

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 11th October, 1962

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

POLICE SUMMER UNIFORMS

Provision of Woollen Shirts

- Mr. W. A. MANNING asked the Minister for Police:
 - (1) Is the Police Force to be provided with new shirts for summer uniforms?
 - (2) Are these made of wool?
 - (3) Will they be issued prior to the Commonwealth Games in order to provide evidence to overseas visitors of the value of fine woollen garments?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) to (3) Yes.

GAMES VILLAGE

Architects' Fees

- Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

Respecting the Games Village, on the 11th September, in reply to questions, he stated that a sum of £10,267 had been expended as part payment of architects' fees, and that there was a cost yet to be met, viz.: "Balance of architects' fees £21,172" making a total of architects' fees of £31,439. How does he reconcile this last mentioned figure with his reply to questions on the 9th October, viz.: "Architects' fees £14,000," and even if there is added to that figure the following: "Architectural prize money and completion expenses £5,295," and "Architectural (additional to architects' fees) £4,513" the resultant total is only £23,808?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

	£
The answer given on the 11th September, 1962, comprised part-payment of architectural fees	10,267
Balance of architects' fees	21,172
	<hr/> 31,439

The answer given on Tuesday, the 9th October, 1962, comprised—

	£
Architects' fees	14,000
Plus architectural prize money and competition expenses	5,295
Commission architectural (additional to architects' fees)	4,513
Supervision (S.H.C.)	7,632
	<hr/> 31,440

It would appear that in his compilation of figures the honourable member has not included the amount of £7,632 for commission supervision on the site.

COMMONWEALTH-STATE HOUSING AGREEMENT

Reserve Accounts

3. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Of the various items which together constitute the economic rental payable under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, which are placed in reserve accounts?
- (2) What is the present state of such accounts?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) (a) Maintenance, and
(b) Insurance factors.
- (2) The reserves set aside from rental factors since 1945 total approximately £353,000. To this should be added £149,000 recouped by the Commonwealth as its share of losses.

WIRE AND WIRE NETTING ACT

Advances and Repayments

4. Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) With reference to the Wire and Wire Netting Act, 1926, the administration of which was subsequently transferred to the Rural and Industries Bank, what is the total amount still outstanding for advances made thereunder?

(2) What repayments were received in each of the following financial periods:—

- Year ended 30/6/60;
- Year ended 30/6/61;
- Year ended 30/6/62?

(3) How were these repayments moneys applied?

(4) What amounts were advanced in each of the following financial years:—

- Year ended 30/6/60;
- Year ended 30/6/61;
- Year ended 30/6/62?

(5) On what date was the last individual advance approved?

(6) Are applications for advances being entertained?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) £90 11s. 10d.
- (2) Year ended 30/6/1960—£410.
Year ended 30/6/1961—£96.
Year ended 30/6/1962—£253.
- (3) Paid to the Treasury Department.
- (4) Nil in each year.
- (5) Approximately 1930.
- (6) Not under the Act referred to. Nowadays advances are made under the "Wire & Wire Netting Delegated Agency."

STATE SHIPPING SERVICE

Freight Rates and Port Charges

5. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for the North-West:

- (1) What are the freight rates per ton as operative today on State ships between Fremantle and Carnarvon?
- (2) What are the port charges per ton on goods shipped at Fremantle by the State ships to north-west ports?
- (3) What are the Harbour and Light charges per ton at Carnarvon?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) General cargo—110s. per ton.
Refrigerated cargo—165s. per ton.
Timber—134s. per ton.
Motor spirit—41s. 3d. per ton.
- (2) Locally-produced goods through the shed—24s. 6d. per ton.
Other goods through the shed—26s. per ton.
Local goods direct ex vehicle—10s. 6d. per ton.
Other goods direct ex vehicle—12s. 6d. per ton.
- (3) 29s. 8d. per ton.

KALAMUNDA ROAD*Widening and Rebuilding*

6. Mr. DUNN asked the Minister for Works:

Could he advise when the widening and rebuilding of Kalamunda Road (between the two sections previously completed) will be commenced, and the likely completion date?

Mr. WILD replied:

It is expected that the work will be commenced and completed during the coming summer.

7. *This question was postponed.*

BUNBURY POWER STATION*Installation of Ash-arresting Equipment*

8. Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) What is the estimated cost of installing suitable ash-arresting equipment in the Bunbury power station?
- (2) What would be the estimated annual maintenance cost of such equipment?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) £750,000 to £800,000.
- (2) £8,000 to £10,000.

9. *This question was postponed.*

HOSPITAL BENEFIT FUND*Amount Added to Reserves*

10. Mr. W. A. MANNING asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) How much has been added to reserves in the Hospital Benefit Fund in each of the last three years?
- (2) Is the reserve now considered sufficient to meet emergencies?
- (3) If so, is it likely that benefits can be increased?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) I am advised by the Hospital Benefit Fund of W.A. that total transfers to reserves in respect of both hospital fund and medical fund are as follows:—

	£
1959-60	199,800
1960-61	304,800
1961-62	318,000

These figures include £355,000 transferred to a specific reserve required by regulation to cover three months' claims in the event of winding up.

- (2) Yes—in respect of the particular fund to which the honourable member refers.

- (3) Benefits can be increased only with Commonwealth approval. I am advised that this matter is being considered by the Commonwealth and the funds on an Australia-wide basis.

11. *This question was postponed.*

HIRE-PURCHASE ACT.*Breaches: Action against Offenders*

12. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Did his Department of Police initiate the action resulting in the charge being made against certain car dealers of having conspired to pervert the course of justice?
- (2) If not, which department was responsible?
- (3) Why is no such initiative taken by any department in connection with the numerous offences against the Hire-Purchase Act, which have been committed; viz., offences against sections 3 and 28 of that Act?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).
- (3) No complaints of offences under the relevant sections have been received by the Police Department. If complaints are received they will be investigated.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS*Availability*

13. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) When will the report of the Department of Agriculture for the year ended the 30th June, 1961, be available?
- (2) Can an estimate be given as to when the report for the year ended the 30th June, 1962, will be available?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) The report for the year ended the 30th June, 1961, is in the hands of the printer and I expect to table it within a month.
- (2) Although the report for the year ended June, 1962, is well in hand, it is not expected to be finalised in time for tabling during the current session.

GAMES VILLAGE*Inspection by Local Authorities*

14. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

Having regard for the fact that local authorities contributed some thousands of pounds to the Commonwealth Games Appeal Fund,

and in view of approaches which have been made to me inquiring whether they could join the parliamentary inspection of the Games Village, would he be good enough to arrange a separate inspection for councillors of local governing bodies?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

The Minister for Housing is prepared to make the necessary arrangements for members of local governing bodies to inspect the Games Village, and asks that any local authority interested should communicate with his office.

LICENSED PREMISES BOOKMAKERS

Names and Localities for Perth Area

15. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister for Police:

Will he advise the names and localities of all licensed premises bookmakers still operating within a 25-mile radial distance from Perth?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

Mr. C. J. A. Moyns—Rottnest Island.

Mr. T. A. Volich—Lot 43 Jacoby Street, Mundaring.

ALBANY GAOL

Cost and Commencement

16. Mr. HALL asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Has the detailed planning been completed for the new gaol at Albany?
- (2) If so, what is the approximate cost and when will work commence?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No; but every endeavour is being made to finalise plans and to have the work commenced by the end of this financial year.
- (2) At this stage it is not possible to give an indication of the approximate cost.

ALBANY STOCKYARDS

New Railway Yards and Facilities

17. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Is it the intention of the W.A.G.R. to erect new stockyards and facilities at Albany?
- (2) If so, when is it anticipated they will be built and what will be the approximate cost?
- (3) If the answer to No. (1) is "Yes," where will they be built?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) There is no current proposal for this work.
- (2) and (3) Answered by No. (1).

STAMP DUTY

Rates in Eastern States and A.C.T.

18. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Treasurer:

- (1) What are the respective duty stamp rates for receipts applicable to each of the Eastern States and the Australian Capital Territory?

New Rates in Western Australia

- (2) From what date is it proposed that the new rates will apply in this State?

Rates on Cheques in Australia

- (3) What rates apply in respect of cheques in each State and Capital Territory?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) New South Wales and Victoria—
Under £2—Exempt.
£2 and over—3d.

Queensland—

Not exceeding £5—Exempt.

Over £5 to £50—2d.

Over £50 to £100—3d.

Over £100: For every £100 and part thereof—3d.

South Australia—

Under £2—Exempt.

£2 and over—2d.

Tasmania—

Under £2—Exempt.

£2 to £5—1d.

Over £5 to £15—2d.

Over £15 to £25—3d.

Over £25 to £50—4d.

Over £50 to £100—5d.

Over £100: First £100, 5d. and for each additional £100 and part thereof 6d.

Australian Capital Territory—
Receipt duty is not payable.

- (2) 1st January, 1963.
- (3) At present the duty in all States is threepence but New South Wales intends to raise its rate to fourpence. There is no duty payable in the Australian Capital Territory.

LOAN AUTHORISATIONS

South-West Power Scheme: Unexpended Balance

19. Mr. CORNELL asked the Treasurer:

The amount of £49,289 has been shown under the following heading: "State Electricity Commission—South-West Power Scheme" as the unexpended balance of loan authorisation on the 30th June, 1962, 1961, 1960, 1959, 1958, and maybe longer. For what purpose (if any) is this money "earmarked"?

Mr. BRAND replied:

To allow the raising of loans as required to finance capital works. It so happens that the unexpended balance of authorisation at the 30th June, 1958, was the same as at the 30th June, 1962, but this is simply because the total of new authorisations in this period has equalled total expenditure in the same period.

GUAYULE RUBBER

Cultivation in Western Australia

20. **Mr. DAVIES** asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What progress has been made with the growing of Guayule rubber plants in this State?
- (2) What area is now under cultivation with these plants?
- (3) Are further plantings proposed?

Departmental Officer's Inquiries in U.S.A.

- (4) What were the findings on this question of the officer of the Agriculture Department who visited the United States?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) A full report was tabled in this House on the 14th November, 1961, covering departmental investigations and a summary of the prospects of growing guayule as a commercial crop in Western Australia.
- (2) Only small residual experimental plantings.
- (3) No.
- (4) A report of the officer who studied this question in the United States was attached to the report referred to in No. (1) above.

NATIVES

Inclusion in Commonwealth Census

21. **Mr. W. HEGNEY** asked the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware that had the aboriginal natives of Western Australia been included in the Commonwealth census it is most unlikely there would have been any reduction from nine to eight in the number of Western Australia's representatives to the House of Representatives?
- (2) Have any representations been made to the Commonwealth Government for a referendum, with a view to the repeal of section 127 of the Commonwealth Constitution which excludes aboriginal natives from being counted in any Commonwealth census which has relation to the number of representatives to be elected for any particular State?

- (3) If the reply to No. (2) is "No," will he undertake to make such representations?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) I am aware that statements have been made to this effect.
- (2) Not by the Government.
- (3) I am prepared to seek information on any action taken or proposed.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

SCHOOLS

West Northam: Method of Roof Fixation and Type of Building

1. **Mr. HAWKE** asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What are the essential differences in the methods which were used in affixing the roof to:
 - (a) The section of the new West Northam State School which runs north and south?
 - (b) The section of the same school which runs east and west?
- (2) Is the section of this school building from which the entire roof was blown off recently a prefabricated building or a normally constructed brick building?

South Bunbury: Type of Building, etc.

- (3) Was the prefabricated school building from which a roof was blown at South Bunbury some time ago a new building or a second-hand one?
- (4) If it was a secondhand building where was it previously located and for how many years was it located there before being shifted to Bunbury for re-erection?

Replacement of Roof of West Northam School

- (5) Is he aware that only very minor damage was suffered by a building here and there at West Northam at the time the entire roof was blown from the new brick section of the local new State School?
- (6) What is the estimated cost of placing an entirely new roof on the affected brick section of the West Northam State School, and by whom will the expenditure be met?
- (7) Will the same methods of affixing the new roof be used as were used in affixing the now destroyed roof?
- (8) If not, what changes in these methods will be made?

