

been an accident to any of those vehicles which were uninsured, the trust could have been up for a considerable sum.

At the moment the trust is up for two accidents to caravans; and in each case the amount involved runs into five figures. Members can see the difference between agricultural implements, where very little risk is involved, and the type of caravan which Mr. Willesee wants included. I do not think the onus of deciding this question should be placed on the Minister, and I oppose the amendment.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: I was conscious of the factors mentioned by the Minister when I moved the amendment. I do not think the fact that some vehicles were caught without licenses between here and Pearce is relevant.

If the Minister thought the provision was too cumbersome to deal with in the metropolitan area, he could limit the movement of vehicles to one application. There is always the danger of accidents with any vehicle, whether it is licensed or not. The outstanding argument in support of that is when we witness a police escort accompanying, through the streets of the metropolitan area, those large vehicles that are used for the transport of goods interstate. I leave the amendment with the Committee to consider it on its merits.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 3 to 6 and Title put and passed.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

House adjourned at 10.3 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 8th September, 1959

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

MAIN ROADS ACT (FUNDS APPROPRIATION) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Message—Appropriation

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

BILLS (4)—ASSENT

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:—

1. Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication Fund.
2. State Electricity Commission Act Amendment.
3. Parliament House Site Permanent Reserve (A↑1162) Act Amendment.
4. Justices Act Amendent.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**LAND RESUMPTIONS**

Number in Mt. Yokine-Wanneroo District, Names, etc

1. Mr. HEAL asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) How many landowners in the Mt. Yokine-Wanneroo district who had their land resumed for the State Housing Commission by the McLarty-Watts Government have not yet been paid for their land?
- (2) What are the names of the persons and what are the areas of the lands not yet paid for?
- (3) Has any resumed land in the Mt. Yokine-Wanneroo district been returned to the previous owners in the last three years? If any, what were the names of the persons to whom the lands were returned, and the amount of land involved in each case?
- (4) How much per acre of land did the Government receive for the land in the vicinity of the Mt. Yokine reservoir sold to the television company?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) The number is 128, of whom only five, however, have submitted claims for compensation.
- (2) The names of the five claimants mentioned in the answer to No. (1) and the areas of their respective lands are:—

Estates Development Co. (970 acres 2 roods 14 perches)

Herbert Medbury (5 acres 0 roods 19 perches)

Estate of Maud Miriam Medbury, deceased (17 acres 1 rood 10 perches)

William Grundt (60 acres 3 roods 15 perches)

Mount Yokine Estates Limited (95 acres 3 roods 19 perches).

The names of the remainder who have not submitted claims, and the areas, can be supplied if required.

- (3) Of the land resumed by the State Housing Commission in the Mt. Yokine-Wanneroo area in 1950, approximately 130 blocks were made available to previous owners for their own or their dependants' individual use after the land had been re-subdivided.

The list will take time to compile; and if the honourable member indicates his insistence that the information be made available, it will be supplied.

- (4) Approximately £2,050 per acre.

RAILWAY ROLLING STOCK*Repairs to Defective Parts*

2. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Railways:

If and when articles such as brakeshaft brackets, springs, etc., supplied to the Railway Department under contract are found to be defective, and the defects are remedied in the Railway Workshops, who meets the cost involved?

Mr. COURT replied:

The conditions of contract under which articles are supplied determines where responsibility lies for correction of any defects detected.

For example, W.A.G.R. quotation form for springs purchased under W.A.G.R. quotation No. 1399 reads—

Any stores supplied of inferior quality or being in any respect contrary to the quotation will be rejected and removal of such stores shall be met by the tenderer at his own risk and expense immediately upon receiving notice of rejection from the Comptroller of Stores (W.A.G.R. Midland Junction).

If rectification took place at the Railway Workshops within the terms of the contract, it would be at the expense of the supplier.

PURCHASE OF WIRE NETTING*Availability of Funds to Primary Producers*

3. Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Are funds still available for advances, on a long-term basis, to primary producers for the purpose of obtaining wire and wire netting?

- (2) If so—

- (a) What is the maximum amount available to each borrower?

- (b) Is the money available to primary producers generally, or is it confined to those in certain specified districts?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Yes, for material only; that is, wire and rabbit netting.
- (2) (a) Sufficient to complete the enclosure of the cleared area, preferably boundary fencing. Enclosure of bush country which could act as a harbour for rabbits is not desirable.
- (b) It is confined to the whole of the South-West Land Division and the Carnarvon delta and is available to farmers unable to finance supplies from any other source.

ALBANY HARBOUR

Availability of Dredge

4. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has finance been made available this financial year for the return of the dredge to Albany, to clean up rock from the harbour bed adjacent to No. 1 berth?
- (2) If so, can he give an approximate date for the return of the dredge?
- (3) Is he aware that at times ships are forced to make emergent trimming of cargoes, so as to get the maximum cargo tonnages?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Finance will be made available to complete drilling and blasting. Availability of dredge is not clear at present.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).
- (3) No; but the need to trim cargoes on occasions would be common to most ports.

SOUTH-WEST HIGHWAY

Walpole-Shannon River Section

5. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Have plans and surveys been carried out for the road between Walpole and Shannon River?
- (2) If so, can he advise when work will commence on that section of the South-West Highway?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Not completely, but planning is well in hand.
- (2) Some construction work will commence at the end of November this year.

PENSIONERS

Homes at Collie

6. Mr. MAY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is he aware that more pensioners' homes are needed in Collie, similar to the four already built and occupied?
- (2) Has provision been made in this financial year's estimates for additional pensioners' homes in Collie?
- (3) If so, how many, and when is it proposed to commence building?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No. The commission has no applications from pensioner couples on hand.
- (2) and (3) Consideration would be given to the provision of further flats should applications warrant it.

BUILDING INDUSTRY

Unemployed Tradesmen

7. Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

- (1) What was the increase in the number of unemployed building tradesmen for the month of July as compared with the month of June?
- (2) What are the figures for August?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Seven.
- (2) These figures are not yet available.

CATTLE SHIPMENT

Competition of San Miguel with State Shipping Service

8. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for the North-West:

- (1) Is it a fact that 1,077 cattle were shipped from North-West ports and arrived at Robb Jetty on the 1st September?
- (2) Were these cattle, contrary to established practice, carried by a shipping line other than State or Blue Funnel ships?
- (3) Since the Press states that two similar trips are contemplated by the ship *San Miguel*, does he condone this loss of trade to State ships?
- (4) Does he know that the ship is of Panamanian register and flies a flag of convenience; is not subject to Lloyd's supervision, and employs cheap labour?
- (5) If so, has not this shipping line an unfair advantage over our State ships as a consequence?

- (6) Was any attempt made to obtain this trade for State ships?
- (7) In an attempt to keep State shipping at maximum trading capacity, will he assure this House that *San Miguel* will not be permitted to continue in such unfair intra-state trade in competition with State ships?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) The shipment was landed at Robb Jetty on the 31st August.
- (2) They were landed ex the ship *San Miguel*.
- (3) There is no loss of trade to the State Shipping Service. The State Shipping Service could not offer space for any of these cattle before November, and that is too late for shipments ex Derby.
- (4) It is known that the ship is of Panamanian register.
- (5) They are not in competition with the State Shipping Service, in respect of these cattle movements, for reasons given in No. (3).
- (6) Answered by No. (3).
- (7) Answered by No. (3) and No. (4). It must also be appreciated that the absence of the *San Miguel* shipments would disadvantage Western Australian employment in the butchering trades to the advantage of other States.

9. *This question was postponed.*

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

BETTING ROYAL COMMISSION

Discussions by Premier with Witnesses

1. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:
 - (1) Did Messrs. G. A. Berry and N. J. Peat, or either of them have discussions with him at Parliament House along the lines of the evidence given by them before the current Royal Commission on betting?
 - (2) If so, did Messrs. Berry and Peat confess to the carrying out of the illegal activities which they have admitted before the commission?
 - (3) On what date did these discussions take place?
 - (4) Should the answer to No. (2) be "Yes," did he at any time prior to the 31st March this year report the confessions of illegal activities to—
 - (a) The Commissioner of Police?
 - (b) The then Minister for Police?
 - (c) The then Minister for Justice?

Mr. BRAND replied:

The Leader of the Opposition gave me ample notice of this question and I referred it to the Crown Law Department. I have received advice that the matter of evidence referred to is the subject of a Royal Commission which is still sitting. Therefore I treat the evidence as at present being *sub judice* to save any embarrassment to the Royal Commission.

2. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

Did Messrs. G. A. Berry and N. J. Peat, or either one of them, have any interviews with the present Premier prior to the 31st March this year at Parliament House?

Mr. BRAND replied:

I must act upon the advice of the Crown Law Department and treat this matter as *sub judice*.

3. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

As it is obvious that these discussions did take place, and that the Premier was in possession of information covering the illegal activities of these persons, and did not make any report of any kind to the Commissioner of Police, the then Minister for Police, or the then Minister for Justice, I ask him whether he intends immediately or in the near future to resign his position in the Ministry?

Mr. BRAND replied:

Decidedly not.

4. Mr. ANDREW asked the Attorney-General:

When he introduced the Act to amend the Royal Commissioners Powers Act, 1902-1956, did he know that G. A. Berry and N. J. Peat, two witnesses at the Betting Royal Commission, had interviewed Premier Brand?

Mr. WATTS replied:

No, although I was aware that some representations had been made.

Mr. Hawke: It looks as if the Liberals, and particularly the Premier and the Minister for Works, put it across Parliament.

PENSIONERS

Homes at Collie

5. Mr. MAY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

Is he aware that the information he gave in answer to a question I asked this afternoon regarding

pensioners' homes at Collie is untrue? Because, in regard to question No. (2) he said that no further applications had been received. The names of two people who applied come readily to my mind, and these people were considered when the four houses were allotted. The two people are supposed to be next on the list and their names are Mrs. Etherington and Mrs. Martin. I fail to see how the Minister can say that no applications have been received.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:
The answer is "No."

BETTING ROYAL COMMISSION

Implications of Premier's Comment

6. Mr. ANDREW asked the Premier:

In answer to a question asked by the member for West Perth, re the cost of the Betting Royal Commission, the Premier concluded his answer with these words: "We are getting good value for our money."

- (1) Did he mean from the point of view of the Liberal Party?
- (2) Did he have this benefit in mind when he was compounding with self-confessed perjurers?
- (3) Is not this an indictable offence?

Mr. BRAND replied:

I will not answer that question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hawke: Perhaps you should ask Berry and Peat!

MARBLE BAR POST OFFICE

Reconstruction or Replacement

Mr. COURT: Last week I promised to get some more information for the member for Pilbara regarding the Marble Bar post office. The latest information from the Postmaster-General is that it is not possible yet to anticipate when reconstruction or replacement can be commenced; but all attention is being directed towards the establishment of reliable telephone and other services, and inquiries are still proceeding into the cause of the destruction.

POLICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned

Returned from the Council without amendment.

BILLS (4)—THIRD READING

1. Railways Classification Board Act Amendment.
 2. Nurses Registration Act Amendment.
 3. Health Act Amendment.
 4. Land Agents Act Amendment.
- Transmitted to the Council.

MAIN ROADS ACT (FUNDS APPROPRIATION) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 3rd September.

MR. TONKIN (Melville) [4.53]: This is merely a continuance measure. It is very necessary in connection with Main Roads finances. The Bill has been re-enacted at each period of five years; and it is essential that the same thing be done on this occasion, as the existing provision expires in 1959. We offer no opposition to the passing of the measure. I support the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

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

MOTOR VEHICLE (THIRD PARTY INSURANCE) ACT AND TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENTS BILL

Second Reading

MR. PERKINS (Roe—Minister for Transport) [4.57] in moving the second reading said: This is an extremely simple Bill designed to correct an anomaly. It has already been passed by the Legislative Council, and I do not expect it to cause any controversy whatever.

At the moment it is possible and feasible for a person to be charged and convicted under the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act, and then to be charged for exactly the same offence under the Traffic Act. If he were found guilty under the first Act, he could be fined up to a maximum of £100 for the first offence; and if he were convicted under the Traffic Act he could be fined up to a maximum of £25 for the first offence, even though, in effect, it was the same offence. The proposal in this Bill is that he shall be charged under only one Act, provided the offences under the two Acts concerned were committed simultaneously.

The proposal is that we will amend the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act by adding the following paragraphs:—

After the coming into operation of the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act and Traffic Act Amendments Act of 1959, a person shall not be convicted or punished for an offence under paragraph (a) of this subsection if—

he has already been convicted or acquitted of an offence under Section 5 of the Traffic Act

and

both those offences had been committed simultaneously.

Exactly the same provision is being placed in the Traffic Act. I think it will be perfectly clear to members that the effect of the legislation is exactly as I have stated; and we are anxious to tidy up the law to make sure that a person shall not be charged with the same offence under two separate Acts.

If there is any uncertainty about the position, I would like members to note that the discussion that took place in another place was entirely formal, and I think they will agree that this is purely a formal measure.

On motion by Mr. Brady, debate adjourned.

STATE HOTELS (DISPOSAL) BILL

Second Reading

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Chief Secretary) [5.11] in moving the second reading said: The passage of this Bill will enable the Government to facilitate the disposal of State hotels to private enterprise. The hotels involved are at Bolgart, Bruce Rock, Corrigin, Dwellingup, Gwalia, and Kwolyn.

Mr. Nulsen: Cave House does not come into it?

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON: No. The hotels I have named are not named in order of importance, but merely in alphabetical order, and as indicated in the schedule to the Bill.

The decision to dispose of these trading concerns is in accordance with Government policy—expressed Government policy—and arises from the mandate that has been given to the Government by virtue of its success at the last general election. It is strongly felt that there are many fields into which the State should not intrude as a protected or unprotected competitor against private enterprise. In particular, it is felt that the hotel business is one that falls into this category, and is a business into which the State should not intrude.

Mr. Jamieson: It is too lucrative!

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON: We do not believe the State should intrude into these ventures. I would go so far as to say that there are a number of members on the other side of the House who also feel the same way. On this side of the House we feel that State business ventures of this nature should be placed in the hands of private enterprise. It is not the business of a State Government to indulge in this kind of venture. We believe that, in these fields, private enterprise can give a far better measure of service to the people.

Mr. W. Hegney: Say that about the railways.

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON: We feel that private enterprise can give a much more efficient service than has been given

hitherto. When I say that these businesses have not been run efficiently in the past, I would like it to be known that I do not reflect any discredit on the direct management of the State hotels. I would say that the trouble lies—as of course it would lie—with Governments themselves; with the form of Government control which they must perforce operate.

Mr. Lawrence: Are they still running at a loss?

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON: For one reason or another, Government control of business ventures is inept.

Mr. W. Hegney: Would you say that about the State Government Insurance Office?

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON: When State ventures fail to give service to the people, they should be carried on by private enterprise. That, at least, is the opinion of members on this side of the House. State hotels, owing to a lack of Government foresight and of business know-how, have been allowed to become run down in condition.

Mr. Jamieson: All of them?

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON: The great majority of them.

Mr. Lawrence: You are speaking against your own Government.

Mr. Rowberry: The Government is responsible for them; so why are some good and some bad?

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON: There seems to be some doubt as to whether these hotels have been allowed to become run down in condition, as I have just stated. If members disbelieve me, they only have to look at the hotels. Those which are not run down too badly are the hotels which were built in more recent times. The Wongan Hills Hotel, the sale of which was approved by the former Government, was not run down in condition as much as the other State hotels—the six I have mentioned—because it was built at a later date.

I reiterate that because Governments did not see fit to manage these places properly; and because they did not know how to operate such business ventures, they have been allowed to deteriorate in condition.

Mr. Kelly: Would you say the Bruce Rock Hotel was run down?

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON: A lot of money needs to be spent on it to bring it up to modern-day standards; and that criticism applies to them all.

Mr. Lawrence: What about privately-owned hotels?

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I am not excusing any Government from its responsibilities in this regard. It is my belief that a Government is not able or qualified to operate these ventures.

Mr. Moir: How does the State hotel at Gwalia compare with the private hotels at Leonora?

Mr. W. Hegney: Hasn't your Government enough nous to run a hotel?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: In the past, these hotels have been starved for finance, and they have not been able to be properly managed. These facts were apparently realised by the Hawke Government. This is evidenced in connection with the arranging of the sale of the Wongan Hills Hotel; and this sale was finally effected several months ago.

Mr. Hawke: To whom?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: To the community of Wongan Hills.

Mr. Hawke: You were going to leave that out.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I had no desire to leave that out.

Mr. Hawke: You were going to.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: The Leader of the Opposition can be assured that I was not leaving it out on purpose. I am not so naive as to imagine that in a Bill of this nature, the Opposition would allow me to get away with that! The Opposition is treating me as a greater simpleton than I really appear to be, I suppose. I can just imagine what sort of amendments the Leader of the Opposition is going to bring down. He is going to say, "We will agree to this measure if and provided these hotels are to be passed over to the communities of the districts concerned."

I believe that besides the former Government arranging for the sale of the Wongan Hills Hotel to the community, some consideration was given to the leasing of Cave House to private enterprise. It would appear, at this stage, because of what has happened in the past, and because of the former Government's views in regard to State hotels—it believed it could get rid of them—this Bill should receive an easy passage. The former Government had agreed in principle to the sale of these hotels.

Mr. Hawke: Do you remember an interjection which I made a year or two ago

which came out in a different form in *Hansard*?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: If the Leader of the Opposition will go into more detail I might remember it. In reading the records I find that the first hotel, at Gwalia, was established in 1902-03; and, incidentally, Cave House was begun in that year. Dwellingup followed in 1911-12; then Kwolyin and Bruce Rock in 1913; and Bolgart and Corrigin in the succeeding year.

By stretching tolerance to a degree, there may have been, in those horse-and-buggy days, some need for the State to start in the hotel business in those areas. There is now absolutely no need for the State to continue in this business. The time is overpast for these hotels to be released from the strait jacket of State control.

Mr. W. Hegney: You did not say that Gwalia was built in 1902 in the first place?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Yes.

Mr. W. Hegney: It was not established by a Labour Government in 1902.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I made no claim as to what Government started it in 1902, and I do not want to make an issue of it.

Mr. W. Hegney: It was not a State hotel in 1902.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: It was built in that period.

Mr. W. Hegney: It was not a State hotel then.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I do not want to make an issue of it.

The SPEAKER: The Minister must address the Chair and disregard interjections.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: An interesting fact is that Western Australia is the only State which is actually operating hotels at the present time as business ventures. The trading figures of the six hotels for the past three years are also very interesting. Whilst I am not prepared, at this stage, to divulge all the information in regard to trading figures, I think I can give some which will reveal to the house the individual trading surplus or deficiency over a period of the last three years. They are as follows:—

	Trading Result, 1956-57		Trading Result, 1957-58		Trading Result, 1958-59	
	Surplus	Deficiency	Surplus	Deficiency	Surplus	Deficiency
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bolgart ....	.....	150	796	.....	1,455	.....
Bruce Rock	2,354	.....	3,377	.....	3,865	.....
Corrigin	4,040	.....	4,843	.....	3,758	.....
Dwellingup	4,031	.....	6,212	.....	5,525	.....
Gwalia	3,922	.....	4,823	.....	4,161	.....
Kwolyin ....	.....	1,904	.....	1,298	.....	2,768

Mr. Toms: Are the last three a deficiency or a surplus?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Kwolyin has had a deficiency for the last three years. These figures are actually not profit figures and are regarded as being a trading surplus or deficiency. They do not include, firstly, head office charges; secondly, depreciation; or, thirdly, interest on capital. I submit that the figures speak for themselves and invite the remedial measures incorporated in the Bill.

Furthermore, I point out that all of these hotels, to a greater or lesser extent, have been allowed to become run down, and in most cases substantial sums are needed to bring them up to a pitch whereby they would meet modern-day requirements. They need a great number of improvements to bring them up to present-day standards.

Mr. Bickerton: Will the trade of those hotels go to the individuals who bring them up to scratch?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Yes.

Mr. Bickerton: Why does it not warrant the Government doing it?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: There are none so deaf as those who will not hear. I have tried to point out to the House that Governments are notoriously inept at controlling public interests because they have not the know-how. I would say it is imperative that these hotels be sold for the highest possible figure and that they be no longer run by the State.

The Bill is a very clear document and one which reads very easily. It is not difficult to understand and there is no need for any great reference to other legislation. It may be read with almost perfect understanding at a first reading; and the details, in all their clarity, may be noted from it.

Points of particular interest relate firstly to conferring on the Governor the right to sell or lease the State hotels; secondly, reserves of land; thirdly, licenses; and fourthly, money from the sale of these hotels which is to be placed in a tourist fund. It will be noted, if members refer to the Bill, that clause 2 cancels the reserves and frees the land comprised in the reserves from any trust, condition, limitation, or other restriction imposed for the purpose for which the reserves were made.

