I refer the honourable member to chapter 17 of Standing Orders, which sets out the procedure to amend the motion. I must accept it as it is, but it does not read sense in its present form.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: Thank you for your direction, Mr. Speaker.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Nalder (Minister for Agriculture).

House adjourned at 10.11 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 29th August, 1968

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

QUESTIONS (30): ON NOTICE

HILLS TRANSPORT

Timetable

1. Mr. DUNN asked the Minister for Transport:
   (1) Is the proposed timetable, to be used in the co-ordinated public transport system for servicing the hills area and based on Midland, available for public use and consideration?
   (2) If not, when will it be available so those who are desirous of patronising the service will be able to make suitable arrangements?
   (3) Has a firm date been made for the official opening of the system?

   Mr. O'CONNOR replied:
   (1) No.
   (2) Public rail timetables will be available two weeks prior to introduction of the new service on the 7th October, 1968.
   (3) The official opening ceremony will take place on Tuesday, the 8th October, 1968.

MOTOR VEHICLES

Inspections

2. Mr. DUNN asked the Minister for Police:
   (1) In view of the drastically serious incidence of road accidents, and the high percentage attributable to vehicle and mechanical defects, when is it anticipated an annual compulsory inspection scheme for motor vehicles is likely to be introduced in the metropolitan area?
   (2) Has the Police Department any control over this vexed problem in so far as the country shires are concerned?

   Mr. O'CONNOR (for Mr. Craig) replied:
   (1) The implementation of the scheme has been delayed pending the acquisition of suitable sites for inspection centres. At this stage, it is not possible to say when the scheme will be started. Negotiations to secure suitable sites are still being pursued.
   (2) No.

FISHING

Mandurah Estuary

3. Mr. RUNCIMAN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries:
   (1) Has any fish research been conducted in the Mandurah estuary waters? If so, what was the nature of the research?
   (2) How important does the department regard the Mandurah estuary waters for commercial fishing?
   (3) Besides administering the Fisheries Act and carrying out some research, in what way does the department assist south-west fishermen?

   Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:
   (1) (a) In 1941 Dr. G. L. Kesteven published a paper on the conservation of the mullet catch in estuarine waters.
   (b) In 1957 Professor J. M. Thompson published the following papers:—
   (i) The size at maturity and spawning times of some Western Australian estuarine fishes.
   (ii) The food of Western Australian estuarine fish.
   (c) Crab research is now in progress.
   (2) The Mandurah estuary provides a very substantial portion of fresh fish for the metropolitan area.
   (3) Conservation measures for the control and management of the fisheries.

Research Expenditure

4. Mr. RUNCIMAN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries:
   (1) What amount was spent by the Fisheries Department in research on fish for the years of 1966 and 1967?
   (2) What was the nature of this research?
   (3) Has any research been done in the waters south of Fremantle; if so, where and when?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) Departmental vote for biological station and scientific equipment—1966-67, $8,100; 1967-68, $7,800. These amounts do not include incidental expenditure such as salaries, travelling, boat maintenance, etc., which are not dissected.

(2) Australian salmon, abalone, crayfish, prawn, sperm whale, and tuna.

(3) Crayfish in 1958 and 1959, tuna in 1961 and 1962, and abalone in 1967 and 1968 in the waters of the south and south-west coast.

TROPIC OF CAPRICORN

Official Parallel

5. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Lands:

(1) When was the last meeting of the National Mapping Council and/or its technical sub-committee?

(2) Has a specifically defined parallel of latitude been officially adopted for the Tropic of Capricorn by the Commonwealth, Queensland, and Western Australian Governments?

(3) When was the decision made to adopt a common standard?

(4) What exact parallel was accepted?

(5) For what period is it proposed the definition will continue?

(6) Will he lay on the Table of the House the file(s) relating to the acceptance of a fixed value for the Tropic of Capricorn on a national basis?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

(1) The last meeting of the National Mapping Council was held at Brisbane on the 7th, 8th, and 9th May, 1968.

(2) Resolution No. 324 of the National Mapping Council reads as follows:—

> Tropic of Capricorn—
>
> The Council resolves to adopt a value of 230° 26′ 30″ South Latitude to represent the Tropic of Capricorn for cartographic purposes.

I am not aware what action has been taken to officially adopt a definite parallel of latitude by the Commonwealth or Queensland Governments but the resolution is currently being considered by this State.

(3) No decision has yet been made apart from the one made at the National Mapping Council, which was for cartographic purposes.

(4) Answered in (2).

(5) As far as the National Mapping Council is concerned, no period was proposed and the resolution will continue until amended.

(6) Lands Department file 3918/65, which is currently tabled at the request of the honourable member, as far as I am aware, is the only one dealing with this question.

Mr. Graham: You are not aware of what is.

Mr. BOVELL: That is the only one in my department.

Mr. Graham: That is not right, either.

TOWN PLANNING

Statutory Plan

6. Mr. CASH asked the Minister representing the Minister for Town Planning:

(1) Is the Town Planning Department preparing a statutory plan for the Perth City Council area?

(2) When will it be completed?

(3) What major zoning changes can be expected?

(4) If zoning changes are proposed, will they include provisions for high density flat building within three miles of the city area?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) No. This is the responsibility of the Perth City Council.

(2) to (4) Answered by (1).

MINES MEDICAL OFFICER

Name

7. Mr. T. D. EVANS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

What is the name of the person who holds the office of Mines Medical Officer constituted under the Mine Workers' Relief Act?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

Three medical officers hold the appointment—

Dr. Denes Karczub, M.D., (Debrecan) appointed from the 17th July, 1953.

Dr. James Columba McNulty, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., appointed from the 21st August, 1957.

Dr. Peter Francis Maguire, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., appointed from the 15th October, 1964.

KALGOORLIE WATER SUPPLIES

Adequacy

8. Mr. T. D. EVANS asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

What steps have been taken to ensure adequate and non-restricted water supplies during the summer months in and around Kalgoorlie?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

The question is answered by the previous reply to the honourable member in response to his question 20 on Wednesday, the 21st August, 1968.

Mr. T. D. Evans: I want to know what steps have been taken.

HOUSING IN KALGOORLIE

Rental Homes

9. Mr. T. D. EVANS asked the Minister for Housing:

What plans are in hand for building of rental homes in Kalgoorlie?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

Four houses are under construction and the contract is 58 per cent. complete.

ALBANY-BUNBURY HIGHWAY JUNCTION

Upgrading

10. Mr. RUSHTON asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Has the plan been finalised for the upgrading of Albany Highway and Bunbury Highway junction at Armadale?

(2) If "Yes," could a plan be made available?

(3) If "No," when is it estimated planning will be completed and work commenced?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) No. Planning is continuing but there are many problems involving private land and access to existing properties which have still to be resolved.

(2) Answered by (1).

(3) Because of the many design problems associated with this junction it will be quite some time before plans can be finalised. Because of the demands of higher priority works no commencing date for the work can be given at the moment.

ARMADALE HIGH SCHOOL

Enrolments and Accommodation

11. Mr. RUSHTON asked the Minister for Education:

Related to accommodating increased enrolments of students and providing improved staff facilities and allowing for growth in specialist science classes at Armadale Senior High School—

(1) What permanent or temporary building additions will be ready for use at the beginning of 1969 school year?

(2) What further building programme is contemplated in the future for this high school?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) No permanent additions are planned for the opening of the 1969 school year. Temporary buildings will be provided if required.

(2) Future building programmes include a new library, extensions to science teaching facilities, and enlarged staff accommodation.

LAND BETTERMENT TAX

Legislation

12. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Treasurer: Relevant to his reply, the 6th August re land betterment tax, will he include among matters to be considered the M.R.P.A. suggestion that 25 per cent. of the tax collected be allocated to local authorities for purposes including—

(a) the employment of planning officers;

(b) conservation, rehabilitation, development, and redevelopment of individual areas?

Mr. BRAND replied:

Taxation on land and associated matters are being given consideration in the preparation of the 1968-69 Estimates.

FREMANTLE COURTHOUSE

Use of Princess May School

13. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

(1) Further to his reply that temporary accommodation is to be found for the Fremantle Court in a private office block in course of construction—

(a) who will be the landlord receiving public money as rent;

(b) what is the anticipated rent?

(2) Would the cost associated with alterations to Princess May School as temporary accommodation as a courthouse be in excess of total amount of rent to be paid prior to completion of the proposed new courthouse?

(3) If less than cost of alterations and since many, if not all of those at present occupying the Fremantle Courthouse believe Princess May School a suitable temporary alternative, why pay rent?

Mr. COURT replied:

(1) (a) Australasia Development Company Pty. Ltd., 1200 Hay Street, Perth.

