

way can it be construed as a censure of any member of the Government, of the Government itself, or of anybody in this State; but it is a censure of the decision of the Commonwealth for making such a radical departure from the existing practice for assisting road-making in the less developed States. This is being done for the purpose of helping us to the best extent possible and in the only way open to us to commence a case to retain what this State has got, and to make sure that we do not regress still further. If we turn this motion down the Prime Minister will be entitled to say, and no doubt will say, that the Parliament of Western Australia made no protest; that it was given an opportunity to protest; but that it declined to protest. On what grounds?

Mr. Bovell: Party politics.

Mr. TONKIN: On the grounds that we were lucky to get what we got. This was the burden of the story from the Government benches: It was more or less inevitable, so we should regard ourselves as fortunate in having got what we did, and we were afraid to open up to assist South Australia lest that could result in recasting the whole matter. That was what the Premier said, so he was afraid to upset the appeccart and he kept quiet.

Mr. Brand: No, he did not.

Mr. Jamieson: We will send Mr. Hall a copy of the speech. He will be pleased with it!

Mr. TONKIN: We on this side are not prepared to let this matter go without making our protest, whether or not this Parliament passes the motion. We are protesting on behalf of the country districts despite the fact the Premier thought we would be in some difficulty, because a number of our members represent the city. He did not weigh the situation at all.

Mr. Brand: I did not understand your attitude.

Mr. TONKIN: We consider that the formula under which we have operated for years, and which I concede has been altered from time to time in some respects, has been one deliberately designed to help development in the country, and we regret that the new formula now places the emphasis upon the city. Whilst that might be pleasing to the people in the city it is detrimental to the development of the State as a whole, and the Minister for Industrial Development knows that because he said so. It is no good the Minister for Works shaking his head because that shows a difference of opinion straightaway.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: That is right.

Mr. TONKIN: The Minister for Industrial Development knows full well that this is detrimental to the development of the State, but he is placed in the position where he is not able to say so. That is

the cold fact of the situation. We have done our part. Let us be certain of this: If the positions of the Premier and myself were reversed this motion would still have been moved, and should have been moved, from this side of the House. There is not much room for argument about that. We cannot control the votes of the members of the Government. No doubt the whips have done that already, but at least we can give members the opportunity to say that Western Australia is not satisfied.

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

Ayes—23

Mr. Bateman	Mr. Kitney
Mr. Bertram	Mr. Lapham
Mr. Bickerton	Mr. May
Mr. Brady	Mr. McIver
Mr. Burke	Mr. McPharlin
Mr. H. D. Evans	Mr. Norton
Mr. T. D. Evans	Mr. Sewell
Mr. Fletcher	Mr. Taylor
Mr. Graham	Mr. Toms
Mr. Hall	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. Harman	Mr. Davies
Mr. Jamieson	

(Teller)

Noes—23

Mr. Bovell	Mr. Mensaros
Mr. Brand	Mr. Nalder
Mr. Burt	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Cash	Mr. O'Neill
Mr. Court	Mr. Ridge
Mr. Craig	Mr. Runciman
Mr. Gayfer	Mr. Eushton
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Stewart
Dr. Henn	Mr. Williams
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Young
Mr. Lewis	Mr. I. W. Manning
Mr. W. A. Manning	

(Teller)

Pairs

Ayes	Noes
Mr. Jones	Mr. Mitchell
Mr. Molr	Mr. Dunn

The SPEAKER: The voting being equal, I give my casting vote with the Noes. Question thus negatived. Motion defeated.

House adjourned at 10.25 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 27th March, 1969

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

QUESTIONS

Submission by Members

THE SPEAKER [2.15 p.m.]: Before this sitting opens today I would like to make a request to all members who wish to place questions on the notice paper to hand them in when the questions are ready, and therefore spread them over the period of the day on which they are handed in. We are running into some difficulty, with the great number of questions in the first three days of this period, in

getting them typed in time. It is possible to make arrangements in the House to solve the typing problem if members could assist, when a question is ready, to hand it in to the Clerk Assistant promptly.

QUESTIONS (61): ON NOTICE

GOSNELLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Additional Rooms

1. Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) In view of the overcrowding situation as it affects the Gosnells Primary School children, will he consider the construction of three extra classrooms together with extra classrooms to replace demountable rooms?
- (2) Will he provide new staff and cloakroom facilities together with separate toilets apart from the children's toilets?
- (3) As no additional storeroom space has been provided for over 14 years, will he agree to the extension of the storeroom?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) It is planned to add two extra rooms to the existing school and to build a new three-roomed school at West Gosnells.
- (2) and (3) Yes, subject to availability of funds.

GUARD-CONTROLLED CROSSINGS

Primary Schools

2. Mr. LAPHAM asked the Minister for Traffic:

Of the 53 applications for guard-controlled school crossings and/or crosswalks to serve primary schools in the metropolitan area for the year ended the 28th February, 1969, will he indicate the names of the applicants who were—

- (a) successful;
- (b) unsuccessful;
- (c) under consideration?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (a) Kewdale primary.
Balcatta primary.
Convent School, Yokine.
Kewdale, Hardy Road/Vidler Street.
Kewdale, Kew Street.
Morley.
Victoria Park, Berwick Street near Sussex Street.
Kelmscott, Church Street.
Victoria Park, Berwick Street near Balmoral Street.
Kelmscott.
Mt. Hawthorn.
Victoria Park, Albany High-

way near Mackie Street.
Tuart Hill.
Highgate primary.

- (b) Dianella.
Melville.
Belmont, Leake and Sydenham Streets.
Claremont practising.
Middle Swan.
Embleton.
Birralee.
Cloverdale.
Bayswater.
Manning.
Cannington.
Jandakot.
Belmont, Belgravia Street, and Great Eastern Highway.
Queens Park.
Mirrabooka.
Calista (re-examined and refused).
Belmont primary.
Claremont, Bay View Terrace and Princess Road.
East Victoria Park, Hillview and Devenish Streets.
Victoria Park, Camberwell and Balmoral Streets.
Fremantle.
Claremont.
Woodlands, Williamstown and Huntriss Streets.
Woodlands primary.
Balcatta primary (re-examined and refused).
Lynwood, Kinlock School (re-examined and refused three times).
Brentwood primary.
Riverton, Corinthian Road, (re-examined and refused).
Whiteside primary.
Highgate, William and Lincoln Streets.
Wembley Downs.
(c) Riverton primary.
Woodlands primary (Williamstown and Rosewood Streets).
Mirrabooka primary.

3. *This question was postponed.*

EFFLUENT

Discharge into Cockburn Sound

4. Mr. TAYLOR asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:
With regard to the recent instances of discharge of effluent into Cockburn Sound from industry in the South Fremantle-Coogee area—
(1) Will he advise whether his department has taken any action with regard to this matter?
(2) If "Yes," what action has been taken?
(3) If "No," does the department plan to take any action?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) A general survey of industrial effluents being discharged into the Cockburn Sound area has just been completed by officers of the Public Health Department.
- (2) The implications are being examined in conjunction with the other authorities involved in this matter, with a view to minimising the chance of a recurrence of recent episodes and improving the general position if possible.
- (3) Not applicable.

5. Mr. TAYLOR asked the Minister for Works:

With regard to the recent instances of discharge of effluent into Cockburn Sound from industry in the South Fremantle-Coogee area—

- (1) Will he advise whether the Fremantle Port Authority has taken any action with regard to this matter?
- (2) If "Yes," what action has been taken?
- (3) If "No," does the authority plan to take any action?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) A preliminary study of effluent discharging into Cockburn Sound has been completed and samples of effluent are being analysed by the Government Chemical and Bacteriological Laboratories.
- (b) Senior officers of the Fremantle Port Authority, Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board, and the Public Health Department have had several discussions and are conferring further to consider the matter.
- (3) Answered by (2).

PROPERTY IN BELLEVUE AREA

Valuations

6. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Has action been taken to place a valuation on houses and land adjoining the standard gauge railway at Norman Street, Bellevue, and other areas with a view to sale of same?
- (2) What is the current position regarding valuations and sale?
- (3) In what areas in Western Australia are the sales and valuations being arranged?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes. The need for disposal is dictated by the fact that the State and Commonwealth have joint equity in the assets as part of the standard gauge project.
- (2) Tenants are to be informed of the intention to dispose of these properties and that positive action is being deferred for at least three months.
- (3) Other dwellings in this category are at West Midland, Swan View, and Kewdale.

HOUSING

Midland Area

7. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Are any plans being arranged for single unit homes in the Midland area?
- (2) What houses or flats are to be built in the Midland area in the current year?
- (3) What number of single unit applications are unsatisfied for the Midland area?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) A large area of vacant land owned by the commission in North Midvale is currently subject to planning discussions with the Midland Town Council, on the basis of an overall housing scheme being prepared to allow for an admixture of accommodation from single elderly persons to families. Detail planning has not commenced and particulars are, therefore, not available.
- (2) 12—3-bedroom flats.
46—2-bedroom flats.
8—1-bedroom flats for one unit (elderly women).
- (3) There are only two registered eligible applicants specifically requesting accommodation in the Midland area.

UNFAIR TRADING PRACTICES

Existing Legislation

8. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Premier:
Adverting to my question of the 25th March and his reply, particularly in relation to the Rogers Committee Report on the law relating to consumer credit and money lending being unavailable prior to July, 1969—
- (1) What legislative protection exists at present to protect the community from unfair trading practices or other methods of exploitation?

- (2) If any, is the legislation considered adequate?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) There are quite a number of Acts at present in force which are designed to prevent unfair practices as between vendor and purchaser. I take it that this is what the honourable member has in mind. Such Acts include—

Hire Purchase Act, 1959—ensuring that the hirer is made aware of the true nature of the bargain and the protection of his rights, and in other ways.

Door to Door (Sales) Act, 1964—giving certain rights to the prospective purchaser to repudiate contracts made at the door.

Trade Descriptions and False Advertisements Act, 1936-1956—makes certain false descriptions unlawful if given in relation to the offering of goods for sale.

Moneylenders' Act, 1912-1962—limiting interest rates chargeable by moneylenders.

Trade Associations Registration Act, 1959—providing for the registration of trade associations and outlawing "collusive tendering".

Sales by Auction Act, 1937—outlaws certain dishonest practices at auctions of cattle or farm produce.

Sale of Goods Act, 1895—implies certain warranties and conditions in favour of the purchaser.

Then, with particular regard to the sale of land, we have—

Sale of Land (Vendors' Obligations Act), 1940—obliges the vendor to disclose to the person to whom he is selling land on terms, the fact of the land's being mortgaged or otherwise encumbered.

Purchasers Protection Act, 1933-1948—provides various protections for the purchasers of subdivisional land.

- (2) As to the second part of the question, the answer is "No:" present legislation is not thought to cover adequately all aspects of the problem of unfair trading.

It was in this realisation that we joined with the other States in commissioning the Rogerson report, to which I have already referred.

I should also mention that our Law Reform Committee is presently looking into the possibility of protecting certain persons who default under terms of contract for the purchase of land, from the unfair rescission of those contracts.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION *Movement of Vehicles into Farmers' Paddocks*

9. Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister for Electricity:

Is it requisite upon State Electricity Commission vehicles and their associated machinery that they not enter a farmer's paddock when the local authority has deemed it wise to place a ban on harvesting generally and the movement of vehicles in paddocks?

Mr. NALDER replied:

Yes.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES *Connection to Farm Houses*

10. Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Is it a fact that in connection of a farm house to State electricity supply, the last post has to be erected by the owner?

- (2) If "Yes," and as the posts are not only cumbersome to handle without the correct machinery such as is possessed by the S.E.C., and the hole has to be excavated to a depth of five feet, why cannot the S.E.C. erect this last pole or drill the hole out for the consumer, even if an additional charge is made?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) The owner or consumer must engage a licensed electrical contractor to wire his premises, and this work includes the erection of any necessary pole or poles. In most installations, the electrical contractor is required to erect a number of poles. Many electrical contractors have equipment for this work.

- (2) For safety reasons, the work of the commission and the work of licensed electrical contractors is kept separate.

CROWN LAND

East of Pingaring: Utilisation

11. Mr. STEWART asked the Minister for Lands:

Could he advise proposals for utilisation of Crown land east of Pingaring in the shires of Konidin and Kulin?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

80,000 acres of Crown land in the vicinity referred to have been the subject of an extensive examination including soil survey by officers of the Departments of Lands and Agriculture.

These investigations have proved that approximately half of this area is suitable for agricultural development.

The preliminary design provides for about 12 farm units totalling 44,000 acres or thereabouts and two unconnected reserves totalling approximately 36,000 acres.

Investigations were aimed at ensuring that established soil conservation procedures were adhered to and that land released would not result in serious water erosion to the detriment of settlers in the area.

