

Board in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (a) hereof;

- (c) Where a member of the Police Force, to whom a payment is shown by the statement aforesaid to be payable, dies whilst still employed in the service of the State, then, provided the amount shown to be payable to him as aforesaid has not already been paid for his benefit to the Superannuation Board in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (a) hereof, the amount payable to such member shall be a debt owing by the Treasurer to the estate of the deceased member and shall be paid to the executor or administrator of the will or estate of such deceased member of the Police Force on demand.

We have dealt with the person who has transferred to the superannuation fund, with the person who is deceased, and with the officer who has retired. Those with whom it is sought to deal by an amendment of the Act are the officers who did not take advantage of the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act. The money they had paid into the Police Benefit Fund was transferred to the trust account at the Treasury. It has not been invested because it amounts to only £178. There are only three officers who have not yet retired under the Police Act, and it is felt that as the sum of £178 is small and the Treasury would not be likely to invest it with a view to drawing interest, it is only right that the officers concerned should be able to draw it before retiring from the Police Force. I trust that this fact will receive the consideration of members.

The Bill provides for an amendment to Section 13 by deleting all the words after the word "hereof" in line 1 of paragraph (b) down to and including the word "shall" in line 9 and substituting the words "when-ever a member of the Police Force who is entitled to a payment out of the Police Benefit Fund Distribution Trust Account requests that such payment be made to him, he shall forthwith." A further amendment is to insert after the word "paid" in line 6 of paragraph (c) the words "to the member himself, or."

The amendments simply mean that the three members of the force who have not yet retired and have paid into the benefit fund may receive their money. The Treasury has not invested it, and there is no objection to the money being made available when application is made for it. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. C. H. Simpson, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 6.9 p.m.*

# Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 6th October, 1955.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

## QUESTIONS.

### EDUCATION.

#### Wembley School Extension.

Mr. NIMMO asked the Minister for Education:

(1) In view of the increasing growth of Floreat Park and Wembley, is it intended to build two more rooms on to the Wembley school to bring it up to the fifth standard?

(2) If the answer is in the affirmative, will he give an approximate date for the commencement of the rooms?

The MINISTER replied:

At present it appears that the anticipated numbers for 1956 do not warrant the building of two extra classrooms at the Wembley school.

### SHEEP STEALING.

*Leniency of Sentences, Moora District.*

Mr. ACKLAND asked the Minister for Justice:

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the leniency of the sentence imposed on a man caught and convicted of sheep stealing in the Moora district, and heard before Mr. Commissioner K. H. Hogg at Geraldton during September?

(2) Could the sentence be considered adequate when compared with sentences imposed by Perth magistrates on men found guilty of housebreaking in the metropolitan area during the same month?

(3) Has it been pointed out to him that the leniency of the sentences for sheep stealing has caused a wave of indignation, and a feeling of insecurity among flock owners throughout the Midlands districts where sheep stealing is becoming increasingly prevalent?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Justice) replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Magistrates have to be guided by the evidence placed before them.

(3) Yes.

### COCKBURN CEMENT PTY. LTD.

*Subscribed and Paid-up Capital.*

Hon. A. F. WATTS asked the Minister for Justice:

(1) What is the amount of the subscribed capital of the Cockburn Cement Pty. Ltd.?

(2) What is the amount of the paid-up capital of the company?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Justice) replied:

The subscribed capital of this company is £450,000. The whole of the subscribed capital is paid-up, i.e. £450,000.

The subscribed capital is held by—

A.N.Z. Nominees Ltd., 100,000 "A" shares; 300,000 "B" shares.

Rugby Portland Cement Co. Ltd., 50,000 "B" shares.

The difference between "A" and "B" class shares lies in the voting power—on a poll each "A" share carries five votes and each "B" share one vote.

It is understood that a large amount for capital works has been advanced to the company by the Rugby Portland Cement Co. Ltd.

### ALBANY HIGHWAY.

*"Ocean Wave" Conditions.*

Hon. A. F. WATTS asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Does the Main Roads Department intend taking action to rectify the "ocean wave" conditions on Albany Highway particularly between 30 and 55 miles from Perth, and if so, when?

(2) Is it considered that these conditions have been contributed to by the passage of very heavy loads particularly of timber logs over this road especially during wet periods?

(3) If so, is it proposed to allow these heavy loads to be transported in the future over such road or will limitations be imposed?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes. Provision has been made on the current programme of works for the reconstruction of a mile and a quarter of the worst affected sections between the 33-mile and 36-mile pegs. The work will commence in February.

(2) Overloading does cause roads to fail in this way.

(3) Main roads are designed to carry axle loads of 17,000lb. as allowed in the traffic regulations, and the department provides for the policing of such loading regulations on main roads. Some sections constructed many years ago on various roads show weaknesses due to the use of gravels with too much plasticity. Some reconstruction has already taken place.

### STATE TRANSPORT CO-ORDINATION ACT.

*Prosecutions for Breaches.*

Mr. NALDER asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) Have there been, in the last three years, any prosecutions against—

(a) licensed carriers;

(b) farmers and others,

for breaches of the State Transport Co-ordination Act?

(2) If so, is it possible to give the number in the last 12 months?

(3) Who initiates prosecutions for offences against the Act mentioned—the board, individual inspectors or patrol officers, or some other persons?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(2) Arrangements will be made to segregate the number of prosecutions but the information cannot be made available until next week.

(3) The board.

## NORTHAMPTON HOSPITAL.

*Repairs and Renovations.*

Mr. SEWELL asked the Minister for Health:

When will the repairs and renovations to the Northampton hospital be undertaken?

The MINISTER replied:

The Public Works Department estimate will be available soon and, subject to money being available, tenders will be called with a view to carrying out the work as early as practicable.

## MCNESS HOMES.

*Number Built, etc.*

Mr. BOVELL asked the Minister for Housing:

(1) How many McNess houses have been built during the past two years in the—

(a) city and metropolitan area;

(b) country districts?

(2) How many McNess houses are to be built during the current financial year in the—

(a) city and metropolitan area;

(b) country districts?

(3) At what country towns, if any, are McNess houses to be erected during the current financial year?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) (a) Two years ended the 30th June, 1955—12 flats completed.

(b) Nil. The trust has had difficulty in allocating houses in several country districts.

(2) (a) and (b) No decision yet made.

(3) Answered by No. (2) (b).

An arrangement exists, for the housing of elderly people in country districts only, whereby the Lotteries Commission provides finance for the erection of flats. Under this scheme flats have been approved for the following centres:—

Bunbury—6 (completed).

Manjimup—14 (completed).

Albany—6 (under construction).

Boulder—6.

Busselton—6.

Geraldton—6.

Merredin—2.

Several other centres have also inquired regarding the scheme.

## STATE HOTELS.

*Profit, 1954-55.*

Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

What profit, if any, did each individual State hotel, including Medina, make during the financial year 1954-1955?

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING replied:

## State Hotels.

## Trading Profit.

£

Bolgart	....	....	499
Bruce Rock	....	....	3,089
Corrigin	....	....	2,368
Dwellingup	....	....	4,909
Gwalia	....	....	4,910
Kwolyin	....	....	1,098
Wongan Hills	....	....	4,470

Medina is not a State hotel but is a public utility financed from Consolidated Revenue. The excess of receipts over expenditure from November, 1954, when the premises opened, to June, 1955, was £2,029.

## HORTICULTURE.

*Queensland Fruit Fly.*

Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Agriculture:

As Western Australia is, at present, free of the Queensland fruit fly and as there is every possibility of the fly being introduced into this State through bananas being imported from the northern areas of New South Wales, will he advise the House what steps, if any, are being taken to ensure that this will not occur?

The MINISTER replied:

The danger is recognised and a very strict inspection is made by inspectors of the horticultural division on all importations of bananas and all other fruits entering Western Australia from the Eastern States and elsewhere.

## BETTING.

*Shop in Broadway, Nedlands.*

Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Police:

(1) Is it correct that the shop being erected in Broadway on the block next but one from the Avenue, Nedlands, is to be occupied as a licensed betting shop?

(2) If so, who is to be the licensee of the shop and the licensed s.p. bookmaker?

(3) When was a decision made to—

(a) license the shop;

(b) license the bookmaker?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Harry James Smith has been granted registration of the premises and a bookmaker's licence.

(3) On the 26th August, 1955.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

*Publicity to By-Laws.*

Mr. COURT asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

Would he institute a procedure to ensure that when local government by-laws are submitted for approval or are

gazetted, reasonable publicity is given by the local authority concerned in addition to the formal advertisements required by law, especially where the by-law is of such a nature that it could prejudicially affect many people if they did not receive reasonable notice (e.g., the recent case of Perth City Council by-law No. 33 which concerned a large number of people, many of whom were not aware of their rights mainly because there was virtually no publicity after the by-law had been approved and gazetted)?

The MINISTER FOR POLICE replied:

Consideration will be given to this matter.

### DEMINERALISATION OF WATER.

#### *Particulars Regarding Tenders.*

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Will he lay on the Table of the House all papers relating to the tender for Demineralisation Type Water Treatment Plant T.B. Schedule No. 745A, 1954?

(2) How many tenderers were there and what were the names and respective prices of each?

(3) If Permutit was not the lowest tender, why was it accepted?

(4) What was the country of origin of the Permutit equipment?

(5) What was the country of origin of the equipment of the other tenderers?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Four.

	Tendered price.
	£
(a) W. G. Utting .....	24,520
Westeels Industries .....	27,400
Permutit Co. Ltd. ....	29,653
John Thompson .....	43,737
(b) After comparison of capitalised value of difference of operating costs, prices became—	
	£
Permutit Co. Ltd. ....	28,058
Westeels Industries .....	28,360
W. G. Utting .....	40,904
John Thompson's tender eliminated	

(3) Answered by No. (2).

(4) United Kingdom.

(5) Westeels Industries—not stated; W. G. Utting—United States of America and Australia; John Thompson (Aust.) Ltd.—United Kingdom.

### TRAFFIC.

#### *Street Lighting, Midland Junction.*

Mr. BRADY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

Has any decision been made in regard to placing a street traffic lighting signal on the corner of Helena-st and Great Eastern Highway, Midland Junction?

The MINISTER FOR POLICE replied:

Not as yet. A letter from the Midland Junction Municipal Council to the Local Government Association submitting the claims of this intersection was placed before the Traffic Lights Committee at the last meeting on the 7th September. The committee has listed this matter for investigation.

### DRAINAGE.

#### *Midvale-Bellevue Area.*

Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Is any drainage plan contemplated for the Midvale-Bellevue area to relieve flooding in this area yearly?

