

as these were permitted in his Art Gallery. He assured me they were not allowed. Inquiries in Adelaide brought the same result. So in all the circumstances I do not feel disposed to agree to the amendment at this stage. I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

Resolutions reported and the report adopted.

A committee consisting of Mr. W. Hegney, Mr. W. A. Manning, and Mr. Watts drew up reasons for not agreeing to certain of the Council's amendments.

Reasons adopted and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

House adjourned at 11 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 16th September, 1959

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QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT

Discussion of Motion Regarding Amendments

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

When will the House be given an opportunity further to debate the motion moved by Mr. Heenan as regards amending certain sections of the Workers' Compensation Act? It was moved in this House a month ago.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

I am sorry that it has not been possible to reach this order of the day since Mr. Heenan moved the motion. The subject matter of the motion was handed to the appropriate Minister for his advice; and, from inquiries I made this afternoon, I understand that that advice is on its way to me. If I receive it today, the matter can be dealt with if we reach that order of the day.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

GOVERNMENT TOURIST BUREAU

Employees, Wages, and Overall Cost

- The Hon. A. L. LOTON asked the Minister for Local Government:
Will the Minister inform the House—
 - The total number of persons employed by the State Tourist Bureau on the 11th September, 1959 at—
 - Perth office;
 - Fremantle office?
 - The total weekly wages paid to such staff at—
 - Perth office;
 - Fremantle office?
 - The overall cost of the Tourist Bureau for the year ended the 30th June, 1959?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

(1) (a) 19.	
(b) One.	
(2) (a) £375.	
(b) £21.	
(3) Salaries	£25,072
Publicity	£12,906
Incidentals	£3,549
	<u>£41,527</u>

This total includes the cost of salaries and maintenance of the Melbourne and Sydney branches, there being a staff of four at Melbourne and three at Sydney. The

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

weekly wages amount to £78 at Melbourne and £49 at Sydney. In addition, an amount of £4,306 was paid in subsidies to country tourist bureaux.

GWALIA STATE HOTEL

Net Profit

2. The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN asked the Minister for Mines:

What was the net profit of the Gwalia State Hotel for each of the past 10 financial years?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The books of account are not designed to show the net profit of any individual State hotel. Approximate figures are as follows:—

	£
1949-50	2,315
1950-51	2,535
1951-52	1,020
1952-53	1,539
1953-54	3,134
1954-55	2,954
1955-56	3,727
1956-57	1,951
1957-58	2,787
1958-59	2,169

MOTOR VEHICLE (THIRD PARTY INSURANCE) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Assembly.

HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Local Government) [4.39]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

THE HON. A. L. LOTON (South) [4.40]: I would like to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of the Minister concerned an advertisement I have noticed in a certain paper. I will not name the paper; so it cannot be said that I am using it for purposes of cheap publicity. It has reference to sewage treatment plants for schools, and it may be of interest. I certainly would like some further information on the matter, and I hope the Minister will make inquiries about it. The advertisement is headed, "Package Sewage Treatment Plants Without Sludge Disposal Problems." It then goes on, "Complete treatment in one tank without odour or nuisance for populations between 50 and 10,000."

It then mentions that this treatment would be suitable for housing developments, schools, airports, shopping centres, motels, country clubs, industrial plants, hospitals, and institutions. It contains further information to the effect that "aeration, settling, sludge re-circulation, digestion by 'wet-burning' and chlorination result in a clear sparkling effluent with low B.O.D." I do not know what "B.O.D." means, but perhaps Dr. Hislop could enlighten me. It goes on as follows:—

'Wet-burning' of the sludge by oxidation produces a fine ash which is transferred in small quantities to the chlorine contact zone without materially increasing the B.O.D. or degree of purity of the final effluent. Sludge disposal problems are therefore completely eliminated.

There might be something in this advertisement; and, knowing that some of the country towns are particularly interested in sewage disposal treatment, I ask the Minister to make inquiries about the matter. If it will help him in his search for this information I will make the publication available to him.

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Local Government—in reply) [4.42]: Mr. Loton was kind enough to let me have a brief glance at the paper to which he has referred. I am certainly interested in this matter, because, although we have decided to install septic tanks in schools wherever possible, the water supply problem will prevent us from installing as many as we would like to install.

It is possible that the idea mentioned by Mr. Loton has some merit in the areas where water is not available. It may also help us in solving some of the problems with which we are faced in the metropolitan area; with particular reference to high water tables, where the Health Department and the Town Planning Department are insistent upon a margin of 2ft. 6ins. between the highest known water level, and ground level.

I received a deputation only yesterday on this aspect; and if the method mentioned by Mr. Loton could overcome this problem, I know it would not only gladden the hearts of the members of the Canning Road Board but it would also make me very happy indeed. As Minister I come up against endless argument in relation to subdivisions, because of this question of a high water table. If Mr. Loton will make available to me the publication from which he has quoted, I will pass it on and see to what extent we can make use of it.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

INDUSTRY (ADVANCES) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [4.44]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

During the course of last evening's debate I promised that before the Bill was finally concluded at the third reading stage, I would, provided Mr. John Thomson withdrew the amendment he attempted to make to the long title of the Bill, obtain for him some information from the Chief Parliamentary Draftsman on the point; in particular in respect to the words, "or in a particular building activity." I have obtained this written advice, and I would like to take the opportunity of quoting it to the House. It is as follows:—

I quote from Sir Alison Russel, Q.C. on "Legislative Drafting and Forms"—

Every Act has a long title which indicates the general purpose of the Act and may be referred to for the purpose of ascertaining the general scope. It forms part of the Act. If an amendment is not within the long title of the Bill the long title must be amended accordingly.

Because the Canterbury Court building did not, according to legal advice, come within the meaning of the expression "industry" as that expression is used in the Rural and Industries Bank Act, 1944, the present Bill was necessary and if the principal Act did not permit financial assistance for such a building activity it was for this reason that I amended the long title to include, "or in a particular building activity." These words clearly refer to the building activity referred to in clause 3 of the Bill. If the long title had not been so amended a member of either House could have taken the point that the amendment proposed by the present Bill was not within the scope of the principal Act.

If the principal Act is amended as is proposed, the Treasurer will be authorised to advance money only for the Canterbury Court building which is the particular building activity referred to in clause 3 of the Bill and in the long title and no other, unless the building activity is of a type that comes within the meaning of the expression "industry" as it now appears in the Rural and Industries Bank Act. So that the addition of the words to the long title serve no other purpose than to permit the present amendment to be within the scope of the principal Act.

The only other comment I would like to make concerns the remarks made by Mr. Watson. He also had reservations with

reference to the point with which I have just dealt. In view of the information given by the Parliamentary Draftsman, I hope his mind is more satisfied. I would like to refer to the fact that Mr. Watson asked whether the Crown Law Department had altered its opinion, expressed last year, that the provisions in the principal Act would cover a guarantee by the Government to the Prudential Assurance Company on behalf of Canterbury Court Pty. Ltd.

I say, with respect, that I do not consider this subject germane to the proposal in the Bill. Whatever the opinion of any other person, the fact remains that, to enable a guarantee to be made, the Act must conform with the opinion of the solicitors of the Prudential Assurance Company; otherwise the whole proposition would not have reached fruition; and these solicitors have advised the Prudential Assurance Company that it cannot accept the guarantee with the Act in its present state. Therefore, to honour the promise made by each parliamentary Party in this State to agree to the guarantee, the Bill must be passed in its present form.

That is the only explanation I can offer. I think the other point has been suitably covered and explained in the memo sent to me by the Chief Parliamentary Draftsman.

THE HON. H. K. WATSON (Metropolitan) [4.50]: I thank the Minister for the answer which he has given to my question. I cannot help but say that the reply still further confuses the issue. I think the reply to my question is this: Yes, no, it might be so.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Two bob each way!

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: Yes. That being so, and having regard to what I consider to be the very serious nature of the point at issue, I trust that before this session ends the Government will comply with my earlier request to bring down a Bill which will make perfectly clear just what the principal Act does cover. It is dangerous at the moment; it is open; it is obscure; and the answer we have had this afternoon simply confirms that the position is obscure, and gives no assurance that in the hands of a Treasurer, other than the present Treasurer, the Act could not be abused.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

NURSES REGISTRATION ACT AMENDMENT ACT

Report

Report of Committee adopted.

TOURIST BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the previous day.

THE HON. H. C. STRICKLAND (North) [4.53]: This Bill, as explained by the Minister, has for its objective the setting up of a tourist authority superimposed upon the one which already exists. The Minister did not say that; but I say it is superimposed upon the W.A. Tourist Bureau which is already an authority under the control of the Minister. We know it is extremely desirable that more tourist traffic should come through Western Australia and to Western Australia.

Tourist trade and tourist traffic no doubt perform a very valuable function in the community, particularly for those sections which supply food and services of all kinds. There is no doubt that it is a profitable trade in any country or State. Western Australia, with its tremendously large area, suffers a most unfortunate geographical disability which affects tourists from overseas and interstate. We are geographically sitting on the bottom of this part of the earth. There is no country south of Western Australia; and Perth is the most isolated capital in the world. I do not know that there is any other capital in the world that is some 1,500 miles away from its nearest neighbour; in the case of Perth, the nearest neighbour is Adelaide.

