out in country areas. Under the new method a coupon will be issued from a cash register machine and it will be affixed to the document concerned. People will be able to transact, more readily, business in country areas. I support the measure.

**THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF** (Metropolitan) [4.06 p.m.]: This is an important Bill because it does recognise the present parlous situation in which many financial houses and financial corporations find themselves and, indeed, in which many members of the public find themselves as a result of the high interest rates prevailing in this country at present. It is impossible to forecast when the high interest rates may decline. It can go up or down, particularly in the short-term money market, and also in the long-term money market.

In the last few months we have seen interest rates go as high as 25 per cent. That is the rate which is being paid by some of the banks. To think of a bank paying 25 per cent interest for money which it borrows in order to lend it to clients, at a lesser rate, is a rather incredible situation. However, that has been happening, particularly in the months of May to July when the banks had certain commitments to their clients for the payment of income tax, and other debts, which had to be met. The banks simply had to find the money and we had the unusual situation which the Government has recognised and, through the provisions of this Bill, the respective interest rates will operate as from the 1st June.

The Hon. R. Thompson: The Bill will not remedy the rate of interest.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: No, indeed; but it will rectify the additional impost to a certain extent.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: It would be the first time ever that a bank has lost money.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: It may well be that the honourable member is right. It certainly is a remarkable state of affairs, but reputable and leading financial institutions have been paying over 20 per cent to borrow money so that they could lend it back to clients at the approved rate of 12 to 14 per cent. That is an incredible situation which has occurred, and I believe it is still occurring in some cases. Of course, the loans had to carry stamp duty.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I would bet the English, Scottish and Australian Bank did not do it.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: The rate of stamp duty was over 14 per cent and, hence, came within the provisions of credit and rental business and was subject to

the Stamp Act. That provision was inserted some two or three years ago and I think that you, Mr President, moved the amendment to include credit and rental business for the first time.

We are now providing an exemption for a limited number of cases where the period does not exceed 180 days, and where loans are made to banks or dealers in the short-term money market, official dealers, and certain other people as gazetted. I commend this action.

I note the Commissioner of State Taxation has done his utmost to alleviate the situation which has arisen. When he became aware of it he made special arrangements, as was indicated by the Minister, to provide that the relief should apply as from the 1st June although there was no legislative authority for that to be done.

I think we can applaud the action taken and commend the Government for authorising the commissioner to take such action. I think the question of interest rates, generally, is relevant in the study of this Bill when it comes to considering what further action may be taken and how long this situation may endure.

I believe the interest rates payable by banks, and official dealers, has dropped in the last couple of months. It has certainly come down to much more manageable levels and is not in the fantastic regions it reached during June and July. The position in those months caused very serious concern and I do not believe it was beneficial, in any way, to the community to have a situation of high interest rates. I believe high interest rates are one of the worst features of our economic life. They hit hardest at the people who can least afford to pay. When the banks, and others who borrow money, have to pay high interest rates, they also lend out at a rate as high as is permitted. The banks are controlled on amounts below \$50 000, and cannot exceed the bank rate of interest. However, there is no limitation on amounts above \$50 000.

It is shocking that a small borrower, or an ordinary citizen, should have to pay up to 14 per cent in interest. Quite obviously, the provisions of this Bill will provide some alleviation, and it is to be commended.

There are one or two other provisions in the Bill which are worthy of mention, and they relate to administrative procedures which are to be changed. One is the deletion of the need for the commissioner to adjudicate on documents or transactions. Since 1921, I believe, the commissioner has adjudicated on transactions where the parties were not sure of the amount of stamp duty which had to be paid. Documents are frequently sent into the commissioner, or delivered to him, and for various reasons the commissioner

has had to assess, or adjudicate on the amount of stamp duty which ought to be paid.

It has been the duty of the commissioner to adjudicate on certain documents which come before him, and he has had to decide the proper rate or stamp duty according to the schedule annexed to the Stamp Act.

It may well be asked: What is adjudication? Adjudication is usually carried out by the commissioner where the parties to a transaction are related, or there is some relationship between the vendor and the purchaser. It must be borne in mind that the commissioner can only stamp a document, not a transaction. There must be a piece of paper.

It is only a document which is adjudicated, and this is now to be abolished. The fees which were payable formerly, will no longer apply. No doubt the commissioner will still adjudicate documents, but it will no longer be necessary to pay the 10c fee. This may be worthy of mention, although it does not make much practical difference in the totality of stamp duty.