(b) Approximately $4,000 per annum.

(2) A detailed estimate of cost has not been made by the Public Works architects who consider the major alterations required for conversion as a temporary courthouse would make the proposition uneconomical.

(3) The professional opinion of the architects must be accepted.

MAIN ROADS FUNDS

Expenditure in Tambellup Shire

14. Mr. MITCHELL asked the Minister for Works:

What amount of Main Roads funds have been made available to or spent in the Tambellup Shire area during the years 1963-64, 1964-65, 1965-66, 1966-67, 1967-68?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

I will supply statement as requested.

ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

Tambellup Shire: Allocations and Collections

15. Mr. MITCHELL asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) What amount of money has been allocated from road maintenance funds to the Tambellup Shire during the years 1966-67 and 1967-68?

(2) How many carriers licensed in the Tambellup Shire have paid road maintenance taxes during 1966-67 and 1967-68?

(3) What is the total amount of road maintenance tax collected from Tambellup area during the two years in question?

(4) Is it proposed that this tax should be spent where it is collected?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

(1) 1966-67—$4,170.

1967-68—$5,560.

(2) Two.

(3) As road maintenance tax payments are confidential the figures will be made available on this basis to the member for Stirling.

(4) No. The road maintenance charge is distributed on a State-wide road-needs basis.

16. *This question was postponed.*

MILK LICENSES

Applications

17. Mr. RUNCIMAN asked the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) What is the number of applications from farmers to the Milk Board for licenses to sell whole milk?

(2) How many of these applicants fulfil the necessary requirements to obtain a license?

(3) Does the board inform the applicant in writing whether he is eligible or not eligible?

Mr. NALDER replied:

(1) 95.

(2) and (3). Applicants approved for licensing are given 12 months' notice in order to build milking premises, plan calvings, pasture, etc. Prospective dairymen are not required to meet board requirements until approved. All applicants are considered when the additional issue of licenses is considered necessary.

Number Granted

18. Mr. RUNCIMAN asked the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) How many milk licenses were granted in 1968?

(2) Has an estimate been made for 1969; if so, how many will be granted?

(3) In granting licenses does the board give preference to any particular area—irrigation v. non-irrigation?

(4) If the present trend of increased milk sales continues, how long does the Milk Board anticipate that all present eligible applicants will receive licenses?

Mr. NALDER replied:

(1) Nineteen.

(2) Twenty applicants have been approved for the issue of dairyman's licenses on the 1st February, 1969, subject to meeting the board's requirements in respect of premises, etc., by that date.

(3) No. All applicants are considered on their merits.

(4) Additional applications are continually being received and the total number of applicants remains in the vicinity of 100. The number of additional licenses issued is governed by market requirements.

PLANT SUPERVISOR

Industrial Coverage

19. Mr. T. D. EVANS asked the Minister for Labour:

(1) Is a person termed a "Plant Supervisor" covered in any award or industrial agreement operating between the Gold Mining Supervisors Association and the Chamber of Mines of W.A. (Inc.)?

(2) Is such a person able to qualify for a supervisor's ticket; that is, a plant supervisor's ticket?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

(1) No.

(2) See answer to (1).

HIGH SCHOOL AMENITIES

Canning Electorate

20. Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister for Education:

In view of the modern planning of the hall and gymnasium at the Rossmoyne High School, would he indicate—

(1) If it is the intention to incorporate this type of amenity into the proposed high school to be built in the Thornlie-Gosnells area?

(2) If this type of amenity will be incorporated into the existing building of the Canning High School this financial year; if so, when?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) Detailed plans for a new high school in the Thornlie-Gosnells area have not been drawn. Consideration will be given to the inclusion of all modern educational requirements.

(2) It is assumed that the reference is to Cannington High School where a hall-gymnasium has been partially developed. The completion of this work is provisionally listed in the 1968-69 works programme but is dependent upon available finance.

MILK LICENSES

Country Areas

21. Mr. H. D. EVANS asked the Minister for Agriculture:

In reply to a question on the 30th July, 1968 he stated that "approval had been given for the issue of a license to Masters Dairy Limited for a receival depot at Dardanup to ensure an adequate supply of milk for that company to retain its business."
To enable this company to achieve this object—

(1) How many new licenses will be or have been granted to suppliers in that area?

(2) What quantity of milk will be involved?

(3) What increases to existing license holders have been or will be made?

Mr. NALDER replied:

(1) to (3) A license has not yet been granted and the matter remains deferred pending discussions between the milk treatment companies.

OCCUPATIONAL CENTRE

South Kensington

22. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Education:

What progress has been made in regard to the extension of domestic science teaching facilities at South Kensington occupational centre?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

A contract is being finalised and details will be announced shortly.

REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Kwinana-Rockingham Area

23. Mr. TAYLOR asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:
What is the approxmiate date it is intended to begin construction of the proposed regional general hospital in the Kwinana-Rockingham area?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

An approximate date cannot be given but every effort is being made to start construction in the financial year 1969-70 dependent on the availability of loan funds.

SCHOOLS

South and East Coolbellup

24. Mr. TAYLOR asked the Minister for Education:

Will he advise—

(1) The anticipated date of commencement of construction of the proposed South Coolbellup school?

(2) The anticipated enrolment at the East Coolbellup School in 1969?

(3) The number of additional classrooms, if any, it is proposed to construct this year for the East Coolbellup School?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) Tenders have been called and completion is anticipated for the opening of the 1969 school year.

(2) 416 students.

(3) 2 classrooms.

HAMILTON HILL SCHOOL

Closure and Reconstruction

25. Mr. TAYLOR asked the Minister for Education:

As the proposed Roe freeway as planned runs through the Hamilton Hill State School grounds, will he advise—

(1) If and when the school is likely to close?

(2) Whether a new school will be built to replace it?

(3) If "Yes," the locality of the new school?

(4) If "No," the possible schools to which students may be dispersed?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) The school will be closed. The date is dependent upon negotiations at present proceeding for a new site.

(2) A new school will be built.

(3) and (4) The new site is under negotiation but not yet approved officially.

VICTORIA STREET, MIDLAND

Connection with Great Eastern Highway

26. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Is the plan for Victoria Street, Midland, passing the new station to connect with Great Eastern Highway, West Midland, finalised?

(2) If "Yes," when will the road be open for traffic?

(3) If "No," what is holding up the finalising of the plan?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) No. However, a tentative road scheme to suit a suggested town plan for the Town of Midland has been submitted to the Midland Council.

(2) No date has been set for construction of this route. Plans were produced for forward planning purposes only to enable the Town of Midland to develop a town planning scheme.

(3) Answered by (2).

LAND AT MIDLAND

Sale and Availability

27. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) Has any of the land at Midland taken over from the Midland Railway Coy. Ltd. been sold during the past year?

(2) Is the land not sold available for sale to private purchasers?

(3) Is any land set aside for road purposes on the old Geraldton line between the post office and Upper Swan?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

(1) No.

(2) Yes, subject to submission of a satisfactory proposition for development to the Government.

(3) The Main Roads Department has made application for use of this land.

SPEARWOOD SCHOOL

Class Enrolments

28. Mr. TAYLOR asked the Minister for Education:

(1) Is it anticipated at this stage that students will be accommodated in the old Spearwood School in 1969?

(2) If "Yes," how many classes?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) It is possible that some classes will be accommodated at the old school.

(2) The number of students and classes will be dependent upon actual enrolments in 1969.

IRON ORE AND MANGANESE RESERVE

Granting to Goldsworthy

29. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

On what date was the Goldsworthy temporary reserve granted and what was the number of the reserve?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

Assuming that the question refers to the ground applied for by Nomads Pty. Ltd. as Temporary Reserve 2613H, the number of the Goldsworthy reserve over this ground was 2600H. It was formally approved by the Minister on the 21st August, 1962, and confirmed by the Governor in Executive Council on the 20th September, 1962.

30. *This question was postponed.*

QUESTIONS (3): WITHOUT NOTICE

MAIN ROADS FUNDS: EXPENDITURE IN TAMBELLUP SHIRE

Tabling of Answer to Question

1. Mr. TONKIN asked the Speaker:

With reference to question 14 on today's notice paper and the answer given by the Minister, when a question appears on the notice paper, the answer then to be given by the Minister is the property of the House. As I understood the answer given, the Minister declined to table the answer to the question, but passed it to the honourable member concerned. I ask you, Sir: Is that not irregular, and will you request the Minister to table the answer?

The SPEAKER replied:

Yes. I must rule that, in view of the question asked, the information must be supplied to the House.

Mr. O'CONNOR: Could I make an explanation? I understand the Leader of the Opposition said—

The SPEAKER: The question concerned was not directed to you. It was directed to the Minister for Works.