The Director of Agriculture has agreed there is no economic reason why the land suitable for agricultural settlement should not be released as it is considered that it will facilitate composite development with overall benefit of consolidating provision of services.

Action is currently being taken in the direction indicated.

PORT AT CAPE KERAUDREN

Blasting by Atomic Power

12. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Premier: Concerning the proposed establishment of a port at Cape Keraudren by atomic blasting—

- (1) Is he convinced that the blast would have no detrimental effect on—
 - (a) human life;
 - (b) animal life;
 - (c) marine life?
- (2) Were there Commonwealth-State discussions on this matter?
- (3) If so, what are the details?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) Did discussion take place between the principals of Sentinel Mining and the State and, if so, what are the details?
- (6) Has the State sought independent expert advice on the proposal?
- (7) If so, what are the details?
- (8) If not, why not?
- (9) Can he advise of any other similar experiments that have taken place in any other part of the world and, if so, where, and with what results?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) to (9) The points raised in the honourable member's question can best be covered in a general summary of the position leading up to the decision to authorise a feasibility study of the practicability and desirability of the Plowshare techniques being used to develop a port at Cape Keraudren.

The State has been interested in the possibilities of the Plowshare technique for several years, but it is only as a result of the specific representations in respect of the Sentinel Mining Cape Keraudren project that a positive proposal for studies has been practicable.

The State agreed to the Commonwealth joining with the United States Government Atomic Energy Commission and Plowshare organisation to undertake studies about the feasibility of this type of harbour development on the understanding that—

- (a) there would be no cost to the State;
- (b) the safety measures would have to be to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth and State.

There has been a continuing liaison between the Commonwealth and State since the matter was first raised by the State Government with the then Prime Minister (Sir Robert Menzies). Our liaison officer with the Australian Atomic Energy Commission is the Director of Engineering (Mr. John Parker).

In view of the fact that the Sentinel Mining Company will be substantially involved in financing the final development of the harbour, it is naturally in close consultation with the Government and all the other interested parties.

There is no need for the State Government to seek independent expert advice as some of the best informed people in the world on nuclear explosions and the Plowshare techniques will be working on the Cape Keraudren studies. These include the Australian Atomic Energy Commission representatives who, in addition to our own liaison officer, will be very conscious of the need for all safety as well as economic and private property factors to be taken into account.

It should also be understood that neither the State nor the Commonwealth is obligated to proceed with the nuclear excavation if and

when the feasibility study is undertaken. It will only be when the results of the feasibility study are available that the decision has to be made by Commonwealth and State as well as by the American Atomic Energy Commission and the Plowshare organisation whether the proposal will proceed. I understand no experiments of an exactly similar nature have been undertaken but the Plowshare techniques have undergone very substantial tests of varying kinds. The experts engaged on the feasibility study will naturally be taking these tests into account when expressing their views.

NATIVE CHILDREN

Numbers in Missions and Institutions

13. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) What are the numbers of native children between the ages of two and five inclusive, six and 13 inclusive, 14 and 16 inclusive?
- (2) Of the above children what numbers within the various categories are in—
 - (a) missions;
 - (b) Government institutions, including hostels;
 - (c) other institutions, if any?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) and (2) Not known. No records are kept.

LAND IN PILBARA ELECTORATE

Sale

14. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Lands:

Will he advise when sales of—

- (a) industrial blocks at Roebourne; and
- (b) residential blocks at Port Samson,

will be held?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (a) Ten industrial blocks are available at Roebourne. Early release is at present under consideration.
- (b) Sixty residential blocks will be released when survey is completed towards the end of April, 1969. It will be a little while after the survey is completed.

15. *This question was postponed.*

DENTAL BENEFIT SCHEME

Introduction

16. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Did he see in last Friday's *The West Australian* in an article on a scheme for dental benefit a statement which appeared to have been made by Mr. R. G. Hayward of the Australian Medical Association that one of two main problems to be overcome was that as children were more affected by dental trouble the problem would be to work out how to cover them within the normal contribution?
- (2) Does he hold the same view?
- (3) If the benefits which he claimed would result from fluoridation actually materialised, would not the validity of Mr. Hayward's point of difficulty be destroyed?
- (4) Has he any plans for the introduction of a dental benefit scheme on a State basis?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) It does appear that the dental treatment of children could present a problem in this context.
- (3) Fluoridation is expected to have a substantial influence on the position over the course of the next few years.
- (4) It is not proposed to introduce, on a State basis, a dental benefit scheme comparable to the national medical benefit scheme. The State, however, currently subsidises the cost of dental treatment for persons of limited means in Perth, Bunbury, Albany, and Boulder; and a programme for the wider extension of this assistance is being developed.

SHIPPING AT KWINANA

Restrictions on Boarding

17. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is he aware that under the present policy of Australian Iron & Steel Pty. Ltd., access to seamen on ships calling at Kwinana by their wives and children is so severely restricted that on Saturdays it is limited to a period of about five minutes when work ceases at 4 p.m.?
- (2) Will he obtain from the company its reason for having different regulations governing visits at Kwinana from what it applies at Port Kembla, and endeavour to

persuade it to adopt a more reasonable attitude towards seamen and their wives and children in this State?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) No, I do not propose to approach the company on what is a domestic company management matter.

Mr. Tonkin: That is pretty rough.

PRIMARY SCHOOL AT MANJIMUP

New Building

18. Mr. H. D. EVANS asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) As provision for the building of a new primary school at Manjimup has not been made in current estimates, is it still proposed to build a new primary school in that town?
- (2) If so, when is it expected that a start on the building will be made?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes. The provision of a new three-classroom school at South Manjimup has been included in the departmental estimates for 1969-70.
- (2) The Public Works Department has been requested to have the building ready for occupation in February, 1970.

NORTHCLIFFE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Home Science, and Woodwork Sections

19. Mr. H. D. EVANS asked the Minister for Education:

Can he indicate—

- (a) if the provision of the home science section of the manual arts centre at the Northcliffe Junior High School has been completed;
- (b) when the woodwork section of the above centre will be commenced?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (a) Home science facilities have been provided at the Northcliffe Junior High School.
- (b) The provision of a manual arts room has been included in the 1969-70 departmental estimates but its erection is dependent on the necessary loan funds being available.

PORT HEDLAND HOSPITAL

Living Quarters, and Facilities

20. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health—

Reference a letter forwarded to him on the 19th March, 1969, by the matron of the Port Hedland Hospital—

(1) Is it a fact that—

- (a) the matron has been requesting for four years that the nurses quarters be upgraded;
- (b) Sisters at present are living in substandard houses and have to contend with—
 - (i) leaking roofs;
 - (ii) paint peeling from walls;
 - (iii) sharing rooms;
 - (iv) sleeping on verandahs;
 - (v) access to bathrooms only through other bedrooms?

(2) Is it a fact that a qualified X-ray technician (female) and a pathology assistant (female) have to share a partly enclosed verandah for accommodation?

(3) It is a fact that there is inadequate or no room for expansion in the following departments at the Port Hedland Hospital:—

- (a) outpatients;
- (b) pathology;
- (c) office;
- (d) central sterile supply department;
- (e) patients clothing department;
- (f) hospital bedding store;
- (g) linen stores;
- (h) dispensary and medical stores;
- (i) general stores;
- (j) deep freeze storage;
- (k) children's accommodation;
- (l) maternity accommodation;
- (m) female staff rooms and lockers;
- (n) male staff rooms and lockers;
- (o) physiotherapy;
- (p) blood bank?

(4) If all or any of the above situations exist, will he advise what he intends to do to rectify the position?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Port Hedland Hospital is under heavy pressure in many of the areas indicated.

(4) (a) New staff accommodation is being planned.

(b) A contract has been let for a new 16-bed ward. Plans are being prepared for a new laundry. When this is built, the existing laundry area will provide space for expansion of kitchen and dining areas.

(c) Other problems are receiving consideration but any work depends on availability of funds and will be proceeded with as soon as possible.

NATIVES

Pastoral Award: Application

21. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) Does regulation 47 (2) of the Native Welfare Act make it obligatory for natives to receive the benefits of the new pastoral award whether or not they are members of the A.W.U.?
- (2) If so, who is to police its application?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).

COUNTY COURT SYSTEM

Implementation in Western Australia

22. Mr. T. D. EVANS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice: When is it intended to introduce legislation for the purpose of implementing the county court system in this State?

Mr. COURT replied:

Draft legislation to implement a district court system, which has been prepared, is under consideration and could probably be submitted to Parliament during the next session.

KALGOORLIE GAOL

Non-convicted Persons

23. Mr. T. D. EVANS asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Are plans held for the provision at Kalgoorlie of a separate cell for non-convicted persons so that such persons pending trial are held separately from convicted inmates at the regional prison?
- (2) If not, will he please have the matter considered at an early date?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) There are two cells set aside in the Kalgoorlie Regional Gaol for the purpose of male non-convicted persons, and additional accommodation at the police station for unsentenced female and juvenile persons.
- (2) Answered by (1), but the matter is currently under review for future needs.

HOUSING

Kalgoorlie: Departmental Employees

24. Mr. T. D. EVANS asked the Premier: Would he please outline what plans are held by the Government Employees' Housing Authority for the provision of houses at Kalgoorlie this year for employees of the following departments:—

- (a) Education;
- (b) Police;
- (c) Prisons?

Mr. BRAND replied:

Contracts have been let for the following:—

- (a) Education Department—Five houses and one six-bedroom duplex.
- (b) Police Department—One house.
- (c) Prisons Department—Not taken over by Government Employees' Housing Authority.

Additionally it is proposed to make provision for a further two houses and one six-bedroom duplex for the Education Department in the 1969-70 building programme.

25. and 26. These questions were postponed.

HOUSING

Categories Unavailable for Purchase

27. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Housing:

What types or categories of dwellings constructed under the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement are not available for purchase by tenants and what are the reasons in each such instance?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

Commission flats, duplex houses, and terrace houses, are not available for sale. Apart from the fact that some of these classes of accommodation are not capable of subdivision it is desired to retain them for rental purposes.

In addition, sales may be restricted in some of the older commission estates currently the subject of feasibility studies for redevelopment.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

School Children: Number Involved

28. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Traffic:

What number of motor vehicle accidents involving casualties of school children, whether pedestrians or cyclists, have occurred in the metropolitan area during each of the last three years respectively—

- (a) in the vicinity of schools;
- (b) elsewhere?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

The number of children between ages of five and 16 years are as follows:—

		1966	
Pedestrians	.....	Killed	Injured
Cyclists	.....	7	228
		4	200
		1967	
Pedestrians	.....	Killed	Injured
Cyclists	.....	7	209
		1	205
		1968	
Pedestrians	.....	Killed	Injured
Cyclists	.....	9	244
		2	174
Statistics do not indicate locality of accident.			

I would like to add that this answer might not be completely in accord with the question asked by the honourable member, in view of the information that is available to us, but if we can help in any other way, we will be pleased to do so.

HOUSING IN METROPOLITAN AREA

Applications and Allocations

29. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Housing:

What is the present date of applications lodged for which allocations are being made from the priority list, in the Perth, Fremantle, and Midland metropolitan areas respectively, under the following headings—

- (a) purchase;
- (b) four sleeping unit rental houses;
- (c) three sleeping unit rental houses;
- (d) two sleeping unit rental houses;
- (e) two bedroom flats;
- (f) one bedroom flats;
- (g) pensioner cottage flats?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

Allocation Dates—

- (a) Perth—July, 1965.
Fremantle—November, 1965.
Midland—July, 1965.
- (b) Perth—October, 1965.
Fremantle—May, 1965.
Midland—January, 1965.
- (c) Perth—May, 1965.
Fremantle—November, 1965.
Midland—November, 1965.
- (d) Perth—August, 1965.
Fremantle—November, 1965.
Midland—November, 1965.
- (e) Perth—May, 1965.
Fremantle—N/A.
Midland—N/A.
- (f) Perth—March, 1967.
Fremantle—January, 1966.
Midland—N/A.
- (g) Perth—December, 1965.
Fremantle—November, 1966.
Midland—October, 1965.
N/A=Not Applicable.

ALBANY HARBOUR

Third Berth

30. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:

Now that tenders have closed for the building of a third berth at Albany, can he give a definite date as to commencement of work?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

The contractors, Messrs. P.D.C. Constructions Pty. Ltd., advise that pile driving will commence early in May.

31. *This question was postponed.*

EDUCATION

Exmouth Junior High School: Classroom Requirements

32. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that the American Navy requires two to three years' prior notice of future classroom requirements; if not, how much notice does it require?
- (2) Has an assessment of classroom requirement, for the immediate future, been made with respect to the Exmouth Junior High School in view of the fact that the American Navy is expected to build another 70 houses, and the State another 25 this year, with a prospect that more project homes could be required?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes—under normal circumstances.
- (2) Yes.