The other notable administrative change is in respect of the duty payable and denoted on cheques. Instead of a reference to the actual amount of duty—6c or 7c—on the cheque, in future the reference will simply be that stamp duty has been paid. Therefore, when the rate of stamp duty is varied, it will no longer be necessary to amend the Act or to print new cheque forms. This will mean that cheque forms can be produced on a national scale for the whole of Australia with the simple reference that stamp duty has been paid. Whatever the stamp duty is in the individual States, it will no longer be necessary to refer to the exact amount.

I suppose it would be too much to expect any Government to give an undertaking that stamp duty on cheques will not be increased. We have seen this duty go up remarkably, and I suppose it will continue to rise. There seems to be no other way for people to do their business except by the use of cheques. Perhaps when someone devises a system of book entry or some other process to avoid the use of cheques, the Government will have to find another way to obtain the funds it needs. With those remarks I support the Bill.

**THE HON. N. McNEILL** (Lower West—Minister for Justice) [4.16 p.m.]: I will be quite brief, but I would like to acknowledge the support given to this measure, firstly by the Leader of the Opposition, and secondly by Mr Medcalf. I do not think I need say more by way of explanation of the legislation. The Leader of the Opposition indicated his total support for its provisions, and Mr Medcalf went

a little further and gave us added justification for the proposed changes. I thank members for their support of the measure, and I commend it to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee, etc.*

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

## WAR SERVICE LAND SETTLEMENT SCHEME ACT AMENDMENT BILL

*Second Reading*

**THE HON. N. E. BAXTER** (Central—Minister for Health) [4.20 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The accounts of war service land schemes lessees still indebted under the scheme are administered by the Rural and Industries Bank of Western Australia.

In accordance with the requirements of the Act and regulations, it is necessary for the Minister to consent to dealings relevant to perpetual leases under the administration of the bank. These include—

- (i) Any mortgage to be registered over a perpetual lease including mortgages in favour of the Minister himself;
- (ii) contracts of sale;
- (iii) sublease agreements;
- (iv) requests to offer a perpetual lease for sale by tender or auction;
- (v) transfer following sale; and
- (vi) transfer in terms of wills.

The consent procedure in these dealings necessitates a commissioner of the bank making written request to the Minister in each individual case. Because of the increasing volume of work requiring the Minister's attention it is understandable that on occasions some delay is unavoidable and it is considered that these formal approvals might well be delegated.

In an endeavour to streamline procedures in the offices of the Minister, the bank and the Department of Lands and Surveys, representatives from the department and the bank met and gave consideration to the matter towards the end of last year. The outcome of the discussions was a submission to the then Minister suggesting he may be prepared to delegate to the commissioners of the bank or their nominee, authority to consent to the above-mentioned dealings and in December, 1973, ministerial approval to the delegation of authority was given.

Amendments to the Act in 1960 covering further encumbrances against a perpetual lease, and another amendment in 1962 relevant to the sale of a perpetual lease, would negate an amendment to the regulations which would achieve the desired result.

Crown Law Department advice indicates that the Act as well as the appropriate regulations will need to be amended to give effect to the decision and this Bill provides the necessary statutory authority to proceed.

The delegation will enable routine documents to be processed quickly without the need for multiple handling and the endorsement of the Minister. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. S. J. Dellar.

### **METROPOLITAN REGION TOWN PLANNING SCHEME ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Second Reading*

**THE HON. N. McNEILL** (Lower West—Minister for Justice) [4.23 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The principal Act which this Bill proposes to amend was introduced and passed in 1959 as a measure towards the implementation of the Stephenson plan for the metropolitan area. The Act established the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority and required it to make a metropolitan region scheme for the objects and purposes of section 6 of the Town Planning and Development Act.

The procedures for the submission and approval of a plan of development are set out in section 31, one of the conditions being that objections to the scheme may be made at any time within a prescribed period which must be not less than three months from the date that notification has been published in the *Government Gazette*. I mention this to emphasize that during that period of three months the scheme may be inspected free of cost and written objections, if any, made to the authority.

When this period has elapsed, the scheme or any subsequent substantial amendments to the scheme, as eventually approved by the Governor, together with any written objections, if any, are required to be laid before each House of Parliament for 21 sitting days after which the scheme or any major amendment takes effect, unless either House passes a resolution disallowing the scheme. Notice of this resolution needs to be given within those 21 sitting days.

As already indicated, after the scheme has the force of law it may be varied or amplified by amendment, but if the amendment is of a substantial nature the same tabling provisions apply to the amendment as to the original scheme. Consequently any substantial amendment cannot take effect until it has lain in Parliament over a period of 21 days, and this in addition to the period of three months during which it was deposited at specified places for inspection.

