

Act No. 36 of 1909 is currently a "homeless" section of the Ordinance and the Bill also proposes to incorporate that section in the principal Act for ease of reference and to enable the principal Act to be reprinted.

Sections 21 and 23 can now be repealed as section 21 is covered under the provisions of the Interpretation Act, 1918, section 34(d).

Section 23 can also be repealed as fines and penalties are paid into revenue under the Fines and Penalties Appropriation Act, 1909, section 2 and fees are paid into revenue under the Constitution Act, 1889, section 64 and the Treasury regulation No. 9 made under the Audit Act, 1904, section 71.

Section 22 is to be repealed and re-enacted to give power to the Commissioner of Titles, with the approval of the Governor, to make regulations. This is desirable to provide for a standard of documents to be presented, to prescribe fees to be set, and for any other requirement for the purpose of the Act to be properly administered.

While that concludes a general explanation of the Bill, I think it of sufficient interest to mention that the decision to increase the statutory fees payable under the 1856 Ordinance was made by the previous Government early in 1973, the intention being to proceed with an amending Bill in the spring session of that year.

Members who participated in the debates on the previous Government's very extensive legislative programme will appreciate there were good reasons why that comparatively unimportant measure was not proceeded with.

Since taking office the Government has availed itself of the opportunity to have a close look at the rather venerable Ordinance which was required to be read in conjunction with the 1909 Act, with a view to tidying up the legislation and retitling it in accordance with present-day form for reprinting under the Amendments Incorporation Act, 1938.

While from time to time some criticism is voiced in relation to the administration of legislation by regulation, members who are fortunate enough to be able readily to obtain a copy of the laws relating to the registration of deeds, wills, judgments and conveyances affecting real property, which this Bill proposes to amend, will appreciate the impracticability of inserting statutory fees, as is done in section 22 of the Ordinance, for such services as are therein listed.

Therefore, I believe it quite appropriate that the regulation-making power should be extended to such fees in a similar manner as applies in the Transfer of Land Act of 1893.

Also, the proposed provision, that every person appointed to the office of Registrar of Titles under the Transfer of Land Act, 1893, shall by virtue of his office be the Registrar of Deeds and Transfers, is most desirable. From information supplied to me it appears that at least one Registrar of Titles had not been appointed Registrar of Deeds and Transfers thus necessitating now the insertion of a validation clause. It is now intended that future appointment as Registrar of Titles under the Transfer of Land Act, 1893, will be sufficient to encompass appointment as Registrar of Deeds and Transfers also.

While the gain in revenue from the suggested increases to the scale of fees to bring them into line with the fees prescribed in the regulations to the Transfer of Land Act will not be significant, the great disparity now existing in respect of the fees chargeable for similar services should rightly be removed.

I commend the Bill to members.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Bertram.

*House adjourned at 10.13 p.m.*

## Legislative Council

Thursday, the 29th August, 1974

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. A. F. Griffith) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### QUESTIONS (10): ON NOTICE

1.

#### FISHERIES

##### *Coastal Patrols*

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

Would the Minister state what action was taken by the Government to protect our northern coastline after my speech on the Appropriation Bill in 1969, when I drew attention to the lack of personnel and facilities to deal with landings by unauthorised persons?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

The reference in Hon. Member's speech in 1969 was to the then current West Irian problem which referred to illegal entry by persons. Illegal entry by persons is not a responsibility of the Department of Fisheries and Fauna, but it has a responsibility to maintain a close vigilance on fishery and fauna interests along the whole coast. The Department of Fisheries and Fauna has become increasingly involved of late because of in-

creased illegal fishing by Indonesian vessels in territorial waters. This responsibility does not, however, extend to other problems associated with illegal landing.

The Department of Fisheries and Fauna has been seeking funds since 1971 for construction of a patrol boat and crew. This has been again requested on this year's Loan Fund Estimates. In addition the Department has undertaken both air and sea patrols and Departmental officers have accompanied RAN patrols. Assistance has also been sought from various Commonwealth authorities with responsibilities in this area.

The Hon. R. Thompson: In other words, the Government did nothing.

The PRESIDENT: Order please; questions are now being answered.

## 2. WELSHPOOL ROAD

### *Upgrading*

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

- (1) Are any major works planned for the upgrading of Welshpool Road during this financial year?
- (2) If so—
  - (a) when is the work due to commence; and
  - (b) what is the anticipated expenditure?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (1) No works are planned on the section of road under the control of the Main Roads Department. I understand that the Town of Canning has plans for further works on the section under its control. However, the commencing date and anticipated expenditure are not known to me.
- (2) Answered by (1).

3. *This question was postponed.*

4. *This question was withdrawn.*

## 5. NORSEMAN HIGH SCHOOL

### *Completion*

The Hon. R. T. LEESON, to the Minister for Education:

When is it expected that the new junior high school at Norseman will be completed and ready for occupancy?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

Stage 1, comprising the first cluster and resource centre, is scheduled for completion on 1st January, 1975.

Stage 2, comprising the second cluster and administration area, is scheduled for completion on 23rd May, 1975.

6.

## TRAFFIC

### *Accidents: Statistics*

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN, to the Minister for Health:

Further to my question of the 13th August, 1974, concerning traffic figures, and the Minister's reply in which he referred me to the *Australian Year Book* for answer, as the latest figures available from this source are those relating to 1971, would the Minister please comply with my request for current figures on the questions asked?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

Figures for 1972 are available in the Pocket Compendium of Australian Statistics in the Parliament House Library. Figures for 1973, except miles of trafficable roads, are available from the motor vehicle registrations and road traffic accidents publications in the library of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Perth. Statistics for miles of trafficable roads have not yet been compiled for 1973.

## 7. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

### *Office Accommodation*

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

- (1) Has a survey been carried out by the Public Service Board to ascertain the number of Government departments and instrumentalities awaiting office accommodation in—
  - (a) Karratha; and
  - (b) Port Hedland area?
- (2) If so, would he name the departments and instrumentalities so affected, and the number of officers in each department for whom office accommodation is required?
- (3) When is it planned to provide composite Government offices in—
  - (a) Karratha; and
  - (b) South Hedland?
- (4) What is the cost per year to the State Government to rent office accommodation in Port Hedland for the various Government agencies?
- (5) Is the non-availability of office accommodation in Karratha inhibiting departments from effectively performing their statutory function in the West Pilbara area?
- (6) If the reply to (5) is "Yes" which departments are affected, and in what manner?

- (7) Have the Commonwealth Departments been canvassed to ascertain their requirement for rented office space in any proposed composite Government office complexes in—

- (a) Karratha; and  
(b) Port Hedland?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) At Karratha, officers are accommodated in Government-owned offices whilst at Port Hedland, officers are accommodated in both rented and Government-owned buildings.

If, however, the question refers to the need for housing of officers in a central Government building in each of the areas the position generally is as follows—

- (a) Karratha—  
Public Works Department (6).  
Agriculture Protection Board (2).  
Community Welfare (1).

- (b) South Hedland—  
Public Works Department (22).  
Crown Law Department (4).  
Department of Lands and Surveys (3).  
Department of Labour and Industry (1).  
Department of Industrial Development (2).  
Mines Department (7).  
Department of Agriculture (2).  
Agriculture Protection Board (3).  
State Housing Commission (7).  
Community Welfare (12).

- (3) (a) Karratha—  
The proposed loan funds allocation for 1974-75 does not provide for the construction of Government offices at Karratha.

A private developer is contemplating construction of office accommodation in the town and negotiation for lease by the State Government is proceeding.

- (b) South Hedland—

The State Housing Commission is currently preparing plans for construction of up to 20 000 square feet of office accommodation at South Hedland. The offices are planned to be completed

and ready for occupation early in 1975-76 financial year.

- (4) \$19 962.48.

- (5) No.

- (6) Answered by (5).

- (7) (a) No.

- (b) Yes, by State Housing Commission.

8.

## EDUCATION

### *School Administration*

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Education:

In its plans to provide for community participation by decentralising school administration, is it proposed to delegate to local boards or committees the power to hire or fire professional staff?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

Detailed planning has not yet been undertaken.

## 9. TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTRE

### *South Hedland*

The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What was the capital cost of Pundulmurra Technical Education Centre in South Hedland in the broad categories of—

- (a) training facilities;  
(b) student accommodation; and  
(c) staff accommodation?

- (2) When was the centre opened to accept its first intake of students?

- (3) How many students have been accepted for a training course?

- (4) How many students have completed a course?

- (5) What are the training courses available at Pundulmurra, and over what period of time are they held?

- (6) Accepting that the conception of the Pundulmurra Technical Education Centre to provide vocational training for adult Aborigines is excellent, could the Minister comment on why the results to date fall short of the concept?

- (7) What actions are being contemplated to place Pundulmurra on a more active and productive basis?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) to (7) Detailed information as requested must be obtained through the centre at South Hedland and through other Government departments.

The Hon. Member will be advised as soon as the information comes to hand.

## 10. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

### *Tendering: Ban*

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY, to the Minister for Justice:

Further to my question of the 27th August, 1974, regarding the construction firm of Hampson and Benton Pty. Ltd., will the Minister give consideration to making a more comprehensive investigation of the circumstances which caused the delay in the completion of the dairy at Whitby Falls Mental Health Institution, with a view to removing the ban on this firm from tendering?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

As the original penalty imposed by the department has been halved on appeal to the Minister for Works, no further action is contemplated.

### **JUNIOR FARMERS' MOVEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Second Reading*

**THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON** (South-West—Minister for Education) [2.40 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill has only one purpose and that is to change the name of the existing Junior Farmers' Movement Act to Rural Youth Movement Act.

For the information of members, I would like to give some explanation as to how this legislation has come before the House for consideration.

In January of 1973, the Annual State Conference of the Western Australian Federation of Junior Farmers' Clubs (Incorporated) passed the resolution changing the name of that organisation from "Junior Farmers" to "Rural Youth" and it is now proposed that the organisation be known as the Western Australian Federation of Rural Youth (Incorporated).

The Council for the advancement of the Junior Farmers' Movement, as constituted under the Junior Farmers' Movement Act, has considered the proposed change and fully endorses the concept of deleting all reference to "Junior Farmers" within the existing Act and replacing it with the term "Rural Youth".

The Bill presently before the House seeks to amend the Junior Farmers' Movement Act, re-entitling it the Rural Youth Movement Act. Consequential amendments were necessary throughout the sections of the Act, deleting all reference to "Junior Farmers" and replacing it with the term "Rural Youth".

This will bring Western Australia into line with all Australian States except Victoria which retains the name "Young

Farmers", and with the national bodies with which the movement is affiliated; namely, the Interstate Conference of Rural Youth and the Australian Council of Rural Youth.

It is felt that the name "Rural Youth" is more appropriate to the general aims of the movement and the type of people it services.

The name "Junior Farmers" has never accurately described the membership as most of the girls, who comprise approximately one-third of the total membership, and 30 per cent of the boys, have not been farm occupied.

There are only four brief clauses to the Bill before the House and I feel that none of these requires any particular explanation on my part, however, I would point out to members that the schedule in clause 4, sets out the various sections of the existing Act which are amended by this Bill. These are the consequential amendments referred to earlier.

I have pleasure in commending the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. R. T. Leeson.

### **TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Second Reading*

**THE HON. N. E. BAXTER** (Central—Minister for Health) [2.42 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill proposes to amend the Traffic Act to provide for an increase in vehicle and driver's license fees and transfer fees. The revenue expected to accrue from these increases, which for vehicle license fees average 65 per cent, is urgently required to maintain the State's road construction programme and to sustain employment of road workers throughout the State.

The Bill also provides for recouping the cost of collecting vehicle license fees with an identifiable charge to be known as a recording fee and for providing vehicle drivers with the option of renewing their drivers' licenses for a term of three years.

The provisions of the new Federal Roads Grants Act will result in a serious deficiency in Commonwealth funds for rural local roads and rural arterial roads in this State. The level of Federal grants to Western Australia for 1974-75 is \$49 million compared with \$49.2 million in 1973-74 with the effect that after allowing for cost inflation there will be a substantial reduction in the actual roadworks which can be carried out from Commonwealth funds during the year.

Our problems are further compounded by the fact that there is also a serious imbalance in the allocations contained in the Federal legislation for Commonwealth funds for specified classes of roads in this

State. The bulk of the Commonwealth moneys has been allocated to national highways and urban arterial roads with the result that the Federal moneys available for rural local roads and rural arterial roads have been cut back from about \$27 million in 1973-74 to \$18 million for this year, a decrease of about 33½ per cent.

To offset the deficiency in Federal allocations and to meet the pressing roads needs of this State in such areas as the Pilbara where vast sums of money are required, and to maintain grants including statutory payments to country local authorities for which complementary legislation is being introduced, and to counter cost inflation, it will be necessary to raise a minimum net sum for road works of \$27 million from State road-user taxes and charges to fund the State's road budget in 1974-75.