HOUSING

Carnarvon: Number of Applicants

33. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many applicants are there for State rental homes at Carnarvon with respect to—
 - (a) families of three or more units;
 - (b) two-unit families?
- (2) How many applicants for State purchase homes are there?
- (3) How many building sites does the Housing Commission own at Carnarvon?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) (a) 35.
- (b) 33 including four pensioner applicants.
- (2) 3.
- (3) 12. The commission is negotiating for the acquisition of further lots.

FUNERAL EXPENSES

Assistance to Indigent Persons

34. Mr. HALL asked the Minister representing the Minister for Child Welfare:

- (1) What are the minimum and maximum amounts of financial assistance that he may make available for funeral expenses to indigent persons under the Welfare and Assistance Act, 1961?
- (2) Has there been any financial adjustment to funeral expenses since the inception of the Act?
- (3) If not, would he give consideration to adjusting payments for funeral costs in view of the increased charges and consequential financial burden on indigent persons?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Where arrangements are made by relatives of the deceased for funeral expenses, the maximum that can be refunded under the Welfare and Assistance Act is \$70, but when funeral arrangements are authorised by the Child Welfare Department the full cost of the funeral is met within the limits fixed under a tender arrangement. The current contract rate for the metropolitan area for the burial of pensioners is \$104 and for indigent persons \$58. These contracts are renewed yearly.
- (2) No, except as answered by (1).

- (3) This does not appear necessary so long as the contract rates are within the limits applying under the Welfare and Assistance Act, 1961.

COOLGARDIE-ESPERANCE ROAD

Improvements Planned

35. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Are any repairs or improvements planned for the Coolgardie-Esperance road?
- (2) Can he indicate the nature and extent of the improvements, the locality, and the cost?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) In the Main Roads Department's 1968-69 programme \$159,000 was provided for the following works—

<i>Coolgardie Shire</i>		
381M.-3933M.	Reconstruct and prime 1.5 miles x 20 ft. wide and widen and prime 10.5 miles 8 ft. wide	104,000
<i>Dundas Shire</i>		
446.2M.-447.2M.	Widen causeway and gravel sheet	10,000
516M.-519.4M. ..	Reconstruct and prime 1.5 miles x 20 ft. wide and prime 1.5 miles x 8 ft.	45,000
		<hr/> \$159,000

In addition, \$45,000 was provided for main tenance.

BUS SERVICES

Resiting of Service No. 18

36. Mr. HARMAN asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will he resite the M.T.T. Service No. 18 from Grand Promenade, Englewood to its former place at the C.B.H.S. College, Bedford?
- (2) Will he ensure that commuters from points *en route* to Perth along Grand Promenade and Beaufort Street have ample opportunity to board Perth bound buses as was their habit prior to the recent change in bus timetables and termini?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The Metropolitan Transport Trust does not favour this.
- (2) It is considered that an adequate service is provided for this purpose.

SEWERAGE

East Victoria Park-Bentley Area: Extension

37. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

Are there any extensions proposed to deep sewerage in the East Victoria Park-Bentley area, other

than those outlined in a reply to a similar question given during the last session of Parliament?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

No. The board is, however, investigating proposals for the sewerage of the W.A. Institute of Technology.

MANNING ROAD, CANNINGTON

Widening

38. Mr. MAY asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What department or local authority is responsible for the maintenance and widening of Manning Road between Challenger Avenue, Manning, and Albany Highway, Cannington?
- (2) What amount of funds has been set aside by the Main Roads Department for the upgrading of this important road?
- (3) What is the reason for the delay with regard to the commencement of this work?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Responsibility for the construction and maintenance of Manning Road rests with the South Perth City Council, the Perth City Council, and the Canning Shire Council.
- (2) \$25,000.
- (3) The upgrading of this road was discussed between the three local authorities and the Commissioner of Main Roads as long ago as 1965. At this discussion the Commissioner agreed to recommend a financial contribution towards the reconstruction of the road provided the local authorities were also prepared to meet part of the cost and prepare detailed plans. Very recently the last of these plans came to hand from the South Perth City Council.

EDUCATION

Demountable Classrooms

39. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Education.

- (1) How many demountable classrooms does the department have in use?
- (2) Are any kept "in stock" to meet emergencies and, if so, how many?
- (3) Who supplies these classrooms?
- (4) What is the cost of each unit unmounted?
- (5) What is the approximate delay in supply once an order has been placed?
- (6) Are such classrooms at present on order?
- (7) When was any such order placed?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) 171.
 - (2) The department endeavours to have a reserve of these buildings to meet emergencies, but at this particular time of the year following the reopening of schools the reserve is practically nonexistent.
 - (3) Stramit Pty. Ltd.
 - (4) 1968-69 requirements are supplied at \$4,550 each; special types for the north-west at \$5,320 each.
 - (5) Up to seven days from receipt of order.
 - (6) Yes—two units.
 - (7) One unit—the 21st March, 1969.
One unit—the 26th March, 1969.
40. *This question was postponed.*

WITHERS HOUSING PROJECT

Approval of Plans

41. Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has formal approval been given by the local authority and the Town Planning Board for detailed plans of the Withers medium-density area?
- (2) If "No," when is it considered this approval will be given and what are the reasons for the delay?
- (3) When will land development works be programmed to permit construction on this site?
- (4) Will construction of units commence this financial year; if so, how many?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) The commission recently received formal approval from the Town of Bunbury for the development of the Withers Residential Park. Immediate application is now being made to the Town Planning Board for permission to proceed.
- (2) The scheme will be advertised and, subject to there being no objections, it is anticipated that Town Planning Board approval will be granted in eight weeks.
- (3) Surveys are now being carried out to enable clearing, filling, road and sewerage works to proceed.
- (4) No. Land development works should be sufficiently advanced to enable calling of tenders in September, 1969.

Shopping Centre

42. Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) As proposals for the development of a shopping area in Withers.

were called, then subsequently deferred, when is it likely that proposals will be called for again?

- (2) What were the reasons for the deferment referred to above?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) After initial consideration of tenders it was decided to discuss the proposals with the Bunbury Town Council. This meeting was held on the 10th December, 1968. On the 19th December, 1968, the proposals were again considered by the commission and it was decided, as the tenders submitted were not entirely satisfactory, to defer the matter for reconsideration in six months. This decision was confirmed at a meeting held by the commission on the 23rd January, 1969.

WATER SUPPLIES

Guilderton

43. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What is the estimated total cost of all work and installations associated with the provision of a water supply at Guilderton?
(2) What has been the expenditure to date?
(3) What is the number of permanent residents in the township?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) \$70,000.
(2) \$59,000.
(3) At present there are an estimated 30 to 40 permanent residents in the township comprising 150 dwellings.

ABORTIONS

Medical Practitioners: Charges and Convictions

14. Mr. BERTRAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice: During each of the 10 years ended the 31st December, 1968, how many duly qualified and registered medical practitioners have been—
(a) charged;
(b) convicted;
(i) of having procured or attempted to procure an abortion;
(ii) of an offence arising from an abortion or attempted abortions?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (a) One.
(b) One.

NATIVES

Industrial Rights, and Conditions of Employment

45. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) Have any circulars or instructions been issued from the Native Welfare Department advising natives generally on their union rights, award rights, or similar rights as Australian citizens?
(2) Is he aware that many alleged breaches of award payments are taking place in the north-west area?
(3) Are conditions of employment policed by the Native Welfare Department?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) An instruction has been issued to departmental officers to inform natives of their industrial entitlement and a pamphlet for distribution to natives themselves is in course of preparation.
(2) I am not aware of any specific breaches of award conditions.
(3) No.

Instruction on Voting Procedure

46. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) In what districts have natives been instructed on the procedures of voting at elections for the State and Federal Parliaments?
(2) Were instructions regarding procedures made by State or Commonwealth civil servants?
(3) Are the natives in all districts to be advised in regard to electoral procedures?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Interested natives all over Western Australia have been offered advice on this subject.
(2) Both, depending on areas.
(3) Answered by (1).

REFLECTORISED NUMBER PLATES

Cost of Conversion

47. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) What was the cost per pair for reflectorised number plates?
(2) What is the estimated cost of the conversion to reflectorised number plates other than the cost of the plates?
(3) Have any other Australian States converted, or are any in the process of converting, to reflectorised plates?
(4) If so, which States?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) \$1.05.
- (2) \$104,962.
- (3) and (4). The Australian Capital Territory is at present converting.

STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY RESERVE

Fencing of Sections

48. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) What distance of the standard gauge railway reserve between Midland Junction and Kalgoorlie is enclosed by a fence?
- (2) Are any sections of this railway not enclosed?
- (3) If so, will he indicate where these sections are, and the distances involved?
- (4) Is it proposed to fence the unfenced sections, and, if so, when will this be done?
- (5) If it is not proposed to fence the unfenced sections, what is the reason?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) 275 miles 16 chains.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) 7 miles 19 chains between Southern Cross and Koolyanobbing and 116 miles 7 chains between Koolyanobbing and Kalgoorlie.
- (4) No.
- (5) The unfenced sections abut Crown land or pastoral leases. The Crown is not bound to provide fencing on pastoral leases and the Commonwealth has refused finance in these instances.

TITLES OFFICE

Increase in Accommodation and Staff

49. Mr. BURKE asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

In view of the fact that the Titles Office is overcrowded and, as a consequence, its staff overworked and lengthy delays are suffered in the transaction of business, would he investigate the possibility of securing larger premises and augmenting the staff to cope with ever increasing workload, and reduce delays?

Mr. COURT replied:

Arrangements have been made to lease additional accommodation in the new building to be erected in Cathedral Avenue.

CREDIT TRADING

Extent in Western Australia

50. Mr. BURKE asked the Premier:

Would he investigate the extent of trading under chattels mortgage deals, unstamped hire-purchase agreements, credit purchase plans, or similar trading, wherein the State loses revenue, and the buying public its protection under the Hire Purchase Act, for the purpose of ensuring the buying public is made aware of the nature of such transactions, and of the fact that they lose the protection of the Hire Purchase Act, and to ensure that revenue due to the Treasury is received?

Mr. BRAND replied:

Inquiries will be made in the matter.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT TRUST

Buses: Responsibility for Overloading

51. Mr. BURKE asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Who is responsible for the number of passengers carried by Metropolitan Transport Trust buses—the driver or the trust?
- (2) Does he consider that controls governing the overloading of buses are adequate?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The trust. Buses are licensed to carry 50 per cent. of the seating capacity as standees.
- (2) Yes.

Study of System: Cost

52. Mr. BURKE asked the Minister for Transport:

What is the total cost of the use of the efficiency experts, P.A. Associates, and the trust employees currently involved in the study of the Metropolitan Transport Trust transport system—

- (a) last financial year;
- (b) to the end of February this financial year?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

The Metropolitan Transport Trust is not employing efficiency experts. A firm of consultants is advising the trust on the use of electronic data processing.

- (a) \$19,000.
- (b) \$23,600.

New Timetables

53. Mr. BURKE asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Were the new timetables recently introduced on the Inglewood-Beaufort Street route, which caused considerable dissatisfaction among members of the public and Metropolitan Transport Trust employees, considered successful?
- (2) Has any alteration taken place to the timetable subsequent to complaints received?
- (3) If so, has any effort been made to advise the public of these alterations?
- (4) Would he investigate the possibility of making special provision for people living in near city areas, who are continually confronted with overloaded buses during morning peak hours?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes. The trust has not received many complaints from the public. The dissatisfaction among employees resulted from a reduction in penalty work and overtime.
- (2) Whenever a new timetable is introduced, minor adjustments are necessary. This was done in this case.
- (3) Some brochures were handed out in buses and new timetables have been printed.
- (4) Special provision was made by the building up of the No. 17 service from Grand Promenade.

54. *This question was postponed.*

HOUSING*Single-unit Accommodation*

55. Mr. BURKE asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What is the present criteria for State housing assistance for single-unit accommodation?
- (2) Has any effort been made to advise the applicants at present listed for assistance of the means test which applies?
- (3) How many applicants for single-unit accommodation were provided with accommodation by the commission in 1968?
- (4) How many new single accommodation units were constructed by the commission in 1968?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Generally any applicant must be eligible as a "worker" as defined in the State Housing Act. A lone

woman pensioner is deemed eligible for a single-unit flat where—

- (a) her weekly income is not more than \$2 above the age pension or its equivalent;
- (b) her cash or liquid assets do not exceed \$250; and
- (c) she does not own or share ownership of residential property.

Allocations of single-unit flats are made on the basis of relative need at the time accommodation becomes available.

- (2) The commission is currently advising outstanding applicants.
- (3) 71 offers were made and 66 applicants accepted the accommodation offered.
- (4) 32.

