

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 26th August, 1975

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. A. F. Griffith) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

SUPPLY BILL

Assent

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

QUESTIONS (15): ON NOTICE

1. WANNEROO HOSPITAL

Site and Plans

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has a decision been made by the Public Health Department on a suitable site for the proposed Wanneroo hospital?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is "No" has discussion taken place with the local authority in order that an early decision can be made?
- (3) As construction of the Wanneroo hospital is due to commence in 1977, has any planning been undertaken to this date?
- (4) If the answer to (3) is "No" will the delay cause any postponement of the anticipated commencement date?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) No. Several sites are being investigated.
- (2) Not yet. There will be discussion when further information on sites is available.
- (3) No. Design of the hospital cannot start until the site has been selected, but investigation of the needs of the area is proceeding with a view to the early preparation of the planning brief.
- (4) Subject to the selection of site being determined in the near future and provided funds are made available from either Federal or State sources, construction would not be delayed.

2. OLD YORK GAOL AND POLICE STATION

Alterations

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

- (1) Is it proposed to do any alterations or other works to the Old York Gaol and/or the Police Station?
- (2) If so, what is the nature of the works?

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf for the Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (1) Yes, subject to finance being available.
- (2) Internal and external repairs and renovations have been programmed on the provisional maintenance estimates.

3.

PAY-ROLL TAX

Rebate for North-West Employers

The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Industrial Development:

Referring to the answer to my question on the 13th August, 1975, relating to the reason for rejection of 58 of the 61 applications for rebate of pay-roll tax in North Province, would the Minister now provide information on the manner in which the unsuccessful applicants did not comply with the provisions of the Assistance to Decentralized Industry Act?

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf for the Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

Because of the number involved it is not practicable to provide details as to why individual applications for assistance under the Assistance to Decentralized Industry Act were denied. The qualification or otherwise of any application was assessed within the terms of Section 5 of that Act.

4.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Interim Development Orders

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) For how long is an approval for development granted by a local authority current when issued under an Interim Development Order?
- (2) Is such an order subject to periodic renewal?

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf for the Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (1) An approval for development under an Interim Development Order would not necessarily impose a limitation on the time within which it might be carried out though it would be competent for it to do so.
- (2) Yes.

5.

LAMB MARKETING BOARD

Country Abattoirs: Charges

The Hon. J. HEITMAN, to the Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Why does the Lamb Marketing Board need to take between \$2.24

and \$3.67 (9 cents per lb) for lambs killed and consumed in country areas that receive no assistance or involvement from the Board?

- (2) Why does the Board ignore the strong buyer resistance that has built up in country butcher shops, more so in country areas with "Gum Tree" butchers operating, because of the high price of lamb, where the extra costs associated with Board charges have resulted in other meats benefiting at the expense of lamb?
- (3) Does the Board consider that an abattoir that receives around \$2.00 to cover killing, branding and overheads, plus transportation if lambs are to be sold in the metropolitan area, a rate which is considerably less than at metropolitan State abattoirs which run at a loss, is receiving sufficient for continued operation?
- (4) Does the Board accept that country abattoirs have a role to play in the industry, or would it prefer all lambs to be channelled through the metropolitan works and thus nationalise the industry?
- (5) Is the Board aware that abattoir operators have available in their areas considerable lamb numbers that are being offered to them for slaughter, and that due to the unprofitability, these are lost to metropolitan works causing loss of job opportunities and local industry in country areas?
- (6) Does the Board, in conjunction with metropolitan abattoirs, provide a service whereby it can justify payment for the part it plays by negotiating with farmers, stock agents, abattoir management, inspectors, graders, and finally the butchers?
- (7) Does the Board agree that in the case of country abattoirs all the operations are carried out by the owners who incur marketing costs, and they then have to pay the Board for the services they are denied?
- (8) Does the Board realise that if free enterprise were to receive a payment such as is paid to the Board, they would be labelled "parasite middle men", yet the Act legalises the right of the Lamb Board to do just that?
- (9) Does the Board feel that if country abattoirs are to be given a place in the lamb industry where lambs are slaughtered and sold in country butcher shops without cost to the Board, a charge of 2 cents per lb would be reasonable revenue to help the promotion of lamb and associated costs?

- (10) Does the Board feel that where lambs are slaughtered in country abattoirs and transported to metropolitan shops, the two-price system could remain, but based on something like half the rate of present charges to allow efficient works to compete on a fair basis?

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf for the Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

The Western Australian Lamb Marketing Board has advised as follows—

- (1) The number of lambs killed at non-export abattoirs is approximately 20 per cent of the total yearly kill, of which less than 1.5 per cent are killed at the small abattoirs (Category No. 3).