Apart from its remoteness, Western Australia has another geographical or physical disability in being burdened with a tremendous area of waste land—the Nullabor Plain—between itself and its nearest neighbour, South Australia. As a consequence, visitors to this State from within Australia itself are faced with heavy expense before they can reach the portions of Western Australia which offer some of our most accessible and best tourist attractions. As a result, we are not getting our fair share of even the tourist traffic that is contained within the Commonwealth itself. Fremantle is the first port of call for steamers from overseas. Therefore, we call it “The Gateway to Australia.” Many thousands of people pass through Fremantle, where they see Australia for the first time.

We do get a certain proportion of tourist traffic in the form of sightseers from the ships which are passing through. A few days ago I noticed two tourist coaches and four or five special buses in King’s Park. Apparently they were catering for some of these people who were passing through Fremantle. They were enjoying the splendid sight which can be observed from the refreshment rooms in the Park. I often think it a pity that so many trees have been left between the roadway and the wonderful view that can be seen across the river. In my opinion the trees constitute an obstruction of the view between

the drive and the riverside. It is indeed good to see large numbers of people from ships being shown the near sights.

This first glimpse of Australia must be of undoubted value. It is also a good advertisement for Perth and Western Australia, and for the climate which usually prevails for most of the year. However, in the matter of attracting tourists from the Eastern States and from overseas—as I have already explained—Western Australia suffers a tremendous disability in its geographical situation.

I do not feel that the setting up at this stage of an authority will have the result that the sponsors may envisage. To set up an authority as wide as is proposed in the Bill, is simply to superimpose an authority upon one that we already have. It seems to me that we will be establishing an organisation which will have nothing to organise at the moment it is set-up; and there are tremendous disabilities in the aspects I have already mentioned. How an authority can overcome our geographical disability, I do not know; and how our population of something like 700,000 people can be induced to see more of what we have to offer in Western Australia, than they are at present, I do not know.

When one looks at the disabilities that surround the State in connection with tourist traffic, and compares our position with that of other countries that are thriving as a result of their tourist traffic—I do not call it an industry; I could not call tourism an industry, but it brings a valuable traffic—one realises what we are up against. If we take Western Australia with its area of nearly 1,000,000 square miles; and its population of 700,000; and its disability of having a 1,500-mile break to its nearest capital, and compare it with a country like New Zealand with an area of 103,000 square miles, which is approximately as large as our South-West Land Division—

The Hon. H. K. Watson: New Zealand is 1,000 miles long.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: It could be, but one can walk across it at Auckland in five minutes. New Zealand and its dependencies—many small islands come under its administration—have a total area of 103,000 square miles, and a population of 2½ million people, the great majority of whom are in the North and South Islands; and those islands contain most of the area of New Zealand.

I point out that New Zealand enjoys a visiting tourist traffic—migrants in and out as tourists—of 20,000 people per annum. New Zealand enjoys that traffic because it is in close proximity to such places as Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane—the capitals of the more thickly populated States of Australia. In greater Sydney there are 2½ million people; and

something like 2 million people in Melbourne. These are great numbers of people; and they can fly to New Zealand in 3½ to 4 hours in the Skymasters that are on the service. The service has probably improved since I was in New Zealand; and these people could probably fly there in about 2½ to 3 hours.

On top of that, one of the most notable aspects of tourism in New Zealand is that they get the type of tourist that we would like to see in Western Australia—aged American tourists. I met some of these tourists in New Zealand, and they happened to be there as a result of an organised cruise; and the ship on which they travelled could be termed a floating palace; and on board were some 500 wealthy tourists. The cruise was so arranged that the passengers could remain on the ship, or spend a week in New Zealand and rejoin the ship further along the coast.

The local population in New Zealand are virtually tourists themselves. Fortunately for them they do not suffer the physical disability that we suffer from. New Zealand has natural representation of practically every type of climate and of almost all types of terrain. In addition, it has thermal springs at Rotorua and Waikare and other places—great natural lakes formed in extinct volcano craters, and so on. There is some natural beauty in the South Island that equals anything in the fiords of Norway.

In the extreme north of New Zealand there is a tropical climate; and there are tropical jungles known as Maori forests. When I was in New Zealand I was amazed to meet in the South Island, middle-aged New Zealanders who had not been to the North Island; they had never been to Wellington. They told me that each year when they got their annual holidays they still had something to see in the South Island. However, they were getting closer to the North Island because I met them at a place called Blenheim which is only about three hours from Wellington, across the strait.

It was amazing to see the number of people who were moving about New Zealand. Every coach on the roads was fully booked, and almost every train on the move—and there were plenty—was fully booked. A person could not just get on a train in New Zealand; he had to book his seat. Thousands of people were moving backwards and forwards there. All this is due to the fortunate geographical position of the country, and the natural tourist attractions there; there is something different in each of the various places.

There is no doubt that New Zealand derives a tremendous amount of trade from the tourist traffic. I only wish that we had some densely populated countries south of Perth; if we had, we would also be enjoying a much better tourist trade than we enjoy today.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You have them north of Perth.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: We have plenty of them north of Perth, but they do not like paddling their kyacks—or whatever members like to call them—so far.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I was not thinking of that, but of some dangers.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: The tourist trade is one of great value. We know how quickly France, and Western Europe generally, recover from the devastating wars which take place every now and then on their territory. Those countries seem to come up smiling; and we do not find any hordes running around trying to get out of those countries. It seems to me that they derive a tremendous amount of employment and trade solely from their tourist traffic.

We all desire to see in this State, more tourist traffic than we have, but I think the proposal to set up a wide authority, superimposed on the organisation we already have, is a little premature. I say it is a little premature, because I hope that the time is not very far distant when we will have more visitors to the State than we have now; and, consequently, more responsibility to look after them and see that they are treated in the proper manner.

One of the objectives of the Bill is to set up an authority of eight members; and of the eight members, five—or four at least—are to be public servants; because the Minister, or his nominee, is to be the chairman. With a board—or an authority as it is called, but it will have the same responsibility as a board—consisting of eight members, five of whom are to be public servants, I feel that we will be heading for more controls, and more bureaucracy; and a little too much what I might term indifference could be induced into the decisions of the authority.

In recent years I have had a little bit of experience of boards that have been dominated by public servants. When they get into a jam, or feel they are in a jam; or if they allow things to hang in the air so that there is an atmosphere of indecision, they simply pass the buck to the Minister to make a decision. I feel that although public servants may be all right in an advisory capacity—they are expected to have that ability, and should have it—it is a mistake to take them out of the departments which they control and set them up on a board where they can cause quite a deal of embarrassment to any Government, and to the responsible Minister.

I consider that there is insufficient tourist traffic at the moment, and that there are insufficient prospects of increasing it in the next few years, to warrant the setting up of this proposed authority.

I hope I have been quite frank in the opinions I have expressed on this matter. As explained by the Minister, I know that

the Bill has been brought down to fulfil an election promise. I understand that the Premier made a similar statement when the measure was before another place. That may be so, but whilst many election promises are made, not all Governments rush the introduction of a Bill such as this when there is no obvious immediate necessity for it.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The honourable member obviously has had some experience.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I have no experience in the tourist trade.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I meant with unfulfilled promises.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: As a Minister for six years I did not sit in the Minister's seat without my eyes being open. There were too many train whistles around my corner to allow me to go to sleep. The Government is a little impetuous, perhaps, in being so anxious to carry out its election promise by rushing headlong into introducing this type of legislation.

Passing now to the functions of the authority, the Minister did not go into much detail in explanation of what the authority's functions would be except, perhaps, to say that the authority would look into the existing available accommodation. Are we to constitute an authority to interfere with, or override, another board or authority? Is this proposed tourist authority going to say to the Licensing Court, "This hotel is not suitable for the tourist trade"? Or is it going say, "There are insufficient rooms to provide the necessary accommodation for tourists in this establishment"? Is the authority going to say to the proprietor of a caravan park, "You have too many caravans on this lot according to the provisions of the Health Act"?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Can you show me how this Bill will override the Health Act?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I do not know whether it will or will not, but the Minister used words to explain the effect the provisions might have. In fact, I think the words used by him were rather strong. He said, "There will be many problems ahead of the proposed authority, not least of which is the quality and quantity of our hotel accommodation." If that does not imply that this proposed authority is going to snoop around on the existing authorities or boards which administer those matters, I do not know what the Minister meant to convey. Such an inference cannot be drawn from the Bill.

According to the Bill, the powers of the authority will be of such a nature as the Minister might refer to it. The functions of the board could include anything. In this respect, the words used in the Bill are as follows:—

Generally to investigate such matters relating to the tourist industry as are referred to it by the Minister.

Such wording could make the powers of the authority very wide. I admit that it will be subject to ministerial control; but, there again, I have warned the Government that this proposed authority will be the responsibility of the Minister, and the board will expect the Minister to take full responsibility for its actions. It is a mistake to have too many Government appointees on this proposed tourist board.

I must apologise for using the word "board" repeatedly. I mean "authority." When I was Minister I know that my Government would have liked to be able to select a more suitable word in substitution for the word "board." However, it was very difficult, so we stuck to the use of the word "board." We have no indication of the amount of funds to be granted to the authority, or the specific purpose for which they will be used. It is obvious that the purpose of the Bill is to make funds available to assist private enterprise to establish tourist facilities. That being so, it is more or less a semi-socialistic measure.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Oh!