Mr. WILD replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for supplying me with his questions, the replies to which are as follows:—

- (1) (a) The tubular steel trusses to the north-south wing were bolted to concrete templates built into the 11-inch brick full height walls.
- (b) The trusses to the east-west wing were fixed to boxed angle columns extending down to the concrete footings because the high, continuous classroom windows would not support the trusses.
- (2) Normally constructed brick building.
- (3) Secondhand.
- (4) Bunbury High School. Approximately 8 to 10 years.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Estimate has not yet been completed. Expenditure will be met by the Public Works Department.
- (7) and (8). Still under consideration.

For the information of the Leader of the Opposition, the electrical engineer of the Architectural Division reports that an investigation has been made, and the only reason for the loss of the roof was an electrical discharge. That was supported by the headmaster's statement about hearing a very loud noise.

Mr. Hawke: The Minister will hear a loud noise before it is over.

SCAFFOLDING ACT *Amending Legislation*

2. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Works:

Is it his intention to introduce an amendment to the Scaffolding Act during the present session?

Mr. WILD replied:

I have been advised by the Labour Department that some approach will shortly be made to Cabinet. I am not yet in a position to say that amendments will be made, but the matter will be considered by Cabinet the week after next.

STAMP DUTY

New Rates in Western Australia

3. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Premier:
Arising out of my question on today's notice paper—namely, from what date is it proposed that

the new rates will apply in this State—is the Premier aware that some commercial houses have already instructed their staffs not to put duty stamps on receipts under £5? Would he make a statement clarifying the issue as the matter seems to be becoming widespread?

Mr. BRAND replied:

Yes. I am prepared to make that statement. If the honourable member will give me the information as to any instance of evasion of the law, we will have it investigated and action taken.

CHILD WELFARE ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Second Reading

MR. CRAIG (Toodyay—Minister for Transport) [2.35 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

With respect to habitual truants, the Education Act, prior to the introduction of the current amending Bill, provided under section 18 that a parent might be summoned before the Children's Court to show cause why a habitual truant should not be sent to an institution. Correspondingly, section 42 of the Child Welfare Act provides that any order made by justices under section 18 of the Education Act shall direct the child to be sent to an institution.

It will be seen, therefore, that under the present law it is mandatory for a justice when making an order to order the committal of the child to an institution. The current Education Act Amendment Bill substitutes the committal of the child to the care of the Child Welfare Department instead of to an institution. Upon its passing, therefore, there is no justification for the retention of the corresponding section 42 of the Child Welfare Act. The purpose of this Bill is to repeal that section.

Resulting from the proposed amendments to the two Acts, a habitual truant ordered by a justice to be committed to the Child Welfare Department will, in future, be subject to the discretionary powers available under section 10 of the Child Welfare Act.

Subsection (2) of that section makes provision for all wards to be dealt with by the director in any of the following ways:—

- (a) Placed in some receiving depot.
- (b) Detained in an institution.
- (c) Transferred with the approval of the Minister from one institution to another institution, or from one form of training to any other, which, in the opinion of the director, is likely to prove more beneficial to the child.

- (d) Boarded out, apprenticed, or placed at service with some suitable person.
- (e) Placed in the custody of some suitable person who may be willing to take charge of such child.

Officers of both the Child Welfare and the Education Departments consider that in some cases it would be better if the child could be suitably placed with a foster parent.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Postponement of Nos. 4 to 14

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Premier) [2.39 p.m.]: With the concurrence of the Leader of the Opposition, and in order that the honourable member concerned may introduce his Bill before he departs overseas, I move—

That Orders of the Day Nos. 4 to 14 be postponed until after consideration of Order of the Day No. 15.

Question put and passed.

LICENSING (ROTTNEST ISLAND) BILL

Second Reading

MR. BURT (Murchison) [2.40 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Firstly, I would like to thank the House for allowing this rather unusual move, and also the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition for agreeing to it. The Bill seeks to amend the Licensing Act so as to permit the sale of liquor in licensed premises on Rottnest Island, between the hours of 12 noon and 1 p.m., and 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Sundays.

In introducing this proposed legislation I am fully aware that I am seeking for this particular locality a privilege denied other licensed premises which are situated within a 20-mile radius of the Perth Town Hall. The existing hotel at Rottnest is, I understand, about 30 chains inside that radius. I mention this as a point of interest, and I do not for one moment suggest that this fact should be used as a lever to gain for Rottnest the privileges which would automatically have come into effect had the licensed premises been situated outside that area.

I would also mention at this stage that Rottnest is the only island within a 20-mile radius of the Perth Town Hall, and should at any time a hotel be established at Garden Island, in the residential section, it would be outside the 20-mile radius; and, of course, all other off-shore islands in Western Australia are naturally outside of that radius also.

As everyone knows, Rottnest Island holds a unique position in Western Australia as an attractive and unusual holiday resort. The fact that it is an island, separated from the mainland by some 12 miles or so, has given Rottnest an atmosphere all of its own. Visitors and holiday makers feel a sense of freedom as soon as they step on to the island; an escape from the regulations and restrictions which are an everyday necessity on the mainland; and consequently, over the years, the Rottnest holiday maker has become accustomed to doing more or less as he pleases, unhampered by the conventions which regulate his habits and his clothes for the rest of the year.

Before the hotel was established at Rottnest, visitors and permanent residents—and I understand there are about 119 permanent residents on the island—obtained their liquor supplies from the mainland or from the pleasure boats which, in most cases, had licenses, and which did a roaring trade in bottle sales. In fact, it was an everyday custom, during the holiday period, for hundreds of people to walk from the jetty with armfuls of bottles which would, eventually, be strewn all over the island; and Rottnest acquired a reputation as the playground of drunken hooligans. The establishment of licensed premises, I am glad to say, put an end to this type of thing, and the sale and consumption of liquor ever since has been carried out on a reasonably sensible basis.

Since the hotel was established, Sunday drinking at Rottnest has been the accepted practice, just as it was throughout the goldfields and country districts before the Licensing Act was amended to allow legalised drinking during prescribed hours. The drinking has been orderly in every respect, and has been enjoyed by thousands of holidaymakers who desired the pleasure of a drink with friends before lunch, or at the conclusion of a bus trip around the island. The huge number of tourists and others who decide to make Sunday their day of pleasure, because it is the only day convenient to them, should not be denied the privilege of having a drink because a minority are opposed to it.

A few months ago action was taken to enforce the law, and the licensee of the Rottnest Hotel was prosecuted for trading on a Sunday. Since then he has refused to leave himself open to further charges in this respect. Consequently, residents of Rottnest and visitors to the island are unable to enjoy a privilege which is available to anyone living in the metropolitan area who has a car, or who is a member of one of the dozens of clubs which are allowed to sell liquor on Sundays. If a person who lives in the metropolitan area desires a Sunday drink he can obtain one by travelling 20 miles or so; but this is impossible for anyone living at Rottnest. This is the main reason why I am seeking an amendment to the Licensing Act in this respect.

Mr. J. Hegney: They can travel over to Fremantle, can't they?

Mr. BURT: It is not easy. Rottnest is gaining in importance. Its visitors come over in increasing numbers every year. With Western Australia attracting more and more Eastern States and overseas tourists, Rottnest, because of its unique charm, is foremost of the attractions of this State. Therefore, we must do all we can to cater for the majority; and I say, without hesitation, that the majority of tourists enjoy a drink before meals on any day. There is nothing nicer, and for them Sunday is as any other day. But now, as soon as the tourist boats tie up, their bars are closed, and Rottnest virtually becomes a wowsers' island on Sunday.

Mr. H. May: What is wrong with that?

Mr. BURT: I wish to impress upon members that the Rottnest Island Board is solidly behind this move to legalise Sunday trading on the island.

Mr. Crommelin: The whole board?

Mr. BURT: So I understand—the whole board. It is realised that the biggest influx of visitors is on a Sunday; and that, because of this, the Licensing Act in its present form aims at the very existence of the island as a tourist resort.

The board approached me to introduce the Bill because I represent an electorate where people have always enjoyed sensible licensing laws; and I am requesting the privileges for Rottnest Island that my electors have enjoyed for the most part of their lives. However, I am fully conscious, as I said earlier, of the position that faces members of this Parliament, both here and in another place, who represent districts with licensed premises situated within a 20-mile radius of the Perth Town Hall.

I feel it is wrong that people living in one section of the community should be treated differently from those who reside a few miles away. Personally, I favour removal of the ban on Sunday drinking for certain periods of the day. However, I ask members to treat this measure as a completely independent move to obtain privileges for an area which is different from any other in Western Australia for the reasons I have stated.

I am afraid that if members adopt a dog-in-the-manger attitude towards this Bill and say, "Why should I vote for Rottnest having Sunday trading when hotels in my district cannot obtain that privilege?" then the Bill will be lost. Rather we should, I think, amend the Act as I propose, and let us hope that this will prove an added lever in the eventual move to reform our licensing laws so that the privileges granted to a selected section of the populace become available to all.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Court (Minister for Industrial Development).

MENTAL HEALTH BILL

Council's Amendments

Schedule of 28 amendments made by the Council now considered.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. I. W. Manning) in the Chair; Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Minister for Health) in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Amendment No. 1 made by the Council is as follows:—

No. 1.

Clause 5, page 3, line 25—Insert after the word "Act" the words "and includes the Deputy Director."

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: It would appear at first glance, with all the amendments on the notice paper, that the Bill has been virtually redrafted. But that is not the case. The longest amendment is one which I promised to consider when the member for Subiaco requested me to have a look at another amendment; and the Chamber agreed that certain powers should be written into those powers held by a trustee. This amendment is one that has been rephrased. There are also others which I informed the member for Gascoyne would be machinery amendments and altered in another place. The amendment with which we are dealing at the moment is consequential. It merely provides power in the Act to appoint a deputy director. I move—

That amendment No. 1 made by the Council be agreed to.

Mr. NORTON: There are quite a number of amendments on the notice paper, and once one of them is accepted a lot of the others become consequential. There is however, one dealing with the Public Trustee's side to which I would like to give a little more time. I have not been able to consider it thoroughly because the notice paper arrived only at about 1.15 p.m. today, and the Legislative Council's message was received only last night. I can see no objection to the amendment which we are considering at the moment.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Amendment No. 2 made by the Council is as follows:—

No. 2.

Clause 5, page 3, line 39—Add after the word "State", the words "and includes any duly appointed acting or Deputy Master".

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: This provides powers to include a deputy master in the absence of the master himself, and I move—

That amendment No. 2 made by the Council be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Amendment No. 3 made by the Council is as follows:—

No. 3.

Clause 5, page 4—Delete the passage commencing with the word "registered", in line 19, and ending with the word "Act", in line 20, and substitute the passage "whose name is contained in a register of psychiatrists prepared and maintained pursuant to the provisions of section eighty-nine".

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: This is not a very important amendment. In the Bill I submitted it was arranged that psychiatrists be defined as on page 4. In later passages of the Bill various clauses refer to the fact that the director could cancel such registrations and appointments of psychiatrists. It was felt by the Medical Board that the manner in which a psychiatrist was defined, and the subsequent reference to psychiatrists throughout the Bill, impinged greatly on the Medical Act, and that it would be better to rephrase the definition. I agreed, and the Minister in another place arranged to insert a new clause 89 which more properly defines the situation to prevent any conflict between this Bill and the Medical Act, where psychiatrists and methods of dealing with medical practitioners are properly couched and resolved. I would refer members to that new clause contained in amendment No. 27 made by the Legislative Council in order that they may get a better idea of the position. I move—

That amendment No. 3 made by the Council be agreed to.

Mr. NORTON: This seems to have cleared up the definition of "psychiatrist". There was no actual definition previously; nor was there any way of obtaining a register or a list under the particular Act. I think it is now clear who is to be a psychiatrist under the Act, and I support the motion.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Amendment No. 4 made by the Council is as follows:—

No. 4.