MANNEQUIN PTY. LTD.*Prosecution*

56. Mr. BURKE asked the Minister for Labour:

Further to my question of the 31st October, 1968—

- (1) What is the name of the manufacturer referred to in the answer to my question of that date, regarding a prosecution under the Trade Descriptions and False Advertisements Act on the 18th September, 1968?
- (2) Are the principals of the manufacturer referred to and Mannequin Pty. Ltd. the same people?
- (3) If "Yes," was he aware of this fact when he replied to my question of the 31st October, 1968?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Divine Pty. Ltd., 40 Beaufort Street, Perth.
- (2) Inquiries made today at the Companies Registration Office show that the directorates of Mannequin Pty. Ltd. and Divine Pty. Ltd. are identical.
- (3) No.

HOME UNITS*Strata Titles*

57. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware—
 - (a) of alarm among many home unit occupants in the metropolitan area who find it impossible to obtain a title to the unit occupied;
 - (b) that this arises as a consequence of those who built the home units finding it impossible to obtain strata titles;

(c) that the impediment to the acquisition of strata titles relates to the passing in March, 1966, of the uniform general by-laws dealing with plot ratios?

- (2) In view of the concern mentioned in (1), does he contemplate any legislation this session to amend the Strata Titles Act to relieve the situation mentioned?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) (a) (b) and (c) Yes.
(2) Yes.

NARROWS INTERCHANGE

Traffic Movement

58. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What have the growth rates of peak hour traffic on the Narrows Bridge been for the past five years?
- (2) How many vehicles are expected to be using the modified traffic interchange during the morning peak hour when it is completed?
- (3) How many separate movements of traffic are being provided for in the altered design of the interchange?
- (4) How many separate movements of traffic have been eliminated from the original design?
- (5) What is the peak hour traffic volume in one direction for which provision was made in the design of the Narrows Bridge and approach system?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Narrows Bridge peak hour growth rates—

		1963	1969	Percentage Increase
a.m. Peak	Inbound	3,197	5,080	59
	Outbound	778	1,435	84
p.m. Peak	Inbound	1,167	1,762	51
	Outbound	3,420	4,926	44

- (2) Approximately 11,000 vehicles per hour.
- (3) Ten.
- (4) The direct movements from Mounts Bay Road to Riverside Drive and from the Kwinana Freeway to Riverside Drive cannot be made with the third level bridge eliminated. Until this bridge is constructed these movements must be made by way of Mounts Bay Road and William or Barrack Streets.
- (5) When extra lanes are provided on the Kwinana Freeway it is proposed to operate the Narrows

Bridge on four lanes in the peak hour direction and two lanes in the opposing direction. Under forced flow conditions, which are acceptable for short peak periods, this could be expected to handle up to 6,700 vehicles per hour. This is not to be confused with design hour volumes which are based on the level of service to be provided at other than the peak condition.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

Inspections and Treatments

59. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many children in Government primary schools had dental inspections at school in each of the past three years?
- (2) Arising from school inspections, how many children in Government primary schools in each of the past three years had dental treatment—
(a) at school;
(b) at private dentistry?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1)	Year	Primary School Children Inspected at Government Primary Schools	Primary School Children Inspected at North-West Clinics, missions and other special institutions	Primary School Children Inspected during course of pre-flouridation survey	Total
	1966	4,654	2,600 (approx.)	....	7,254
	1967	3,959	4,200 (approx.)	5,800	13,959
	1968	2,910	4,462 (approx.)	....	7,372
(2) (a)	Year	Primary School Children who received dental treatment at Government Primary Schools	Primary School Children who received treatment at North-West Clinics, missions, and other special institutions		Total
	1966	.... 2,910	1,800 (approx.)		4,710
	1967	.... 2,208	2,300 (approx.)		4,508
	1968	.... 1,385	2,282 (approx.)		3,657
(b) Information not available within my Department.					

(b) Information not available within my Department.

LOTTERIES COMMISSION

Discontinuance of 25c Lottery

60. Mr. DAVIES asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) At what number consultation is it expected the 25c lottery will be discontinued?
- (2) Will this exhaust all supplies of 25c lottery tickets already printed?
- (3) If not, what supplies printed will be left unused?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) 271.
- (2) No.
- (3) 16 Lotteries (bound).
9 Lotteries (unbound).

HEALTH

Obnoxious Odours: Bushmead Area

61. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Have any complaints been received at the Clean Air Department regarding smells arising from Bushmead area?
- (2) Has the cause of the trouble been ascertained?
- (3) What action is being taken to avoid repetition of obnoxious smells in this area?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The odours appeared to be emanating from a particular factory in the Bushmead district.
- (3) The proprietor of the factory in question was required to install suitable equipment to control undue odours from the plant. Installation has just been completed at a cost understood to be in the vicinity of \$11,000, and alleviation of the position is anticipated.

QUESTIONS (4): WITHOUT NOTICE

UNIVERSITY SENATE

Members: Particulars

1. Mr. MAY asked the Premier:

- (1) In connection with the composition of the University of Western Australia Senate, will he advise the names and vocations of the appointees in each category with full voting rights?
- (2) Will he also advise the names and vocations of other members of the Senate who attend as observers without voting rights?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Those appointed by the Governor—

Mr. C. R. Bunning, C.B.E.—
Businessman.

Sir Claude Hotchin, O.B.E.—
Businessman.

Mr. S. F. Schnaars, C.B.E.—
Former Chief Commissioner,
Industrial Commission.

Dr. Hector H. Stewart—Medical
practitioner.

Father E. J. Storman—Rector of
University College.

Those elected by Convocation—

Mr. D. H. Aitken—Commissioner
of Main Roads.

Dr. L. E. LeSouef—Medical prac-
titioner.

Mr. J. F. M. Gillett—Lawyer.

Dr. J. H. Reynolds—Head of Uni-
versity College.

Dr. W. D. L. Ride—Director, W.A.
Museum.

Miss J. E. Rogerson—Business-
woman.

Those elected by Academic Staff—
Dr. G. A. Bottomley—University
staff.

Professor E. K. Braybrooke—Uni-
versity staff.

Members Ex Officio—

Sir Stanley Prescott, O.B.E.—Vice
Chancellor, University of W.A.

Mr. K. J. Townsing, I.S.O.—
Under-Treasurer.

Mr. H. W. Dettman—Director-
General of Education.

Co-opted Members—

Mr. A. McA. Batty—Businessman.

Hon. Mr. Justice F. T. P. Burt—
Judge.

Mr. H. F. Cooke—Pastoralist.

Hon. Sir Lawrence Jackson—
Judge.

- (2) Warden of Convocation (Mr. J. F.
M. Gillett).

President of Guild of Undergrad-
uates (Miss S. Boyd).

President of University Staff As-
sociation (Professor G. C. Bol-
ton).

MECKERING DISASTER

Reply to Correspondence

2. Mr. McIVER asked the Premier:

Does the Premier intend to an-
swer my correspondence forward-
ed to him on the 20th February,
1969, in relation to the situation
resulting from the earthquake at
Meckering?

Mr. BRAND replied:
Yes.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Availability of Report

3. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for
Education:

With reference to extracts from
the report on secondary education
which were published in this
morning's paper, will the report be
published and made available to
members of Parliament, or to
interested members of the public?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

The report has been received and
is now being published. I have
arranged for a copy to be sent to

every member of Parliament and if the honourable member wishes, he may borrow my copy this evening for a brief scrutiny and return pending the receipt of his own copy.

COAT OF ARMS

Review of Design

4. Mr. DAVIES asked the Premier:
- (1) Is the heraldic coat of arms which was recently thrust upon the public of final design?
 - (2) In view of the concern shown and disagreement expressed by the public, is it likely that any review will be made to the present coat of arms?
 - (3) Is the Premier aware that someone has suggested the coat of arms should incorporate the Barracks Arch?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) to (3) I believe we would still be presented with the same problem if the Government decided on any change. Whatever the design, there will always be criticism. If it is simply a question of poor art in that the coat of arms is badly drawn, then this can be quickly resolved through recruiting the best artists available to draw the design which has been decided upon. However that is not the point. Whatever design is decided upon and whatever features it includes—be they industry, or flora and fauna—the same percentage of people will still disagree.

As yet, we have not received a warrant from Her Majesty the Queen, but at the moment there is no intention of revising the whole design because of what has happened. It has taken many years to produce a coat of arms. In fact, the previous Government gave some consideration to the matter, but, for some reason, did not proceed. The kangaroos had red toes on that occasion and someone did not like it.

Since I have mentioned kangaroos, I will take advantage of the opportunity to point out that there has been some criticism in this respect. The Commonwealth Coat of Arms supporters are a kangaroo and an emu. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I have just noticed that the Coat of Arms above your chair incorporates the unicorn. However, so many coats of arms which one sees around Australia—both in Western Australia and in the other

States—incorporate kangaroo supporters. Had we decided to have a unicorn or lion supporter, then the criticism would have been that those emblems belong to the colonial days.

What does one do? It seems to me that now a decision has been reached, we ought to stick to it. After a while it will be accepted. If people take the trouble to compare it with emblems on coats of arms from other States, they will see that it is comparable in quality. There are no outstanding features about the coats of arms of other States.

Criticism has been levelled for not including industry, but had we included one industry there would have been criticism that another industry was excluded. Therefore, it was decided that the emphasis should be placed on the natural emblems of flora and fauna. Consequently, the present design was produced. Personally, I think it is quite a good design and, before very long, will be accepted as a good coat of arms for Western Australia.

Mr. Graham: Nobody else agrees with the Government.

FISHERIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Minister for Works), and returned to the Council with amendments.

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Industrial Development) [2.55 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

I should like to advise the member for Kalgoorlie that, as promised, I discussed the various points that he raised with the Crown Law Department. I think the honourable member is now satisfied in connection with the provisions in the Bill, even though he is not very happy with the grammatical expression in clause 9. The draftsman agrees that the grammar could be a little more harmonious, to use his own words, but he does not agree that it offends legally.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and returned to the Council with an amendment.

BILLS (4): THIRD READING**1. Administration Act Amendment Bill.**

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Court (Minister for Industrial Development), and returned to the Council with amendments.

2. Plant Diseases Act Amendment Bill.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture), and transmitted to the Council.

3. Dividing Fences Act Amendment Bill.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture), and returned to the Council with amendments.

4. Offenders Probation and Parole Act Amendment Bill.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Court (Minister for Industrial Development), and returned to the Council with amendments.

BANANA INDUSTRY COMPENSATION TRUST FUND ACT AMENDMENT BILL*Second Reading*

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [3 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Banana Industry Compensation Trust Fund, as the name of the Act implies, provides for the establishment of a trust fund for the payment of compensation to banana growers in the event of loss caused by cyclones, storms, or floods, or any natural cause, pest, or disease. The life of the Act was limited to seven years—it came into operation on the 19th April, 1962—and it is due to expire on the 18th April, 1969. The fund, which comprises contributions on the basis of \$2 from the growers and \$1 from the Government, presently stands at approximately \$88,751.

A request was received from the Carnarvon Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association for a continuation of the life of the Act, together with other amendments, and the trust fund committee is of the opinion that its provisions should be continued. Because of the undoubted value of the existing legislation in its influence on the stabilisation of banana growing in the Carnarvon district, the Government has agreed to a continuation of the provisions of the Act for a further seven years, in addition to some other amendments requested by the association.

The assistance under existing provisions has provided much needed financial security and enabled growers to withstand the shock of two cyclones during the life of the legislation.

Apart from providing for a continuance of the Act for a further seven years, the Bill proposes a new definition of a "case,"

as bushel cases of various dimensions are now used, having displaced the standard case used previously.

The complement of the Banana Industry Compensation Committee will be increased from three to four members to allow for two elected grower representatives. The committee will then comprise an officer of the Department of Agriculture, who will be chairman, an officer of the State Treasury, and the two representatives elected by the growers.

The present rate of the contribution made by growers to the fund is 20c in respect of every case of bananas sold, and it is proposed to amend this to 15c, which is in proportion to the size of the containers now being used. Similarly, the amount of compensation payable will be assessed on the basis of \$1.50 per case, in lieu of \$2 presently provided. This is a reduction in proportion to the size of the container.

An amendment is also provided to allow for each patch, or planting, of bananas damaged on a property to be considered separately. It is contended by growers that, as separate plantings would be of different ages, ranging from young to mature plants, the more mature plants would be more liable to damage. Existing practice has been to assess the damage on each planting separately and then strike an average for the whole property, and compensation is paid if the loss exceeds 20 per cent.

It is considered by growers that compensation for an average loss is unrealistic, particularly when a planting in production is damaged and unproducing plantings are not affected. This could result in very little, if any, compensation being paid.

For the purposes of a compensation assessment, the plantings may be of different ages, either adjoining or made separately on a plantation, and thus the previous compensation payable based on an average loss will be replaced by an assessment of separate plantings as requested by Carnarvon growers.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Norton.