This will require increases in road-user charges as proposed in the Bill. Without such increases the net yield for road works from State road-user charges this year would amount to an estimated \$18.9 million only. It is estimated that the increases which are to be effective from the 1st October will bring in an extra \$8.1 million this financial year and about \$10.9 million in a full year. The increases represent an average increase of 65 per cent in motor vehicle license fees, an increase in the vehicle transfer fee, raising it from \$2 to \$3, and an increase to lift drivers' license fees from \$3 to \$5.

The proposals are based on retaining the existing 50 per cent concession for a farmer's first truck and for trucks paying the road maintenance charge. Concessions in payment of vehicle license fees for other groups within the community are also to remain unaltered. The \$2 drivers' license fee concession for pensioners will continue. It is worthy of note that generally speaking the concessions given for payment of vehicle and drivers' license fees in this State are more generous than in the other States of Australia.

Whereas the proposed average increase of 65 per cent in vehicle license fees is substantial, it should be noted that vehicle license fees have not been increased in this State since December 1965, thus remaining for several years, the lowest among the Australian States. But of course most of the other States will be forced shortly to increase vehicle license fees in order to meet Commonwealth matching requirements and to fund balanced road programmes. Consequently the proposed Western Australian level of fees will soon be overtaken by other States, as instanced by recent advice that the Victorian Government proposes to increase its fees by 60 per cent.

There are two basic systems for licensing vehicles in Australia. There is tare weight, which has been used in New

South Wales and Western Australia, and power-weight with a weight factor based on tare and using the RAC horsepower rating which is used in all other States.

With the introduction of this legislation opportunity is taken to remove some anomalies which have emerged under our existing licensing system.

Under our existing tare weight system, based on the Australian average fee, the light four-cylinder car class is penalised in this State compared with the heavy, high-powered V8-engined car. This conflicts with the present world-wide trend for a move towards the more compact type of car which is more economical on fuel consumption. Therefore, the proposed increase in vehicle license fees is based on changing our method of licensing for motor cars and trucks to the power-weight principle.

Under the power-weight system, a constant rate of tax is used for each power unit and weight unit for a particular class of vehicle and it therefore provides an equitable system of taxation for vehicles within a particular class and will remove the anomalies under our present tare weight system. Contributing factors are the world-wide petroleum energy crisis, and the increasing attention being given to minimising pollution, traffic and parking congestion, and road safety factors. There are therefore obviously compelling reasons for changing to the power-weight licensing system operating in most other States.

The effect on licensing fees by the change to the power-weight system, with a proposed fee of 83c per power-weight unit for cars, is that the percentage increase in fees for the high-powered car will be greater than for the low-powered car. A separate scale with a comparable rate of increase has been set for cars with a rotary-type engine.

Members may be interested in a few examples of the proposed average increase of 65 per cent as applied to particular vehicles, including a proposed recording fee of \$4 which I will explain later.

These are as follows: The fee for the Holden 4-cylinder Torana LC-70 will increase from \$19 to \$30.56, an increase of 61 per cent; the Ford Cortina 1600 from \$20 to \$32.22, an increase of 61 per cent; the Datsun 1600 from \$21 to \$33.88, an increase of 61 per cent; the Holden HG with 161 motor from \$30 to \$49.99, an increase of 60 per cent; the Holden HG Kingswood with 186 motor from \$30 to \$51.31, an increase of 71 per cent; and the Ford Fairlane V8 will increase from \$33 to \$70.40, an increase of 113 per cent. However, I should explain that before the proposed increase, the Western Australian license fee for the Ford Fairlane was well below the Australian average fee. Also, as this Bill does not alter the existing third party insurance rates or surcharges,

the actual percentage increase on the total amount a motorist pays to license his vehicle will be much less than the above percentages, and in the case of the Torana it will be 22 per cent, the Holden 186 Kingswood 34 per cent, and the Ford Fairlane V8 57 per cent.

The proposed fees for all commercial vehicles have been calculated to also yield an average increase of 65 per cent. As the annual mileage travelled by light commercial vehicles, utilities, vans, and light trucks is approximately 20 to 25 per cent higher than for motorcars, a fee of \$1 per power-weight unit is proposed for these vehicles, which is approximately 20 per cent higher than the car rate. Examples of the increase for this class are Datsun 16 hp light van from \$23 to \$39, an increase of 70 per cent, and Holden HQ utility from \$34 to \$61, an increase of 79 per cent.

The proposed increases for motor trucks have been set on an increasing scale as in the other States, with the rates being \$1.30 per power-weight unit for trucks between 30 cwt, or 1 530 kilograms, and 50 cwt, or 2 550 kilograms, tare; \$1.60 for trucks between 50 cwt, or 2 550 kilograms, and 60 cwt, or 3 060 kilograms, tare; \$1.90 for trucks between 60 cwt, or 3 060 kilograms, and 100 cwt, or 5 100 kilograms, tare; and \$2.10 for trucks exceeding 100 cwt, or 5 100 kilograms, tare. The effect of these proposed rates is for most medium trucks to have increases of about 48 per cent to 55 per cent, and heavy trucks increases of about 40 per cent to 46 per cent, but heavy trucks also pay the road maintenance charge.

Examples of the proposed increases for medium trucks are Datsun 2-ton truck with a tare of 37 cwt, or 1 880 kilograms, from \$50 to \$76.80, an increase of 54 per cent, and the Ford table-top wagon with a tare of 95 cwt, or 4 826 kilograms, from \$174 to \$256.70, an increase of 48 per cent. For heavy trucks with the 50 per cent concession for paying the road maintenance charge, the proposed increase for a Diamond T tip-truck with a tare of 151 cwt, or 7 671 kilograms, is from \$148 to \$215.05, an increase of 45 per cent, and for a typical semi-trailer with a tare of 180 cwt, or 9 144 kilograms, from \$163 to \$238.35, an increase of 46 per cent.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Are you making allowance for utilities and vans used for private purposes

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: No; if they are under 30 cwt, they could come under the rates for motorcars; however, I will check this out.

The Hon. R. Thompson: From your reading of that section, it does not sound as though that will be the case.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: No, they may be covered by the rates for motorcars. There is to be a difference between the

two, but I cannot tell the Leader of the Opposition now exactly what it will be. I will have a look at it later.

For vehicle classifications such as caravans, cranes and other mobile equipment, the tare weight scale is used and the increases are comparable with those for cars and light commercial vehicles. The proposed increase for semi-trailers has been calculated to put them more on a similar footing to equivalent rigid vehicles. For motor cycles the proposed increase is, for those not exceeding 250 cc, from \$5 to \$11, and exceeding 250 cc, from \$5 to \$13. The proposed fees for motor cycles still compare favourably with the license fees for a small type of car. The proposed increase in transfer fees is from \$2 to \$3 and is justified as it is many years since this fee was last increased, yet administrative costs have been rising steadily.

For drivers' license fees, the proposed increase from \$3 to \$5 will bring Western Australia more into line with the fees charged in the other States. The Bill also provides for motorists to have the option of renewing their drivers' licenses for a period of three years.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: You will not get many takers at \$5.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I think we will get plenty at \$5. I do not think anybody will jib at paying \$5; they are paying \$3 today for their drivers' licenses.

Victoria has a three-year driver's license term. This measure will help to reduce administration costs.

Some States follow a two part system for the licensing of vehicles under which a separate registration or recording fee is charged in addition to the vehicle license fee. The separate recording fee is levied to cover the cost of collection and administration of vehicle licensing. This system has the advantage of using a clearly identifiable charge to separate the cost of administering vehicle licensing from the license fee which is a tax to assist in the cost of constructing and maintaining roads. Under our present system, an allowance for collecting license fees of \$4 per vehicle for the first thousand vehicles and \$3 thereafter is made to country local authorities, and \$3 per vehicle to the Department of Motor Vehicles. Senior officers of the Treasury and the Department of Motor Vehicles strongly support the principle of a two-part licensing system with a separate recording fee to cover collection costs. They estimate that due to inflation in recent years, the present cost of licensing administration is about \$4 per vehicle.

The Bill therefore proposes that a separate fee, to be known as a recording fee, of \$4 per vehicle be levied to replace the present cost of collection allowance. It is important for members to note that the \$4 recording fee has been included in the

examples of the percentages and amounts of proposed fee increases as applied to particular vehicles which I have just given.

Under the present system, an additional short term fee of \$2 is charged where a vehicle is licensed for a period of less than 12 months. The work involved in renewing a vehicle registration is the same each time the procedure is performed whether the renewal is for six months or for a year. Therefore it is proposed that in lieu of the short term fee, the recording fee of \$4 be charged each time a registration is renewed. Also, as the present cost of collection allowance is based on all vehicles on a licensing authority's register, it is proposed that the \$4 recording fee be levied on all vehicles on the register; that is, there will be no exemptions from the recording fee which is a charge to cover the issuing and renewal of licenses. The recording fee will be retained by the licensing authority and the license fee will be paid to the Main Roads Trust Account.

The Hon. J. Heitman: Is that to be on top of the other fee?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: It is to be included in the license fee as a recording fee in the same manner as in the past except that previously it was \$4 for the first 1 000 vehicles and \$3 for each 1 000 vehicles thereafter.

Basically therefore this Bill is introduced in order to meet the Commonwealth requirements for the proposed Federal Road Grants Act and to provide the necessary funds for the Main Roads Department and local authority road budgets, and to maintain employment. Vehicle license fees, transfer fees and drivers' license fees are to be increased as proposed in the Bill and set out in the third schedule. The increases are to be implemented as from the 1st October, 1974, and for motorcars, trucks, prime movers, and buses will be based on the power-weight system for vehicle licensing.

The separate charge of \$4 per vehicle, as a recording fee, will also be levied as from the 1st October, 1974, for registration and renewal of motor vehicle licenses, these funds to be applied towards the cost of vehicle licensing administration.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. R. Thompson (Leader of the Opposition).

## HIRE-PURCHASE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South West—Minister for Education) (3.00 p.m.): I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The amendments to the Hire-Purchase Act, passed in the concluding stages of the 1973 Parliament were assented to last January and because of their extensive nature entailing the framing of many new regulations the proclamation of the Act has of necessity been delayed.

A further delaying factor is the apparent need to bring the amending Act into force in parts at different dates. This aspect was overlooked at the time. Consequently it becomes necessary to repeal and re-enact the commencement section 2 to make the appropriate provisions. The re-enacted section will need to be read in conjunction with clause 2 of the Bill now before members.

The effect of the provisions contained in the Bill will be to enable the proclamation initially of those sections which will allow the tribunal to function so as to receive and determine applications for licenses for hire-purchase credit providers before other sections take effect. The need for this is apparent because on the appointed day, which will be notified in the *Government Gazette*, it will be unlawful for a person to carry on a business as a hire-purchase credit provider without holding a license issued under the principal Act.

The appointed day will not be fixed and announced until the tribunal is in a position to process applications, with the effect that all licensees may be enabled uniformly to comply with the requirements of the Act. The date on which applications will need to be lodged with the registrar of the tribunal will be suitably advised.

As the renewal date is the 30th June each year it will most likely be necessary in the first instance to arrange a licence issue for an incomplete year on a *pro rata* fee.

However, provision is also made for the tribunal, when issuing licenses between the period the 1st January and the 30th June to issue an extended license to cover the period up to the June following. This would obviate cumbersome procedures in the functions of the tribunal where an application early in the year would otherwise be subject to renewal within a period of a few months.

Another amendment in the Bill is aimed at rectifying a deficiency in the legislation which has become apparent.

The tribunal is empowered under section 23E to inflict fines and charge costs arising from any proceedings initiated under 23D. Also under section 23S the tribunal may institute inquiries upon the application of the Commissioner for Consumer Protection or of any other person or of its own volition and as a consequence of those inquiries issue a reprimand, impose a fine, or suspend or cancel a license.

The tribunal is empowered also to disqualify a person who held a license until the fulfilment of any condition which may be imposed.

An appropriate amendment in the Bill makes it clear that the power conferred on the tribunal by subsection (2) of section 23E is in addition to and not in derogation of the powers conferred by section 23S.

The final amendment to which I shall refer affects the regulation-making section 40A to permit the fixing of maximum and minimum fees for the granting or renewal of a license. It is provided that the fee shall be fixed by reference to the total of the amounts financed by the applicant under hire-purchase agreements or the total number of hire-purchase agreements under which the applicant financed amounts in a period prior to the grant or renewal.

However, where the applicant was not a credit provider during that period or part of it or does not produce information or produces insufficient information on his hire-purchase agreements in that period the tribunal will be permitted to fix the fee in such amount as it thinks proper and reasonable in the circumstances.

Additional fees may be fixed in respect of authorised addresses of the credit provider other than the registered address.

The Bill has been drafted with a view to facilitating the administration of the principal Act along the lines provided under the 1973 amendments. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. D. K. Dans.