The Board's structure is therefore based on export abattoirs which kill 80 per cent of all lambs.

The differential between producer and distributor prices is the same whether lambs are killed in the country or metropolitan area.

The Board does not give dispensation to country kill because—

If it was passed on to the operator he would be at a distinct advantage for marketing, particularly in the metropolitan area. If the advantage was passed on to the producer, then all producers would want their lambs killed in the country, thereby creating a surplus of local supply affecting prices since they could not be packed for export—thus eliminating the basic principle of orderly marketing.

By agreement with the W.A. Meat Works Association, representing all abattoirs currently killing, charges applicable to country abattoirs are—

- (a) Category No. 2 abattoirs (major non-export works).

Killing charges (per head)—\$2.83.

P.H.D. inspection (per head, rate variable according to area)—\$0.45.

Total (per head)—\$3.28.

This is 16.4 c per lb for a 20 lb carcass.

This is 13.12 c per lb for a 25 lb carcass.

This is 10.93 c per lb for a 30 lb carcass.

This is 9.37 c per lb for a 35 lb carcass.

- (b) Category No. 3 abattoirs (other non-export works).

Killing charges (per head)—\$2.33.

P.H.D. inspection (per head)—\$0.45.

Total (per head)—\$2.78.

This is 13.9 c per lb for a 20 lb carcass.

This is 11.12 c per lb for a 25 lb carcass.

This is 9.27 c per lb for a 30 lb carcass.

This is 7.94 c per lb for a 35 lb carcass.

Note: The above killing charges and inspection fees are included in the differential between producer and distributor prices.

- (2) The Board does not ignore buyer resistance anywhere nor has it control over illegal slaughtering. The Board supports the Government by the strict enforcement of the country slaughterhouse regulations.
- (3) Rates paid to all abattoirs are negotiated with the W.A. Meat Works Association and agreed to by the Board. Allowances are made for capital expenditure involved, Abattoirs Act slaughtering charges, P.H.D. inspection charges and throughput. Country operators are allowed 2 cents per kg for freight differential over those in the metropolitan area.

- (4) The Board acknowledges that country abattoirs do have a role in the meat industry.

However the Board considers that this role cannot be compared with that of export works, whose function is of greater importance to the State because of volume of throughput and versatility of operation involving export and local markets, interstate markets, handling of offals and by-products normally not utilised at small country works.

Further the standard of many country slaughterhouses is far below that of the export works, and their small throughput capacities makes them a much less important factor in the total industry.

Export works' standards are governed by very high export requirements.

- (5) The Board is aware that considerable lamb numbers would be available to country abattoir operators. However in the main the class of works referred to lack the capacity to kill and distribute surplus lambs to trade requirements at prices profitable to producers.

Types and quantity of carcasses unacceptable to the local trade can be packed for export at export works, but not at non-export works. Disposal of these particular grades from non-export works would have to be discounted, resulting in detrimental prices to producers, as well as affecting the marketing of required grades.

- (6) Yes. The continuation of the service operation of the metropolitan abattoirs is a vital factor in co-ordinating lamb supplies to meet market demands both domestic and export.

The metropolitan export abattoirs have historically slaughtered the bulk of the lamb kill, and the Board has had no occasion to alter this established practice.

- (7) No. In the case of some country operators who are wholesale buyers of processed carcasses, the Board sells to them on that basis. In this respect they are in a similar category to any metropolitan operator.

Country operators in this respect assume the role of producer, slaughterer and wholesale operator.

The Board has always given the producers the right to nominate the abattoir of their choice, an option rarely taken up by producers in the case of small country operators.

- (8) The function of the Board is to carry out the requirements of the Marketing of Lamb Act.

- (9) All producers benefit by the Board's pricing system. It would be unreasonable therefore for some producers to be exempt from Board costs at the expense of the majority who elect to deal directly with the Board.

The Board's charges do not amount to 2 c per lb.

- (10) The Board considers that it could not give an advantage to any one operator whether he operates on a country or metropolitan market.