TRADE DESCRIPTIONS AND FALSE ADVERTISEMENTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL*Second Reading*

MR. O'NEIL (East Melbourne—Minister for Labour) [3.6 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The main amendment to the Trade Descriptions and False Advertisements Act contained in this Bill is designed to enable the Australian wool industry to participate fully in, and benefit substantially

from, a world-wide promotion of the sale of wool being undertaken by the International Wool Secretariat under what is known as the Wool Mark Programme.

Legislative amendments along the same lines as this Bill have been or are being introduced in every State Parliament by Ministers in charge of textile labelling following agreement reached at a conference held in Queensland last year. The amendment was requested by the Australian Agricultural Council, and was strongly supported by the Australian Wool Board.

It is designed to permit the use of the description "pure wool" or "all wool" for textiles containing not less than 80 per cent. sheep's wool and not more than 5 per cent. fibres other than specialty animal fibres; namely, mohair, cashmere, alpaca, llama, vicuna, and camel hair. Currently, a textile product may not be described as "pure wool" if it contains less than 95 per cent. sheep or lamb's wool. This requirement puts Australia at a disadvantage in the international wool sales promotion scheme.

Most major wool producing countries permit the description "wool" to be applied to textile products resulting from a blending of sheep's wool and the specialty animal fibres I have mentioned. Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Mexico, and Belgium have been the exceptions. It has been advised that legislative action similar to this proposition is being taken in New Zealand and South Africa, and that Mexico and Belgium have the matter in hand.

The acceptance of the proposal contained in this Bill will mean that the wool-mark brand, as well as the description "pure wool," or, alternatively, "all wool," may be used on textiles containing not less than 80 per cent. sheep or lamb's wool, and where at least three-quarters of the balance—or 15 per cent. of the total weight—comprises specialty animal fibres previously mentioned. Australian wool products will thus suffer no disadvantages in competition with textile products produced in other countries and labelled "wool."

Considerable research has been undertaken to ascertain whether the proposed increase in the percentage of fibre other than sheep or lamb's wool would produce a textile whose characteristics would differ materially from fabrics which up to date have qualified to be described as "pure wool."

Dry cleaners' associations advise that no real problems would be created in relation to dry cleaning provided the animal fibres in question possessed similar characteristics to what would be conventionally regarded as wool, which is the case in regard to the fibres mentioned.

Research conducted by the Australian Wool Board to ascertain whether the inclusion of any or all of the specified animal fibres in a blended wool fabric would produce an allergic reaction to the wearer, indicated no cause for alarm in this regard. This opinion was supported by an independent check by the Queensland Department of Health.

No objections to the proposals have been registered by any organisation approached, which included—apart from those already mentioned—chambers of manufactures, and the Textile Council of Australia. The latter council, incidentally, proposed the use of the alternative description "all wool." I confidently commend this amendment to the House.

The second amendment, although of a minor nature, is none the less regarded as of sufficient importance to be included in the Bill. Its purpose is simply to include carpets under the definition of textiles in the parent Act. It is believed that the increasing use of synthetics, or man-made fibres, either wholly or in blends with wool and/or other animal fibres, in carpet manufacture has now reached such proportions that these goods should be required to carry a trade description similar to that required of textiles generally.

A third amendment will facilitate the inclusion of other materials as textiles by regulation, rather than by an amendment to the Act as is now required.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Davies.

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL, 1969

Second Reading

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Water Supplies) (3.12 p.m.): I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This is only a short Bill to amend existing legislation for—

- (1) A variation of the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board's powers to levy differential water rates and so eliminate an anomaly of rating on some residential properties.
- (2) To empower the board to repay part of its loan capital each year during the currency of the loans raised by the board.

In dealing with (1), I would point out that under existing legislation the board has power to levy a lesser—differential—rate on rateable land used for residential purposes. The current provisions of the Act define "rateable land used for residential purposes" and also the term "residence." The definition "residence" includes a dwelling house, and a home unit

and flat if the home unit or flat is occupied by the owner. If the home unit or flat is not occupied by the owner then it cannot attract the lesser rating. It is proposed to dispense with this restriction on home units and flats and place them all within the definition of "residence" so that the land may be rated at a lesser rate.

In describing (2), I would mention that, under the buying powers of the board included in the existing legislation, the board may borrow money by issue of debentures, by the creation and issue of inscribed stock, or in such other manner as the Governor may approve.

Irrespective of how a loan is raised, the board has power only to repay at maturity by creating a sinking fund for that purpose. Some bodies or institutions with funds available for lending require that at least some part of the capital money be repaid to them each year. The method of redeeming loans by way of repayment of capital during the currency of the loan is widely used by local authorities.

It is proposed to give the board power to repay, periodically over the term of the loan, the money borrowed by the board, additional to its power to repay on maturity by means of a sinking fund.

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

EXOTIC STOCK DISEASES (ERADICATION FUND) BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [3.17 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

There is to be no basic change in the policy of payment of compensation to owners of stock and property destroyed in the course of eradicating or preventing the spread of exotic diseases in livestock under the provisions of this Bill. Its introduction has been prompted by the proposed repeal of the Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication Fund Act, 1959, and the proposed replacement of that Act with new legislation to cover all exotic diseases.

There are no fundamental changes or departures from existing provisions in the Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication Fund Act, but the necessary amendments to that Act would be numerous and the amending Bill would be almost as long as a new one. It is therefore considered desirable to repeal that Act and re-enact the provisions in this Bill.

The Bill is purely a compensation fund measure, and legislation supporting other aspects of the control and eradication of exotic diseases has been transferred and incorporated into the Stock Diseases (Regulations) Act passed by Parliament last year, at which time I foreshadowed the proposals now contained in this Bill.

The Bill seeks to enlarge the area of compensation to include losses incurred through a variety of exotic diseases approved by the Agricultural Council under the terms agreed between the Commonwealth and the States in the case of foot-and-mouth disease. The new legislation will provide compensation for any vesicular disease, for blue-tongue in sheep, swine fever and African swine fever in pig, rinderpest in cattle, Newcastle disease in fowl plague in poultry, and rabies in all species, in addition to foot-and-mouth disease.

As an example, an outbreak of blue-tongue in sheep would be a catastrophe to the Australian economy—almost as great as foot-and-mouth disease—and there is at present no compensation fund relative to sheep. Since blue-tongue is as likely to enter Australia as any of the other diseases, it would be desirable to deal with all compensation in the same way, eliminating provisions in existing compensation fund Acts—relating to cattle, pigs, and poultry—as far as exotic disease compensation is concerned.

As the Commonwealth Government has agreed to contribute towards a fund covering the additional exotic diseases I mentioned earlier, several of our Statutes which have provided a fund for the eradication of various stock diseases will be redundant in regard to exotic diseases now provided for in this Bill—as distinct from enzootic diseases such as bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis, swine tuberculosis and any other disease approved by the Minister.

As a result there will be complementary legislation to amend the Cattle Industry Compensation Act, 1965, the Pig Industry Compensation Act, 1942, and the Poultry Industry (Trust Fund) Act, 1942.

The Cattle Industry Compensation Act is being fully extended to take care of the eradication of tuberculosis and brucellosis, and the Pig Industry Compensation Act is continuously active in compensation for enzootic diseases.

The funds accumulated under the Cattle Industry Compensation Act and the Pig Industry Compensation Act will be reserved for the control and eradication of the enzootic diseases just mentioned.

With regard to the Poultry Industry (Trust Fund) Act, it is proposed to enlarge the powers in such a way as to allow benefits to flow from the fund to the industry where losses are not caused by a contagious or infectious disease, or may be occasioned by a circumstance other than a disease.

As I have mentioned earlier, except for the extension of the fund to all exotic diseases, it is virtually a re-enactment of the former provisions.

There has been included, however, power to the Treasurer to divide the fund into separate accounts, each applicable

a separate disease, and to wind up the accounts separately. This would be of importance only if there were more than one exotic disease in existence at the same time. Regulation-making powers are also included in the Bill.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. H. D. Evans.

CATTLE INDUSTRY COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning — Minister for Agriculture) [3.24 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This is a complementary measure to the Exotic Stock Diseases (Eradication Fund) Bill explained earlier.

The amendments proposed in this Bill will now provide for compensation to be payable for any enzootic disease, including brucellosis, the eradication of which is envisaged in the near future. The amendments will also enable the funds of the Act to be used for supporting the total vaccination programme and other measures proposed for the eradication of brucellosis and any other enzootic disease.

Compensation arising from exotic diseases in cattle, which was formerly contained in the Cattle Industry Compensation Act, 1965, will now be encompassed by the provisions of the Exotic Stock Diseases (Eradication Fund) Bill.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. H. D. Evans.

ALUMINA REFINERY (MITCHELL PLATEAU) AGREEMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Industrial Development) [3.27 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to ratify the agreement between the Government and Amax Bauxite Corporation relating to the mining of bauxite, the production of alumina, and investigations into the possibility of establishing within this State a smelter for the conversion of alumina to aluminium.

One of its most significant features is that it is designed to establish a major industry in a part of the State, in the extreme north, near Admiralty Gulf, where there is literally no development at the present time.

The company, at a cost in excess of \$1,400,000, has established the existence of bauxite reserves in the Mitchell Plateau

area, and has conducted investigations relating to the mining, beneficiation, transport, and refining of bauxite, and the shipment of bauxite and alumina. The refinery, together with ancillary works and services, will cost something in excess of \$100,000,000.

That is the figure prescribed in the agreement as the minimum investment, but having regard to the latest assessment in respect of the Gove project members will realise it is purely a minimum figure. A comparable project in size is to be established at Gove, and members will appreciate that, as I unfold something of this story, it will be nearer \$300,000,000 in its final cost when 1,000,000 tons a year are obtained from the alumina project.

The Kimberley bauxite deposits were discovered by company geologists early in 1965. Scout drilling indicated their potential, and in 1966 an intensive drilling and shaft sinking programme was commenced. In 1967, the whole plateau was covered by a broad drill grid, and the most promising individual ore body was drilled out on 400-foot centres with shafts being sunk every 800 feet. In this current year, field crews are drilling out the most northern area of the bauxite bearing plateau with the idea of mining operations in this location taking advantage of the short haul to the coast during the first years of production.

A pilot washing and screening plant has been erected on site and has been operating effectively since the beginning of the year 1968. Using a blast-hole drill and a D9 bulldozer, several trenches and natural benches have been opened up to supply bulk samples for processing purposes. The object of this work was to obtain data on the recovery rates of product at various screen sizes, and screen analyses of crusher feed, crusher product, and tailings in order to determine necessary specifications. In taking bulk samples for the pilot plant, blast-hole drilling rates and explosives consumption were determined, and at the same time ripping tests were carried out with the bulldozer to determine whether any substantial proportion of the ore body could be extracted with the use of ripping and scraping equipment.

I mention this in particular, because this deposit is quite different from the deposit at Weipa, where there are huge tonnages of high-grade material, and more or less extractable on a face. As members will realise from the information given about the testing and proving programme to date, this deposit is a much more complex one, and the product has to be beneficiated before it can be classed as suitable for alumina refinery feed.

During 1967 a hydrographic survey of possible pier sites in Port Warrender and of the approaches through Admiralty Gulf was completed. This survey suggested two possible port sites, both with excellent approaches and having 50 to 60 feet of

water at low tide, within 1,000 feet of the shoreline. A final decision on the location of the port will be made when the company submits its proposals in detail to the Government.

The responsibility for conducting a feasibility and cost study has been given to Bechtel Pacific Corporation by the company, and this assignment commenced in April, 1968. The basis for the design used in the study is a 600,000-long-tons per year alumina plant, located on Walsh Point in Admiralty Gulf. Bauxite will be mined at the northern end of the plateau, and crushed in a mobile primary crusher having a capacity of about 500 tons per hour and hauled to the port by 100-ton bottom dump trucks.

Mention has been made in the agreement of a commitment to go up to 600,000 tons of alumina product. The indications to date in the feasibility studies are that this tonnage will have to be higher to make it economically viable; and that is exactly the same experience in respect of the estimates at Gove.

At the port a beneficiation plant will reduce the reactive silica content of the ore by tumbling and washing, and further crushing to minus three-eighths of an inch. A recovery of 65 per cent. of the ore feed is anticipated.

The alumina plant will utilise the Bayer process designed to treat bauxite which contains trihydrate alumina. The ground bauxite ore is slurried with a caustic solution. Iron titanium reactive silicone impurities are separated from the liquid by means of cyclons, thickeners, and filters. The clear liquid is passed through a series of flash tanks to reduce its temperature and pressure, and alumina trihydrate is settled out by adding a seed charge in precipitation tanks. The precipitate is then filtered off, thickened, and calcined to produce pure alumina.

A power plant to supply steam for the process and power for the whole project will be built, the installed capacity of which will be approximately 30,000 kilowatts.