Clause 8, page 6, line 21—Insert after the word "Department," the passage "being a psychiatrist."

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I move—

That amendment No. 4 made by the Council be agreed to.

It was considered in the Legislative Council that a person who was not a psychiatrist could be appointed to the post. Under the amendment the position has to

be filled by a psychiatrist registered by the Medical Board. The intention is to have a psychiatrist appointed to the position.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Amendment No. 5 made by the Council is as follows:—

No. 5.

Clause 8, page 6—After subclause (6) add a new subclause, to stand as subclause (7), as follows:—

(7) Notwithstanding, and without limiting, any other provisions of this section, the Governor may appoint a psychiatrist to be the Deputy Director.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I move—

That amendment No. 5 made by the Council be agreed to.

I referred to this amendment when I dealt with the first amendment made by the Legislative Council, and we have already agreed to insert the words, "and includes the Deputy Director".

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Amendment No. 6 made by the Council is as follows:—

No. 6.

Clause 21, page 12, line 25—Insert after the word "holder," the passage "or within such further period as the Minister may allow".

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I move—

That amendment No. 6 made by the Council be agreed to.

There was considerable discussion in the Legislative Council as to whether the period of one month was sufficient. Some members considered it was too long, while others thought it was too short. An attempt was made in that House to reduce the period to a number of days, but the view was advanced that a chaotic position could arise if the Minister were not permitted to extend the period during which an approved private hospital could continue before it was closed.

Mr. NORTON: When clause 21 was considered in this Chamber I said that the period of one month was too long. I cannot see why the period should be extended at the discretion of the Minister. A difficult situation could be created by the transfer of patients from one approved hospital, which is to be closed, to another approved hospital. That could cause congestion. Should that arise there would be some advantage in giving the Minister discretion to extend the period. However, these private hospitals are rather small, with comparatively few patients, and I do not agree that the period should be greater than one month.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: One month might be sufficient for the purposes of clause 21, but a situation could arise when an extension of time was desirable. It has been pointed out to me that if an approved private hospital of moderate size intended to close down, and it had a number of patients in various stages of illness who were undergoing courses of medical treatment, then it might be highly desirable that no arbitrary action be taken at a fixed point of time, because the health of the patients could be endangered and a chaotic condition could arise. I ask the honourable member to have regard for the fact that such a situation could arise when it might be necessary for the Minister to extend the period. I cannot see any Minister for Health abusing his power in this respect.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

The **CHAIRMAN** (Mr. I. W. Manning): Amendments Nos. 7 to 9 made by the Council are as follows:—

No. 7.

Clause 55, page 30, line 11—Delete the word "person" and substitute the word "patient".

No. 8.

Clause 55, page 30, line 13—Delete the word "person" and substitute the word "patient."

No. 9.

Clause 55, page 30, line 14—Delete the word "person" and substitute the word "patient".

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I move:—

That amendments Nos. 7 to 9 made by the Council be agreed to.

These three amendments will bring about the use of a better term than the one included in the Bill.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

The **CHAIRMAN** (Mr. I. W. Manning): Amendments Nos. 10 and 11 made by the Council are as follows:—

No. 10.

Clause 59, page 32, line 9—Add after the word "Director" the following passage:—

; or

(g) a legal practitioner,

No. 11.

Clause 59, page 32, line 10—Insert before the word "shall" the passage "as such."

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I move—

That amendments Nos. 10 and 11 made by the Council be agreed to.

It might be recalled that this provision was discussed in this Chamber at some length. Consequential upon a slight disagreement with the member for Gascoyne,

I said at the time I would not agree to an amendment along the lines of the amendments made by the Council. However, the words "a legal practitioner" will add one more class of person to the list appearing on page 32 of the Bill. These are the people to whom patients may address letters without the letters being opened by the hospital authority. If a patient desired to address a letter to the member for Gascoyne, to ensure that it was not opened by the hospital, he would have to address it to Mr. Norton, M.L.A.

Mr. NORTON: I am going to agree with amendment No. 10 and disagree with amendment No. 11. With regard to No. 11, I must point out to the Minister that we are dealing with people who have a mental illness and they might not realise that it is necessary for them to put "M.L.A." after a member's name. Therefore, not being aware of the fact that they should put a person's title after the name, they would not do so. Consequently the letters would be opened. Unless the Minister can give me some better explanation as to the purpose of this amendment, I am not going to vote for it.

The **CHAIRMAN** (Mr. I. W. Manning): I will first of all put amendment No. 10.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment No. 10 agreed to.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I think the member for Gascoyne is quibbling about this. With all the goodwill in the world it is difficult to carry out rules and regulations unless people know what they have to do. It could be that a person in the institution does not know that Mr. Norton is a member of Parliament, Mr. Guthrie is a legal practitioner, or someone else is a judge of the Supreme Court. This amendment is merely to assist in the machinery operation of this section.

The member for Gascoyne stated that the patients are mentally ill, because otherwise they would not be there. That could well be so; but some of them are mentally ill over extended periods and are not able to think sensibly about anything, whereas quite large numbers of them have mental aberrations only at certain times. If they are capable of writing a letter to a member of Parliament or a judge, it is not too much to expect that they would be able to understand the rules and know what to do. If it is found out, when someone is checking the letters, that a mistake has been made, it can be rectified. I do not see any necessity to quibble over this amendment.

Mr. TONKIN: The Minister spent his time in giving reasons why we should not disagree with this amendment. He did not give any reason why we should agree to it. What is the object of this amendment? What does it seek to achieve? I am yet to be convinced that there is any justification for it. It could result in

some letters which should be forwarded to the person to whom they are addressed not being so forwarded because the sender is unaware that it is necessary to add a title to the person's name.

Why should such a letter not go forward? If a patient has known a member of the board for some considerable time and feels that he would like to address a letter to that member and uses the person's name only, under this amendment that letter would not go forward. It would not occur to the patient to address the letter to Mr. So-and-so, a member of the board. He would think that everyone would know that Mr. So-and-so was a member of the board. If he used the member's name in his communication he would believe that would be sufficient to ensure the letter would get to its destination. Unless the Minister can tell me why the amendment is necessary, and its purpose, I do not propose to agree to it.

Mr. BRADY: The member for Gascoyne and the member for Melville are doing the right thing in asking the Minister not to press this amendment. The Minister said that we are quibbling. I would like to remind him that there are 28 proposed amendments, and I hope that if we do not agree to the whole 28 the Minister is not going to say that we are quibbling.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Of course not.

Mr. BRADY: The amendment is unreasonable. As member for Swan, I have in the last six months been receiving letters from a lady who is not insane, but I have doubts about her sanity. She does not put M.L.A. after my name and she is not in Claremont. Therefore why should we expect an inmate of Claremont to do so?

I am very sorry that I did not think earlier of including the word "clergyman" amongst those to whom the patients could write. Most men and women in mental distress desire to contact their clergyman, with whom they are closely associated, and I think it is a mistake that we did not allow for that in the Bill. Things should be made as easy as possible for these people.

I do not believe that the staff should be the only ones to deal with the patients. I know of people who, although not insane at all, have been put in Claremont. Therefore, I do not think it should be made more difficult for the patients to contact people outside the institution. I hope the member for Gascoyne and the member for Melville will stand by me in voting against this amendment, and thereby let the Legislative Council see that all the brains are not up that end of the building.

Mr. GUTHRIE: With due respect to the members opposite who have spoken on this amendment, I do not feel they have read completely the provisions in clause 59. Originally it was provided that every letter

written by a patient and addressed to the Governor, the Minister, a member of Parliament, a judge, a board member, or the director should be sent forward by the superintendent without being opened. That provision is contained in subclause (1). Subclause (2) provides that every letter written by a patient and addressed to a person other than such as are mentioned in subclause (1), may be opened by the superintendent but shall be sent forward by him. He still has to send the letter on.

Mr. Bickerton: What is the purpose of opening it?

Mr. GUTHRIE: I presume to see whether it is an improper letter. I have received some very distressing letters from people in these institutions.

Mr. Bickerton: The letters were still forwarded, though.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Yes. A letter might be written asking me to arrange a break-out for a patient. The authorities are entitled to have that information. Now we are asked to insert an extra paragraph to provide for a legal practitioner; and because of the addition of the words "legal practitioner" the draftsman has suggested the words "as such" because he imagined the authorities would not know them all. They would know that a letter addressed to Sir Charles Gairdner would be meant for the Governor, and so on; but it would be most unlikely that they would know every legal practitioner throughout the length and breadth of Western Australia.

Legal practitioners are admitted fairly frequently, and the authorities could unwittingly open a letter addressed to one of them. Consequently, to protect the superintendent where he unwittingly opened a letter addressed to a legal practitioner, those words were put in. In other words, if a letter addressed to me did not have the word "barrister" or "solicitor" included in the address, and the superintendent opened the letter, there could be no cause for complaint. But if the letter were addressed to "H. N. Guthrie, Solicitor," he could not open it; and if he did I would have cause for complaint. But this provision does not entitle the superintendent, in any circumstances, to refuse to send on a letter addressed to anybody.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Is the Deputy Leader of the Opposition still not satisfied with this amendment?

Mr. Tonkin: I am still not satisfied with it.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I was afraid so. If I offended the member for Swan, or if he feels I was objectionable in any way by using the word "quibbling", I am sorry.

Mr. Brady: No.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: The member for Subiaco has pointed out that letters can be sent on; but not all need be sent on. The purpose of the words "as such"

is to assist the machinery part of the vetting of letters. If a letter is opened in error, then it will be pasted down and sent forward. There is no attempt to impose any sort of prison method here.

Previously I tried to point out the many safeguards that apply right through the measure; various check points all along the line have been put in for the express purpose of safeguarding the interests of the patient.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition asks why this is necessary. Well, I am advised that the psychiatrists and psychologists feel that some letters that are written by patients are of such a nature as to cause a great deal of distress to the families involved.

Mr. Bickerton: The families still get them, though.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: No; they do not always get them. Sometimes the superintendent might feel that a letter ought not to be sent forward.

Mr. Bickerton: Does not the Bill provide that he has to send them on?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: No. The member for Subiaco did not read the whole of the provision. In one part it states "ought not to be sent forward"; and I am advised that it is in the interests of all that this should be so. But the patient, in such circumstances, is not denied all the other check points in the legislation. A patient, after six months in a hospital, must go before the hospital authorities for a complete check-up; and at any time a patient may ask to be paraded in order that he may have the opportunity to say whether it is right and proper that he should be let out.

The words "as such" are only to assist those who read the letters; and that is the explanation of what has been going on. Those who have to look at the letters can say, "This is to so-and-so; we do not have to look at it." They would forward that letter on. They might then say, "There is some doubt about this letter," and they might open it and find that it is addressed to a member of Parliament. It would then be closed up and sent on.

Mr. Tonkin: "May" be sent on.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Did I say that it shall be sent on?

Mr. Tonkin: Yes; and that is a different matter.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I have already told the Committee that the words "ought not to be sent forward" are included in the clause. I suggest there is no need to worry about this amendment.

Mr. TONKIN: Having heard the Minister, I am more convinced than ever that we should not agree to the amendment. I will agree with what the member for Subiaco said in respect of legal practitioners: that it does become necessary to

put in the words "as such," because there could be a lot of unnecessary letters going to persons who are not legal practitioners. But I cannot see why we should qualify the others in the same way; and we have to remember that when the Bill was originally drafted—after a lot of thought by the department, I consider—the authorities did not see any necessity for the words "as such" because the Bill came here without them.

I point this out: If a letter, as the Bill now stands, is addressed to the Governor, the Minister, a member of Parliament, a judge, or the court, the board, or the director, it shall go forward. If we include these words, then it may go forward if, in the opinion of the superintendent, it ought to. So we completely change the situation.

As the measure now stands we give a guarantee to a mental patient that if he writes to a member of Parliament his letter will go forward; put the amendment in and the guarantee has gone, because it then gives the superintendent the right to open the letter and decide whether he will send it forward or not. I am not going to agree to that change, more especially as it was not considered desirable when the Bill was first brought here.