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: The Minister may have some other name for it, but he cannot get rid of its socialistic flavour. It reminds me of a Bill that was recently before the House; and one honourable member hoped that no other legislation of a similar nature would be introduced for the purpose of assisting in the construction of a specific building. He made those remarks because we were dealing with the granting of assistance, under the Industry (Advances) Act, to a specific project.

We are now dealing with a Bill to legislate for a trade which goes under the assumed name of "Industry"; and we propose to assist it by passing provisions to enable funds to be approved by the Governor in Executive Council. That is what this Bill entails; but the granting of any money will not be confined to one specific building.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Does not the Bill say that the funds shall be appropriated by Parliament?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: The Bill provides that funds can be appropriated by Parliament, but they can be appropriated from other sources, too. The Bill states that the money can be appropriated from Parliament, and can also be made available from the General Loan Fund. Further, it provides that repayments to the loan authority can be used again by the tourist authority. There is no lack of sources from which funds can be made available; but what is the amount that is likely to be granted to the authority; and what is the money to be expended on?

If ever there was a trade or traffic that should be left to private initiative and enterprise, it is the tourist trade and

traffic. Surely those people who have tourist attractions in their districts are not going to sit back and expect the taxpayers of Australia—I say that because we are a claimant State—to bolster up their funds. That is what could be done under the Bill. As an example of what can happen with private enterprise and initiative, I cite the case of Mr. Reg Ansett. From a taxi proprietor he has built himself up into the proprietor of what is now the greatest privately-owned transport organisation—including the Ansett-A.N.A. airline—in the Southern Hemisphere.

I travelled on the Ansett Pioneer Coaches in 1947; and I fully appreciate that, because of the service that Mr. Ansett has given to his patrons, he has built his business up into a tremendous organisation. He did not require any Government assistance, except and until he purchased the A.N.A. airline. I consider that, in view of the tourist traffic in the Eastern States—especially between Melbourne and Sydney—and the accommodation that is provided to cater for millions of tourists yearly, and in view of the excellent response the tourist authorities in the Eastern States have had, it would be difficult indeed to set up a similar organisation in this State.

The difficulties that confront us are in the nature of our geographical position and our unfortunate climatic conditions. A part-result of such conditions is that the Nullarbor Plain is practically closed to road traffic for half the year. The same set of circumstances applies in the northern areas of the State; although there would be much more for tourists to see in those parts. The Minister suggested, during his speech on the introduction of the Bill, that the Eyre Highway, if sealed, could result in a greater flow of tourist traffic from the Eastern States; and I entirely agreed with him.

When I made my first speech in this House in 1950, I said that, in my view, the establishment of roads promoted trade and traffic, and helped to attract tourists. I was urging that better roads should be built in the North-West. In fact, better roads should be built throughout the entire State. If a road is put down, someone is bound to follow it; and in this motoring age we can expect motorcars to follow good roads. I asked the Minister: "What is wrong with the North?", or words to that effect, and he agreed that the North had something to offer. In fact, the North has a great deal to offer tourists; apart from many side issues. It has a tremendous number of attractions to offer to the citizens of the State and to others who wish to visit there.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: For the Eastern States' visitors we will have to build a sealed road from the East to the West, and continue it up to the North.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I agree with the Minister; but if a good road were built from the East to the West, it would have a tremendous effect on the railways as well. Not being the Minister in charge of the railways now, perhaps I should not have mentioned that. Nevertheless, I will say that what is needed is a good sealed road through central Australia, and another leading from Darwin to Hall's Creek in the North. There again, our climatic conditions have a great influence on road traffic through the North, because the roads are suitable for use for only about five or six months of the year; that is, from a tourist point of view.

It was always my ambition to restore the passenger accommodation on the ships travelling up and down our North-West coast, in order to offer greater opportunity to the people of our State to visit the northern parts for four or five months in the winter—which is the best period for visiting the North—when the people there are busily engaged in their occupations and industries, and are not moving about. I am pleased to see that some progress has been made and that the incoming Government has seen fit to follow on with the shipping plans commenced by the previous Government.

The three ships engaged in passenger traffic to the North of the State cannot accommodate a great number. Their total capacity is less than 160 passengers. At the outside, each ship can make four tourist trips to the North a year; so a little more than 600 people can be accommodated.

There are thousands of applicants for shipping accommodation to the North each year. This year alone there were over 1,000 firm applications made by tourists for passages to Derby or Darwin, on the round trip. In addition there were innumerable telephone calls and verbal inquiries in respect of this accommodation. When people are told that the trips have been fully booked, their names are not taken. There were over 1,000 written applications for trips to the North-West from the people of this State alone.

By increasing the number of passenger ships on the run to the North, a greater volume of tourists will be attracted. One attraction is now offered to tourists by an interchange of accommodation with Ansett tours. That company has commenced tourist trips from Adelaide to Darwin. By arrangement with tourist bureaux, the State Shipping Service sets aside accommodation for 10 tourist passengers from Fremantle to Darwin; and, again, from Darwin to Fremantle. That has been the practice during the winter months for some years. This results in a number of tourists passing through Western Australia by means of that channel each year.

I am pleased to see that some headway has been made to attract tourists to our North during the winter months, and that

this Government is not interfering with the plans laid down by the previous Government.

I am really puzzled as to why a Bill of this nature is being introduced at this stage, when the State already has an adequate tourist authority in existence. As stated by the Minister, it is giving a good service. It would be in the interests and welfare of the State if the authority proposed in the Bill were not set up at this juncture, because to do that will cost the State a certain sum each year. I do not know what sum it is proposed to pay the members of the authority; but there is provision in the Bill for payment of remuneration and expenses.

The Bill does not state how frequently, or where, the proposed authority is to meet. Being a tourist authority the members therein will become tourists themselves, because naturally they will want to visit every nook and corner of the State in which there is a tourist attraction. Of course they will make recommendations to the Minister to build a chalet here or a hostel there; to harness a waterfall somewhere else; and to dredge an estuary which may be a source of tourist attraction. The Government will have to find the finance for those purposes.

Because of the sparse population in Western Australia, and because of the difficulties to be encountered in attracting large numbers of overseas tourists to this State—as a result of our geographical position—the money proposed to be spent on the tourist authority can be ill-afforded. Any funds for that purpose could be diverted to much better uses. We know that there is a shortage of funds for all kinds of essential works—schools, hospitals, water supplies and so on. Whilst the objective of the Government is most praiseworthy, I consider this is not the time to proceed with its election promise.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: When will be the right time?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I am sure the Premier summed up the position correctly when he concluded the debate on this Bill in another place. On the 8th September, 1959, he said, on page 1468 of *Hansard*, "Nothing spectacular will result from the passing of this Bill." Not knowing Standing Orders—

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (the Hon. W. R. Hall): The honourable member should proceed with his speech without worrying about the Standing Orders.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: When the Minister, who is to be in control of the proposed tourist authority, says that the passing of the Bill will not bring anything spectacular to this State, I agree with him absolutely. All along I have tried to point out that the demand for tourism is not here; that there is already an efficient

and sufficient tourist organisation in existence; that this is a job for private enterprise; and that, in my opinion, the setting up of the authority will stifle private initiative and competition. If the authority is to assist one tourist facility financially in a particular centre, it will not be able to assist another one which is in competition.

This Bill has been introduced by a professed non-socialist Government, yet we find the measure contains all the objectionable features to which this Government is opposed. Although I am a supporter of socialism to the extent where socialism is necessary, I certainly do not support socialism when it is handed out to private individuals or private enterprise. I do not know what "ism" that can be termed; but I do know it is a misplacing of public funds.

This action by the Government will have the effect of stifling competition in the tourist industry and among tourist resorts, because one particular tourist facility will be assisted by Government funds—which is most objectionable under Liberal Governments—while a similar facility in the same town or district will receive no assistance. As a consequence, the objective of assisting to develop tourist attractions will not work out as the Government is hoping. For those reasons I cannot support the Bill at this stage of the development of Western Australia.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: When do you think will be the right time to support the Bill?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: The right time will be after we have been able to watch and consider how similar legislation has worked in the only other State in Australia which has passed such legislation—Victoria, which has a population of 3,000,000 people in a small area.

THE HON. J. M. THOMSON (South) [543]: Unlike the Leader of the Opposition in this House, I am not pessimistic about the future of the tourist industry in this State. Although much that has been said is true in regard to the sparsity of both the population and the tourist attractions in this State, we should make an attempt to popularise and publicise what we have. Admittedly this State has not as many attractions as New Zealand. Tourists who have visited New Zealand speak highly of that country, but, similarly, tourists who have visited Western Australia have spoken highly of what can be seen here. It is the variety of the attractions which creates interest among the tourists. In that direction we have a good deal to offer.

In my opinion the time is now opportune to set up the proposed tourist authority. I commend the move of the Government to develop the tourist industry and bring it to a sound footing.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: We should have asked Mr. Strickland to attend the conference at Albany.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: He would have been very impressed.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You should have invited him there.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The honourable member did not ask for an invitation.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: It is said that people who have visited Western Australia are loud in their praise. It seems that we have not publicised this State as much as we should have. With the formation of the proposed authority, this State will have the means to attract a greater volume of the tourist trade. Tourists are not confined to overseas visitors or those from the Eastern States; they are to be found among the population within the boundaries of our own State.