## **PLANT DISEASES ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Second Reading*

**THE HON. N. McNEILL** (Lower West—Minister for Justice) [3.06 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The responsibility for the control of fruit-fly rests with the individual householder or farmer. Community schemes are introduced on the basis of a referendum carried out in the district at which a 60 per cent majority voted in favour of a scheme being commenced. Since the scheme relieves the individual of his direct responsibility for fruit-fly control, it is reasonable to require that the cost of the scheme be met by the particular individuals who are party to the scheme rather than from general revenue.

These provisions are contained in section 12C of the principal Act now proposed to be amended. Members will see that the scales of charges for baiting or spraying by or on behalf of the committee are set out in passage (I) of sub-paragraph (v) of paragraph (d) of the section.

The existing charges permitted under the Act were prescribed some 15 years ago and are now, of course, out of keeping with costs associated with the running of baiting schemes. Most committees today find that the present maximum charges will not cover their operating expenses, and consequently Government financial assistance has been sought in a number of cases.

The schemes in operation at present are quite labour-intensive; Labour costs amounting to about 75 per cent of the total operating cost.

Under the existing provisions, charges are detailed for each and every spraying and for each attendance. In practice, however, baiting committees make a charge on a seasonal basis and a new schedule of charges has been prepared with this in mind.

The new scale of fees, which is approximately double those detailed in the Act at present, is considered to be quite reasonable and equitable and will assist local committees in overcoming their present financial difficulty.

These revised charges are now to be incorporated in a schedule to the Act as referred to in a substituted passage in section 12C (I). I emphasise that the schedule prescribes the maximum charges which can be imposed each season by fruit-fly baiting committees, the actual fee up to the limit defined in the schedule being determined by the locally-nominated committee.

Finally, opportunity is taken to remove from section 4 the definition of under-secretary for the reason that such position has not existed in the Department of Agriculture for many years passed and more so because the reference is not used in the principal Act. Hence it serves no useful purpose.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. R. T. Leeson.

## **TOWN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Second Reading*

**THE HON. N. McNEILL** (Lower West—Minister for Justice) [3.08 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The board constituted under section 4 of the Town Planning and Development Act, consists of the Town Planning Commissioner, *ex officio*, a member and the chairman together with three other members appointed by the Governor. Of the three appointed members one is required to be an architect, the second an engineer or a surveyor, and the third a person appointed by reason of his qualification in the business matters to be dealt with by the board. The appointed members hold office for a period of two years and are eligible for reappointment.



Mr A. E. White—who retired recently as Secretary of the Local Government Association—is a member of the Town Planning Board but not because of his local government duties. Mr White was appointed to the board as a person qualified in the business matters to be dealt with by the board—the post previously mentioned.

Some little time ago the Local Government Association submitted to the Minister that it was reasonable for there to be a member on the board specifically representing local government. The board concurs with this suggestion because of the type of business handled by the board.

An additional factor in support of an increase in the number of appointed members as proposed by this Bill is that because the board meets weekly it has at times experienced difficulty in finding a quorum of three from a total of four members. The appointment of an additional member would alleviate this difficulty.

In order to prevent an overlapping of the terms of appointment, provision is made in the Bill for the term of the proposed new member to expire on the same day as existing members.

It is further proposed that the additional member shall be chosen from a panel of names submitted by the Local Government Association.

The next amendment deals with Town Planning Board and Titles Office procedures in the matter of road widening.

Where in the past the Town Planning Board has imposed a condition in its approval of a subdivision that a road be widened, it has been the practice of the Office of Titles to dedicate such road widening on diagrams or plans of survey under section 295(5) of the Local Government Act. Subsection (5) of section 295 provides that, where a plan of the subdivision is deposited in the Office of Titles and approved by any officer appointed to approve it, then as from the date of that approval any land delineated and shown on the plan as a new street shall become dedicated as a street and thereupon the council has the care, control and management of it; but no way, not exceeding six metres in width, shall be dedicated or be deemed to have become dedicated as a street by virtue of that subsection.

It is apparent that this subsection refers only to roads and not to road widenings, hence the present procedure with respect to road widenings which I have mentioned may not be strictly correct. Arising from discussions which have taken place between the Ministers' departments, the Commissioner of Titles, and the Local Government Association of W.A. (Inc.), it is considered that the position should be

corrected. The Bill seeks to do this not only in respect of future cases, but also in respect of past dealings.

An alternative to rectifying the position by legislation would be to require the subdivider to transfer the required road widening to the Crown. Such action, apart from involving a more cumbersome procedure, would entail the subdivider in additional expense while not covering past dealings.

It has accordingly been decided that an amendment to section 28 of the Town Planning and Development Act is the most appropriate course of action to be taken and this Bill so provides.

The amendment to section 23 merely affects drafting and will overcome an error in paragraph references which hitherto has had to be overcome temporarily by a footnote.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. S. J. Dellar.

## DAYLIGHT SAVING BILL

### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 28th August.

**THE HON. LYLA ELLIOTT** (North-East Metropolitan) [3.13 p.m.]: We have before us a Bill to provide for a trial period of daylight saving in this State, to be followed by a referendum; and I must say that I am amazed by the complete aboutface displayed by the Liberal and Country Party members on this issue. For three years the Tonkin Labor Government tried to introduce daylight saving on a trial basis and for three years its efforts were obstructed in this Chamber by members of the Liberal and Country Parties who voted against the legislation.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: Some members.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: I will come to that point in a moment. I believe we have been provided with yet another example of this House not being a House of Review, but an instrument to thwart the proper functioning of Labor Governments.

The PRESIDENT: Order please! The honourable member should talk about daylight saving.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: I intend to do so, but it will be interesting over the next three years to witness the number of Bills that are amended or rejected in this Chamber now we no longer have a Labor Government in office.

I believe this Bill will be passed. It will be passed because the Government has finally got the message that it is a popular issue and that a major section of the community wants to experience daylight saving. However, I must hand it to the

Government. Because the Labor Party has consistently supported the introduction of daylight saving, the Government has calculated that if all Labor members vote for the legislation, the Government can make it a nonparty issue so that certain Liberal and Country Party country members can cross the floor and vote against it. They can then go back to their electorates and make big fellows of themselves by telling the people that although we have daylight saving they themselves cannot be blamed because they voted against the Bill.

I warn the Government not to rely too heavily on the Labor Party in connection with the Bill. We have carried this issue for three years and it is now up to the Government members to accept the responsibility for their own legislation.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Whatever happens; we must not blame the Government.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: What amazes me is how the Premier, when Leader of the Opposition, could go to the people and indicate that he would introduce legislation to enable daylight saving to be experienced, and then give the coalition parties a free vote so that members of the Country Party can cross the floor and vote against the legislation.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: Very democratic.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: Of course the Premier hopes that the legislation will be passed with the help of the Labor Party members, but how can he behave like that? That is not playing the game by the electors.

I would now like to deal with the history of the daylight saving issue since 1971 when the Chief Secretary (Mr Stubbs) introduced a Bill in this Chamber to provide for a trial period of daylight saving for the ensuing summer months. In his second reading speech, he said—

It will be a trial period for daylight saving in Western Australia. If it is intended to again have daylight saving after the period expressed in the legislation, it will be necessary for an amending Bill to be introduced, and Parliament can again consider the matter.

He was not introducing legislation to provide permanency. It was merely to provide for daylight saving on a trial basis to enable the people of Western Australia to experience it to see whether they liked it.

When he introduced that Bill in 1971 he pointed out that Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, were all introducing similar legislation to provide for an hour's daylight saving and that Tasmania had previously found it so successful that it had introduced legislation in 1970 to make daylight saving a permanent feature.

The Chief Secretary also dealt at length with the disadvantages to this State if we did not fall into line with the other States and put our clocks on an hour, and with the advantages which he felt would accrue to the people of Western Australia under daylight saving.

But what was the result on that legislation here? With the exception of four Liberal members in this Chamber—Messrs Medcalf, Williams, Withers, and Willmott—all Liberal and Country Party members voted against the measure; and that was the end of the daylight saving for the 1971-72 summer.

In 1972, as the Bill of the previous year had not got past this Chamber, the Tonkin Government decided to introduce another Bill only that time in the Assembly to give the members there an opportunity to express an attitude on the issue. Again the idea was that daylight saving would be introduced for a trial period, from the 29th October, 1972, to the 4th March, 1973. Again Liberal and Country Party members opposed the Bill, but the interesting aspect on that occasion was that the then Leader of the Country Party (Mr Nalder, now Sir Crawford Nalder) introduced an amendment to provide for a referendum of the people before a trial period; and the then Leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Court) supported that amendment. However for a number of reasons it was not acceptable to the Government at that stage and when the Bill was received in this Chamber, it was again thrown out by all Opposition members voting against it with the exception of Messrs Willmott, Medcalf, and Withers.

In 1973 a third Bill was introduced in the Legislative Council to provide once again for a trial period only, from the 28th October, 1973, to the 3rd March, 1974. It, too, was defeated in this Chamber, with all Liberal and Country Party members voting against it with the exception of the three members I mentioned earlier.

Because the Tonkin Government had been frustrated in this Chamber on three occasions in its efforts to introduce daylight saving on a trial basis, it decided it was time the people of this State were given a say. So another Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly in 1973 to provide for a referendum to enable the people to say whether or not they would like to experience a trial period of daylight saving—remembering that they had not been given this opportunity because the legislation had been thrown out on three occasions. The reason for proposing a referendum was to enable the people to have their say. Incidentally, this was exactly what the then Leader of the Country Party and the Leader of the Opposition had said they would support in 1972.

The Hon. N. McNeill: Why did the Government not support it at that time?

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: The Government did not support it at that time because it felt a referendum was not necessary and that the people should be allowed to experience a trial period of daylight saving and express an opinion afterwards.

The point is that although the two leaders of the other parties had in 1972 wanted a referendum to be held before a trial period, when the Government introduced a Bill along those lines in 1973, what happened? Both parties really shocked everybody on that occasion. After consistently blocking our Bills for three years, each of which would have provided for a trial period only, they then did a complete about-face and said, "We will oppose your Bill on this occasion because we believe there should be a trial period."

Could it be that it was finally filtering through to those parties that a large section of the people wanted daylight saving and that this is a kind of face-saving exercise on their part to allow them to extricate themselves from the corner into which they had painted themselves? This can be the only answer. Why would Sir Charles Court have mentioned it during the election campaign unless he thought it was a popular issue and would gain votes for his party? Otherwise, he would now be blaming the Federal Government for having to introduce the legislation.

Had our referendum Bill been carried, it would have saved the State a considerable amount of money, because it provided that the referendum be held on the same day as the State election.

The Hon. N. McNeill: Would it?

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: Is the Minister for Justice disputing what I said?

The Hon. N. McNeill: I just asked a question.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: If a referendum were held on the same day as another election, obviously it would save the State a lot of money as against holding the referendum on some other day.

The Hon. N. McNeill: Do you recall the reply of the Hon. Claude Stubbs when he was asked that question in this House?

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: It has now been estimated that the holding of a referendum on a separate day will cost the taxpayers of the State an additional \$200 000. No wonder we have to increase taxes!

There are arguments both for and against putting the clocks on an hour, and on an issue like this I think it is our duty as legislators to determine whether or not the good points outweigh the bad. Naturally, we cannot concern ourselves only with the well-being of the majority. We must also consider whether minorities will be adversely affected by legislation we deal with, and to what extent they will be affected.

We have been told in the past by representatives of country areas about the disadvantages that would be suffered by people in those areas if daylight saving were introduced. If those disadvantages and inconveniences are real, then I for one am concerned about them, particularly if they affect small children who have to travel long distances on country buses, which was one of the arguments put up. But if it is shown that daylight saving adversely affects the health or school work of the children, I cannot see why the school hours could not be adjusted accordingly.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: You can imagine the teachers doing that.

The Hon. J. Heitman: What about the Teachers' Union?

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: They adjust school hours in other parts of the State already.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: The same thing applies to farmers. I appreciate that farming people could have problems under daylight saving, but here again I cannot see why the organisations which service farmers cannot co-operate by adjusting their hours to fit in with the farmers' requirements. I understand Co-operative Bulk Handling offered to change its hours to accommodate the farmers if daylight saving were introduced.

I wonder whether all these fears are well founded or whether in fact they are groundless. As the Minister said in his speech, the theories have yet to be tested in practice. They were not his exact words, but that is what he said in effect. People often oppose something new or different because of fears which are sometimes not realised.

To support what I am saying, I refer members to an article which appeared in the *Daily News* on the 12th March, 1973. It dealt with the position in New South Wales after that State had experienced two periods of daylight saving. I would like to read most of the article because I think it makes some very good points of which members should be aware. When talking about the possible problems and difficulties facing the State, I think we should have regard for the actual experience in other States. The article states—

Daylight saving in summer is here to stay.