Obviously the measure was well thought out in the first instance, because it was intended that if a mental patient wrote to the Governor, the Minister, or a member of Parliament, the letter should go forward. I would be prepared to put up with whatever distress it would cause me, and I have received many of these letters during my term as a member of Parliament. In fact, the Leader of the Opposition and I both received such a letter the first week we arrived here. I say that these people should have the opportunity to communicate with somebody outside with the certainty that their letters are delivered unopened. Who will be harmed by that? Will the Governor be harmed by receiving a letter from a mental patient? After receiving it, he can please himself what action he takes.

If the amendment is agreed to, however, there is no certainty that a patient's letter will reach its destination; because instead of its being mandatory it will be left to the discretion of the person in charge of the institution as to whether the letter will go forward unopened. The letter might be condemnatory of the way the institution is being administered, or it might be condemnatory of the superintendent. If such a letter is addressed to a member of Parliament, the superintendent, being only human, might decide that it should not go forward. Why should not the provision give the patient an opportunity of saying what he intends to say, with any necessary action being left to the recipient of the letter? This

is a vital alteration to the principle of the Bill because it changes the situation entirely.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I know that you exaggerate; but heavens above!

Mr. TONKIN: This is no exaggeration. The amendment changes the position entirely because it will give the superintendent discretion on whether the letter will go forward. When the superintendent is given the right to open the letter he is given the right to retain it, and I am not prepared to give him that right. I will go as far as to agree to attaching these words to the legal practitioner, but I do not want the qualification imposed on the Governor, the Minister, and the various other people contained in the category. The amendment is completely unfair and unreasonable because the Minister is not going to say that this aspect was not considered when the Bill was drafted.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Vital alteration to the principles of the Bill! Goodness gracious me!

Mr. TONKIN: These words were definitely framed in the Bill to ensure that a letter written by a patient would reach its destination unopened, but the amendment proposes to change all that and take away the right which was originally granted. In effect, the amendment will say, "It will depend on what the superintendent thinks about the letter as to whether it will reach its destination", and I am not prepared to agree to that alteration.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has placed an entirely wrong construction on the amendment, which is intended to help the patient. If a letter is directed to a certain person it shall be sent forward by the superintendent without being opened. In order to accomplish that, the superintendent must know it is directed to one of the people mentioned in the Bill. If a letter is addressed to Mr. Norton or Mr. Tonkin at a private address, how is the superintendent to know it is addressed to a member of Parliament? There are many people who are not members of Parliament who have the surnames of Norton and Tonkin. In such a case the superintendent is entitled to open the letter. However, if the letter is addressed to Mr. D. Norton, M.L.A., the superintendent knows that it is addressed to a member of Parliament.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I am indebted to the member for Narragin for pointing out to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that there are 80 members of Parliament and it is quite possible that the person charged with opening the letter of a patient would not know to whom it was addressed if a private address was shown on the envelope.

Mr. Tonkin: Then why was not this put in the Bill originally?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Because of man's fallibility.

Mr. Tonkin: Utter nonsense!

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: If the honourable member is of the opinion that every Bill brought here is word perfect there is something wrong with him. I have no doubt that this Bill, when it eventually passes through the Legislature, will require further amendment before long, and that applies to every Act on our statute book.

Let us be sensible about the matter! This is merely a storm in a tea-cup. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has had no regard for the principles in the Bill and the safeguards that have been incorporated in it for a mental patient.

Mr. Tonkin: On what basis do you make that statement?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: On the fact that the honourable member stated that this amendment would affect the vital principles of the Bill.

Mr. Tonkin: I never said that.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Of course the Deputy Leader of the Opposition did!

Mr. Tonkin: I did not!

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I will go this far: Mr. Chairman, can I make sure that the amendment will be accepted by agreeing to the insertion of the words after "legal practitioner" instead of before the word "shall"? If the Deputy Leader of the Opposition feels as he does, it means we will probably have to disagree with this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): We can amend the amendment, but we are unable to work out the form it should take.

Mr. TONKIN: I suggest that we disagree with the amendment in order that another place can frame its amendment so this limitation is made to apply to legal practitioners only. I did not say this was a vital principle of the Bill. What I did say was that a question of vital principle is involved—and that is a very different thing. The Minister misunderstood my statement.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I must have.

Mr. TONKIN: With me there is a vital principle here inasmuch as in the way the Bill was originally drafted it provided that a patient could send a letter to the Governor, a Minister, or a member of Parliament and that letter would be unopened and must be sent forward; and a penalty would be inflicted if it did not go. That being so, we should move to disagree with this amendment; and I accept the Minister's suggestion that that be done.

Mr. NORTON: I take it that if letters are addressed "as such" the letters "M.P." or "M.L.A." would be the designation as

far as a member for Parliament is concerned. I would point out to the Minister that it could be dangerous if these words were added; and I bring this forward so the Minister can advise his counterpart in another place.

If Tom Smith wanted to get his mate, Jack Jones, out of hospital and he was aware that letters addressed to members of Parliament "as such" had to be sent forward, he could suggest that he be addressed as "M.L.A." and the letter would then be sent forward unopened. That is a danger that I can see. However, as the Minister has agreed to disagree with the Council's amendment and refer it back to another place, I have nothing more to say at present.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): If it is the desire of the Committee to defeat Legislative Council amendment No. 11, it will be necessary to vote against the Minister's motion to agree to the amendment.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I do not wish the Committee to vote against my original suggestion. Therefore, I seek leave to withdraw my motion.

Motion (that the Council's amendment No. 11 be agreed to), by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. TONKIN: It would be a unique experience for us on this side to move to disagree with the Council's amendment, with the possibility that we might carry that motion; and then form a committee to draw up reasons for disagreeing, the initiative thus being taken on this side. I do not think that is desirable procedure. I am prepared to go on with it, but I would suggest to the Minister it would have been better, if he is not prepared to take the initiative, to allow his motion to stand and then let the Committee disagree with it; or for him to withdraw it and then move to disagree with the Council's amendment if there is any strength in my argument—and I feel the Minister thinks there is. I see no reason why he should not take the initiative and move to disagree with the Legislative Council's amendment. I think that is the temper of the Committee.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Can you tell me what is wrong with your moving to disagree?

Mr. TONKIN: There is nothing wrong with it but it is most unusual.

Sitting suspended from 3.47 to 4.7 p.m.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Because of agreement reached between the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and myself, I now move—

That amendment No. 11 made by the Council be not agreed to.

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

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Amendment No. 12 made by the Council is as follows:—

No. 12.

Clause 64, page 34—Delete subclause (4).

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I move—

That amendment No. 12 made by the Council be agreed to.

This amendment is consequential upon amendment No. 13. It has been felt that the Public Trustee has had too great a power conferred upon him over and above the powers that were logically to be conferred in connection with his dealings with natural managers. This amendment will have the effect of taking away some of the power from the Public Trustee and reposing some of it in the Master of the Supreme Court and some in the natural managers who are not subject to the Public Trustee.

Mr. MOIR: This is the start of the major amendments to this Bill. It deals with the management of estates of incapable persons. In view of the fact that one of the amendments which have come down from another place contains 23 subclauses of a very important character, and they are contingent upon these first two amendments, I would ask the Minister if, in view of the short time we have had the amendments before us, he will report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: It may appear to the honourable member that there is a great deal of new ground in the powers which are conferred on trustees; but if he will look at the original Bill he will see a list of powers which are conferred upon trustees. I refer to clause 68.

When the Bill was before the House previously, the member for Subiaco asked me during the Committee stage of the Bill to have included the power for trustees to invest moneys of the estates of incapable persons. That is the only new provision which has been included in the Bill, with this exception: that a number of heads of powers have been drawn from the Public Trustees Act. There is no alteration in principle, but it is simply to put all the heads of powers in this Mental Health Bill. It has been put there only for ease of reference.

I can assure the honourable member that is the case. If he really wants an adjournment, I will not deny him one; but I reiterate that opportunity was taken by the Parliamentary Draftsman to redraft the whole of the powers of the trustees to incorporate other heads of powers which were in another Act and which it was considered would be better in this Act for ease of reference. I promised the House that I would have the provision incorporated in the Bill in another place—namely, the power for trustees to invest moneys. If the honourable member believes that,

there is no necessity for us to report progress on this Bill and I would ask him to proceed along those lines.

Mr. MOIR: I am afraid I must ask that progress be reported. I think members on this side of the House should have ample opportunity to have a look at the amendments if they so desire. They may incorporate, as the Minister says, the same principles, but totally different wording is used. While we may take the Minister's word that they are in order, nevertheless it is the responsibility of Parliament to examine all amendments, and each member should be satisfied that they are in order. Therefore it is my intention to insist that progress be reported.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): I must point out to the honourable member that he cannot move a motion to that effect, having already spoken.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr. J. Hegney.

BILLS (3): RETURNED

1. Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act Amendment Bill.

Bill returned from the Council with an amendment.

2. Bills of Sale Act Amendment Bill.

3. Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

MONEY LENDERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mr. Guthrie, read a first time.

NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (W.A.) BILL

Second Reading

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Premier) [4.19 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill has for its purpose the establishment and incorporation as a statutory authority of the National Trust of Australia (W.A.). The need for a national trust in this State has been written and talked about intermittently for over 35 years, ever since some city councillors proposed to make drastic changes to the Perth Town Hall clock tower. With the rapidly changing skyline of our city and the need to provide modern highways, many of our historic landmarks could be in danger of disappearing.

The need for a country or a State to form a national trust supported by the Legislature and by public-spirited citizens became widely appreciated in England during the latter part of the last century. From the beginning of the movement, the emphasis on preservation was directed to the outstanding and beautiful scenes in the countryside, as well as to buildings of historical or architectural merit. It came more and more to be realised that if a famous building or a place of beauty were to be preserved for future generations, then it should be put in the safe hands of an independent authority whose primary function would be its preservation for the enjoyment of the whole community.

Mr. W. Hegney: The Games Village.

Mr. BRAND: No; not the Games Village. The National Trust in England was first incorporated in 1895 and received statutory recognition by special Act of Parliament in 1907. Since then it has steadily grown in national significance; and now, in addition to holding very many buildings of great historical value, it also owns hundreds of thousands of acres in England of parts of the countryside to be preserved in the national interest.

In Scotland the National Trust was formed in 1930; and now, after only 30 years of its existence, it owns nearly one hundred castles, cottages, gardens, beauty spots, and historic sites.

In Australia the pattern of development of national trusts in the various States has been more recent but on similar lines, with emphasis on the preservation of the best of our national heritage, and with the equally important function of developing in the public mind an awareness and appreciation of beauty, whether man-made or God-made. There is always a danger in a country like ours, where the history of white settlement is so short, of undervaluing the work of historical buildings and places, and the national trusts throughout Australia have aimed at educating the public to a realisation of the importance now of preserving for future generations the existing monuments to our history.

The first of the Australian national trusts was formed in 1945 in New South Wales, and was registered in 1950 as a non-profit company, and in 1960 was recognised by Statute and given wide powers. In South Australia the national trust was incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1955. In Victoria a national trust was founded in September, 1956. Tasmania also recently formed its own national trust, and has already received a number of historic buildings under its control. In this State the National Trust of Australia (W.A.) was incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act in July, 1959, by a group of citizens who

felt the urgency of tackling the problem of preservation in this State before places of interest were spoilt by development.

The principal aims and objects of the trust here are similar to those in the other States and are—

- (1) To restore and preserve historic buildings and those of outstanding architectural merit and, where possible, to keep them in use, or at least open for regular inspection by the public.
- (2) To safeguard the beauty and interest of the countryside and coastline in the form of wild-flower patches, stands of timber, primitive reserves, national parks, aboriginal relics, and places of importance as the breeding grounds of native birds, animals and plants.
- (3) To stimulate and encourage public interest in places and things of national or local importance by reason of educational, historic, architectural, traditional, artistic, or other special interest.