6. INDUSTRIAL STOPPAGE

Insurance Offices

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Can the Minister advise whether a stop-work meeting of employees and executives of insurance offices held in Perth on Friday, the 15th August, 1975, to protest against the Australian Government's Insurance Corporation Bill, had the approval of the industrial association which covers workers in this industry?
- (2) Did the Minister attend this meeting and speak on the platform in support of the employees' protest?
- (3) Did the Premier of this State send a letter of support to the meeting?
- (4) If the answers to (2) and/or (3) are "Yes" did the Government support this stoppage of work?
- (5) If so, is the Government not adopting a double standard by condoning industrial action of this nature by white collar workers and not intervening when prosecutions were taken under the penal provision of the Arbitration Act against manual workers at Co-operative Bulk Handling who were recently involved in an industrial stoppage?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) The W.A. Insurance Employees Action Group organised a rally to protest against the Australian Government plan to introduce the Insurance Corporation Bill. The rally which had the support and permission of the employers, was not a stop-work meeting.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The Government would neither have supported nor attended if it had been a stop-work meeting.
- (5) The Government intervened in the Co-operative Bulk Handling dispute because the stoppage had lasted five weeks and was affecting the public interest.

The action taken by the Government in the projected State-wide stoppage over the subsequent penal provisions of the Industrial Arbitration Act is clear evidence of its concern over industrial stoppages.

7.

BEEF

Kimberley: Production and Exports

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What percentage of the State's total does the Kimberley region supply in regard to—
 - (a) total cattle numbers;
 - (b) export of beef during the years 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1974;
 - (c) estimated exports during 1975;
 - (d) local consumption during the years 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1974; and
 - (e) estimated local consumption during 1975?
- (2) What percentages of (1) (a) to (1) (e) are supplied by the Murchison and Pilbara regions?

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf for the Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (1) (a) Approximately 29 per cent of total cattle numbers and 32 per cent of total beef cattle numbers in 1974.
- (b) Estimated contribution:

1971-72—33 per cent.
1972-73—26 per cent.
1973-74—29 per cent.
1974-75—21 per cent.

In addition to overseas exports the following cattle numbers have been moved by road to the southern areas of Western Australia and to the Eastern States—

1971—32 157.
1972—42 513.
1973—41 133.
1974—11 653.

- (c) No accurate estimates are available but exports will probably be less than in 1974-75.
- (d) and (e) No statistics are available but it is estimated that only a very small percentage is or will be supplied.
- (2) (a) Murchison* — approximately 1.4 per cent.
North-West and Pilbara **—approximately 4 per cent.
- (b) Statistics are not available. The contribution is believed to be small.
- (c) No statistics are available.
- (d) and (e) Statistics are not available. The contribution is believed to be very small.

* Defined as the Central statistical division comprising the Cue, Meekatharra, Mt

Magnet, Murchison, Sandstone, Wiluna and Yalgoo local government areas.

****Defined as the North-West and Pilbara statistical divisions comprising the Carnarvon, Exmouth, East Pilbara, West Pilbara, Port Hedland, Roebourne, Upper Gascoyne and Shark Bay local government areas.**

8.

LAND

Wittenoom Townsite Development

The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Lands:

(1) Has the Minister read the media statements by—

(a) Mr K. J. Kutz, vice president of the international division of Texasgulf Incorporated, issued on the 2nd August, 1975, advising that a "letter of intent" had been received from Japanese steel mills, thus offering the encouraging prospect of development of another major iron ore project in the Pilbara, close to Wittenoom;

(b) the Commonwealth Minister for Transport, Mr Jones, issued on the 4th November, 1974, describing the planning for the Great Northern Highway which foreshadowed a route northwards from Newman, which would take the highway through the Hamersley Range, down the Portescue valley adjacent to Wittenoom, and then down the Sherlock valley to the North West Coastal Highway to the east of Whim Creek;

(c) Mr Jones, at the same time, stating that the Federal Government had taken over responsibility for this road as a national highway, implying a quickening of the tempo of planning and construction; and

(d) the then Commonwealth Minister for the Media, Senator McClelland, issued on the 27th November, 1974, stating that a coaxial cable spur to Wittenoom was to be laid from the trunk cable being installed between Port Hedland and Newman to provide live television and radio to the towns of Wittenoom, Tom Price and Paraburdoo?

(2) Is the Minister aware that a conduit team of the Australian Telecommunications Commission arrived in Wittenoom on or about

the 30th July, 1975, and, after setting up camp, departed within two or three days without doing any work whatsoever?

(3) Does the Minister acknowledge that the matters referred to in question (1) reveal a set of circumstances which indicate that Wittenoom does have a development potential which could well start to have some significant effect within the next 12 months?

(4) If this is acknowledged, and, as the existing townsite layout is essentially based on a rectangular cross-road system which is no longer acceptable in modern urban development, will the Minister give instructions to have preliminary planning of the town of Wittenoom commenced at an early date?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

(1) (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(2) This was known to the Survey Division of the Lands Department prior to the question answered on August 13th, 1975.

(3) Wittenoom's development potential could well depend upon decisions concerning the Marandoo mining project. In this respect proposals have not been submitted to the Government.