The following clause actually confers upon the Governor the necessary power to sell or lease the hotels, as well as to deem each hotel to be, and to have been, lawfully carried on as a State hotel for the purposes of the Licensing Act and as part of a trading concern under the State Trading Concerns Act. In further brief explanation of this point, I might stress that none of the State hotels has a license

conferred on it by the Licensing Court, but they operate without it. This Bill, therefore, will facilitate the disposal of these hotels to private enterprise.

Mr. Bickerton: By public tender or auction?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Yes.

Mr. Bickerton: How?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: By advertising and calling tenders. Another portion of the Bill amplifies that power, which I have just described—that of conferring on the Governor power to sell or lease the hotels—as follows:—

- (a) to sell or lease a hotel as a going concern or otherwise;
- (b) to convey to a purchaser an estate in fee simple in the whole or part of the land that comprises a hotel reserve;
- (c) to protect the rights of the Crown against a lessee;
- (d) to sell or lease any Crown lands or property which form part of, or are used in connection with, a hotel at the time of the sale or lease of the hotel. This power will enable the Crown to deal with any portion of the area set aside for the hotel and not necessarily the whole of it. It also permits the sale or leasing of Bruce Rock Lot 6, which is the only freehold title at present existing in respect of any of the State hotels. All the other land in the Schedule to the Bill is reserved.

The following provision is incorporated in the Bill in order to avoid any administrative difficulties and complications that might arise in connection with the transfer, etc., of a license if it is merely deemed to be, though not in fact, issued. Provision has been made in this subclause for the Licensing Court to issue one, if required, in writing by the Minister to a nominee of the Minister, the object being that when a hotel is to be sold or leased as a going concern, the Minister can, up to six months before the execution of the sale or lease, obtain for his nominee a license which would be transferable under the Licensing Act to the nominee of the purchaser or lessee. On the other hand, if the nominee of the Minister is also the nominee of the purchaser or lessee, the license will hold good without the necessity for any such transfer.

Still other minor provisions are incorporated in this Bill in order to ensure that the Minister's nominee is a person who is not disqualified, by being an improper person, from holding a license; and that no premium is payable by reason of the provisions of section 47 of the Licensing Act, for any license granted, or for the granting of any license, under this section.

Clause 4, subclause (4) seeks to bring into operation the provisions of the Licensing Act in all respects, as though the licensee and the hotel came completely under the jurisdiction of the Licensing Court. This is another facilitating provision.

Subclause (5) gives the licensee or his successor a further 12 months, or such longer time as the court may allow, to comply with requirements of the Licensing Act in regard to the construction, fittings, or accommodation of the licensed premises; and during that period the court will not refuse an application for renewal solely on the ground that those requirements had not been complied with.

Mr. W. Hegney: Has any provision been made for the protection of the employees?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: There is nothing in regard to that incorporated in the Bill.

Mr. Hawke: More sacking!

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: With regard to the provision I was referring to before the interjection by the member for Mt. Hawthorn, I would like to point out that this is necessary as these hotels at present, in certain ways, do not comply with the requirements of the Licensing Court; and, unless this safeguarding provision is included, the court could conceivably refuse a license because certain modifications to the hotel have not been made. This is further evidence that these hotels have been allowed to get to a very low standard and one which is not accepted by the Licensing Court—a statutory body appointed to control the conditions of hotels in this State.

Clause 5, subclause (1), provides that when a hotel is sold or leased, it ceases to become a trading concern; and in subclause (2), provision is made for the continuance of the hotel as a State hotel on re-entry as such after a breach of a term or condition of sale or lease. In that way, it may be brought back under the control of the State.

Clause 6 enables the State Treasurer to exercise his discretion in the disposal of moneys realised by the sale or leasing of a hotel. He may apply the proceeds, either in whole or in part, in the reduction of the capital account of the hotel, or to the proposed tourist fund.

Mr. Jamieson: What is the position if the terms are not satisfactory, or the price is not satisfactory?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I think that covers the detailed section of the Bill and concludes the general part of my remarks. I have just been asked what would happen in the event of a hotel being offered for sale and a satisfactory price not being tendered. If the Government felt that a satisfactory price was not forthcoming for a hotel, that particular question would

have to be faced at the time. It might be that the hotel would not be sold but would remain under the control of the State. Provision is included in the Bill for just that eventuality; and also, if in the event of a sale there is a subsequent breaking of any lease or contract, then the hotel in question would revert to control by the State.

Mr. W. Hegney: Why won't the employees be protected?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: It is felt that the employees of these State hotels will be catered for to a large extent by the purchasers who take them over.

Mr. Hawke: Guesswork! Just guesswork!

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: It is not completely guesswork at all.

Mr. Hawke: Completely! It is 99½ per cent. guesswork!

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Obviously, that is the reasoning of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. W. Hegney: That is what the Premier assured us.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: There is no desire to see anyone put out of work because of an exchange of the hotels. However, it is essential in the overall interests of the State that this transfer of hotels be made from State control to private enterprise. It will most surely be found that when these hotels are turned over to private enterprise, as many people will be employed as at present, if not more. This is because, in the main, they do not at present operate efficiently and do not cater for the public effectively.

Governments have not the business know-how to make them a proper and efficient trading venture. I commend this Bill to the House and hope that, as the Opposition saw fit to agree in principle to the sale of the State hotels, the measure will receive its commendation. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Moir, debate adjourned.

INTERSTATE MAINTENANCE RECOVERY BILL

Message—Appropriation

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Second Reading

MR. WATTS (Stirling—Attorney-General) [5.30] in moving the second reading said: The intention of this Bill is, firstly, to repeal the Interstate Destitute Persons Relief Act 1912-1931; because it is considered that the provisions of that Act are now outmoded, and ought to be replaced by

legislation of the type that is now offered to the House, in making better provision for interstate maintenance actions than existed in the earlier Act.

Another aspect of the measure is that it proposes to extend the reciprocal arrangements which can be made, to the Dominion of New Zealand, as well as to territories of the Commonwealth. Members will find that the word "State", in the definition in the Bill, is used to include the Dominion of New Zealand and the Commonwealth territories which I previously mentioned. The reciprocity must, of course, involve the existence of similar legislation in the other States and places that I have mentioned; and the provisions of the Bill, if it becomes an Act, can be extended to those places by the Governor in Council.

Under the Interstate Destitute Persons Relief Act, when it was first passed 47 years ago, there was provided a means by which maintenance defaulters could be dealt with, irrespective of the State they resided in.

Mr. Nulsen: Does this include provision for anything outside of Australia and New Zealand?

Mr. WATTS: No.

Mr. Jamieson: What about the Australian Capital Territory?

Mr. WATTS: That is within Australia. If a man deserts his family in this State and goes to live in South Australia, for example, proceedings can be taken against him and a maintenance order obtained in this State; and it can then be transferred to South Australia, through the Child Welfare Departments concerned, and can be enforced on the deserter in the same manner as if it had been made in a South Australian court.

For the same reason, or under the same system, an order made in South Australia could be enforced in Western Australia and so on, in regard to the other States and places concerned. One of the deficiencies in the Interstate Destitute Persons Relief Act of 1912, was that once an order was made there was no power to vary it. A defaulter could, and often did, lose his income or a substantial part of it, through illness, unemployment or other causes.

Under this Bill it is proposed to enable the court, in the place where the person resides, to vary the order in accordance with the circumstances of both parties; and adequate safeguards are provided to ensure that both parties can be heard, even though they reside in different States. On the other hand, although I mentioned then only the question of a decrease in income, due to hard times, illness and so on, the Bill also provides for variations to be made in cases where the circumstances of the defaulter have improved; that is to say, where he is in receipt of more money or attains better circumstances, and that can be established.

We will now deal with the position of a defaulter in Western Australia, so as to make the situation a little more plain. If, in this State, any person responsible for the maintenance of another, leaves the other without adequate means of support, and goes to reside in another State, a summons may be issued against him to show cause why he should not support the dependants left in this State. The summons cannot be issued unless it is supported by an affidavit or declaration in accordance with form 1 as contained in the second schedule to the Bill.

The justice of the peace issuing the summons is required to deliver the supporting documents, together with the application, to the clerk of the appropriate court where the application will subsequently be heard. The affidavit may be sworn before a commissioner of declarations or before a justice; and the summons will state the place and time for hearing the application, due regard being paid to the distance of the defaulter from the place of hearing.

The summons may be served either in or out of Western Australia, depending on where the defaulter lives; and service of the summons is to be proved by a supporting affidavit or declaration. The summons may be heard and determined by a court of summary jurisdiction, comprised of a stipendiary magistrate and at least one justice, or by a children's court, if the summons relates to a child only. Both types of courts are granted jurisdiction to deal with these interstate applications; and provided that service of the summons is proved, or the court is satisfied that a reasonable attempt was made to effect service, the court can proceed to hear and determine the summons.

The court will have power to make an order for both past and future maintenance. If the defaulter returns to Western Australia, the order, of course, can be enforced here by the methods provided in the Justices Act of this State. As I have already said, the question of reciprocity will rest on there being similar legislation available in the other States. At the present time, I understand, it is available in most of them. As a matter of fact, some guidance in the drafting of this Bill was obtained from legislation now operating in New South Wales where, I understand, in comparatively recent years changes have been made in the law in this regard.

A proclamation by the Governor in Council is all that is required to ensure that that reciprocity will work. The legislation is not to come into operation till a date to be fixed by proclamation, in order that the necessary arrangements may be made before it comes into operation. Members will notice in the Bill the definition of a "collector." If members look at the first schedule they will find that it gives power to the Child Welfare Department to operate the provisions of this Bill, when it becomes an Act. The provision is that

section 20 of the Child Welfare Act is to be amended, by providing that the department may exercise the jurisdiction conferred by the Interstate Maintenance Recovery Act, 1959.

These collectors, therefore, who will handle the question of recovery of maintenance either in this State or from outside it, will, of necessity, be officers of the Child Welfare Department; and there is provision for the appointment of an assistant collector if the case should necessitate it and he would have, if appointed, during the time he was acting, the same powers, naturally, as the first-named person.

Mr. Nulsen: Would it be possible to have the maintenance collected in a place such as India, by legislation made in Western Australia?

Mr. WATTS: It might be possible, if we could ensure the reciprocal rights in those places. I do not think there is any other means of doing it; and I am not able to inform the honourable member as to the existing position of the law in India. I have no idea. But if we were going to do anything about it, it would have to be a reciprocal law, which I would anticipate at present is hardly likely to exist, although it may. I do not know.

Mr. Nulsen: We have had a few cases in India.

Mr. WATTS: I understand that that is so. But if it ever cropped up, I would suggest that this measure could be amended to incorporate places outside Australia other than New Zealand. Reverting to these collectors: In order to transfer a maintenance order to another State for enforcement, the collector must send forward to his opposite number in the other State two certified copies of the order, an affidavit setting out the state of the account, and a statement containing as much information as possible concerning the defaulter, and his official request to have the order enforced in that other State.

At the same time he is required to advise the court which made the order that he is taking this action. Necessarily, the court which made the order must be prepared to supply the collector with the necessary information; so it is provided that the clerk of that court must supply him with four certified copies of the order, and a statement of the arrears or a certified copy of an affidavit sworn by the complainant as to the state of the account, if the complainant has been receiving money direct from the defaulter and not through the court.

The clerk of courts, after receiving notice from the collector that the order is to be transferred to another State for

enforcement, shall recall and cancel any process which he may have issued—for example, a warrant of commitment, because by that time the defaulter will have left the State—and refrain from issuing any fresh process against the defaulter; and supply to the collector certified copies made after the commencement of proceedings of any order varying, suspending, or discharging the original order.

There are other provisions to provide, in somewhat similar terms, for the enforcement in this State of maintenance orders made in another State giving, among other things, power for the court to make an order for substituted service of the papers. In other words, if the papers cannot be served personally in the normal way, then the court may order substituted service which, as I think everyone knows, can be by advertisement authorised by the court in certain newspapers circulating in the area; and by any other means which is likely to reach the notice of the defaulter and which the court approves.

It seems to me that the provision enabling the orders once made to be varied—which, as I said, was missing from the original Act (known as the Interstate Destitute Persons Relief Act), which, I might say, was a most unsuitable name—are very carefully set out in Part V of the Bill. Members will find, if they look there, that the provisions are quite clear when arise the circumstances which I mentioned in the first part of my remarks on this Bill this afternoon.

There will also be found, in the schedules to the Bill, certain forms of affidavit or declaration which are to be used to support the summons for maintenance for service within the jurisdiction to enforce the maintenance order outside the jurisdiction—another form of affidavit—and, also, in the fourth form, an authority to pay to the Director of the Child Welfare Department all moneys held in pursuance of an order where, of course, the Child Welfare Department is entitled to that money. I think that that explains fairly sufficiently the general principles of the measure, which are not by any means unusual because, to a considerable extent, they have been contained in the old Act.

They are the only considerable improvements or what are believed to be improvements in this new measure, and I would suggest that if anyone has any amendments to make for the improvement of the measure, the best place to discuss them would be in Committee. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Nulsen, debate adjourned.

CHILD WELFARE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 25th August.

MR. HAWKE (Northam) [5.48]: The Minister made a short speech when introducing this Bill, and I intend to try hard to follow his good example. The main provision in the Bill is to give the Child Welfare Department full legal authority to determine where any child, committed by the court, shall be placed for care, guidance, and treatment. Under the existing law—and always in the past—the Children's Court has exercised authority in the direction I have just mentioned.

In my view the new proposal is preferable to the existing practice. The officers of the Child Welfare Department—particularly the chief officers—are better qualified than the personnel of any Children's Court to determine the type of treatment which would be best calculated, from time to time, to bring about the reformation of the child in question. However, I am sorry that neither the Minister for Child Welfare in another place, nor the Minister acting on his behalf in this House, has conveyed to Parliament any information on the point of view of the Special Magistrate of the Perth Children's Court.

We would have been in a better position to judge all the merits of the situation had we been provided with the viewpoint of the Special Magistrate himself as well as with the viewpoints of the chief officers of the Child Welfare Department. Clearly, those officers favour the new proposal set out in the Bill. We do not know whether the Special Magistrate of the Children's Court is in favour of it or against it. It seems to me that members of both Houses of Parliament are entitled to know the viewpoint of the Special Magistrate; and I hope that the Attorney-General, when replying to this debate, or in Committee, will give to members of this House some explanation—if he is in a position to do so—of the views of the Special Magistrate on the important change in procedure as set down in the Bill.

There are several other provisions in the Bill about which I do not intend to say anything. However, there is one I want to discuss because I am not in favour of it. Unless the Minister could put up a very good case in support of it, I would certainly vote against this provision in Committee. As a matter of fact, when introducing the Bill, the Minister did not refer to this part of it at all. I am not criticising him for that, because he may not regard this provision as important. I refer to clause 11 of the Bill, which aims at amending section 67 of the Act.

The purpose of the clause is to give to the Child Welfare Department the legal right to go after any relative for maintenance, irrespective of whether the relative is the nearest relative, the next nearest, or the next nearest, and so on. In other words, the department—if this part of the Bill were to become law—could say, "Well, we might not have much success if we go after the father; we might not have much success if we go after the mother; we might not have much success if we go after the stepfather; so we will go after the step-mother first, and call her before the court if she does not pay us on our approach to her through the ordinary channel of departmental administration." I do not like this provision in the Bill at all. I think it could lead to a good deal of injustice. It could certainly lead to a considerable amount of heartburning, and could bring the Child Welfare Department and its officers into a good deal of strife and possible disrepute.

In a situation such as the one with which this clause deals, I think the responsibility should remain upon the department as it is under the existing Act; in other words, the department should have the responsibility of having to seek maintenance payments firstly from the nearest relative. If the department meets with failure there, it should then approach the second nearest relative; and should it again meet with failure, the third nearest relative, and so on. I am opposed very strongly to the department having the right to go over the heads of two, three, or more of the nearest relatives for the purpose of grabbing someone who it thinks has the financial means to pay maintenance, or would pay up without much argument or without going to court to contest any claim which might be made.

Therefore I hope that, in replying to the debate, the Attorney-General will tell us—if he can do so—the viewpoint of the Special Magistrate in regard to the change that is proposed by way of transferring the authority from the magistrate himself to the department in connection with the place where the children will be put when they are committed, and in regard to the treatment which they shall receive and so on; and, secondly, that he will, if he cares to do so, try to justify the provision in clause 11 which, in my opinion, is most unfair, unjust, and altogether undesirable. I support the second reading.

MR. GUTHRIE (Subiaco) [5.57]: I also would like to commend this Bill to the House. Those members who may recall my speech on the Address-in-reply will remember that I touched on this subject to some extent and mentioned then that what is proposed in this Bill has been the practice in the United Kingdom for some 12

years. It is extremely difficult for a magistrate, who has a child before him, to make up his mind in a hurry on just what is the proper treatment for that child. It is far better that the child should be committed to the care of the department for the necessary treatment.

I feel that is the modern development and that will perhaps be the practice in the future in dealing with all criminals; namely, that the courts will merely lay down the period for which the person shall be held in some form for the purpose of receiving the necessary treatment for his rehabilitation. It will not be the jurisdiction of the judge or the magistrate, on the spur of the moment, to lay down what form of treatment shall be prescribed, because it might easily be the wrong treatment. I think this is a step in the right direction; and for that reason I commend the Bill to the House.

I have not given much consideration to the clause which has been objected to by the Leader of the Opposition. But the major portion of the Bill is the part that I touched on; and, as I have said, I commend it to the House.

MR. WATTS (Stirling—Attorney-General—in reply) [5.59]: The Leader of the Opposition has taken exception to clause 11 of the Bill; and I must concede to him that the effect of the amendment will be to enable the Child Welfare Department to select which of the relatives concerned shall be the first to have proceedings taken against him or her for the payment of maintenance. I would suggest that that does not necessarily involve the state of affairs to which the Leader of the Opposition referred.

At present the Act provides that proceedings shall be taken in the order set out in section 67, the nearest relative being the first. The Child Welfare Department, as a general rule—I would say, in fact, in almost every case—is aware of the financial position of those relatives. Its situation in the past in many instances was that it had been obliged to take proceedings against somebody for the recovery of maintenance who did not have the faintest prospect of paying anything, and the Child Welfare Department very well knew that before it started the proceedings.

That imposed an unpleasantness and a concern on the near relative in question, by the department taking proceedings when there was no prospect of a satisfactory order being made against that person, because of his or her financial position. But the department was obliged to do so. So it went on down the list.

Mr. Nulsen: And probably that person had no responsibility for contributing towards the maintenance of the child.

Mr. WATTS: It is extremely difficult to draw blood from a stone. The first consideration is to obtain from one of the persons liable under the law the maintenance that is required for the child in question. The Child Welfare Department has come to the conclusion, and I think reasonably, that it should make use of the knowledge and experience it has of the relative positions of the relations, and take proceedings not in the order prescribed by the Act but against such one of them as is likely to be the most able to honour the obligation imposed on him or her. I cannot see any serious objection to this provision.

On the other hand, I see that people who in no circumstances could be expected to make the necessary contributions, are to be blistered; and both the department and they are to be put to some considerable trouble and expense, only for the department to have to pass on to the next relative. That is the reason which underlies the measure.

Mr. Graham: Could not these people be approached in an order set down?

Mr. WATTS: That is what the Act prescribes under section 67. We are seeking to strike out the words "following order" in that section so that the Child Welfare Department may, for the reasons I have just mentioned, make up its mind, from the knowledge in its possession, on the one who is most likely to be able to pay. These things do not start until some considerable time has elapsed, and after inquiries have taken place.

At present it is necessary to sue the near relatives in a certain order, which results in fruitless proceedings against, say, the father and mother, before the stepfather can be sued. The department wishes to avoid that state of affairs. I do not think it is an unreasonable proposition that the department wishes to do that. While it may involve the best supplied with money of the near relatives being the first one to be proceeded against, it certainly does involve the absence of these fruitless proceedings; and it avoids the unpleasantness which is to befall the ones who have not the means to pay.

I do not think anyone will suggest—at least not seriously—that the officials of the Child Welfare Department, so well known to most of us, and particularly the senior officials, who will be responsible for these matters, will simply go after the last on the list for the sake of doing so. They will have a very sound reason for doing that. Naturally they would go after the nearest relative, if it were possible to get anything by that means.

They advise me, though I am not in charge of the Child Welfare Department, and I have been out of touch with it for six or seven years, that frequently these fruitless proceedings are being taken, and

they wish to avoid that state of affairs. That is the only answer I can give. I must concede to the Leader of the Opposition that what he says is the intention of the Bill; but I think it is a reasonable intention when we review all the circumstances which surround a matter such as this.

I pass on to the next item and the reference of the honourable member to the Special Magistrate. I can only say at this stage that I have no reason to believe that the Special Magistrate has any objections to these proposals. I have not had the opportunity to discuss this Bill with him, but I do know that a copy of the measure was sent to him a considerable time ago. I am informed that in response, he has made no adverse comment. I leave the matter at that.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Roberts) in the Chair; Mr. Watts (Attorney-General) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 6 put and passed.