The national trust is seeking to avert thoughtless or heedless destruction, but is not attempting to prevent progress, and fully appreciates that every old building cannot be preserved just because it is old.

The trust has realised that its objectives cannot be adequately achieved without legislative safeguards and assistance. With this in mind, discussions have taken place with representatives of the national trust, and the legislation before members is the result of recommendations and suggestions emanating from these meetings. The legislation is based broadly on existing Statutes in Britain, New South Wales, and South Australia. The main proposals are as follows:—

- (1) The trust will be constituted a body corporate with perpetual succession, and a common seal and power to sue and be sued, and with power to purchase and hold real and personal property.
- (2) The objects of the trust have been briefly mentioned. They are set out in detail in the schedule to this Bill, and were adopted from the existing objects of the present registered body.
- (3) The trust will be managed by a council consisting of 25 members, of whom 16 will be elected by the members of the trust (and these 16 will include a president, two vice-presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer) and nine will be nominated by the following:—

- (i) The Premier of Western Australia;
- (ii) The University of Western Australia;

- (iii) The Historical Society of Western Australia;
- (iv) The Royal Institute of Architects (W.A. Chapter);
- (v) The Royal Society;
- (vi) The Country Women's Association;
- (vii) The Tree Society;
- (viii) A representative of local governing bodies throughout the State; and
- (ix) The Tourist Development Authority.

Provision will be made for a chairman and deputy chairman to be appointed by the Council from their elected members.

- (4) The Trust will have power to make by-laws regarding its various activities. Such by-laws will be subject to Executive Council approval.
- (5) The Trust will have power to make rules to regulate the conduct of its own affairs and internal management.
- (6) The Trust will be exempt from all rates and taxes (except for a charge for water used) and gifts, devices, and bequests to the Trust will be free of probate and stamp duty.
- (7) There are other provisions relating to the Trust's power to accept or disclaim gifts and bequests, to invest, to mortgage, to sell and dispose of its property (but only with the consent of the Governor-in-Council), also power to let or lease property and appoint managers, servants, caretakers, etc. of all or any of its property.
- (8) The Trust's financial accounts will be audited by the Auditor-General.
- (9) The Trust will report annually to Parliament.
- (10) Finance: It is not expected that the ordinary running expenses of the Trust will be very great, although it has approached the Government for assistance in the way of the provision of a small office and secretarial assistance, and the loan of a meeting place when necessary. However, the Trust envisages that its property will grow in the course of time by its acquisition of buildings and sites either by gift, bequest, or purchase.

In many cases arrangements will have to be made for the maintenance and upkeep of these properties, where they are not revenue-producing, and the Trust contemplates in each case that this will be done with financial

help from the public, from local governing authorities, or from the State Government.

Provision is contained in the Bill for the funds of the Trust to include all money received by it out of money appropriated by Parliament for the purposes of its statute.

I recommend this piece of legislation to the House because I think it is timely. As I have already said, ours is a comparatively young State; and if we are to preserve important relics of the past, and our traditional buildings, now is the time to take action.

Mr. Davies: What is the estimated cost of running the trust?

Mr. BRAND: I could not say. I have pointed out that there is no indication yet of the actual cost of administration. We have undertaken to provide the trust with an office and a secretary or typiste, and it will not be long before we learn what the yearly cost will be. However, that is the least the Government can do to get the trust under way because a great deal of time has been spent by a number of interested people to have the trust established.

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

CONSTITUTION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Second Reading

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Industrial Development [4.32 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill contains three amendments to the Constitution Acts Amendment Act, 1899-1959. Clauses 2 and 4 refer to the qualifications required for members to be elected to the Legislative Council and to the Legislative Assembly, and clause 3 affects the qualifications of electors for the Legislative Council, in so far as it relates to enrolment by Australian natives.

Clause 2 amends section 7 of the Act by deleting the existing requirements for any person who is not a natural born subject of the Queen to be naturalised for five years before being qualified to be elected a member of the Legislative Council. The amendment provides for an additional qualification: that the person elected shall be an elector entitled to vote at an election of a member of the Legislative Assembly, or a person qualified to become such an elector.

Summarised, the qualifications for a person to be elected a member of the Legislative Council would then be residence in Western Australia for two years; full age of 30 years; natural born, or a naturalised subject of Her Majesty the Queen; an

elector entitled to vote at an election of a member of the Legislative Assembly, or one qualified to become such an elector.

Clause 4 amends section 20 of the Act. This clause relates to the qualifications for any person to be elected a member of the Legislative Assembly. The amendment is similar to clause 2, and deletes the requirement for any person who is not a natural born subject of the Queen to be naturalised for a period of five years before being qualified for election, and adds the additional qualification for a person to be an elector entitled to vote at an election of a member of the Legislative Assembly, or a person qualified to become such an elector.

Summarised, the qualifications for a person to be elected a member of the Legislative Assembly would then be—resident in Western Australia 12 months; full age of 21 years; a natural born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty the Queen; an elector entitled to vote at an election of a member of the Legislative Assembly, or a person qualified to become such an elector.

The deletion of the five-year period after naturalisation in both sections before being qualified for election to either House will bring our legislation in line with the Commonwealth and with other States within the Commonwealth.

The additional qualification is added to both sections as it is considered that any person before being qualified for election as a member of either House should be an elector enrolled to vote at an election of a member for the Legislative Assembly, or one qualified to become such an elector.

Clause 3 amends section 15 of the Act by the deletion of paragraph (ii) of the second proviso. This proviso disqualifies any Australian native who is not the holder of a certificate of citizenship from being enrolled as an elector for the Legislative Council.

Mr. Davies: Hear, hear!

Mr. COURT: The amendment will remove this disqualification and will permit Australian natives to be enrolled as electors for the Legislative Council, provided, of course, they have the necessary qualifications for enrolment.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Brady.

ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Industrial Development) (4.37 p.m.): I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill contains amendments to the Electoral Act for the purpose of giving Australian natives the right to enrol and to

vote as electors for the State, and for the purpose of clarifying certain matters in relation to voting by post.

The provisions in the Electoral Act whereby Australian natives are disqualified from being enrolled as electors will be deleted by this Bill; and, in consequence, natives qualified in accordance with the Act will be eligible to enrol and vote at all future State elections for the Legislative Assembly. The Bill follows the pattern of the recent legislation passed by the Federal Parliament. Enrolment will be voluntary; but, once enrolment is effected, voting will be compulsory.

There are penalty provisions in the Bill which will safeguard the natives from being subjected to undue influence by promises, offers, recompense, or reward, or benefit for or on account of or to induce any enrolment or refraining from any such enrolment.

The Bill contains an amendment to the section relating to nomination of candidates, and provides for the surname and Christian names to be inserted in the nomination form. At present the Act provides for only the nomination to be signed by the candidate. The prescribed form, however, provides for the name to be shown in full, and it is considered that this provision should be embodied in the Act.

There are a number of amendments in the Bill relating to voting by post. It is proposed to repeal subsection (1) of section 90 of the Act, and redivide it into subsections so as to show more specifically the grounds for obtaining a postal vote. Provision is made for an elector who is outside the State and within the Commonwealth to be able to make application for a postal ballot paper. This will rectify the anomaly created by the 1959 amendments. A further provision is made for an elector who is outside the Commonwealth to be able to make an application for a postal ballot paper.

Provision is also included in the Bill to give the issuing officer authority to issue a postal ballot paper to an applicant notwithstanding the fact that there may be an omission or incorrect description or misdescription with respect to any of the particulars required therein. This will obviate the position of an application for a postal ballot paper being rejected for a minor defect, or omission, when it is quite apparent that the applicant is entitled to vote by post. It is proposed to repeal subsection (2) of section 92 of the Act and re-enact it so as to set out more clearly the directions for postal voting.

At present there is no direction to the authorised witness to the declaration required to be made by the elector, when recording a postal vote. This omission is now rectified and, in addition, the proposed amendment prescribes that the authorised witness, if within the State,

shall insert the address for which he is enrolled as an elector for the Legislative Assembly and, if outside the State, to add the title under which he qualifies as an authorised witness.

A further provision is included in the Bill setting out the Chief Electoral Officer's duties in connection with the receipt of postal ballot papers, and their retention until polling day, and the authority for him to commence the scrutiny of the postal votes at any time after the commencement of the poll. These provisions are at present in the regulation, but it is considered that they should be embodied in the Act.

Provision is made for the rejection of a postal ballot paper if the declaration is not signed, and a further provision is included to the effect that a postal ballot paper shall not be rejected for the reason only that the declaration has been enclosed with the ballot paper in the envelope marked "Ballot paper." The manner in which this ballot paper should be dealt with is set out in the Bill.

There is a clause in the Bill making it an offence for any person not being the applicant named in the application to sign as the applicant, and a further clause making it an offence for any person not being the declarant named in the declaration to sign as the declarant. It also makes it necessary for the authorised witness to satisfy himself as to the identity of the declarant.

I think members will find on an examination of the measure that whilst it is primarily directed at providing voting rights for Australian natives so far as State elections are concerned, there are some other rather important machinery amendments in respect of elections that will be tidied up by the passing of the Bill.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Brady.

BILLS (3): MESSAGES

Appropriation

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

1. National Trust of Australia (W.A.) Bill.
2. Constitution Acts Amendment Bill (No. 2).
3. Electoral Act Amendment Bill.

PAINTERS' REGISTRATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Council's Amendment: In Committee

Resumed from the 25th September. The Chairman of Committees (Mr. I. W. Manning) in the Chair; Mr. Wild (Minister for Works) in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Progress was reported after the Minister for Works had moved that the following amendment made by the Council be agreed to:—

Clause 3 page 3, lines 1 to 3—Delete paragraph (c) and substitute the following:—

(c) by deleting the word "Incorporated" in line three of subsection (2).

Mr. WILD: On the last occasion that this amendment from another place was before us the member for Balcatta pointed out that in his view, and from inquiries he had made, the wording in the original Bill was incorrect. He said the word "manufacturers" occurred where it should have been "manufactures." He also did not agree with the inclusion of the word "incorporated," because he said it should have read "West Australian Chamber of Manufactures."

A most interesting position has arisen, in which we have three legal opinions, none of which agree. All these opinions are from the Crown Law Department. The Bill was originally drafted by one of the parliamentary draftsmen; namely, Mr. Turnbull. That was as it came to this Chamber.

Mr. Graham: But it did not mention anything about Chamber of Manufactures.

Mr. WILD: That is so. When the point was raised by the member for Balcatta, Mr. Good then gave an opinion which did not agree with that given by Mr. Turnbull. Mr. Walsh, the Chief Parliamentary Draftsman, then somehow or other came into it. He also expressed an opinion which did not agree with the other two. I would now like to read the minute provided by the Chief Parliamentary Draftsman. It is as follows:—

I would like to refer to the comments of the honourable member for Balcatta, which he made on 25th September, 1962, when the amendment made by the Legislative Council to the Painters' Registration Act Amendment Bill was in the committee stages in the House. For his information, I would like to advise him that a search of the official file of the Western Australian Chamber of Manufactures at the Companies Registration Office, where all files in relation to associations incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1895, and amendments are kept, shows that in various documents on that file the following appear from time to time as the name of the subject association:—

I would like members to take note of this because it is what appears in the official records. The name is presented in eleven different ways—

1. West Australian Chamber of Manufactures
2. West Australian Chamber of Manufactures (Incorporated)

3. West Australian Chamber of Manufactures (Incpd)
4. West Australian Chamber of Manufactures Incorporated
5. The West Australian Chamber of Manufactures
6. The West Australian Chamber of Manufacturers
7. West Australian Chamber of Manufactures Incpd
8. The West Australian Chamber of Manufactures (Incorporated)
9. The West Australian Chamber of Manufactures Incorporated
10. West Australian Chamber of Manufactures Inc
11. West Australian Chamber of Manufacturers.