It causes no real problems and has lots of advantages.

The whole thing is so simple, what was all the fuss about in the first place?

The second trial of daylight saving in NSW and Victoria ended at 2 am on Sunday morning, March 4.

Since then, those who had fought the idea bitterly have been strangely quiet. Most of the noise has come from people who want year-round daylight saving.

The experiment was regarded as a success by the NSW Government, and it is planning legislation to make summer time a way of life.

As a West Australian who suffered through the boring, interminable public discussion on the subject, and worse still, the first daylight saving debate in the Legislative Council, I had almost begun to believe the prophets of doom.

So it was with a vague feeling of uneasiness that I awaited my first season of Sydney summer time.

It was something of a let-down. No cows went crazy and stopped producing milk. Children did not fall asleep in the streets because they went to bed too late.

Drive-in theatres did not go bankrupt. No-one even seemed to take any notice. They just enjoyed it.

It did mean that they could go swimming in sunlight at 8 p.m. And it was true that sport, especially golf, tennis, cricket and bowls, enjoyed an unprecedented boom.

Perhaps people watched fewer hours of television, but all that proves is that they would rather be swimming, playing golf, tennis, cricket, bowls or gardening than sitting in front of the tube.

Something else happened, too. New South Welshmen reduced the rate at which they killed one another.

I think this is a good point which should be noted. The article continues—

Figures are not yet available for the summer of 1972-3, but the summer before showed a drastic fall in the number of pedestrian deaths.

Every four months in NSW, an average of around 100 pedestrians are killed. The figure drops in summer because of better visibility.

For the three summers before daylight saving was introduced, pedestrian deaths in the four months from November were 92, 77 and 81.

In the first summer of daylight saving, 1971-72, the figure was 53. Deaths of cyclists and motor cyclists also fell.

On its own, that should be reason enough for switching to summer time.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Did the birth rate fall, too?

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: That is a rather facetious comment which I shall ignore. I think that article provides some evidence of the positive benefits of day-

light saving in New South Wales, and I would like those benefits to be offered to the people of Western Australia.

I must confess that I cannot get very excited about the inconvenience which might be caused to the money-makers on the stock exchange or the short-term money market; but the reduction of business trading hours between the Eastern States and Western Australia by one hour must obviously affect adversely many businesses and, as a result, affect the economy of the State as a whole. So we must have regard for that fact.

What I would really like to see is an opportunity provided for us to study the effects of daylight saving on the health of the people of Western Australia.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: How would you calculate it?

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: We are continually being told by members of the medical profession that we are rapidly developing into a very unhealthy nation because of our increasingly inactive way of life. So many of us drive to work, sit at a desk all day, and then drive home. By the time we arrive home at night after driving through the heavy traffic the pattern so often is for us to have a couple of drinks, eat dinner, and sit in front of the television before going to bed.

Would it not be much better if we could change this pattern to one where the people, because they have an extra hour of sunlight after work, when it is too early for dinner or to sit in front of a television set, start thinking in terms of having a swim or a game of golf, tennis, or bowls, or engaging in some other sport, or doing a little gardening.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: You can do it before breakfast if you like.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: Does Mr Gayfer get up and play bowls before breakfast?

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: I do not have time in any case; but, nevertheless, there is nothing to stop a person from doing that.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: I think this is a serious matter which should not be treated lightly. As I said, it has been stated by members of the medical profession that the people of this country are not as healthy as they should be; and the New South Wales newspaper article to which I referred indicated that people definitely do undertake more sporting activities under daylight saving conditions. I would like to see the effects on the health of the people after a period of daylight saving.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Even the health of the Minister for Health might improve.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: The people in the Eastern States must be happy with daylight saving, otherwise the Governments of those States surely would not

have continued to have daylight saving each year if there were strong opposition.

I also understand that workers at the Alcoa refinery at Pinjarra accepted a suggestion of the management that they introduce their own daylight saving by commencing work an hour earlier and knocking off an hour earlier, and they are quite happy with this arrangement.

I believe we must give the people of Western Australia the opportunity to experience daylight saving. The pity is that this Chamber has denied them that opportunity for the past three years.

I support the Bill.

**THE HON. J. HEITMAN** (Upper West) [3.35 p.m.]: It is quite interesting to listen to Miss Elliott speak to this Bill, and I suppose we will hear most members speaking on daylight saving for the fourth or fifth time in the last few years. The unfortunate thing is that I understand the vote will not be taken today. I will not be here next week, so I will be deprived of the opportunity to vote, even though I am able to speak to the measure now.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That depends on members.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: I would be happy if the vote were taken today, because I have opposed similar measures on four occasions and I will oppose this one. I am not like some other members; I have not turned a backflip.

It is ridiculous to say that by holding a referendum we will ascertain what the people want because a certain number of them have had experience of daylight saving. I experienced daylight saving in 1917 when I was a boy going to school. I had to walk two miles to school, and as I had to rise an hour earlier to walk those two miles members will understand that as a young boy I was not very impressed.

We also experienced daylight saving in 1942, and again in 1943. If I remember rightly the Labor Premier at that time (Mr Willcock) contacted the Prime Minister of the day (Mr Curtin), and said, "This is not going down very well in Western Australia; we are having a torrid time and it upsets most people." For that reason Prime Minister Curtin said that as it was a wartime measure and was upsetting Western Australians—and he knew full well that we have something like 18 to 20 minutes a day more sunlight than the Eastern States have—Western Australia need not continue to have daylight saving. I think the Eastern States continued with it until 1944.

If this Bill is carried—and I hope it will not be—we will have a referendum; but within a few years the value of that referendum will be lost because people will say that there are now others in the community who did not have a chance to vote at the referendum. Therefore, this

measure is really only a trick, because the result of the referendum will be of no value in 20 years' time. So I say to all members of the Chamber that this Bill should be thrown out. We are here to represent the people, and if we have not the courage of our convictions we should not be here.

I am astounded that we have a group of members in this Chamber who are regimented to such an extent that they must vote in accordance with the way their leader tells them to vote. I spoke to their leader only a fortnight ago, and he would not say then how members of the Labor Party would vote. Of course, no-one has yet said how those members will vote.

The Hon. R. Thompson: It is a free vote.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: I know it is, but members of the Labor Party do not have a free vote; they are regimented. They are told to vote in a certain way, and they do so. Despite the fact that some of them represent country areas and are elected by country people who are not in favour of daylight saving, they are still bound by their party and must vote the way they are told. Take for example Mr Stan Dellar; I know his electors do not want daylight saving.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: Who told you?

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: I know they do not.

The Hon. R. Thompson: How do you know?

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: There is also Mr Leeson; he represents a farming community and also people from Kalgoorlie. I would say that the majority of his electors do not want daylight saving, but he is not permitted to vote on their behalf.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Of course he is.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: Well, we will see what transpires. It shocks me that in a House of Review members opposite are bound to vote not in the way their constituents want them to vote but in accordance with the dictates of Caucus. It will be interesting to me to see how those members vote, if the vote is taken before I leave.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Mr Leeson represents Kalgoorlie, Boulder, and Norseman.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: It will be a block vote among members of the Labor Party, and the Leader of the Opposition knows it. I notice that Mr Cloughton has returned to the Chamber to interject once again, but as he is only mumbling one cannot understand what he is saying. I will not attempt to invite interjections from him, because the only time I know what he has said is when I read his interjections in *Hansard*.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You are making a bad speech trying to justify that daylight saving should not be introduced for a trial period.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: We will find out later where the Leader of the Opposition stands on the matter.

The PRESIDENT: The honourable member will continue with his speech and disregard the interjections.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: Let us see how daylight saving affects various sections of the community. Miss Elliott referred to the drive-in theatres. We all know that daylight saving will affect the operations of drive-in theatres, because in this State they normally commence at 8.00 p.m. in the summertime, but under daylight saving the drive-in theatres would be obliged to start screening at 9.00 p.m., because it would be too light to start their operations an hour earlier.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: They start at midnight sometimes.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: They do not start at midnight in the country. I am a country representative and I would not know what people do in the metropolitan area.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: You told me that you know everything about it.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: I am sure the honourable member does not, otherwise he would not be disciplined in the way he is.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: You were saying that drive-in theatres do not operate in some parts of my province, and I am telling you that sometimes they open at midnight in some parts of my province.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: What time do they knock off?

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: They have midnight shows.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: That would be only once in a blue moon.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: You know all about it, so you tell me.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: The honourable member may think he knows all about the subject, but he does not know very much.

The PRESIDENT: Mr Dellar will make his speech shortly.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: I do not think we can anticipate that it will be a very good one.

The Hon. R. Thompson: It could not be worse than yours.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: There is no doubt that daylight saving will have an adverse effect on drive-in theatres and this will result in much unemployment. If daylight saving is introduced the drive-in theatres will not be able to screen their films until later in the evening and, as a

result, most parents would not attend such theatres because it would mean keeping their children up too late, and they would have difficulty in getting them to school the following morning. If the drive-in theatres are to be affected in this way, resulting in a great deal of unemployment, I do not consider that that is fair, and one would think that members of the Labor Party would give greater consideration to those who work at drive-in theatres. Taking them as a whole, the number of workers involved would be quite considerable.

Let us now consider how the introduction of daylight saving would affect school children. It is all right for some members to say that it would not affect children to get up an hour or so earlier in the morning before having to travel 30 or 40 miles to school, because the headmaster could easily adjust the hours of school attendance. It is all right to talk about such innovations, but they do not work out that way. We will probably find that teachers will say, "Daylight saving will not affect us to any extent because we only have to walk to school." However, it will affect the children to a great extent because they will have to rise earlier and then have to travel quite a distance before they start their lessons.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Teachers are more responsible than you think they are.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: Let us now consider the dairy farmer and how daylight saving will affect him. I spoke to Mr Masters the other day and he said, "Daylight saving will not make any difference whatsoever to a cow". However I have proved in this House previously that it would. The change in milking hours would be quite all right in England where the heat in the afternoon is not as severe as it is in this State at 2.00 p.m. or 3.00 p.m. There is no doubt that, in having to milk a cow earlier in the morning and again earlier in the afternoon, the milk supply would be adversely affected.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: Why cannot the dairy farmer milk according to solar time?

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: If we are to introduce a system of solar time among some of the fraternity, why not have solar time applying to all of the fraternity?

The Hon. R. Thompson: Let us make daylight saving permanent all the year round.

*Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.02 p.m.*

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: Before the suspension I was mentioning the effect of daylight saving on the dairying industry. I would point out that even the cows do not like their times altered, not even for an hour. The cows get used to being milked at a certain time. Mr Masters contended that daylight saving would not affect cows, but I would point out that he

has not had to milk cows in the afternoon at a temperature of 112 degrees Fahrenheit!

Let me refer to the operations of Co-operative Bulk Handling. These operations affect the farming community to a great extent. I suppose that when Mr Gayfer makes a contribution to the debate he will tell us something about the operations of CBH. At the present time the company commences to operate at 7.00 a.m., and the employees knock off at 5.30 p.m. If the employees started at 6.00 a.m. the farmers could get a couple of loads of grain into the siding, and then they would have to wait until the grain was ready to be harvested, after it had dried out. Of course, the farmers could work late at night if they had adequate storage, but the provision of more storage would mean greater outlay.

The problem which faces the farming community is that today the farmers can harvest fairly quickly, but they require sufficient storage to hold the grain until the following morning. I do not know of any farmer who has this additional storage, to enable CBH to operate from 6.00 a.m. until 4.00 p.m. Some people might contend that the number of hours worked would be the same; but I should point out that if the wheat cannot be harvested in the early morning hours it cannot be carted away. Daylight saving would have a definite effect on the farming community, especially if CBH has to adhere to the altered hours.

I have made reference to the position of New South Wales, which is quite different from the position which exists in Western Australia. That State is 40 minutes ahead, and will have 20 minutes of daylight saving all the time. This reminds me of the argument which Mr Withers put up on a previous occasion when he voted for daylight saving. He said that if we were to look at the position of Kununurra we would find that it was closer to the South Australian border and South Australian time. Making a rough guess one could say that Kununurra is at least one hour and 20 minutes ahead of Perth time.

I have said this previously to some members of the House. In my boyhood I attended school at Tammin, which is about 120 miles east of Perth. There used to be a 2-minute time difference between Perth and Tammin; but with the advent of radio a standard time applied all over Western Australia, despite the fact that Kununurra was one hour and 20 minutes ahead, and Hall's Creek was one hour and 15 minutes ahead of Perth time.

If we look at the map that has been produced by Mr Withers we will find there is a definite time difference. To my way of thinking daylight saving will not help his province, except for four months of the year. I suggest that at all times Kununurra adheres more to the South Australian time.

If we look at the sunrise and sunset times in the table produced by Mr Withers we find the difference is so great that it is not funny. I do not blame him for seeking a difference in time, but he should attempt to fix a time which will assist him over all the year rather than over only four months of the year.