TROPIC OF CAPRICORN

Official Parallel

2. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Lands:

In the last portion of the answer to question 5, the Minister stated that as far as he was aware file 3198/65, which I have in my hand at the moment, is the only one dealing with this matter. The replies given in the first portion of the answer informed me there was a meeting of the National Mapping Council held in Brisbane, and there is no reference to that in this file, nor to the subsequent information supplied to part (2) of the question. In his reply the Minister informed me that resolution No. 234 of the council, "reads as follows" and then appeared the wording of the resolution. My questions are—

(1) From what source did he obtain the information in respect of the replies to the two questions asked previously?

(2) Will he lay upon the Table of the House the file or files from which were obtained those answers and other facts relating to the decision on the Tropic of Capricorn?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

(1) and (2) The information was conveyed to me by the representives of the council. I have given the answer which I believe to be correct. I inserted the statement that as far as I was aware this was the only file, to make it quite clear I was not misleading the House in any way. So far as I am aware this is the only file in existence. If, however, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition wants any further information, will he please put the question on the notice paper.

Mr. Graham: I have already put it in *Hansard*.

TRAFFIC

Accidents at the Causeway

3. Dr. HENN asked the Minister for Traffic:

With regard to the 724 accidents which are said to have occurred during the last 12 months at the Causeway—

(1) How many were minor?

(2) How many injuries occurred?

(3) How many fatalities occurred?

(4) How many vehicles pass this point during a day?

Mr. O'CONNOR (for Mr. Craig) replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question, the answer to which is as follows:—

(1) 505. This is where the damage concerned was under $50.

(2) 17.

(3) None.

(4) Approximately 7,000 vehicles pass this point during peak periods; an average of 70,000 a day; and, during the last 12 months, approximately 25,550,000 vehicles passed that point.

MAIN ROADS FUNDS: EXPENDITURE IN TAMBELLUP SHIRE

Personal Explanation

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Works) [2.37 p.m.]: On a point of explanation, I would not like it thought that I was deliberately declining to give information to the House. I appreciate the point raised by the Leader of the Opposition, and I bow to your ruling in this matter, Sir.

It had been suggested to me that when I supplied long statements attached to answers to questions, it was necessary that

these be recorded in the *Votes and Proceedings* and that therefore it might be of value if, instead, one copy was handed to the member who asked the question.

I just desired to make it quite clear there was no intention to by-pass the House. I regret this feeling should have been held by the Leader of the Opposition, and, in accordance with your ruling, Sir, I shall follow the usual procedure.

The statement was tabled.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Tabling of Long Answers: Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER: For the information of the Minister and everyone else, a difficulty does exist in regard to handing in answers. However, that difficulty can be overcome by the Minister asking permission to table the answers. In that way the detailed information does not have to be recorded. It is a simple way to overcome the problem.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Thank you.

HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. O'Neil (Minister for Housing), and read a first time.

NICKEL REFINERY (WESTERN MINING CORPORATION LIMITED) AGREEMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Industrial Development) [2.39 p.m.]: I move—

> That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to ratify an agreement between the Government and the Western Mining Corporation Limited relating to nickel mining, the production of nickel, and the establishment of a nickel refinery at Kwinana. Such refinery with its associated works will cost not less than $45,000,000 and is designed to produce 15,000 tons of nickel metal per annum.

I should explain at the outset that this agreement is, of course, substantially a mining one, but it does have with it a very big industrial component, and because of the fact that the negotiations were conducted jointly by the Minister for Mines and myself, it was decided I, instead of my colleague who represents the Minister for Mines in this House, would introduce the Bill.

To produce the metal, the refinery will use a process developed by Sherritt Gordon Mines Ltd. of Canada, and used in that company's works at Saskatchewan, where it recovers nickel, copper, and cobalt.

This process is technically described as a hydrometallurgical one, involving the use of ammonia and hydrogen to separate the metal. The process automatically results in the production, as a by-product, of ammonium sulphate, a nitrogenous fertiliser not previously manufactured in this State. The Kwinana refinery, it is estimated, will produce 140,000 tons of ammonium sulphate annually. The ammonia to be used in the process is produced locally by K.N.C., as part of the C.S.B.P. and Farmers Ltd. nitrogenous fertiliser industry at Kwinana.

This agreement has some unusual features. First of all it is one of the very few agreements introduced where one can foreshadow the complete process of the mining of a mineral and its reduction into a metal in a very short time. Another significant feature is that it ties together several industries in one area. Next week I will provide for the information of members—if you are willing, Mr. Speaker—a plan showing how the location of this refinery on the site that has been selected is logical and desirable so as to obtain the maximum complementary benefit of five industries which are being established—or have been established—in the area.

I mention this at this point because I have made reference to ammonia, and it is significant that K.N.C., built within the BP refinery—as part of the C.S.B.P. complex—will provide the ammonia. By locating the nickel refinery alongside, we will be able to obtain the maximum economic benefit, not only for the industry, but for the State. There are other chemicals which will have to be drawn from nearby industries and it is fortuitous that C.S.B.P. has an ammonia industry established in this area. Members will have noticed the announcement of the establishment of a large industry by C.I.G., which will be contiguous with these other industries. The establishment of these industries, side by side, will achieve the best results.

Normally, nickel concentrates are smelted in a furnace and a nickel matte which can contain up to 70 per cent. nickel metal is obtained. Such matte is then treated by electrolysis to produce 99.9 per cent. pure nickel. In the Sherritt Gordon process, the metals are leached from the concentrate by means of an ammonia solution, using heat and pressure. Hydrogen is then used to precipitate the nickel metal. The refinery will not only be able to treat the natural mineral concentrates but also the artificial matte produced by a smelter.

In designing the refinery, the fact has been taken into account that there will be —we hope—in the reasonably near future a smelter, and we want to be able to take the products of both the concentrates and the smelter, the latter in the form of matte, into the refinery. A Kwinana site was chosen rather than one at Kalgoorlie

or Esperance because of the availability of sufficient quantities of good water. It would have been our desire, under normal circumstances, to have the refinery at Kambalda, Kalgoorlie, or Esperance, but the necessity of water for the refinery was the determining factor.

Work in connection with the erection of the refinery has already commenced and it is to be completed not later than June, 1971, and during the first 10-year period of its operation the corporation undertakes to produce an annual average of 10,000 tons of nickel metal. It also undertakes to continue current investigations into the feasibility of establishing a smelter at Kambalda or Kalgoorlie to produce nickel matte, and, when it considers the establishment of such a smelter to be economically viable, it will notify the Government and proceed with construction.

Smelting on the spot could be of great benefit to the corporation once its nickel operations are fully established, as it would enable the treatment of the considerable quantities of lower grade ore which inevitably exist with all large mineral ore bodies and which otherwise would be uneconomic to produce. This in itself is a big economic inducement to the company, and, as members read the agreement, which is the schedule to the Bill, they will see there is also an economic inducement to the company through the method of assessing the royalties.

Nickel, unlike iron, has not been discovered in quantity in many countries, the major producers being Canada, New Caledonia, Cuba, and the U.S.S.R.; and the discovery and development of such large high-grade deposits as those at Kambalda is of immense importance, not only to this State and the Commonwealth as a whole, but to the world generally. Nickel is one of the very valuable metals, as it is required in the manufacture of stainless steel, high tensile alloys, electroplating, and high temperature and electrical resistance alloys.

The corporation is currently producing 13,000 tons of ore monthly, which it concentrates to approximately 12.5 per cent. nickel and exports at the rate of 3,500 dry long tons of concentrate per month to Japan through the port of Esperance. With the completion of the Kwinana plant, its production will be expanded to 60,000 tons every month to meet both the refinery requirements and its export trade of concentrate.

The corporation at present employs 470 men at Kambalda and with the completion of the refinery will increase this work force to approximately 950 men and, in addition, employ 250 in the refinery. It is thus a project of great magnitude and a most valuable addition to the State's industrial complex. It has already resulted in the establishment of a modern, attractive township, overlooking Lake Lefroy, an area in which any substantial development is most welcome. It has also brought tremendous enthusiasm to Kalgoorlie and caused immense activity in a wide region in the search for additional deposits.

In terms of the agreement the Government has granted the corporation right of occupancy of 527 square miles for the purpose of exploring for nickel and associated minerals—copper, lead, cobalt, silver, zinc, and molybdenum—at a rental of $8 per square mile for a term expiring on the 30th September, 1975. The corporation has to reduce this area at the rate of 132 square miles annually, commencing from the 30th September, 1972. As its exploratory work in this reserve proves the existence of economic deposits, it has the right to apply for normal mineral productive titles under the Mining Act. Already it has applied for 126 such productive titles.