It will be appreciated that in the case of major amendments there has to be a minimum period of three months for the lodgment of objections. After these have been determined and reported on, the amendment must lie before each House of Parliament for 21 sitting days which in the normal course of events totals a period of seven weeks. However in a situation where these 21 sitting days cannot be fitted into one session of Parliament, this period could be considerably longer. This Bill proposes to reduce from 21 to 12 the number of sitting days during which any substantial amendment to the metropolitan region scheme must lie before each House of Parliament.

The reason for this proposed amendment is that one of the obstacles encountered in bringing land speedily on to the market for urban purposes is the length of time involved in making major amendments to the metropolitan scheme.

Honourable members will still have four weeks in which to study a particular scheme amendment and it must also be remembered that they may study the amendment during the three months' objection period when the amendment is open to public inspection.

The Bill is commended to the House as a measure which will expedite a part of the planning process while still retaining adequate safeguards against undue haste.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. S. J. Dellar.

### **STATE HOUSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Second Reading*

**THE HON. N. McNEILL** (Lower West—Minister for Justice) [4.26 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill to amend the State Housing Act is to amend the definition of the term "worker" so as to include an applicant who is in receipt of income but who is not employed, or in work, in the ordinary sense of the term.

This merely requires the deletion of paragraph (a) from the term "worker" with the result that irrespective of the source of income, wages, pensions, interest on investments, etc., provided the income is within the criteria as determined from time to time, an applicant can be admitted as being eligible for assistance.

The amendment arises as a consequence of the contention of the Auditor-General, and supported by the Crown Law Department, that assistance can only be approved to a "worker" as presently defined in the Act and as such it would not be correct for the commission, acting within the discretionary powers conferred by subsection (2) of section 20 of the State

Housing Act, to assist such categories of persons as pensioners, widows, deserted wives, etc.

The commission and the Government believe it is essential for the commission to continue to assist persons in these categories and I, therefore, commend the Bill to the House.

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

*House adjourned at 4.29 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 12th September, 1974

The SPEAKER (Mr Hutchinson) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

### QUESTIONS (34): ON NOTICE

#### 1. OATS AND BARLEY POOLS

##### *Second Payments*

Mr GREWAR, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Could he give an indication when second payments are likely to be made on oats and barley delivered to 1973-74 pools?
- (2) How much will these payments be per tonne?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

##### (1) Oats—

I have authorised a second payment on the 1973-74 oats pool. It is anticipated that a Press announcement will be issued by the Grain Pool of WA at the end of this week or early next week.

##### Barley—

The Grain Pool of WA anticipate that the Barley Board will seek my approval for payment of a second advance on the 1973-74 barley pool early next week.

- (2) The Grain Pool of WA will detail the amounts in the Press announcement.

#### 2. *This question was postponed.*

#### 3. CLOVER

##### *Resistant Variations: Availability*

Mr GREWAR, to the Minister for Agriculture:

In view of the serious nature of clover scorch disease to south coastal farmers when can it be expected that suitable resistant variations of subclover will be commercially available?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

It is estimated that clover scorch resistant cross breeds of subclover will be commercially available between 1977 and 1979.

#### 4. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

##### *Specialist Service Branches*

Mr GREWAR, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is there any move to further regionalise specialist services of the Department of Agriculture?
- (2) If so, what branches, and where?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

- (1) There is no intention to do so at this stage.
- (2) Not applicable.

#### 5. LAND

##### *Reserves: Commonwealth Finance for Acquisition*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Treasurer:

- (1) What financial provision has been made by the Australian Government to the Government of Western Australia—

(a) in the two years prior to 2nd December, 1972; and

(b) since 2nd December, 1972,

for the purchase of reserves for conservation and allied purposes?

- (2) Has any financial provision been made by the Australian Government with respect to the area adjacent to the Cape Naturaliste reserve, such area being designated on the plan of Sussex as locations 1340, 1341 and 517 and which totals 1 198 acres 3 roods 2 perches?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) (a) Nil.

(b) \$110 000.

- (2) The sum referred to in (1) (b) has been allocated to assist with acquisition of land near Cape Naturaliste for the purpose of developing a coastal park. The actual area to be acquired is still to be determined.

#### 6. PREMIER

##### *Personal Explanation on 14th September: Comments*

Mr JAMIESON, to the Speaker:

Is the matter contained in question 29 on 6th August, 1974 still subject to the *sub judice* rule of Standing Orders?

The SPEAKER replied:

I refer the Member to the answer to question 23, 10th September, and remind him that the case is still pending.

Therefore, the rule on matters *sub judice* still applies.