I have received many telegrams and letters from people, organisations, and various bodies opposing the introduction of daylight saving. I refer to organisations like the Country Women's Association and the Country Shire Councils' Association. At a meeting in Perenjori a few weeks ago a unanimous decision was passed to oppose daylight saving. I am aware that we in this Parliament do not represent the shires; but I should point out that the shires do represent people, and we as members also represent people.

We have been elected by our constituents to make decisions in this Parliament. If the country people which some of us represent are opposed to daylight saving, then we should not vote for the Bill before us. I have received letters from some branches of the Country Women's Association, as well as telegrams from progress associations, parents and citizens' associations, and various school committees requesting me to oppose the proposal contained in the Bill. I think the views of these people and bodies should be considered.

When it comes to the question of the holding of a referendum I am aware there are not as many people living in the country as there are living in the city. I have heard the view expressed by members of the Opposition previously when elections of various types were held. They were het-up about the smaller number of people in the country getting greater representation than the larger number of people in the metropolitan area. Those members did not seem to take into consideration the number of people involved, or the areas in question and the distances that have to be travelled to service those people. It was a different story then. I do not entertain for one moment that there should be a change in their attitude on the question of daylight saving.

Referring to the referendum that is proposed in the Bill, if I should be away from the Chamber during the Committee stage I hope that some member will take up what I am putting forward now. In the proposed referendum the people will be required to insert the figure "1" in the square opposite either the word "Yes" or the word "No".

I cannot see why the people should not be asked the question—

Are you in favour of standard time in the State being advanced one hour from the last Sunday in October in each year until the first Sunday in March next following?

A square should be placed at the bottom of the question, and the people should be required to insert either the word "Yes" or the word "No" in it to indicate whether or not they are in favour of the proposal. By conducting the referendum in that way I am sure there would be fewer informal votes.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: What about the people who cannot spell!

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: The people can always make some sign in the square to indicate the way they are voting. I would point out to the honourable member that there are not as many illiterate people in the country as there are in the metropolitan area. I am sure that most people in the country can write the word "Yes" or "No". If I should be absent from the Chamber during the Committee stage of the Bill I hope some member will be kind enough to bring this point up and have the question framed in the manner I have outlined.

I have not much more to say. On other occasions I have spoken against the introduction of daylight saving. I think that on this occasion I have said enough to let the House know that I have no intention whatsoever to vote for daylight saving, because I do not think there is a need for it. We have been elected to this Parliament to make decisions for the people, and if we cannot do that and make decisions according to their wishes, we should not be here. When a member is aware of the way his constituents desire to vote he should vote accordingly. That is what I intend to do.

THE HON. H. W. GAYFER (Central) [4.12 p.m.]: I wish to say that I have voted against this proposition for the introduction of daylight saving in all the debates in which I have participated in the last five or six years. In respect of this question I think there is too much duck shovelling going on. At times there seems to be a change of heart on the part of some members. For myself, I intend to oppose the proposition again for the same reasons that I have opposed it previously. Other than that I need say no more in this debate.

THE HON. S. J. DELLAR (Lower North) [4.13 p.m.]: I would like to address myself to the Daylight Saving Bill of 1974. As the Minister indicated when he introduced the measure, it provides for a single period of daylight saving; namely, between the 27th October, 1974, and the 2nd March, 1975, to be followed by a referendum to decide whether or not daylight saving should become a permanent fixture in Western Australia.

He went on to indicate that this was an election promise made by the Premier (Sir Charles Court). The Bill also provides for the repeal of the Daylight Saving Act of 1946.

The provisions in the Bill governing the holding of a referendum stipulate that it will be held at a suitable time, as soon as practicable after the 2nd March, 1975; that is, if the legislation is passed.

Much has been said about daylight saving. Quite frankly I was amazed when the legislation was introduced in another place. On that particular night I was travelling in a taxi to visit my wife who was then in a hospital in Perth. The news broadcast announced that a Bill had been introduced.

The report which appeared in *The West Australian* of the 9th August, the day following the introduction of the Bill in another place, indicated that such legislation had been introduced for the fourth time in four years. It went on to outline what the Bill provided, and indicated that the previous Tonkin Labor Government had introduced similar legislation on three occasions, and also introduced a Bill to provide for a referendum.

At this juncture we should be discussing night-time saving, and not daylight saving. The time that has been spent in this Parliament in the last three years in discussing and debating this issue has been completely and utterly wasted. When the Tonkin Government introduced similar legislation on no fewer than three occasions, the legislation was defeated on each of those occasions.

The subsequent Bill of 1973 was to provide for a referendum of the people so that they could express an opinion as to whether they would like to have a trial period. That Bill was also defeated. I may be saying a lot of words which members have already heard, but I intend to say them, nevertheless. As I have said, all the Bills introduced by the Tonkin Government were rejected.

When the previous Bills were introduced naturally reasons were given for their introduction and, also naturally, there was some opposition to them. However, since that time many new faces have appeared in this Chamber and I will be interested to see the attitude of those new members to this measure. Mr Heitman has indicated that he does not intend to change his mind, and I commend him for his stand.

The Hon. R. Thompson: He also told us about your electorate.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: Is the honourable member going to tell us about his electorate?

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: If Mr Clive Griffiths will be patient I will get to that point. I have spoken on only one occasion, previously, and that was in 1973. I indicated my opposition, quite clearly, and I said I considered the people of Western Australia had the right, and deserved the right to be given an opportunity to experience a trial period of daylight saving.



It is no good Mr Heitman saying that we experienced daylight saving in 1917 when he had to walk some distance to get home. Just because daylight saving was no good 57 years ago, it seems that it will be no good now. However, I suggest that the honourable member's ideas have stagnated and that he does not represent a young population. More than 50 per cent of the population of Western Australia last year were below the age of 21 years and none of these people would have had the opportunity to experience daylight saving at any stage.

The Hon. J. Heitman: The same thing will happen in a couple of years. You will be forced to have a referendum.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: Let us not get onto the old bogey. Mr Heitman has decided to throw a few red herrings across the trail in an endeavour to cover up his party's intentions on the vote.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: At least it is free.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: It will be interesting to see how free the vote is.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: It has been free in the past.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: As it was yesterday!

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I support the principle of daylight saving in Western Australia on a trial basis, and I intend to stick to that opinion. If I were to change my mind now I would be as hypocritical as the Government which introduced this legislation after rejecting similar measures on three occasions. It seems that it is now a good thing. The Government has done a complete political somersault.

Liberal members in this House, with the exception of Mr Williams, Mr Medcalf, and Mr Withers—and the new members—have voted against daylight saving for a trial period.

The Hon. G. W. Berry: Some will still vote against it.

The Hon. J. Heitman: I hope they still will.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I cannot see the point in introducing this legislation unless it is that because of the increase in Liberal Party representation the Premier will be able to live up to another election promise.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Some of the younger members may be more enlightened than the older members.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: I do not suppose the honourable member opposite would agree that the Premier does not have the slightest idea of the way we are going to vote.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: That may be so; the honourable member probably does not know either.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: I have a good idea.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: If I may again address myself to the Bill—

The PRESIDENT: I would like you to do that.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I represent an area of over one-third of Western Australia, as does Mr George Berry. Part of that area is also represented by two other members in another place, one of whom voted in favour of daylight saving and one of whom voted against it. It will be very interesting to see how Mr George Berry votes on this particular occasion.

On this occasion the only objection I have received has been in the form of a telegram from the Shire of Carnarvon. It is dated the 21st August, and states—

Council unanimous in that you vote against introduction of daylight saving in Western Australia.

Shire of Carnarvon.

That might be the view of the members of the Shire of Carnarvon. However, that shire covers an area of about 25 000 square miles out of a total province area of 337 000 square miles. The only other communication I had was about two years ago and that was from the Shire of Laverton. That shire was in favour of daylight saving, because of its geographical location in the State. As I said earlier, I appreciate the view expressed by the Shire of Carnarvon.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: How many shires do you represent?

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: Perhaps the honourable member should ask Mr Heitman, who knows all about my area.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: You do not know?

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: All right: The Shire of Exmouth, the Shire of Carnarvon, the Shire of Gascoyne, the Shire of Shark Bay, the Shire of Murchison, the Shire of Yalgoo, the Shire of Mt. Magnet, the Shire of Cue, the Shire of Meekatharra, the Shire of Wiluna, the Shire of Laverton, the Shire of Leonora, the Shire of Menzies, part of the Shire of Kalgoorlie, part of the Shire of Norseman, part of the Shire of Halls Creek, part of the Shire of Nullagine, and a few others.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: You have more shires than people!

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I wish they would all vote! I intend to remain consistent in my attitude towards this measure. Mr Berry represents exactly the same area as I do and on previous occasions we have had different views as to whether daylight saving should be introduced for a trial period. In 1972 Mr Berry expressed his opposition to daylight saving, and his remarks appear at pages 4049 and 4050 of

*Hansard* for that year. He spoke on the 17th October, 1972, and in concluding his remarks he said—

When the Daylight Saving Bill was defeated last year I was prepared to take notice of any evidence brought forward by the committee of inquiry. I wanted to know whether people had been inconvenienced, or had suffered, because daylight saving was not introduced. However, many people told me that they had not suffered; but a number of them did say they would have liked to try it. I think that is a fair enough argument. Many of the people said we should not fiddle with the clock because Western Australia appears to have been served very well and there is thus no reason to change our time. If, and when, someone produces a case to sustain the argument in favour of daylight saving I will support it. However, in the present circumstances I cannot support the Bill.

I do not think Mr Berry spoke to the Bill which was introduced in 1973. However, that was his opinion in 1972 and it will be interesting to observe his opinion in August, 1974.

The present Minister for Health, Mr Baxter, has opposed daylight saving on each occasion that it was introduced in this House. I believe that on the first occasion the measure was defeated on his casting vote when he was Chairman of Committees.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The Chairman of Committees does not get a casting vote.

The Hon. R. Thompson: He had a deliberative vote.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: It was his deliberative vote which squared the issue and defeated the measure. Mr Baxter's remarks can be found at page 1870 of *Hansard*, 1971. He spoke on the 6th October, and he concluded by saying—

These are a few of the reasons why I do not support this measure. I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that we should clean this Bill up properly by consenting to the repeal of the 1946 Act and altering the title, and if in 25 years' time someone wants to introduce daylight saving again, let the Government of the day deal with it.

It is obvious that Mr Baxter will not change his mind in the next 25 years.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Hardly.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I hope the honourable member will have an opportunity.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: I do not think I will.

The Hon. R. Thompson: The Minister is a member of the Cabinet which decided to introduce this Bill.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: That is so. We will observe whether Cabinet will approve the legislation later.

Another member of the Government, Mr Vic Ferry, has voted against this legislation on each occasion it has been introduced. It is very interesting to note his comments in 1971.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: That was a long time ago.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: That is right; that is why I am bringing them to the attention of the honourable member. Mr Ferry spoke on the 6th October, 1971, and his remarks appear at page 1871 of *Hansard* for that year. He said, in part—

I would like to suggest that we have a trial period in reverse by leaving our time at standard time in order to see what the areas of difference and difficulty might be when clocks in the Eastern States are advanced one hour, rather than inconveniencing the majority of Western Australians throughout the length and breadth of the State by advancing our clocks one hour according to the provisions contained in the Bill under discussion. I believe that is a better way to conduct a trial period.

That was a good suggestion. Mr Ferry concluded by saying—

I also believe we should conduct our experiment in reverse by maintaining Western standard time in the coming summer.

That was in 1971, so the honourable member has had one trial period in reverse between 1971 and 1972.

This appears on page 3980 of *Hansard* dated the 12th October, 1972. Mr Ferry had this to say—

I am yet to be convinced that we need daylight saving in Western Australia. I am the first to admit that there are areas of difficulty in connection with business enterprises and some areas of difficulty—I emphasise the word "some"—in connection with the financial world in this State in relation to its counterpart in some of the Eastern States.

I believe the experiment of last summer was a fair and just one. In fact, we conducted our experiment by remaining, as is usual, on standard time. I am not convinced that the areas of difficulty which arose were sufficient to warrant any change in the situation.

So between 1972 and 1973 he experienced his second trial period of daylight saving in reverse. He was also opposed to the introduction of the legislation in 1973. In actual fact the honourable member has had three trials of daylight saving in reverse. What I would like to know now,

after three trials, is whether he is convinced that this legislation should pass, or will he tell us later that it should not? I am interested in his attitude after experiencing three trials in reverse.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Are you trying to imply that the Bill was defeated here in 1973?

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: The Bill was defeated in 1973; I did not say here.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It was not defeated here in 1973.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: And Mr Wordsworth—

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: You sit down and I will tell the House what I will do.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I believe I have the floor, and I intend to use my right to say what I wish to say.