The Chief Parliamentary Draftsman goes on to say that when he was drafting the Bill he caused a telephone inquiry from his office to be made to the Companies Registration Office as to the correct name of the subject association, as the principal Act had shown inconsistency in naming the association. As a result of his inquiry he was advised that the correct name was "The West Australian Chamber of Manufacturers" and, on the assumption that the information supplied to him was correct, he accordingly wrote the name into the Bill.

He further stated that in view of the various names by which the association had referred to itself in the various documents filed in the Companies Registration Office, perhaps the mistake was pardonable. The effect of the Bill now before this House is that the name of the subject association will be "The West Australian Chamber of Manufacturers" and that is considered to be in order.

As a layman, and as Minister in charge, when I receive three opinions from officers of the Crown Law Department, all of which are different, I consider it will not matter very much what name is finally decided on. This is only a small Bill, and there is not a terrific amount hanging on it. As it is the job of the board to license only painters, I cannot see there will be any difference in having any one of the 11 different names in the Bill.

Mr. Brand: You have to respect the opinion of the Crown Law officers.

Mr. WILD: I have to respect their opinion.

Mr. GRAHAM: I did not expect this item to come up for consideration today; therefore I did not bring my papers with me. It is my purpose to ensure that when the Bill is passed it becomes a workable document. I hope the Minister has some solid ground for his assertion that, irrespective of what name is given to the body which it is intended should have representation on the board, no problem will arise. I hope that when the Painters'

Registration Board is set up eventually, it will not be possible for someone to challenge its actions, and to succeed in so doing because a wrong title has been used to describe an association.

When the board is set up there will, of necessity, be occasions when amendments are made to the legislation in accordance with the experience that is encountered. I expect that when such an occasion arises we can have another look at the title of the association concerned.

Mr. Brand: Do you require your papers now to proceed?

Mr. GRAHAM: No. I defer to the opinion of the legal gentlemen, even if they are unable to agree among themselves. The Minister and I have reached a determination on this matter privately and I was able to show him the papers which indicated that at least two Crown Law officers were at variance with each other. I am prepared to take a risk, on the word of the Minister, that irrespective of what title is given to the association the Bill will be a workable document when it is passed.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Report

Resolution reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

TOWN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Council's Amendment

Amendment made by the Council now considered.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. I. W. Manning) in the Chair; Mr. Lewis (Minister for Education) in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: The amendment made by the Council is as follows:—

Clause 3, page 2, line 10—Insert after the word "district" secondly occurring the words "which district or which part is situated outside the metropolitan region."

Mr. LEWIS: I move—

That the amendment made by the Council be agreed to.

Section 7B does not empower a local authority to make an interim development order. That power rests with the Minister, subject to the approval of the Governor, as it does in the case of the powers under present section 7A having reference to the metropolitan region.

An interim development order can be made only on the basis of a proposed town planning scheme; that is to say, the town

planning proposals must have been formulated before the Minister could consider making an order to give interim protection to those planning proposals. Furthermore, any order so made will cease to have effect when the town planning scheme comes into force; or when and if the order is revoked by the Minister; or 12 months from the date the order is applied to a district unless the Minister, again with the approval of the Governor, extends the operation of the order, which the Bill empowers him to do from time to time for a further period not exceeding 12 months.

Bearing the above in mind, fears were expressed in another place that the passing of the new section 7B would give power to a metropolitan local authority to introduce an interim development order, thus duplicating the powers of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority.

The amendment in which this Chamber is requested to concur is directed towards eliminating any misunderstanding in that respect, and to clarify without any question of doubt the point that the new provision in section 7B can relate only to those parts of the State outside the metropolitan region.

Apart from the fact that it is not the local authority but the Minister, who makes an order, the duplication of powers seems hardly feasible. Nevertheless, in deference to the doubts and wishes expressed in another place, it is desirable that the slight amendment to section 7B be concurred in.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Report

Resolution reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1962-63

In Committee of Supply

Resumed from the 9th October, The Chairman of Committees (Mr. I. W. Manning) in the Chair.

Vote: Miscellaneous Services, £4,506,365—

Mr. GRAHAM: I seek your guidance, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make reference to an item that does not appear.

Mr. Brand: Oh no! You had an opportunity during the general debate to talk on that.

Mr. GRAHAM: I desire to promote a certain case for the consideration of the Treasurer.

Mr. Brand: You will get an opportunity on a page further on.

Mr. GRAHAM: I can think of ways and means on any item, but I want to do it properly.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): I cannot permit the honourable member to discuss an item which is not listed.

Mr. TONKIN: In order—

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): To what item is the honourable member speaking?

Mr. TONKIN: In order to allow me to present my case through you, Mr. Chairman, I will mention item No. 1. A difficulty occurs here, inasmuch as last year no expenditure was contemplated and so no item appeared. This year the Estimates show there was an expenditure, but there is no expenditure contemplated for next year. As it is the business of Parliament to approve of expenditure in the Budget, I find myself in difficulty in trying to approve of something I know nothing about. I am wondering whether the Treasurer has guessed the item I am talking about and whether he will make some explanation of it in order to assist the Committee. I am referring to £50 expenditure for judges' salaries.

Mr. BRAND: As a matter of fact, when I received this information it did seem to me, in relation to judges' salaries and the size of them, that £50 was an amount that ought to be explained. The notes I have state that this decrease of £50 is shown because there will not be any need for payment to be made during 1962-63. The explanation is that the item represents an allowance to judges who were required to undertake additional duties due to the absence of the Senior Puisne Judge on long-service leave. The Judges' Salaries and Pensions Act provides for payment to judges appointed under the Supreme Court Act, but makes no provision for an allowance payable to additional judges. Consequently, the expenditure amounting to £50 in 1961-62 is charged to this item; and, as I said before, it will not be required this year and there is a decrease in expenditure.

Mr. Tonkin: Thank you.

Item No. 10: Kindergarten Union, £45,800—

Mr. GRAHAM: It is not my intention to labour this item, because I assume all members of Parliament have, within recent weeks, received a circular from the Kindergarten Union expressing its desire to be the recipient of a larger annual grant from the State Government for certain well-explained reasons. I think in very many districts—if not all—the local kindergartens invited their members to view their activities and to confer with the committees for the purpose of further emphasising the financial difficulties they were experiencing, as larger salaries are shortly to be paid for trained and competent staffs.

Because of the present low salaries that are being paid it is difficult to recruit sufficient womenfolk to undertake this important role amongst the smaller children of the community. In many centres parents of the children are finding it difficult to meet the weekly commitment. I think

I am right in saying the average is probably from 12s. to 15s. per week from the parents, in addition to which there is a great deal of activity in the way of voluntary work at the kindergartens themselves, to say nothing of the conducting of fetes, sales of work, and that sort of thing with the object of raising more funds to enable the kindergartens to continue.

In a general way I have outlined the position. My feeling was that the Kindergarten Union had made out quite a strong case as to why additional funds should be made available to it, more especially, I repeat, in view of the impending considerable increase in the wages and salaries bill. I do not desire in any way to irritate the Treasurer with regard to this; but I could, if need be, suggest to him many different directions in which the Government has made finance available and granted revenue concessions in respect of cases that would not be as worthy of receiving additional moneys as the Kindergarten Union.

I do not wax unnecessarily enthusiastic about the work of the kindergartens. But we are all aware of what appears to be the growth of juvenile delinquency; and apart from the testimonials written by the kindergartens themselves of the work they do and the beneficial results it has upon the children, I think I am right in saying it is generally confirmed by the Education Department that these little tots of three, four, and five years, because of the basic training they receive, are much better children when they attend school.

Therefore, I hope it is possible for the Treasurer to review the subject with a view to giving some greater aid to the kindergartens in order to enable them to carry on this important work which is not, unfortunately, extending to a sufficient number of our kiddies. I am sorry that the Treasurer could not do something better than grant an extra £2,300.

Mr. BRAND: I can only refer to the notes which I have here on the subject. Maybe we will have an opportunity of discussing this subject under other headings in the Estimates, before which time I will have had an opportunity of discussing it with the Under-Treasurer or, more particularly, with the Director of Education. My notes indicate that the increase of £2,300 provides for higher enrolments at kindergartens and reflects the increasing level of costs. I should point out that the Royal Commission on Kindergartens in 1952 recommended increased financial assistance to the Kindergarten Union. The basis then approved was recently revised to bring the level of assistance into line with current costs.

The grant covers student-teacher training, living allowance for trainee teachers, contribution to administrative costs, and per capita subsidy on children attending

kindergartens. In addition, an amount of £3,000 is included for making special grants to needy kindergartens which are experiencing financial difficulties following their establishment. This increased provision for needy kindergartens replaces the previous policy of specific grants for building purposes.

The situation with kindergartens is the same as with primary or secondary education. There is an ever-increasing demand for accommodation and financial assistance in many directions. I am of the opinion that, on the advice of such people as the Director of Education, the Treasury has provided this increase which is the limit which can be provided from the funds available.

Whilst it may be true that the Government has made concessions in all sorts of directions, it is always arguable as to which one is the most important and which has the highest priority. However, after taking into account all the problems of the Kindergarten Union—and we are conscious of the good work being done by this voluntary service which is part of the educational system—this is the amount of money which has been set down under the Budget. That is all I can say at present.

Mr. Graham: Will you have another look at it?

Mr. BRAND: I will have a look at the matter, not with a view to arranging an increase, but with a view to getting more information and maybe outlining the case which the departments have put up and which resulted in this recommendation coming before Parliament.

Item No. 20: St. John Ambulance Association, £8,750—

Mr. TONKIN: I never appreciated until a few months ago the extremely difficult situation the St. John Ambulance Association is in. I take my share of the blame for not having made representations when we were in Government, and if I had the opportunity over again I would not hesitate to strongly recommend a very big increase in this allowance.

The association is expected to be at the call of everyone who has an accident. To emphasise that point I give an illustration concerning myself. I came up here one evening a few months ago intending to go to the theatre; and whilst looking for a place to park the car, I had to travel around and into Hay Street. As I was approaching George Street I noticed what seemed to be a certain accident about to occur. The accident did occur right in front of me. Two cars collided and one was turned around and started to go down the hill instead of up the hill. It struck

the kerb and the lady passenger was thrown out on to the footpath and did not move after she hit it.

I pulled up right in front of the premises of Donald Chipper & Son, the undertakers, with one thought only, which was to ask someone to ring for the St. John Ambulance. I did not have any other thought. I went into the funeral director's office and said, "Ring for the St. John Ambulance." There did not happen to be anyone in the office at the time, but the person who would ordinarily have been there was outside and followed me in. What he did was to immediately ring for the ambulance.

I would say that that is invariably the first thought which occurs to anyone who witnesses an accident. We do not stop to think whether there is an ambulance available to answer the call, whether it is in roadworthy condition, or whether there is a driver available to man it. We ring and expect it to turn up.

It is a miracle to me that the calls are answered as expeditiously as they are. In Fremantle we have been battling for some months to raise sufficient money to replace ambulances which should have been off the road years ago because of the mileage they have been obliged to do. They have been kept on the roads because of insufficient funds to replace them.

I learnt a good deal when I was brought into this matter. I never stopped before to think that the association is not in a position to charge for its service. When it sends a bill to a person who has used the ambulance and that person declines to pay, that is the end of it; because as soon as the St. John Ambulance Association starts to take action to recover its costs, it will lose a lot of concessions which it now enjoys because it is a voluntary association. It is the opinion of those in charge that the association would finish up worse off than before if it tried to recover this money. It might collect more from people who use the ambulances, but it would lose a number of concessions which it now has.

That means that the association is almost entirely dependent on such funds as it receives from the Lotteries Commission and the State Government, donations from individuals, and such money as it collects from those to whom it sends accounts. Unfortunately, there seems to have developed in the community the idea that there is some hidden financial resource available for this service, and that those who use the service should not be called upon to pay for it. Therefore, a lot of people do not pay, with the result that the various branches are struggling throughout the State in order to keep the service operating.

I think that is a very sad state of affairs, and we should all do what we can to remedy the situation; because it must be

a nightmare for those in charge of these branches, who are responsible for ensuring that the service is able to continue, when they are living from hand to mouth in the way they are.