(4) The layout of the existing townsite based on a rectangular cross-road system is predominantly freehold land outside the control of the Minister for Lands and there are also services in the existing townsite road reserves. Procedures under the Town Planning Act would presumably have application.

9.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Dodd-Harborne Streets Intersection

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Police and Traffic:

(1) Has consideration been given to the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Dodd and Harborne Streets, Wembley?

(2) If so, what decision has been made in this matter?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

(1) and (2) Yes, however, it is not proposed to install traffic signals at this intersection. Development of the Mitchell Freeway will shift the emphasis to Powis Street where signals will be installed coincident with the opening of the freeway extension.

10. POLICE *Motor Vehicle Thefts*

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Police:

Of the 3168 motor vehicles reported stolen to the CIB during the first eight months of this year—

- (a) what percentage were fitted with steering locks; and
- (b) of those fitted with steering locks, what percentage had the keys left in them?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

Statistics are not kept, but from a survey of records, it is estimated—

- (a) 8%.
- (b) 14.7% keys left in car lock.
85.3% keys left in car, e.g., under mat, in glove box or otherwise obtained by offender, e.g., breaking and entering premises.

11. LANDS

Wickham Townsite: Development

The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) How many allotments have been sold in the "non-Cliffs" section of Wickham townsite?
- (2) What income, by way of premium for services, has been received from the sale of this land?
- (3) What component of the total figure is set aside for area landscaping?
- (4) How much of the landscaping funds have been expended?
- (5) What authority is carrying out this work?
- (6) In general terms, what is the projected timetable to implement the landscaping work, and how much work can be achieved by the expenditure of the available funds?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) 63.
- (2) \$215 000.
- (3) \$18 000.
- (4) \$4 800 to the end of July, 1975.
- (5) Public Works Department.
- (6) Landscaping is in progress on the first subdivision of 42 lots and will be completed in 3 weeks. Landscaping will then proceed on the second subdivision of 25 lots and is expected to be completed in a further three weeks. The work comprises the planting of trees and installation of trickle irrigation, and will include maintenance for a period of two years.

12. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

Amending Legislation

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Government to introduce legislation in this session to amend the Environmental Protection Act?
- (2) If so, what change, if any, will be made to the Environmental Protection Authority?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

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

13. DRUNKEN DRIVING

Tests and Warnings

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) How many motorists have been subjected to alcoholic tests by the Road Patrol during the month of August?
- (2) How many of this number have been charged with—
 - (a) having an alcoholic content of over 0.08%; and
 - (b) drunken driving?
- (3) How many of those tested showed no alcoholic content at the time of apprehension?
- (4) Are those motorists who are not charged under the Act given any explanation by the Road Patrol for the reasons why they were subjected to the tests?
- (5) Is it the policy of the Road Traffic Authority to warn those people who have less alcoholic content than the amount required by law, or to apologise to the motorists for the mistake?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) From August 1, 1975 to 7 a.m. August 26, 1975—1191.
- (2) (a) 199;
(b) 230.
- (3) One. In this case the driver was seen to commit a minor traffic offence for which he was cautioned. He admitted having just left a hotel but denied drinking. The test proved negative.
- (4) Yes. All tests given are in accordance with the Road Traffic Act; namely, the driver, on reasonable belief—
 - (a) has been concerned in an accident;
 - (b) has committed a driving offence; or

- (c) while driving a vehicle has alcohol in his body.
- (5) (a) Yes. When a driver has less than 0.08% alcohol content he is warned of the dangers of drinking when driving.
- (b) If the test is negative it is customary to apologise for any inconvenience caused. Tests given, however, are not mistakes, but simply a means of ensuring compliance with the Act.

14. **LAND***Wickham Townsite: Availability*

The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Are serviced allotments available to Cliffs Robe River Iron Associates in that part of Wickham townsite to the north of the main drain which separates the existing Cliffs residential development from that of Government and private owners, on the payment of the normal service premium?
- (2) If so, will the Minister recommend that the company utilise such land for any further housing programmes?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) Serviced lots were not made available to the Cliffs Robe River Iron Associates in the first portion of Wickham Townsite comprising 67 lots north of the main drain as these lots were required for use by State and Commonwealth Government departments and for sale to private persons.
- (2) Yes; the Co-ordinator, Department of Industrial Development proposes to discuss with Cliffs Western Australian Mining Co. Pty Ltd the possibility of the Company acquiring a number of lots in the further subdivision of 38 lots adjoining the present subdivision.

15. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT***Stirling City Works Programme*

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Local Government:

Would the Minister advise what is the programme of works within the City of Stirling for which funds have been allocated for the financial years—

- (a) 1974-75; and
(b) 1975-76?

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf for the Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

Until it is known what funds and allocation are referred to, the question cannot be answered. However, if the Hon. Member requires the complete works programme of the City of Stirling, from funds from all sources, the information will be obtained and supplied.

MINISTER FOR JUSTICE*Representation during Absence*

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West—Minister for Education) [4.55 p.m.]: Mr President, I seek leave to make a short statement.

The PRESIDENT: The question is that leave be granted. As there is no dissenting voice, leave is granted.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: As members would have observed and heard when Mr Ferry gave notice of the relevant motion a little earlier, the Minister for Justice (the Hon. N. McNeill) will be absent on Government business for the next three sitting weeks. It has been arranged that during that period I will act in his stead. No doubt members have also observed that the Honorary Minister (the Hon. I. G. Medcalf) will handle those Bills normally handled by Mr McNeill in this House. He will also answer questions associated with the portfolios of Justice, Chief Secretary, Agriculture, Local Government, Town Planning, and Works; and he will table papers, etc., in connection with those portfolios.

I will carry on with my normal work with the exception that I will also handle those Bills which come under the Premier's Department. I thought it might be convenient for me to explain the situation to the House and to point out that it will prevail for the next three sitting weeks.

BILLS (3): RETURNED

1. Friendly Societies Act Amendment Bill.
2. University of Western Australia Act Amendment Bill.
3. Stipendiary Magistrates Act Amendment Bill.

Bills returned from the Assembly without amendment.

BILLS (4): RECEIPT AND FIRST READING

1. Chicken Meat Industry Committee Bill.
2. Criminal Code Amendment Bill.

Bills received from the Assembly; and, on motions by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Honorary Minister), read a first time.

3. Radiation Safety Bill.

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

4. Door to Door (Sales) Act Amendment Bill.

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Education), read a first time.

METRIC CONVERSION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan—Honorary Minister) [5.02 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

THE HON. D. J. WORDSWORTH (South) [5.03 p.m.]: I feel one should make some comment on the introduction of metrics. This Bill seems to have been slipped through very quickly, because it has been sitting on the notice paper since the House adjourned last session. I think it could be said that the introduction of metrics has been far from simple and, indeed, has proved to be very expensive to this State.

On the point of simplicity, we had a Bill before us a little while ago dealing with the wood chipping industry, and being a little uncertain of the size of logs we will process in that industry, I thought I would ask a farmer who is used to reading his rain gauge in metrics what he considered would be the size of the logs that would be processed. His reply was: One-third of an inch. I then went to an engineer and asked him what would be the size of the logs that would be processed and he said 30 inches. For the record the size of the log was three inches. So in the light of that experience I think one could honestly say that we are still very confused in this State about metrics and their use.

I feel some comment should be made about the great expense that has been incurred with the introduction of metrics. For example, we have just seen an increase in the price of milk, and I gather that 1c of that increase represents the cost of converting the size of the bottle to metrics. All the existing bottles had to be broken and new machinery for filling them had to be introduced. So, as a result of converting to metrics, we have probably seen a 5 per cent inflationary increase in that one small sector of industry.

That is one of the reasons I considered I should make some comment on the cost of the introduction of metrics to this State.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Why did you support the introduction of the Bill in the first place?

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

JUSTICES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 19th August.

THE HON. R. THOMPSON (South Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [5.06 p.m.]: In the main I support this very small Bill of 10 clauses. One of the clauses seeks to increase the existing penalties, while others tidy up and clarify various sections.

Clause 8 seeks to add, after section 171, four proposed new sections; namely, 171A, 171B, 171C, and 171D. As the Minister pointed out in his second reading speech this is desirable legislation, in as much as it was decided at a conference of Attorneys-General that all States, including the Northern Territory, would introduce legislation similar to that we are now considering.

In the main the Bill will tidy up the Act and introduce safeguards in the existing law, particularly in regard to corporate bodies which have no assets in this State. In the past, where such bodies have been convicted and a fine has been recorded against them the money has not been recoverable outside the borders of the State. Therefore the intention of this Bill is to ensure that when other States introduce legislation similar to this such orders will be enforceable. I do not argue against that, although it has been pointed out to me by people who understand questions of law much better than I that section 118 of the Australian Constitution grants power to legislate in this respect.