Clause 7—Section 34 amended:

Mr. TONKIN: I cannot see how this clause will be beneficial. Perhaps the Minister will explain how the Child Welfare Department is in a better position to look after a child than the magistrate. I understand the difficulty is that the institutions available for the care of the children are full, and it is extremely hard for a child who is guilty of a serious offence, such as stealing motorcars, to be placed in an institution. How will the department be in any better position to so place a child? Surely it is not contemplated that the offenders in most of the cases will be let out on parole; if so, they will only be let loose on the community and steal more cars.

Some of the children need correction. They do not appreciate the enormity of their offences. If they are committed to the department, and if the department makes immediate application for them to be let out on parole, they will be back before the court within a few days. I would like the Minister to explain how the provision in this case is any advance on the existing law. If he cannot do so, we should not agree to the clause. So far as I can see, it will weaken the existing law.

Mr. WATTS: I cannot agree that the clause will weaken the existing law. As the Leader of the Opposition said during the second reading, there was not much doubt in his mind that the senior officers of the Child Welfare Department were in a better position to determine these things than was the magistrate. That was the underlying reason for this Bill. I understand the

honourable member is not quite correct in saying that the existing institutions are all full.

The point made during the second reading was that when the Caversham closed reformatory came into operation, great care would be exercised in the number of persons directed there, because the institution would hold 33 and no more. In consequence, the management of that institution would have to exercise great discretion in regard to the number of persons to be placed there; whereas magistrates, not only in Perth but all over the State, could direct offenders to this place, without having the slightest knowledge of its capacity.

As a general rule, the other institutions can usually take one or two more, because they are not in the same position as the Caversham institution. My reference during the second reading to the necessity for exercising the greatest care in the number being sent was to the Caversham closed reformatory when it came into operation.

The purpose of this clause is to take advantage of the full knowledge and understanding of the senior officers of the Child Welfare Department in regard to directing where these young people shall be sent for treatment, discipline and training. There are various places which can be used, including Stoneville and the Point Walter annexe—a privilege centre where there are parole classes and other arrangements. It is only in respect of Caversham that I see any difficulty of overcrowding.

I am satisfied—not only because of such information as has been given to me, but also because of six years' experience with at least the deputy director of the department and the director in another capacity—that the training and discipline of children would be much better co-ordinated and attended to under their management, than can be hoped under a series of orders made by magistrates in Perth, Fremantle, and country centres.

Clause put and passed.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Clauses 8 to 10 put and passed.

Clause 11—Section 67 amended:

Mr. HAWKE: Unfortunately I did not hear the Attorney-General reply to the second reading debate. I understand that during the Committee stage there will be other speakers on this clause, so I content myself at the moment by saying that I shall vote against it unless the Minister can give some justification for its retention.

Mr. EVANS: At present the Child Welfare Department is obliged to endeavour to obtain maintenance for a neglected child from the parent; and, in default, the others from whom the department

shall seek to get maintenance are mentioned in a certain order. The Bill seeks to delete the words "and in the following order." If the clause is agreed to, the department will have the right to determine which relative shall be responsible for the maintenance of the child. I cannot agree with that view. The department will be able to take the line of least resistance.

I agree that the department should be able to obtain maintenance; but I disagree with the amendment before us. The parents might be of humble means, whereas the child might have a rich uncle. Under this provision, the department could bypass the parents and go to the rich uncle.

Mr. Watts: You have not looked at section 67. This does not deal with rich uncles.

Mr. EVANS: The department can take the line of least resistance; that cannot be denied. Therefore, justice could be thwarted and the result of the amendment could be pernicious. It appears to be unjust, and I shall oppose the inclusion of the clause.

Mr. O'NEIL: The member for Kalgoorlie apparently has not read section 67. The relatives are mentioned in that section: father, mother, step-father and step-mother, and no others, except in the case of an illegitimate child where the relatives mentioned are simply the father and mother, in that order.

Only in a rare case would a child—taking the first portion of the section—have all four relatives. In some cases it could have three, but mostly it would have only two. To say that a rich uncle could be called upon to cover the cost of the maintenance of the child is not in fact the case.

Mr. WATTS: Earlier I conceded to the Leader of the Opposition that the amendment would result in the department's being able to choose its own order rather than follow the order in the Act.

I also said that the experience of the department shows that it is perfectly ridiculous to start proceedings against a person who obviously has not the means to pay maintenance; and that it is quite reasonable to allow the department to select out of the one, two, or three—as the member for Canning mentioned—the one who is able to bear the cost of the maintenance, without putting the remaining two—one after the other—to the expense and unpleasantness of being involved in proceedings which would be entirely fruitless.

When a matter of this kind is before the Child Welfare Department, the information it would have in its possession would be a reasonable guide as to which of the near relatives who were available would be the one to accept responsibility.

Lastly, I pointed out that it was unreasonable to suppose that the senior officers of the department—who would finally direct what proceedings would be taken—would take any action without due consideration. They would not just stab a pin into section 67 to see which one they should sue! They would make proper inquiries before proceeding with any action. It did not seem to me to be unreasonable that this discretion—which is what the amendment amounts to, really—should be left to the Child Welfare Department. I think the member for Canning has dealt effectively with the member for Kalgoorlie's reference to a rich uncle.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 12 to 16 and Title put and passed.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

SPEAKER'S DECISIONS

Wordings

Mr. HAWKE: May I ask you a question, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. HAWKE: I have noticed, when a vote is taken on the voices, that you have adopted the practice of saying, "I think the Ayes have it"; or, "I think the Noes have it." This practice is followed in the Commonwealth Parliament; and I am wondering whether, when you say that you think the Ayes have it, or you think the Noes have it, you in fact make a decision.

The SPEAKER: I understand that the practice stems from the House of Commons, the intention being that if the Speaker says he thinks the Ayes have it, it leaves the decision open for anyone to call for a division without appearing in any way to be very much in conflict with the Speaker's opinion, or without directly contradicting the Speaker.

Mr. HAWKE: In the event of no division being called for, as is often the case, is a decision then made; or is there in existence only a declaration by you that you think something has happened?

The SPEAKER: Obviously if I think something has happened, that is the declaration I make.

Mr. HAWKE: But is it a decision?

The SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. HAWKE: I doubt it.

Mr. Watts: It passes in Great Britain.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 3rd September.

MR. MOIR (Boulder) [7.48]: This Bill is designed to do several things, some of which are very necessary and some of which are open to debate. I will deal

with first things first. Firstly, the Bill proposes to give exemption to members of councils who may be in business and have business dealings with a municipality over and above what has already been provided for in the Act for many years.

The measure proposes to amend section 39 of the Act, and the relevant part of that section reads as follows:—

- (1) No person holding any office or place of profit under or in the gift or disposal of the council of any municipality, or concerned or participating in any manner, whether directly or indirectly, in any contract or employment with any municipality, or in any work to be done under the authority of any such council, or in the profit of such contract or work, shall be capable of being or continuing mayor or councillor of the municipality.
- (2) Provided no person shall be disqualified from being or continuing to be the mayor or a councillor of any municipality by reason of—
 - (a) in the ordinary course of business, and not pursuant to any written contract, *bona fide* selling goods to or doing work for any such municipality; or

The amendment in the Bill would completely alter that section and would permit all dealings, whether in the position of contractor or subcontractor, to be undertaken by a mayor or councillor. When introducing the Bill the Minister had this to say—

It is proposed that instead of a businessman being exempted only for verbal contracts, in future he will also be exempted in respect of written contracts for the sale of goods to the council; and an additional cover has been given to him in cases where, although he himself is not a contractor, he has dealings as a subcontractor with some other person who has a contract with the council.

I think members will agree that that is a very wide coverage, and the Minister should have made some further explanation, in addition to the one he gave us, so that we would be more fully informed as to the position. It is a little puzzling, because the Minister said—

It has been found difficult for businessmen to act as members of councils without jeopardising their positions, and it is generally conceded that this amendment is desirable.

Some doubts have been expressed as to the wisdom of giving an exemption in the case of a subcontractor, but I consider that it is desirable that this cover should be given to a subcontractor if it can also be given to a councillor who is himself a contractor.

I would be the first to assert that a member of a municipal council—who after all has been elected by the ratepayers to represent them on the council—should not be penalised in his ordinary business dealings with the council. I have nothing but praise for these people who take part in local government and who give freely of their time to carry out the duties that are entailed in local government; and also who have to put up with the criticism which is very often unjustly levelled at them in regard to some aspects of their work. At the same time, I think we should be very careful that we do not give such people the opportunity or license to use that position, which is one of influence, on the council, in regard to the goods and services that the council requires from time to time.

Such a person should be in a position where he does not have an advantage over other people; and, of course, we can easily visualise how, from time to time such a position could arise through the work of a municipal council. If the position is to be entirely open, we should take a good look at this provision before we agree to it; and I hope the Minister will have something to say about the matter, and give us some more information, when he replies to the debate.

There is also a provision in the Bill to remove any possibility of disqualification which might occur because a member of the council has become a bush fire officer under the Bush Fires Act and has been insured against risks attaching to that public-spirited work. I entirely agree with that provision, and think it is absolutely necessary.

The next amendment deals with section 51, which provides for a corporation or a joint stock company being the owner or occupier of rateable land to name a nominee or nominees to be enrolled on the roll of voters and have the right to vote on behalf of that corporation or joint stock company. I am a little concerned about this, because it appears to me that something is being given to these people which the ordinary ratepayer does not enjoy. If we look at the provisions of the Act, we find that section 52 deals with the preparation of electoral lists and lays down certain procedures which must be followed by a ratepayer desiring to become enrolled on the ratepayers' list, and thus entitled to vote.

There are different categories of people who are entitled to be enrolled, and sometimes disputes may arise between the occupier and owner of premises as to who is entitled to be enrolled. It is laid down in the Act that—

The Town Clerk shall, on or before the twentieth day of September in every year, cause to be prepared a list

of all persons who appear to him to be entitled to be registered as electors on the electoral roll

If ratepayers have not been enrolled, they have until the 30th September to lodge a protest, and the matter is then decided. After the decision is made the person in whose favour it is made is the enrolled person on the ratepayers' list. No alteration can be made in that year, because the Act says that the Town Clerk shall, on or before the 20th September in every year, cause to be prepared an electoral roll. I take it that it is a calendar year, and therefore there can be no alteration until after the 31st December in every year.

The Minister described the amendment in the Bill in this manner—

Another amendment is to provide that once a company has nominated a person to represent it on the electoral roll of the municipality that nomination is to stand until either the company nominates some other person in his stead or the Town Clerk is satisfied that the person concerned no longer is entitled to represent the company.

In the first instance it would appear that until some change is made the provisions of the Act applying to ordinary ratepayers will not apply, and the person mentioned in the Minister's remarks could be on the roll for 10 or 20 years.

Mr. Perkins: You are on the wrong track. The company or the corporation is the ratepayer. It is not the individual who is nominated.

Mr. MOIR: I am quite well aware of that. I am talking of the voters' list. The company nominates a person—presumably an employee; or it might be the manager of the company—to be its representative, and he is placed on the ratepayers' list as a ratepayer and is entitled to vote. That is what happens.

I presume if that were only the owner and not the occupier, the same provisions would apply as would apply in ordinary circumstances. I think the Minister should enlighten us on that. The other objection to that aspect is that if a person moves out of a house or disposes of a house, the new ratepayer would not be able to have his name placed on the roll between the 30th September and the 31st December in any one year.

So, if there were an immediate election soon after, the occupier or owner of the property would have no chance of being on the roll; the previous owner or occupier would be on the roll. That would not apply in the case of a corporation or joint stock company. If this amendment were agreed to it would mean that the representative of the corporation or joint stock company would only have to notify the

town clerk of the municipality that it was changing its representative from Mr. Brown, who had left its employ, to Mr. Smith, who had taken over his position. That seems an advantage which would be granted to these people and at the same time denied the ordinary ratepayer. I would like the Minister to give me some enlightenment on that when he replies to the debate.

Mr. Cornell: Doesn't the position you have explained obtain at present?

Mr. MOIR: No, because they would be subject to the same provisions as the ordinary owner or occupier. This amendment would apply to those particular people only and to no others. There is a further provision that municipalities shall have power to make by-laws to order the occupier or owner of land to remove refuse or other waste material, and there is no quarrel with that. It is a most desirable provision. I thought the local authorities already had that power, but it appears they have not.

A further provision indicates the signs of the times. There is an amendment giving power to local authorities to make by-laws for the control of motels under section 338. I am sure everybody will agree that it is desirable for local authorities to have power to control motels. These places can be very necessary and most desirable.

Wherever they are established, motels are certainly most appreciated by the travelling public. Only the other Sunday I was in the district of the member for Eyre, and I noticed a nice little motel established on the East-West road. I am sure it would be a boon to travellers making the long journey to and from the Eastern States. They would be glad to pull in there for petrol and food.

Mr. Nulsen: It is greatly appreciated by travellers to the Eastern States.

Mr. MOIR: I can quite imagine that. As time goes on more and more of these places will be built by enterprising people who see such opportunities around our various highways. In that connection I would like to say that our highway and road system is second to none in comparison with those in the other States of the Commonwealth. I have travelled fairly widely in the Eastern States, and it is a pleasant surprise to see that our roads are far superior to those available to motorists in the older States of the Commonwealth. We are most fortunate in that regard.

Nowadays people think nothing of travelling hundreds of miles away from home, which means that the provision of motels is very desirable. At the same time it is necessary that the local authorities in whose areas they may be built should have power to control them to a large extent, because one can easily visualise

the problems that could crop up in relation to these places. Accordingly, I am sure the House will agree to that amendment.

There is a further amendment which gives power to borrow money for kindergartens, community centres, and similar amenities. The Minister explained that councils have power to expend money for these purposes at the present time, but no power to borrow without the consent of the Governor. It is thought desirable that they should be permitted to borrow without the consent of the Governor being necessary, and that is essential. In these days, more amenities are required in municipalities and road districts than could be visualised a few years ago.

It is necessary that local authorities be given power to raise money for these purposes, because nobody would question the desirability, or the necessity, for the amenities mentioned. Some local authorities are to be highly commended for the enterprise and public spirit they have shown in establishing amenities for the people who live in their areas. With the stipulations I have made, I support the Bill in general, but I would like the Minister to explain the points I have raised.

MR. JAMIESON (Beeloo) [8.9]: There are two aspects of the proposed Bill on which, I, too, would seek some clarification, and on which I would make certain suggestions to the Minister. I would first refer to the provision to allow members of a municipal council to indulge in contracting or sub-contracting work for the council. I feel it is a far too sweeping step to take at once. I would point out that the Minister for Local Government could be plagued with complaints from people who might consider they had been badly treated by the letting of a contract to a councillor who was on the council that had called tenders for a contract.

To safeguard that position, I suggest to the Minister that, if such contracts are permitted, they should be subject to the Minister's formal approval. This would not be of great concern to the local authority once it had received the tenders for the contract, if it were satisfied that one of its councillors belonged to a firm that could do the job at a fair and reasonable price. If it were so satisfied, it could select him as the tenderer for a particular contract. I feel, however, that it would be desirable for the Minister's formal approval to be obtained.

If any complaints came from other contractors in and around the district to the effect that they had been unfairly treated by the giving of the contract to a person on the council, the Minister would be fully apprised, and would have complete control of the situation and be able to inform the complainant that everything was fair and above board. He could assure the complainant that it was represented to

him by the local governing body, and that no complaint of injustice could be made. Such a provision should be included for the protection of the councillors in question.

With respect to a nominee from a stock-holding company being given the right to be on the ratepayers' roll for election purposes, I would like it clearly indicated by the Minister whether it is the intention of this amendment to give a prior right to that person over and above the person in residence, or the occupier being enrolled for that particular lot of land. As the Minister would no doubt know, the compilation of this roll as set down by statute is undertaken on a certain date.

In each case where there is an occupier on the property, it is my understanding that he has prior right for the position on the roll compiled for any election. By this amendment, am I to assume that where there is a resident occupier on a particular allotment he will lose his right because the company has a nominee which it has put in instead? If that is to be the case, I would be strongly opposed to it because the occupier, after all is said and done, would have a greater appreciation of the requirements of the district than that possessed by the nominee of an oil company, or a stock-holding company, which had no particular knowledge of the district, and whose only consideration was in property alone.

I would like the Minister to give some thought to those two points. I would be happy with the other provisions in the Bill, as they seem to contain amendments to assist local governing bodies in carrying out their necessary work. As I have said, however, there should be some protection for councillors against the allegations of people who feel that they may be receiving an unfair advantage by being on the council and by being allotted a particular contract by the council.

There have been such instances, and we have had reference made to them by members in another place; unfortunately, however, the whole thing got completely out of perspective. People have been known to sponsor their own gain. We know there are rare occasions in this State of such happenings; but people have used their positions on some occasions to their own advantage. If that were to be the case, it would be better if the Minister were given some hold over them to enable him to keep in check a position that could get out of hand by the wrongful use of such an advantage being given to a councillor.

MR. CROMMELIN (Claremont) [8.15]: I would like to say a few words on this Bill. I think the two members who have spoken previously are somewhat confused in regard to the two items they have mentioned. In the first place, the new

provisions do not allow a councillor to be a contractor to the council; he can only be a subcontractor. For example, a municipality having let a contract for, say, the building of a kindergarten, any member of the council can then tender to the contractor to supply timber or any of the other items required. That is an entirely different matter from being a direct contractor to the council. I think those members are somewhat under a misapprehension in this regard.

Mr. Moir: The Minister was, too, in his second reading speech.

Mr. CROMMELIN: I am trying to make the point that the fears the member for Boulder and the member for Beeloo may have had are not well-founded in this respect. The same applies to the other clause which gives power to joint stock companies to nominate their own voter. For example, if Elder Smith's had a wool store in Fremantle, it would give that company the power to say who would vote for it, while that company holds the property in Fremantle. However, if Elder Smith's sublet or let the building to some other person, the company would immediately lose the right to a vote.

I take it that the intention of this amendment is only to simplify the records of a municipality, so that the town clerk will know that until such time as the manager of any firm notifies him that its nominee has left, that nominee will continue to cast his vote for his employer. I cannot see that that makes any difference to any other ratepayer. It is a permanent thing which will make the records easier to keep.

Mr. Jamieson: Except where there is a residence on a particular property.

Mr. CROMMELIN: If the resident is an employer of the firm, I assume the firm would nominate him as its voter.

Mr. Jamieson: The firm might not necessarily do that.

Mr. CROMMELIN: A firm does not have to. If it owns the building, it will please itself.

Mr. Jamieson: At the present time he is on that roll.

Mr. CROMMELIN: No, not unless he is a tenant. If he is an employee he has no prior right.

Mr. Jamieson: It may be part of his contract.

Mr. CROMMELIN: That would not alter it either. I do not think there are any fears in that respect. It merely makes the Act more simple.

Mr. Jamieson: I think there are a lot of fears there.

Mr. CROMMELIN: I wanted to assure members that there was no fear in regard to this clause. I support the Bill.

MR. TOMS (Maylands) [8.18]: When this Bill was introduced in another place the Minister said that the proposed amendments were of an urgent nature and important to local authorities. He also indicated that it was probable the local government Bill would be brought before Parliament next year and the provisions in this Bill could be reviewed. I make this observation because, while it is necessary to broaden some of the sections in the principal Act, it may be desirable, when the local government Bill comes before this House, to have more restrictions than are proposed in this Bill.

This measure proposes to amend section 39, as stated by previous speakers, to permit a mayor and councillors to trade more openly, as it were, in the ordinary course of business. I feel that has been done in the past, and I believe the member for Claremont will bear me out, particularly in regard to country districts. It is most desirable that a provision of this nature be placed in the Act. As I said previously, it may be necessary later on to place in the local government Bill some further restrictions in regard to this matter.

The amendments to section 51 of the Act seem to be causing some fear to members. I believe the object of this amendment is to save companies having to reappoint the same agent year after year. Under the Act at present, a ratepayer is enrolled and stays upon the roll; but it is necessary every year for a company appointing an agent to inform a local authority just who that agent will be.

I believe the object of the amendment to section 51 is to overcome the position of having to re-enrol the same representative each year. The proposed amendment to section 180 is one which I feel is long overdue and most necessary. It will empower the local authority to issue orders for the owner or occupier to remove rubbish from land within the municipality. That raises the problem as to who is to decide what is rubbish and what is not rubbish.

While at present there is a certain indication in the Bill as to what would be called rubbish, it would be most difficult to ascertain what would be considered rubbish by an owner and what would be considered rubbish by a local authority.

The proposed amendment, which will be known as subsection 19A of section 180, reads as follows:—

For requiring the owner or occupier of any land within the district to remove within a time specified in a notice given by the municipality and served on the owner or occupier of the land, refuse, rubbish or other material of any kind whatsoever, which in the opinion of the council is likely to affect adversely the value of adjoining property or the health, comfort or convenience of the inhabitants thereof.