(2) Does the plan propose to cater for storm and surface waters adjacent to the railway marshalling yards?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Investigations have been carried out at the request of the Midland Junction Municipal Council and the Mundaring Road Board for alleviating flooding of these areas, but the work has not yet been contemplated as a government main drainage scheme.

(2) This area, which is adjacent to the marshalling yards, has also been considered, but it would require to be carried out as a separate scheme.

### RAILWAYS.

#### *Proposed Line, West Midland to Welshpool.*

Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) Has a decision been made relative to the route for the proposed line from West Midland to Welshpool?

(2) Was due regard given to taking the route via Bushmead?

(3) Is the proposed route, other than via Bushmead, likely to aggravate the present loco and workshops marshalling difficulties?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) Provision will be made so that neither marshalling yard nor workshops movements will be restricted by the entry of the new line.

**ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES.**

*High tension line, Pickering Brook-Karragullen.*

Mr. WILD asked the Minister for Works: In view of the decision not to proceed with the Pickering Brook-Karragullen electricity extensions, owing to shortage of finance, will he give consideration to the loan or hire of a small engine and generator to a market gardener, producing approximately 6,000 cases of fruit for export per year, who had deferred the purchase of a new auxiliary plant in view of the hoped-for extensions past his property?

The MINISTER replied:

It is regretted that the State Electricity Commission is unable to make an engine or alternator available.

**EGG MARKETING BOARD.**

*Purchase of Manager's Car.*

Mr. WILD asked the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Was a motorcar recently purchased for the manager of the Western Australian Egg Marketing Board?

(2) If "Yes" is the answer to No (1)—

(a) from whom was the car purchased, what was the type and price;

(b) what was the trade-in price allowed by the firm for the car traded in?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) No. A Dodge motorcar was purchased privately from Winterbottom Motor Co. by the general manager of the Western Australian Egg Marketing Board, who made use of the board's car purchase plan available to all members of the staff of the Egg Marketing Board who require a vehicle for official duties.

(2) Answered by No. (1).

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

On motion by Mr. Bovell, leave of absence for three weeks granted to Hon. D. Brand (Greenough) on the ground of ill-health.

**BILLS (4)—FIRST READING.**

1, Medical Act Amendment (No. 2).

Introduced by the Minister for Health.

2, Fairbridge Farm School Act Amendment.

3, Roman Catholic Bunbury Church Property.

Introduced by the Minister for Justice.

4, University Medical School.

Introduced by the Premier.

**BILLS (3)—THIRD READING.**

1, State Government Insurance Office Act Amendment.

2, Parks and Reserves Act Amendment.

3, Mining Act Amendment.

Transmitted to the Council.

**BILL—PRICES CONTROL.**

*Recommittal.*

On motion by the Minister for Labour, Bill recommitted for the further consideration of Clauses 49 and 53.

*In Committee.*

Mr. J. Hegney in the Chair; the Minister for Labour in charge of the Bill.

Clause 49—Corners and restrictions on circulation of goods:

The MINISTER FOR LABOUR: When the Bill was considered in Committee, Clause 51, which dealt with the seizure and disposal of forfeited goods, was not agreed to. Clause 49 had already been adopted and Clause 53 was subsequently agreed to. It was then found that both Clauses 49 and 53 had relation to Clause 51 and the purpose of the recommittal is to rectify the error. I move an amendment—

That Subclauses (2) and (3) be struck out.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 53—Payment to former owner of whole or portion of proceeds of sale:

The MINISTER FOR LABOUR: This clause also related to Clause 51 and needs to be struck out of the Bill.

Clause put and negatived.

Bill again reported with further amendments.

**BILL—JUNIOR FARMERS' MOVEMENT.**

*Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 13th September.

HON. A. F. WATTS (Stirling) [2.40]: I propose to support the second reading, although I do not suppose that the net result, if the measure is passed in its present form, will make a great deal of difference to the success or otherwise of the junior farmers' movement in this State. There is a grave doubt whether sufficient funds will be made available to enable the movement, even under the council provided for in the Bill, to function and to meet with the success that it should.

Some weeks ago, several questions were asked by a member of this House as to the number of organisers engaged in furthering the development of the junior farmers' movement, and the Minister's reply was to the effect that there were two on the staff of the Education Department engaged full-time, and nine engaged part-time who were each being paid at the rate of £65 a year. It is not

difficult to realise the exceedingly part-time occupation it will be for a man who is paid the sum of 25s. weekly.

One of the most necessary factors required to achieve the best results in the junior farmers' movement is to appoint many suitable men to move around among the branches of the movement to provide, as it were, leadership in their operations and to spend some time assisting them to organise their activities. Prior to the present set-up, there were other methods in operation which at least provided a couple more people who were on a better basis in so far as the time they were able to put into the work was concerned than is evident under the present set-up.

I fully agree that the council, when constituted under the Bill should it become an Act will be able to make arrangements for the officers and the organisers to whom I have been referring to undertake the work I have mentioned, but there doubtless would be a considerable sum of money involved and, as I said at the beginning, we have no guarantee that those funds will be available. Therefore, there is no guarantee that the council will be able to perform the functions I have mentioned.

Were it in my power, I would attempt to stipulate in the measure a minimum sum to be appropriated by Parliament each year, but that is not within my capacity, so I shall leave the measure with the phraseology "such amount as is appropriated by Parliament for the purpose" and express the hope that this amount will be increased and maintained at a figure that will enable the council, when constituted, to undertake, on a more efficient scale, the organisation and development of the junior farmers' movement because, quite apart from the excellent title of the Bill, which might be said to summarise the activities in which junior farmers might engage and the benefits which might accrue to them and the community, from personal experience I expect most of us—at least many of us—are acquainted with the extraordinarily good results that are being achieved when the right type of organisation and enthusiasm are combined to achieve it.

Only a few days ago it was my privilege to attend what is known as an "achievement day" of the junior farmers' clubs situated in the lower Great Southern. There was there an example of careful organisation, the utmost enthusiasm and also some very practical results. Most of the results have been achieved by the young people themselves. There had been, of course, some wise advice given to them by the older folk in the neighbourhood who, in some cases, were ex-members of the junior farmers' movement and who in some instances, had been with it from the inception.

It would have been well worth anybody's while to have seen what went on that day and to have seen the excellent results achieved by these young people, both boys and girls, not only in increasing their interest and knowledge in pursuits associated with the rural industries that are practised and carried on in the district, but also in their approach to, and interest in, public questions of the day, and the opportunity that was afforded a number of them to demonstrate that there will be no lack of capable speakers on public matters in that part of Western Australia in the future.

I have heard many debates in my time between teams representing the negative and the affirmative on any given question, but I have never seen greater *savoir faire*—I think that is the term that best describes it—than was shown by members on each side before an audience of more than 200 people on that day in discussing the question whether or not too much emphasis was placed on sport in Australia. The adjudicator expressed the opinion that he had found the greatest difficulty in determining which side had won and finally gave the decision to the winning team, which had a lead of only two points out of 200.

Mr. Andrew: Who won?

Hon. A. F. WATTS: The Tambellup team was the winner.

The Premier: Which side of the question did they argue?

Hon. A. F. WATTS: The negative. So in all aspects that are mentioned in this long Title to the measure, the junior farmers' movement is endeavouring to achieve all that can be expected of it, and it remains only for us, as a legislature, and, I think, also for the people whom we represent, to give that movement the utmost support, so that it will be able to achieve the results it is capable of to the fullest extent.

Concern has been expressed in some quarters that this measure implies a greater amount of control by the Education Department than has been the case in recent times; or might I even say since the inception of the movement, which inception, of course, came substantially via the Education Department. I must confess, from a perusal of the Bill, that I could not find that was so, but, nevertheless, from several quarters the opinion was expressed to me that that was the position, and because it was the belief of these people that it was the position, there was a disposition on their part to bring up, if they could, opposition to the measure when it came before Parliament.

But, as I could not see their point of view from the Bill itself, I took the opportunity of asking the Minister some questions, and if they were informed of the

answers to those questions, I think the people I refer to would remove their objections on that score altogether. The questions I asked together with the answers I received were as follows:—

(1) If the Junior Farmers' Movement Bill becomes law, will the persons employed in implementing the provisions thereof be under the control of the Superintendent of Youth Education as at present?

The answer to that question was, "No." My next question was—

(2) If not, what is the position likely to be?

The answer was as follows:—

The junior farmer movement may employ whatever officers it pleases.

The Minister might have added, "within the funds available," but he did not. The answer continues—

If they desire to use officers of the Education Department, such officers could be seconded to the junior farmer movement.

The next questions I asked were—

(3) Has the Education Department expressed any desire to alter the present set-up, and if so, in what way, and have any such alterations been discussed with officials of the W.A. Federation of Junior Farmers' Clubs?

(4) If so, with what result?

The answers I received were as follows:—

(3) Yes, on the lines outlined in the answer to the last question. The suggested alterations emanated from the Minister's Advisory Council on which the Junior Farmers' Federation is represented. Presumably the junior farmers representatives have discussed the proposals with the federation.

(4) The present Bill.

As I said those answers seem to be completely on all fours with the proposals in the Bill itself, except one, to which I will make reference in a moment or two, and also with my own views as to what the Bill meant. I have a feeling of regret to some extent that the close supervision of the Education Department is to be somewhat minimised by this measure. I do not hold with the views expressed to me by the folk I have named, because I think, given desirable changes in the internal set-up, it would have been just as well, after those changes had been made—and they were certainly very desirable—had the Education Department maintained some degree of supervision rather greater than is, I think, implied by this measure.

But it seems that the consensus of opinion, or at least the majority of opinion, is that the method of control, and the looking after of the junior farmers' movement in this State by a council for the advancement of the movement as proposed

in the Bill, is best. I do not propose to criticise that proposition except to say that I think it will be desirable for there to be greater representation from the Federation of Junior Farmers' Clubs, even if that meant removing one of the other nominees suggested in the clause of the Bill that deals with the composition of the council. I think the standard of the members of the junior farmers' clubs, and particularly those who are concerned in the management of the federation, is such that it warrants their being given more substantial representation on the council than is proposed in the Bill.

If it is not the desire of the Minister to increase the number of persons on the council in order to make way for another representative of the federation, then I would suggest that either the nominee of the Perth Chamber of Commerce, or the nominee of the Institute of Agricultural Science could, with advantage, be taken off the council. I would prefer the former because I do not see any particular reason why a representative of the Perth Chamber of Commerce should be on the body in question to the exclusion of an additional representative of the Junior Farmers' Federation.