One must be observant and realise what has been occurring over the last few years. Regularly once a week, from September until the beginning of the winter, a Pioneer tourist coach travels between South Australia and Western Australia via the Eyre Highway. Many people travelling on the coach come from Queensland and New Zealand, as well as from other parts of Australia; and as they come via Esperance to Ravensthorpe, through the Porongorups to Albany and then to Perth, they are impressed very much by what they see; even though they have to cross the Nullarbor Plain. It is for this reason that the Government is to be commended for introducing the Bill; and those who are interested in the promotion of tourism are very pleased indeed to see that the Premier has seen fit to take to himself the portfolio of tourism; and that he has shown his interest in this way. As the Treasurer of the day he is, no doubt, the rightful person to hold the portfolio.

The Bill proposes that a tourist development authority shall be formed consisting of a chairman and seven members who will be appointed for five years. I consider that period is a reasonable one, because anything less than five years would not be doing justice to those appointed.

When the authority is first established, there will be a lot of preliminary work to be done, as there usually is in such cases; but because there is not a restricted time limit on those appointed, members of the authority will have sufficient time to do a very worth-while job in the promotion of tourism; not only because of what it might mean to them personally but also for the good of the State. Although I admit that there are some people interested in it for what it means to them, I can say authoritatively that they, in their turn, contribute unstintingly to the tourist organisations within their towns or centres. Of course they have realised that not only will an increased tourist traffic benefit the State itself, but it will benefit the business life of the town in which it occurs.

Among those to be appointed to this authority is one who shall be deemed to represent the councils of the country municipalities and boards of country road districts. I would like that appointee to be also a representative of the country tourist bureaus; and when this Bill is in the Committee stage, I intend to move an amendment to that effect. Clause 4 (2) (v) would then read—

One shall be appointed who shall be deemed to represent the Councils of the Country Municipalities and Boards of Country Road Districts and country tourist bureaus.

I feel that the authority will have enough members on it as it is. I do not see any virtue in appointing another member to represent the tourist section; and think it would be adequately covered by my proposed amendment. I feel confident that there are people within the road board districts or municipalities who are interested in tourism and who would be quite capable of filling the position to the satisfaction of all concerned.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You suggest, in other words, a local authority man who has country tourist bureau connections or experience?

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: That is what I desire, and I think my proposed amendment would cover the situation. The person appointed to represent local authorities would, because of his activities and interest in tourism, also represent the interests of the country tourist bureaus.

There was a recent conference at Albany which the Minister for Housing, the member for Albany, Mr. Hall, and myself, attended. There were six country tourist bureaus represented, these being Geraldton, Bunbury, Busselton, Margaret River-Augusta, Pemberton and Albany. Associated with the Albany Tourist Bureau are the Denmark and Plantagenet-Mt. Barker Road Boards. With the creation of this tourist authority there will come into existence, probably, many other tourist bureaus in the country. No doubt one of the purposes of this trust will be to encourage the establishment of tourist bureaus in places which are endeavouring to attract visitors to their centres. It is for this reason that I hope the Minister will accept my proposed amendment; because the authority would then be a well-balanced one.

I was particularly pleased to see that a member from the Main Roads Department will be included in the authority. The Leader of the Opposition mentioned that there were quite a number of civil servants or public officers to be on the authority. I do not see any objection to that, because the scope of the activities of tourism will be the responsibility of several Government departments such as the Lands, Public Works, and Main Roads departments; and

I fully appreciate the necessity for a representative of the Main Roads Department being on the authority.

This is particularly essential because of all the modes of transport used by tourists to Western Australia, there will be nothing comparable with that of motor transport. This will be particularly so in regard to the places of interest and the beauty spots. According to the *Pocket Year Book of Western Australia, 1958*, Western Australia has many attractions to offer, particularly in the South-West. The following is an extract from this Year Book:—

Western Australia is richly endowed with natural beauty in its forests, wildflowers, rugged hills, rivers, caves and numerous surfing beaches.

The South-Western corner of the State is regarded as the "Show place of the West" with its magnificent forests of karri and jarrah, limestone caves and varied coastline.

Whilst we are fortunate in having many good roads to the various places of interest and beauty, there are still many roads which require attention, and others which will have to be built to carry the additional heavy traffic.

Referring to paragraph (vi) of subclause (2) (b) of clause 4, I would like one of those two people to be associated with the Licensing Court. I feel that tourism in Western Australia, and the activities of the Licensing Court will be very closely associated, and should be closely associated, because it is necessary to provide accommodation to satisfy the needs of the travelling public.

Of course, there will be many instances where people will resent the presence of a health inspector or a member of the Licensing Court, but their presence will be essential to ensure that renovations are carried out and necessary improvements made. It will be a case of a sprat to catch a mackerel, as the old saying goes; and where the improvements are made, it will be a good investment. It may not, however, always be found that improvements are required. In many country towns the accommodation offering is satisfactory, because tourists do not always demand the same service in the country areas as they would expect to receive in the city or in a provincial town.

I was very pleased to hear that the proceeds from the sale of the State Hotels will be placed to the credit of a fund which will be created for the purpose of administering the tourist authority; and I do not know of any better use to which the State hotels could be put than to be utilised for the development of the tourist trade in Western Australia.

I hope attention will be given to the development of the Stirling Ranges as a tourist attraction. That range of hills, in the southern corner of this State, is very picturesque and well worth-while

visiting. Many tourists inquire whether there is any track by which they can approach that range, in order to indulge in the sport of mountaineering.

I can recall the days when the late Mr. Davidson, then Town Planning Commissioner in this State, investigated, at the instigation of the responsible Minister, the tourist possibilities of the Stirling Ranges. The scheme he submitted for the purposes of attracting tourists to that area was quite ambitious, embodying a chalet and golf links; and many people ridiculed it. However, countries which have made proper arrangements to cater for tourists include New Zealand and the Eastern States, and we must follow with development of a similar nature.

There are, around the Stirling Ranges, many wildflowers which are found nowhere else in the world. The flora and fauna there are delightful; and many people who have travelled widely outside of Australia, speak highly of the beauties and attractions offering in that area. I mention, also, the Porongrupps—another attractive portion of the State. From there we pass through the Valley of Giants, and on to Bunbury, Busselton, and Margaret River. In any survey of the tourist possibilities of Western Australia, we must not overlook the northern parts of the State, which are of great interest. All these areas are well worthy of any efforts the Government may be able to make to popularise them and extend our tourist activity.

THE HON. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM (South-East) [6.51]: This is a Bill which, I think, all members will support completely; and I support it without reservation. I am not concerned whether the authority to be set up consists of eight, twelve or more members, so long as, at long last, we do have an authority whose job will be to dig into the facts and promote tourism. Let us not go along, as we have for a number of years, simply wishing that we had tourists coming to this State. A wishbone is no substitute for a backbone.

We must begin to do something now. No-one who attempts to knock such a measure as this, or such an intention as lies behind it, can be considered anything but one of those knockers who find no pleasure in life except in taking a shot at whatever someone else is trying to do. I admit that in the last two or three years our Tourist Bureau has been doing a bit better than was done in the past; but it is still the same authority, and constituted in the same way as that which was guilty, not many years ago, of what amounted to criminal negligence in regard to inquiries for tourist information.

I can speak with knowledge of one particular instance which occurred, when members of a committee—including members of the chamber of commerce in the

town—went to the trouble of collecting attractive photographs and information concerning the centre—to wit, Esperance—and sent it down to the bureau, with a request that it be publicised, and that people be encouraged to go to Esperance. A representative of that committee followed the communication, a very short time later, with the intention of inquiring for information concerning Esperance. To his amazement the officers of the Tourist Bureau could not find the information, and simply did not know anything about it.

The fact was that they had done nothing whatever, in reply to a direct request by interested people, to make available information which had been sent to them in regard to Esperance. Only a couple of years ago I had occasion to go in—because of a report which came to me from a person seeking information on Esperance—to see what the position was. This man called at the Tourist Bureau to inquire about Esperance, and the officer behind the counter said, "We have not much on Esperance. We don't recommend anyone to go there. It is too far." Just what does distance mean to people who are interested in something new?

There is a bitumen road all the way from here to Esperance, with the exception of about 60 miles; and it is literally only a 12 hours' run from the metropolitan area over a good road. I inquired at the bureau for information on Esperance, and the young man who attended to me got out a map and commenced to search the coastline up around Onslow. He knew Esperance was on the coast, and he followed the coast right down from Onslow until he came to it. When a state of affairs such as that can exist, is it not time we had an authority which could make available all the information that people are seeking?

There are two or three things which we should bear in mind when we are inclined to say that we have not, in this State, the kind of attractions that tourists want. We are apt to speak glibly of our potential and of various special features; but I believe we do not realise just what will appeal to people. We, on the Goldfields, accept the goldmines and the underground workings and so on, as everyday matters; and are amazed to find that strangers are fascinated by it all. I am sure that if a tourist authority is set up, certain difficulties which are at present inherent in taking visitors over the mines will be removed. At present we show visitors over a mining plant; but that is only the end of what happens to the ore which is brought from below.