When we are dealing with the local government Bill, I think we will have to consider very carefully what is to be considered rubbish and what is not rubbish. A local authority may have some idea that certain storage in a person's yard is rubbish, whereas in actual fact it could be part of his tools of trade. That is one thing we will have to look at closely when the local government Bill is before Parliament.

It is proposed to amend section 338 of the principal Act. This small amendment is necessary because of new amenities which are coming to various local authorities. I do not think any member would object to empowering councils to make by-laws with regard to the construction of motels and also the construction of television masts and antennae, whether attached to buildings or not.

The clause amending section 380 deals mainly with the rating of land; whether the whole of the land or portion of the land shall be rated. That is in the hands of the Governor. There are some other small amendments which are of little consequence.

There is an amendment to section 442 which empowers a local authority to include in its list of works and undertakings such items as kindergartens, community centres, maternal health centres, infant health centres, creches, day nurseries, dental clinics, and ambulance services. These are necessary, too; and I believe that their inclusion in the works and undertakings of a local authority are very desirable.

At this stage I propose to support the second reading of this Bill. As I said earlier, the Minister, when introducing this measure in another place, indicated that these amendments were of a temporary nature and would be subject to further review when the local government Bill is brought down in 1960.

MR. HALL (Albany) [8.25]: As the representative of a municipality, I would point out that we have had some difference between members of the council and rate-payers. There have been quite reputable people on the council who have had to resign because they had no protection. This is only an expedient; and I will not elaborate on that for very long. The only way to get around the position will be by means of the consolidated measure which I hope will be brought down.

There are a couple of points which I would like the Minister to clarify for me. I refer to clause 2, paragraph (f), where the words appear, "being an officer or member whether appointed by the council or not." Does that mean that an appointee of the council can become a councillor? I would like that cleared up.

Mr. Perkins: Yes.

Mr. HALL: The other point is in the same clause, subparagraph (i). I refer to the words "physical recreation includes the games of cricket, tennis, football, golf, bowling or other sport." Does "other sport" cover horse-racing? At Albany we have a racecourse in a multi-sportsground.

The other part of the Bill which deals with kindergartens and assistance to infant health centres by way of loans is most commendable. Those associations should receive the utmost assistance we can give them.

MR. PERKINS (Roe—Minister for Transport—in reply) [8.28]: I think that members have generally approved of the Bill. One or two speakers did raise queries in regard to what was meant in particular clauses. I am sorry if the comments I used in the second reading speech were not clear, but they were prepared by the departmental officers and were meant to express very accurately the purpose of the Bill. If the member for Boulder carefully reads my introductory speech, he will find that actually it does make clear what the Bill proposes.

It proposes to make subcontractors of any kind—those doing work without a written contract—eligible to be on the council. If the member for Boulder will read the particular provision in the Bill, he will find that that is borne out. Some of the other members who have spoken have had experience of local government activities and have made it clear that these amendments are necessary in order to make the work of local governments—particularly in country areas—possible.

There have been some rather blatant examples in recent times where either councillors have had to actually resign their positions or grave doubts have been thrown on the legality of their continuing to act on the council and represent the rate-payers, because of the fact that in the comparatively small community where they live, it has been necessary for them to have dealings with the council.

In regard to the other point raised by the members for Boulder and Beeloo, about a joint stock company or corporation nominating someone to represent it on the ratepayers' list for voting purposes, I think that, there again, if the members would study the speech carefully, as well as the Bill, they would realise that the company or corporation is really the ratepayer; and, in fact, that company is only appointing that person to be its agent. The corporation cannot vote. It has to have a person to represent it. Really, the corporation or joint stock company is in exactly the same position as any other ratepayer. He appears as the owner of land in that particular municipality and the person concerned is nominated as his agent. If by any chance he either leases

the property to some other person or corporation, or sells it, then the ordinary procedure would be carried out, and the new owner or lessee would take over and he would either go on the ratepayers' list himself or appoint someone else to act as his agent.

I think those were the two principal theories raised. There was one question regarding rubbish, but I think the member for Maylands agreed that the definition at present is satisfactory and will suffice until the more comprehensive amendments can be submitted in the new local government Bill. In the meantime, I think we have to trust the local authorities to make some reasonable interpretation of what rubbish is; and I have no doubt that, as the local authorities are very close to their ratepayers, if they do not do so, and there is any dissatisfaction, it will very soon be made known to the council or road board as the case may be.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

As to Committee Stage

MR. PERKINS (Roe—Minister for Transport) [8.34]: I move—

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair in order that the Bill may be considered in Committee.

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

Ayes—27.

Mr. Bovell	Sir Ross McLarty
Mr. Brand	Mr. Nalder
Mr. Burt	Mr. Nimmo
Mr. Cornell	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Court	Mr. Oldfield
Mr. Craig	Mr. O'Neill
Mr. Crommelin	Mr. Owen
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Guthrie	Mr. Roberts
Mr. Hall	Mr. Toms
Dr. Henn	Mr. Watts
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Wild
Mr. Lewis	Mr. I. W. Manning
Mr. W. A. Manning	(Teller.)

Noes—19.

Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Kelly
Mr. Brady	Mr. Lawrence
Mr. Evans	Mr. Moir
Mr. Fletcher	Mr. Norton
Mr. Graham	Mr. Nulsen
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Rhatigan
Mr. Heal	Mr. Rowberry
Mr. J. Hegney	Mr. Sewell
Mr. W. Hegney	Mr. May
Mr. Jamieson	(Teller.)

Pair.

Aye	No
Mr. Mann	Mr. Tonkin

Majority for—8.

Question thus passed.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr. Crommelin) in the Chair; Mr. Perkins (Minister for Transport) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2 put and passed.

Clause 3—Section 51 amended:

Mr. MOIR: I am not at all happy about this clause. It is quite apparent that this amendment will make it possible for a corporation or joint stock company to have its nominee on the roll until notification is given in writing to the contrary; or until the town clerk is satisfied. It would be quite possible, if this amendment were passed, for an owner, or company, to nominate someone to be on the roll to exercise the privileges, and then at a later date for that man or company to part with the property or rent a house on it. The person in occupation of such house would not have any opportunity of being on the roll.

I do not know whether this amendment does not override the other provisions of the Act. At present under section 49, if a company has a nominee, an occupier of part of those premises can object and be placed on the roll instead. However, I am afraid that under this clause that would not be possible. The occupier who was paying rent for the premises could have nothing to do with the company and could not be his representative, even if he was on the roll. It is quite apparent, therefore, that if this clause is passed it will destroy any chances of an occupier who may be renting the premises having the preference that he now has under the Act. I would like the Minister to explain that.

Mr. PERKINS: This amendment is designed to enable a company—and there are many in road districts which have a manager or some other person whom they regard as suitable to be their nominee—to appoint a nominee. At present he has to be reappointed frequently, but this clause will enable the appointment to continue until such time as the company nominates someone else. If, for instance, a manager is shifted to another district, the ordinary practice in country districts is to appoint the new manager as the new nominee for the company. It is a more workable arrangement.

The provision relating to the town clerk is necessary, so that if a company omits to change its nominee the position can be remedied. I cannot agree that this amendment would override any other section of the Act. These amendments to section 51 are designed only to tidy up the question of representation, without altering the general principles of the Act. I believe the provision in section 49, to which the honourable member referred, will still apply; if it is applicable to any case where perhaps land was sold or rented to some person.

These provisions are being inserted to take care of the position until the new legislation is passed by Parliament. The Bill has been carefully considered by the Local Government Department, and

Mr. White has assured me that the amendments have been carefully checked and should not be contentious.

Mr. MOIR: I am aware of the provisions of the Act. In view of the fact that it is foreshadowed that the consolidated legislation will be brought down next session, I think the Minister should agree to the amendment; and he could see how it operated in the meantime.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 4 to 6 put and passed.

Clause 7—Section 442 amended:

Mr. BRADY: It is necessary to amend this clause by including, among the other facilities that may be provided, swimming pools or aquatic centres. There was a big meeting recently in my electorate, at which a number of road boards and municipalities considered the building of an aquatic centre; but at present, under their borrowing powers, there is no provision for swimming pools. I move an amendment—

Page 5, line 13—Insert after the word "kindergartens" the words "swimming pools."

Mr. PERKINS: I understand that this power is already possessed by local governing authorities. There is a pool at Northam, which I understand was built by two local authorities there.

Mr. Hawke: They did not build it together.

Mr. PERKINS: I cannot agree to the amendment without discussing it with the Local Government Department. The Local Government Act is a long one; and, as this is not my department, it may contain many provisions with which I am not conversant. I think the honourable member should allow the clause to stand as it is, until the consolidated legislation is brought down next session. The amendment, if agreed to, might have implications that are not at present apparent.

Mr. BRADY: I hope the Minister will accept the amendment. I know that some of the local government bodies are meeting shortly to discuss the joint building of swimming pools; and I think they should have power to build pools jointly if they so desire. Some years ago in my electorate a man was prepared to allow the municipality to have some land on which to build a swimming pool; but it was found that one local government body could not spend its funds in the area of another local authority, and so the proposition fell through.

I did not speak to the second reading of the measure tonight because, although I sent the four local authorities in my electorate copies of the Bill, the senior members of those bodies were not available; and so I could not speak with

authority on their behalf in relation to this question. However, I think the amendment should be agreed to.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I support the amendment, because I think swimming pools should be among the facilities provided for in this clause. It is not many years ago that local authorities could not spend money outside their boundaries to provide essential services such as infant health centres, and so on; but we have moved forward in that regard since the war. I see no reason why all these facilities should not be provided by local governing authorities acting jointly, if they so desire.

The Minister, when speaking to another Bill a few nights ago, in respect of a clause which required a constitutional majority, said, "In any case, all that will happen will be that, if the Bill becomes an Act, and the law is contested in a court, it will be found that this clause will have no effect." Therefore, to use the Minister's own argument, were it found that this clause would have no effect if the suggested words were added, no harm would be done. Surely the Minister can accept a small amendment of this kind.

Mr. TOMS: The Minister could agree to this amendment. I was looking for a loophole for him which might be of assistance in convincing him that the proposed words should be added to this clause. If the first phrase of the proposed amendment were incorporated in this clause it would be a distinct advantage, because I consider that paragraph 11 of section 442 of the principal Act will not permit a municipal council to act outside its own boundary.

Mr. Hawke: The first part of paragraph 9 might do that in section 442, too.

Mr. TOMS: But it still does not allow the local authority to move outside its own boundary; whereas, if the amendment is agreed to, it will be permitted to do that. I would therefore ask the Minister to agree to the amendment. Any project, such as the establishment of a swimming pool, would be for the betterment of all local authorities concerned.

Mr. NORTON: I support the amendment. Recently I had experience, in regard to the proposed construction of a swimming pool, whereby a group of road boards and a municipality wished to establish a pool; but, under the Act, it was found that it was not possible for them to pool their funds for a project of this kind. In many districts there are several road boards with one or more municipalities which often have one town as their communal centre. It is only right that those local authorities should be able to pool their resources for the provision of public amenities for the benefit of the residents of their districts. I cannot see why the addition of the words "swimming pool" cannot be agreed to.

Mr. PERKINS: It could be that there is nothing objectionable in the amendment, but quite frankly I do not know, and other members of the Committee do not know, either, whether it is objectionable or not.

Mr. Hawke: It is purely voluntary on the part of the local authorities.

Mr. PERKINS: On the other hand, there is no point in making a mess of legislation in this Chamber. This measure has been before the House for some considerable time and members have had ample opportunity to place amendments on the notice paper. If members have a reasonable time to consider legislation and they do not place amendments on the notice paper, I do not propose to accept them unless it can be avoided.

Mr. Hawke: You are being childish!

Mr. PERKINS: The Leader of the Opposition says I am being childish, but I wonder how many amendments of this nature he accepted, in similar circumstances, when he was on this side of the Chamber!

Mr. W. Hegney: All the obligations would be on the local authorities if the words are added.

Mr. PERKINS: Why should we make a mess of the legislation?

Mr. Hawke: Childish!

Mr. PERKINS: When the member for Mt. Hawthorn was a Minister he relied absolutely on what his departments told him, and when in the Chamber, he would not exercise his discretion one iota. When legislation is prepared by the Parliamentary Draftsman, and when it has been considered by an officer of the calibre of Mr. White, who is in charge of the Local Government Department, I am sure that it has been thoroughly examined before it is brought before the Chamber. In the circumstances, and in view of the opportunity members have had to place amendments on the notice paper, it is undesirable to accept amendments off the cuff, as it were, which could cause contradiction in legislation.

Mr. Andrew: The Attorney-General accepted one from me a fortnight ago.

Mr. PERKINS: It is a different matter if it is only a drafting amendment, but this amendment is opening up something else. In view of the fact that we are introducing other legislation next year, members will have an opportunity of considering the matter then. It is a great reflection on the members concerned if they have not made the effort to have the necessary alterations made to the Bill if these complications are occurring—as they say they are—in the areas they represent.

Mr. HAWKE: We have just listened to the greatest exhibition of cast-iron conservatism ever to have taken place in this, or any other Parliament of the world, I should imagine.

Mr. Brady: That is an understatement.

Mr. HAWKE: One has only to read the clause in the Bill to which the member for Guildford-Midland has moved an amendment to show how childish the Minister is. The Minister would give us to understand that the addition of the words "swimming pool" could upset the drafting of the Bill; could create all kinds of dangers for the Local Government Department and municipal councils. Has the Committee ever heard such nonsense? I ask the Committee not to be influenced in any shape or form by what the Minister has said. The amendment will merely give municipal councils the discretionary right if, in their opinion, it is desirable, in the interests of the ratepayers, to establish a swimming pool either by themselves or in conjunction with another municipal council.

Mr. Perkins: A municipal council can do that on its own now, of course.

Mr. HAWKE: I hope, therefore, that the Minister will adopt the commonsense attitude and accept the amendment.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: There is a tendency among local government bodies today to get together to promote some district activity which could not be done by one local authority. In the Act at present a single local authority is unable to co-operate with another on the establishment of any project outside the boundaries of each particular local authority. The member for Guildford-Midland has moved an amendment to add the words "swimming pools" to the clause, but the Minister objects because he thinks that such a provision is covered elsewhere in the Bill.

To my mind it does not seem that the addition of the words can do any harm; and, to the best of my knowledge, there is in the Bill no other provision for the establishment of swimming pools by a local authority outside its own boundaries. If the other types of constructions are to be included, then swimming pools should be included. I ask the Minister to report progress so that more inquiries can be made.

Mr. HALL: I support the amendment. Recently the Press published the great desire to establish swimming pools in Australia so as to teach our young people to swim and to eliminate delinquency. Swimming pools established by the local authorities will give the people in the country the same amenities as are to be found on the coastline. The member for Guildford-Midland is trying to enable local authorities to raise finance, in conjunction with organisations beyond their boundaries, to achieve the object I am referring to.

The other point in the amendment concerns the tourist industry. No-one can say that swimming pools built in decentralised

centres will not be an attraction to tourists. These swimming pools will help to attract tourists to country centres. I am sure that if the Child Welfare Department were asked its opinion on this matter, it would say that the establishment of swimming pools in country centres would be a means of overcoming the problem of delinquency.

Mr. PERKINS: Before amendments like this are agreed to they should be examined by the permanent officers of the department. There are too many examples in our legislation of amendments being agreed to without sufficient consideration and examination. This amendment may be entirely innocuous and may not go beyond what is desired; but in the next session of Parliament a comprehensive Bill will be introduced, and there will be an opportunity to achieve the object contained in the amendment.

I say definitely that I am not prepared to accept the amendment without an examination by the Local Government Department and the officers responsible for drafting the Bill. If amendments are to be accepted they must be couched in proper language so as to achieve the desired object.

Progress reported.

ROAD DISTRICTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 3rd September.

MR. MOIR (Boulder) [9.20]: This Bill is practically on all fours with the measure we have just debated, except for one or two differences. The main one is the provision for the adoption of a different method of paying the fees of returning officers, deputy returning officers, and poll clerks, etc.

Difficulty has been experienced in finding the suitable persons to fill these positions. That is because of the low fees which are permitted under the Act. This Bill seeks to permit the payment of more appropriate fees. It provides for an hourly rate of pay to officers who are required to work during polling hours, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. After that period it will also be possible for them to be paid an hourly rate.

There is a further amendment in the Bill which refers to the need for local authorities to publish their annual statements in the newspapers at a cost of £2 10s. We all know they cannot do that with a limitation of £2 10s. Instead of doing away with that requirement completely, the Minister should give thought to the fact that local authorities experience no difficulty in publishing statements in the local Press, and so enable the rate-payers to be aware of the financial position of the road boards.

In my electorate there are two municipalities and one road board covering the Kalgoorlie and Boulder area. These three—particularly the road board—do a very good job. They publish their annual statements in the local newspaper and these can be seen by every ratepayer. It might be thought that that board does not cover the urban area, but that is not the case. It covers a large portion of the town.

It is proposed that local authorities should be given the right to have statements duplicated and sent to those rate-payers who have intimated that they require a copy. That provision may operate quite well, but it is not as good as the one in the Act.

Finally, I would point out that it has not been possible for any member to place amendments on the notice paper, because this Bill was introduced only last Thursday.

MR. PERKINS (Roe—Minister for Transport—in reply) [9.26]: I appreciate the remarks made by the previous speaker. The Bill aims to do exactly the same as the previous measure. The point raised by the honourable member in regard to the varying circumstances of local authorities is applicable. As to publishing the annual statements, the maximum discretion should be allowed to local authorities. It is still open to them, under the Bill, to publish their accounts in the local newspaper if they so desire. In many cases that is an unwarranted charge on the local authorities' funds. It is considered necessary to pass the amendments contained in the Bill, so that the maximum discretion can be given.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

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

TOURIST BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 3rd September.

MR. ROBERTS (Bunbury) [9.31]: I believe that the majority of members of this Chamber—especially those on this side of the House—realise the tremendous potential for this State in the tourist trade. When one contemplates that countries such as the United Kingdom, France, and Italy, receive more from the tourist industry than from any other one product or item, one feels there is a definite potential for the industry in this State.

Members no doubt realise that in the United Kingdom the tourist industry is worth something like £115,000,000. When one remembers that the other night the Premier said that the Australian industry

receives something like £10,000,000, and when one takes into consideration our population, one realises that Australia is missing out badly on the tourist industry.

When one knows of the variations in climate within this State, which consists of one-third of Australia in area, and when one remembers the different types of scenery, from the Kimberleys to the southern coast, one realises the attractions we have to induce tourists to come here. It will be only a matter of time before the vast areas of the northern part of the State will be opened up, and tourists from all parts of the world will come to Western Australia to view the scenes in the Kimberleys and other centres.

Rising standards of living are applicable to practically every country in the world today. These and the longer periods of long-service leave, provide the means for movement by tourists. Also, as you well know, Mr. Speaker, in this country some people who are nearing the pensionable age, and who have a few pounds put away, will spend their savings on a world trip, or some other trip, before retiring and going on the pension.

So with the long-service leave and other leave periods—and also because of social services—we find now that people are able to move intrastate and interstate, and are able to go on overseas trips. World concerns that run air, sea, rail, or even road transport, are expanding their industries to cater for this colossal potential of tourist movement. I believe that not only we in this State, but the people in the rest of Australia, have to do a great deal more than is being done at present to encourage and cater for the movement of people whilst they are on tour.

I was rather amazed the other night to hear the member for Merredin-Yilgarn make his speech. To me his remarks were astounding, because he appeared to have very little faith in the potential of the State from a tourist point of view. He gave me the impression that his idea was: "Well, let us not try." I say the Premier is to be complimented for bringing down the measure; because I consider the Bill, far from being a gospel of despair—as I feel the member for Yilgarn's speech was—will give a tremendous impetus to the tourist industry.

Mr. Lawrence: How can it be a tourist industry?

Mr. ROBERTS: It is an industry; and it is recognised as such throughout every country in the world. Many countries, as I mentioned before—particularly the United Kingdom, France, and Italy—press hard to gain more and more tourists, especially those from the North American countries.

Mr. Lawrence: I do not mean that; I mean, what is it grammatically?

Mr. ROBERTS: I am not worried about that.

Mr. Lawrence: Well, I am. You cannot answer it.

Mr. ROBERTS: I compliment the Premier on bringing this measure before the House. The composition of the authority has received some criticism, but I feel it has been well considered by the Premier and his Cabinet colleagues. The departments mentioned are the main ones affected by the tourist industry; and I mention particularly the Main Roads Department which comes under the Minister for Works. The South-West members will know of the tremendous amount of work that this department has done in the South-West, in opening up what are today well-patronised tourist resorts.