Under the Mining Act a mineral lease is granted for a term of 21 years with the right of renewal for a further 21 years. Under the agreement the corporation is authorised to apply for a second renewal of a period of 21 years, making a possible total life of 63 years, and the Minister in his discretion may grant this. The Minister retains the right to grant goldmining leases within the reserved area to other parties, if satisfied that profitable gold deposits exist. This provision would only, of course, apply to land comprising the reserve, not to any mineral leases granted therein.

The corporation is to pay a royalty on all nickel products sold in accordance with a formula based on the ruling world price of nickel at the time of sale. On the present price, which is $1,860 per ton, the royalty equals $37 per ton of metal. On the basis of 15,000 tons of metal per annum the royalty would equal $560,000. Should the world price increase, the royalty automatically rises and in effect is the value of two units, or 1/50th of a ton, of nickel metal.

Provision is included in the agreement to review royalty at the end of five years —and this is rather important from the point of view of members—should the corporation have decided not to build a local smelter. In any case, the royalty will be reviewed at the end of 10 years. Royalty is also payable, in accordance with the general scale of royalties prescribed from time to time by regulation under the Mining Act in regard to any associated minerals produced.

In other words, if the company gives notice of its intention to proceed with a smelter within a period of five years, then the royalties continue for 10 years; but if it does not, then the royalties are subject to review at the end of the five years, and in any case they are subject to review at the end of 10 years.

The Government, for a reasonable consideration, will grant the corporation such townsite lots as required in the township of Kambalda, and also special leases under the Land Act for industrial, business, and communal facilities, for which an annual rental will be charged. Upon fulfilment of certain building requirements, the corporation has the right to purchase the fee simple of these leases. A lease to enable the contruction and use of a causeway over Lake Lefroy and leases for normal ancillary mining purposes, such as stacking tailings, and overburden, etc., are provided for.

Clause 3 of the agreement details the method of acquisition and payment for land for the refinery at Kwinana and includes the formula on which the price to be paid by the corporation is based. The site has been divided into Areas 1, 2, and 3, in size approximately 86.5 acres, 76 acres, and 64 acres, respectively. These will be made available to the corporation in that sequence, with the first stage of construction commencing in Area 1. The agreement goes on to provide for progressive expansion of the refinery over Areas 2 and 3, subject at suitable stages to the State being convinced that the additional areas are required for the industry.

Members will realise from a perusal of the agreement that the company, in effect, provides the capital for Areas 1, 2, and 3, but it does not automatically get possession of Areas 2 and 3 until the Government is satisfied at the appropriate times that the company is in need of those areas. This was done to avoid an area being held unnecessarily long if it was not required for this purpose, and there was no use for it.

The purchase price for Area 1, and, if the options mentioned later are exercised, the respective purchase prices for Areas 2 and 3, shall be calculated at a price per acre in accordance with the formula which I mentioned earlier. I will repeat the formula so it will be recorded, although it is already recorded in the agreement. It is as follows:—

$$\frac{A + B + C}{D} = \text{Calculated price per acre.}$$

Where A = The cost of all land (other than land which at the date of execution of this agreement is Crown land) in Areas 1, 2 and 3 which the State resumes or otherwise acquires.

B = The value of the land which at the date of execution of this agreement is Crown land in Areas 1, 2 and 3, calculated at the average cost per acre of the land referred to in A above, which is resumed or otherwise acquired.

If I might interpolate here, this means that the Crown land carries the same value as the land which has been acquired from private owners. To continue—

C = The total cost of and incidental to the resubdivision and redevelopment of Areas 1, 2 and 3 with roads, railways, water, electricity, telephone, and other services made necessary by the resubdivision and redevelopment and the value of any improvements on land within the area bounded by Pioneer Road, Office Road, Third Avenue, and Hay Street resumed or acquired for the extension of the existing railway now serving other industries in Pioneer Road.

D = The total acreage to the next highest acre of all the land included in the said Areas, less those parts taken by the State for road, railway, or other public purposes.

The purchase price of Area 1 shall be paid on vacant possession being given by the State to the corporation, but, if required by the corporation, vacant possession may be given of any part of Area 1 as and when available, subject to payment by the corporation of the sum of $6,000 per acre on account of the purchase price. I would emphasise that payment is only on account; the real price is determined by the formula. In any event payment of the full purchase price for Area 1 shall be made as soon as vacant possession is given and the price ascertained.

An option of purchase commencing from the date of execution of the agreement will be granted for a period of seven years over Area 2, while a similar option for a period of 10 years will be made available over Area 3. These options refer to the timings which I mentioned earlier, and are part of the machinery whereby the company has to justify to the Government at the appropriate times its need for Areas 2 and 3.

During the continuance of the respective options, the corporation is to be given a lease at a peppercorn rental, with all rates and taxes being for the corporation's account. If and when the relevant options are exercised, the respective purchase prices for Areas 2 and 3 shall be the calculated price per acre as prescribed in the formula. Mr. Speaker, at the conclusion of my comments I will request permission to table plans A and B. One refers to the mining areas and the other to Areas 1, 2, and 3 at Kwinana.

The consideration for each of the options is a sum equal to the purchase price of the area concerned, and is refundable to the corporation, together with the cost of approved improvements, should such options not be exercised. Repayment of the sum involved, should this be necessary, bearing interest at 6 per cent. per annum computed from the date the option expires, is to be made over a period of three years, with the right reserved to the State to pay the balance owing at any time within this period.

This might be a little confusing to read, but the object of this part of the agreement is to provide machinery whereby the company provides the funds for the acquisition of Areas 2 and 3, but does not get possession of them until it has satisfied the Government at the appropriate times that it has a genuine need for them. There may be circumstances in which the company does not establish this need and the Government would want to repay to the company the money that it had advanced for the acquisition of those areas.

Under this machinery the Government is given a considerable amount of time in which to repay the sum that has been advanced at no cost to the Government, and the general idea is that this land would, of course, be required for other industries and the State funds would not in any way become involved in practice.

Roads within the boundaries of Areas 1, 2, and 3 are to be closed and added to the areas in which they lie. It soon became apparent that the Kwinana industrial area possessed many essential features and reasons why the refinery should be established on a carefully selected and planned site within the complex. Among these are—

(1) About 140,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia will be produced as a by-product of the refining process, the principal markets for which will be outside Western Australia. As this is a marginal proposition, the avoidance of rail freight is a vital factor, and can only be overcome by having the refinery located within close proximity of the Fremantle Port Authority's new wharf.

(2) The particular manufacturing procedure employed will use considerable quantities of ammonia and sulphuric acid. Both of these commodities are produced by adjoining industries, and here again a reduction in costs will be achieved by piping from the suppliers.

(3) Cooling water being readily available in large quantities from the sea.

(4) The efficient and sanitary disposal of the effluent from the refining process can be dealt with in the district.

Whilst it may have been possible for the consolidation of the site under one ownership to be achieved by the corporation by private negotiation with each of the individual owners, it was also possible that considerable delays would have taken place in some of the acquisitions. It would only take a few landholders to hold out for exorbitant prices, or some to flatly refuse to sell at any price, and this would have delayed or prevented the establishment of an industry which will benefit the economy of the State.

Delays could also have arisen out of private sector land dealings by complications such as absentee owners or involvement in deceased estates.

It became quite clear that a large industry could not be expected to commence establishment until assured of possession of enough land for immediate use, and subsequent expansion in the future.

In the interests of orderly and efficient management, it was considered that additional areas of land should be acquired by one authority and generally organised so that services could be constructed without complications or unnecessary holdups. It would also be advisable for the balance remaining, when the services had been catered for, to be replanned in conjunction with certain neighbouring lots for the use of ancillary or other smaller scale industries.

It was for these reasons that section 37A of the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act was invoked. Under this section the M.R.P.A. certifies to the Minister for Town Planning that for the purpose of advancing the planning, development, and use of land within the metropolitan region, provision should be made for this particular area to be consolidated and then replanned for industry.

The Minister for Town Planning accepted the recommendation of the M.R.P.A., which was forwarded to, and ultimately accepted by, the Governor. This then made it possible for M.R.P.A. to purchase the land by agreement, or, should this fail it was to be acquired under the provisions of of the Public Works Act.

It should be pointed out that the powers contained in the agreement mentioned above were designed for the enlightened large-scale development and redevelopment of the metropolitan region. They were created against a background of worldwide experience of the extended delays and frustrations that can attend the consolidation into worth-while parcels of land which has been held in many separate ownerships.

I would like to stress that the private landowners in the improvement plan area were paid market values for their land,

and acquisition under the provisions of the Public Works Act was only implemented as a last resort.