I have attended several meetings called by the Mayor of Fremantle, as a result of which we have been able to get additional support from local authorities. I made a personal appeal to the waterside workers in Fremantle. I went down there and addressed them at their committee meeting. They placed the matter before their stop-work meetings; and, as a result, a substantial donation was made.

It should not be necessary to have to go around and beg in order to enable the various branches to continue to operate this service successfully. It is a vital one. Quite wrongly a lot of people have the idea that it is run by the Government; that it is financed by the Government; and that it will always be there. Some of those people are going to get a very rude shock; because unless further funds are forthcoming from somewhere they will find, when they ring for an ambulance, there will be no ambulance available in many instances in many districts.

That is a situation which we cannot allow to continue. I would ask the Treasurer—and I know he has a lot of calls upon him for assistance—to have a good look at this matter and try to evaluate the worthiness of this cause compared with a number of others which look to the Government for assistance. I would ask him to do his utmost to ensure that as large a grant as possible is made available to the association to enable it to function.

The average person to whom we put this question will say, "Well, if they send out an account for the work they do, why do they not collect it? Why do they not do what the hospitals do—and that is, send somebody out after the money?" I thought that, too, until it was explained to me that as soon as they started to do that it would be worse for them than it is now. The association enjoys the benefit of sales tax remission because it is a voluntary organisation. Therefore, it is able to purchase its vehicles at lesser cost. It is free from income tax. But a number of those imposts would have to be met as soon as the association started to make a charge or insist upon a charge being made.

It is for that reason the association decided, after going into the matter very carefully, that it was better—even though it was operating under financial stringency—to continue to operate as a voluntary organisation, apart altogether from the fact that that is a basic principle of the foundation of the order; and one which is, of course, very commendable. But if ever there was a worthy cause, this is one.

I repeat that I am very sorry indeed I was not fully aware of the situation when we were the Government, because I would certainly have made some strong representations to the Treasurer at the time to increase the grant. But I was completely ignorant of the situation, and it was only recently that I became aware of it when my help was sought by the Fremantle branch in an endeavour to get it out of a very serious situation in which it found itself in respect of vehicles on the road which should not have been on the road. The branch was worried about the possibility of its being unable to continue the service.

I would point out that the Fremantle branch is responsible for servicing a district from Bay View Terrace, Claremont, out to the Cockburn Shire Council, and out through Melville and East Melville to the river. That is a very large area. The branch has four vehicles, three of which needed urgent replacement, and it could not see where the money was going to come from for this purpose.

I would therefore ask the Treasurer, in all seriousness, to have a good look at this item to see whether it is at all possible to give additional financial assistance; because it is certainly needed, and in my view it is a very worth-while cause.

Mr. BRAND: I appreciate what the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has said in relation to the activities of the St. John Ambulance Association. I think we all realise what a wonderful organisation it is and how very important it is to keep it functioning. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition quoted an instance tonight of what had happened in the metropolitan area. Country members have an appreciation of what I believe is an even greater responsibility upon the smaller centres of the St. John Ambulance Association, which provide drivers to bring cases to Perth and deal with accidents hundreds of miles from the Royal Perth Hospital.

I had a direct interest in the work of the brigade at Geraldton. For that reason I have kept closely in touch with its activities and have discussed them with its treasurer at great length. We found, when taking over the Treasury bench, that a system had developed of making capital grants to each of the centres as submissions were made. I think it is fair for me to say that headquarters felt that the situation was getting out of hand. After we had received a deputation from headquarters it was decided that any payments would be made to headquarters and it would decide the priority and the distribution of the funds.

The Government contributes, I think, one third of the capital cost of ambulance buildings and of ambulances, and makes

some contribution to the administration costs of the medical centres and of the association's headquarters itself.

However, as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has said, this is a voluntary organisation, and I gathered from discussions with the leaders of the St. John Ambulance Association that this is a principle which must be encouraged. If, with all the goodwill in the world, the Government accepts greater financial responsibility than at present, I think we may undermine the will to work in this capacity of those who are interested.

It is true that in many centres the workers in the brigade have great difficulty in raising sufficient money; but I would think that any proposal for a change in respect of the arrangements for financing the St. John Ambulance Association, or in respect of the contributions which the Government makes either from general revenue or from loan funds, should come from the headquarters of the association.

I am quite willing not so much to review the position but to further discuss what assistance the State Government can give to create sufficient incentive for the main workers and the leaders of the association to go out and push ahead and expand the service; because in terms of pounds, shillings, and pence it would be impossible for the State Government to provide for the voluntary service which is given by such a very important organisation as the St. John Ambulance Association; and I can assure members it has my very real sympathy and very direct interest.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: Perhaps I could add a word of two here which may prove helpful, because the same problem as presented by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition exists in Narrogin: namely, that of vehicles.

This is an organisation of voluntary workers who give their time freely; and it was felt they should not have imposed on them the added burden of always having to search for finance.

Many people outside of the association, including Rotary, initiated a scheme by which subscribers to the St. John Ambulance Association could be secured, and those subscribers would pledge a certain amount of money each year. I do not know whether a definite figure was stipulated, but let us say it was £1 which they promised to give each year on an order. The whole place was canvassed to secure sufficient numbers to keep the finances moving; and in return for being a subscriber a person is entitled to transport by the ambulance at any time without any charge being made.

This scheme has worked so successfully that there is now no bother at all in regard to finance. A fund has been built up so that the two ambulances which are running in Narrogin continuously can be replaced when necessary, and there is no worry at all about the finances of the St. John Ambulance organisation.

Mr. Brand: That is evidence of leadership and organisation.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: That is so.

Mr. Rowberry: Narrogin is not the only town that does that.

Mr. Brand: No, not at all.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: If anybody is interested in the scheme he can get further details from Narrogin.

Item No. 22: Slow Learning Children's Group, £18,800—

Mr. HALL: I would like to commend the Treasurer on his action in increasing the grant under this item. In 1961-62 the vote was £9,000 and the expenditure £8,734. This year the Premier has an estimate of £18,800, an increase of £10,066. I draw the Premier's attention to the fact that a group has been formed in Albany and it has received assistance from the State Housing Commission and the Education Department, through the respective Ministers. Within twelve months the group has raised £2,825, and I hope the Premier will keep this group in mind when he is allocating this year's money. The State Housing Commission has made the land available; and when a body like this is prepared to help itself I think some assistance should be given to it. Some of those parents who were a little backward in coming forward are starting, now that they know their children can be effectively educated, to take an interest in this very worthy cause. I hope the Premier will consider the Albany branch when he distributes this £18,800.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I would like to compare the estimate for this item with the estimate for Item 24, Spastic Welfare Association. The Slow Learning Children's Group has an estimated expenditure of £18,800, an increase of £10,066 on last year's expenditure, and the estimate for the Spastic Welfare Association for this year is £35,000. Another association which has something in common with those two is the Paraplegics Association which has been allotted only £700. I would like the Premier to tell us why there is such a difference.

Mr. BRAND: For a start, numerically the Paraplegics Association would not justify the same expenditure as the Slow Learning Children's Group. I cannot give any details regarding the Spastic Welfare

Association, but it must be obvious to all members why there is a difference in the estimates. The Paraplegics Association has not long been established, but its representatives have been to me for assistance and we have responded, particularly in relation to the paraplegic games which are to be held here.

As regards the Slow Learning Children's Group and the Spastic Welfare Association, the degree of assistance which the Government has been able to give is related to the number of children being taught, the responsibilities of the association, and the type of equipment necessary. One could go on giving reasons why there has to be a difference in the amounts of money allocated.

I shall read some notes I have in regard to the Slow Learning Children's Group which may be of interest. The increase of £10,066 is caused by the increased provision for payment of salaries for staff engaged at the Irrabeena centre where children are treated, and a special grant of £5,800, being an amount of compensation recovered from the Commonwealth Government for the resumption of portion of the land vested in the group—I think that was in connection with an extension of Irrabeena.

Financial assistance for the slow learning children's groups consists of the following:—

1. An annual grant of £4,000 towards the administrative cost of the group.
2. An annual grant of up to £9,000 for the payment of salaries of the staff of the Irrabeena centre in Thomas Street, Subiaco.

That was recently opened following recommendations of a committee comprising members of the Slow Learning Children's Group, the Princess Margaret Hospital, and the Mental Health Services. The centre provides medical, psychological, and educational training for mentally-retarded persons, occupational therapy for children, and a counselling service for parents.

The financial assistance also includes capital assistance towards approved projects in the metropolitan area and country centres. This assistance is on the basis of pound for pound with funds raised and expended by the group. In addition the Lotteries Commission has made grants to this organisation. Government grants made on this basis in 1961-62 amounted to £448. The annual grant for administration and Irrabeena are chargeable to this item and the capital grant is met from the General Loan Fund. I would advise the member

for Albany that there could be a contribution on the basis of a pound for pound made under the arrangements already established, and, whilst not making any commitment at this stage, I suggest he contact the Treasury and obtain further information for the guidance of his organisation.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I think I can throw a little further light on this matter, and refresh the Treasurer's memory in regard to the paraplegics.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): What item are you discussing?

Mr. GUTHRIE: The item mentioned by the member for Warren in regard to paraplegics.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): This item refers to the Slow Learning Children's Group.

Mr. GUTHRIE: It is the same item as the member for Warren used to discuss the paraplegics. The position is that they have a hostel in Kershaw Street, Subiaco, known as the Jack O'Keefe Memorial Hostel for Paraplegics; and it operates for the purpose of first of all training paraplegics in various trades and avocations, and secondly to provide accommodation for country paraplegics who come to the metropolitan area for treatment. The administrative cost of that institution is in the order of £2,000 per annum.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Order! I am sorry I cannot allow the honourable member to continue. He is directing his remarks to Item No. 14 and we are on Item No. 22.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I am answering the member for Warren.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): I cannot allow the honourable member to continue.

Mr. GUTHRIE: You permitted the member for Warren to discuss paraplegics under this item.

Mr. ROWBERRY: In explanation, Mr. Chairman—

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): The honourable member will have to direct his remarks to one of the items.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I am directing my remarks to Item No. 24, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Brand: Remember that you are talking about the Spastic Welfare Association.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I am in a quandary as to whether to discuss the matter on which I wish to speak under this item or

under Item 14, because, actually, I wanted to make a comparison between three items. Under which item will I address my remarks, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): The honourable member will have to address his remarks to each item in turn.

Item No. 30: Adult Education Board, £4,100—

Mr. GRAHAM: I want to take advantage of this item to bring a matter to the notice of the Treasurer. Among its various activities, I understand the Adult Education Board conducts classes for persons who are anxious to learn public speaking or matters relating to it; namely, the manner and form for the conduct of meetings. It will be agreed by members that an activity such as this, when we are endeavouring to encourage people to become active in the public affairs of the State, is most commendable. I am informed that those responsible for this tutoring are persons who are interested in the W.A. Debating League. They get paid for their tutoring services and then pass this money over to the W.A. Debating League without which it would be impossible for that important body to continue the work it carries out.

In the other States some consideration is given to this matter of public speaking and debating. In Victoria, a grant is made by the Government for the advancement of cultural pursuits. I do not know whether that is the correct term, but it covers what I intend. From that fund grants are made to various bodies including the debating league of that State. Recently, the Australian debating championships were held in Perth and Western Australia scored a glorious victory and is now, of course, the Australian champion. In consultation with the competitors and officials of the New South Wales debating team, it was ascertained that the Government of that State made available a grant which permitted the competitors from the senior State to visit Perth for the championships.

I was wondering if the Treasurer, when preparing his next Budget, could make some provision to assist these people who are doing an excellent job. It requires no emphasis on my part to express how desirable it is that people not only in Parliament and public authorities, but also in kindergartens, spastic associations, and the like, should be able to express themselves with confidence and have a knowledge of the procedure at meetings. It would be appreciated, therefore, if the Treasurer could make an allocation to these people who do not expect and do not receive any reward for the services they are rendering. None of their expenses are met, and yet they continue to give this voluntary service.