The PRESIDENT: Confine yourself to Standing Orders, and you will be quite in order to do that.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: Tell us what you are going to do.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I appreciate your comments, Mr President.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Look at Standing Order 72 some time.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: Give me a yell when you get to the bit about what you are going to do.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: On page 4048, on the 17th October, Mr Wordsworth said—

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: All this reading of quotes!

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: The honourable member said—

I am quite satisfied that insufficient evidence has been adduced to make us change our minds on this matter. I am sure we are all aware that Western Australia already has half an hour of daylight saving without this measure. I intend to oppose the Bill.

Fair enough, that was the opinion of Mr Wordsworth in 1972 and also in 1973. I wonder again whether he has now sufficient evidence to change his mind. We will wait and see.

The Minister who introduced the legislation here the other evening has opposed the introduction of daylight saving on the three occasions it was brought before this House during our term of office. I could, but I will not, refer to other members who contributed to the debates over these three years and indicated their objection to daylight saving. I await with interest their comments on this occasion.

We have heard that this is a nonparty measure and that all Government members have a free vote on this occasion. This indicates that on some occasions they do not have a free vote.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: We always have a free vote.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: The only other objection I have received to daylight saving is the same one I have received for the last three years; that is, an objection from the Motion Picture Exhibitors' Association of Western Australia. Of course, the association is concerned mainly with the effect of daylight saving on drive-in theatres. If you recall, Mr President, whilst you occupied the position of Leader of the Opposition, you spoke at great length on the effect daylight saving would have on this association. I do not see that the association's case has changed much—it still maintains it provides family entertainment.

Without going into it fully, at page 4049 of *Hansard* of 1973, I pointed out that in the *Daily News* or *The West Australian* at that time, of the 16 films available at metropolitan drive-in theatres on a particular night, 15 were not suitable for children, and the only one which was suitable for children was on with a show which was classified "R" or "Not Recommended for Children".

On looking at the entertainment page of today's edition of the *Daily News*, I cannot see a great deal of improvement, particularly when we remember that we are in the middle of the August school holidays. However, perhaps the association took some notice of my remarks because there is a slight improvement. Not quite the same high percentage of unsuitable films for children are showing at the drive-in theatres tonight, although we see that general exhibition films are shown with films which are not suitable for children.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: Do you believe that with daylight saving children will still be able to go to drive-in theatres?

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I believe they will. The main objection put forward by the association was that daylight saving would interfere with family outings. I would like to quote a letter which appeared in *The West Australian* of the 9th May from a lady who resides at Mt. Lawley. She said—

We recently took our children to see a film "Alice in Wonderland" which was advertised as a family special, screened due to overwhelming demand for G-certificate films. We were annoyed to see shorts from both a violent M-certificate film and an NRC movie on the same programme.

This would be undesirable at any G-certificate film, but at a show aimed directly at children it is intolerable. I am anxious to draw attention to the matter.

Although I could not find the cutting today, the association replied to the letter to the effect that the children should not have been awake by the time this preview

was shown. If this is the case, why were the children permitted to enter the theatre in the first place? The association claims it provides family entertainment, but I do not believe it does.

What has prompted the Government to change its attitude to this legislation? Have the dairy cows indicated to the Premier that this will be a good move in 1974 although they did not believe it would have been a good move last year or the year before? Has there been some revolution in the growing of wheat crops? Have the wheat farmers decided that daylight saving will not affect them as much as it would have done over the last three years?

Have the children banded together and said, "Well, it was hot last summer and the summer before that, but it will not be so hot this year, so we do not mind if we have daylight saving"? Everyone talks about the poor children in the country who have to travel 40 or 50 miles a day in a school bus. However, nowhere in the debates over the last three years has a member drawn attention to the fact that a school child has to reside more than three miles from a school to be able to ride on a school bus. What happened to our country members? Great concern was expressed about the children who took a bus to school on a hot day, but what about the children who had to walk? I know which I would rather do.

Have the potato growers found a new way to grow potatoes under daylight saving in 1974 when they could not do so over the last three years? Many other people must have changed their attitudes to enable the Premier to make the promise to introduce the legislation.

The measure we are discussing provides for certain things to take place. Firstly, the Daylight Saving Act of 1946 will be repealed. Secondly, the measure provides for a trial period; and thirdly, it provides for a referendum. I wonder what the cost of this referendum will be. Reference has been made in another place and also in this Chamber to a figure of \$200 000-odd. I do not know where this figure comes from but I do not believe it has been costed accurately. Perhaps some Government member can give me an accurate estimate of the cost of a referendum. We must bear in mind that a referendum could have been held earlier this year in conjunction with the State election had our measure been passed last year. However, this was not agreed to. At a time when the Government is crying poverty and telling us it has no money to build this and to do that, and all the time blaming someone else for its troubles, apparently it can find \$200 000 to hold a referendum.

I intend to support the second reading of this Bill because I believe, as I have said before, that the people of Western Australia should be permitted to experience a trial period of daylight saving so

they can judge for themselves—in this modern day of technological advancements and improved amenities—whether the walk which Mr Heitman took to school 57 years ago might not be so bad today. I believe the people have been deprived of this opportunity over the last three years because of the pigheadedness of the then Opposition. We have now seen a complete political somersault with the introduction of legislation to provide for exactly what we were trying to provide on three separate occasions.

I conclude by saying that I support the Bill.

**THE HON. T. KNIGHT** (South) [4.41 p.m.]: I do not wish to hold the members of this House in suspense and so I give my views on this Bill—I will oppose it.

I am not in the embarrassing position, as some other members have been, of having my previous statements in *Hansard* quoted. I am a new member in this House and I have never voted for or against a daylight saving measure. I feel, therefore, I can express my views quite freely on this Bill.

From letters I have received over the past few weeks from my constituents, I feel it is their wish that I oppose the Bill for the benefit of country people and, I believe, people throughout Western Australia. I have had no approaches from any person asking me to support the measure. I can show these numerous letters to any honourable member who wishes to see them. I believe I am doing the right thing by the people who put me in this House in opposing the Bill.

A major difficulty is that of school children who have to travel to and from school by bus. I received a letter from one mother who said that her children travelled 70 miles each way every day. This means that during the heat of the afternoon, those children will have to sit in a school bus when they could be sitting in at least a cooler classroom, with cool water available, toilet facilities provided, and so on.

Wheat farmers operate in the top part of my electorate, although I realise the bulk of the wheat farms are in other parts of the State. The problem there is that wheat bin attendants will be starting earlier and knocking off earlier. I have been on wheat farms over the past 10 or 15 years and I have seen the farmer go out at 11.00 a.m. to test the wheat to see whether it is suitable for harvesting. With daylight saving he would not go out until 12.00 noon, which would leave only four or five hours of work time left, when really speaking he should have extra hours to harvest his crop. We will see unionists working to rules or demanding overtime, and this would be a further expense to the farmer. I believe daylight saving will cre-

ate further unemployment; with four hours of daylight for leisure pursuits, many workers will look for a second job.

I have to be quite honest and say that the main thing in private enterprise is getting the job done. I believe it happens in all spheres of employment that some employees are twice as good as others. If one can employ a man for four hours to do something which would take another man eight hours, then of course one will get the first man for the job when attempting to quote competitive prices.

I also believe further unemployment will follow because drive-in theatres will notice a falling off in business with daylight saving. People who take their children to see a show will arrive home at 12.30 or 12.45 a.m. and they will probably feel this is too late to have their children out. Theatres may close because of nonattendance, and many more people in the State will be out of work. We cannot afford unemployment in the present situation in Australia.

It will also inconvenience the patrons of the drive-in theatres because it means it will be very late before they can set off to see a show.

They do not want to start looking forward to going out at that time. I believe the type of entertainment people in Western Australia have demanded for so long will be forsaken for this stupid Bill. I oppose the Bill.

**THE HON. W. R. WITHERS** (North) [4.45 p.m.]: For the sake of new members I will give some *Hansard* references and for the sake of old members I will not bore them because my views on this matter have been expressed many times in this House.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: My gratitude is boundless.

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: For the benefit of Mr Claughton, I have no intention of changing my previous views or of changing my vote. I refer new members to pages 1867 to 1870 in the 1971 *Hansard*, and pages 3976 to 3977, and page 614 of the 1972 *Hansard*. If they read those pages they will know my views.

I have given to members of this House a table and a map. These hold no biased views; they represent merely a presentation of the amount of sunlight hours and the hours of sunrise and sunset experienced in various places throughout the State. As I have said before, this State is far too large to have one standard time zone. In my opinion, a great amount of conflict will occur between the various people representing varying interests in different parts of the State. I must emphasise, however, that I agree we should have a referendum to allow the majority

of people to say whether we should have daylight saving. Frankly, I do not think there is merit either for daylight saving or against daylight saving throughout the State. I only know that in my home town I would like to see daylight saving introduced—in fact, I think we need it—whereas the people in the western part of my province definitely do not need daylight saving. I think the matter should go to a referendum after a trial period and I support the Bill.

**THE HON. D. W. COOLEY** (North-East Metropolitan) [4.48 p.m.]: I will support the Bill if only for the reason that 90 per cent of the people of this continent will adopt daylight saving this year and it seems to me to be inconsistent with the national interest to be out of line with the actions of the rest of the country. The principle of daylight saving is nothing new; northern European countries have had daylight saving for many years and, as I understand the situation in those countries, no great disadvantages or discomforts are experienced by those people. I do not think their health has suffered as a consequence of daylight saving or that the farming communities of those nations have suffered any loss of revenue. To my mind, this is rather sensible legislation.

It has been said in this Chamber during the debate on another Bill that comparisons often are made between things that happen in the Eastern States and those that happen in Western Australia. I think to be consistent, members opposite should support the Bill in order to achieve some sort of national unity in respect of time. Unlike my colleague, the Hon. Lyla Elliott, I am not amazed at the about-face of the Liberals in respect of this question, because while I am a new member, I understand there has been a great deal of opposition in the Liberal Party to this legislation. Members opposite blocked the Bill consistently when the Labor Party was in office. It is beyond my comprehension to understand how they can reject a Bill on daylight saving introduced by the Labor Party and then support their own.

The Hon. J. Heltman: It is a different Bill, that is why.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: I do not suppose it can be any more amazing than the situation which developed in another place where the Minister who introduced the Bill actually voted against it. I have dealt with and moved hundreds of motions in my time but I have never known anybody to move a motion and then vote against it.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: We live and learn.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: I will say we do.

*Point of Order*

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Mr. President, I raise a point of order. Would you give me the benefit of your advice on Standing Order 82 relevant to the debate as it is proceeding?

The PRESIDENT: Standing Order 82 states—

No Member shall reflect upon any vote of the Council except for the purpose of moving that such vote be rescinded.

The honourable member and one or two other members have gone very close to reflecting on the Council and I ask Mr. Cooley to respect the contents of Standing Order 82.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: I am sorry, Mr President, but I did not think I mentioned the Council. I was referring to a Minister in another place.

The PRESIDENT: Just prior to that you mentioned the views of members in this House.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: I apologise, Mr President, for my breach of Standing Orders.

*Debate Resumed*

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: It is an incredible situation to me that a measure should be introduced into the Parliament by a Government, and after it has been introduced, for the Government to say to the people, "We will give you the opportunity to vote at a referendum to see whether you like it or not." It is an amazing situation to impose something on people and then ask them by way of referendum whether or not they like it. However, I believe this is in keeping with the policies of this Conservative Government in respect of not facing up to its obligations. If daylight saving is a good thing, why does the Government not say it is a good thing and introduce it as a legislative measure? The people of this State will very quickly let the Government know whether they like it, without the necessity to conduct a referendum.

Although I do not intend to move any amendments, I am greatly opposed to the manner in which the referendum will be conducted. The referendums I have experienced have asked for a simple "Yes" or "No" vote, whereas under this proposal the people will be asked to vote "1" or "2". This will tend to favour the supporter of daylight saving because question "1" relates to whether the voter supports daylight saving.

The Hon. G. W. Berry: Is the TLC supporting daylight saving?

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: The TLC does not take part in the debates in this House. I represent the North-East Metropolitan Province.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Does the Liberal Party support the Bill?

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: Of course the Liberal Party supports the Bill.

The Hon. G. W. Berry: I may be wrong, but I have seen it mentioned somewhere that the TLC does not support daylight saving.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: This question was played down greatly during the election speeches of the Liberal Party and in some respects I feel a little sorry for the country people with regard to the attitude of the Liberal Party to this issue. I can understand the views of country people and of members of this House, particularly members of the Country Party, who represent country areas. I have always found country people to be rather insular and conservative in their outlook—I do not say that in any critical manner—and to live in little groups, not believing in changes. I appreciate that, but overall I have found them to be very nice people. However, they have been sold out by the Liberal Party on this question.