The disposal of residues from the refining process will be conveyed by means of a pipeline to areas acquired by the State and made available to the corporation by purchase or lease within a radius of six miles from the refinery site.

Work associated with the laying of the pipeline, including the route to be followed, will be carried out by the State but at the corporation's expense. This is a rather significant point because it is important that, although the company should pay, the State wants to reserve control of this type of operation.

The principal chemical for disposal will be ammonia, and to ensure that the ground water does not become contaminated or the air polluted, a series of conferences have already been held between the corporation and Government departments having responsibilities in this sphere of operations.

The depositing of the residues will be carred out as a land-filling project, with the land concerned to be eventually suitable for industrial purposes, and the interests of third parties protected as far as possible.

The corporation is to provide and pay for the maintenance of its own railway rolling stock—other than locomotives—and the Government will haul the nickel products from Kalgoorlie and its fuel oil requirements to Kalgoorlie at the prescribed freight rate, less 10 per cent. This is in accordance with Railway Department practice in other similar cases. I think this applies in connection with any bulk commodity. If a company supplies its own rolling stock, it gets a 10 per cent. reduction from the prescribed freight rate. In other words, there was no special freight rate for this corporation.

The Government has undertaken to use its best endeavours to supply water to the corporation at Kambalda in such quantities and on such terms and conditions as are mutually agreed upon, from time to time, and the corporation has agreed to make a substantial contribution to the capital cost. Final details of this contribution and related matters are still to be settled and will be covered by an exchange of letters between the Government and the company.

The corporation undertakes, as far as reasonably and economically possible, to use local labour, and to give preference to *bona fide* Western Australian manufacturers and contractors in placement of orders—other things, of course, being equal—and to ensure that opportunity is given to the local operators to tender or quote when tenders are being called or contracts are being let.

Access by the State and third parties over the mineral leases and to the town established by the corporation at Kambalda is ensured, subject of course to no interference with mining operations.

Other usual provisions, such as power to extend periods or dates referred to in the agreement, arbitration in event of disputes, determination of the agreement should default by the corporation occur in regard to the due performance of its obligations and covenants, effect of determinations on land leases, *force majeure*, etc., are included.

These are the salient features of the agreement which Parliament is asked to ratify. Overall, this nickel project is one of great importance to the State in that it diversifies our production by adding nickel metal, and ammonium sulphate to our growing list of exports; it provides increased employment, particularly in the goldfields area, and it will add considerably to the State's Consolidated Revenue by way of royalty payments, in addition to the indirect benefits resulting from the establishment of a large industrial operation.

I come back to the point I made earlier; namely, that when members see the plan of the relationship of the refinery area to nearby industries which I will make available next week, they will appreciate the great significance of having the industry located where it is proposed, so that we can obtain the maximum economic benefit from each of the industries, drawing one on the other for chemicals which they produce. This is the trend overseas.

Mr. Tonkin: Will the Minister be keen to ensure that the plan is tabled before the debate is resumed?

Mr. COURT: That is intended. Plans A and B will be tabled now, but the other one is not related to the agreement. It is one I have had drawn up to show the relationship of all the industries I mentioned earlier; namely, BP refinery, K.N.C., C.S.B.P., Western Mining Corporation, and C.I.G. It will also show them in relation to the whole of the Kwinana-Rockingham complex. I thought it would give members a clearer picture of what is intended, and it shows why this particular site was finally selected for the nickel refinery as the most desirable, having regard to long-term interests not only of the company, but of the State.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a copy of plans A and B which are referred to in the agreement for ratification.

The plans were tabled.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Tonkin (Leader of the Opposition).

Message: Appropriations

Message from the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the Bill.

COMMONWEALTH AND STATE HOUSING AGREEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. O'NEIL (East Melville—Minister for Housing) [3.10 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is designed to remove a provision in the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement Act which tends to inhibit the borrowing by permanent building societies of funds from private sources. It is but one more step in the Government's programme to attack the housing shortage being currently experienced in this State.

Mr. Tonkin: A bit belated, but still very welcome.

Mr. O'NEIL: Two Bills have already been introduced which will tend to increase the availability of houses. The member for Ascot referred to this as a piecemeal approach. I give notice that there will be further approaches by the Government along these lines, and surely moves such as this cannot be regarded as being piecemeal, but as part of an overall plan.

Mr. Tonkin: Our complaint is that they should have been made much earlier.

Mr. O'NEIL: The building society movement has grown rapidly during the last decade, as can be instanced by the facts I am about to enumerate. At the 30th June, 1959, seven permanent and nine terminating societies were operating, and their total assets approximated $15,000,000. At the 30th June, 1968, there were 14 permanent and 219 terminating societies, and one Star Bowkett society operating with total assets estimated at $86,000,000.

Funds advanced in 1958-59 to home purchasers amounted to $4,468,000. This has risen to an estimated $22,300,000 in 1967-68, or an increase of nearly 400 per cent. The number of families being assisted to the 30th June, 1959, from funds made available to societies under the Commonwealth and State Housing agreements amounted to 880. It is anticipated that including those to be assisted under 1968-69 allocation of $3,923,000, the total should be approximately 4,060. Apart from this, families assisted from funds borrowed by societies and guaranteed by the State add a further 2,079 to that total.

Building societies' finance comes from three main sources. Firstly, it comes from loan allocations from the home builders' account under the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement. The amounts made available from this source now total $26,362,000. Secondly, it comes from loans from financial institutions such as banks, insurance companies, superannuation funds, trust funds, trading companies, and the like; and, thirdly, in the case of permanent societies, the finance comes from personal savings of the people.

When a society accepts an advance from the home builders' account, a loan agreement is entered into between the State and the society. Under the Act these agreements create a statutory floating charge over the whole of the present and future assets of the society to secure the advance. The existence of this charge tends to inhibit the private borrowings of the permanent societies since the State has first charge over the total assets, including those created by private borrowings. It should be mentioned here that terminating societies do not experience this problem since they are quite different in character from permanent societies.

The Bill provides that the existing floating charge will remain, except where a society finds its existence inhibits private borrowing. In these cases the Treasurer, on the recommendation of the Minister for Housing, may agree to the lifting of the floating charge and its replacement with a specific or limited charge over so much of the society's assets as will secure the advances made by the State to the society.

As an alternative the Bill provides that, where it is not practicable to take a specific or limited charge over a definable part of a society's assets, part of the assets may be released from the statutory floating charge. These provisions are achieved by the addition of two sections—6A and 6B—to the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement Act of 1956. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Graham (Deputy Leader of the Opposition).

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Water Supplies) [3.17 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The object of this Bill is to amend the existing Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Act in the following particulars:—

1. To provide certain machinery clauses which will cover a procedure already being practised and which I will detail at a later stage.
2. To enable the board to recover the cost of making good damage to main drains.
3. To authorise the acquisition by the board of main drainage works carried out by developers, without compensation.

4. The most important amendment of these amending provisions is to harness, for the use of the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Board unused loan allocations of local authorities for extending sewerage services and, similarly, to be able to take over sewerage works which may be constructed under local authorities' powers to carry out such works by this means or by overdraft.

Under its present legislation the Metropolitan Water Board has power to acquire property for the purpose of its Act.

Without limiting this general power it is proposed to authorise the board specifically to purchase from a local authority any sewers, or works connected with sewerage, which may have been constructed from money borrowed by the local authority either by way of loan or overdraft. Complementary to this power it is proposed that the Local Government Act be amended to authorise a local authority to dispose of any such sewers or works. Terms upon which the work can be acquired by the board from the local authority will be those to which the local authority is committed upon the raising of the loan, or upon the granting to it of the overdraft which finances the works.

Complementary to this legislation, it is also proposed to amend the Public Health Act to allow the local authority to raise an overdraft for the purpose of providing sewers, or works connected with sewers, which may be disposed of to the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Board.

A proposed new section in the Bill provides for the board to acquire sewers or works financed from local authorities' funds. This is the main provision of the amending legislation and it sets out power to be given to the board to purchase, from a local authority, any sewers or works connected with sewerage that have been constructed with money borrowed by the local authority under division 3 of part XXVI of the Local Government Act, 1960, or by funds made available to the local authority through an overdraft under division 2 of the same Act, and which are vested in the local authority pursuant to section 53 of the Health Act, 1911.

This is, as I have said, the main provision of the amending legislation, and it also provides that the Metropolitan Water Board accepts the liability for the repayment of the loan on such terms as it was raised by the local authority, or repayment of the overdraft on such terms as the overdraft was given or arranged. I would like to point out that any transaction of this kind will only be carried out to the mutual wish or desire of the local authority and the water board. Another amendment is included in the Bill to cover the actual practice in operation in acquiring main drainage works which have been carried out by developers, generally as a condition of subdivision.