General facilities at the port will include the unloading and storage of caustic soda, fuel oil, and other stores necessary for operational purposes. The wharf, which is included in the study to receive general cargo and load out alumina, is designed to have a rate of 1,000 tons per hour.

The townsite for 1,500 people will be built at Port Warrender to provide housing for all personnel working on the project, and will include all the social and recreational facilities desirable for complete modern living.

A water supply reservoir and pumping station will be located to the west of the townsite and will have a capacity to provide

a safe supply of 3,000,000 to 5,000,000 gallons per day. The main uses of water will be for the town, alumina plant, and beneficiation plant.

Some important aspects of construction will be an effective communications system; that is, a radio and telephone link with Darwin or Derby, and the construction of an airport suitable for aircraft operated by the local commercial operator. Members will appreciate there are no facilities of this kind there at the moment, and the exploration teams have had to rely on radio communication and on a very limited airfield.

The company has temporary reserves over an area of approximately 1,500 square miles, which under the terms of the agreement may progressively be converted to a mineral lease within six years of the commencement date. It also has the right to surrender any part of the lease from time to time.

The initial term is for 21 years with an option of renewal for a similar period, the rental being for the first 21 years at the rate of \$5 per square mile, and thereafter the amount prescribed by the Mining Act, but not exceeding \$10 per square mile.

The mineral lease will give the company the right to mine bauxite and associated minerals and clays within the weathered profile. For the sake of the record "weathered profile" means the zone within which any or all of the original chemical elements of the rocks have been redistributed or concentrated by atmospheric or ground agencies.

In accordance with its approved proposals, the company is obliged by the end of the third year to complete and have in operation the first stage of a refinery with an annual capacity of 200,000 tons of alumina, and by the end of the 10th year this capacity will have risen to 600,000 tons per annum.

By the 30th June, 1969, or other date approved by the Minister, the company must submit proposals on the following:—

- (1) Port and port development to accommodate ships to 30,000 tons initially for loading bauxite and alumina, together with preliminary plans for expansion necessary to take 60,000-ton vessels.
- (2) Bauxite and alumina transport facilities.
- (3) Townsite facilities.
- (4) Regional facilities.
- (5) Alumina refinery.
- (6) Any other works required.
- (7) Marketing and financial arrangements.

I now want to refer to an unusual feature in this agreement to which I would invite the attention of members. It refers specifically to the infrastructure. This is a

question which has been exercising our minds in these remote areas, and particularly where the company has to supply all of the infrastructure in that particular locality, because we just have not the State loan funds to divert for this purpose. This covers housing, schools, hospitals, water supplies, power, and in fact everything that makes it necessary for a community to exist. One of the problems in this particular matter is the cost of the money. This is quite a different factor from the actual industrial activities.

Mr. Tonkin: Will this be another company town like Dampier?

Mr. COURT: It will be a town, and if it can be anything else but a company town it will be a normal town. It must be realised that this is a location where there is literally nothing else.

Mr. Tonkin: Will this not be another company town like Dampier? That is a fair question.

Mr. COURT: If the Leader of the Opposition listens he will hear. There can be no-one else here at the start other than this one company. It would like to find some other company to go in with it, because no-one likes a company town.

Mr. Tonkin: That means if an employee does not like the job he will get no accommodation and no meals.

Mr. COURT: I do not know what the honourable member is getting at, but we want development in these remote areas.

Mr. Tonkin: At any price?

Mr. COURT: The only way we can do that is to get somebody else to provide the funds. If we had the money to build these things ourselves it would be quite a normal development, but we have not the money to build a single house in projects like this.

Mr. Tonkin: That is no reason why we should trample on human rights.

Mr. COURT: No-one is trampling on human rights.

Mr. Tonkin: That is what happened at Dampier.

Mr. COURT: Would the honourable member expect the employees of, say, Amax—if they established themselves in a commendable project—to be living in tents, while somebody else, to follow the philosophy of the honourable member, who has no relationship to the area is given priority of accommodation?

Before I was side-tracked from the point I was getting across, which is relevant to the next part of the Bill, I was trying to explain that we were running into some difficulties in respect of the tremendously high infrastructure costs which we have to ask this industry to carry. The company has no objection to providing the infrastructure costs that are negotiated, but

one of the problems is that it is having to use very dear money, which is normally the money that is used in industrial activities, on the provision of housing, school, water supply, etc. We have been endeavouring to find ways to relieve the company of this by at least making the money available on a cheaper basis.

The position is aggravated where overseas companies are involved and they are limited in the amount of money they are able to borrow in Australia under Commonwealth policy; and the reasons for this have been stated elsewhere. Therefore they usually have to go overseas to borrow money at high cost and put it into infrastructure development as distinct from the industrial investment—that is, the actual mine, the actual plants, and those things that are earning the normal income.

These things are not questioned, but in view of the fact that these companies are competing with the rest of the world, the infrastructure cost does become a factor we cannot ignore. Therefore I want to explain this unusual feature of the Bill, but I want to make it equally certain in the minds of members that the Government is in no way committed to this particular part of the agreement. In other words, we have the right to opt out of it at any time we like until proposals are accepted and legislation related thereto is introduced into the House, when it would become a Statute in its own right.

It is envisaged that certain financial institutions may be prepared to finance a regional development authority. Should the company be successful in its endeavours, it will submit proposals on arrangements for the regional development authority on the basis of—

- (1) The regional development authority being constituted by an Act of Parliament as a corporate body.

In other words, this would require a special Statute to be brought to the House. To continue—

- (2) The State granting to the regional development authority for a term of 99 years at a peppercorn rental, a special lease of Crown lands of an area agreed upon between both parties.
- (3) The regional development authority to construct regional facilities and grant to the State a head sublease for a term of 42 years at a rental sufficient to amortise the total cost over this period.
- (4) The State in turn grants a sublease to Amax Bauxite Corporation on the same terms and conditions as the regional development authority grants to the State.
- (5) The regional development authority agreeing that the company shall be entitled to operate and

maintain any improvements, and supply and maintain power and water at the cost of the regional development authority.

- (6) The company accepts the obligation to maintain and operate the regional facilities at its own expense and indemnify the State in this regard.
- (7) The company procures a covenant in favour of the State from a third party approved by the State which virtually guarantees that in the event of the sublease being terminated all rentals payable will be met.

This seventh provision is rather important because we would have to have a surety which would make certain that if, for any reason of its own, the company decided to cease operations at, say, year 16 or 20, or whatever it might be, there was somebody of proper stability and capacity to take over the commitment under the rentals that would be payable.

I want to emphasise again that the Government has the right to opt out of its arrangement at any time because it has been explained to the corporation, and it accepts the fact, that we cannot include any provision which would in any way inhibit our borrowing capacity and normal loan fund arrangements under the Loan Council.

At this moment I am not sanguine about the ability of ourselves or the company to negotiate a basis which would make this infrastructure finance available on a more economic basis than it has been in other projects, but I think members will agree, after studying the provisions, that we had to start somewhere in a search for this type of finance and the way we have done it is the safe way, because we can opt out of it.

Another reason why this project would need cheap infrastructure money is because alumina production on its own is not regarded throughout the world as being a highly profitable operation at this juncture and it could not stand the same finance charges as could some other projects.

When negotiating this agreement, the parties recognised that the concept of the regional development authority was an entirely new approach to the financing of the infrastructure to provide housing and the ancillary services necessary for a township. It was decided therefore that the State and the company should consult, from time to time, on the feasibility of the establishment of the regional development authority and if, at any time prior to the approval of the company's proposals, the State considered this to be impracticable, provision was made for the State to disengage.

The SPEAKER: We will adjourn until the ringing of the bells. I have specified the ringing of the bells because I have observed we have never resumed at 4 p.m. We will be more exact.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.4 p.m.

Mr. COURT: The next point I would like to deal with is the question of royalties. In view of the Government's policy to endeavour to have royalties on a reviewable basis, negotiations were conducted to try to arrive at mutually acceptable terms.

One of the problems in the case of lower value minerals is the need for the company to be assured that it can service the large capital investment involved, and have some reasonable certainty as to what its costs will be in the years that lie ahead.

There is an understandable reluctance on the part of the company, which will be investing over \$100,000,000 in a remote area, to be subjected to an unknown factor if royalties are going to be entirely at the discretion of the Government of the day.

It has therefore been agreed that the following scale of royalties should apply for a period of 21 years from the commencement date, as follows:—

- (1) On bauxite shipped—12½c per ton.
- (2) On bauxite used in the refinery—7½c per ton.
- (3) On special grade bauxite for refractory and special purposes shipped to points within the Commonwealth—25c per ton.
- (4) On special grade bauxite produced for refractory and special purposes shipped outside the Commonwealth—40c per ton.

Mr. Bickerton: What did you say the anticipated annual production was?

Mr. COURT: Under the agreement, if the company successfully negotiates the initial parts and gets the proposals approved, it is committed by the 10th year to go up to 600,000 tons of alumina product. It would take about three tons of beneficiated bauxite to produce one ton of alumina.

Mr. Bickerton: What is the approximate world market price of alumina?

Mr. COURT: I could not tell the honourable member offhand, but could easily find it out for him. I have a figure in my mind but would not like to pluck the answer out of the air at the moment. However, I will supply the information for the honourable member.

I mentioned differential types of royalty. There are, in fact, two types, one for bauxite used at the refinery in this Mitchell Plateau area and one for bauxite shipped away. There is also the special royalty rate for refractory or special type bauxite;

and here again there is a differential for the special type of bauxite used within Australia and that which is shipped out of Australia. The refractory or special types are in limited quantities but it is expected there may be pipes of this special type which have a higher value than the ordinary bauxite which it may be worth mining as a separate proposition.

This explains why there are differential rates and a higher rate is fixed for the refractory type bauxites. This is a bauxite used especially for making refractories which are used in such things as blast furnaces and the like and which refractories and materials, incidentally, we at present import.

Mr. Bickerton: What is the approximate tonnage of bauxite required to make a ton of alumina?

Mr. COURT: About three, but that will vary considerably in this product because of the grade and the fact that it has to be beneficiated before it can be refined.

Mr. Bickerton: The agreement figure of 600,000 tons is bauxite and not alumina?

Mr. COURT: No. The 600,000 is alumina product.

The royalties payable shall increase or decrease proportionate to the increase or decrease in the mean quarterly world selling price of aluminium above or below \$A500 per ton.

The mean quarterly world selling price of aluminium is deemed to be the average expressed in Australian dollars of the four prices first quoted in the *London Metal Bulletin* in respect of Canadian primary aluminium 99.5 per cent. purity f.o.b. Toronto in each of the four quarters immediately preceding the quarter in which the royalty return is required. This is a formula which is fairly universally used for measuring the movement in price.

After the initial period of 21 years, royalty rates are reviewable by the State for each seven-yearly period thereafter. The royalty per ton payable for any seven-yearly period shall not exceed the average royalty per ton during the three-year period expiring on the 30th day of June immediately preceding the respective date for review or payable in respect of bauxite used in the production of alumina in the Commonwealth by other parties engaged in the combined operation of mining bauxite and producing alumina in comparable projects with comparable commitments in comparable areas.

I would just like to explain that in more simple terms. The idea was to try to arrive at a formula for review which meant the company would pay what was payable under the Mining Act, but a royalty not exceeding the average of comparable projects in comparable areas and operating under comparable conditions in

Australia. Now it is fairly easy to see that this means we are going to tie our royalties to projects being undertaken north of the 20th parallel, and members can see very quickly from a glance at the map that these are the Mitchell Plateau, Gove, and Weipa. They have comparable climates and are comparable areas so far as remoteness is concerned. However, they do not all have comparable commitments. For instance, Weipa bauxite does not have to be converted to alumina at Weipa. This is in fact taken around the world; some is taken around to Gladstone, and the Weipa proposition does not actually compare with it on its own. But if we take the whole of the Weipa commitment, I think it would be fair to say it is reasonably comparable.

It means that after the 21 years, our project in the north will be reviewable every seven years, and it was felt unfair to expect the company to pay a royalty higher than its competitors in Commonwealth-controlled territory, that is, the Northern Territory, and in Queensland-controlled territory at Weipa. We felt this was fair, and the company has agreed to the basis of seven-yearly reviews after the first 21-year lease period of establishment is behind it.

It has been decided to permit controlled export of bauxite in addition to the alumina, initially to generate a cash flow to assist the economic viability of the project, and then to tie bauxite export tonnage to the production of alumina.

Therefore, under the terms of the agreement, the company is not to ship or sell bauxite without the approval of the Minister, except for the following quantities:—

1. During the first three years from the commencement date a quantity not exceeding a total of 3,000,000 tons.
2. From years four to 10 inclusive, a quantity equal to 2½ tons for each ton of bauxite fed to the refinery.
3. Thereafter, in each year which the refinery operates at a rate which is not below 200,000 tons less than its rated capacity, a quantity equal to 2 tons of bauxite for each 1 ton fed to the refinery.