I refer particularly to areas in the electorate of the Minister for Lands. People go in their thousands, throughout the tourist season, to places like Eagle Bay, to witness what is unique, I suppose, on the Australian coastline—the hauling in of tons of salmon in the season. That is a tourist attraction that cannot be seen in such force in any other part of Australia. People from all over the State; from all over Australia; and, indeed, from overseas, have frequently to my knowledge made favourable comment on this type of tourist attraction in the electorate of the Minister for Lands.

It has been mentioned that tourists like to see things of historical value. I grant that. But do not let us forget that people from the Old World are interested to see what the people of the New World have done in a little over 130 years. The efforts of our predecessors are commendable when we consider that Western Australia is only 130 years of age.

I can recall a question being put to an English overseas traveller who had, prior to coming to Western Australia, been in every other State of the Commonwealth. The question was as follows: "What was the thing that impressed you more than any other thing during your visit throughout the other States of Australia?" The answer came back like a flash: "Your wonderful golden fields." That question was put, and the answer given in February when our fields were parched to a golden colour. But their colour was something new to that person; and she had been in every country of the world. That was what impressed her.

I was told by a gentleman who is well known to, I would say, the majority of members here, that Miami wished it had what a certain well-known town in this State has—golden beaches; blue seas; and so on. Miami got its name only as a result of the businessmen there deciding it was high time that they, as individuals, took advantage of the tremendous potential they had. They called in a well-known and well-recognised firm of advertising consultants who, to cut a long story short,

broadcast that Miami was the millionaires' playground; and in a very short space of time it was so. Let us, therefore, through the efforts of this authority, broadcast the fact that we have attractions here that tourists are keen to see.

One other point that I feel I should stress is that no matter whether tourists are interstate, intrastate, or overseas tourists, we should instil in their minds the fact that we have attractions here that will interest their friends. Let them return to their particular spheres of activity—and to where they live—and let them become ambassadors for our State.

Mr. Lawrence: I think we will put you on TV.

Mr. ROBERTS: But do not let us overlook the fact that no matter who the tourist is, we have to make him welcome; we have to give him the services he requires; and, no matter whether he has £5, £100, or £1,000 in his pocket to spend, we have to make sure that he has decent food and accommodation. I doubt whether any member would disagree that they are the two main essentials.

In the past, we in this State have expended £15,000 to £20,000 annually on the promotion of tourist activities, but we have not spent enough. The authority proposed by this Bill will be able to collate the information from all centres where tourists congregate; and it will be able to publicise the various attractions of those centres in a brochure so that the people of the world will have the opportunity of reading about what facilities and attractions we have in this State.

I was surprised when I had a look at the Commonwealth and State Year Books that I could get no information as to the number of tourists or the money they had spent. When I investigated the matter I realised how difficult it would be to assess how much tourists spend in a State like Western Australia; or for that matter, how much they spend in Australia.

Mr. Lawrence: I would suggest it is impossible.

Mr. ROBERTS: Mention has been made of hotel accommodation. I have a letter in reply to one which I wrote. I suppose I had some temerity in making the initial approach; nevertheless, I thought an interesting comment was made in reply to my letter. The reply reads—

On the question of building first-class hotels, this company has had mixed feelings for some little time as to the right course to pursue.

Mr. Evans: To whom are you referring?

Mr. ROBERTS: The letter goes on—

However, it is now firmly resolved that any future investments by us will not be in hotels but in motels, and

we have already committed our expenditure for the next 2½ years for certain motels to be built in a number of places.

Mr. Crommelin: Who is the letter from?

Mr. ROBERTS: I am not going to divulge that at this stage, but it was from a company which is very interested in tourist activities throughout Australia. It goes to show the planning that is necessary. This private concern of some magnitude has planned ahead for 2½ years.

Mr. Evans: Will you lay that letter on the table of the House?

Mr. ROBERTS: I will do nothing of the sort.

Mr. Evans: You have quoted from it.

Mr. ROBERTS: It makes no difference; let the honourable member read his Standing Orders. I read that letter to show members that the trend today is for motels rather than hotels, and that planning has to be done for a long time ahead. I am confident that the Premier will be able to get this proposed authority to plan a long way ahead in regard to tourist promotion in Western Australia. No doubt there are a great number of people who could be encouraged, when visiting our State, to utilise certain services that we have at present.

I do not want members to think that I am being parochial about this matter; but there is a first-class train called the *Australind*. By publicity we could probably get many of our interstate and overseas visitors to make the daily run down the South Coast on that train. I feel sure they would be amazed at the potential that is there for the picking. I would like to put this thought in the Premier's mind: A special coach could be set aside for tourists and someone could give a running commentary during the trip to tell people about the country through which they were passing.

I have travelled on that train rather extensively during the last four years, and it is amazing the number of times that tourists, especially interstate visitors, have sat beside me, and asked me questions as to what the country produces, what the climate is like, what the rainfall is, and so on. They are interested, and they have proved it by the questions they have asked. Either the Premier or the Minister for Railways could give consideration to that aspect, because the drivers of tourist buses give running commentaries as they travel through the South-West. Travellers on these coaches are given all sorts of information as to the potential of the countryside through which they are passing.

Mr. Lawrence: How much of the coastline do you see when you are travelling down on the train?

Mr. ROBERTS: None. Even when travelling on the old coast road one sees very little of the coastline. Nevertheless, the train passes through some wonderfully productive country, and it amazes many of our tourists. I am more than pleased that the Premier and his colleagues have seen fit to introduce a Bill of this kind to the Chamber. There is no doubt that a tourist authority should be set up in this State, and all those who are now concerned with the tourist trade agree that we should have such an authority.

Mr. W. Hegney: What do you think of the constitution of the authority?

Mr. ROBERTS: The member for Merredin-Yilgarn said that the authority should be set up on a fifty-fifty basis between the Government and private enterprise. Tourists have been coming to this State for many years, and there is no question as to who has expended the money necessary for the welfare of tourists.

Mr. Hawke: The tourists.

Mr. ROBERTS: No; private enterprise. Private enterprise has done a magnificent job in this State in the past for private enterprise—

Mr. W. Hegney: That is perfectly correct.

Mr. ROBERTS: I mean for the tourist industry. It is my intention wholeheartedly to support this measure.

MR. BRADY (Guildford-Midland) [9.55]: Before the Bill is put to the vote, I wish to have a few words to say about it because, like the member for Merredin-Yilgarn, I think the Premier, in introducing it, is introducing something which is 10 to 15 years before its time.

Mr. Brand: By jove, you are a progressive sort!

Mr. BRADY: The Premier will see, before long that he is not half as progressive as he thinks, when he has to meet a lot of the expenditure that is involved. He will find the Treasury is getting emptier, and emptier, and emptier.

Mr. Brand: We found it empty when we went there, so what does it matter?

Mr. BRADY: If the Premier would give extra money to the Tourist Bureau as it is at present constituted and run by the Government, it would be able to do all the things that he visualises will be done if this Bill is passed; and the Tourist Bureau would get all the results he wants. I can recollect deputising for the Minister for Tourists in the past Government. On one occasion I went to Busselton; and at that conference there were representatives from Albany, Pemberton, Margaret River, Geraldton, and Busselton. I do not think Bunbury was represented, because it was having some trouble with its tourist bureau at the time, and that town did not bother to send a representative.

Mr. Roberts: That is correct.

Mr. BRADY: The Government Tourist Bureau had a representative at the conference, and I found that that organisation was really on the ball; it was obvious that it was going places. In my opinion, Mr. Killerby of Busselton knows as much about tourism—not the tourist industry—as any man in Western Australia.

Mr. Brand: What is the difference?

Mr. BRADY: The difference is that one is not an industry and the other is one way of encouraging tourists to see the State. How can we apply the word "industry" to something that is not an industry?

Mr. Bovell: Of course it is an industry! It gives employment to thousands of people.

Mr. BRADY: The Premier has referred to it as tourism, and I am prepared to accept that definition for the time being. But why overlook the people who have been doing a job, and doing it well, for many years?

Mr. Brand: They won't be overlooked by any means.

Mr. BRADY: These people could be given extra money by the Government to step up their activities; they would get all the results which the Government visualises by the passing of this legislation.

As I see it, we have two kinds of tourists—those who come from overseas, mainly from America, and those who are local. For the time being we in Western Australia can only hope to deal with local tourists—that is, interstate and intrastate tourists. If we try to cater for these people and those overseas tourists who may happen to come this way, I think we will be doing all that is possible for the time being. If we get ourselves involved in establishing authorities that will spend £50,000 or £100,000 a year, and which will not bring about the results we hope for, it could become a financial embarrassment for the State Government.

The automobile associations, such as the R.A.C. and those who are dealing in the selling of cars; the shipping firms; and the airways firms, could step up their interests in tourism to ensure that their particular forms of transport were well patronised. They are already doing it, because hardly a week goes by without one receiving a brochure from an oil company, an automobile company, an aeroplane company, or a shipping company, both in Australia and in Western Australia, showing what they are doing for tourists. I think the previous Minister (the member for Merredin-Yilgarn), who has travelled extensively, and who has considered this matter for a long time, was on the ball when he said we should try to encourage the local Tourist Bureau and its activities, rather than set up a new authority.

I was with the member for Merredin-Yilgarn when he paid a visit to the Gold Coast last year. Queensland has no more attractions than we have, except that it is perhaps closer to the people in the Pacific Islands. Anybody who knows the activities of shipping companies will know that at the moment they are specialising in an endeavour to encourage American tourists to visit the capital cities of the Eastern States.

We cannot hope to get all those tourists from overseas who are brought to Australia as a result of the activities of the shipping companies in the Pacific. But we will get some. That brings me to the point that of the 10,000,000 people in Australia, approximately 8,500,000 are in the other States of the Commonwealth. We should set ourselves out to cater for them. We have the attractions and the interests in Western Australia to encourage these people to come here.

I recollect having gone up to Darwin on one of our State ships about eight years ago. On that boat there was a gentleman named Sir Herbert Hyland, who is the Leader of the Country Party in Victoria today. He said that if the people in Victoria and New South Wales could see the attractions of our North-West coast, and get an opportunity to travel on our State ships they would flock over here in their thousands, because there were interesting features in our North-West and along our western coast that could not be matched in Queensland.

What is more, he said that a lot of the people in Queensland and the other States get sick and tired of going to the Barrier Reef every other year, and viewing something they had seen half a dozen times. I would say that Sir Herbert Hyland would not lightly make such statements. He would be a gentleman who has travelled extensively and would know what he is talking about.

If the Premier, or the Minister for North-West, or the Minister in charge of State ships, could have a look at the possibility of organising a State shipping service to cater for tourists from the Eastern States, a great deal of interest would be evinced in the North-West in addition to that which it is receiving today. Some of these tourists might even take up permanent residence in that area.

Whether they go up by State ships or not, the fact remains that with the modern roads we have today, and with the modern air transport which is in operation, one could go almost around the whole of Western Australia in 24 hours. It may not be generally known, but MacRobertson Miller Airways of Western Australia will be installing, before Christmas, a new form of transport called the Fokker Friendship.

These aircraft travel along our North-West coast. They leave Perth at 6 o'clock in the morning and arrive in Darwin at

4.25 p.m. This means it takes 10 hours 25 minutes from Perth to Darwin. On the other hand there is the slower-moving transport which will satisfy people who want to have a real rest on the boats going up the North-West coast. Then again there is the other type of tourist who will be coming over from the Eastern States, bringing with him his caravan.

I remember that the last time I was travelling North I met a man, his wife, and family, outside Port Hedland. He asked me; "What are the roads like further North?" I told him the worst roads would be between Carnarvon and Port Hedland, and he replied that the roads here were excellent; that they had not as good roads in the Eastern States. He was travelling to Darwin. I would like to point out that from Darwin to Mt. Isa there is an all-black road. In a few years' time we will have hundreds and thousands of tourists coming from the Eastern States, travelling up North and going back through Mt. Isa into Brisbane, New South Wales and Victoria.

There are also the tourists who will travel north by way of our North-West ports, coming down from Darwin to Alice Springs, a distance of 900 miles, over an all-black road, which takes about 12 to 16 hours. So it will be seen that those facilities are already available. As I said before, the automobile companies, oil companies, the aeroplane companies, and the shipping companies are already plugging their line for tourist travel. All we need is some assistance to help the Tourist Bureau to co-ordinate what it is already doing. With all this talk of motels, one can quite easily visualise a motels association being formed in a very short time.

All these organisations will cater for tourists. As I have said before, we have a tourist potential of 8,500,000 people from the Eastern States, and if we cater for those people we will be doing very well indeed. The member for Bunbury earlier referred to a statement he had heard about Miami. I heard it said rather differently. As I understood it, a man from California visited Perth and said that we had the climate here, in Western Australia, that California thinks it has. To my knowledge, that has been repeated in half a dozen places.

There are many attractions in Western Australia, particularly in the North, which could interest tourists, especially the pearling industry, the fishing industry, the mining industry, and the asbestos industry. This would provide a most interesting feature for tourists. That brings me to what I consider is one of the greatest drawbacks of the North-West. I refer to lack of suitable accommodation.

That is one of the avenues in which the Government could consider spending money; it could supply suitable hotel

accommodation. If the Government proposes to sell the State hotels, it should give consideration to either subsidising hotel accommodation in that area, or else go in for the hotel business itself. I believe it would be a payable proposition; and while bringing in revenue for the Government, it would at the same time encourage those tourists that we hope to attract to Western Australia.

I feel that even in the metropolitan area the Tourist Bureau has not co-ordinated the tourist activities as much as it could have done. I know Mr. Miller and his staff are doing the best they can with the limited finance available to them; but when we know that there are only about 10 tourist bureaux in Western Australia while there are 30 or 40 towns that could have them, it would indicate that there is not the co-ordination and co-operation that is so very necessary to promote tourism.

In my electorate the taxi drivers, in particular Mr. Calnon, are prepared to run trips into the hills area for tourists. They could run them into National Park, the vineyard country, the Swan Valley, the Chittering Valley, the Helena Valley, the Darling Range and the Kalamunda district. They do not seem to receive any encouragement from the Tourist Bureau in Perth or from the State Government.

I agree with what was said by the member for Bunbury that if we cater more for tourists they will become the advertisers of the attractions of this State. I have often visited Bunbury and thought it would be a good suggestion for a commentary to be given on the tourist trains and buses to point out the attractions and the history of the places along the journey. That would be most helpful to tourists.

At present travelling to Port Augusta on the Trans-line, the traveller leaves Kalgoorlie at 5 o'clock and arrives in Port Augusta within 24 hours, but he does not know what can be seen along the Trans-line. There was a time when the trains pulled up at three or four spots to enable the traveller to see the country and to become aware of its history. Nowadays a traveller can go all over Western Australia but learn nothing about the districts.

The Tourist Bureau and those in charge of the industry should make arrangements for a commentary to be given on the history of the various spots along the Trans-line; of the help given to the people living along that line; of the help given to the natives; of the setting up of water supplies; and of the steps taken to maintain the health of those living along the line. Apparently nobody seems to pay heed to those aspects.

There are hundreds of tourists from the Eastern States every year visiting centres like Bunbury, Geraldton, and Kalgoorlie, but nobody here bothers to tell them what can be seen. When they leave they do

not know of our attractions; consequently neither they nor their friends return for a visit to this State.

I can speak of the possibilities of the tourist traffic around Alice Springs, the Blackstone Range, Giles, Warburton, Laverton, and Wiluna. A road is being built by the Commonwealth authorities to connect those centres.

Those are centres to which the tourists could be attracted. Whilst I would warn anyone against visiting those places without taking a trailer with drums of water and petrol, because of the great danger of perishing without adequate supplies, I would also point out that there are attractions to be found. At present there are no petrol stations, no water supplies to speak of, and no food supplies to be obtained between Laverton and Alice Springs.

Mr. Brand: The tourist reading this will be frightened out of the State.

Mr. BRADY: The tourist visiting those places will find himself stranded and in great difficulties if there is a lack of water and petrol.

Mr. Bovell: Who in his wildest imagination would suggest Warburton as a tourist resort?

Mr. BRADY: I say that in years to come those centres could become attractive to wealthy tourists from Europe or America. Attractions are to be found there which are not seen anywhere else.

Mr. Bovell: Have you been there?

Mr. BRADY: Several times. I have visited centres which the Minister is not likely to visit. The country around the Warburton Ranges is unique. MacRobertson Miller Airways are becoming increasingly aware of the potential tourist attractions in that area. Some of the best landing places in Australia are to be found there. There are excellent landing grounds at Giles, Blackstone Range, and Warburton. About every 150 to 200 miles there is an excellent landing ground. In these places there are unique features which cannot be seen anywhere else.

Already the people from Alice Springs are running regular trips to Ayers Rock, which is about 250 miles from Alice Springs in a westerly direction. That is only another 150 miles to the Blackstone Range or Giles. I can appreciate the fact that the tourist going there in the summer time will be made uncomfortable by the heat, but there are other times besides summer when air tours can be arranged.

I could go on speaking at length about many other places, but I shall not do so. It would pay the Tourist Bureau to subsidise tourists visiting towns like Wiluna in the Murchison electorate. There are many unique features around there. Where there was a population of 10,000 to 15,000 years ago, there is now a ghost town; but the magnificent hotels still remain.

O'Shaughnessy's is a licensed hotel, and it has accommodation for 20 to 30 tourists. There is excellent scenery and a landing ground there. There is the ironstone range which is about 20 miles from Wiluna, from which the ore can be mined and sent overseas. Those are a few of the possibilities for attracting tourists to Wiluna. What I say can also apply to half a dozen places in that electorate, and to centres such as Port Dennison and Dongara, in which the Premier is interested.

The Premier should provide more funds to the Tourist Bureau so that its agencies can be expanded. In conjunction with the other organisations I have mentioned—the R.A.C., the shipping companies, and the airline companies—the Tourist Bureau would be able to attract to Western Australia, all the tourists it desires. I regret I have to oppose the second reading.

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

MR. GRAHAM (East Perth) [10.20]: It is not possible for me to generate any great enthusiasm for this Bill. About the most generous I can be is to assert that in my opinion, whilst it will not do a great amount of good, it will not do any great harm if it becomes the law of the land. I have always had an appreciation of those people who attempt to do something, even if their efforts subsequently are proved to be unfruitful; and for that reason, if for none other, I pay tribute to the Government for seeking to do something in connection with the all-important question of tourists.

To me, the composition of the authority is out of tune completely with the very many expressions we have heard from members of the Government, and people who support it. This is supposed to be a private enterprise Government. And yet we find that this authority to be set up comprises eight individuals, of whom five are departmental officers and one is representative of some local governmental activity, leaving only two of the eight to comprise members who have an interest in the tourist trade. In other words, the dice is loaded; six votes to two against them immediately.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Do you object to the Bill because of that?

Mr. GRAHAM: No; I object to the Bill because the approach to the formation of this authority is, in my view, totally unreal. It could be said that the taxi people have an interest in tourists; and that the railways have an interest in tourists. It is said that the Main Roads Department constructs highways. I know that the Public Works Department constructs bridges, builds schools, or erects public hospitals. However, whatever its particular activity, all sections of the community, because of those activities, do impinge upon the reaction of visitors to our State.

Departmental officials probably do not know the first thing about the requirements of tourists; they are people who are skilled in their particular departments or professions to provide the many requirements of the people of Western Australia. They have their part to play in the ordinary course of their business. But surely this is an age of specialists, and we should therefore give consideration to people who know everything that is to be known about publicity and advertising.

We should give consideration to those whose job it is to provide accommodation and catering in its very many aspects. Catering and entertainment in the matter of nightclubs to appeal to certain of our visitors could perhaps be bracketed together. There is the organisation of conducted tours and the proper signposting of our highways to ensure that people who are moving about within our State know where they are at any given time, and are able to see for themselves directions as to the course or route they should follow in order to get to another place of their choosing. There are transport organisations—whether it be hire-cars or public transport as we know it, whether in the air or running along the ground. Surely it is important that we have properly correlated schedules and timetabling to ensure that there is arrival at reasonable hours as well as departure, and so on.

So all of those people who either attract visitors to our State or who deal directly with people after they have arrived and administer to their wants and requirements are the specialists in these things and accordingly would be in a position to make some sort of a contribution if this proposed authority is to mean anything at all.

I do not want to appear to be unduly critical, but to me the proposal is almost laughable. One to represent the Minister for Lands! In all seriousness, what qualifications have the Under Secretary for Lands, the Assistant Under Secretary for Lands, the Surveyor-General, the Chief Draftsman, the staff clerk, the records clerk, or any of the draftsmen—or cartographers as they call themselves today? If I could turn back the hands of time, I would not have been an ex-draftsman, but an ex-cartographer. What in the course of their experience and training has prepared them to become part of this State instrumentality to attract and develop what is called in the Bill a tourist industry?

Mr. Bovell: They know the State inside out: the parks, gardens, caves, and reserves. They have been associated with these things all their lives.

Mr. GRAHAM: These things would be known to many people; but this is an attempt to attract people from other parts of the Commonwealth and from other

parts of the world. Lots of them have never heard of Western Australia. Many of them will have developed habits; and it is our purpose to change those habits so that they will venture to Western Australia. Then having arrived here, we will provide something for them. One to be nominated by the Minister for Works!