I know you have been extremely generous to me, Mr. Chairman, by allowing me to raise this matter under this item, but I was anxious to draw the attention of the Treasurer to it somehow. Summarised, my request is: Will the Treasurer make some investigation and give consideration to providing a humble sum each year to assist the W.A. Debating League in the work it is doing?

Mr. BRAND: I am prepared to consider the suggestion made by the honourable member, but I would point out that this is yet another call being made on the Government on behalf of a voluntary organisation. One is often left confused as to whether organisations such as the Spastic Welfare Association should not receive more assistance at the expense of, say, the organisation mentioned by the member for Balcatta.

Nevertheless, all these suggestions must be put forward here so that they can be considered on their merits. I appreciate the need to encourage culture and education at every level, and I will undertake to investigate whether this suggestion can be implemented.

Item No. 48: Library Board of Western Australia, £178,710—

Mr. GRAHAM: I have selected this item merely for the purpose of asking the Treasurer why the succeeding item is not prefaced with a numeral, and therefore we are forbidden to speak on it. What is the reason for there being no number following Item No. 49? I am merely seeking information.

Mr. BRAND: With all these items it will be seen that there is an estimate given, but for this particular item there is no estimate given.

Mr. GRAHAM: This is purely procedural, but what opportunity has a member to complain to the Government about no provision being made this year for a certain item when last year, or for many years before, provision was made?

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): There was opportunity to discuss such matters during the general debate on the Estimates. We are now discussing the vote for each item listed. If there is no vote for expenditure I cannot permit any member to discuss the subject.

Item No. 56: National Sirex Fund, £4,710—

Mr. KELLY: Could the Treasurer give the Committee some information on this item? This appears to be the first time it has appeared in the Estimates.

Mr. BRAND: If I cannot give sufficient information, perhaps the Minister for Lands can.

Mr. Graham: Or the Minister for Forests.

Mr. Bovell: Yes; the Minister for Forests.

Mr. BRAND: This item provides for the balance of the State's contribution towards the National Sirex Fund. A meeting of Commonwealth and State representatives decided to set up machinery for the eradication of the sirex wasp. Funds for this work were to be provided on the following basis:—

(a) Commonwealth—£100,000.

(b) States in proportion to forest area—£87,000.

Western Australia's contribution amounted to £9,420. Two committees have been set up. The first is to direct the detection, and the second to direct research into means of dealing with the wasp at biological level. There is no infestation in Forests Department plantations, but the wasp could be present in small plantations and shelter belts in the vicinity of Fremantle.

The eradication of the sirex wasp is of vital importance to the future security of plantations. If it is not satisfactorily eradicated in the Eastern States it will be only a matter of time before our plantations are affected. If any special eradication measures are needed in Western Australia, finance will be provided from the national fund.

Mr. BOVELL: As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, we had a discussion on the sirex wasp some time ago. The Government was most concerned about this matter and a fund was established at national level. I made a study of the sirex wasp problem when I was in Victoria where at that time 200 strikes were discovered. There are no known strikes in Western Australia, especially in the forests controlled by the Forests Department. I recall the Deputy Leader of the Opposition making reference to the sirex wasp some time ago in relation to the Austrian houses. We are trying to prevent the wasp from coming to Western Australia, and during the recess I will again, as Minister for Forests, visit Victoria and other States and follow up the progress they are making in the eradication of the sirex wasp.

Mr. TONKIN: If the Minister for Lands had not spoken I would have allowed my reference to this subject to depend on my interjection. Members will recall that a short time ago the Minister for Lands rather regrettably sought to discredit me on another matter by saying I had raised a hullabaloo about the sirex wasp, because there was none here. Had the Minister

made the study he says he has he would have known the sirex wasp was here; that I had some in my possession.

The sirex wasp caused the expenditure of a considerable sum of money in Western Australia for the purpose of fumigating timber brought here from Austria. I brought to Parliament House timber which had been infested with the sirex wasp.

Mr. Bovell: I know. I saw you display it.

Mr. TONKIN: In view of that, how can the Minister say there were never any here.

Mr. Bovell: I said there were no known strikes.

Mr. TONKIN: Does the Minister think I would be making complaints about the sirex wasp if there were none here?

Mr. Bovell: There were none living in this State.

Mr. TONKIN: Oh yes, there were! So I am very glad of the opportunity to nail that canard. At the time I raised this question it was a very real menace in Western Australia, and that was the justification for the expenditure of tens of thousands of pounds in Western Australia. The sirex wasp is a very serious pest, and I am glad this national fund has been established for its eradication.

Whilst abroad I had the opportunity to learn something about this wasp. I was told authoritatively that at times furniture is made of timber which is infested with the sirex wasp. After the furniture is made the wasp emerges from it and leaves a hole in the timber. It actually develops and feeds in the wood, and then eats its way out into the room. The furniture, of course, is spoiled as a result of it. It would be a serious matter if this pest got into our forests. Prevention is better than cure and it is as well that efforts are being made to eradicate the pest in this State.

Mr. Bovell: There are no known infestations.

Item No. 62: Royal Mint—Additional Grant, £131,000—

Mr. DAVIES: I was of the opinion that the Mint was the responsibility of the Imperial Government, and that its activities in this State were confined to the refining of gold and the manufacture of bronze coins. I wonder what the future of the Mint would be if Australia went over to decimal coinage. I understand it has considerable capacity to produce coins; and apart from the Mint here the other Royal Mint in Australia is located at Melbourne.

I understand a new mint is to be built at Canberra. The Treasurer might give us some idea as to how this £131,000 is going to be spent, and at the same time inform the Committee whether the Government has made any representations to the Commonwealth in regard to future coinage. In view of the changes in size of coins I sometimes wonder whether they will not be imported from abroad. I imagine there will still be need for gold refining processes in this State, and as this is the only place where gold refining can be done, will the Mint remain under the Imperial Government, or will it become the responsibility of the Western Australian Government?

I believe the Deputy Master of the Mint retired some time ago and no further appointment has been made. Has the Western Australian Government any say in the appointment of a successor? Perhaps the Treasurer could tell us of any recommendations that have been made to the Commonwealth in regard to decimal coinage?

Mr. BRAND: The question of the future of the Royal Mint has been under discussion for two or three years.

Mr. H. May: Longer than that.

Mr. BRAND: The matter was brought to a head following the decision to establish a Royal Mint for Australia at Canberra. At present there are in existence two Royal Mints in Australia—one in Melbourne and one in Perth. Presumably the one in Melbourne is working under an agreement similar to the agreement which Western Australia has with the British Government.

We have been in touch with the Federal Treasury, as a result of which an assistant-secretary, the Secretary of the Loan Council, and an officer of the Prime Minister's Department visited this State and made some inquiries. Presumably the member for Victoria Park is aware of this because he indicated a complaint made by officers in the Royal Mint regarding the non-appointment of a deputy master. I can inform him that this matter has been resolved, and the officer concerned will be promoted to fill the senior position.

If there has been any hold-up, it has resulted from having the decision on the future of the Mint in Western Australia clarified. The Government is pressing for the continuation of the Royal Mint in Perth, if not for the purpose of minting coins, then as a refinery. The latest advice I have is that our position is reasonably safeguarded in that we have an agreement with the British Govern-

ment decides to come into this matter it will have to resolve that problem. We intend to permit the Royal Mint to continue, and we will take any contract offering for the minting of coins. In the past we did have a substantial contract, but we did not expect the figure this year to reach the level of the previous years; hence, there is a decrease of £11,000 shown in the item.

Mr. Davies: If you continue minting coins here, would it be under the direction of the Government of this State, or would the Mint remain as a Royal Mint under the Imperial Government?

Mr. BRAND: We mint only bronze coins—pennies and halfpennies. We have done so for a number of years under a contract between ourselves and the Commonwealth Government. With the construction of the new Mint at Canberra, in the event of a favourable decision on the introduction of decimal coinage, provision will be made for minting the requisite coins there. It would not be an economical proposition for this State to establish facilities for minting such coins, unless the demand for them was so great that the Mint at Canberra would not be able to cope with it.

Under the Royal Mint Act, the State annually finds £25,000 to meet the expenditure of the Mint. The excess expenditure for the year is provided under this item. The Mint's two main functions are smelting gold received from producers and minting coins under contract from the Commonwealth Government. All receipts are taken to revenue, and this year receipts are estimated at £180,000.

Item No. 65: Tourist Development Authority, £112,000—

Mr. MITCHELL: This item has been increased somewhat for 1962-63. Being a new member of this Chamber I am not sure what is the procedure to be adopted to bring before the attention of the Treasurer the need for this item to be increased in future years. I take it if a member makes a comment on a particular item, the comment will be taken into consideration in the following year's Estimates. I am not optimistic to think that a special provision could be added this year, but I do hope the Treasurer will take into consideration the remarks I am making and increase this item next year.

One particular phase of tourist development interests me and my electors; that is, the difficulty of some local authorities to raise finance in order to receive a subsidy from the Government on the basis of £1 contribution £2 subsidy. I understand that the Treasurer can, where he decides it is necessary, make the full contribution in

respect of such an item, without the local authority having to raise any of the finance.

I ask the Treasurer to give consideration to increasing this item, because tourist amenities and facilities in the Denmark Shire Council district are urgently needed; and that shire council finds great difficulty in raising the first £1 in order to receive the £2 subsidy from the Treasurer.

There are one or two other points in regard to further items which I would like to raise. I hope it is proper to draw these matters to the attention of the Treasurer so they might receive consideration in next year's Estimates.

Mr. BRAND: I am fully aware of the problems of small authorities like Denmark where the income is very small and it is difficult to match the money offered by the Tourist Development Authority for the provision of tourist amenities in their districts. We are anxious to help, if we can find a way to do so. The Tourist Development Authority has decided it will not go beyond the formula which it has laid down on the basis of two to one. If this is broken for one local authority, it then must be broken for another; and there is a big demand right throughout the State for help of this kind.

However, I can assure the honourable member we are investigating other avenues through which we hope the Denmark Shire Council can play some part in the development of its area—an area which will become one of the playgrounds of Western Australia.

Item No. 71: Youth Welfare Committee—Grant for Expenses, £100—

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I wonder whether the Treasurer could tell us something in regard to this item. It appears to be a new grant; but I do not know whether this £100 is going to deal a shattering blow to delinquency throughout the State. Is it a new youth organisation or a local committee that is being granted this amount?

Mr. BRAND: An amount of £100 is always a shattering blow to me, if not to the member for Narrogin. According to my notes, following a request from the Associated Youth Committee, The Hon. A. F. Watts investigated youth works in the United Kingdom and submitted a report on his inquiries. As a result of this report the Government appointed a committee under the chairmanship of The Hon. A. F. Watts to report upon the following matters:—

- (a) The suitability and adequacy of present youth services for sport and recreational purposes available in this State;

- (b) Extent to which existing services cater for needs and how they could be improved;

- (c) To recommend some practical means of catering for all needs of youth in these fields.

The incidental expenses of the committee will be met from this item. Big things have small beginnings.

Mr. BRADY: In connection with youth welfare, I would like to ask the Treasurer if he would refer to a question I asked him yesterday regarding 5,000 youths who were preparing to take part in the Empire Games. His reply was as follows:—

The 5,000 youths are all members of voluntary youth groups and sports associations affiliated with the Associated Youth Committee. About one-third of them are school children who will be in recess on opening day, the balance being over school age and outside the jurisdiction of the Education Department. They would include a large proportion of employees.

About 2,000 to 3,000 youths will have to lose a day if they take part in the sports for which they have been preparing.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): I am sorry, but this item does not cover the honourable member's query.

Mr. BRADY: The item concerns youth welfare committees. The Treasurer has given £58,000 towards the Empire Games and I was wondering whether he would help our youth by granting a half-day holiday or making a grant towards the loss in wages.

Mr. BRAND: At the present time the answer is "No." It is not intended that there shall be a public holiday.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr. Brand (Treasurer).

House adjourned at 6.13 p.m.