If there is to be an increase in the number, and if the Minister is agreeable to that, then, of course, I should have no objection to the other persons remaining, particularly the representative of the Institute of Agricultural Science. So, I would like the Minister when replying to the debate to give me some advice as to his views on the number of members on the council, as I do not wish to move, and bring before the House at a later stage, amendments which would be unnecessary if the Minister's point of view should in any way at all coincide with either one of the points I have raised.

Although I have expressed the opinion that the Bill appears to minimise the control and supervision of the department—and that is borne out by answers to questions given by the Minister—I have pointed out that exception has been taken to the increased control which this Bill affords to the Education Department. Apparently the objection stems from the clause in the Bill which says that the Minister may, from time to time, issue directions relating to the purposes of this Act to the council either generally or in respect of any particular matter, and the council shall give effect to directions so issued.

I do not know that a clause in these terms is desirable in legislation of this sort. I would infinitely prefer the Minister to be defined in the Bill as the "Minister for Education". He is not so defined; in fact, there is no definition at all. It would lie with the Governor in Executive Council, in the terms of the Interpretation Act, to determine which

Minister should subsequently be given charge of this Bill after it becomes an Act. So it might very easily come under the aegis of the Minister for Housing—

The Minister for Housing: And with good advantage, too.

Hon. A. F. WATTS: —the Minister for Local Government or some other Minister of the Crown. There is no guarantee as the Bill is worded now, that it would come under the Minister for Education. If the Minister was defined as the Minister for Education and the word "shall" was inserted so that, subject to the Minister, the council shall discharge its duties accordingly, it would be more desirable. Those are the points on which one can only express two different points of view. I do not suppose they go to the root of the matter really.

It is only a question of determining in one's mind what is best for the association of junior farmers in their movement, in an endeavour to improve the opportunities that are available to them and to improve the benefits which membership of that movement is likely to confer upon them, and subsequently, I would say, upon the State itself, because there is no doubt that the education—and that is what it amounts to—they will receive not only in rural pursuits but also in good citizenship and other matters, must be of inestimable value to the State. Perhaps the Minister later will express his opinion on the two or three questions that I have raised. For the time being, I shall content myself with supporting the second reading.

MR. SEWELL (Geraldton) [3.3]: I rise to support this Bill which has for its main purpose the sponsoring and encouraging of youth, both male and female, in the study of agriculture and good citizenship and a better understanding of rural life. I think all members will agree with me when I say that those are very worthy objects and I would commend the Bill to them. I understand that the membership of the junior farmers association is in the vicinity of 2,000, made up of 1,200 boys and 800 girls in about 80 clubs.

Recently in answer to questions, the Minister for Education told us in this House that the Bill before us at present emanated from the Minister's advisory council on which the junior farmers have representation, therefore they must know what is contained in this Bill. No doubt they have discussed it before it was ever presented to Parliament. I agree with the Leader of the Country Party in the views expressed by him in regard to finance and control of this organisation. It seems to me that the Bill is a little vague on these points, but if it gets on to the statute book it can be amended from time to time to make the Act more amenable to the wishes of the people it is meant to serve.

I also agree with the remarks of the Leader of the Country Party that more suitable leaders for junior farmers should be supplied to country areas as I understand at present we are very lacking in leaders of that calibre. In my area the Bill has met with mixed reception. Unfortunately the junior farmers themselves have not had a great deal of time to examine the measure and therefore their feelings are somewhat mixed. But they have mentioned to me their desire for several amendments to various clauses and these will be taken up with the Minister.

The first and main one is for the appointment by the Minister of the chairman, and the other relates to the provision that the Minister may from time to time issue directions for the purposes of this Act. The junior farmers would prefer to see the direction coming from the council itself.

Therefore, with the knowledge that I have of the good work done by the junior farmers in this State, with the legislation being placed on to the statute book, with better leadership in that movement, and with some amendments to the Bill now before us to bring it into line with the wishes of the junior farmers and the Leader of the Country Party who was Minister for Education and no doubt had something to do with the bringing down of this measure, I support the second reading.

MR. MANNING (Harvey) [3.7]: We could take this opportunity to have a brief look at the history of the junior farmers movement in this State. The first club in Western Australia was formed at Harvey in 1935. Its formation was inspired by the belief of a number of the town's leading citizens that a youth movement was necessary to encourage among the younger members of the rural community in Western Australia the study of agriculture and farming, an appreciation of rural life and the ethics of good citizenship.

The man who was the main inspiration behind the inauguration of this movement was Mr. Alex. Ball, then a solicitor at Harvey and now principal of the Fairbridge Farm School at Pinjarra. Mr. Ball and those who were associated with him in founding the Harvey club, have given us what has proved to be a very worth-while movement and I know many young people who have benefited very considerably from their associations with it. During the period from 1935 until the clubs went into recess for the duration of the war, the movement had been expanded and clubs had been formed in many country centres.

The activities of the clubs in those days included lectures, debates, field days and a trip to the Royal Show. In 1946 the



movement was revived and placed on a State-wide basis by the appointment of a State organiser. This move widened the scope of junior farmer activities and the clubs in proximity to one another formed themselves into district councils. Council activities cover inter-club and inter-council debates, radio speaking competitions and the staging annually of an achievement day.

These achievement days follow very largely the pattern of an agricultural show day and are organised and run by the junior farmers themselves. Additional junior farmer activities include competitions in the judging of cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry. The standard that is attained in this work is very good and this in itself is some indication of the value of the movement.

Another very valuable project, as mentioned by the Leader of the Country Party, is the debating competitions. The subjects debated have mainly to do with agriculture, and the research and study necessary to prepare for these debates provide a valuable avenue of education. Many of the clubs and councils hold an annual dinner and social evening. These functions set a high standard in organisation, work and behaviour, and the speeches on such occasions would do credit to much more experienced persons. Parties of junior farmers travel each year to the Royal Shows in the Eastern States, and the movement also sponsors members on trips to England and America. All members making these trips are selected by competition, and the amount of service given to the movement is considered when the selection is being made.

The Bill before us carries the junior farmer movement a step further. It proposes to hand over from direct control by the Education Department to a council of 10 persons, the responsibility of nurturing the movement. Junior farmers have for some time been advocating that more of the control and responsibility of managing the affairs of the movement should be vested in them. I understand that the council provided for in the Bill will function mainly in an advisory capacity. The council will have many more organisations represented on it, and I am afraid that the three representatives of the junior farmers will feel that they have no great voice in deciding the policy and objects of the movement.

Of course, much will depend upon the particular persons selected to represent the bodies mentioned in the Bill. If persons with a good knowledge of the junior farmers and the objects of the movement are appointed, they could be of considerable assistance, but if they are not keenly interested, then their appointment would be valueless. It is proposed to authorise the council to hold, acquire and dispose of

property, to enter into contracts and employ staff. Much will depend upon the staff to be employed and in particular upon the organisers that are appointed.

While a great deal has been achieved by the movement, there is still plenty of room to expand and improve upon what is already being done, and good live-wire organisers could build the movement into something of which this State could be really proud. The project is to be financed from a fund. The present cost to the Education Department is approximately £6,000. If the movement is to be expanded, it will be necessary for the Government to provide a more substantial grant, probably some £10,000. I believe that this new arrangement will give an impetus to the movement and that more money will be required to permit the work to be extended. Good organisers will ensure that full value is obtained for the money expended.

I believe, too, that these changes will give the junior farmers a keener sense of responsibility in their affairs and encourage them to work harder for their clubs. The movement has proved to be a worth-while organisation, and, particularly in the rural areas, it has progressed a long way towards fulfilling the wishes of the men who inspired the formation of the movement in this State some 20 years ago. Its future development and expansion will depend very largely upon the extent of the financial assistance made available by the Government and upon the maximum freedom allowed the junior farmers to manage their own affairs. I support the second reading.

**THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION**  
(Hon. W. Hegney—Mt. Hawthorn—in reply) [3.15]: I am very pleased at the reception accorded the Bill by the members who have spoken on the second reading. Only a few points have been raised to which I shall direct attention at this stage.

The Leader of the Country Party indicated that the representation of the Western Australian Federation of Junior Farmers' Clubs was inadequate. The total strength of the council is to be 10 and the federation is to have a representation of two. The hon. member suggested that the representative of the Institute of Agricultural Science or the Perth Chamber of Commerce might be eliminated and an additional councillor granted to the junior farmers. I should not like to see that done. This is the first occasion on which legislation has been introduced for this purpose. I would prefer to have an additional representative nominated by the federation, thus increasing the total number to 11. This would encourage the younger folk to take a more active interest in these affairs.

This measure is really a follow-on from the present practice. There was no provision for a nominee of the Perth Chamber

of Commerce in the early stages of the formation of the advisory committee, but the committee, when considering the provisions to be incorporated in the Bill, suggested that there should be a representative of the Chamber of Commerce as his presence might prove to be very helpful. In Committee, members might agree to give the federation this extra representation.

Reference has been made to the provision in the Bill that the Minister shall from time to time appoint a councillor as chairman. I am glad that that point has been raised. At present the Director of Education or his nominee acts as chairman, and I took the view that the occasion might arise when it would be advisable for somebody other than the Director of Education to act as chairman. He might be the representative of the Farmers' Union or of the Institute of Agriculture. That would depend largely upon the personality of the man, and rather than tie the chairmanship to the Director of Education, I think it should be left open. That is the reason for the provision in the Bill.

The reference to "the Minister" and his having authority to direct covers the position, because it might happen that the Minister for Education would not always be charged with the responsibility of administering the measure. It might become the responsibility of the Minister for Lands or the Minister for Agriculture. This organisation is closely linked with agriculture as well as with education. The provision in the Interpretation Act meets the requirements. I am easy as regards specifying the Minister for Education, but if it is left open, the Government of the day will arrange for a responsible Minister to administer the measure. I do not think there is any need at this stage to alter that provision.

Reference was made by the Leader of the Country Party to finance. That is a very important matter. I do not wish to mislead any member, but I would say that if this measure becomes an Act, it will not substantially improve the organisation of junior farmers clubs. I gave figures when moving the second reading to indicate that two full-time and nine part-time organisers were employed—most of them are not employed by the Education Department—and salaries and sundry expenses represent an amount of approximately £6,000. That is the amount which it has been suggested should be made available, though I might say, without committing myself to anything definite, that as time passes, consideration might have to be given to increasing the amount of subsidy for this work.