Mr. W. Hegney: The Minister for no works now!

Mr. GRAHAM: Again, the principal activity of the Public Works Department and its sister, the Water Supply Department, is surely to erect public buildings, schools, hospitals, additions to Parliament House, and so on; to undertake certain engineering works, provide water supplies, harbours, jetties, and that sort of thing. The person who comes here from Chicago, Manchester, Poona, or anywhere else has surely seen works of that nature on a much greater scale and of larger proportions.

After all, they would merely be buildings and works, and of no particular interest to the tourist. The specialist would attract these people, entertain them, escort them, and make certain they have first-class accommodation; all the facilities that you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I would seek if we went to another part of the Commonwealth or another part of the State.

One shall be nominated by the Minister administering the Main Roads Department! That department is responsible for the construction of roads, for the erection of bridges, the installation of traffic lights, and the placing of some white marks on our roads. Again, what relationship have they to people who are pleasure bent, and who come here for a new experience? They come here for the purpose of seeing things they have never seen before.

Mr. Court: Would they not be vital in giving access to some of those places?

Mr. GRAHAM: I think that is getting away from the question altogether.

Mr. Bovell: That is just it.

Mr. GRAHAM: The tourist development authority will go into all those matters; and then surely it will make recommendations to the Government that a tourist road should be constructed, skirting Busselton and going hither, thither, and yon. Then it is the responsibility of the Main Roads Department. It is expert in the construction of roads. But I suggest it is not expert in dealing with tourists and attracting them here and providing them with their wants. The roads are only a medium to get them from point A to point B and beyond. They do not provide the entertainment, spectacle, or interest that these people have come here to enjoy.

One shall be nominated by the Treasury! I suppose it is necessary to safeguard the funds. But surely if this authority is

under the jurisdiction of a Minister, that part could be catered for without a representative of the Treasury being on this authority! Similarly, I can envisage something approaching a dog-fight when we think of all the country local authorities, municipal councils, and road boards; because between them there is to be one representative on this authority. Shall it be the Geraldton Municipal Council, the Bunbury Municipal Council, the Albany Municipal Council, or the Capel Road Board?

Mr. Roberts: It would satisfy all local authorities if the individual concerned was imbued with the idea of promoting the tourist trade.

Mr. GRAHAM: Yes; but I think with a special bias and interest in those people in his particular locality. At any rate, owing to the very nature of things, his horizon would be exceedingly limited. His knowledge could conceivably extend no further than the boundaries of the local authority concerned. And by what process has he learned the formula by which people in the thousands are attracted to any area—in this case, the State of Western Australia?

These people are seeking vantage points, accommodation, and interest generally. I think it would have been far better to set up an authority comprising five, seven, or eight individuals, and to select those people because of their association with certain activities, or because of their special knowledge as individuals.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You could still have made the same critical speech even then.

Mr. Bovell: He certainly would have.

Mr. GRAHAM: I think that is being a little unfair. I have already paid a tribute to the Government for making an attempt to do something. Because I disagree with certain provisions in the Bill, I am not criticising those features destructively but am saying that I am endeavouring—

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I did not say you would have done so. I said you could still have made just as critical a speech.

Mr. GRAHAM: I am endeavouring to fill another role this evening by not being destructive merely for the sake of being destructive. I feel that perhaps I could proceed with greater clarity and greater brevity without these interruptions which are being made from time to time.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: We all have to put up with those at times.

Mr. GRAHAM: I am somewhat disappointed that there is no representative from metropolitan authorities, if local authorities are to receive representation as is proposed in the Bill. Surely it can be accepted by all of us that 99 per cent.

of the people who come to Western Australia will come to the capital of the State. Who amongst the members in this Chamber tonight have been to New South Wales without calling at Sydney? I venture to suggest, nobody at all. Therefore, it is of prime importance that everything in the garden should be lovely in the City of Perth. To a very great extent, Perth will be the base; and depending on the resources of the visitors and the time at their disposal, they will radiate north, south, or east, according to their wishes and according to the publicity and information given to them when they arrive here.

Mr. Roberts: Surely you must admit that the major portion of this State's population lives in the metropolitan area; and they, in turn, during their holidays are tourists and will move out of the metropolitan area.

Mr. GRAHAM: I concede that; but of 100 people coming to Western Australia, 100—or near enough to 100—will come to Perth; and of that number perhaps five, six, or ten will go to Bunbury. Perhaps a similar number will go to Albany, Geraldton, and the other places scattered round about. However, practically all of them will come to Perth; and it is essential that there should be available accommodation—not all luxury accommodation, because I think the number of persons able to afford and desiring that type of accommodation would be very limited in the overall—of a humble and homely type. It should be clean; the food should be good; the service should be A1; and so on. Because it is surely achieving nothing if, having come to Perth the capital, they are disappointed with what they see and experience and catch the next plane home instead of venturing further afield. To them, if Perth is second-rate, the natural expectation would be that the places further afield would be of a lower standard still. This is one of the weaknesses in the measure.

I think that the member for Mt. Lawley was right when he suggested that if tourists are to be attracted it requires something gigantic, sensational, spectacular, and something out of the ordinary. I know this is a comparatively new country. But if there were a Niagara Falls, Swiss Alps, Grand Canyon, or something of that nature, people would come thousands of miles to see them.

However—and let us be honest about it—whilst the countryside is very pleasant, that would be equally the position in very many parts. Whilst we have fine forests—and I take second place to no-one in my desire to preserve them—most States of the Commonwealth have tall timbers of very little difference from our own; and some of the States have even more interesting forest belts than ours.

Except for the person who has some detailed or technical knowledge of timber, the fact that we have some spectacularly tall trees does not mean very much; and whether he sees them in this State or elsewhere makes little difference to him. He can probably see all these things in other States, by travelling much shorter distances; and without some of the inconveniences that may have to be endured here.

We have wildflowers of which we are very proud; but no matter how unique or beautiful they may be, I cannot imagine anyone coming from some other part of the world to Western Australia just to see them. We must be realistic in regard to this question. Our climate is beautiful; but if someone wants to see Niagara Falls, the Grand Canyon of Colorado, or the Sphinx in Egypt, one is probably prepared to put up with some inconvenience through bad weather or something else of that nature. Many people desire to see such tremendous works of nature or of ancient man, and will go a long way to satisfy that desire.

If one is domiciled temporarily in Melbourne, one has only to go comparatively a stone's throw to see many unusual and attractive features which cover broadly—and I use the term "broadly" advisedly—anything we have in Western Australia. The Premier and his Ministers will no doubt agree that, ours being a young country, so vast in area, so limited in population, and with so much requiring to be done, whether it be the provision of septic sewerage in schools, or the building of hospitals, drainage, water supplies, roads, wharves, jetties and so on, we have hardly reached the stage where we can afford to devote not only funds—because that may be a secondary consideration—but also our energies to catering for a luxury type of business for visitors with cheques in their pockets.

Mr. Roberts: Can we afford not to?

Mr. GRAHAM: Are we to erect a £1,000,000 hotel and employ our manpower producing the materials for it and constructing it; and provide more motorcars, night clubs and other luxury features for tourists, while we have from 50 to 70 children in a classroom in many of our schools; and while people in certain areas are crying to the heavens for water, because they have not sufficient for drinking or domestic purposes?

I do not regard money as being of the utmost importance; and I only wish Commonwealth Governments—I refer to them all and do not put this on a Party basis—would place money in its proper perspective—shadows of the late Bill Marshall, the deceased member for Murchison! He always maintained that money was a ticket system to assist us to do those things which we were physically capable of doing. Some day, no doubt, that stage may be reached.

In a State such as this, is it desirable that some hundreds of our people—many hundreds—should be walking around

with serviettes over one arm and the other arm stretched out for a tip, opening and closing doors and saying, "Yes, Sir" or "Yes, Madam", and bowing and scraping—things somewhat foreign to Australians—rather than that they should be engaged in design and construction of water supplies, schools, hospitals, and so on?

Mr. Court: Haven't you thought of having both?

Mr. GRAHAM: But so much remains to be done—

Mr. Brand: And always will!

Mr. GRAHAM: I am wondering whether this is the time to proceed with a tourist industry on a grand scale. If the wildest expectations of the Premier in this regard were realised, I think Western Australia would be embarrassed.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: The pioneers found time and energy and money to build museums and art galleries. We must have a balance.

Mr. GRAHAM: I will go 99 per cent. of the way with the Minister for Health; because people do not mind doing things for themselves. However, to use the term loosely, the tourists will be foreigners coming here; and when we find a chap with a Yankee draw seeking a taxi or a special booking for a theatre, or something of that nature, human nature being what it is, he will get preference over the native Western Australian; and that will cause resentment. If the Government is subsidising hotels to enable them to install swimming pools, badminton courts, or whatever amenities might be necessary for tourists, while the people of Leonora or elsewhere are going without water supplies or additions to their schools, there will be an outcry; and so I return to the principle of putting first things first.

We should not be misled by the complimentary references made to Western Australia by visitors. It is only natural for persons of good breeding and good manners to pay compliments to their hosts; and particularly to pay tribute to any features that appeal to them particularly. Which of us has not committed the breach, in our own social circles, of laying it on a little bit thick and of being flattering and perhaps over-generous to those who have been our hosts?

I have heard references to the Swan River and to King's Park—both undeniably beautiful. But it has been my good fortune in more recent years to see some of the majestic grandeur in other parts of Australia, on a much greater scale than we have in the city of Perth or in the metropolitan area. Is anyone likely to come from Liverpool to look at the Swan River or King's Park? Let us be realistic in this regard.

I do not want my remarks to be misconstrued. This is a delightful city, with delightful people and a beautiful climate; but persons who travel many thousands of miles as tourists seek, I believe, a little more than that. I do not know to what extent we could cater for visitors with something distinctive and distinctly Western Australian, because most of the things we have can be seen in an approximate form in other parts of the Commonwealth which are not as isolated; or else in other parts of the world.

The other evening another member of this Chamber and I had a discussion along these lines: that perhaps a portion of King's Park, or some other territory where there is still some native bush—even if it be second class—could be used for the purpose of corroborees, as an example, where the original inhabitants of this country could use their native gear, paints, and so on, in bush surroundings, with camp fires and other lighting set up for the purpose.

It is of no use taking a person for a drive around the countryside, because there is nothing sufficiently spectacular about it to interest him. Therefore I think we would be well-advised to give some thought to developing something which has characteristics peculiar to Western Australia, taking advantage of natural features but improving other things as well. I have never been to New Zealand; but there they have hot springs, lakes, and high mountains; they have Maoris in their native costumes, and many native buildings. No doubt it is a great attraction for people to visit that country.

Mr. Roberts: Our caves are well renowned.

Mr. GRAHAM: That is so. But I wonder whether that is so to the extent necessary to attract people in any great numbers?

Mr. Roberts: They have not been sufficiently publicised.

Mr. GRAHAM: I do not seek to argue that point. It is true that there are many places of interest, and some of them are unique to Western Australia. But I am wondering whether they have the glamour, the grandeur and the enormity of dimension about them such as is necessary to attract the average person who travels any distance, and who has the resources to enable him so to do. Those briefly are my views on the matter. I say for the third time: While I do not think this authority will achieve much, nevertheless I compliment the Government on giving it a go and endeavouring to do something.

I firmly believe that the authority as envisaged by the Bill will not meet up with reality. Let us get someone from W.A. Newspapers, who knows something about advertising and publicity. Let us get an enterprising person from the hotel

trade, who knows something about catering. Let us get somebody who is familiar with the requirements, ranging from baby scooters to hire-cars and aeroplane travel, to the hiring of punts and canoes to utilise the river and so forth. They are the people who know what is required; they are the people who are able to develop all sorts of schemes which appeal to the visitors whom we hope to attract to this State. Let us have two specialists in sporting attractions, in entertainment, and in night life—concerts and movies, expeditions to beaches, and so on. These people could be obtained in Western Australia. Let us commence immediately a school of training so that we can get them to undertake the very many specialist tasks that are necessary if this plan is to succeed.

One of the criticisms that I have heard of the Government Tourist Bureau, for instance, is that very largely it has clerks who have grown up, matured, and received promotion in the Public Service. A clerk will, for instance, go from the Lands Department to the Tourist Bureau; but tourist work is specialist work in the matter of public relations and knowing the details of one's own State, and something of those who visit us from other States and other countries, and the problems that beset them when they arrive in strange surroundings. Many of our habits and customs are quite different, and that is one of the problems that face those engaged in the tourist trade.

I know that all this is somewhat long-term; nevertheless there are some in the community who at least have many of these qualifications; and therefore it would be far better to select individuals because of their personal qualifications, experience and enthusiasm rather than to nominate representatives from a whole series of Government departments and set up a body the members of which, by the very nature of things, could not have a great deal of imagination. I do not think they would have the enthusiasm and drive necessary to compete; and, after all, the visitors we hope to attract are at present going elsewhere to other States; and it is necessary for us, if we desire tourists in great numbers, to get them to change their outlook and come here out of curiosity.

We can only arouse their curiosity if we have people who know how to sell. We want visitors to come here and enjoy themselves so that when they leave they will become ambassadors and thus bring in greater numbers if we can give them the sort of treatment they expect. That does not necessarily mean luxury hotels. Perhaps a little modest living would suit them—pitching a tent in some of that delightful country in the South-West. That might be an experience for them. Being a little lighthearted in connection with it, the thought has occurred to me that

kangaroo steak with some eucalyptus flavouring, from the timber and fuel that is used to cook the meat, might be an experience.

People go for all sorts of exotic foods and for behaviour which is different from that to which they are usually accustomed. I am mentioning that more or less facetiously. But surely it has a Western Australian blend about it and perhaps, under proper bush surroundings, where it is possible to camp with amenities, they would come here for a little sample of native Western Australia; it would be entirely different but thoroughly enjoyable. I say that because to my knowledge there are shacks, even though the owners may be in the nature of squatters at the present time, which are erected along our beaches not far from the City of Perth.

In those places business and professional men try to escape from their everyday life; they are their own cooks and bottle-washers; and they can go for days without a shave and can attend to their own requirements. They can go fishing or walking and so forth in shorts and things. They have no need to worry about dress, and there are no telephones or other means by which they can be contacted, such as they have in their own business and social life.

Perhaps it might be a good idea to specialise in that type of thing. I know that camping or living in shacks, and enjoying this carefree life, away from business or other worries, has a great deal to commend it. Surely that is something that would dovetail with the climate we have! Look at the weather we have been having, perhaps unfortunately in some respects over the past month or two. We can expect that sort of weather until about April next year, and practically every night it would be possible to camp out of doors or in humble shacks of one sort or another.

But these people do expect running water; they do expect flush toilets, and they do expect a few other amenities. If we wish to cultivate an appetite for people from other parts to come to Western Australia and go bush—"Come to Western Australia and try living close to nature"—surely these are the places where they could enjoy the climate and see our trees and wildflowers.

If we hope to compete with the larger cities of the Commonwealth of Australia and the larger cities of the world on the basis of luxury hotels, elaborate swimming pools and on a theatre basis, we will be left hopelessly in the lurch. Let us capitalise on the natural assets of this State which we have inherited. It would be far better to do that and, accordingly, I would far sooner see a forester, a pastoralist, a farmer, or a person in a similar category

appointed to attract tourists to our native Western Australia rather than a person who has lived in the city or a large town.

My final word to the Government is that I hope that when the Bill goes into Committee the Minister will give some further thought to the composition of the tourist development authority; because, unless that authority can do the things as planned, the scheme will fail by the way-side and we might just as well let the existing Tourist Bureau continue on as it has done in the past. The Minister would not lose any face or dignity if he completely recast the personnel of the authority. I hope I have thrown some light on some aspects of the question.

It is the intention of the Government to spend money in order to enable this authority to operate and the expenditure of money will be necessary in order to provide some of the facilities needed for the people whom we hope will visit Western Australia. Therefore, as so much depends on the personnel of this authority, let us make sure it is one that is qualified to do the job that we expect could be done and is not comprised largely, as is set out in the Bill, of Government representatives who have not, necessarily, any training in the important job that lies ahead.

MR. FLETCHER (Fremantle) [11.3]: With some reservations, I support the Bill which, like the curate's egg, is good in parts. Reference has been made to the authority; and whilst I do not want to thrash the subject, like others I feel that the constitution of the authority is top-heavy and many representatives that will be appointed to it can only be regarded as being in the form of window dressing. Nevertheless, I expect that some good will accrue from such a move.

It could be said that the existing Tourist Bureau should grow in proportion to the volume of visitors that will arrive in this State rather than that we should set up this cumbersome authority immediately to cope with tourists whose numbers represent merely a trickle at this time and could continue to be a trickle for some time in the future. A tourist development plan is good from the point of view that no matter how many tourists we do attract to this State they still create a demand for goods and services. Therefore, any move to attract them to Western Australia is to be commended because it will create employment which is most necessary particularly at a time such as the present.

As a result of visitors arriving in this State from overseas, either as tourists or merely as crew members of ships, money is spent, in the Fremantle area particularly, and in Perth to some extent. Even if such people were here only for one night, they might buy some wearing apparel, a souvenir, or other goods. As the number of tourists increases, so will

the tourist trade increase proportionately; and, to that extent, I say that this scheme is to be commended.

Reference has also been made to Government expenditure on tourist development. However, since private capital and the interests of private enterprise stand to benefit to a great extent by the attraction of tourists to this State I would suggest that the application of the old adage would be most appropriate; namely, that one must speculate to accumulate. I would rather see public moneys spent on some incentive to encourage tourists to come here than see it spent on the constitution of an authority merely to cope with the small number of tourists that are visiting this State at present. At the moment, such an effort is tantamount to burning down a house to cook the week-end joint. That may not be a good simile, but I think it amply illustrates my point.

Whilst mentioning private capital, I would also suggest that our hotels and the accommodation that they provide could be improved considerably. The tourists that come to this State regard even the best of them as being obsolete and second-rate establishments. In fact, one visitor, in my presence, alluded to one of our prominent hotels in such a way. I will not mention the hotel he referred to, but such comments are indicative of the way tourists refer to our hotel accommodation. In view of the fact that private enterprise will enjoy some of the benefits from such a tourist development scheme, I suggest that private enterprise should spend money on the construction of new hotels and on the improvement of the accommodation in the existing ones.

Not only are our hotels and accommodation antiquated, but also our liquor laws need immediate review. Despite any conflict with the views of the W.A. Temperance League, there must be some move to bring our liquor laws up to the Continental standard; otherwise visitors from overseas will continue to think that we are well behind the times because they are unable to buy a drink with their meals or at whatever hour they wish to have a drink. Our liquor laws, therefore, should be reviewed immediately with a view to attracting tourists to our State.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: The unions will not support any move for increased hours in licensed premises.

Mr. FLETCHER: I do not know about that. In any case, I do not think there is any need for members on the other side of the House to sneer about that suggestion, irrespective of whether the unions agree with it or not. I have no doubt that the licensing hours could be extended on a basis which would be satisfactory to the unions, and I also have no doubt that the increased hours could create extra employment. In consequence, this improvement in the liquor licensing laws

would enable people to be engaged at all hours according to the requirements of the trade. I do not know of any opinion by the unions in regard to such a suggestion. Admittedly mine is an engineering union, and it is possible that the barmen and barmaids' union may not agree with me.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: If they did not agree with you, would you alter your mind?

Mr. FLETCHER: As long as industrial awards were not interfered with, I would not change my mind. If it is satisfactory to the unions, and conditions could be obtained satisfactory to them, I would say it is to be commended, particularly if it creates further employment. As I said earlier, I support this measure to the extent that tourism creates a demand; and I would remind the Minister that in creating a demand it creates employment.

The money that is likely to be expended on the authority would, I think, be better devoted to the Tourist Bureau as it exists at present. The authority should be built up in proportion to the inflow of tourists. Our leader mentioned Wittenoom Gorge, and I would say that that is a place well worth seeing. If suitable accommodation were provided there, tourists would visit that area with great advantage to the State. Its scenic beauties are well worth seeing. Places in the South-West and in the Murchison have been suggested; and if suitable accommodation could be spread throughout the State, there would be no doubt that we could attract tourists to our beauty spots, because they do exist.

I understood the member for Mt. Lawley to have suggested that the Government should build accommodation. I imagine he implied that the Government, or public money, should build the accommodation. I would not agree to that. If I understood the member for Mt. Lawley correctly he said, in effect, that public money should build it and then we should sell it. We have had an unfortunate experience of that sort of thing in the past, where public money has been used to build some enterprise, and later it has been sold to private enterprise at a fraction of the cost of the public money that was spent on it.

Since private capital stands to benefit, then private capital should invest in the manner I have suggested. I am not being critical of the Bill when I bring this point forward. I have raised various matters in relation to the benefit that would accrue to the public generally as a result of an increase in tourism. In this context I would make particular reference to the Butlin holiday camp in England.