I feel that, with some encouragement, the Chamber of Mines, if allowed by the Government to do so, would set up—probably in some of the old workings and not at too great a depth—an actual facsimile

of mine workings underground, where visitors could be taken down in a cage to see the machinery working and observe for themselves exactly what is done underground. They would go away with the feeling that they had actually seen something. In a small way, that is the sort of thing which appeals to people who are looking for some new adventure.

We have been to places such as Albany, and at that centre we have seen the natural bridge. It is only a heap of stone over an opening, but it is interesting and different and becomes something to remember. What does tourism bring to a country? It has been said that not much money will flow to the Government out of tourism; but it is fairly definite that, following in the wake of tourism, there will be development owing to the growth of interest in the country that the visitors have seen.

When people from other States or overseas find something which interests them, they are apt to make inquiries as to the possibility of the future establishment of industries in such places; because they know something about the country, from a personal point of view. Today, when people in America and other parts of the world are asked about Australia—and not just Western Australia—they know practically nothing about it. In fact, in some countries many people still think that everyone here is black, or that we all have webbed toes.

If we establish a tourist authority to which people from other parts of the world can go for information, they will return to their homes knowing a great deal more about this State than would otherwise be the case. Mass communication, whether by the printed word, the radio or in any other form, is in no way comparable with mass communication by word of mouth. Thousands of people, talking about what they have seen on their travels, raise the level of interest in such matters; and it is not long before, in some other part of the world, some word or place becomes associated with the country that has been visited.

Who, in this Chamber, has had the opportunity of visiting the Coliseum or the Forum? But we know where they are. The words automatically mean Rome to us. We hear some talk of the firds, and we can complete the sentence—the firds of Norway. It is all part of the publicity which we come to associate with travel. We hear such names as the Arc de Triomphe or the Champs d'Elysees; and, although we have not been there, we immediately think of France; it is automatic.

Today we are beginning to hear about the Gold Coast; and no-one needs to be told where it is. We know, owing to the publicity that has been given and the money spent on developing that area, that the Gold Coast is in Queensland.

The Hon. E. M. Heenan: What makes people think of Kalgoorlie?

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: Gold; the honourable member is quite right. We do not, however, want people to think of Kalgoorlie and gold alone. If we mention goldmining at present, people may think of Kalgoorlie or Coolgardie, or perhaps places in the Eastern States. What we want to bring to their minds is some word that is synonymous with our own State only.

One thing that the proposed authority can do, if the money is available, is to develop our beaches and publicise them. When people hear of beaches, they think of golden sand and all the wonderful things built up in their minds by an association of ideas. We think our beaches are beautiful, as they are; but they are still just stretches of sand equipped with indifferent bathing sheds.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: One of the matters to which the proposed body could give consideration, and which would not cost a great deal of money, would be the setting up of a nursery for the propagation of suitable types of ornamental trees which are not normally seen at or around our beaches. One of the things that lends great attraction to beaches that are renowned in nearly all well-publicised holiday resorts are palm trees—and I refer particularly to coconut palm trees. It is not known whether coconut palm trees would grow satisfactorily in our semi-tropical climate; but there is no reason why we should not try to grow them; and a nursery such as I have suggested would be the answer.

It is a well-known fact that there are no naturally grown palm trees in Australia; every coconut tree now growing in Australia, even in the tropics, has been introduced. It does not take a vivid imagination to picture our beaches lined with one or two rows of coconut palms. They seem to lend an atmosphere all of their own to beaches where they are grown, and they seem to lend a holiday air to the place.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Even if the nuts fall on your head?

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: They might do that; but I doubt whether such coconut trees would bear fruit. I seriously suggest that something along the lines I have suggested could be considered by the body contemplated by the Bill, because the present Tourist Bureau could not give attention to such a project.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Why not?

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: It has not the necessary funds. To give members an idea of what our beaches would be like, if palm trees were grown

at those beaches, I refer again to Esperance. Anyone who has seen that town can picture what it would be like without its Norfolk Island pines; it would not be the same place. It was through the foresight of the earlier settlers, and different organisations in the town which planted those rows of Norfolk Island pines, that Esperance has such a pleasant atmosphere. The trees are something of which the town can be proud; they have grown to an enormous size, and they give the whole town an atmosphere entirely its own.

I do not know of any other seaside resort that can offer a similar attraction. When they were first introduced, it was not known whether they would grow very well in that district; and, if similar trials could be made with coconut palms, I think it would be of advantage to other beaches. There is a beach in New South Wales—I am not sure whether it is called Palm Beach—which has natural palm trees called cabbage palms; and perhaps we could obtain some small plants to try at our beaches here. They grow somewhat like a coconut palm and have a similar appearance, and it is possible that they could be grown in this State.

The whole idea I have in mind is to try to change the appearance of our present beaches to make them more attractive. The suggestions I have offered would not involve the expenditure of a great deal of money, but if trees were grown they would make our present barren beaches much more attractive. The growing of various types of local trees has been tried, but they do not lend the same sort of atmosphere as the palms I have mentioned. It would not be hard to picture all our local beaches with a background of coconut palms. At present they have no trees at all. With a background of trees they could be made much more attractive to overseas visitors, and even to visitors both interstate and intrastate.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: And then the S.E.C. will come along and cut them all down.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: Not those on the beach. At Esperance the trees grow right down at the water's edge—some actually are growing in the sand at the seaside. In addition to being attractive, they prevent the erosion of the beaches; and this would be of considerable benefit to our metropolitan beaches where so much sand is washed away each year. Palm trees have prevented the erosion of beaches in many areas affected by cyclonic storms. If the local governing bodies which have beaches in their areas did something along the lines I have suggested, they would make the areas much more attractive, and this would result in greater patronage of the beaches.

The Hon. E. M. Davies: In Fremantle the Norfolk Island pines were washed away.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: They are not palm trees; there is quite a difference. Coconut palms are very useful in helping to prevent the erosion of beaches. Several speakers have mentioned what, in their opinion, should be the central theme of a proposed tourist trade. We have most of the things that other centres of tourism in Australia have to offer—good bathing beaches, plenty of sunshine and scenic drives, although not many of them at present are particularly well developed. But those scenic drives could be developed; and they will be developed once a tourist authority is appointed. In addition, the authority will be able to publicise what we have to offer.

It is remarkable what simple little things people will go a long way to see, so long as those things are different. I read of an instance of a little town in America which tourists had passed by for years without stopping, because there was nothing of interest in the town. But then some bright member of a local board suggested that they publicise a well they had—an ordinary well—as the deepest well in the world sunk by hand. Strange as it may seem the town became a stopping-off place for tourists; they came to see this well which was supposed to be the deepest in the world sunk by hand. Whether it was or not, the local people did not know; but they sold it as such, and people went to see it.

The Hon. E. M. Davies: Did they sign a statutory declaration to say the claim was true?

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: I am not trying to ridicule these things. I am merely suggesting how simple it is to satisfy the desire of people to see something different. We have innumerable places in this State that we could sell as something different. I instanced the possibilities in the goldmining industry. I am sure that the Chamber of Mines, if given encouragement, would find a suitable small shaft on the Goldfields, with a properly constructed chamber underground showing boring machines in operation and illustrating all the normal underground activities. There is no reason why it could not be done; and I am sure that people who wanted to see something different would go underground to look at that mine. They could have their lunch underground; that would be something different.

The Hon. J. J. Garrigan: But would it be factual?

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: Many members have a good deal of experience of the mining industry, and would think nothing of going underground and seeing these things. But people who have come thousands of miles to see something different would welcome the opportunity of being able to eat their lunch underground in a mine and see all the workings of a mine.

The Hon. J. J. Garrigan: There is no necessity for them to eat underground.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: It would give people an opportunity to see something different—something out of the ordinary. There is no reason why samples of minerals found in the locality could not be given to the tourists. We have such minerals as vermiculite. That is a fantastic mineral, and it is used industrially in many forms. Most people do not know what natural vermiculite looks like. We could also give them samples of pyrites, and other minerals, in a small plastic bag so that they could take them away as a souvenir of their visit to the Goldfields. All these things would be of interest to tourists, and they would cost very little.

Of all the suggestions that have been made, there is one feature that has been overlooked, and that is a natural home for groups of natives. They could be permitted to live in their natural state, and it is possible that they would be a boost for our tourist trade. All the good points that they have—and they have many of them—could be featured. These people have a culture all of their own. Probably we could not fit into it, but there is much we could learn from it to our benefit. They have a form of art which cannot be compared anywhere else in the world; but it is not encouraged, and unfortunately is dying out.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: What about their canoes?

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: The honourable member does not know much about our native population if he thinks they know much about canoes. They do not; but they do have plenty to offer in the way of souvenirs for tourists. At this stage I would like to mention a young man named Ron Kickett who, some four years ago, started a business selling native works of art in the city. He has built up such a good business that he has received inquiries from England for the supply of 200 native-made boomerangs a month. He has also received an inquiry from America for the supply of 400 boomerangs a month; and, at an average price of 10s. each, that represents a lot of money.