The company will be obliged to progressively restore, in consultation with the Minister for Mines, the surface of the mined areas and to regenerate the vegetation thereon in accordance with good mining and industrial practice. In carrying out any programme of this nature it will be necessary to have regard for the remoteness of the area concerned, its condition prior to the mining operations, the cost to the company, and the risk of pollution to any drainage system, together with the possible effects of soil erosion.

Should agreement not be reached between the Minister for Mines and the company, then provision is made for a firm of consultants of international repute to decide the best methods to be employed.

Mr. Bickerton: What is the area of this reserve?

Mr. COURT: It is 1,500 square miles. I think members are aware from previous alumina agreements that it takes approximately two-thirds of the cost of aluminium in power to smelt that alumina into aluminium, and therefore it is not until very large scale cheap power is available that one can have a smelting operation.

Mr. Bickerton: How many tons of alumina make a ton of aluminium?

Mr. COURT: Roughly 2½ tons. The disposal of residues (red mud) and other effluent from the refinery will also be subject to agreement between the Minister for Mines and the company, having due regard for the factors enumerated in the restoration and regeneration of the mined areas. It was not considered reasonable to expect the company to enter into a firm commitment for the construction and operation of a smelter to convert alumina to aluminium. However, during the course of negotiations, a number of alternatives were studied resulting in a proposition which has quite a lot to recommend it. We did not want the question of a smelter to be completely overlooked in case some other smelting operation unexpectedly came on the scene and we were able to negotiate large scale power generation.

Under the terms of the agreement the company undertakes to investigate the feasibility of establishing a smelter within the State, and to review the matter from time to time, keeping the Minister fully informed as to progress made. At any time after the end of the 13th year the Minister may give notice to the company requesting consideration of the submission of proposals for the construction of a smelter in the vicinity of the refinery site, and having an annual capacity of not less than 50,000 tons of aluminium. That is, of aluminium product.

If within two years of the notice referred to being given by the Minister the company submits proposals for a smelter, then the Minister has a period of two months in which to approve, or raise any objections or alternatives desired. On the other hand, should the company not submit proposals within the two-year period, or if for any reason approval is not given, then the Minister may give notice that a third party has agreed to establish a smelter. Under such circumstances the company is obliged to supply this other party with sufficient quantities of alumina as prescribed to operate the smelter.

This is felt to be something of an inducement to the company to undertake smelting operations—if at all practicable

—because if the company does not undertake smelting operations it will be obligated to supply alumina on the spot to a rival company, if such company deems it practicable and desirable to establish a smelter.

The company undertakes as far as is reasonably and economically possible to use local labour and to give preference to *bona fide* Western Australian manufacturers and contractors in placement of orders for works, materials, plant and supplies, where price, quality and delivery are equal to or better than obtainable elsewhere. Assurance is also given that opportunity is afforded to Western Australian manufacturers and contractors to tender or quote when tenders are being called or contracts let.

Other usual provisions common to agreements of this nature have been included, such as power to extend periods or dates referred to, arbitration in the event of disputes, determination of the agreement should default by the company occur in regard to the due performance of its obligations and covenants, joint user arrangements, and the like. This follows the general pattern of this type of agreement, except that there is the very important provision relating to the R.D.A., which provision we can opt out of at any time we so desire before the proposals submitted by the company are in fact approved.

These are the salient features of the agreement which Parliament is asked to ratify. Overall, this project is one of great importance to the State and, in particular, to the Kimberley region, as it could be the initial break-through for the establishment of a large-scale industry in this area.

We realise the problems that confront the company in trying to negotiate the various stages with joint venturers to make this practicable. My own opinion is that it will need 1,000,000 tons of aluminium product to make it really attractive. However, the aluminium industry is the fastest growing metal industry in the world today. We have seen over the last 10 years, particularly, a system of consortia developed within this industry which, I think, is a very sound one. It means that the biggest aluminium producing companies in the world are getting together and trying to develop the resources at the source in countries like our own and in some of the less developed countries.

It is only when the companies can join together and give assured markets—captive markets—for sufficient quantities of alumina that these projects can be made viable. Almost without exception they are in fairly difficult areas, with very heavy costs of initial development. The economics are marginal and are more critical in the production of alumina than in any other metal producing industry.

Mr. Brady: Have the Japanese got any link with this company that you know of?

Mr. COURT: Let me put it this way: The company itself has no Japanese connections; that is, Amax Bauxite Corporation. However, I would anticipate that the company would either have a Japanese joint venture eventually, or a very large proportion of its output would go to Japan, as is the case with the refinery at Kwinana.

Mr. Bickerton: There was an R.D.A. agreement concerning an irrigation company at Kimberley; is this agreement similar? Are the functions of this agreement similar to the previous R.D.A. agreement?

Mr. COURT: The member for Pilbara will find that this agreement has what we would regard as a functional type of regional development authority. Normally one would expect a regional development authority, such as we have been talking about in the past, to embrace something like the whole of the Pilbara or the whole of the Kimberley. However, this concept of a regional development authority, as provided for in this agreement in relation to the Mitchell Plateau area, only, is more the type of regional development authority which is very common in America.

In America there is this type of regional organisation which they find very convenient for the purposes of raising money as public securities at a lower rate. This is approved under their normal exchange system.

Mr. Bickerton: I have no doubt it is done in America, but what does the regional development authority consist of?

Mr. COURT: The regional development authority will be established under an Act of Parliament, if approved by the Government. When the proposals are put up then legislation to create that authority will have to come to Parliament. The more detailed aspects of the authority will be stated in the legislation.

Mr. Bickerton: But in your own mind, what do you envisage the membership of the regional development authority to be; company representative or Government representative?

Mr. COURT: There will be company representation and Government representation, and some local representation also. The form could be very much influenced by the type of development which takes place. For instance, the company is very anxious to work with us in trying to establish other industries simultaneously with its own development. The company would like to see a substantial fishing industry established in Admiralty Gulf so that everyone living in the new town will not be working for the Amax Company.

The company also wants to study the prospects of establishing some form of forestry in the area—which has never been attempted before—to get some diversity.

If some diversified industries are established then the representation on the regional development authority may have to be extended. We would not be able to specify the complete framework of the regional development authority in the agreement. It was therefore left to be a special Statute that will have to be brought down to Parliament at the time when the Government approves the regional development authority proposals.

Mr. Bickerton: How about maps? Are any available?

Mr. COURT: Yes; I was just about to mention maps. I have with me a photo-stat of the plan in the actual agreement and it shows areas (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e). I am having another map prepared which will show in more detail the area to Admiralty Gulf so that members will be able to see the potential port site, plant site, etc.

Mr. Brady: At the beginning of your speech you said 15,000 square miles and subsequently, in answer to an interjection, you said 1,500 square miles. Which is correct?

Mr. COURT: Fifteen hundred square miles. I am sorry if I said 15,000 square miles.

Mr. Bickerton: The Minister has read the Weipa agreement?

Mr. COURT: Yes.

Mr. Bickerton: How do the royalties compare?

Mr. COURT: Ours are higher.

Mr. Bickerton: Have you a copy of the Weipa Agreement?

Mr. COURT: There is a copy in the Queensland Statutes in the Parliament. Finally, there will be many indirect benefits to all resulting from the establishment of the State's second alumina refinery. I commend the Bill.

Debate adjourned for one week, on motion by Mr. Bickerton.

The plan was tabled.

BILLS (2): MESSAGES

Appropriations

Messages from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the following Bills:—

1. Banana Industry Compensation Trust Fund Act Amendment Bill.
2. Alumina Refinery (Mitchell Plateau) Agreement Bill.

BRANDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [4.25 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This proposed amendment to the Brands Act is designed to correct an illegal procedure which, it has been discovered, has been followed among the owners of stud goats for some years. No provision has ever been made under this Act for the branding or identification of goats.

The West Australian Goat Society, for the purpose of identifying stud goats, has been allowing its members to use brands which are registered under the Brands Act, and this really constitutes an illegal use of these brands. The action has been carried out quite unwittingly and the Goat Society has discussed the problem with the Department of Agriculture with the view to having appropriate steps taken to rectify the situation.

It is obvious, of course, that the use of stud symbols, and especially the use of somebody else's brand registered under the Brands Act, to identify stud goats contravenes the provisions of the Act, and this amendment, if agreed to, will allow a stud goat owner to use his breed society mark to identify his goats.

In the Act there are provisions for special marking of stud sheep and it is desirable that somewhat similar provisions for the marking of stud goats be introduced to cover the position. The amendment will bestow on a stud goat owner the right to tattoo his breed society mark on the ear of the goat or firebrand the goat with his registered brand or breed society mark.

A "Breed Society" is defined in the Brands Act as a body that carries out the registration of a particular breed of stock and which is recognised as such by the Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia Incorporated.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Sewell.

STATE HOUSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL, 1969

Second Reading

MR. O'NEIL (East Melville—Minister for Housing) [4.29 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The amendment to the State Housing Act contained in this Bill provides for the General Manager of the State Housing Commission, or the officer acting in this position, to be a member of the Commission, and that the Minister may from time to time appoint a deputy to act in his stead.

Currently, section 9 of the State Housing Act provides that the commission shall consist of seven members, two of whom shall be officers employed in the Public Service of the State; one shall be a person representing the industrial unions of workers registered in connection with the various building trades within the State;

one shall be a person with a wide knowledge of, and experience in, the building industry, who is registered or qualified to be registered as a builder under the Builders' Registration Act; one shall be a woman; one shall be a discharged member of the forces as defined in section 4 of the Re-establishment and Employment Act, 1945; and, finally, one shall be a person with a wide knowledge of and experience in housing conditions in the State and the providing of housing accommodation. It is further provided that deputies may be appointed from time to time by the Governor.

For some years the General Manager, State Housing Commission, has been a member of the commission, being appointed as one of the officers employed in the Public Service. I am sure it is readily conceded that the managerial head of the housing authority should be a member of the commission.

This officer is a member of many Government and interdepartmental committees involved in State-wide development problems, and there are increasing occasions where these duties make his attendance at commission meetings very difficult.

The appointment of another officer to deputise for the General Manager, State Housing Commission, in these circumstances is sometimes impracticable since, as previously mentioned, deputies must be appointed by His Excellency the Governor. The Bill provides that in respect of this appointment, and this appointment only, the Minister may from time to time nominate a deputy for the general manager. This deputy would normally be the Assistant General Manager or some senior administrative officer of the State Housing Commission.

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

POULTRY INDUSTRY (TRUST FUND) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [4.33 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The amendments proposed in this Bill are consequent upon, and complementary to, the Exotic Stock Diseases (Eradication Fund) Bill which I outlined earlier this afternoon.

Apart from the formal title adjustments, the two amendments to the existing Act contained in this Bill will provide compensation only in respect of enzootic diseases. The exotic Newcastle disease and fowl plague will now come within the ambit of the Exotic Stock Diseases (Eradication Fund) Bill.

The other amendment will enlarge the area of compensation so that poultrymen may derive additional benefits in the case of diseases which may not be specifically contagious or infectious, or in cases where loss is occasioned by a circumstance other than a disease.

For the benefit of the members of the House, I would like to indicate that the Pig Industry Compensation Act Amendment Bill, which I mentioned earlier when moving the second reading of the Exotic Stock Diseases (Eradication Fund) Bill, will be delayed for some little time, because of further amendments which the Government is desirous of including at the request of the whole of the pig industry in this State. The Government hopes that those amendments will be ready for inclusion when the Bill is brought down at a later stage. I feel I should mention that point in the interests of those members who may have been studying the original legislation.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Toms.

RESERVES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—Minister for Lands) [4.37 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The area of land in St. George's Terrace, Perth, on which it is proposed to build a concert hall, comprises part of Perth Lot 813—formerly Chevron-Hilton site—and an area designated Perth Lot 842, which was excised from Reserve No. A22240 (Public Buildings) by the operation of clause 13 of the Reserves Bill, 1967, for the purpose of "concert hall and associated uses."

In October of last year, the Town Clerk, Perth, advised the Premier of preliminary plans for the project. Provision of restaurant and car parking was considered an essential adjunct to the concert hall.

In February this year, the Perth City Council considered plans of its architects for the construction of Perth's new concert hall, which it is proposed to build at an estimated cost of \$3,100,000 on the area of land previously referred to herein, and which is being designed to seat 2,000 people. The plans include the provision of car parks, an organ, escalators, furnishings, and a restaurant with kitchen facilities to accommodate 500 people.

The hall will be built over underground car parks to hold approximately 700 vehicles. The Perth City Council therefore requested that the site be now vested in that local authority for "concert hall and ancillary uses, public restaurant and vehicle parking."