Under the Act the board may acquire a constituted main drain or part, and the whole of the pipe, conduit, or channel already in existence, from a local authority without compensation. The amendment extends this power of the board in relation to any person as well as a local authority. Generally, in such cases, the work is provided as a condition of subdivision; in fact, to make the subdivision possible. The practice does, in fact, operate now and this is to give statutory cover.

The Bill also authorises the cancellation of part of a main drain as well as a main drain. It also provides for the allocation of excess water charges. At present there is provision in the legislation for notification to be given to the board of change of ownership or occupation. This notification is necessary to allocate excess water charges amongst consumers. When change of occupation is not notified to the board, meters are not read and so it has been the practice to allocate excess water charges according to the period of occupation. This is done on a rough sort of formula. The proposed new section provides that in the circumstances set out the board may assess the quantity of excess water to an owner or occupier. In fact, the proposed section actually covers the current practice.

A further amendment in the Bill provides that the allowance of water made in connection with the rate levied attaches to the land and not to any owner or occupier, or to any particular period of occupation. The current legislation makes provision that the owner or occupier of the land rated under the Act is entitled to a supply of water in respect of the rates on the land.

It is not practicable to allocate the water allowed for rates month by month, or period by period over the rating year, as the allowance is not in any way concerned with the period of usage of water, nor whether the rates are actually paid at the time.

The present practice of the board is to assess excess water only after all water allowed for rates has been consumed, irrespective of whether land changes ownership or not. The proposed legislation is for the purpose of setting out that the water allowed for the rate on the land is not apportionable between successive owners or occupiers and that any succeeding owner or occupier is entitled to the quantity of water allowed for rates still remaining when he acquires ownership or becomes the occupier.

It is believed that any adjustment of quantities of rebate water should be left to individuals to work out when a change

of ownership takes place. It is obviously impracticable for the board to apportion rebate water over periods of time within the rating year.

Section 146 of the principal Act provides power for by-laws to determine the quantity of water allowed for rates charged. The current powers of the board to make by-laws regarding the amount of water allowed for rates are limited to rates paid. The provisions in the Act authorising the allowance of water for rates are not related to payment. The proposed amendment eliminates the restriction for making by-laws only in those cases where rates are paid.

The last amendment to which I wish to refer is that which enables the board to recover costs of repairing damage to metropolitan main drains where damage is caused by, or arises out of, contravention of section 71E of the Act.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Jamieson.

STATE TRADING CONCERNS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [3.27 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The proposed amendment to the State Trading Concerns Act, 1916-1956, arises from a need to give the West Australian Meat Export Works statutory borrowing authority to permit of borrowing outside Treasury sources.

The West Australian Meat Export Works has an increasing requirement for capital expenditure and the amount sought during the current financial year is $628,000, which is, to a large extent, necessary to meet the requirements of the Department of Primary Industry and the Public Health Department in respect of meat handling hygiene as well as improved efficiency of the operation of the works.

Works in progress include extensions to the mutton floor, and the installation of chillers and refrigeration plant. New works which have to be provided include a new plant and machinery room, a mechanised offal disposal system, and extensions to the Government Institutions Department necessitating the transfer and rebuilding of the canteen.

Inescapable expenditure during 1968-69 has been estimated by the Treasury at $341,000, of which $121,000 can be found from internal funds.

The Treasury is unable to provide the balance of $220,000 on the current loan programme, and to find this and future requirements suggests that the West Australian Meat Export Works be given the necessary statutory borrowing power to raise these funds from other than Treasury sources. This is the objective of the amending Bill.

Mr. Tonkin: I hope you are not going to spend a lot of money on these works and then give them away to somebody.

Mr. NALDER: The Leader of the Opposition need not worry about that aspect at all.

Mr. Tonkin: You did at Wyndham.

Mr. NALDER: Suggestions have been made from time to time that the Government has given consideration to this matter, but I can assure the Leader of the Opposition that this is not the case.

Members will appreciate the importance of the work being done at Robb Jetty, and they will also appreciate the influence of its activities which extend to practically all sections of agriculture. I hope members will consider this aspect, because the expenditure is vitally necessary to keep the whole works in line with the development that is taking place in this State.

It is necessary to increase the various facilities which have been provided at the Robb Jetty establishment, and also to extend those facilities. I hope the House will give consideration to this Bill, and will assist the Government to effect the extensions to that establishment.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Brady.

LIQUID PETROLEUM GAS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Electricity) [3.32 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill provides for a minor amendment to the Liquid Petroleum Gas Act, 1956, occasioned by a new use being found for liquid petroleum gas as a propellant in aerosol packs.

Liquid petroleum gas has, in the past, been used solely as a fuel; and in the interests of safety, the commission has—in accordance with the Act—declared that all such gas must have an agent added to give it a distinctive odour. To add this agent to some aerosol packs would be detrimental to the contents of the packs. When I mentioned the commission I was referring to the State Electricity Commission.

Aerosol packs are made in this State, and the propellant that has been used here up to the present has been mainly methane-type gases which are sold under various trade names, and these are far more expensive than liquid petroleum gas. However, packs using liquid petroleum gas in the form of butane as a propellant, are being imported from the Eastern States and this is pricing local products out of

the market. This is unfair to local manufacturers who see a rapidly expanding market for aerosol packed goods.

Legal advice is that since the State Electricity Commission has already declared that liquid petroleum gas must have an odour, non-odourised gas cannot be sold; because, as the Act now stands, it is not possible to sell both odourised and non-odourised gas. Since gas sold to the public for general use must be odourised in the interest of safety, it is considered the Act should be amended to permit gas to be sold without an odour for some industrial and commercial uses.

Apart from the proposed use of unodourised gas as a propellant in aerosol sprays, the amendment, if agreed to, will provide the opportunity to cover all uses for this type of gas in industry.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Bickerton.

CREMATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Works) [3.36 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This is purely a technical Bill. Its aims are to bring the Cremation Act into line with the Cemeteries Act. In the Cemeteries Act, which is administered by the Department of Local Government, a dead human body is defined to mean "the body of a human being who was born alive and includes the body of an infant of not less than seven months' gestation that was stillborn." This means that a stillborn foetus of less than seven months' gestation need not necessarily be buried in a cemetery, and quite frequently these remains are disposed of in the hospital.

The framework of the Cremation Act is somewhat the same as that of the Cemeteries Act, except that a dead human body is not defined. The Cremation Act does not draw a line below which the remains of a stillborn child may be lawfully disposed of, except in accordance with the Act and the procedures applying to a dead adult. The pattern of the Cemeteries Act has, however, been followed.

There was no reason for this procedure not being followed because the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act did not require registration in the case of a stillborn child of less than 28 weeks' gestation. This particular Act, however, has been recently amended so that registration is now required at 20 weeks' gestation.

It is therefore recommended that the Cremation Act be amended by this legislation by inserting a definition similar to that contained in the Cemeteries Act, so that the position may be clarified. This will make it clear that the remains of a stillborn infant of less than 28 weeks' gestation need not be cremated in accordance with the Cremation Act.

It must be clearly understood, however, that if, for any reason of personal belief or desire, the family require to have a normal burial in the circumstances outlined, it is at complete liberty to do so. This amendment in no way infringes the personal rights of the family for the retention of the body of an infant of not less than the prescribed period of gestation. It merely clarifies the legal position. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Toms.

COAL MINERS' WELFARE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—Minister for Lands) [3.38 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill has been passed in another place, and has been transmitted to this Chamber. The main objects of the Coal Miners' Welfare Act of 1947 were the establishment of a fund to provide or assist in providing amenities for coalminers; to constitute and incorporate a board to administer the fund, and to control any amenities provided; and to declare the objects, functions, and powers of such board; and for other purposes incidental thereto.

Section 6 of the Act states—

> The owner of every coal mine shall in the months of January, April, July and October in every year pay to a fund to be known as The Coal Miners' Welfare Fund a sum equivalent to three half-pence per ton on the output of all coal produced from every mine of which he is the owner . . . .

Under section 9 of the Act, the chairman of the three-member board constituted by the preceding section is the President of the Combined Coal Mining Unions Committee. One member is the President of the Coal Miners' Industrial Union of Workers, Western Australia; the third member at the present time is the Senior Inspector of Mines (Coal). All three members are appointed annually by the Governor.

The board has an annual income of approximately $12,000 and under section 16 of the Act, is charged with the administration and application of the fund for such purposes connected with the provision of amenities—other than anything required to be provided by the owner or manager of a coalmine by the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1946—for coalminers and the improvement of the physical, cultural, and social well-being of coalminers and the

education, recreation, and conditions of living of coalminers, as the board may consider desirable.