I have correspondence relating to one aspect of the business. Some months ago a person passed through this city and had a look at this man's business and the wares he had to offer. This person, a Miss Ingeborg de Beausaq, representing a New York museum, selected, and paid for a variety of goods worth £170.

I mentioned earlier the peculiar circumstances that the young man found himself in. All those goods had previously been offered to the Museum authorities for inspection and sale, in order to give them the first opportunity to purchase. They told him funds were not available for them

to buy these articles, and they were accordingly not interested. I wrote to the Premier and my letter states—

Mr. Kickett went ahead with the arrangements to pack and ship the goods. He now finds that all his work of establishing contact overseas, all his goodwill with these interested buyers has been jeopardised by an action on the part of the Museum authorities in banning the export of such articles.

All these articles, because of Mr. Kickett's insistence of their being genuine native-made and authentic, are good specimens, but are not museum pieces.

Not one of them is more than 10 years old; and they can be purchased by anyone who cares to go north and look for them, which this young man did. However, the Museum, in its wisdom, saw fit to ban the export of these articles, and this young man now has to refund the money or resell the articles locally. The stupid part is that the Museum cannot acquire them but it will not permit them to be sold to tourists. This man can sell these museum pieces—these things that the Museum will not buy—to me, if I am keen to have them. I can hang them in my drawing room and, when I die, my children can say, "Dad was nuts on these, but we are not interested in them," and they can sell them to anyone in the country for 10s. a piece; and these museum pieces will end up by being tied to a piece of string and dragged around by children.

I contacted the Premier on the matter to see whether anything could be done. Unfortunately it appears to be beyond his authority to do much at present. The reasons he gave—

I am informed that an export license cannot be granted unless you first obtain from the Museum authorities a "Certificate of Export" in regard the articles concerned.

Dr. Ride, Director of the Western Australian Museum, is at present away from Perth and is not expected to return until the 27th July. I understand his policy is to refuse the export of rare or unique specimens until an opinion in regard to them is obtained from the Curator of Anthropology at the South Australian Museum, or the Curator of Anthropology at the Australian Museum, Sydney.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: From whence does he derive his authority to refuse export?

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: That is one of the things about which I am curious. It is one of the departmental bars that acts so stupidly against the possibility of such a business as this being built up. We have a Professor of Anthropology in our own University; and yet, if a man wants to sell an article, he has to

send it to some authority in South Australia or Sydney in order to be advised that it is not good enough for us to keep, and that he may sell it. Then the freight is paid back to Western Australia, and the article is sold.

This sort of thing is stupid, and it is holding up the development of what could be a sound business in souvenirs; and such a business could help to develop our tourist trade. I wrote to the woman concerned on the purchase, and I got a letter back from her. The letter I wrote found her at an address known as Pensione Carpaccio, Venezia—Venice. I will read a portion of the letter in which she answered my request that she do nothing in the meantime about forcing the sale of these articles as it was possible that the circumstances surrounding her purchases could be used to advantage by us to have the present anomaly removed. She wrote as follows:—

I had written off the whole story and asked Kickett to sell on my behalf. I do not know what he has done since. Before I can tell you what can be done with the case, I have to ask Kickett how matters stand at this very moment. Maybe, things have been sold already, I do not know. With the same mail, I will write to Kickett and ask for information.

I will be back in New York September 15th and should have a clearer picture by then.

In any event, I am most grateful that you take the question so close to your heart. The situation is absurd, but Governments of all countries act in absurd manners sometimes. I really do not know if I should be the "test case"!

However, as soon as I know more, I will write again. (I do not doubt for a moment Kickett's sincerity or anybody else's.)

It does seem stupid that our present law should mean that a young man selling an article for trade to tourists has first to take it to the Museum to see whether it will approve the sale. If the Museum does not, he has to take the risk of going to Fremantle and trying to get it on the boat and having somebody say, "Sorry, it has not been passed by the Museum for sale; you cannot get an export license; you must leave it here." Surely we can get over that position. Surely it is not necessary that this man must look for shoddy stuff to be sold as souvenirs! I am sure the Premier would not want to see that as part of his plan to attract tourists to the State.

For some months I have been trying to find a way through this maze of red tape, and I feel sure that the authority to be appointed would find one in a very short time if it saw the value of the proposition. This could be a great field of activity for

our native people it would benefit them and help to lift them up. It would also benefit the tourist trade itself, and give to it a flavour entirely different from the tourist trade in other States.

The Hon. J. J. Garrigan: Boomerangs in mass production!

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: I am sorry if the honourable member is trying to throw cold water on this proposition. It is not a question of boomerangs in mass production at all. This trade is open to the native missions which are already making them.

The Hon. J. J. Garrigan: That is what I meant.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: I am sorry. I thought the honourable member's reference was made in a slighting vein. It would not be difficult for an organisation such as the board to inaugurate something sound and attractive with the facilities already offering. I think Mr. Strickland mentioned the possibility of developing trips to the North-West. I may be wrong, but I think he suggested incorporating air trips in connection with shipping.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Not air trips.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: The proposition I have is along those lines. Would it not be possible for round trips to be offered whereby the tourists would go up to the North by boat and return overland. They could alternatively go to the North by some form of coach and return by boat.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: That does operate now.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: But it is not publicised. I have heard complaints from people in the North who say, "You go up by boat and you do not see the inland as it really is." The people should know more about the inland of Australia, and if this scheme is in operation it should be publicised. When we return by boat we have only seen isolated and attractive ports. We have not seen what is inland; and there is plenty to see, educationally and otherwise. The same thing can be done nearer home. Today we have trips to the South-West and back again. But what about a trip from Perth to the timber areas of the South-West; to the fruit growing areas; continuing east to the wheat and sheep areas; and down to Esperance; and to the mining areas of Kalgoorlie, and thence back to Perth?

The Hon. L. A. Logan: What about Geraldton?

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: The 90 miles of bitumen that is lacking should be constructed. Members are inclined to jeer and laugh at some of the suggestions. They are admittedly only small suggestions, but they comprise a small beginning

based on sound foundations; and that is surely better than flowery beginnings which end in chaos! It is apparent that the people do not know their own State, and we must give them an opportunity to see what it really contains.

Members may feel that there is something lacking in this Bill, but I hope they will give it serious consideration and all the support they can to enable all the difficulties to be ironed out; because once we get started the job will be half done. If the Premier goes ahead with the promises he made prior to the election, I am sure that every member present will be proud that he took part in the passing of a Bill such as this to promote the tourist trade in Western Australia.

THE HON. R. THOMPSON (West) [7.57]: I listened to Mr. Cunningham with interest. In the early part of his speech he mentioned that some people were clutching at wishbones. I think perhaps the Government is also clutching at wishbones, and is wishing that something good and great will come out of this. For the life of me I cannot see how anything good or great will be born from this Bill. We have the Government Tourist Bureau which at the present time could carry out practically all the provisions contained in the measure.

Mr. Cunningham has given us a classic example to show that the Bill is premature, because there is much work to be done before it can be put into operation. I refer, of course, to clearing up the hindrances that face people who wish to sell museum pieces overseas. I agree that not enough of our own people have travelled through Western Australia and not enough of them know as much as they should about the country.

I do feel, however, that it is perhaps not the fault so much of the people concerned as the fault of those who run hotels and guesthouses throughout the country. I have gone to the trouble of obtaining all the literature I could of the tourist resorts in Western Australia at present. The main reason why the wage-earner—the average person in Western Australia—cannot see the State as he should, is because he cannot afford to do so. This Bill will only make further inroads into the Treasury to finance something that the worker or wage-earner in Western Australia has not the money to see for himself. It will be seen that there are varying fees which are charged by the various hotels.

At Carnarvon the lowest shown on the list is £9, while the highest is £13 5s. per week. The average person, and perhaps the overseas visitor would wonder why there was a discrepancy in the prices. They would wonder what the service was in the hotel for £9 per week as compared with the service in the hotel for £13 5s

At Cave House, Yallingup, the tariff is £14 14s. per week. At Bunbury there are seven hotels, and the prices range from £10 10s. to £15 15s. per week. These hotels are not classified on the list to show why there should be such a variation in the amounts charged. There are about 15 guest houses at Bunbury. However, there is nothing to show the tourist that he would have a reasonable holiday with reasonable food and a decent clean room at £6 6s. per week. The next guest house charges £10 10s. per week.

It is only reasonable to expect that the type of accommodation provided at the various hotels and guest houses around the country should be classified on the list. At Esperance there are two hotels; both of them charge £10 10s. per week. There is a guest house which charges £9 9s. Bridgetown possesses four hotels, and the prices range from £5 15s. to £13 6s. per week. From there we move on to Albany where the prices range from £12 12s. per week to £21 1s. per week. There are quite a number of hotels as well as guest houses at Albany.

I have stayed at practically every hotel and guest house at Busselton, but when I go there now I take my caravan and go to the caravan park where I know what my meals and accommodation will be. I think the local tourist bureau at Busselton has done a reasonably good job; but unless the private hotelkeepers, of which we hear so much about, do a reasonable job, I consider we are wasting time in dealing with this Bill.