We know full well that the country people of Western Australia do not want daylight saving, but despite this the Liberal Party intends to introduce it. If I were a member of the Country Party, or a person living in the country, I would be wondering why this about-face has come about and why the Liberal Party has sold its country counterparts down the river. The only conclusion to which I can come is that he who pays the piper calls the tune on this issue and I believe that big business had a hand in this. It has said in no uncertain terms, "We want daylight saving introduced so that our business interests will be looked after."

I believe this has been the overriding consideration, in spite of the so-called allegiance the Liberal Party has with the Country Party. That allegiance is wearing very thin; this statement can be borne out by looking at the number of Country Party members sitting in this Chamber at present. Slowly but surely the policies of the Liberal Party are phasing them out.

The PRESIDENT: Will the honourable member be connecting these remarks to the Daylight Saving Bill?

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: Yes, Mr President, I do connect them to the Daylight Saving Bill because I believe this demonstrates the hypocritical attitude of the Liberal Party and represents a sell-out of the Country Party. Mr Clive Griffiths said the other day that people on this side had better practise their typing and bring out their boiler suits because they were going to lose their seats. I think the Liberals who represent country areas should have a similar fear because they must explain this about-face to their country constituents when the country people have expressed opposition to this legislation.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: They had better polish up their ploughs.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: I am a city dweller from way back, but I believe in daylight saving. I think it will benefit the people in my province more than it will benefit country people. The majority of people who live in the North-East Metropolitan Province are metropolitan dwellers and work a set eight hours a day. I believe they will appreciate the chance of rising closer to the rising of the sun and enjoying the pleasant hours of a long summer evening after they return home from work. In many countries great sporting benefit is derived from daylight saving. I know that in England a very keen cricket competition is played amongst very good teams during the hours after work. Sometimes that competition is played until 9.30 in the evening.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: There is a different geographical situation altogether.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: Nevertheless, there are advantages associated with daylight saving and I believe those advantages can be enjoyed by the Australian people.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The TLC is going to be very cross with you.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: What has this to do with the TLC?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The TLC has come out against daylight saving.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: I am not here representing the TLC; I represent the North-East Metropolitan Province.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: But they will be very cross with you.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: The TLC will be very cross with you for introducing the Bill.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: Great play has been made about drive-in theatres. The people who manage these theatres are the only ones who, to my knowledge, have indicated that they are opposed to daylight saving. But I imagine they will adjust themselves. They will still be able to project on their screens the same muck they are doing now; perhaps not this week because the children are on school holidays. But the drive-in theatres will still be able to project their "R" certificate films to the satisfaction of their clients. They will get over the difficulty, and I do not think they are being treated any differently from their counterparts in the metropolitan cinemas when they came into operation.

If there is such a great hostility to the introduction of daylight saving where are all the protesters? The galleries in this House are empty except for a few people seated above me. So where are those who are protesting? If people are upset about this, as some members would have us be-

lieve, one would think they would be here in Perth with their tomatoes and cans demonstrating against the Bill.

The Hon. T. O. Perry: They cannot get off work.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: It is very inconsistent for people to say that daylight saving will encourage part-time employment and then to add it will create unemployment in the drive-in theatres, because all those employed at these theatres, except perhaps the projectionists are, in the main, part-time workers. These people only fill in and probably are doing another job during the day.

The Hon. T. Knight: Where are your supporters in the gallery?

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: I was coming to that. There is a Bill being debated in another place at the moment and there are 50 people on the lawn outside protesting against it. If there are people who object to the introduction of daylight saving where are they now? There are no objections at all; at least I have not seen anybody objecting and nor have I received written objections or objections by word of mouth.

The Hon. T. Knight: Your supporters merely have to walk up the street, whereas ours have to travel 400 miles.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: I do feel sorry for the country people who oppose the Bill because they have been sold out by their Liberal counterparts and the Country Party members who are here will find it very difficult to explain the position to their constituents.

While I support the Bill, I question the motive and the sincerity of the Government in introducing it, and I hope the Minister who introduced the measure will support it.

**THE HON. C. R. ABBEY** (West) [5.03 p.m.]: Mr Cooley will probably be amazed to know that, as a Liberal, I propose to oppose the Bill.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I am not.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: But the honourable member will know I am consistent.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: So is Mr Dans.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: I will not enter into the arguments put forward by the various speakers on the merits of the Bill as they see it. There is one point that is made by Mr Cooley which sticks in my memory. He asked: Why are not those who oppose the measure here to make their presence felt? That is rather an amazing statement. The women—and there are many—with young children would find it extremely difficult to attend the House at this time, either in the afternoon or in the evening, to put forward their protest. I do believe, however, that they are most concerned about the matter.

The greater part of the protests which I have received, mostly verbal, have come from this section of the community. The women in this State who have young children who have to travel on buses are vitally concerned because of the effect daylight saving will have on their children. I find that women generally who have expressed an opinion feel they are well aware of the disabilities they will suffer if the Bill is passed and it is necessary for them to accept daylight saving. I well remember a plea which was contained in the *Women's Weekly*, which is a national magazine.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You are not going to bring up that tripe.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: I do not propose to quote from it.

The Hon. R. Thompson: That would be the weakest thing anybody could refer to. It was pathetic.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: The lady concerned asked that they be given back their extra hour's sleep.

The Hon. R. Thompson: It was pathetic.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: That is the opinion of the Leader of the Opposition. I believe there is a reasonable basis for the opinion and if the honourable member would care to confer with a number of mothers he will find that they agree with the article. But that is by the way; it is the opinion of the lady who wrote the article.

I do honestly believe, however, that daylight saving would have a serious effect on mothers with young families. It will certainly permit the husband to have an extra hour in the hotel if he so desires; it will certainly permit him to go to the beach and will allow his grown up family to visit the beach or play sport if they so desire. In my experience we see any number of people who have large waist-lines; and I am not looking at Mr Dans.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Look at Mr Lewis; I see he is not here!

The PRESIDENT: Will the honourable member please address the Chair.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: Very well, Mr President, though I will not refer to you in that fashion.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Stop undressing people.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: It is quite obvious that a large number of people in the community are becoming quite soft in this regard. It is too easy these days for them to visit the hotel after work. Most people would knock off early whatever their job—except, unfortunately, members of Parliament—and they would have an opportunity to indulge themselves in this way. That is fair enough. It is the choice of the person concerned, but it will not do his health much good if he decides to spend an extra hour in the hotel.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Why in the hotel? Could not he spend it on the bowling green, on the beach, or doing gardening?

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: This is a familiar argument, but people will do what they wish to do. Unfortunately we have had a repetition of many of the debates that have ensued in the past years and I do not wish to become repetitive. However for the benefit of the new members it may be worth repeating a few of the arguments that have been used against daylight saving.

One of the very good arguments that has been used against daylight saving has been put forward by the West Australian Motion Picture Exhibitors' Association, but because of the time element and the possibility that we may take a vote on the Bill this evening I will not quote from that submission to any great extent.

Anybody who considers this question seriously should have a look at these facts. It is quite possible the Bill will have an effect on employment and on the business of the Motion Picture Exhibitors' Association. You yourself, Sir, in the past years have informed the House of some of these reasons. They are all there to be read in *Hansard* if anyone wishes to read them.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Have you ever studied the number of "R" certificate films that these people show, to which the family man cannot take his children?

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: I was not specifically referring to the family man.

The Hon. R. Thompson: They are out for a quick buck at anybody's expense and they should not be considered.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: They are business people and they should have their side of the story put forward.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: Read where they claim about it being family entertainment.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: The only portion of their submission which I wish to quote—and this mainly for the benefit of new members—is part 3 which refers to sunlight, in which it is stated—

*Sunlight*: Perth has around three hours more Summer sunlight per day than Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane or Hobart. The official monthly average figures are:—

	Hours per day		
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Perth ....	10.5	10.4	10.0
Sydney ....	7.3	7.2	6.6
Melbourne ..	7.3	8.1	7.5
Brisbane ....	8.1	7.6	7.1
Hobart ....	6.9	7.5	6.7

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Those are the hours of sunlight, not the hours of daylight.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: That is exactly what I said when I started to quote the passage. So there we have in sunlight approximately a 3½ hour differential. Each year, for many years now I have had



occasion to travel to the Eastern States. Great play has been made in the past of the fact that this three-hour discrepancy has some sort of effect on travellers. I must say that I have not observed this to be the case. It has not had the slightest effect on my comfort or convenience, so the argument that has been raised has very little substance.

The Hon. R. Thompson: If you use your own argument the hour's differential with daylight saving will not make any difference to you.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: I am using the argument put forward mainly by business investors in the short-term money market who say they suffer disabilities in the markets between the Eastern States and Western Australia.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: That is a difference in business hours, but you are talking about travelling.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: That is part of the Bill. It is possible they would suffer some disability if they stuck to their normal business hours, but being a small section of the community, surely it would be no problem for them to go to work an hour or so earlier to make contact with the Eastern States. I do not think this argument holds water at all.

The Hon. T. O. Perry: It would do them good to see the sun rise occasionally.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: It would do them no harm at all.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: Have you just woken up?

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: This Bill differs from the previous legislation inasmuch as it provides for a referendum after a year's trial. I cannot see that it warrants a referendum. It is a fairly controversial matter which members of the community raise with their members of Parliament each year and as time goes on fewer people seem to raise the matter. There are certainly very few in favour of it. Those who reiterate their objections are of course indulging in repetition. We have had a rather boring experience in this House of having had similar Bills introduced on many occasions. The position almost rivals the action taken by Mr Jack Thomson who continually tried to introduce amendments to the Sales by Auction Act.

The Hon. R. Thompson: It took a Labor Government to sort that out. You could not do it.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: If that is so it is at least one good thing that has been achieved by the Labor Government.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Thanks.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: In order to give other members an opportunity to express their views this afternoon, I will say no more about the subject except that I am consistent. I do not intend to vote

for the Bill. The fact that it has been introduced by a Liberal-Country Party Government does not make any difference to my attitude. We have a free vote and it is a shame that the members of the Labor Party do not likewise have a free vote.

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan) [5.16 p.m.]: I think that my attitude on daylight saving is well known to members of the House who were here last session; and I do not propose to go over the arguments again because it would be quite unnecessary as I have stated them on three previous occasions.

It does strike me as being incredible that this Bill has become an annual event. It is getting rather like the Supply Bills or the pay-roll tax legislation. The latter has not been quite an annual event, but it is fast becoming one. It has been dealt with in the last two years. In fact we have had three pay-roll tax Bills in four years and four Daylight Saving Bills in four successive years. This confirms the view I have always held; that if one has strong views about something one should stick to them. On the other hand there are occasions when one finds one is wrong, and I admire a man or a woman, in any walk of life—whether parliamentary or otherwise—who can stand up and say, "I made a mistake. I had certain views about this subject, but I have been shown I am wrong." I believe the public admire this type of person and it is quite right that they should. It is all too rarely that we find such a person.

Therefore I cannot really join in the jibes which passed across the Chamber a few moments ago about members who might be changing their minds, although I have not yet heard anyone who has indicated that he or she has had a change of mind. So far all members who have spoken, and who spoke before, have indicated they have exactly the same views they expressed on previous occasions.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: The Leader of the House has changed his mind.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I would not be too sure that when those on this side of the House cast their vote they will all vote for it. I do not know how they will vote.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: Does the Leader of the Opposition mean that some of the members of his party may vote against daylight saving?

The Hon. R. Thompson: That is possible. That is their choice.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: I see. I did not know that members of the Opposition were allowed a free vote.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You were not listening earlier then.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: It is interesting to hear that the Labor Party is now extending to its members the same privileges already extended to members of the Liberal and Country Parties.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: The same privilege which, on the surface, applies to members of the Liberal Party.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: The members of the Liberal and Country Parties have had a free vote on this subject on each of the three times it has been introduced, and this is the fourth occasion. Each time I have voted according to my conscience as I believe have other members.

On each occasion I have been in opposition on this one and the number of members who have agreed with me have been fewer than the number with views opposed to mine. I do not hold that against them for a moment. I think that largely daylight saving is a matter of opinion. If ever there was a matter of conscience, this is it. After all, it is a matter of opinion. Who can say that those who believe we should have daylight saving are right? That is only their personal opinion. Unless we are ruled by some outside body which agrees that we shall vote a certain way, we should express our own opinion honestly and openly.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: How can you promise something in an election campaign without knowing whether or not it will be passed?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: I am sorry, I could not hear the interjection.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: That was convenient.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: I believe it is necessary for people to be honest in their opinions, and this applies particularly to members of this House. I cannot for the life of me find one word of criticism of members who exercise a free vote and decide in their own minds what they believe to be right, and vote accordingly. I could not criticise them. Mr Heitman, whom I greatly admire and respect, holds a view directly opposite to mine on this subject. That does not in any way lessen my respect for his opinion or for him, because I know he holds that opinion honestly, and has given a lot of thought to the subject. I know he holds that opinion because he comes from a different kind of environment from that in which I live and his considerations affect country people—referred to by Mr Cooley—who are uppermost in his mind.