There is another side that should not be lost sight of. If we can get young men and women to participate in the work of this organisation, it will be all to the good. I understand that the subscription is a nominal one of half-a-crown a year, and

there might be room to increase that amount. A number of these folk might even decide to do something more with a view to helping themselves, improving their status and cultivating those habits which are essential to good citizenship.

Hon. A. F. Watts: They have raised about £11,000 to buy their headquarters.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I know, and that is commendable. I am not saying that the subscription should be raised to any extent; or at all, for that matter, but the Government is anxious to do the reasonable thing by the association and the £6,000 that has been made available is considered, in the circumstances, to be reasonable. If the Bill becomes an Act, and it is found that the work entailed is such that further financial assistance is necessary, I have no doubt that whichever Government is in office will give consideration to increasing the subsidy.

The member for Geraldton raised the matter of there not being sufficient power and authority in the hands of the junior farmers' clubs themselves. I do not think there is anything in that, because if members will look at the proposed constitution of the advisory committee they will see that it is very representative. I suggest that the type of representative on that committee would be such that he would not be out for his own good, but would endeavour to do the best he could for the members of the junior farmers' clubs. The representatives of the Education Department, the Department of Agriculture, the Farmers' Union and other organisations would be there on a purely voluntary basis to help the clubs.

Mr. Nalder: Do not you think it is inclined to become cumbersome?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: That point might need some consideration, but in answer I might mention that the advisory committee that has been in operation gave consideration to the question of incorporating desirable matters in the Bill. I did not draft the clause in connection with the proposed constitution, but having studied it, I think it provides for a representative committee, and if we start to eliminate some of the representatives we might, at this stage do a disservice to the junior farmers.

This is the first time such a Bill has been submitted to the House. If it is passed and, after it has been in operation for twelve months, it is found that the advisory committee has too many members on it, or that others have claims to be represented on it, consideration can then be given to an amendment. There is another Bill which will probably be dealt with later in the afternoon, in which a board or controlling body will be constituted of many more than ten. That may

be considered cumbersome, but in the circumstances it is advisable. The Bill has been very well received, and if the member for Stirling proposes to move in the direction he has indicated, I will be happy to accept the amendment.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

### *In Committee.*

Mr. J. Hegney in the Chair; the Minister for Education in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2—agreed to.

Clause 3—Interpretation:

Hon. A. F. WATTS: I move an amendment—

That after line 8, page 2, a new definition be inserted as follows:—

“Minister” means the Minister for Education.

Considerable aspects of the movement will be associated with agriculture, but bearing in mind that the Department of Education conducts the Narrogin School of Agriculture, the Denmark School of Agriculture and lesser agricultural annexes at other schools and has, moreover, been responsible for the junior farmers' movement ever since its inception—and with, I think, satisfactory results—it seems to me that at this stage, anyway, there is no need to make any change or to take the risk of any change being made. It would be better, therefore, to have the Minister for Education defined in the Act itself rather than that the junior farmers' movement could find itself—this could easily happen—transferred from one minister to another or from one department to another as governments come and go.

The Minister for Education: I have no objection to the amendment.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4—agreed to.

Clause 5—Constitution of the Council:

Hon. A. F. WATTS: I move an amendment—

That the word “two” in line 16, page 3, be struck out and the word “three” inserted in lieu.

This matter has been well discussed.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I point out that if I accept this amendment it will be necessary to alter the word “ten” in line 28, page 2, to “eleven.”

Hon. A. F. WATTS: I ask leave to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Hon. A. F. WATTS: I move an amendment—

That the word “ten” in line 28, page 2, be struck out and the word “eleven” inserted in lieu.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. A. F. WATTS: I move an amendment—

That the word “eight” in line 30, page 2, be struck out and the word “nine” inserted in lieu.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. A. F. WATTS: I move an amendment—

That the word “two” in line 16, page 3, be struck out and the word “three” inserted in lieu.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 6 to 16, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

### **BILL—SWAN LANDS REVESTMENT.**

#### *Message.*

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

#### *Second Reading.*

**THE MINISTER FOR LANDS** (Hon. E. K. Hoar—Warren) [3.36] in moving the second reading said: With regard to Bills of this kind, it is usually the obligation of the Minister concerned to make available to the Leader of the Opposition, and to any Minister who may be interested in the legislation, a copy of the file concerned, which is, in fact, the Bill.

Hon. L. Thorn: I have it.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I was about to say that both the Leader of the Opposition and the Minister for Housing have been provided with copies of the file. The subject of the measure is the re-subdivision of certain lands in the Swan district and it relates to certain rights, roads and reserves in that district and to other purposes. The State Housing Commission acquired by resumption prior to 1953 and by private negotiation, an area of land at Bassendean, which is now known as the Ashfield estate.

After acquisition, the commission conferred with the Town Planning Board and the Bassendean Road Board and planned a re-subdivision of the whole area into suitable blocks, providing for new roads in appropriate positions. Under pressure of urgency, building operations were proceeded with and homes have been built on the new lots; 87 houses have been completed and further contracts have been let. To surmount certain legal difficulties, it has been found necessary to introduce this Bill, which provides for the various matters as explained hereinafter.

The greater part of the land had been subdivided previously, but it was considered necessary to re-subdivide it to comply with modern town planning requirements. This involved the obliteration of various surveyed roads and right-of-ways in favour of new roads in better positions. Certain reserves for drainage between lots in the original subdivision are no longer required, and the land in these reserves has been incorporated in the new lots.

Some of the land acquired by resumption under the Public Works Act, 1902, prior to the coming into operation of the Public Works Act, 1953, was affected by the provisions of Section 15 of the Public Works Act, 1902, which provided that, upon resumption of the land, the rights of the owner in the lesser minerals were not taken. The Bill provides for the revestment of the whole of the land, together with the lesser minerals as referred to in Clause 4 of the Bill.

The whole area has been made the subject of Lands and Surveys Original Plan No. 6554 and thereon numbered as Swan Locations Nos. 5589 and 5590. It is proposed to issue to the State Housing Commission a Crown Grant for Swan Locations Nos. 5589 and 5590. The re-subdivision of the locations will be shown on Land Titles Office Plans Nos. 6622, 6623 and 6624. Plans are submitted indicating the area involved and also the manner in which it has been subdivided. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. L. Thorn, debate adjourned.

### **BILL—ACTS AMENDMENT (LIBRARIES).**

#### *Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 15th September.

**MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON** (Cottesloe) [3.40]: I propose to support the second reading because what the measure attempts to do is, I believe, basically and fundamentally sound. However, I feel that in itself the Bill, as it is couched at present, is far from being perfect and I hope to be able to persuade the House, or what is left of it at this stage, to realise the imperfections that are contained within the measure.

It is important, I think, that this realisation should be reached because it affects the future of library services in this State. The purpose of the Bill, as has been explained by the Minister, is to effect an amalgamation between the Public Library and the Library Board of Western Australia. This means, under the terms of the Bill, that the close ties which have bound the Library, Museum and Art Gallery together for nearly 50

years as the State's principal cultural centre, will be severed. The Public Library as a service will then be fused with the services operated by the Library Board of Western Australia, which board was constituted in 1951.

Our task is to endeavour to ensure that the operation in severing the ties of the Public Library, and in fusing it with the free lending services operated by the Library Board, is as smooth, effective and harmonious as possible under all the circumstances. Once the fusion is effected the amalgamated library services will be controlled by a board, the constitution of which is set out in the principal provision of the Bill and the composition of which leaves a great deal to be desired, from an equitable point of view, so far as the trustees of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery are concerned. It is in regard to the composition of the board to control the amalgamated library services of the State that I feel most criticism should be offered. The Bill reduces the size of the board from 13 to 12 and in so doing eliminates as an ex-officio member the president of the trustees of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery.

The Minister for Education: Say that again.

**Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON:** This Bill eliminates from the constituted representation on the Library Board—

The Minister for Education: Constituted representation.

**Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON:**—the position of chairman or president of the trustees of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery. I think the Minister will agree with that.

The Minister for Education: Yes, but the Minister would have four or five nominee members.

**Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON:** Exactly, but the constituted representation is lost to the trustees.

The Minister for Education: I am not suggesting that any member would go on at this stage.

**Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON:** I quite agree, and I feel that the Minister may appoint him, if he so desires.

*Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.6 p.m.*

**Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON:** I was saying that it was in respect of the board to control the amalgamated service that I felt criticism should be offered. As I have stated, the Bill reduces the size of the controlling body from 13 to 12, and eliminates any stated trustee representation. When a controlling body which has been handling a specific type of library service

takes under its wing an essentially different type of library service, I feel it would be well, and indeed logical, that on this controlling body should be representatives who have had the management and experience of the afore-mentioned different type of library service.

Of course, I realise that the Minister may give the trustees some representation on the new board under the provision that requires him to nominate five members. I realise that the Minister may do it. But while he may do it, it is quite conceivable that he may not. It is also conceivable that his successor may not. Accordingly, I believe it is imperative that there should be stated trustee representation in this Bill. In any case it is unsatisfactory—and I have heard members opposite and members on this side in agreement on the point—that there should be verbal understandings when it comes to important appointments or nominations.

It is not pleasing to both parties to leave the position as it is. Representation should be definitely given to the trustees in order to ensure a completely harmonious fusion of these library services. It is felt in some quarters that the president and trustees of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery have been rather shabbily treated in the new set-up. Not that these trustees feel they are losing face, or anything like that, but they do consider that the value of their experience is being placed to one side. The fact that the trustees have been responsible for the control of the Public Library and its management for so many years in an honorary capacity, together with the fact that they have done an excellent job over the years, appears to have been overlooked in a very cavalier manner.

Mr. Yates: Is their work entirely honorary?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: The work of the trustees is of an entirely honorary nature. In his second reading speech the Minister made specific reference to a series of discussions that had been held between the representatives of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery, and of the Library Board. He said, and I think quite rightly, that agreement had been reached in broad principle on the amalgamation of the library services. However, he went further when he said in answer to a question by the member for Mt. Lawley that the agreement was unanimous. He said that as far as he knew the Bill before the House had the endorsement of both bodies.

The Minister for Education: If I said that, I was wrong. I should have said the principle was agreed to because obviously they have not seen the Bill.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: The Minister did say the Bill received unanimous agreement.

The Minister for Education: I should have said the principle.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I am glad to learn that the Minister meant that agreement had been reached on the principle only. For the benefit of the public and the library service, there was nothing else for it but an amalgamation. At no time have the trustees or any representative of them seen a draft of the Bill or known of the manner in which the new library board is to be constituted. They have had no opportunity for discussion along those lines.