Furthermore, the Minister may give to the board directions of a general character with respect to the exercise and performance of its functions and the board is required to give effect to any such directions. There is, nevertheless, no specific provision made for these amenities to be provided for the use or well-being of anyone other than coalminers.

Consequently, as the Act stands at present, the board could not, for instance, apply funds towards a home for aged persons generally, as this would not be specifically for use by coalminers, although, doubtless, the establishment of such facilities in a coalmining community would be availed of by some retired coalminers. Therefore it is considered reasonable that it should be possible to apply money from the fund for such a purpose; namely, the provision of an amenity which would be available to aged coalminers or their dependants.

The Bill accordingly proposes an amendment to section 16 to enable the board, with the approval of the Minister, to apply moneys standing to the credit of the fund for, or towards, the provision of such an amenity. The current proposal is being made in association with the Silver Chain Nursing Association (Inc.).

I might say here that at the request of the former member for Collie I visited that town. The present member for Collie was, at that time—maybe he still is—Chairman of the local Silver Chain Committee. I, as Minister for Lands, approved of land being made available for the establishment of an aged persons' home in Collie; and, it would appear to me that following this decision there was a need to establish a home for the aged in Collie, and the Government is taking action to enable this fund to assist in a most commendable project.

Apart from this specific enterprise, the Bill makes provision also for the board to apply money standing to the credit of the fund towards other amenities; that is, amenities other than those set out in subsection (1) of section 16 of the Act.

On the passing of this Bill, the board will be empowered to apply the fund's moneys in the direction of other amenities for persons including persons who are not coalminers, but with the prior approval of the Minister and upon such terms and conditions as the Minister approves. This would cover amenities which may be for the benefit of the Collie community at large, such as towards playing fields, swimming pools, and the like.

The purpose of the amendment contained in clause 3 of the Bill is to validate any such payments made prior to the introduction of this amending legislation, for the reason that a number of payments from the fund has been made in the past towards amenities and cultural undertakings, not provided entirely for the benefit of coalminers, although they have benefited their families. I commend this Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Jones.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.5 p.m.

FIREARMS AND GUNS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Transport) [4.5 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The main purpose of this amending Bill is to allow the Commissioner of Police to alter the present system of issuing firearm licenses to the computer method. At the present time, all firearm licenses—some 80,000-odd—expire on the 31st December each year irrespective of the date of issue.

The new method will mean the staggering of the expiry dates of all these licenses. To do this, it will be necessary to repeal section 6 of the Firearms and Guns Act which deals with licensing, and substitute in lieu a section that would—

(a) make a license valid for a period of 12 months from date of issue;

(b) allow the Commissioner of Police during the year 1969 to issue a license to remain in force for any period that is not less than six months, but not more than 18 months; and,

(c) fix the fee payable on the issue of a license that is to remain in force for any period other than 12 months as the prescribed fee reduced by ten cents for every month or portion thereof by which the period is less than 12 months, and increased by ten cents for every month or portion thereof by which the period exceeds 12 months.

Experience with drivers' licenses in 1947 showed that a period of 12 months over which to vary the renewal date was requisite and by Act No. 48 of 1946 power was given for licenses to be issued during that year for periods varying from six months to 18 months.

Similar action will enable the department to commence varying the currency of licenses with effect from the 1st January next, and the staggered renewal dates would be in operation on the establishment of the computer system.

In view of the proposal to amend the Act, the commissioner has asked that consideration again be given to amending section 9 to remove the exemption from

the necessity to hold a license now granted to members of rifle clubs. This matter was considered some years ago as the Police Department had experienced several incidents where individuals had breached the law with weapons that had come into their possession by their being members of rifle clubs.

The Government at that stage would not agree to the withdrawal of the exemption, but suggested that a conference be held between the W.A. Rifle Association and the Minister. This was done on the 15th August, 1966, and certain conditions as to the control of firearms and issue thereof to members were agreed upon by the association. However, it was subsequently found necessary by the Police Department to correspond on several occasions with the W.A. Rifle Association and have a personal interview with an official before some of the more important agreed-upon points were eventually put in motion.

I might add that a number of very serious breaches have occurred in this regard and the police—I feel quite justly so—have been concerned with the operations of some of the clubs, and the method by which rifles have been given to various individuals.

Subsequently, a letter was received by the Police Department from the W.A. Rifle Association advising that a member of a rifle club had been suspended from membership of the association. On receipt of this advice, and in accordance with the agreement, the police seized the member's rifles. These rifles were later returned to the member as it was ruled by the Crown Law Department that, although suspended from the association, he was still a member of his rifle club and thus entitled to the exemption.

This incident clearly revealed the lack of power of the association in being able to enforce any assurances made. The commissioner's contention, with which I agree, is that as members of pistol and gun clubs are required to hold licenses, he cannot see any justification for the exemption of rifle club members.

To bring this into line it is necessary, as previously mentioned, to amend section 9 of the Act deleting both the exemption now given to members of the rifle clubs and also that purported to be given to members of the defence forces. The latter was necessary because it is not within the power of the State to legislate on the subject at all as the position is that a member of the forces in possession of a firearm, without authority under the relevant law of the Commonwealth, commits an offence against our Act and no provision need be made for such a situation in our Act. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Brady.

ILLICIT SALE OF LIQUOR ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Industrial Development) [4.12 p.m.]: I move—

> That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill has already been through another place, and its purpose is to double the penalties which are provided in section 3 of the Illicit Sale of Liquor Act, 1913-17.

Section 3 of the parent Act provides for a penalty of the equivalent of $100 or imprisonment for three months, or both, for a first offence connected with the illicit sale of liquor or the holding of such liquor for sale on or about premises by an unlicensed person or his servant.

For any subsequent offence, after a previous conviction, the fine is set at the equivalent of $400 or imprisonment with hard labour for 12 months, or both. There is further provision that, upon any conviction under this section, the offender shall forfeit all liquor in his possession and, furthermore, under section 4, any person found on premises at the time of police entry and seizure of liquor is liable to a penalty not exceeding the equivalent of $20.

These penalties were considered to be of a drastic nature when introduced in 1913 to combat the prevalence of sly-grogging and associated evils. Money was worth five times its present value in those days and, no doubt, the seriousness of the fine provided a fairly effective deterrent. However, the circumstances have changed and sly-grogging or, as officially termed, the illicit sale of liquor, is in the main carried out under varying circumstances these days. One of these is in association with night clubs.

As members generally would know—and my colleague in another place takes it for granted, in the preparation of my notes—there has been a large increase in the number of night clubs in the city and suburbs over recent years. It is known that in the majority of these premises, liquor is obtainable at high prices and, indeed, it would seem that there is little doubt that one of the main businesses conducted in night clubs is the illicit sale of liquor.

Mr. Bickerton: It will be even more costly if this Bill goes through.

Mr. COURT: This is borne out by the number of convictions since the 1st July, 1967; namely, 24 convictions against proprietors of night clubs. However, although substantial fines have been imposed in some cases, the penalties have obviously not acted as a deterrent. This is evidently for the reason that the profits

derived from unlawfully dealing have more than balanced the fines, and it would seem that if the provisions of the Act are to remain effective these penalties must be increased substantially.

The purpose of this Bill, then, is to double the monetary penalties so that in future the fine for a first offence will be $200, and for a subsequent offence $800, and these are the amounts proposed in this measure, which I commend to members.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Graham (Deputy Leader of the Opposition).

MENTAL HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Works) [4.16 p.m.]: I move—

> That the Bill be now read a second time.

In part IV of the Mental Health Act, section 27 lays down the method by which what are known as "informal admissions" may be made to a mental hospital. It states that a person who, in the opinion of the superintendent or other psychiatrist, is suffering from mental disorder may be admitted into a hospital. If that person is under the age of 18 years, he is admitted at the request in writing of his parent or guardian. If not less than 18 years of age, he is admitted on his own request in writing.

It is recommended that this should be amended to delete the requirement in each case for the application to be made in writing. The reasons for this are—

1. To make admission to mental health inpatient facilities as flexible and informal as possible, and to bring the procedure into line with outpatient clinics and general hospitals which require no formality for admission.

Members will recall that at the Health Ministers' conference held in Perth in 1967 a plan for the gradual development and handling of mental health patients was formulated. This plan was, in fact, an extension of what has been going on in this State for a number of years—that is, that sickness should be regarded as such whether it be physical or mental. Indeed, much progress has been made towards an acceptance of this fundamental principle.

These days there is adequate protection for patients entering any hospital and this distinction, it is felt, should go. Patients, when they are sick, are frequently confused and the requirement set out makes a distinction between admission to a general hospital and to a mental hospital that is cumbersome and unnecessary. The reasons continue—

2. To enable visiting University lecturers and demonstrators to have patients admitted informally for teaching purposes and for special therapy.