At Pemberton there are three guest houses and one hotel. At different times, I have stayed at the hotel and two of the guest houses. The fee at the hotel at the present time is £11 and at one guest house it is £10 10s. At another it is £9 9s. and the lowest is £5 10s. I can honestly say, after living in two of the guest houses and at the hotel at Pemberton, that the best service and the best food were obtained at the guest house which charged £5 10s. per week. But, would the average tourist book in at the lowest priced guest house in the township? Rather he would think it was a brummy place, and would not go there.

Before any consideration is given to this Bill, action should be taken to classify the various accommodation which tourists can expect to find throughout our townships which are already publicised in the Eastern States. It is mainly because of the varying charges that the average person cannot afford to go for a holiday. He knows that if he goes for a holiday and stays at a guest house or a hotel it will cost him in the vicinity of £60 per week if he has a wife and two children. That is out of all proportion to what the average person in Western Australia can afford!

The Hon. L. C. Diver: What is the cost of accommodation on the Gold Coast?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I do not think many workers would go to the Gold Coast. I have not been there as I cannot afford it.

The Hon. L. C. Diver: Tourists can.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Not all tourists are rich people.

The Hon. L. C. Diver: I agree.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: We should not cater for millionaires but for down-to-earth people from the other States and other parts of the world who have saved for a long time to have a trip to Australia, New Zealand or wherever they choose to go. When they get here we should be able to tell them, with reasonable certainty, that they can stay with confidence at the places listed on the literature at the Tourist Bureau. I think that every member in this Chamber has, at some time or other, lived at a hotel in Western Australia to which, the next time he went to the township, he would not send his dog.

I can recall several years ago having stayed at a hotel within 40 miles of Perth. I booked into the hotel to stay overnight, and I had to get my own meal out of the refrigerator; I had to make my own bed in the morning; and I had to sweep my room out.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I hope you did it all.

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: Did you shift the furniture?

The Hon. E. M. Davies: I hope you didn't get housemaid's knee.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: This is an example of private enterprise, yet we hear that the State hotels are to be sold by the Government of the day to private enterprise.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Where did you hear that? In your imagination? You tell us.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: When the State Hotels (Disposal) Bill comes before the House I will tell the Minister.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (the Hon. W. R. Hall): Order!

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Referring to the Bill, paragraph (b), subclause (3) of clause 6 reads as follows:—

is capable in its corporate name of dealing in any way whatsoever with real and personal property and of doing or suffering all such other acts and things as bodies corporate may by law do and suffer.

Am I to understand—no doubt the Minister will tell me if I am wrong—that if this authority is set up and Mr. Fontanini of Ponty's Pool, Manjimup, passes on and the property is to be sold, the authority can more or less, under the law, resume that property?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What do you mean by "more or less"?

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: It would cost them plenty.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What do you mean by "more or less?"

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (the Hon. W. R. Hall): I think the honourable member had better address the Chair.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The Minister asked me a moment ago where I heard about State hotels. I would read paragraph (c) of subclause (1) of clause 7—to promote, assist and co-ordinate the activities of persons and organisations interested in the development of the tourist industry in the State.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Where does that mention State hotels?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The sale of State hotels would go a long way towards helping and assisting those persons. I think this Bill is premature. Instead of putting this measure forward the Government should strive for more co-ordination in the activities of the Tourist Bureau; and it should exercise more interest in the local authorities in the various townships concerned. It should assist them to bring up their holiday tourist attractions to a desirable level, similar to the conditions at Pemberton. If the Government did that, I do not think there would be any argument against the Bill. At the present time it is a pipe-dream. In his policy speech, the Premier said a lot about tourism, but I do not think the people fully realise what the word "tourism" means.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What an insult to the people!

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: It does not mean that more people will be employed or that more service will be given to those who are in employment. This Bill will not assist in furthering employment. It might bring a few pounds into Western Australia, but it will cost many thousands of pounds to bring those few pounds here. I oppose the second reading.

THE HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [8.13]: I find myself in the position of realising that this measure is one which is very close to the heart of our Leader, the Premier; and I find myself in the curious position of having to vote for a Bill of which I hardly approve. I shall vote for it purely as a personal gesture to our Premier, because I realise his intense interest in bringing forward this measure. I think that if the Premier had held office for some years before introducing this Bill, we might have had a different measure altogether.

If one looks at the composition of the authority, one realises that it could be made up entirely of Government officials, with one person representing local government. There need not be one John Citizen on this authority. It does rather upset one,

because many of us have, for years, been praying for a change of leader; yet we find when there is a change of team and leader, the same method of control continues.

When we were out of office we pleaded for the citizen to be represented on boards; to be given some means by which to exert his personality in the interests of the State. We deplored the boards that were filled with Government servants. But we find that the moment we change the team, the same pattern returns; although the pattern is probably not quite the same as the previous ones in respect to this matter. What is suggested here is probably a worse method than we have had in the past.

One of the criticisms I have against the authority is that it need not be constituted by heads of departments. I can pretty well assure members that heads of departments will not be on it, because their occupation is a full-time one in their offices, and they would find it almost impossible to give their time to the control of the Tourist Bureau. The heads of departments, for the simple reason that deputies are not allowed, will not be on this authority.

What is going to happen is that officers less senior than departmental heads will be placed on the authority. We have before the House another similar Bill; so that we will not have the really senior officers, but the less senior officers—maybe even junior officers—in charge of the Tourist Bureau. This does not seem to be a reasonable means of administering the legislation.

I had a long experience—six years—as a member of the Civil Defence Council, and I realise how difficult it is for the senior civil servants to maintain office on authorities of this character. I am not saying anything personal against heads of departments, many of whom are my personal friends; and I respect them very deeply. But by their very training they are no more capable of carrying on the work of tourism than I am, by my training, to be the head of a Public Service Department. Therefore, I am not criticising them personally, but only their ability to take office in this type of work.

I know that when I was on the Civil Defence Council, and it became necessary for an inspection to be made outside the metropolitan area, there were always adequate reasons why none of the heads of departments could go. As a matter of fact, it ended up by three people—Professor Bayliss, Professor Wilkinson, who from time to time was the Civil Defence chief, and myself—doing the country tours. Therefore, the authority will not be one that will be able to move around; it will not be able to go and see the tourist sights for itself, because it will be composed of people who will be more properly occupied in their own departments.

Another point that one must recognise in this matter is that once a Government takes charge of something like a Tourist

Bureau, only one of two things can happen: Either the public will lose interest in the matter; or they will come running to the Government on every problem that faces them.

The authority will find itself in a very difficult position before long. It will find either that it will be a lone body carrying out tourist activities; or that it will have to meet, in some way or other, the requests of every organisation interested in the bringing of tourists to the State. So I can see that this measure is quite likely to break down because of one or other of these two factors taking charge of the authority's activities.

The bringing of tourists to the State, and the arranging of publicity are not things that can be done by anybody, but are jobs for a man with training. The person who handles them wants to be a publicity officer; he should know the country, not only generally, but in detail; and he should have some knowledge of organisation in the sphere of transport.

The question of where works are to be carried out or roads are to be built is not the important one; the question of providing facilities in relation to roads and works, and in relation to the gifts that nature has given us, is the one that matters. The works will still go on, and the roads will still be made—they will have to be—without this department being represented on the authority.

If there is anything wrong with the Tourist Bureau, this is not a good method of putting it right. To put an officer who for years has been in charge of the Tourist Bureau, under the control of less than the heads of other departments, is not the proper thing to do; and this is what this Bill amounts to.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: That is how silly we are getting!

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: If there is something wrong, the correct thing to do is to put the Tourist Bureau right. I am not saying whether I know that there is something wrong with the Tourist Bureau, or not; but the Bill rather suggests that some organisation other than the present one will be given authority over the Tourist Bureau. I feel that if the money that the Bill contemplates will be made available to the authority, were given to the Tourist Bureau, it would be able, because of its experience, to do a grand job; provided it had a council of an advisory character chosen from John Citizen who knows what the State has in the way of tourist facilities; who has visited those places; and who is able, from experience of the facilities, to advise the Tourist Bureau.

I believe there is such a body in formation at the moment; and, if I remember rightly, the Premier, when introducing the Bill, paid a tribute to those people. If I had the handling of this measure, I

would re-constitute the Tourist Bureau, if necessary, and see that it got whatever funds were available; and I would appoint an advisory council of citizens. After all, it does not really matter what roads are built or what public works are constructed; it depends on the citizens of the country whether tourism will be a success.

In respect to this matter, citizens have to face two aspects: One is the question of local tourism; and the other is the appeal to people outside of the State and outside of Australia to come and visit us. I believe, therefore, that there are two facets of the work which must be dealt with. We must provide for our citizens to see their own State; and we must provide the necessary accommodation for them. The provision is the primary factor, because it is only when private enterprise sees the necessity to build accommodation that the accommodation will be built. It is no good asking private enterprise to erect a £1,000,000 hotel while we are hoping to attract people from outside the State to visit us. We have to start within the State. Having done that we can appeal to those from without.

One of the first real opportunities that will come to this authority—or to any authority—will be the Empire Games. If we can make a success of the Empire Games, we can then begin to appeal to visitors to come to the State. In fact, we will not have to appeal to them, because those who visit us will be sufficient advertisement to induce others to come. But it does not seem to me that at the moment we, as a people, are making a great effort to ensure success in 1962. At present all that seems to be happening is that there are bickerings among various minority groups as to what can be done and what cannot be done in certain areas of the city and the State.