Generally speaking the position, prior to the introduction of this Bill and as it stood towards the end of last year, was this: In preliminary discussions, representatives of both sides agreed that what was desired was a true amalgamation, and that there should not be, either in appearance or reality, an absorption of one body by the other. This was most definitely understood, and it was only on that principal feature that agreement was reached. It is quite obvious that the Bill before us, which gives the composition of the ruling body, if passed in its present form, will deny the general agreement that had been reached regarding adequate representation from each side.

That is to say, the Bill retains as the new administrative authority one of the old bodies, which is the Library Board as at present constituted with one or two minor alterations which the Minister may put in—say, representation from the trustees. But there is no mention of it in the Bill. I submit this is unwise treatment and it could prejudice what should certainly be a harmonious jointure of the library services aforementioned. When all is said and done, there are very few members here who will disagree with me when I suggest that the best interests of amalgamation will be served, at least in the initial stages, by a board which has representation from both bodies.

At this stage I can say quite truthfully that the gentleman appointed as chairman of the Library Board at present, said and wrote in preliminary negotiations regarding this legislation, that the new body to control the library service of this State should have on it certain trustees because of the valuable experience they had gained in the administration of the Public Library. That gentleman himself said just that. It is down in print. I have it here and it will be used in the Committee stages.

Surely it is wrong that the Bill does not contain one clause giving specific representation to the trustees, even in the light of the agreement which had been reached between the respective bodies and in the light of what has been said by the chairman of the Library Board. I have an amendment on the notice paper which will certainly, if passed by this House, rectify the anomalous position of no-trustee representation.

It might be appropriate for me at this stage to give a brief account of the early history of the State's principal cultural centre, the Public Library, in order to convey some idea of its value to the community as a reference library. When I mention the value of the Public Library, I do so knowing that a great many of individuals regard that institution as a place infrequently used and where one does not see hordes of people flocking through. Of course, such people tend to judge the library by their own particular standards of usage and so on. I mentioned earlier that there are essential differences between the lending library services and the Public Library. Members should bear in mind those essential differences. The reference library is a cultural or scholastic centre where research work can be undertaken and where practically any book may be found. Many of these are not used to any great extent but are available for reference when the necessity arises.

A brief account of the early history of this cultural centre follows: The Public Library was first known as the Victoria Public Library and was founded in 1887 with funds voted by the Legislative Council for the celebration of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. It was open to the public on the 26th June, 1889, with 1,796 volumes on the shelves. It was at first managed by a clerk under the direction of a committee of management.

The first librarian was Dr. J. S. Battye who was appointed in 1894. The first location was in St. George's Terrace and in 1897 the library was moved to the then recently constructed museum building. In 1903 it was moved to the present reference library building to which the main reading rooms were added in 1913. There have been no additions since. The name was changed to the Public Library of Western Australia in 1904 and it was amalgamated with the Museum and Art Gallery in 1911.

At that time there were about 93,000 volumes on the shelves, and today there are about 193,000. The Museum was founded privately in 1860 and attached to the Swan River Mechanics Institute till 1892, when it was purchased by the Government and added to the Geological Museum, which at that time was housed in the old gaol. It passed to the direction of the committee which controlled the Public Library in 1895, but was administered separately from that institution until 1911. A gallery for art was added in 1896. The present Art Gallery was built in 1907 and opened in 1908.

It is of interest to note that for the whole period mentioned, from 1887, the trustees of this institution have been unable to do all they desired to improve these cultural centres because of insufficiency of funds. I take pleasure in saying that the present Government has been

more generous than any of its predecessors with regard to the supply of funds to the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery; and, directly as a result of the more generous treatment accorded, the trustees have begun a number of necessary modifications and improvements to those three centres.

So it should be readily appreciated that the new controlling body, of necessity, in the interests of a smooth and really workable fusion of library services, must have trustee representation on it. I feel it is a matter of commonsense to place on the new board members of the trust who have had a long experience in the administration of the Public Library.

Mr. Brady: It is a different type of library, though, is it not?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Yes, a different type of library to the service controlled so far by the Library Board. But now the two services are being joined under the one controlling body, and it is my contention that the new body should have adequate representation on it of those people who have handled the Public Library in the past.

Mr. Brady: Do not you think it needs fresh blood, with new ideas?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I would say that is catered for in the constitution of the new controlling body under the terms of the Bill. But if the hon. member will study my amendment on the notice paper, he will see that I have made special provision for the initial changeover period when the value of the experience gained by the administrators may be utilised by the new body. It is a matter of commonsense that the new body should have on it adequate representation of people who know what has been going on with regard to plans for the Public Library. The Public Library, helped by the increased funds granted to it, is developing the service. Over a number of years, the trustees have been providing for its development in accordance with the preconceived plan of which I have spoken, and have only been waiting for the opportunity and finance to go ahead. Surely it is undesirable at this stage that the ideas of development should suddenly be abandoned, or that a course should be undertaken that contravenes what has been occurring so far. The administrators who are familiar with the policy and its working out should be included on the new board to ensure some continuity of administration.

There is another bad feature that the Bill emphasises, and that is the composition of the board with regard to the abolition of any representation from the Library Association of Australia. The Act previously stated that there should be three representatives on the Library Board, chosen from the Western Australian

branch of the Library Association of Australia. I agree that three representatives of that body are too many but I believe that there should be at least one representative from that organisation which has, as its primary objective, the promotion and improvement of library services throughout Australia. It is a Federal body and has representation on library boards in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. On the notice paper I have an amendment which, if passed, would increase the size of the board to 13 members and give single representation to the Library Association.

I am critical, too, of a group of proposals that deal with the division of the assets of the trustees. The Bill provides authority for the apportionment of land, chattels, books, bequests, etc., but, to my mind does not provide sufficiently for the determination of the apportionment. It is not right that all that is to be found within the walls of the Public Library should be handed over, lock, stock and barrel, to the Library Board. I say that because the director of the Museum years ago deposited his private library in the Public Library for the continued use of the scientific staff of the Museum.

There was room in the Public Library, and access to it for the staff of the Museum who were able to utilise the director's scientific books regarding the work of the Museum. Then, too, over the years the trustees have purchased from a common book fund a number of books which have particular regard to the Art Gallery or the Museum; and they too have been placed on the shelves of the Public Library; and I feel that these books and objects should be safeguarded in the interests of the Museum and Art Gallery. There is the Vlamming Plate, which had been made over to the Museum but is for convenience sake, housed in the Public Library.

Then, too, the division of land is rather complicated by the existing buildings. There is no clear dividing line between the buildings belonging to the Museum and those belonging to the Public Library, and there could be differences of opinion regarding the position of a line to divide the Public Library from the Museum and the Art Gallery. I feel sure that instead of the Minister himself determining the apportioning of the land, books, chattels and bequests, it would be better for him to appoint a committee of four—two from the Library Board and two from the trustees—to make an apportionment of the goods and chattels that may be in dispute.

If that committee were to meet for a period before the changeover then, if anything was left in dispute after it had met, the Minister could well determine the future of such goods or chattels. There is an amendment which provides for this proposition.

A ticklish problem arises out of the division of land, bequests and books, particularly the division of the land and buildings. I refer to the future of the Archives Department. At first I did not intend to mention that department because I, in common with a lot of other people, do not want this particular problem to prejudice the successful amalgamation of the library service.

Mr. Brady: Is it a separate body now, or is it run in conjunction with the Public Library?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: It is run under the direct supervision of the trustees. I will give that information to members. No provision has been made in the Bill for any apportionment of the archives which are housed in what has been known for many years as Dr. Battye's residence which is at the rear of the Public Library buildings and is joined to them by a not particularly bright piece of architecture. The position of the Archives Department is rather important, and I hope the Minister will attempt to clarify the future of this department when he replies to the second reading debate.

The history of it is that the Archives Department was founded some time ago—in Premier Willcock's time, I think—upon the granting of a small sum—about £600, I fancy. The care and control of the department was placed in the hands of the trustees. Under the terms of this Bill it appears that the control of the archives will go over, with the Public Library, to the Library Board. I point out that there is quite a difference between the control and management of libraries, and the control and management that is essential for an archives department.

Mr. Brady: It could happen quite easily.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Yes, but it would be preferable, so people feel who know more about it than I do, for the archives to be a separate institution. I am led to believe that the Archives Department would be far better if it were severed from library management, or if it were given separate authority under the general control of the Premier's Department. In recent times an eminent archivist—Professor Schellenberg—came from the United States of America and he, during his stay in Australia, made quite an impact on archives generally throughout the Commonwealth, and particularly in Western Australia. Our Archives Department has been set up very well indeed, and it ranks very high compared with the archives departments in other parts of Australia.

Indeed, I have been told that our department is the best of the State archives departments. Its control does differ, as Professor Schellenberg pointed out, from the control that is required for library management. As it appears that the Archives Department is in a particularly

healthy state at the present time, and is moving along sound lines, it would be a pity to prejudice its development with any faults that may arise, or any lack of appreciation on the part of any new controlling body; not that I anticipate such would be the case, but it will be readily appreciated by the Minister that some clarification is required.

Mr. Brady: Amalgamation may be helpful, not prejudicial.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Of course, one must pay regard to what the hon. member says, but then again it may not prove helpful. That is a general statement, but what I have been told by people who should know, suggests that it would be better for the Archives Department to be administered separately under the general supervision of the Premier's Department.

Mr. Brady: It would all depend upon the comprehensive nature of the work done by the new board.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Exactly. It would depend on the sound work done by that board, and in order to get that sound work and a true appreciation of what an amalgamated service means, together with the Archives Department which looks like coming under the jurisdiction of the new controlling body, it is imperative that there should be more representation on the new controlling body. The Bill, too, is silent regarding the transfer of staff.

The Minister for Education: No, it is not.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I feel the Minister is drawing the long bow there. If he can point out to me where the Bill deals with the transfer of staff, and where it provides adequate safeguards, I will be pleased. It contains a provision which mentions transfers generally, but I feel, and I think members opposite should feel, that there are no adequate safeguards for staff members. Usually in legislation of this nature provision is made to safeguard the interests and accrued rights of members of the staff who would be affected by the changeover. In any case, that is a point which may well be discussed at the Committee stage and I trust that members will, at that time, endeavour to safeguard the interests of the staff who will be affected by this fusion of library services. There are several other minor points in the Bill which need clarification and as far as I am concerned some amendments are necessary. But they are details which might appropriately be left to a later stage in the progress of the measure.