It is necessary occasionally for lecturers and demonstrators to have a patient admitted purely on a temporary basis, and the present provisions of the Act now make this procedure extremely cumbersome and at times just too difficult. To continue—

3. To regularise what is being carried out at times in actual practice.

Because of the difficulties mentioned by me, it has proved to be essential that this section of the Act should be waived now and again. This places very conscientious medical practitioners and psychiatrists at some unnecessary risk and it is firmly believed that this risk should be removed.

Section 51, subsection (1) (c), under division 7, dealing with discharge of patients, specifies that within 72 hours after the receipt by the superintendent of an application in writing the patient shall be discharged. This, of course, has safeguards specified for the protection of the patient.

In this case also it is felt that the need for the application to be made in writing should be deleted. The reason for this is, similar to the above, to allow for a greater degree of flexibility in the handling of the patients. Indeed, the reasons are, of course, identical with those listed for admission.

This procedure is not necessary in a general hospital and should not be necessary in a mental hospital. In both cases also, it sometimes does occur that a patient is overly suspicious and great difficulty is experienced in persuading him to sign his name to anything.

These amendments will not affect the procedure established for admission and discharge under divisions 2, 3, and 6 of the Mental Health Act, part IV. For the information of members, these divisions refer respectively to—

(a) Admission by referral: That is where a patient may be received into an approved hospital on the production of a referral by a medical practitioner based on a personal examination, etc.

(b) Division 3—Admission following a reception order: This order is issued by a justice who, being satisfied that the person is suffering from a mental disorder and that it is in the person's interest that he be admitted, makes such an order.

(c) Division 6 — This division has reference to a person who, being committed to stand trial for an offence and upon examination by two medical practitioners, is found to be suffering from a mental disorder to such an extent that he should not stand trial. In these circumstances the person may be ordered by the Chief Secretary to be detained and admitted as a patient to a mental hospital.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Fletcher.

DRIED FRUITS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 22nd August.

MR. NORTON (Gascoyne) [4.22 p.m.]: This Bill has only one objective; that is, to increase the levy on the growers of dried fruits, so that the Dried Fruits Board can continue in a sound financial position.

The Dried Fruits Board has a very important function to carry out in the orderly marketing, grading, and packing of dried fruits in Western Australia. It is very interesting to note that the levy which is now being amended has been in operation for 21 years without amendment, and at that time it was brought in at 1/16d. per lb. If we refer to *Hansard*, page 2363 of 1947, we will find that the Minister when introducing the Bill said—

> In the peak period of the industry the total production for the Commonwealth—

This is referring to dried fruits. To continue—

> —was 100,000 tons of dried fruits, of which Western Australia produced only 3,000 tons.

If we looked at the industry as it is operating today we will find, as the Minister said, that over the past five years the average production was 1,783 tons. If my calculations are correct, last year only 1,447 tons were produced.

Likewise if we look at the acreage in production in 1947-48, as set out in the *Western Australian Year Book*, we find that the area was then 5,830 acres, but in 1964-65 it had dropped to 3,345 acres. That is a very substantial drop, and one wonders why the acreage dropped so considerably over the years. In my opinion, in all probability the vignerons turned their eyes to the wine-producing grape instead of going in for dried fruits.

It is also interesting to note that Western Australia practically relies on currants for its dried fruits industry, whereas Victoria and South Australia have a very diversified industry, producing raisins, sultanas, currants, and quite a number of other dried stone fruits.

In looking at the board's balance sheet, I find the board has operated very economically for the work it has to do.

It is now proposed that the levy shall be raised from $1.17 per ton to $2.016 per ton, which is an increase of 84c. This is not a great deal, but it will allow the board to operate with a surplus of $518 as against last year's deficit of $697, using last year's tonnage as a basis. The levy is well and truly warranted, especially when we consider there has been no increase in the levy for the past 21 years.

The board itself has only two other sources of income. The first is the registration of dealers, and the second the interest on its current account at the bank. It also holds a $1,000 Government bond. They are the only sources of income, other than the levy. The increase in levy will allow the board to function economically. What is more, should it be estimated that the levy is too great, it can be reduced to an amount appropriate to the balance of the fund in any one year. I support the second reading.

MR. MITCHELL (Stirling) [4.27 p.m.]: I would like to make one or two comments on the Bill. Of course, the figures have been given by the Minister and the member for Gascoyne. However, as I am naturally in favour of organised marketing and interested in the work which boards do, I attempted to make a few inquiries the other day and, perhaps, to take a short cut.

I rang a member of the Dried Fruits Board and asked him if he had any of the latest information on the matter of acreages and that sort of thing available and, if so, would he make it available to me. He said he would get in touch with the chairman and let me know. He rang back a few minutes later and said he had been in touch with the chairman who had directed him not to make any information at all available to members of Parliament. To my mind that is a most astonishing statement for the chairman of a board to make. He is appointed by Parliament under an Act of Parliament.

In any event, if I had not been so lazy, most of the information I wanted was available in the papers laid on the Table of the House. If I had searched through statistics and that sort of thing, I could have found out what I wanted to know. I think it is the most absurd statement I have come across; that is, for a chairman of a board to say he would not make any information available to a member of Parliament.

Mr. Jamieson: It is gross impertinence.

Mr. MITCHELL: Too many boards are set up by Acts of Parliament and under the control of Parliament. I have struck

this type of thing on quite a number of occasions previously. What the chairman thought to achieve, I would not know.

Mr. Jamieson: We need an ombudsman.

Mr. MITCHELL: What he hoped to hide, I would not know. I should not think there would be anything to hide. The board does not appear to have a very large financial commitment. It has a slight debit balance according to the balance sheet placed on the Table of the House, which information was, of course, freely available. I have made these few comments, because this sort of thing is going on. As members of Parliament, we are told this information is not available, yet we find it scattered all over the place.

I was prepared to support the Bill because, as the member for Gascoyne said, there has not been any increase in this charge for a number of years and surely an increase is warranted. I rose merely to make this protest against a chairman of a board who refused to give information to a member of Parliament, which I think is an insult.

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [4.31 p.m.]: I thank the members who have spoken, and also the House, for their support of this legislation. It has been pointed out, in the introduction of the measure, and during the debate, that this is a matter that has been left in abeyance for a long time. There has been no increase in the rates imposed by the board to enable it to function and it is now considered this increase should be granted to allow the board to carry out its functions in the way intended under the original legislation.

The member for Gascoyne has asked for reasons why the dried fruits industry in Western Australia has declined. In this instance the position is fairly clear. One can appreciate and understand why production has not increased. One of the reasons is that farms or vineyards in the Swan district are mainly small in area. I think in most cases, although not in all, the producers treat this as a part-time occupation. They have their homes built on the blocks and, in many instances, the acreages under vine are only small, and on some properties the vines, over a number of years, have deteriorated.

Another reason is there has not been an ample water supply in the dry areas and advantages could have been gained if irrigation water had been available. One of the difficulties was the lack of underground water suitable for irrigating the vineyards. So a number of reasons can be advanced to explain why the industry has not progressed, but has, in fact, declined.

Recently, at the request of the Minister for Police, who is the member for the district, and with the support of the local shire, the Government conducted some experiments in the area to ascertain if it could be drained to get rid of some of the excess water that lies there in the winter months. The results of this experiment were quite encouraging and it seems that if action were taken along the lines of the results obtained it would encourage some of the growers to replant portion of the area with vines, but perhaps not all for the production of dried fruits.

However I can visualise that, in the future, if prices are sufficiently enticing to growers to induce them to increase their vine plantings, we might see some increased production in the dried fruits section of the agricultural industry.

I am concerned about the statement made by the member for Stirling. Having known all the members of the board for some time, I am surprised to learn that the chairman should adopt such an attitude. I will contact him and make some inquires, because I feel there might have been some misunderstanding in view of the fact that the member for Stirling obtained the information second hand; that is, he contacted the secretary and the secretary contacted the chairman. I hope that is the case, but I will endeavour to ascertain the true facts.

Mr. Brady: I think you will find that is the case.

Mr. NALDER: The member for Swan knows the gentleman in question, and I would be surprised if he deliberately refused to give any information in regard to the Dried Fruits Board or any other information a member may seek.

Mr. Bickerton: We could bring him before the Bar of the House.

Mr. NALDER: I do not think that will be necessary. However, I have noted the point made and in the circumstances I will approach the chairmen of the boards that come under my jurisdiction to ensure that any information that can be supplied to members of Parliament is given to them if it is of any interest or value.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

House adjourned at 4.38 p.m.