While it may not be possible to establish the complete equivalent here, I would suggest that since it could be done on a national basis there we should be able to achieve some sort of equivalent here. It

is a real money spinner. The man is a millionaire, and I notice his daughter is in Western Australia at the moment; why, I do not know.

Mr. Watts: Because her husband is here.

Mr. FLETCHER: An immense fortune has been made out of these camps and they attract visitors from overseas to England. If it could be achieved there, the same thing could be done here if there were people who were prepared to speculate rather than use public money for the purpose. Public money could be used to better advantage in relation to our beaches; and here I must put in a plug for my own district. As I said before, public money could be spent to build groynes and create beaches where they previously existed. To that extent, and for the good that would accrue; for the amount of employment it would create and because of the demand for goods and services that would arise, I support the Bill.

MR. EVANS (Kalgoorlie) [11.16]: From the debates that have taken place up to the present, this Bill could aptly be described in the words of Lewis Carroll when he said—

"The time has come," the walrus said,
"To talk of many things;
Of shoes, and ships, and sealing wax
Of cabbages, and kings."

We have been around the State, and around many aspects of the Bill, many times tonight. I would like to add to the remarks and say that the purpose of this Bill is to establish an Act of Parliament for the setting up of a tourist development authority. I have taken the trouble to check, in the standard Oxford dictionary, the definition of the word "authority". The Oxford dictionary quotes it as "a person or group of persons whose opinion is accepted."

[The Speaker Resumed the Chair.]

Accordingly, in relation to this Bill, we find that the authority will be a group of persons whose decisions or views will be accepted. From that we will understand that this authority or group of persons, or body, should be one that will handle a very skilled undertaking and, therefore, the persons concerned should be skilled in their avocation. Yet when we look at the Bill we find that the composition of the authority hardly measures up to that requirement. In other words, I would say, Mr. Speaker—and I am glad to see you back in your position—that the particular clause dealing with the composition of this authority is out of keeping with the actual title of the Bill itself. I am not holding that against the measure, because I intend to support it.

The member for East Perth, I believe, mildly criticised the Government for entering tourism on a grand scale at this stage. I can hardly voice the same criticism, because I cannot see that when the Bill is carried and becomes a statute, and the authority is established and begins to operate, it will have any earth-shattering results at all. I cannot see that the Bill will make any drastic improvements to tourist development in the State.

I feel that three of the great attributes of persons on a tourist development authority should be those of public relations, salesmanship and service to the public. With those three attributes in mind, when we examine the composition of the board we find that the following is stated:—

two shall be appointed who shall be deemed to represent persons having a special interest in the development and publicising of the tourist attractions of the State.

I consider that provision refers to people who possess special knowledge, the art of salesmanship, and the enthusiasm to provide a service to the tourist, who after all becomes a temporary resident of this State.

Some members have taken the opportunity in this debate to mention the highlights of their electorate; I shall not be left out on the limb in that respect, because everyone knows Kalgoorlie is at the head of the Trans.-Australian railway line and has rightly been called by the Kalgoorlie Municipal Council as "The Gateway to the Golden West." A few years ago that council issued for sale a special plate to motorists, which advertised the fact that Kalgoorlie was the gateway to the Golden West. I compliment the council on that move.

In 1956 a Mr. Bunning—I believe he is connected with the timber firm of Bunning Brothers—returned from America. Over the 7 p.m. State news he said that in America he had seen the way in which ghost towns, once famous for their gold production, had been turned into money-spinner tourist attractions. I was very interested to hear his remarks, because I have in mind something on similar lines in respect of a town, still showing on the map as Kanowna. This town now has one or two residents and is situated 12 miles from Kalgoorlie.

If anyone makes the journey of 12 miles from Kalgoorlie to Kanowna one will find the shell of an old hotel still in existence. The Historical Society, in conjunction with the Kalgoorlie Road Board, has taken the trouble to erect various signs in the town-site to indicate where the post office, the hotels, and the Crown Law offices were situated. I cannot recall it, but I do believe there was more than one brewery in Kanowna at one stage.

I went along the road to Kanowna on Sunday last and I drove along the railway line embankments. The line disappeared many years ago. In the early days of Kanowna there were six trains running every day between Kalgoorlie and Kanowna. This town is alive with interest for the tourist.

When the race-round or carnivals are held in Kalgoorlie, many visitors make the trip to Kanowna. Particularly was this so after what the Historical Society did to bring to this town what could become tourist attractions. In so doing the society has gone a long way in putting Kalgoorlie on the map as being an attraction to people we hope to bring to Western Australia.

I pay tribute to the Kalgoorlie Municipal Council for the issue and publication of a booklet in this regard. It has been publishing this for years and the booklet is now to be re-edited and published in a more modern edition.

Coolgardie, on the junction of the Esperance-Norseman Road which connects with the Eyre Highway, and the Great Eastern Highway, will soon boast of two modern service stations, which will cater specially for the travelling public. One is to be built by Caltex and the other by Ampol. I understand they will supply refreshments to the travelling public. Anyone knowing Coolgardie will readily understand that the population there hardly justifies two modern service stations.

The companies concerned must have studied the economics of the proposition and must have realised that there is now, or there will soon be sufficient overland traffic from the Eastern States to justify those two establishments at Coolgardie. The establishment of these things gives the people who hold the Goldfields dear at heart a great deal of pleasure.

I now refer to another aspect which may interest the Premier. Whilst I was travelling on one of the overnight trains in Queensland a few years ago, the conductor brought in a cup of tea and a biscuit in the morning. The biscuit was enclosed in a paper bag, similar to the ones issued to the passengers on the Kalgoorlie-Westland Express. Printed on the envelope was an advertisement by the Queensland State Insurance Office. On it was a slogan which was intended for the tourist and which stated, "If you so desire you can have your baggage insured whilst travelling in Queensland by the State Government Insurance Office."

I think that was a very good move. I am aware the Government Insurance Office in this State is not empowered to cater for the tourist in that respect. Perhaps the Premier in his enthusiasm over this measure can do something along the same lines.

Mr. Brand: I would think all the private insurance companies would like the same opportunity.

Mr. EVANS: They have had the opportunity, but they have not done that. It is not my intention to delay the House. I support the Bill. I believe there is a marvellous potential for tourism in this State. If we can do anything to attract tourists, we will be carrying out our functions for the people here. Let us with an apology borrow the words of Julius Caesar who said *veni vidi vici*. That means I came, I saw, I conquered. Let us have that as our slogan for attracting tourists. They came and they saw, and we conquered. They liked our State.

MR. JAMIESON (Beeloo) [11.28]: I support the Bill. As a native-born Western Australian, I say first of all that I appreciate the nice climate, the pleasant surroundings—particularly around the City of Perth—and the likeable people. It is a place with which I am happy to be associated for the rest of my days. However, we should not overstate the case in our attempts to attract tourists to this State.

Various members have spoken in this debate, and they caused comments to be passed between one member and another to the effect that we have not the number of attractions in this State that some people seem to think we have.

Even our friend from Warren, who is not a native of this country, after extolling the virtues of the State, finally made the suggestion to a certain Royal visitor that Western Australia was not nearly as good as Scotland anyway. Be that as it may, our natural attractions are to some degree unique in various areas and can be exploited with some advantage to the State. I suggest to the Government that the constitution of this authority will not have any overall benefit in increasing the tourist trade to this State or helping holiday-makers, or whatever one might call them.

I would place them in two classes. The tourist trade is made up of those who can be attracted by an organisation like the Lennons Hotel people. They have a chain of hotels, and channel tourists throughout the world to wherever they desire to go. These tourists are the luxury-loving type who are specifically catered for by an organisation running a chain of hotels, such as Lennons.

In Australia, the local tourists and local holiday-makers are of another class altogether. They are people who have a limited amount of finance at their disposal and who are prepared to use the family car on the occasions when they go on tour to see places they have not seen on a previous holiday. To make sure of a percentage of this type of person, the only need would be the provision of an efficient road from South Australia to this State. I had the experience several years ago of travelling 6,200 miles in a

period of less than 21 days; and it was while the holiday traffic was on the roads in the Eastern States.

It was simply remarkable to see the number of people at the various resorts in the Eastern States in an area from Port Augusta, up to the Blue Mountains. These people were on the move with every sort of conveyance; and very often I wondered just how they were able to get from one place to another. However, they always seemed to succeed. They tackled their holidays in a pioneering spirit. They were similar to the people mentioned by the member for East Perth when he said that some were prepared to live in the open and enjoy the countryside while having a break from a normal vacation.

When people in the East knew one was from Western Australia, they immediately asked about the condition of the Eyre Highway. It must be a great barrier to them, though it is not really that bad. If it were put in good order so that it could be relied upon under all weather conditions this State would receive its fair quota of holiday-makers from the Eastern States. The people at the Madura motel told me that over the two or three years they had been there not less than four cars a day passed through; but on the busiest day as many as 400 had called there, to say nothing of those who bypassed Madura, because it is not necessary to go that 1½ miles to the motel unless one wants supplies, meals, or something else. I suggest that if the Government could find the finance to put the road in order, many of the people who are moving over the continent would come to this State and then carry on over the more elaborate road system from Norseman.

Mr. Nulsen: It should be a black road really.

MR. JAMIESON: That is essential. It should be a bituminised road. If it were, there would be some definite gain from it. However, it is not easy to provide that sort of black road. Even if we looked after our section as far as the border of South Australia there would be some natural objection on the part of the South Australian Government to providing an exodus road from South Australia to this State for tourists. I say that advisedly, because it becomes abundantly clear that each State is jealous of retaining as much holiday money as it can.

One only has to go along Prince's Highway through Victoria to within some 20 miles of the New South Wales border where the road is really bad; and it continues to be bad until one gets to the first town on the southern coast of New South Wales. That is a clear indication that the States are not prepared to enhance the prospects of people roaming from one State

to another. I would say that that particular section of road at that time was equally as bad as some of the worst sections on the Eyre Highway. Yet many people were prepared to put up with those conditions on their jaunts over Christmas and the New Year holidays.

The most essential part of encouraging tourists to Western Australia would be—as the member for Eyre says—the provision of an adequate bituminised road from South Australia. If that were done, the problem of getting people here would be overcome. If one puts a car on the train at Port Pirie—so long as one has the number in the car to warrant the special concession rate—it still costs some £10 to transport that car to Kalgoorlie. In addition to that, there is the trouble of loading and off-loading as well as waiting about. That is associated with that particular type of transportation and would not encourage people to make use of it. Also, the £10 spent in putting the car on the train would cover the cost of fuel for getting one to Western Australia.

Motels have been talked about tonight. There is one at Norseman, and others have been provided. These would be improved if the traffic were forthcoming over the Eyre Highway. As it is now, one need not worry about the petrol position as there is not more than about 60 miles between petrol depots. From that point of view the tourists would be well catered for. They must be provided with a road that will get them here with the springs of their cars intact, and their cars in generally safe and sound condition. Breakages to vehicles seem to be the main trouble; and people are loth to take the risk of being stranded many miles away from any assistance, particularly when they are on a valuable holiday timetable.

Therefore, I would suggest to the Government that if it could find some ways and means of solving the problem of providing this road, then half the worry of attracting tourists to this State would be overcome and any other problem associated with it would be quite insignificant. A very great equity would not be obtained if we expected people to come here by air or train. The position could be improved by about 25 per cent. if an extensive publicity campaign were undertaken. But the overall position would be improved if the transport was made such that people could come here with little trouble in a few days.

Once they are here, there are not the grandeur and the attractions to be found in the Eastern States. It is a pleasant holiday for them. They would like the local scenery and would like many of the local conditions. No doubt they would have a desire to see the timber in the South-West. Anything which is different, and which is viewed for the first time, is of interest to visitors.

What impressed me when I was in New South Wales in the middle of January was the green grass. We are not used to seeing green grass at that time of year. For that reason it was of interest to me. Similarly, people coming here would see different conditions from those to which they are accustomed. Whether they would come back again would depend entirely upon whether they considered the long journey justified. However, that people will come here at least once, is abundantly clear from the number of inquiries received from Eastern States people in this regard.

In connection with our natural attractions, Rottnest Island is a quiet place for the people from Perth. However, it is not a place which one could call an attraction from the tourist point of view. I like to go there—and I daresay every member in this House does, too—to spend a few quiet days. Unfortunately, sometimes, after so spending a few days, some of us have to come back to the mainland for a rest. That generally happens, I know. But, by the same token, we like to go there because it is relaxing; and while it remains such, a great number of people from the mainland will go there.

However, it is not a place that would attract tourists. They want to see something different; and because of the limited time at their disposal, we have to disregard Rottnest as a specific tourist attraction. It is true that we have an attraction in the caves of the southern districts. One of our greatest failings, however, is the lack of clearly defined tourist routes throughout the State. If they were clearly marked as route No. 1, 2, or 3, people could follow them without constant reference to maps. In that way, visitors would be drawn to places we consider worth visiting.

In regard to spectacular beauty, it would be hard for those people who have toured extensively in the Eastern States to compare the sites there with those in Western Australia. There are possibly some of a similar nature but I would not imagine that from the Leopold Ranges to the Stirling Ranges, there would be anything except some other different kind of scenery or set-up. For instance, the member for Guildford-Midland earlier this evening indicated that he thought the dead centre of this State was possibly a tourist attraction. The Minister for Lands was not inclined to agree with this suggestion. Once again I might point out, however, that if a person sees anything different from that which he sees at home, he finds it of interest, and, therefore, it would be an attraction to him. However, I doubt whether he would want to go to a place like the Warburton Ranges a second time.

Consequently, I believe that if the Government could find ways and means of providing an entrance into this State it would be of benefit, because at the moment I should imagine that the greatest number

of tourists would be those who motor. These people will be ambassadors in their own centres; and, if they are satisfied with their trip, they will suggest to their neighbours and friends that they make a similar journey. In this way, the Government would achieve its purpose of promoting tourism—as it likes to call it.

Apart from these suggestions, I feel that the Bill has some merit, inasmuch as it attempts to set up an authority to organise far more tourist traffic to this State. However, it does appear to be a little bit departmentally loaded; and possibly at a later stage the Premier may be inclined to accept the suggestion that such bodies as the R.A.C., and others that are interested in the motoring public, should be included in this proposed organisation.

MR. BICKERTON (Pilbara) [11.49]: I do not wish to speak at any length on this Bill. I do not intend to oppose it, although I cannot find anything that causes me to throb with excitement at its introduction. In the type of electorate I represent, I find it difficult to advocate tourism, when the population more urgently requires so many other things. The township of Cossack, out from Point Samson, would make an ideal tourist resort, particularly for those interested in fishing; but it would be hypocritical for me to advocate the establishment there of a tourist resort, at considerable cost, when only three or four miles away, we have Point Samson, which is the port for one of the main industries in that area, but which is without water, the people there having to cart water in 44-gallon drums or 4-gallon kerosene tins.

It is equally difficult for me to advocate the construction of bitumen roads for the use of tourists, in the hope of attracting them, when we badly need bitumen roads from Port Hedland to Marble Bar, to enable established industries to continue; and from Roebourne to Wittenoom Gorge, to enable the large industry there to carry on. I therefore find it difficult to become wrapped up in the tourist angle so far as my electorate is concerned, despite its potential in that direction.

From the State point of view I am inclined to agree with the member for East Perth; and I have my doubts as to whether we are ready to embark elaborately on a grandiose scheme with the object of encouraging large numbers of people to visit this State. I do not know to what extent the Treasury would benefit from those people coming here, or what the impression of those visitors would be, if they were to come here at this stage.

During this debate many members have used the example of overseas tourist countries, and have quoted the success that has been achieved in catering for tourists. All that is true; but it is doubtful whether those countries would put so much time

and money into catering for tourists, if they had the primary production potential which we have in this State.

I doubt whether Switzerland, or some of the other countries that have been mentioned, would have spent so much time, energy, and Government funds in catering for tourists, if they had had the industrial potential which this State possesses.

I wonder, if the interstate tourist offices are to be opened up, whether we would not benefit even more if they were to deal with the industrial side of the State, and act as business-advising centres, in an endeavour to encourage industries to become established here, thus enabling us to obtain a greater population and provide more employment. As our population increases, I believe tourism will increase also. While not wishing to throw any damper on the purpose behind this Bill, I think that, with our present population, the energies of those proposed to be appointed to this authority would be much better spent in looking into more important matters.

I do not wish to detract from the importance of tourism; but the authority suggested—with the Premier on it, and a member nominated by the Minister for Lands, one by the Minister for Works, one by the Minister administering the Main Roads Act, one by the Treasury, and one by the Road Boards—seems to be an ideal body to make recommendations for ways and means to improve the North-West. If I had to appoint an authority for that purpose, I am inclined to think it would be along the lines of the body now suggested.

I therefore find it difficult to become enthusiastic about the expenditure of funds on encouraging tourism, when I know that the money could be much better and more profitably used in helping industries and people already established. I have quoted one instance where we have 70 people carrying on an asbestos industry, and carting their water miles in kerosene tins; so it seems hypocritical to talk about £1,000,000 hotels for tourists—

Mr. Brand: Who is going to put up the £1,000,000 hotel?

Mr. BICKERTON: Previous speakers have mentioned the building of such hotels—

Mr. Brand: Be assured the Government will not be doing it.

Mr. BICKERTON: I should hope not. But even if it were a private company that was involved in the spending of so much money, I think the funds could be better spent on developing our primary production.

MR. NULSEN (Eyre) [11.57]: I intend to support the Bill, because there must be a beginning, and we must sell this State. We have a lot to sell; and, if we are to sell it, we must have good roads. The first essential is a good road from here to the

Eastern States, so the tourists may come here in their own vehicles. When established, that road should be continued to Esperance; and around the coast to Ravensthorpe and Albany.

We have 4,350 miles of coastline in Western Australia, and on it there are some wonderful potential pleasure resorts which will have to be developed. The only way to advertise and sell our tourist attractions is to encourage people to come here and see what we have; and in this regard I wish to mention Esperance and the Archipelago of the Recherche. Of course, we would require more up-to-date accommodation to cater for tourists; but it is necessary to have a starting point, and I think this measure provides such a starting point.

Although we may speak in very large terms in regard to finance, I do not think more will be spent than the State can afford to spend in this regard. I have travelled a great deal in Western Australia; and I am satisfied that we have at least as much to offer in our resorts as can be found in the Eastern States. We have only a small population, but we must make a start in regard to attracting tourists. I am hoping that when the Premier does make a beginning in his drive to attract tourists, he will not forget any part of the State, but will look around our coastline, from Eucla right up past his own electorate. We have a greater coastline than any other State in the Commonwealth, and on it there are many wonderful beaches; and beaches are always a great attraction.

It is not so long ago that a number of us hired a boat and had a good look at the islands around Esperance. I would like every member here to see them for himself so that he could see what we have to offer down there. I am sure that members would be astounded. I can remember speaking 30 years ago about the possibilities of Esperance; and my predictions have come true at last. I am now telling members about the possibilities of Esperance as a pleasure resort. I think it is equal to anything in this State.

We must have a beginning. This Bill will be a beginning and the authority should be of great advantage to this State ultimately. It will advertise the State and thus do something to bring people here to see what we have. I hope those who do come here will travel from Eucla, if they so desire, right around the coast to see what we have to offer in this State. I am hopeful that we will be able to sell our State to the people of Australia and other countries.

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Minister for Tourists—in reply) [12.1 a.m.]: At this late hour it would not do for me to reply to everything that has been said during the debate, because we would be here for at least another two hours. But firstly

I should like to say thank you to those members who have supported the Bill. There have been a number who have supported it, some readily and some reluctantly; and some who have opposed it; and there is evidence that the Bill has created a good deal of interest because so many have spoken about the tourist potential of this State.

During his speech the member for East Perth explained exactly how I feel about this matter. This is only a beginning; a start has to be made and it cannot be denied that we have made no real progress in this State under the existing conditions. This Bill is an effort to bring before the people of Western Australia, for a start, the possibilities of the tourist industry; and we believe it is evidence of our desire, as a Government, to create what is necessary to promote the tourist industry in this State—that is, a co-ordinating body or authority.

We have not thought this matter up since we became the Government. We mentioned it in election speeches prior to the 31st March, and we went so far as to say that we would follow along the lines of certain legislation in existence in Victoria. The member for East Perth mentioned that the authority proposed by the Bill has on it no representative from the metropolitan local authorities; and then went on to claim that those authorities should have representation because people always go to the capital city. But in Victoria, where they have the second greatest city in Australia, there is no representative of the metropolitan area on the tourist authority. The metropolitan area is particularly excluded.

Nothing spectacular will result from the passing of this Bill. We are merely setting up an authority, with me or my nominee as chairman, four people representing different departments, and three from outside. I cannot see that there is any unbalance such as some speakers have claimed. The Minister for Tourists, or his representative will be chairman, and the Minister for Lands will appoint a nominee. That Minister has under his control such beauty spots as Rottnest, King's Park, the national parks, and many similar attractions in this State.