I believe under a section of the Australian Constitution such power can be granted but I cannot recall the details of it.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: It is called kindred power.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Yes, that is correct. I know that numbers 20 and 28 of these kindred powers would make it possible for the Commonwealth to introduce legislation. However, in view of the fact that this legislation has been introduced I would like to pose one question. The House has been given an explanation that the Minister for Justice will not be present in the Chamber this evening and that Mr Medcalf will be acting in his stead, and therefore I have no intention of trying to embarrass the Minister who will be handling the portfolios usually handled by the Leader of the House. Nevertheless I feel sure the question will be asked in another place and I would therefore ask the Honorary Minister to supply the information. My question is: Will the

legislation be along the same lines as that introduced in all the other States? Is this the standard type of Bill that will be introduced?

I ask this question because, if we are to have uniformity among the States in the enforcement of these laws, we should have uniform legislation; but if we are to encounter the trouble we encountered with the Companies Act, where each State does its own thing, we will not achieve uniformity because, by and large, we do not have real uniformity in the legislation dealing with companies. Therefore I would like the Honorary Minister to supply information—not necessarily here but in another place—on whether this legislation will be uniform throughout Australia, and whether the same set of rules will apply. I support the measure.

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan—Honorary Minister) [5.09 p.m.]: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his support of the Bill. Having only the authority of the second reading speech, as I understand the position this is to be reciprocal legislation and, standard legislation. However, I will certainly obtain information to give that assurance in another place when the question is asked.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

The PRESIDENT: I will leave the Chair until the ringing of the bells.

Sitting suspended from 5.13 to 5.27 p.m.

BILLS (8): RECEIPT AND FIRST READING

1. Acts Amendment (Judicial Salaries and Pensions) Bill.

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Education), read a first time.

2. Marketing of Barley Act Amendment Bill.

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Honorary Minister), read a first time.

3. Railways Discontinuance and Land Revestment Bill.

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

4. State Housing Death Benefit Scheme Act Amendment Bill.

5. Fauna Conservation Act Amendment Bill.

6. Mineral Sands (Western Titanium) Agreement Bill.

7. Mineral Sands (Allied Eneabba) Agreement Bill.

8. Weights and Measures Act Amendment Bill.

Bills received from the Assembly; and, on motions by the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Education), read a first time.

MEDICAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 19th August.

THE HON. R. T. LEESON (South-East) [5.34 p.m.]: I support this Bill and in so doing I want to say it is a refreshing change to see that the Medical Board is to include two additional universities in the list of those which are recognised by the Australian Medical Association in Western Australia.

However, I do not think the Bill goes far enough, because in this day and age there are other universities throughout the world which could be recognised by the Medical Board in Western Australia. The section of the Act covering this aspect of the medical profession has for many years been a thorn in the side of people who live in country areas, and particularly in the area I represent. I well remember the trouble experienced by the Kalgoorlie Town Council and the Boulder Shire Council when they attempted to attract doctors to the area.

As most members are aware, it is very difficult to get doctors to go to country areas. Western Australian doctors prefer to remain in the metropolitan area, or in the larger country towns along the coastline. It is very difficult to get them to practise beyond the Darling Range. Many towns in Western Australia do not have the services of a doctor at all, and the people living in those towns have to travel long distances, in many cases, to receive medical attention.

I know that metropolitan members look at this matter in a different light. I can imagine there would be problems associated with bringing to Western Australia doctors who have been trained in certain parts of the world, and I do not believe this State should be thrown open to enable just any person to practise here. However, I think the situation could be examined more closely and instead of following in the footsteps of the medical boards in Great Britain we should be prepared to take the initiative and come up with a registration system of our own.

I well remember occasions when doctors, after coming to Western Australia, were prepared to practise in the goldfields area; however, they were refused permission, under the provisions of the Act, so they crossed the border into South Australia where to my knowledge they are still practising. A person who happened to be seriously ill or dying as a result of

an accident in a remote country town would be grateful to have the services of a doctor whether he be black, white, or brindle. I can assure members of that.

Perhaps we could look into the possibility of issuing some sort of restrictive license to allow doctors to practise in certain country areas. Doctors who do come to Western Australia head for the metropolitan area. Perhaps we could introduce a system whereby such doctors would have to spend a few years in the country before shifting to the cities. The Minister—and members—may laugh at my suggestion but they might take a different view if they had to live in a country town where the services of a doctor were not available.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: I have lived in country towns where doctors have not been available.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: When one travels around the country and talks to the people one begins to realise how difficult it is for them to obtain medical services. It is about time the people living in the metropolitan area realised the plight of those living in country towns, particularly with regard to medical services.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Don't you think I know?