The only other provision which I might mention at this stage is one which makes the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery Act look rather silly because a clause in the Bill writes into that Act the words, "subject to the Library Board Act". The provision in the Act relates to moneys which may be granted to the Museum and

Art Gallery and the fact that the words "subject to the Library Board Act" immediately follow, seems to be quite ridiculous, unjustifiable and clumsy. It would be far better to strike out the words, "Public Library" rather than to retain them and make the Museum and Art Gallery money grant subject to the Library Board Act. If those words were deleted, the words "subject to the Library Board Act" would not be necessary.

Despite the several criticisms that I have voiced in regard to the Bill, and the several undesirable features that I find in it, I still believe that it is in the best interests of the public of Western Australia and I think that the new controlling body will administer these amalgamated library services as they really should be administered. But I suggest that we should make it a definite aim to try to make that fusion as harmonious as possible. I sincerely trust that members will not read into the criticisms I have offered any real objection to the principle of the Bill because I support that wholeheartedly.

Mr. Court: But does not your main objection rest on the danger of the present library being overshadowed by the influence of the other libraries?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: To a great extent the hon. member is right. If the controlling body does not have trustee representation, it is quite conceivable that the value and work of the Public Library will be placed second and it would be a great pity if that happened. Each of the library services about which I have spoken has a definite place and niche in our State library services. It is conceivable, as the hon. member pointed out, that if this representation is not given, the Public Library will suffer. However, I think any further discussion might well be left to the Committee stage and I support the second reading of the Bill.

MR. PERKINS (Roe) [4.45]: I have always taken a keen interest in the question of library services. I think that the first speech I made in this House in 1942 was on the need for establishing a free lending library system in Western Australia. I well remember quoting at that time some extracts from the Munn-Pitt report on Australian library services and, of course, those members who know anything about that report appreciate that it was condemnatory of the services available generally in Australia at that time. We have moved quite a way since then.

At one stage, Mr. Lionel McColvin, who was then librarian of the Westminster Library, paid a visit to Western Australia. He also made a report on Australian library services. As a result of those reports by various disinterested people, as well as the considerable discussion that took place



both in this State and in other States of Australia, there has been considerable development in the library services available. In Western Australia legislation was passed in 1951 constituting the Library Board of Western Australia. Members will recall that an earlier attempt was made to set up a library board but at that time one of the difficulties was in resolving the problem of amalgamating the reference library section, which is now under the control of the trustees, with the new body to be set up.

At that time it was thought better to get on with the job of constituting the Library Board and establishing free lending libraries in Western Australia; then, we could tackle the other part of the problem. Of course, the Bill which the Minister has now introduced, takes that further step. I would like to congratulate the Library Board on the work that it has done during the limited time it has been in operation. Most of its activities so far have been concentrated in the country districts because there the problem is so much smaller than that of establishing a comprehensive free lending library service in the metropolitan area.

I have no doubt that the experience the board has gained in establishing 10 or 12 free lending libraries in the country has been most useful to it and will be of considerable benefit when it tackles the wider job of establishing a full-scale free lending library service throughout the State. I understand that in the not distant future at least some parts of the metropolitan area will have such a service available to them.

Members are probably aware that I know something of the work of the trustees of the Public Library and Museum. I was a trustee for a time and I think the member for Cottesloe took my place. So I do know something of the work that is done in James-st., and also something of the outlook of those who control that institution. I have listened with attention to what the member for Cottesloe had to say. I have no doubt he is closely in touch at the present time with both the board and the officers at James-st., and I think we should pay some attention to his views.

On the other hand I feel the Minister does intend to give some representation to those who have been controlling the institution in James-st., in reconstituting the Library Board. The Minister does not specify in the Bill who the five nominees are to be, but I have no doubt that when he replies he will cover, to some degree, the criticism voiced by the member for Cottesloe. Whether that be right or not, I think it is proper that those who have been controlling the reference library in James-st. should have some use made of the experience they have gained in controlling that institution over a long period.

I think the amendments the member for Cottesloe has on the notice paper would have the effect of entirely unbalancing the reconstituted Library Board. If it is to handle a reference library, as well as a free lending library, the work of the board will obviously be of a complex nature. In my view the least complex part of its work would be the administration of the reference library. I feel sure the member for Cottesloe would agree that the efficiency or otherwise of the reference library largely centres in the staff administering that branch. It does not depend so much on matters of policy that may arise as of providing facilities for those who wish to use the reference section of the library.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I cannot entirely agree.

Mr. PERKINS: There is one other point I wish to raise, and it is probably rather more important. I have had a number of discussions with well-informed librarians. I saw quite a bit of Mr. McColvin when he was in Western Australia, and I took him around the country districts. I have also seen quite a bit of the chief executive of the Library Board. As I understand it, the aim of the library service in modern times is to provide whatever books readers may ask for. They generally aim to provide the books that may be on their own shelves, but I understand there is a connection between the various libraries throughout the world, and also with other institutions that own books or literature of any kind which may be needed for serious study, and this enables these books to be made available to readers through an exchange service.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I cannot see how you can relate this to the Bill.

Mr. PERKINS: I think I can. The member for Cottesloe must agree that at the present time there are few books which can be borrowed and taken away from the reference library at James-st. I understand it is only in exceptional cases that books can be taken away from that institution. If anyone wishes to study a book available there, it is necessary for him to go to the library, obtain the book from the attendant and study it on the spot. I think there are exceptions, but as a rule the books are supposed to be kept there for anyone to examine if he goes to the institution and asks for them.

There may be some rather rare book which a student wishes to study. The conditions under which the library has operated up to the present are that the students must go to the institution and study the books on the spot. I understand the aim of the modern lending library system is to make books available to the student for studying in his own home with the necessary safeguards, of course, for the protection of the library's property.

I have known librarians to quote instances to me of books having been obtained from overseas in order to make them available to students who have not been able to secure them in any other way. Obviously the needs of the public are changing, and as we set up a free lending library system, it will have a considerable impact on the reference library as we have known it in the past. Of course, there are other sections of the reference library that will still have to function. There are services such as the filing of newspapers, for instance.

The reference library and the archives section are tied closely together, and I listened with interest to what the member for Cottesloe had to say about separating those departments. I would not like to express an opinion as to whether that would be possible because so much of the material is close to the dividing line as to what actually comes under the archives branch, and what is material necessary for study. I understand that photographic copies are taken of much of the rare material and it is studied in that manner.

The particular point I wish to stress is that the activities of the Library Board, if they develop in accordance with modern library practice, will be very widespread indeed. This development has been found necessary and desirable in other countries of the world where the library systems are better developed than are those in Australia. To suggest that almost half the representation on the Library Board should be constituted of those who are specially concerned with the reference library would, in my opinion, have the effect of seriously unbalancing the Library Board.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: That is only the initial stage.

Mr. PERKINS: That may be so, but the initial stage is the most important.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You want adequate representation.

Mr. PERKINS: I think the difficulties that the member for Cottesloe sees can be overcome, but perhaps with rather less representation than he has provided for in his amendment. However, that can be worked out in the Committee stage. I think the problem is one that should be tackled. If it is not dealt with at this stage it will have to be tackled later on. I am glad the Minister has brought the Bill down, and I hope that as a result of the discussions in Parliament we will achieve a better library system for Western Australia. It may even be that we will be foremost among the States in the library service we can provide. There is

certainly great room for improvement, particularly when one reads of the library services that are available in England, the United States and on the Continent. One must admit, when considering those services, that we have lagged a long way in the library facilities available to the people of this State.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I pointed out one of the reasons for that—lack of funds.

Mr. PERKINS: Funds are usually allotted in accordance with the importance attached to any institution by the public. I do not blame Governments for this. People do not realise how much they are missing. In a country like Australia, isolated by vast distances from the rest of the world, it is more important to have modern thought available in the form of books than in countries which are knit closer together and where there is greater movement of people from one country to another. From that point of view it is particularly desirably to put our library system on such a basis that it will provide a service equal to that which is available anywhere else in the world.

If the Bill is passed substantially, in its present form, with a few amendments possibly, the trustees of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery will be assured at least that some of those who have been administering that institution for so long, will be retained on the reconstituted board. I consider that the framework of the board is sound. It will be up to the board, the chief executive officer and the staff of the institution to make available to the public a first-class library system, provided the Government is able to supply the necessary funds.

MR. BRADY (Guildford-Midland) [5.2]: I support the objectives set out in the Bill. Before proceeding, I want to say that my knowledge of libraries is limited, in case members might accuse me of not knowing anything about the matter. I have been on the committees of several libraries and I was chairman of one. Observing the libraries around the metropolitan area, one thing strikes me forcefully, and that is, how very few young people are interested in them.

The libraries of today can play a very important part in the future of Western Australia if we are able to get the teenagers interested in reading. Much of the crime committed today would not have occurred had suitable libraries been available at an earlier period in this State. I have given some thought to the proposed new board and to the old board of trustees. I consider that the new board will be able to bring about a desirable library system. It will infuse new ideas into the lending library services and bring them up to date.

On one occasion I heard an address regarding the new board and what is proposed to be done. Once the general public know the manner in which the board will handle the library system, they will welcome the amalgamation contemplated in the Bill. I feel that if young people can be encouraged to go into libraries, not necessarily to take books away, but to be able to read at their leisure in the libraries—and people seem to take more to illustrated matter than to print—many of them will follow on in an educational line of thought.

As a consequence the State will get the benefit of the latent talent that is being lost at present, because young people are not encouraged to make use of the libraries. Recently I heard an address by a person whose job is to study youths and their problems. His way of solving some of the difficulties is to make available sufficient libraries in the metropolitan and country districts so that young people can spend their leisure reading illustrated articles and thus be encouraged to take up educational courses. They may be interested in electricity, wireless or television, and gradually they will be encouraged to take courses in those subjects.

Perhaps the new board will give some regard to attracting young people to the libraries to take up study in the subjects I referred to. Because these aspects have been brought to my notice, I felt it my duty to mention them. In the metropolitan area particularly, there is a type of library which is not altogether satisfactory or economical. They are run by persons who own a few hundred books and charge a small fee for their loan. They make a meagre existence out of such libraries. Without the new set-up referred to in the Bill they are giving a service, but I do not think that it is in the best interests of the community. The development of the library system is the work of specialists, and the proposed board is a board of specialists, who will be able to handle these matters much better than people deriving a meagre existence out of small lending libraries.

Another aspect can be given some consideration. Some libraries have many volumes but are under government control and very few people are able to use them. I might instance the library in Parliament House. A very small number of people—members of Parliament and the staff—use it, and it is not open for use by the public. When I was in New Zealand some four years ago I was struck with the parliamentary library, which is the best library in the southern hemisphere. What is more important is that the books were available to the public and were not for the exclusive use of members of Parliament or the parliamentary staff.