The question then arose as to whether, in the circumstances, a vesting order in the foregoing terms would conform with the

words "associated uses." Following Crown Law advice, an amendment to the Reserves Act, 1967, is presented to Parliament to cover the additional requirements of the Perth City Council for future use of the concert hall site.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure members will agree that a restaurant and car-parking facilities are most essential requirements. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Bertram.

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN TRUSTEE EXECUTOR AND AGENCY COMPANY LIMITED ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 19th September.

MR. BERTRAM (Mt. Hawthorn) [4.40 p.m.]: This Bill is rather short because it extends over only two pages. It has been before this Chamber and another place for some months. The Bill is made necessary by the fact that The West Australian Trustee Executor and Agency Company Limited—which company I shall refer to from here on as the West Australian Trustee Company—desires that the principal Act and the printed amendments to it should be reprinted and incorporated in one Act—which is quite a common procedure—so that people who wish to read the Act may do so with some convenience, and perhaps with better understanding.

Normally, this would be an administrative procedure, because the amendments could be incorporated in the principal Act under the provisions of the Reprinting of Acts Authorisation Act, 1953, as amended, but in this case it has not been possible to do so. As the Minister has explained, the 1923 amendment was introduced in a somewhat faulty manner so it cannot be fitted into the principal Act and the other amendments conveniently to read sense. Therefore, before the consolidation of the legislation can be done under the provisions of the Reprinting of Acts Authorisation Act, it is necessary to make a few renovations to the 1923 amending Act by striking out a few words and inserting a few others. At the moment I do not recall precisely what is required.

The amendments are only minor; the Minister has said they are not of great substance, and of course we must accept his word. This means that the amendments will in no way alter the law, and therefore, on that score, one can hardly oppose the Bill. But on another ground, of course, one has no possible alternative but to oppose the Bill, because it is improperly before the House.

This Bill is a public one and it seeks to amend a private Act. In my belief this cannot be done and, perhaps being a little Irish, it is my belief it should not be done. If one looks through Table One contained

in Vol. 2 of the 1967 Index to *The Statutes of Western Australia*, which is headed, "Public General Acts," one will not find any reference to the Act which is presently before the House. However, if one looks at Table Two of the same volume which is headed, "Private Acts," one will find at page 128 this Act—West Australian Trustee Executor And Agency Company Limited Act, 56 Vict. 1893, etc. In other words, it is recorded here for the world to see that it is a private Act.

Underneath the full title of the Act there are listed five amending Acts, one being introduced as recently as 1966. Not one of these amending Acts bears a number. This is in accordance with the Joint Standing Rules and Orders relating to Private Bills. Not one of those Acts is a Public Act, and, of course, not one came before this House as a Public Bill. Yet now we are changing direction and making a complete *voite-face* with no explanation for so doing. We are changing direction and now seek to amend the Act so inconsistently, and therefore so unfairly, for reasons I will show, with a Public Bill.

In my belief the Bill should be withdrawn. Nobody would be hurt if it was, and nobody would be in any way inconvenienced. The Bill has been lying before Parliament for months. On occasions we have come close to it on the notice paper, but we have never quite reached it. The West Australian Trustee Company will not be inconvenienced because I should think it knows the Act backwards. Therefore I think the Bill should be withdrawn and be reintroduced into the House in a proper manner and not by some other means which are improper, as I have already pointed out.

If the Bill is not withdrawn then members have no choice but to reject it, and that is precisely what should be done; because, as I have said, if this is not done it will bring about complete inconsistency on the one hand and consequential unfairness on the other.

Having read the report of the debates in another place, and also the report of the Minister's second reading speech in this House, my recollection is that the West Australian Trustee Company asked for this amending legislation. This being so, it once again underlines what I have said and what happens to be fact; namely, that this Bill has all the ingredients of a private Bill and has no right to be here as a public Bill.

If we gave some dispensation to the West Australian Trustee Company—and it should not be necessary for me to say I have no grudge against that company, and that I am speaking completely dispassionately as I have known what is going on here, and the attention of members should be drawn to what is going on here—and if the Bill slipped through unnoticed that would have been an entirely different proposition from the Bill being passed

through this House now, with members having full knowledge of what they are doing. We are certainly not going to gain much respect if we allow this sort of thing to go on, so we have a duty to the Parliament on the one hand, and a duty to ourselves on the other.

How is this, then, unfair procedure? I think one finds the answer to that pretty readily in *Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly* for 1968, at pages 195 and thereafter, because whilst I do not know a great deal about the procedure, my recollection is that if one wants a private Bill—that is to say, an enactment of the law which is to be to the advantage of one or two people, or a small segment of the community—and the people want to grant this concession, they are told to look at the Standing Orders and follow them.

For example, they must present a petition to the House. A Select Committee must be appointed in due course and evidence presented to it. There must be payment of fees. Standing Order 56 relating to private bills, which appears on page 218 of the *Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly* for 1968, has the following preamble:—

The following shall be the fees payable by the promoters and opponents of Private Bills:—

The fees are then set out, and they are not very great, but I should imagine that they could, on occasions, be very significant.

What then? If we allow this Bill through, and tomorrow somebody comes along with an identical situation, that is to say a private measure which requires a private Bill, we tell him he must follow Standing Orders. That is where I say this would be grossly unfair and I will not personally be a party to it.

Perhaps it is worth while referring to the Fremantle Gas and Coke Company's Act as a further indication of what has happened here on previous occasions. I do not know whether that is the correct title of the Act, but I think members will know the Act to which I am referring. That Act became law in 1866. It is referred to in Table Two to which I have referred. But as my recollection has it, section 57 of that Act says, "This Act shall be deemed and taken to be a public Act and shall be judicially taken notice of, etc."

In consequence, if one turns to Table Two, which is the index to the Private Acts—and I am still referring to the 1967 index which I have in my hand—one will find that that same Act appears there; we find amendments to it, of which there are about 10 in number, and they all bear a number and by that very fact, if one refers to the Standing Orders index, one will find that all those amendments came here by Public Bills which are now Public Acts.

So there we see an instance where it is true that an Act, originally a Private Act, has been amended by Public Bills. But this was made possible by a section expressly inserted in order that this might be done. I am aware that from time to time it is said that Parliament is the sole judge of what it will do; its powers are transcendent.

Mr. Bovell: It is master of its own destiny.

Mr. BERTRAM: However, that really does not mean what it says, though up to a point it does. But if Parliament misbehaves itself, acts irregularly, is inconsistent and unfair, then having exercised its apparent ethereal power—its transcendancy—at the next election it will find it was not the prudent thing to do.

So one cannot take that literally. Parliament must be consistent, like any other responsible body; if it is not, it brings about great unfairness, and I think I have demonstrated adequately the unfairness which easily arises here.

I do not believe it is a suitable, adequate, or satisfactory answer in this case to say this is just a minor amendment; it is just a technicality. I see no difference. I have pointed out that The West Australian Trustee Executor and Agency Company Limited will not be disturbed; it will be only too thrilled to do things in the proper manner.

I do not know what the auditor would say if he were aware that a public Bill was going through and that the Treasury was being denied its proper fees. Nobody is going to be perturbed; nobody in this Parliament will be distressed, and the members of it can feel satisfied they have done the right thing.

For the reasons I have mentioned, which in my belief are more than adequate, I oppose the Bill. It is perhaps worth remembering that the 1923 amendment which came in by way of a private Bill is in the form of an Act of 1923 because of the promoter's error; nobody else's error. Therefore if there is something to be made good, surely the people who put it there should make it good, although I am not worried about any punitive nonsense. I think one takes in and considers what should be a fairness issue.

While that particular point is not irrelevant, I believe it is a pity the House was not told of the circumstances I have outlined, because if one is not careful this sort of thing could go on and we could have this situation being perpetuated; that is, private Acts being amended by public Bills and then, suddenly, perhaps, somebody along the line waking up and drawing attention to the position and getting on to the unfairness situation to which I have referred.

If, of course, we are going to proceed with this measure—and it will not be done with any support of mine—we should ask

the question: Are we going to bother about the Standing Orders at all, or would we not be doing a better job if we excised page 195 onwards of the Standing Orders to which I have referred?

We have Standing Orders and everybody likes to abide by them. The public is certainly expected to abide by them, and if the public is expected to do this surely we are expected to do the right thing and set a good example. For the reasons I have given, I oppose the Bill.

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Industrial Development) [4.58 p.m.]: I do not propose to get involved in a storm in a teacup.

Mr. Tonkin: Surely it is more than that.

Mr. COURT: We will wait and see. The Bill before the House is one brought down to correct an anomalous situation relating to drafting. It has nothing to do with the principles under which The West Australian Trustee Executor & Agency Company was established or with the principles under which The Perpetual Executors, Trustee and Agency Company was established. I cannot find any statutory obligation for all Bills of this kind to be dealt with as private Bills.

Mr. Tonkin: What is the criterion for Bills generally?

Mr. COURT: There is provision for private Bills. The honourable member will realise they are of a special sort and are usually confined to the type where the Government of the day, or a member, is not prepared to introduce a Bill of a public nature. There are many instances of so-called public Bills dealing with private measures.

Mr. Tonkin: Are you saying that whether a Bill is a private Bill or not is a matter of the opinion of the Government?

Mr. COURT: I would hate to find the situation where the Parliament of the day, through a Public Bill, could not amend a Statute, whether it be public or private.

Mr. Tonkin: You are dodging the issue.

Mr. COURT: I am stating a fact, because if we take this to its logical conclusion from what the honourable member said, and what the Leader of the Opposition is saying by interjection, it means that Parliament cannot amend, through this current procedure, a private Act, even if it felt strongly about it. Surely that is not contemplated.

Mr. Tonkin: What is the criteria upon which it is decided that a Bill is a private Bill or not?

Mr. COURT: If it is a private Bill within the definitions given in the Standing Orders, then it has to be dealt with as a private Bill.

Mr. Tonkin: There is no definition in the Standing Orders.

Mr. COURT: What is the use of trying to discuss anything in this place! The Leader of the Opposition has not elected to speak on this measure. If he will listen to me for a moment I will explain it to him.

Mr. Tonkin: You should face up to the argument and not run away from it.

Mr. COURT: There is no obligation on the Government to refrain from amending a private Act; if there was, Parliament would lose control of its legislation. The time might come when Parliament wants to repeal an Act of that kind, so surely the Government, or any member, should be able to introduce a Bill to repeal it.

Mr. Tonkin: It is being amended.

Mr. COURT: I will not get involved in a storm in a teacup. The crossing of T's and the dotting of I's is what it amounts to in this case, although that is important. When the Bill has passed the second reading stage I will get confirmation of the advice which I sought when the Bill was brought to my notice for handling in this House. I will submit that confirmation to the House when we get into the Committee stage on this legislation. I did inquire whether there was anything unusual in the procedure by virtue of the fact that this measure was brought in as an ordinary one to amend what we know as The West Australian Trustee Executor and Agency Company Limited Act.

I was told there was not, and that it was quite in order to do it this way, particularly as there was no intention of interfering with the mechanism under which this Act and The Perpetual Executors, Trustees and Agency Company (W.A.) Limited Act operate. I would suggest to the member for Mount Hawthorn that this Bill be passed at the second reading stage, and if he feels he is right—and he is entitled to feel that way—I will obtain confirmation of the advice which I received before I handled the Bill, to ensure that everything is in order. That I intend to do.

Mr. Bertram: That advice need not be right.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr. Williams) in the Chair: Mr. Court (Minister for Industrial Development) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1: Short title and citation—

Mr. COURT: I preface my remarks by saying that I propose to move the formal amendment to delete the year 1968 and insert the year 1969, and after that I will move for progress to be reported. I move an amendment—

Page 1, line 9—Delete the figure "1968" and substitute the figure "1969."

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr. I. W. Manning.

House adjourned at 5.6 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 1st April, 1969

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (14): ON NOTICE

RAILWAY HOUSING AT MERREDIN

Allocation of Funds

1. The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN (for The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs) asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What will be the allocation of funds for the financial year 1968-69, and the anticipated allotment of funds for the year 1969-70, for Western Australian Government Railways employee housing at Merredin?
- (2) Is it expected that the allocation of funds for 1968-69 will be fully expended by the 30th June, 1969?
- (3) How many houses will be erected as the result of the 1968-69 funds?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Year ending the 30th June, 1969 —\$14,500.
Year ending the 30th June, 1970 —This has not yet been determined.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) One complete house, and extra rooms added to two existing houses.

ROAD HAULAGE

Goldfields Area: Restrictions

2. The Hon. G. E. D. BRAND asked the Minister for Mines:

Can the Minister explain why it is that certain large transport companies and contractors are authorised to carry goods from the metropolitan area to country centres, such as towns in the Murchison and goldfields, whereas local companies and pastoralists are prohibited?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

General policy does not permit the carriage of goods by any operator from the metropolitan area to the Murchison area or the eastern goldfields, but where