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: A poor state of affairs exists in country areas, and it is getting worse. I suggest that perhaps some sort of restrictive license could be granted to doctors who come here from other countries and who are prepared to practise in our country towns. I know my suggestion could be discriminatory but the Minister has said, on many occasions, that he is not prepared to send doctors from the metropolitan area to country towns unless they were prepared to go. That might be fair enough but it could be argued that policemen and teachers have to spend some time in country towns, so I do not know why the same cannot apply to doctors.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: The doctors are not salaried people; they are private individuals.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: Not all of them.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: The Government should be prepared to discuss the matter with doctors. I know the people living in many country towns would not care at which university a doctor had been trained. They would be prepared to go to him for medical attention. This is something the Government should look into.

THE HON. D. J. WORDSWORTH (South) [5.40 p.m.]: I also support the Bill. I found it interesting to discover that qualified medical practitioners from the two British universities mentioned in the Bill were not allowed to practise in this State. I think it is time we reviewed the qualifications required of professional

people, not only in the medical field, but also in engineering and other professions. Some very qualified migrants have come to this country although, I must admit, language is often a problem. Nevertheless, there should be some system whereby such qualified people could be examined further.

It has been suggested that doctors from other countries should be allowed to practise in rural areas. The situation would then arise as to whether one should settle for a person of lesser qualification, or nobody at all. I feel that in those circumstances most people would prefer to have someone with lesser qualifications.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: A person from another country may not even have lesser qualifications, but simply have qualifications which are not recognised.

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH: That is so. However, I do not think we need get to the stage of accepting doctors who have after their name a qualification "Failed, Bombay". We should examine this matter very closely.

I understand that we, in this State, have had some rather unfortunate experiences with graduates from American universities. This has been largely due to the large number of universities in that country and the lower standard of entry. However, once one understands the American system of graduating at the various universities one can probably accept the more qualified people from the United States.

A main concern of the people living in rural areas, today, is the future of the medical profession under Medibank. Country people are worried that the doctors will transfer to the cities where it will be obviously easier and more comfortable for them to earn a living. If this does occur I hope the Minister will give earnest consideration to a review of the qualifications of those people who are prepared to practise in the remote areas of Western Australia.

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central—Minister for Health) [5.43 p.m.]: I thank the Hon. R. T. Leeson and the Hon. D. J. Wordsworth for their contributions to this debate. I am aware of the situation which exists in country areas with regard to the shortage of doctors, and I sympathise with the people who are affected. This is a problem which has not occurred only during the last 12 months; it has been with us for a number of years.

It has been very difficult to get doctors to go to many country areas and, as I have said, the problem is not new. We are attempting, all the time, to urge doctors to practise in country areas. We advertise and inquire overseas, through other medicos, in an attempt to secure the services of doctors who are prepared to go to our country districts. We are very cognisant of the problem.

In extending the provisions of our Act to cover the two universities mentioned in the Bill we will overcome a situation which has been overlooked by the State Medical Board for some years. Naturally, the board will be examining other areas covered by the Act.

When the Hon. R. T. Leeson mentioned the granting of restrictive licenses to doctors to enable them to practise in country areas, it occurred to me he was suggesting we provide an inferior medical service to country people.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You did previously.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I might mention that when Mr Leeson thought I was laughing, I was merely amused because an inferior service could be given if a restrictive license were issued to people not fully qualified. We cannot take a risk on this issue. We must have fully qualified practitioners both in country districts, and in the city areas. We cannot afford to have doctors who are not fully qualified.

Doctors come here from other countries, and if their qualifications are not acceptable to the Medical Board they are then placed in our teaching hospitals where they learn our ways and eventually they are considered to be fully qualified. We assist these doctors financially, and very often, once they are qualified, they go into our country areas. This is the system we have had to use to ensure that foreign doctors are fully qualified, and when they are qualified we endeavour to place them in country areas.

The Hon. R. Thompson: What do you mean when you say they are not qualified? They are qualified in the country they come from, but they do not meet the standards of the AMA?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Yes, and this has happened in Western Australia, particularly since World War II. The training in some European universities is not considered to be up to the standard of the training in Australia. I am reminded of a story told to me by my wife about a doctor she met in New Guinea. He was a competent doctor, but he had been trained in Europe. When he sought registration in Australia, he was presented with two books to read. He said that he would read one book, but he would not read the other because he and another doctor were its authors. So even a doctor with a great deal of experience had to put in time in New Guinea before he could work here.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: That was quite regular in this State in the immediate post-war years.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: The same sort of thing happened throughout Australia.

I am fully cognisant of the situation in country areas. Mr Leeson knows that I have travelled throughout his area, in the goldfields, Kalgoorlie, Laverton, Cundeelee, and right down to Esperance. I have

travelled also in the north—through the Pilbara and the Kimberley—looking at the hospitals. I have met most of the doctors in those areas and I am fully aware of the problems. I assure members that my officers are endeavouring at all times to do something to rectify the situation.