Much money is tied up in libraries in government departments, in the parliamentary library and in similar institutions; all these facilities should be available to the public. People should be able to read these books either free or for a nominal sum. I support the Bill in its present form, subject to reviewing the proposed amendments. I hope that when the new board takes over after the amalgamation, it will have some regard to what I have just said.

There is an immense amount of progressive work contemplated by the new board, such as visiting country libraries, examining their set-up, considering methods of amalgamation and overcoming any obstacles. It may happen that a few amendments will have to be made to bring other bodies into line that at the moment cannot see the advantages. I believe that industry and commerce have very much to gain under the new system, which will pay huge dividends once it gets under way. What I do regret is that the present board has not been able to convey to the public what is the intention behind the amalgamation of the libraries. When I heard the address of Mr. Sharp, I was amazed at the action proposed to be taken. If the public was aware of this, more interest would be taken in the amalgamation. I support the Bill in its present form, subject to reviewing the amendments.

**HON. A. F. WATTS (Stirling) [5.10]:** I propose to support the second reading of this measure. In my opinion it is a pity that the joining together of the Library Board and the Perth Public Library was not done some considerable time ago, because it always seemed to me quite unnecessary that there should be two bodies dealing with a matter which could very well have been brought under the control of one.

It is true, of course, that the Bill which I introduced in 1948 aimed at the setting up of a library board in Western Australia, with the ultimate object of providing free libraries, and contained provisions which would have resulted in the very early taking over of the Public Library by the board, and the carrying on of the Museum and Art Gallery by a committee of trustees who would have been appointed from those who had up to that time managed the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery. At that time, the idea of amalgamation was deemed to be premature because there was considerable opposition to the proposal, and the Bill was not proceeded with.

**Mr. Bovell:** My objection was based on the fact that Dr. Battye had contributed so much that it was a pity to disturb him in his remaining years of life.

**Hon. A. F. WATTS:** It was not intended to disturb him. It is extraordinary that the member for Vasse should have based

his opposition on such a view. Be that as it may, the fact remains that in my opinion—I can express only my opinion and I cannot express the opinion of the member for Vasse—that the job should have been done a considerable time ago. However, it was not done and we find that after much internal discussion between the trustees, or at least some of them, and the members of the Library Board, the Minister and his advisers, some sort of agreement has been reached as to the desirability of the Perth Public Library coming under the control of the Library Board. So I think it is an occasion for rejoicing rather than anything else that this measure is now before us, because the principle must be acceptable to us all.

In passing, I should like to pay a tribute to the work that has been done by the Library Board. I believe that the selection of the bodies from which the members of the board were drawn was wisely made by this House and another place, for it seems to me there has resulted from the co-operation of the various bodies concerned a board which has worked extremely well. It has appointed a very capable and efficient executive officer, and has done more in the limited period of its existence than most of us expected would be possible in the time. So there cannot be much doubt in our minds as to the efficiency of the Library Board, and particularly of its chief executive officer, as well as the enthusiastic chairman and various members of the board.

As to the point raised by the member for Cottesloe, I can appreciate his concern. It is not quite clear to me whether he intends to substitute for the five members, which the Bill provides shall be nominated by the Minister, five of the present trustees of the Public Library. If he does intend to do that, he will be simply taking from the Minister the right of selection. Even supposing that we accept the argument of the hon. member that the whole five should come from the trustees of the Public Library, I do not know that that is necessary. I can see the hon. member's point in that he does not want a complete severance of the two organisations all at once, because he considers that the experience of the particular type of library—a reference library—which has been controlled by some of the trustees, would be of advantage to the Library Board.

I feel that that may be so, but I am not favourably disposed to the whole five of the Minister's nominees being directed by the House, or anyone else, as I think the amendment would mean. In this regard, I am inclined to agree with the member for Roe that if the Minister would give some assurance as to his intention, it might be satisfactory to all concerned, especially as I understand that the member for Cottesloe only wishes to

have such a board for a comparatively brief time—a tentative appointment, as it were—so that the hiatus in the administration could be filled.

Personally, I can see some difficulty in the suggestion to take into the board five of the Public Library trustees, as I believe is the intention of the member for Cottesloe, and that is because the co-operation that has been achieved between members of the Library Board and the work done by them might to some degree be broken up. Obviously, some considerable number would have to go off the existing Library Board in order to make way for those envisaged by the member for Cottesloe, and that would be a substantial proportion of the Library Board. That is why I do not want to see any compulsion placed on the Minister to take that substantial number into the Library Board, although I should like to have some undertaking that this point of view, to a limited extent, will be taken into consideration by the Minister, because I believe there is justification for it.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Under the Act at present, the Minister nominates only two, whereas this Bill provides for his nominating five.

Hon. A. F. WATTS: I hope that the Minister will be able to give us a general idea as to his intention in this matter, so that we shall know his attitude to the amendments to be moved by the member for Cottesloe when the Committee stage is reached. I do not think there is any need to say more on the subject. I could only reiterate what has been said by other members. I am very glad that the Bill has been introduced. I think the bringing together of these organisations is very necessary for the better and more successful development of the library system in this State. I want to see that system develop. I believe that no greater contribution in the ultimate can be made to the benefit of our people than by the organisation of a successful, well-conducted and readily-available library system. Holding those views, I support the second reading.

MR. JOHNSON (Leederville) [5.22]: I rise briefly to support the second reading, not to reiterate anything that has already been said. The idea of amalgamating the library services in this State is a good one.

The point I wish to make, in addition to those already advanced, is the need for our amalgamated library service to have a complete record of all the various pieces of information available within the State and possibly outside the State which may be of use to students. My second point is to stress the great need to let the people who require this information know that it is available. The Library Board recently

sent to us a list of books on subjects in which parliamentarians should be interested and which, I gather, has proved useful to members interested in the subjects. I do not know what the reaction of other members was, but it stimulated my ideas, and I found that there were in existence books in which I am greatly interested but of which I had never heard. Further, I feel sure that in various fields in which people possibly have only a passing interest, there is a great deal of information available of which they are unaware.

The need for extending a knowledge of our available literature is of considerable importance. I feel that this has been completely neglected by the Perth Library Board, not being within the scope of its work. I am not criticising the board in that regard, but a static library is a difficult one in which to carry out research if one is limited as to time.

There have been comments about the small use young people make of libraries. I should like to mention the very great use that is made of the important library at the university. I realise that there will be a working co-operation between the statutory body proposed under this legislation and the university library, and that there will be a crossing of the books between the two bodies. That library is used greatly by the students, and yet there is no doubt that it does not contain all the information that students and staff of the university would desire. Of course, one of the controlling factors—and this applies to all libraries—is finance, and because of that control, I go back to my opening point that there is a need for making known the whereabouts of all the information available so that no money will be wasted on unnecessary duplication.

#### THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

Hon. W. Hegney—Mt. Hawthorn—in reply) [5.26]: I am very pleased at the tone of the debate, which indicates that the proposed amalgamation has created considerable interest amongst members. I do not intend to deal in detail with all the matters raised by the member for Cottesloe, who put forward proposals for a radical alteration to the provisions of the Bill.

I shall deal first of all with the doubt as to the treatment under this Bill of the trustees of the Public Library and how it will affect them. I should like members to realise that this is not a proposed amalgamation of the trustees of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery and members of the Library Board of Western Australia. It is a proposed amalgamation of the Public Library with the organisation known as the Library Board of Western Australia. Any member who has given

the matter thought over the years must have come to the conclusion that the time is overdue for such an amalgamation. Even the member for Cottesloe did not object strongly to the amalgamation; he did not object to the principle, and the member for Mt. Lawley, by his silence, apparently agrees to it.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: An amalgamation of control, but what of the assets?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I shall deal with that point in a few moments. Referring to the request by the member for Roe, the member for Cottesloe and the Leader of the Country Party for an assurance that certain trustees of the Public Library would be included in the new board, I say quite candidly, as Minister, that I would not feel disposed to guarantee that five or eight trustees of the Public Library would be given seats on the Library Board. It would not be fair to ask any Minister to agree to that, but I will say that, despite all my limitations, I would, in seeking to fill four or five or any given number of offices, appointments to which reposed in the Minister, first look for people intensely interested in the work of libraries.

In the circumstances, I am not going to commit myself, but I would not go to Timbuktu to find people to act as my nominees. If the Minister had to select five members from a panel of eight, the president of the Parents and Citizens Federation of Western Australia would be obliged to relinquish his position on the Library Board, and I do not think anyone would ask that that be done. I assure the House, without making a definite commitment as to the number, that favourable consideration will be given to any proposal submitted by the trustees of the Public Library and I think that if the Bill becomes law I can give an undertaking that the consideration which is due to the position, will be given to it.

It has been said that the number will be reduced from 13 to 12 but during the Committee stage I will be happy to accept an amendment in that regard so as to retain the present figure of 13, and that will include one member of the Library Association of Australia, Western Australian Branch.

There is a point which is most important and I am glad that the member for Cottesloe raised it. Here I refer to the welfare and security of the employees of both bodies. When the matter was initially discussed one of the first points I mentioned to the Director of Education was that we would ensure that employees of both organisations were protected. When representatives of the Public Library and Art Gallery met the representatives of the Library Board they discussed the proposed

amalgamation in all its phases and they did a fine job in agreeing to the principles involved.

When I said that members of both bodies had seen a draft of the Bill, I was not speaking correctly, because it is obvious that the trustees and members of the Library Board did not see the contents of the Bill, which were not officially disclosed until the measure came before this House. I am not trying to sidestep any statement that I made, but members of the committee did agree on the general principles of the Bill, in regard to the amalgamation, the safeguarding of the interests of the employees and the division of the assets, liabilities, property and so on.

All that is contained in the Bill, and while I will not be dogmatic, one of the provisions of the measure covers that phase. When we use the word "contract," it must be realised that that means a contract of employment, just the same as any other contract. These employees are under contract and are working under certain terms of employment, but the relevant provision in the Bill states—

All contracts entered into or rights enjoyed prior to the commencement of the Acts Amendment (Libraries) Act, 1955 by the Trustees which relate to the Public Library or library services shall be deemed to have been entered into or enjoyed by the Board and the Board shall take and exercise in respect thereof all the powers, duties, rights, liabilities and immunities of the Trustees.