Until the people begin to realise that we have to make a success in 1962, we will fail for a long period to attract tourists here. If we bring tourists here in 1962, and they return home and make unfavourable comments, we will wait for a long time for another onslaught from tourists outside Australia.

We should begin to think of what we must do if we want to appeal to people to come here; and many from within Australia will come to the Empire Games. Surely, as I said when speaking on the Address-in-reply debate, one of the most urgent measures is the provision of a proper lounge and dining-room on the trans. train from Kalgoorlie to Perth; or some more suitable means of dining than is at present provided. The lounge on that train is not such as to call for creditable comment from those who travel on it; it would be regarded by those who visit us as somewhat of a curio and as a relic of the past. Those are matters that could be looked into, to see what should be done in order to make the Games a success.

We might also consider the question of teaching ourselves courtesy to visitors. Let me for just a moment detail an aspect that might not appeal to everybody; although I am certain it appeals to visitors. One can go into a store in this city and quite likely meet a courteous person who will go out of his or her way to do everything possible to give the information one desires. On the other hand, one would be equally likely to meet a person who, on being asked a simple question, would turn round with a blank face and say, "I do not know." That would not appeal to our tourists in 1962. Almost everyone who has written, recently, about travelling, has emphasised the courtesy which is extended to visitors all through Asia.

Some of the interesting things that might be said about the old traditional places of London, could be said of Harrods. Anyone applying for a post there—even a young girl applying for a temporary position—is given a week's instruction in the traditions of the firm, and is shown every portion of Harrod's until she knows exactly where everything is so that she can answer any questions concerning Harrod's that might be asked by customers. The result is that Harrods have built for themselves a sound reputation for courtesy throughout the world.

We might try to practise a little more of it in our own State. We might also try to teach those who answer telephones the correct way to address the caller instead of saying, "Hello" or "Yeah?", because that is not really the correct method of answering a telephone call. This type of courtesy when properly used, makes a tremendous impact on business.

As Mr. Cunningham has said, these are little things, but they are the things that count. I could continue for quite a long time telling the House of many things that we could do, but that is going to be the task of this proposed tourist authority. However, the authority should be comprised of the senior citizens of the State and not constituted in the manner that this one will be.

Finally, we must—if we are going to make a success of 1962—do something about our Licensing Court. It must be reconstituted or its powers thoroughly amended. Further, this step should be taken almost immediately so that it can say to the various hotels that they must provide suitable accommodation. The lack of decent accommodation in hotels is not something that is common to Western Australia but to Australia as a whole. If I remember the particulars correctly, the prospectus for the new "Chevron" Hotel in Sydney, which is to cost between £2,000,000 and £4,000,000, states that at present, in the existing hotels in that city, there are only 400 rooms with bathrooms attached. This is in strange contrast to what is happening in the rest of the world; particularly in the Eastern world,

and in America, where no hotel room is built today without a bathroom attached. These are the features that will impress the tourist most forcibly.

A member in another place made a real comment about the permission which, apparently, was granted by the Licensing Court to the Boomerang Hotel to build rooms without bathrooms.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: And without even wash-basins. It is a crying shame!

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: If we think that is the way to attract tourists to our State, we are sadly mistaken. Travellers today—even on board ship—expect bathrooms to be attached to their cabins. Only two days ago I inquired about some accommodation on a ship, and the apology was made to me that a cabin with a bathroom attached could not be supplied because the ship was old and no such facility was offering.

I do not think we should permit any more hotels to be built in our city unless bathrooms are attached to the majority of the rooms. I think that even those visitors who are coming here to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference will find that the accommodation in which some of them will be placed—I do not want to name the hotel—will be far from acceptable to them. Unfortunately, there is a greater number of the visitors accommodated in that hotel than anywhere else. If I had had something to do with the accommodation arrangements I would have looked elsewhere.

That is not the way to publicise our city; and we are not going to make any progress as far as the tourist trade is concerned unless we have a bigger body behind us to publicise the attractions of our State. The Bill will not do that; in fact it will stultify rather than improve the position. John Citizen is the man to whom we can appeal to put the situation right; he is the man to whom we will be responsible for the administration of the Empire Games; and I am pleased to see, in the committees appointed by the Perth City Council, that John Citizen is well represented.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: John Citizen is well represented in this Bill.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Tell me where! Let us look for John Citizen in the Bill. The first four members must be officers or heads of departments; the fifth one shall represent the local governing authorities; and 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.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Would they not be John Citizens?

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Not necessarily, because the Minister might want one of them to be a publicity officer.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: And they could not be members of Parliament.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Fortunately. I think I have said enough to make it quite clear that my support of the Bill is given purely on personal grounds and not because I like most of its provisions.

On motion by the Hon. A. L. Loton, debate adjourned.

ART GALLERY BILL

Assembly's Message

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to amendments Nos. 2 to 9 inclusive made by the Council and had disagreed to Nos. 1, 10 and 11.

BILLS (4)—FIRST READING

1. State Electricity Commission Act Amendment (No. 2).

2. Industrial Development (Kwinana Area) Act Amendment.

Received from the Assembly; and, on motions by the Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), read a first time.

3. Noxious Weeds Act Amendment.

Received from the Assembly; and, on motions by the Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government), read a first time.

4. Interstate Maintenance Recovery.

Received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Child Welfare), read a first time.

MAIN ROADS ACT (FUNDS APPROPRIATION) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the previous day.

THE HON. E. M. DAVIES (West) [8.44]: I see no reason to indulge in a lot of unnecessary repetition in speaking to this Bill, because the Minister in charge has already explained its provisions to the House. I have compared it with the principal Act and I find it is purely a continuation measure dealing principally with main road finances which are, of course, extremely necessary. The Bill has been re-enacted every five years; and, as the existing provisions expire in December of this year, the passing of the Bill is most essential. I support the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

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

LAND AGENTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the previous day.

THE HON. H. K. WATSON (Metropolitan) [8.47]: I support the second reading of this Bill, the purpose of which is

to enable the trust account of a land agent to be frozen in the event of his default. My only reason for intervening in the debate is to draw attention to certain provisions contained in proposed section 14L. It appears that that section could introduce a provision under which the existing rights of beneficiaries—prescribed by the law as it stands—whose trust funds have not been misappropriated, could be destroyed.

This particular point has been raised by the Law Reform Committee of the Law Society. I understand that committee has conveyed its views to the Attorney-General. When the Minister replies to the debate I shall be obliged if he will answer the question I have raised.

Proposed section 14L suggests that all moneys in the trust accounts of land agents shall be paid into the Treasury for distribution, *pro rata*, amongst all claimants. It does not necessarily follow that a defaulting land agent must be in default in respect of each trust of which he is the trustee.

An example could occur, for instance, of a land agent holding a particular amount of trust funds in a trust account, separate from any other trust account or accounts. Under the existing law the right of the beneficiaries to the moneys in that particular account would not be affected by the land agent's misappropriation of other trust funds. The same position applies in any case where the beneficiary can identify the trust property to which he is entitled. Quite often it happens that a beneficiary can identify his trust property, even after it has been paid into a banking account.

The position, envisaged under proposed section 14L, can be explained in this manner: If a burglar steals jewellery from a number of houses, and if he is subsequently apprehended and some of the proceeds of the theft are recovered and identified as the property of a particular person, all the proceeds must, nevertheless, be distributed among all the owners of the stolen jewellery, and amongst every person who has suffered a loss from the depredations of that burglar.

It is suggested under the wording of the Bill that a sum of money may be identified definitely as being the trust money of one particular client, but that client will have to share his property amongst all the persons who suffered loss through the default of the land agent.

The Hon. L. C. Diver: That client's funds might be intact.

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: They could be intact, traced, and identified; yet, as I understand the position in the Bill, those funds must be distributed amongst all the claimants.

I am also advised that if this system is to be employed, it will bring into operation a system entirely different from the

existing practice where beneficiaries can recover from the trust account of a solicitor, accountant, or any other person in a position of trust. If that is the proper construction of the proposed new section, there is much in what the Law Society has brought to the notice of the Attorney-General. I would be obliged if the Minister would look into the matter before he replies.

On motion by the Hon. E. M. Heenan, debate adjourned.

FATAL ACCIDENTS BILL

Third Reading

Bill read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 2.30 p.m. tomorrow.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 8.54 p.m.

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

STRANGERS IN THE HOUSE

Admission to Lobbies

THE SPEAKER: I draw members' attention to the fact that apparently there is some laxity being shown in connection with the admission of strangers to the House. Last night I noticed strangers in the lobby whilst the House was sitting, and again today I received a complaint about strangers being in the lobby and being served afternoon tea long after the time when they should have been in the strangers' room. Staff members are reluctant to interfere in such matters; but they have a duty to perform, and I would ask members to bear in mind that strangers are not to be admitted to the lobbies 1½ hours before the House sits.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE CEMENT

Price in Capital Cities

- Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Industrial Development:
Will he obtain the selling price of cement per ton—
 - in each capital city, other than Perth, to the respective Governments;
 - in each capital city, other than Perth, to the industrial users;
 - in each capital city, other than Perth, to the general public?

Legislative Assembly

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