No doubt the Minister for Lands has some control over and interest in some of the attractive areas represented by the member for Warren. I was glad to hear that honourable member say that he supported the Bill because he saw in it ways and means of bringing before the people of Western Australia and Australia some idea of the beauty spots in the area he represents, such as those around Pemberton and in the heavily timbered areas.

There is to be a representative of the Treasury on the authority. In a matter such as this, pounds, shillings, and pence will count. We want the guidance of the

Treasury official, and I think it is a good thing to have him as a member of the authority so that he can assist us to the utmost. The Minister for Works is asked to appoint a representative. I imagine that the Public Works Department will have quite a lot to do as regards the promotion and development of tourist resorts outside the metropolitan area; because it is intended that the main work done in this regard will be done outside the metropolitan area in districts where the local authorities are neither financially nor numerically strong enough to be able to develop the resorts which are in their areas. In this regard I have in mind the resorts mentioned by the member for Eyre.

I was just discussing with my colleague, the Deputy Premier, the possibilities of some development in the Stirling Ranges. That is the only place where year by year we see snow in Western Australia. There are many areas which call for a great expenditure of money. I do not say that that will be forthcoming, but a start will be made on the recommendation of this authority which will thoroughly investigate all the proposals put forward and, in some form of priority, will advise the Minister concerned. Everything possible will be done to help the local authorities and local organisations to bring their holiday resorts and attractions up to a higher standard.

There is to be a representative from the Main Roads Department who will be appointed by the Minister controlling that department. As all members would know, the Main Roads Department has more money to spend than any other department. It has a ready income, and at least it is able to finance a programme of expenditure of over £7,000,000.

Mr. Molr: I hope they are not going to use that money to the detriment of other roads elsewhere in the State.

Mr. BRAND: Do not worry about that! If the Commissioner of Main Roads was a member of the authority he could at least give moral support to an argument for the construction of a tourist road to certain tourist resorts. It is of no use talking about tourist resorts unless we build roads to enable the travelling public, who travel largely by cars and caravans or buses to get there. They have to be sealed roads. So let us keep our feet on the ground in considering this matter. I can think of no-one more able and no-one in a better position to assist us in this matter—even if it is only in a small way, year by year—than the Commissioner of Main Roads or his representative.

I now come to the three representatives of outside bodies. There is one representing the local authorities in the country—the road boards and the municipalities. There are two others. I do not want to

commit myself, but I have suggested that one could represent the Royal Automobile Club. That suggestion has been thrown into the ring several times. I have also suggested that the other representative could be the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Tourist Promotion Committee. That committee has done a tremendous amount of work. It has had a good deal of publicity with the co-operation of the newspapers. The hotel proprietors and similar people, who are members of the Chamber of Commerce, are represented on that committee. What more comprehensive coverage could we have of the interests of this State than a representative from the Chamber of Commerce?

So on this authority we have three men representing outside bodies and four representing Government departments, with the Minister as chairman. In Victoria, seeing that we took our lead from that State, there are six representatives from the Government and two from outside. When he was visiting this State, the Acting Minister for Tourists said that there had been teething troubles with their tourist plan, but they were making real progress, and its body was now considered to be a worth-while authority and organisation in the promotion of the tourist trade in Victoria.

Mr. Bickerton: Do you consider it would be worth while to have a representative of the northern half of Western Australia?

Mr. BRAND: No; I do not. We would then have requests for a representative for the east, the south, and the west. This authority will then have under its control a director and the Tourist Bureau. It is through the Tourist Bureau that we hope to carry out the main work of publicising our State.

Any tourist authority, travel agency, or anyone associated with the tourist trade, will state that its lifeblood is publicity and propaganda. I had in my office today a Miss Stirling who, for the last two years, in the island of Cyprus, has been one of the representatives of a travel agency. She said, "Mr. Premier, I am tired of selling all the other countries of the world. I want to sell my own country." She works for an international travel agency, but she was asking me to arm her with some of our propaganda; some of our pamphlets; some pictures of our wildflowers. For instance, she suggested that boomerangs should be made up as souvenirs and other types of curios which would sell Western Australia.

Mr. Bickerton: We could start a factory for making them.

Mr. BRAND: I do not care where you start the factory so long as the Government does not have to do it. We could sell these souvenirs throughout the world. I realise that there is a section of the community which is opposed to the sale of

native souvenirs, such as boomerangs. However, I believe that such a practice would lead to a gradual development of the tourist trade in this State.

The member for Merredin-Yilgarn opposed the Bill, but I would not know why. Then the member for Guildford-Midland got up and bravely supported him. Can we wonder why we have not made any progress in tourist development in this State when a man such as the member for Merredin-Yilgarn was in charge of it? Did members hear his speech?

Mr. Lawrence: You are being facetious!

Mr. BRAND: I am not being facetious. He was negative and unimaginative in his remarks. Not only that, but he went on to condemn those who are trying to do something about improving the tourist trade. I was pleased to see his colleagues did not support him in that point of view. They were prepared to give credit where credit was due. The responsibility is on myself and on the Government to justify the support we have received from members on both sides of the House.

It has been suggested that we should nominate the sum of money which shall be paid into the fund which is to be set up under this legislation. I do not propose to name any particular sum. We have said that as a result of the sale of State hotels—and surely we should sell some of them, because if I listened to the members on the other side of the House we should sell all of them—we should get some money in the fund, and at this stage we do not intend to stipulate any amount to be taken from the loan funds or from general revenue in order to get this scheme under way. We must not forget that we hope, as a result of bringing people to Western Australia, that they will bring money in their pockets; and will spend it and leave it here, as the member for Fremantle has said.

Mr. J. Hegney: They cannot do otherwise.

Mr. BRAND: Of course they cannot. I know that the member for Middle Swan did not leave as much money overseas as he would have us believe; but he did spend some whilst he was abroad, and he left it behind him. Everyone, whether he is liberal or otherwise in his spending, will leave behind some of the currency of the country whence he came. It is hoped, as a result of bringing more people to Western Australia, that our national income will be increased. I have a note here that the Australian National Travel Association is planning to lift the number of overseas visitors to Australia to 100,000. The number of tourists that visited Australia in 1948 was 26,171. In 1956—that was the year the Olympic Games were held in Melbourne—the number of tourists that visited Australia was 66,018.

This organisation, which is representative of all States and the Commonwealth, believes it will raise expenditure by tourists within Australia to £20,000,000 per annum. Should we not go out after some of that money? If we listen to the member for Merredin-Yilgarn and some others we will sit here and say, "We have nothing to sell in Western Australia, industrially or otherwise." But he said, "Go to the Warburton Ranges." There was a flash of genius!

Unless we take some risks, and unless we come out with something new and give this authority a chance to work, we will not get anywhere. Incidentally, I realise it is not essential that this body should be clothed with statutory authority. It is only to give it some status and to bring it before the public that we are doing just that, and I am asking the House to support the second reading of this important Bill. I believe that if we had a bitumen road from here to the Eastern States, not only would many Western Australians be travelling over it to the other side of Australia, but also more and more people from the Eastern States would come here, because they are now beginning to tire of holidaying in Queensland and travelling to other parts of the eastern side of Australia.

They will come over here to see something new. I do not agree with people who say, "You must have something spectacular; you must have the Alps; or you must have the Sphinx," and that sort of thing. The tourists of the world today are travelling from country to country every year, and they are in search of sunshine and the advantages that are offering in each country. Australia is a new country, and it is attracting more and more tourists every year. As the young lady from Cyprus said, "It is no use selling Australia; you have to sell Western Australia. It is no use saying to the people of Europe, 'Go to the United States'; or 'Go to Florida,' or some other place. We should say to them, 'Come to Western Australia'; and that will be the job of the tourist development authority. Its task will be to promote the tourist industry here; and I frankly deny that this is not an industry. Once again, the good old Labour Party seems to be at cross purposes with its counterparts in the Eastern States; because Mr. Kelly, the Labour Minister in the Eastern States, has set himself up as the Minister for Tourist Industry.

Mr. Bovell: Of course it is an industry!

Mr. BRAND: It could be a vastly improved industry if we could only recognise its value and set about attracting people to come here. Having said all that, I would now ask the House to give the Bill its support. I do not know what other points were raised that may be worthy of comment.

Criticism was directed at the representation on the authority. Before I sit down I would like to read what the former Minister said, so that it can go on the record. This is what he had to say—

To expend a large amount of money—which undoubtedly will have to be placed behind the prescribed authority if it is to function—is not warranted.

This idea was put up to him. Yet the file shows he did not always hold this view. When the Director of the Tourist Bureau last year submitted a recommendation for increased tourist activity, the Minister minuted the file as follows:—

I have long been of the opinion that there is a great and expanding future for tourism in this State, but advantage of this opportunity can only be taken if sufficient finance is available to advance the many avenues of attraction offering.

To listen to his speech one would have thought there is not one attraction in the whole State. He further said—

If implemented, as suggested in this minute, a progressive scheme could be put into motion.

Mr. Evans: What's wrong with that?

Mr. BRAND: Nothing at all; it is good. But the speech he made in opposition to the setting up of this authority is in direct contradiction to what he has written. I have much pleasure, as Minister in charge of this department, in moving the second reading of the Bill; and I hope that we can make further progress before we adjourn.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) in the Chair; Mr. Brand (Minister for Tourists) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 3 put and passed.

Clause 4—Western Australian Tourist Development Authority:

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I did not know the Committee stage would be reached tonight and I have not had time to place my amendment on the notice paper. I feel a representative of the R.A.C. should be included. I mentioned the automobile association in London and its efficiency in assisting tourists. It handles nothing but tourist activities. In our own State the automobile association is used primarily to provide tourists with information about the State. I cannot see why the Public Works Department and the Main Roads Department should be represented. They would not be specialists from the tourists' angle. I move an amendment—

Page 2, lines 20 and 21—Delete the words "nominated by the Minister for Works."

If I am successful in having this amendment passed, I will move to insert in lieu the words "One shall be a representative of the Royal Automobile Association of Australia Incorporated."

The officers of the Public Works Department should, in my opinion, confine their activities to the administrative side of that department; they should not be concerned with tourism. I cannot see why the Government department should have this representation, though it might be said that the Government is providing the finance and it should therefore have the majority representation. There is no substance in that argument, because in all cases the question of the finance to be approved comes back to the Minister. It would be more effective to have a representative of the automobile club on this authority.

Mr. Brand: Did I not say that the R.A.C. would be included among the other bodies?

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I also propose to move an amendment in line 22 so as to have a nominee from the Tourist Bureau on the authority.

Mr. Brand: The Tourist Bureau will be the authority.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: But the Tourist Bureau will be subject to the authority. I contend that the nominee of the Tourist Bureau should be on that authority. At present one can obtain all information about the tours in this State, and about the train and air transport facilities, from that bureau. Since this Government has been in office it has condemned the activities of Government departments.

Mr. Brand: There has been no condemnation of Government departments.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I have heard of it. It has been said by members opposite that our Government was socialist-inclined, yet here is a policy of the present Government to have a majority of Government representatives on a socialist organisation. When this Government has the opportunity of nominating those in private enterprise to be on the authority, it does not take advantage of the occasion.

Mr. MAY: I support the amendment. Neither the Main Roads Department nor the Minister for Works will be able to add anything useful to the authority. Apparently the Railway Department has been left out. That is the very department which is most interested in tourism in this State. There is a tourist section in the Railway Department, and it has all the literature and information about train tours in this State.

Mr. Court: That department does not have to be on the authority in order to co-operate. It does not need any representation. It has to give a service.

Mr. MAY: Does not the honourable member agree that a nominee of the Railway Department would be more useful than the nominee of the Minister for Works?

Mr. Court: Not to be on the authority, but to render a travel or transport service.

Mr. MAY: Is there any need for the Minister for Works to be on the authority?

Mr. Court: A very great need.

Mr. MAY: The Railway Department has a greater right to representation than the Minister for Works.

Mr. Court: You are purposely misinterpreting the authority.

Mr. MAY: The Minister is misunderstanding my suggestion. Because it does not suit him he ridicules the idea that a nominee of the Railway Department should be on that authority. I support the proposal for a nominee of the R.A.C. to be on the authority. I certainly consider the Railway Department should have representation.

Mr. BRAND: I oppose the amendment. The four representatives from the Government departments were chosen for a special purpose. The function of the authority is to make recommendations to the Minister or the Government. The local authorities in Geraldton, Bunbury, or Busselton have done a very good job in promoting local attractions. It was our Government which originated the pound for pound basis of assistance to the local authorities, and the previous Government increased the financial assistance to the limit.

The authority is to have a specific responsibility. In the planning and development of resorts outside the metropolitan area, surely the Department of Works will be most helpful. I emphasise the importance of having the advice, goodwill, and support of the Main Roads Department, because roads will play an ever-increasingly important part in this industry which we are endeavouring to promote.

Mr. J. Hegney: It plays an important part, whether or not the authority exists.

Mr. BRAND: As the Minister for Railways said, the Railway Department is a transport medium. I do not see any need for that department to be represented any more than for the Metropolitan Transport Trust. We propose to have a nominee from the R.A.C., because the club will be very helpful in bringing forward worth-while suggestions before the authority. It is not proposed to have that nomination stated in the legislation, because from time to time the degree of support which is given by various bodies will alter. It may be necessary for the Minister in charge to have another organisation represented on the authority. However, it is the intention of the Government to have a nominee from the R.A.C.

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

Ayes—20.

Mr. Andrew	Mr. Jamieson
Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Kelly
Mr. Brady	Mr. Lawrence
Mr. Evans	Mr. Moir
Mr. Fletcher	Mr. Norton
Mr. Graham	Mr. Nuisen
Mr. Hall	Mr. Rhatigan
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Rowberry
Mr. Heal	Mr. Toms
Mr. J. Hegney	Mr. May

(Teller.)

Noes—22.

Mr. Bovell	Mr. W. A. Manning
Mr. Brand	Mr. Nalder
Mr. Burt	Mr. Nimmo
Mr. Court	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Craig	Mr. Oldfield
Mr. Crommelin	Mr. O'Neill
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Owen
Mr. Guthrie	Mr. Perkins
Dr. Henn	Mr. Watts
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Wild
Mr. Lewis	Mr. I. W. Manning

(Teller.)

Pairs.

Noes.

Ayes.	Mr. Mann
Mr. Tonkin	Mr. Cornell
Mr. W. Hegney	Sir Ross McLarty
Mr. Sewell	

Majority against—2.

Amendment thus negatived.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I move an amendment—

Page 2, lines 22 to 24—Delete the words "nominated by the Minister administering the Main Roads Act, 1930."

I consider that the Tourist Bureau should have representation on this authority.

Mr. BRAND: I oppose the amendment. The W.A. Government Tourist Bureau, as we know it, will become part and parcel of the whole organisation. Therefore, there is no point in its having representation on this authority. The director, who will represent the Tourist Bureau, will be part of the authority itself.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I move this amendment because I consider that the Tourist Bureau should be represented on this authority and there is no specific provision made for this representation.

Mr. Brand: The bureau will be part of the authority and no longer a separate organisation.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: The Tourist Bureau is dealing with tourism all the time and is one of the first bodies that should have representation on this authority. It certainly should be represented before the Main Roads Department and the Public Works Department.

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

Ayes—20.

Mr. Andrew	Mr. Jamieson
Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Kelly
Mr. Brady	Mr. Lawrence
Mr. Evans	Mr. Moir
Mr. Fletcher	Mr. Norton
Mr. Graham	Mr. Nuisen
Mr. Hall	Mr. Rhatigan
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Rowberry
Mr. Heal	Mr. Toms
Mr. J. Hegney	Mr. May

(Teller.)

Noes—22.

Mr. Bovell	Mr. W. A. Manning
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Mr. Crommelin	Mr. O'Neill
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Owen
Mr. Guthrie	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Henn	Mr. Watts
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Wild
Mr. Lewis	Mr. I. W. Manning

(Teller.)

Pairs.**Noes.**

Mr. Tonkin	Mr. Mann
Mr. W. Hegney	Mr. Cornell
Mr. Sewell	Sir Ross McLarty

Majority against—2.**Amendment thus negated.**

Mr. HEAL: The Premier, when replying to the second reading debate, indicated that there would be no direct nominee on this authority from the metropolitan area. The only reason he gave was that there is no such provision in Victoria. I ask him to reconsider that decision, because we should have direct representation of the metropolitan area. We have many tourist attractions around Perth, and for that reason I desire that the Minister give this suggestion more thought; and if he sees fit, have it amended in another place.

Mr. HALL: The local authorities in the country are to have one representative. I would like to suggest to the Premier that it would be impossible for one man to serve all the country tourist bureaus. One man would be spending a tremendous amount of time in travelling, and he would not be able to do justice to the position. I am not running down the set-up, but I feel he could not honestly cope with the whole area. If the Premier will not reconsider this position I will find it necessary to move an amendment.

Mr. BRAND: It is realised that the metropolitan area as such is represented, inasmuch as quite a number of actual representatives come from the metropolitan area. However, it is not intended that the metropolitan authority should be represented. We have undertaken to give some consideration to the development of beaches, and the like, and that can be the subject of another discussion. But it is the tourist resorts outside the metropolitan area which require Government assistance and advice. It is outside the cities where the tourists will travel, and in such places as Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton, and others, there is much work—construction and reconstruction—to do in the actual development of those sites and resorts. Therefore we feel that if the authority could assist with the development of these places outside the metropolitan area, then it would be a job well done.

The development of any attractions such as the beaches and places of scenic value in the metropolitan area, could be the subject of further consideration by the

Government. As for representation of the local tourist bureaus as I have stated before in this House, if it were to have representatives from any one place, then each area could claim it should be represented.

We do not intend to interfere with the tourist bureaus. We intend that the authority will keep in close contact and further the work they are doing. As for the local authorities—and it is the local authorities which we propose to have represented—the councils and road boards outside the metropolitan area will be represented by one man as a country local authority representative. I hope that the member for Albany will not move any further amendment because I am sure that he could achieve nothing by doing so.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 5 to 15 and Title put and passed.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

MUSEUM BILL*Council's Amendments*

Schedule of eight amendments made by the Council now considered.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) in the Chair; Mr. Watts (Attorney-General) in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: The amendments made by the Council are as follows:—

No. 1.

Clause 10, page 4, line 22—To add after the word "chairman" the words "and another member to be vice chairman."

No. 2.

Clause 10, page 4, line 24—To add after the word "chairman" the words "or vice chairman as the case may be."

No. 3.

Clause 10, page 4, line 26—To add after the word "chairman" the words "or vice chairman as the case may be."

No. 4.

Clause 10, page 4, line 28—To add after the word "chairman" the words "or vice chairman."

No. 5.

Clause 10, page 4, line 31—To add after the word "chairman" the words "or vice chairman."

No. 6.

Clause 10, page 4, line 32—To add after the word "chairman" the words "or vice chairman."

No. 7.

Clause 10, page 5, line 1—To add after the word "chairman" the words "or vice chairman."

No. 8.

Clause 10, page 5, line 2—To add after the word "chairman" the words "or vice chairman."

Mr. WATTS: I move—

That the Council's amendments be agreed to.

It will be remembered that when this Bill was previously in Committee the member for Warren raised a point as to certain provision being made for the position of vice-chairman of the board. I agreed that the matter should be examined; and that examination revealed that, for clarity, it might be better to have the amendments inserted. Accordingly the amendments were prepared and inserted in another place. The amendments deal only with the words necessary to clear up the position of the vice-chairman and his appointment. It is my desire that these amendments be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

Resolutions reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

House adjourned at 1.4 a.m. (Wednesday).

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 9th September, 1959

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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (the Hon. W. R. Hall) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Assent

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the Bill.

QUESTION ON NOTICE

TRANSPORT BOARD

Restrictions North of the 26th Parallel

1. The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Mines:

Will the Minister detail Transport Board regulations and restrictions applicable to the area north of the 26th parallel as at the 17th March, 1959?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The Transport Board in exercise of its powers under the State Transport Co-ordination Act has exempted the transport of goods within the area north of the 26th parallel from the licensing provisions of the Act. In respect of such transport it therefore now retains only its powers to act in an advisory and investigatory capacity.

The Transport Board still retains its full jurisdiction as licensing advisory and investigating authority in respect of the transport of passengers by omnibus and aircraft in the area.

The powers and duties of the Transport Board are set out in the State Transport Co-ordination Act and the transport regulations, 1934, and the amendments thereof.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by the Hon. J. M. Thomson, leave of absence for six consecutive sittings granted to the Hon. L. C. Diver (Central) on the ground of private business.

BILLS (3)—THIRD READING

1. Art Gallery.
Returned to the Assembly with amendments.
2. Judges' Salaries and Pensions Act Amendment.
3. Traffic Act Amendment.
Passed.

FILLED MILK BILL

Report

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [4.40]: I move—

That the report of the Committee be adopted.