I assure the member for Cottesloe that no employee will be disadvantaged by any amalgamation or transfer.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I realise that.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: In regard to the division of assets and liabilities, it is hoped that good sense will prevail and that a mutual understanding will be arrived at between the two bodies and that it will not be necessary for the Minister to enter into the picture at all. As the member for Stirling said, the time has arrived when there should be an amalgamation between these bodies. The Library Board has been constituted for some four years and there is no question as to the efficiency of either body—

Mr. Ackland: It is giving a lot of satisfaction.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I know, and at the same time the Public Library—those who have acted as trustees and have controlled it—have done fine work over the years. I do not think anyone who is interested will suggest that the present position should continue. By way of interjection the member for Vasse said there

was a factor which had prevented his supporting a similar measure some years ago, but that obstacle has been removed and I understand that he will support the general principles of this measure.

It is my hope that we can complete the Committee stage and the third reading of the measure at the latest by next week, because the appointed day mentioned in the Bill is the 1st December and it is advisable that all stages of the measure should be concluded in both Houses of Parliament as soon as practicable so that the bodies affected may have as much time as possible to give to the detailed work involved in the amalgamation.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee.*

Mr. J. Hegney in the Chair, the Minister for Education in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 12—agreed to.

Clause 13—Section 20A added:

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I move an amendment—

That paragraph (d) of Subclause (2), page 6, be struck out.

When replying the Minister indicated that he was not averse to accepting this amendment. Paragraph (d) would reduce the membership of the board from 13 to 12.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The present Library Board consists of 13 members, including three members of the Library Association of Australia, Western Australian Branch, and under the Bill there would be no representation of that body. The amendment will restore the number to 13 and it is proposed later to give the Library Association of Australia representation by one member on the new board.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I move an amendment—

That the word "abolished" in line 20, page 6, be struck out and the words "reduced to one" inserted in lieu.

Under the Act the Library Association of Australia, Western Australian Branch, had three representatives on the Library Board. The Bill seeks to abolish such representation but my amendment seeks merely to reduce the representation of that body to one.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I move an amendment—

That after the word "offices" in line 21, page 6, the words "at the appointed day" be inserted.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The member for Cottesloe is probably more a master of the English language than I am, but on page 5 the appointed day is defined in proposed new Section 20A embodied in Clause 13. Also, in many of the paragraphs following, the words "the appointed day" are used. Therefore, I think the words proposed by the amendment are redundant.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I agree, Mr. Chairman, and I ask leave to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I move an amendment—

That after the word "Board" in line 23, page 6, the following words be added:—

and for the purpose of filling the one office of nominee member from time to time the Minister shall request the Library Association of Australia, Western Australian Branch, to submit to him a panel of three names in the manner prescribed by paragraph (a) of Subsection (4) of Section 5 of the principal Act.

It will readily be appreciated that this will provide the machinery for putting into effect that to which I have already referred.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I think the word "principal" in the amendment should read, "this" which would make the amendment read, "this Act".

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: The Minister is off the track this time. "The principal Act" are the correct words to use. If the Minister refers to the Bill, which describes the panel of names he will find that the use of these words is correct.

The Minister for Education: Yes, that is so.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: The next amendment which I have on the notice paper is vital because it concerns trustee representation on the Library Board. It is controversial to some extent and I propose to spend a little time giving my reason why there should be stated representation for the trustees. Before doing so I would point out that many

speakers have praised the work of the Library Board and I fall into line with them. The work performed by the board in the time allotted to it has been excellent. Country members in particular appreciate what has been done with free lending library services provided in various towns and I know that, as soon as it is practicable, it is hoped that these services will be extended to many more districts.

In my second reading speech I did not decry the excellent work done by the Library Board and, in fact, I made not the slightest derogatory reference to its work. I contended that the harmonious fusion of library services could be logically effected by representation of the trustees on the board. Undoubtedly the Minister will grant that to them because he is logical and he realises the implications. Of course, he will also realise that it is wise to write such a proposal into the legislation.

I was impressed, by the arguments put forward by one or two members and by the Minister himself and I have come to the conclusion that perhaps my amendment may be too sweeping in its extent and I ask your permission, Mr. Chairman, to alter two or three words in it. The intention I have now will only reduce the number of the trustee representation.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has not stated the amendment he has on the notice paper.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: My proposed amendment reads as follows:—

And for the purpose of determining the first, but only the first, occupants of those five offices the Minister shall in the manner prescribed by paragraph (a) of Subsection (4) of Section 5 of the principal Act request the trustees of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery of Western Australia to submit to him a panel of not less than eight names from which he shall select the occupants of those five offices.

In line 3 of the suggested amendment, I wish to insert after the word, "of", the words, "three of". Also, in line 9 I wish to change the word "eight" to "five" and, again, in the second last line after the word "occupant" to insert the words "of three". By making those alterations the amendment will not be as sweeping as some members may have thought it was in its original form and, in doing so, I may overcome some of the objections raised to it, particularly by the member for Roe.

I consider that such a provision should be inserted in the clause and it will be noted by the Committee that it contains the words "and only the first." It is not the intention of the trustees to swamp the board should this amendment be passed but, on the contrary, it will assist the board

to achieve a smooth fusion of library services. By inserting the words, "and only the first", it is not intended that there will be any continued representation of trustees. It is meant that only the experience of the trustees shall be available to the Library Board by their having representation on it.

Further, the tenure of office of the three members who may be appointed is for only two years. Consequently, I trust the Minister will agree to the amendment which I shall move. I am convinced the chairman and the members would be delighted to have on the board men whom they know have had valuable experience in the handling of the Public Library. In my second reading speech I mentioned that the chairman of the board, during the preliminary discussions that were held and the preliminary literature that was circulated, indicated that he wanted adequate representation for the trustees.

In a report which he made last year and which was printed in November, 1954, he said—

Steps Recommended to effect Amalgamation of the Library Services Conducted by the Library Board of Western Australia and the Public Library.

The amalgamation proposed in the Minister's letter could be effected through one of three bodies:

- (a) the trustees of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery with additional members from the Library Board of Western Australia; or
- (b) the Library Board with additions from the trustees; or
- (c) a completely new body.

He rejected the first of these proposals—I think rightly so—together with the proposal contained in paragraph (c) and claimed that the Library Board should be the one to control the library services with additions from the trustees. In another part of his report he stated—

The Minister in considering his nominations would no doubt give every consideration to those members of the present trustees whose interest lies primarily in the work of the Public Library and who might therefore not wish to serve on the Museum-Art Gallery board, and having a number of nominations in his gift would be able to ensure that their experience of the Public Library should not be lost to the new body.

I know the Minister has said he may do this, but I think it would be of value to insert such a proposal in the amendment that I have on the notice paper,

subject to the three small alterations I have just referred to. Incorporating those alterations, I move an amendment—

That after the word "Board," in line 30, page 6, the following words be added:—

and for the purpose of determining the first, but only the first, occupants of three of those five offices the Minister shall in the manner prescribed by paragraph (a) of Subsection (4) of Section 5 of the principal Act request the Trustees of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery of Western Australia to submit to him a panel of not less than five names from which he shall select the occupants of three of those five offices.

**THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION:** I certainly do not agree to this amendment. It is the same in principle as the original one. I have given a reasonable undertaking to members and no Minister, if he is given the right to appoint a certain number of nominee members, is bound to state what the number shall be, but should be given certain latitude. I do not propose to go outside of Western Australia to select the requisite number and I would certainly select those people who had had experience in Public Library and general library work. It is not fair to tie the hands of the Minister, and I do not propose to be so tied. There are 14 members on the committee of trustees, but why was a panel of eight names selected?

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I cannot see any real objection.

**THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION:** Members must realise that there will be an amalgamation of two bodies, which will become a united board. There will not be two channels along which the administration will run. I undertake to give very favourable consideration to the suggestions that have been made. If I am Minister administering the Act, I will give every consideration to inviting experienced persons to administer the library. I must therefore vote against the amendment.

Hon. A. F. WATTS: First of all, the whole of this legislation, if passed, will restrict the Minister in his activities because every nominee is selected from a panel of names submitted by someone, except two. Therefore the Minister's freedom of choice is limited by the Act itself. He was not able to go to the Local Government Department, the Perth City Council, the country municipalities or the Road Board Association. The law provided that selection should be limited to a panel of three names nominated by those responsible organisations. There is nothing extraordinary in the proposal contained in the amendment.



Whatever may be the result of the Minister's views on this matter, it would be sufficient if two of the persons are compulsorily selected. I therefore move—

That the amendment be amended by striking out the word "three" in lines 3 and 13 and inserting the word "two" in lieu.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: In order to make progress, I am happy to accept the amendment on the amendment.

Amendment on amendment put and passed.

Amendment, as amended, put and passed.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I move an amendment—

That after paragraph (h), page 6, the following paragraph be inserted:—

- (i) The term of tenure of office of the first occupant of the office referred to in paragraph (f) of this subsection shall be two years from the appointed day and after the expiration of that period, the term of tenure of that office from time to time shall be four years.

The office referred to is the office of the representative of the Library Association of Australia, to which we have already agreed. The term of that office is stated as being two years, initially, and then four years in order that there shall be a certain continuity in the composition of the board. As the Minister has already agreed to the earlier proposition, he can have no objection to this.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I move an amendment—

That the word "two" in line 12, page 7, be struck out and the word "four" inserted in lieu.

This is apparently a mistake in the drafting. As it reads, it make no sense with regard to the terms of the tenure of office of the members.

Amendment put and passed.

Progress reported.

## BILLS (2)—RETURNED.

### 1, Honey Pool.

With an amendment.

### 2, Police Act Amendment.

Without amendment.

House adjourned at 6.11 p.m.

# Legislative Council

Tuesday, 11th October, 1955.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

## QUESTION.

### FEDERAL AID ROADS GRANT.

#### *Expenditure of Allocation to Main Roads Department.*

Hon. A. R. JONES asked the Chief Secretary:

(1) What amount did this State receive from the Federal Government under the Federal Aid Roads Grant for the period the 1st July, 1954, to the 30th June, 1955?

(2) What amount was made available through the Main Roads Department to all local governing bodies for the same period?

(3) How much was spent by the Main Roads Department upon maintenance of roads and bridges for the same period?

(4) How much was spent by the Main Roads Department in construction of bituminous surfaced roads for the same period?

(5) How much of the total money spent was accounted for by work done on a contract basis for the same period?

(6) How many miles of roads were constructed and surfaced with a bituminous surface during the same period?

The MINISTER FOR THE NORTH-WEST (for the Chief Secretary) replied:

(1) £4,389,504.

(2) £680,000.

(3) £372,246.

(4) Precise figures are not available; approximately £820,000.