I respect his opinion. He is the last person I would criticise, merely because he has a view different from mine. I might be wrong, and this applies to each of us.

I wish to reiterate my view as briefly as possible, because I have expressed it on three previous occasions. Basically I believe that largely the question of daylight

saving is a matter of opinion and two elements are involved. One is the question of what we might call daylight saving proper; that is, is daylight saving a good thing in Western Australia, bearing in mind our geographical position and all general factors of life including the environment, climate, and so on? That is one question. Some will say that it is a good thing because they want to get up early in the morning to have a swim, or because they want to play tennis, bowls, or cricket when they knock off work in the afternoon.

On the other hand for various reasons others will say the opposite. That seems to me to be the first question; namely, whether or not it is a good thing for Western Australia. As I have said, largely the answer to that is based on opinion.

The second element, which I have mentioned before and is the basic reason I subscribe to daylight saving, is that we must do everything we can to encourage the growth of employment opportunities and the growth of the prosperity of businesses in Western Australia. In the final analysis the prosperity of businesses also means the prosperity of all the people affected by commercial enterprises and the spin-off which results from them. To me the important aspect is the time differential and the fact that daylight saving here would leave us with the same two-hour time difference which we have at present.

It is difficult for businesses to readjust to the extra hour differential. It is difficult for communications, telex, telephone, aircraft times, and all the other aspects involving keeping in touch with the Eastern States. We cannot live on our own here in a commercial sense. Most of our businesses are dependent in one way or another on contact and frequent communication with people in the Eastern States, and this aspect is important.

This is the reason I support daylight saving. It has nothing to do with big business as might have been suggested a moment ago by a previous speaker. Whether or not we have daylight saving affects small businesses, ordinary people who travel, and people who have relatives and contacts in any walk of life—not only in business—in the Eastern States. For that reason I believe we must go along with daylight saving.

However, I would like to make a point. We have always had it suggested to us that daylight saving is to be introduced only for a trial period. This still applies under the legislation before us because it provides for a trial period of daylight saving. I do not think it uses that word, but it does provide for daylight saving for a certain period; therefore we are concerned only with giving daylight saving a trial. We have not done that yet, not since

the war. I believe we should give it a try now. It is also an excellent idea that the public should then be allowed to vote on the subject because I cannot think of any fairer method than having a referendum of everyone to see whether or not they want to have daylight saving, after they have experienced it for a summer.

I could not agree with the proposal submitted last year by the Tonkin Government for a referendum to be held on election day before daylight saving was given a trial. That did not seem to me to be a reasonable proposition. However, I do believe that a trial period should be experienced and then the public should be given the opportunity to express their opinion by way of a referendum.

I do not believe I am being inconsistent when I express that view because I can recall that this was the substance of an amendment which you, Mr President, moved—if you will excuse my embroiling you in this subject. I realise you are not personally embroiled any longer, but you did move an amendment in this House for a referendum to be held after a trial period of daylight saving. However that proposal was rejected by the Labor Government which was then in office. All my small efforts to convince the members of the Government to support that amendment were of no avail.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: That might have gone through on that occasion.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: The Bill could have gone through at that stage. However, I will not engage in any recriminations because there would be no future in doing so. I do indicate, however, that once again I support the Bill in the hope that people of Western Australia will be given an opportunity to experience daylight saving this summer to see whether or not they would like it to become permanent.

**THE HON. J. C. TOZER** (North) [5.26 p.m.]: Like the two previous speakers, it is not my intention to go over the ground already covered in this debate today, and also on the three previous occasions, but I would like to deal with daylight saving as it affects the North Province. As that province is approximately 1500 km from east to west, it probably covers a wider area than does any other province in Western Australia. It extends from the 114th degree of longitude to the 129th degree. Onslow, on the western extremity already has a natural daylight saving of about 20 minutes; that is, in excess of Perth. Kununurra, on the eastern extremity, is about 40 minutes in front of the western standard time.

Clearly the people in Kununurra, Wyndham, and Halls Creek demand the right to enjoy daylight saving. The sun rises well before 5.00 a.m. on the 22nd Decem-

ber. A short distance to the east the people are on central standard time which is 1½ hours in advance of the standard time in their own State. Those towns have already introduced an unofficial daylight saving which works quite effectively for the most part. However, certain people in Government departments, banks, and other organisations, are bound by their head offices in other places, and this creates a great deal of difficulty for them.

Koolan Island, Cockatoo Island, and Derby are somewhat east of Laverton and daylight saving will be of material benefit to them. In those places the people will welcome the opportunity to make the maximum use of the comfortable cooler daylight hours in the mornings. The same could be said of the people in Broome.

Onslow is on the extreme western end of the province, but the people there are not opposed to daylight saving. They are quite happy to accept it for a trial period after which they will express their opinion as to whether or not they would like it permanently.

The great bulk of the people in the North Province live in that strip of land between the 117th and 120th degree of longitude. Thus, members will be aware that for them there is very little difference between the western standard time and solar time.

The area embraces nearly all the mining communities, and of course the people in these communities work on a 24-hour, three shifts a day basis. Thus, as far as the workaday life is concerned there will not be any material advantage or disadvantage. However, from a leisure time point of view, these people who have worked hard for long hours will appreciate the evening which they can spend in recreation and relaxation with their families.

I have canvassed every shire council in the North Province and have not received one adverse reaction. One or two were not definite but the balance were strongly in favour of daylight saving. In addition, I have sought a reaction from the Chambers of Commerce in the principal towns, and the reaction has been identical.

I think education, which has already been referred to in this debate, should be mentioned as it is affected in the North Province. Here again we find that flexible time has been introduced—unofficial daylight saving. We have the situation in Halls Creek where last year the headmaster in co-operation with the parents concerned, lengthened the hours of study during the second term and shortened the hours of study in the first and third terms. In fact, by starting at 7.00 o'clock in the morning he has been able to send the children home by about 1.00 o'clock, having finished the day's work.

The classrooms in this area really become hot-boxes. It is generally conceded that precious little learning is done in the afternoon in these schools. Not only are the children drowsy and affected by the hot conditions in midsummer, but also the teachers clearly cannot produce their best under these conditions.

Because of the reaction I have received throughout the North Province, I have no option but to support the Bill as presented, provided daylight saving is on a trial basis and at the end of the trial period a referendum is held to assess whether the trial has in fact been a success.

I believe that darkness is for sleeping and daylight is for getting about our business. When I say "getting about our business", I refer not only to our activities during the day at work but also to our recreational and social activities. I think the hours between sun-up and get-up as they exist under present standard time are a waste of good productive time, and this applies to the North Province more than to most other places.

It has not been mentioned in this debate—although perhaps it has been mentioned in previous years—but I believe it is important to recognise that fossil fuels are limited in their ultimate availability, and there is no doubt in my mind that it makes good sense to reduce the hours in which we have our power generators burning up fuels and in which we must have lights turned on. I think there will be a saving in this respect.

During the course of this debate mention has been made of the cost of the referendum. I hope the Minister will provide us with his estimate of the cost of it. I think it is very important that we know that figure.

Reference was also made to the logic of having a trial period before the referendum. Quite frankly, I think it is quite logical. It would be quite illogical to hold a referendum without first having a trial period upon which we can base our judgments. I do not find this a reason to criticise the Bill at all.

I was rather amused by Mr Cooley's belief that the Bill might be supported because big business wanted it to be supported. Presumably the minions of big business in this House were going to change their minds and vote for the Bill. I was thinking about the headline in the newspaper tomorrow morning—"The Hon. Don Cooley supports big business".

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: That will be the day!

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I believe my province needs daylight saving and needs the opportunity to try it out and vote on whether the arrangement should be made a permanent part of our social life. I support the Bill.

**THE HON. G. E. MASTERS (West)** [5.36 p.m.]: I am one of those members here today who are very lucky not to be able to be quoted. I have not said anything for or against this type of legislation before.

As far as I am concerned, the important aspect of it is that daylight saving is to be introduced for a trial period following which the public will be allowed to make their decision. Therefore, I strongly support the Bill.

I worked fairly hard prior to the election in both urban and rural areas, and on the question of daylight saving I found opinion was fairly well split. I therefore took the stand that a trial period would positively sort out the problems and allow people to make up their minds and indicate to us how they felt about it.

It has been suggested that the children in country areas will suffer quite a lot. I do not really believe that. Children are very adaptable and after a few weeks they will become used to the system and will not know the difference. Daylight saving will become part of their life and they will accept it.

It has also been suggested that animals—in particular dairy herds—will suffer. I do not believe there has yet been born a dairy cow that can tell the time, and I cannot see how a dairy cow can possibly be affected by our changing the hours. I have had a fair amount of experience with cows. However, it was a few years ago and dairy cows may have been improved since then.

The Hon. J. Heitman: They may have been of a different kind.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: Yes, and it was a few years ago. I do not believe cows are able to tell the difference when the hours are changed. Perhaps they are sensitive to the temperature of people's hands, but methods of milking have changed in modern times.

I believe many people have been brainwashed by the persistent talking and arguing about daylight saving that has been going on in the political field. I do not think for a second it should be a political issue. It should be a matter of conscience, finally leaving it to the public to decide. Nevertheless, people seem to be brainwashed to the point that they are frightened to try daylight saving. This worries me. I hope the legislation will go through so that people will have an opportunity to see for themselves. I do not believe we should be judge and jury in this case but that the people should decide the issue.

It was 1917 when daylight saving was experienced. That was a good many years ago and I certainly cannot remember it. Therefore I would like to try it myself. Times have changed and we have a new generation of young people who would like to see what happens.

The Hon. R. Thompson: These old fogies are living in the past.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I have not said that. I suggest the new generation and the young people will want to try it—and by “young people” I mean those under 40.

Things have changed very rapidly, even in the field of transport. In country areas children no longer have to walk or ride a horse three, four, or five miles to school, because in most cases there is adequate transport. In the metropolitan area people have cars. Even youngsters have cars. At one time there may have been one car to a family; now there are two or three. The young people want the opportunity to see what it is like to go to the coast or play tennis, bowls, cricket, and so on, after they have finished work. I think they are entitled to find out for themselves what it is like.

Recreational facilities have been developed over recent years and local authorities have spent a fortune on upgrading recreational areas. Those facilities are not being used to the full extent because the hours of darkness come too soon. People therefore acquire the terrible habit of becoming plugged to the television set, or “the tube”. I believe television is taking over our way of life, and perhaps daylight saving will help to offset this.

We have been told by Mr Medcalf that the business world will be very happy to see a trial period in order that businessmen can make up their own minds. Last year the Chamber of Commerce held a poll which indicated that the business world would be very happy to have a trial period of daylight saving and to go along with it for all time. Even a small machinery firm can lose a lot of time and money if there is a breakdown in, say, a tractor at 2.00 o'clock in the afternoon, at which time it may not be possible to get in touch with the Eastern States to have the necessary parts flown over. It costs quite a few hundred dollars to have a big piece of machinery out of commission for 24 hours.

The Hon. J. Heitman: The farmers cannot get through, either.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: Yes. They do not know the advantages. Perhaps they will change their minds when they have had an opportunity to see the advantages of getting service from the Eastern States.

The Hon. J. Heitman: Why do they have to get it from the Eastern States?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: Unfortunately, many parts are not stocked here.

The Hon. J. Heitman: I am asking the question. Never mind about daylight saving—that will look after itself.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: The point was also raised that the accident rate would be lower. We are spending a fortune on trying to bring down the accident rate. If there is one thing that can reduce

that problem, and this is it, we should give it a try. We will soon be able to find out, and the public can judge for themselves and make a decision, taking this and all other facets into consideration.

As far as I am concerned, it was an election promise on my part. It was part of our policy and my policy. I went around to my constituents and said quite clearly that I was in favour of a trial period so that the public could make their own decision. I support the Bill.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. D. K. Dans.

*House adjourned at 5.42 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 29th August, 1974

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

### QUESTIONS (38): ON NOTICE

#### 1. BUSSELL HIGHWAY

##### *Deviation through Mineral Claims*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Further to question 34 on 15th August, is it true that any deviation of Bussell Highway westward in this area will pass across mineral claims?
- (2) Will the Main Roads Department proposal to deviate Bussell Highway through State Forest No. 2 encroach upon recently approved mineral claims Nos. 1002 and 1024?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The proposed deviation will encroach on claim No. 1002 but not on 1024.

#### 2. ROADS

##### *South-West Coastal Links*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Commissioner of Main Roads aware of any of the following suggestions—
  - (a) the extension of Ocean Drive down the coast from Bunbury to Stratham;
  - (b) the provision of a direct road link between Cape Naturaliste and Yallingup;
  - (c) a loop entry/exit for the Augusta townsite?
- (2) If so, could details be supplied?