The Hon. R. Thompson: In the main, country doctors receive pretty lucrative salaries.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: That is so in the main. Mr Wordsworth referred to the situation under the Medibank scheme. I believe that when the whole thing settles down, with hospital patients on a sessional payment basis and the private patient situation operating just as it has done in the past, it will be found that medical practitioners will be in much the same situation financially as they were previously. However, if their incomes do fall, we will look at the situation again. We will endeavour to encourage doctors to work in country areas. In the long run I believe the new system will work out well. There is some resistance to it at the present time, but it is something we will have to accept. I do not believe it will drive country doctors to city areas. I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West—Minister for Education) [5.50 p.m.]: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Old York Gaol and Police Station

THE HON. H. W. GAYFER (Central) [5.51 p.m.]: I apologise for rising at this stage, but I am alarmed at an answer I received this evening from the Honorary Minister representing the Minister for Works in this House. The question I asked was—

- (1) Is it proposed to do any alterations or other works to the Old York Gaol and/or the Police Station?
- (2) If so, what is the nature of the works?

The reply was as follows—

- (1) Yes, subject to finance being available.
- (2) Internal and external repairs and renovations have been programmed on the provisional maintenance estimates.

I view this answer with a great deal of alarm, and I know others in this Chamber share my view. Those of us who have had connections with York over the last 12 or 14 years know the tremendous work

that has been done in this area to preserve York as an historical town. Indeed we must preserve at any cost the places of antiquity in and about this town.

Some seven or eight years ago a similar move was made to effect repairs and renovations to the Old York Gaol. At that time I spoke about the matter in another place and the work was not proceeded with because it was considered the renovations envisaged would destroy the history of these old premises. Since then the Western Australian Historical Society, the York Society, the Western Australian Museum Board, and all the other organisations in Western Australia which are concerned with the preservation of our history, have been working very closely with the York Shire Council—and particularly with Miss Fellman—in planning to preserve the history of York. It is hoped that York will become the second notable town in Australia—the other notable town being in Victoria.

Great effort is being made to promote York as a tourist attraction for the populace of the city. It is fortunate that it is only 60 miles from Perth, and it is also the oldest country town in existence in Western Australia.

I believe it would be sacrilegious to carry out renovations to such important historical buildings in a town which is recognised by these societies as having no equal in Western Australia. I can only implore Government members here, and Ministers in particular, to make some inquiry about this matter, and at least ensure that no work is commenced until the various bodies I have referred to, as well as the National Trust of Australia, have been consulted.

The Hon. R. Thompson: And the National Estate.

The Hon. H. W. GAYFER: Yes, and the National Estate.

The second part of my question was a quite straightforward inquiry about the nature of the works. However, the Minister's reply was fairly nebulous; we were told that internal and external repairs and renovations have been programmed. What frightens me is that I was not given a specific answer to my question.

The son of the Leader of the Opposition was secretary of the original York Society; the Minister who answered my question tonight has a connection with the historical progress of this State, as has one of the Clerks at the Table. This is a matter of importance and I implore the Government to study it closely. We are a little short of history in this State, so let us keep our hands off anything that will destroy any part of it.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.56 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 26th August, 1975

The SPEAKER (Mr Hutchinson) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

SUPPLY BILL

Assent

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

QUESTIONS (35): ON NOTICE

1. MENTAL HEALTH

Tresillian Hostel: Sale Price

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

Referring to question 49 of 20th August, 1975, regarding valuation of Tresillian Hostel, will the Minister please advise at what stage and under what conditions the value of \$150 000 was promoted and why it was departed from?

Mr RIDGE replied:

The Member was previously advised of the valuation for land and buildings of \$127 000, rounded off at \$125 000, and this still stands.

There are some additional items of fixtures, fittings, etc., shown in advice given by the Public Works Department, of \$15 000 and removal costs \$5 000, which brought the \$127 000 to \$147 000 (rounded off at \$150 000) but these have never been under discussion with respect to the figure of \$125 000 for the land and buildings.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Bedforddale Rural Zone: Impact Study

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

With respect to his answer 14 of 20th August, 1975, regarding the Bedforddale special rural zone, to what Government departments does he refer as having made "reviews" of the area concerned?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

In the course of the decision to allow the town planning amendment referred to, in addition to the normal period allowed for objections, the local shire and the Town Planning Department have had consultations with the Geological Survey of the Mines Department, the Metropolitan Water Board, Public Works Department,