

BILL—MANDURAH CHURCH BURIAL GROUND.*Council's Message.*

Message from the Council received and read, notifying that it had agreed to the amendment made by the Assembly.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE PREMIER (Hon. D. R. McLarty—Murray-Wellington) I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 2.15 p.m. (Wednesday).

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 1.32 a.m. (Wednesday).

Legislative Council.

Wednesday, 17th December, 1947.

CONTENTS.

	Page
Bills: Censorship of Films, 2r., remaining stages	2896
Assembly's message	2918
Reserves, 2r., remaining stages	2899
Assembly's message	2918
Gas (Standards), Assembly's message	2900
Bread Act Amendment, Assembly's message	2900
The Fremantle Gas and Coke Company's Act Amendment, returned	2900
Government Railways Act Amendment (No. 2), 2r., remaining stages, passed	2900
Building Operations and Building Materials Control Act Amendment and Continuance, 2r. (personal explanation), Com. recom.	2904
Further recom., report, 3r., passed ...	2914
Commonwealth Powers Act, 1945-1947, Amendment (Continuance), 2r., remaining stages	2908
Assembly's message	2918
Municipal Corporations Act Amendment (No. 1), Assembly's request for conference	2909
Conference managers' report	2913
Assembly's further message	2918
Factories and Shops Act Amendment (No. 2), 2r., defeated	2910
Adjournment, special	2919

The **PRESIDENT** took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

BILL—CENSORSHIP OF FILMS.*Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. G. FRASER (West) [2.35]: I secured the adjournment of the debate last evening in order to have an opportunity to look through the Bill because it is a fairly lengthy one and one that could cause quite a deal of concern. Having examined the measure I am satisfied that, generally speaking, I can support its provisions. An agreement is to be made with the Commonwealth so that there will be no necessity for setting up a separate censorship here and the classification by the central censor will be accepted in this State. I understand that the State Premiers each agreed to introduce uniform legislation on the subject, so there appears to be every safeguard.

I believe the public is well satisfied with the classifications that have been made by the Federal censor of pictures for general exhibition, not for general exhibition and not for children under 16. I think his decisions have been accepted as being well within the mark. The Bill, however, contains one or two clauses on which I am not too keen. To one I am definitely opposed, because it appears to be ridiculous. Clause 19 provides that no exhibitor shall admit any child apparently under the age of 16, when the child is not accompanied by an adult, to any picture theatre where a film declared as being not suitable for exhibition before children is to be screened.

That is an extraordinary clause. We are asked to place the onus on the proprietor of the theatre, and we know it is always difficult to guess a person's age. I defy anyone to guess the ages of a lot of the girls of today, and I can see a picture proprietor in a heap of trouble if he told some of those girls that he considered them to be under 16. There are some saving words "if in his opinion," but cases are frequently taken in the court for offences against the licensing laws of having served a person under the age of 21, and though the attendant has been under the impression that the customer was 21, he has been fined. Generally speaking, it is possible to tell the age of a man within a year or two, but not so the age of a female, so I anticipate a good deal of trouble in that direction.

The clause, however, is ridiculous because a child will be permitted to see a picture provided it is accompanied by an adult. I cannot see any difference in the effect of a picture on a child whether it is accompanied by an adult or not. Either the picture is a good one or a bad one, and the presence or absence of an adult in the child's company would make no difference.

Another provision to which I take some exception is Clause 18—certain films not to be exhibited during daytime on Saturdays, public holidays and school holidays. I admit there is a proviso that the Minister may waive the provision, but I think he will be waiving it all the time and that it might as well not be in the Bill. Many parents will not permit their children to attend pictures alone and quite a lot of people take their families to the pictures on holidays, and particularly during school holidays. Are we going to debar such parents from seeing a picture, because the clause will not permit the screening of certain pictures until 5.30 p.m.? It will mean that parents will have to miss certain pictures or take their children with them.

I think that the Minister will be pestered with applications for exemption from the provision in this clause. To say that a picture shall not be shown on a public holiday or on a Saturday or on any school holiday before 5.30 p.m. is to place an obstacle in the way of a lot of people seeing the picture, and I do not think that is justified. The clause seems to be even more drastic than Clause 19. I would prefer to see Clause 18 omitted, because under Clause 19 the parents could go to any picture and take their children with them, but Clause 18 will block them definitely from seeing a particular picture. Parents take their families to the pictures in the daytime on such occasions, and the films referred to would not be shown before 5.30 p.m.

There is nothing else in the Bill to which exhibitors could take exception. The measure will provide a guarantee that pictures shown have been censored and classified. Once that has been done and an appropriate advertisement has been inserted in the Press, parents can pick the shows to which they will not allow their children to go—at all events unattended. I think that almost without exception the city theatres classify the

pictures in their advertisements; but very few, if any, of the suburban theatres do so. I realise that they want to get as large an attendance as they can. The Bill will make it compulsory for all advertisers to include a classification in their advertisement and that will overcome a lot of the objections in suburban areas to certain programmes. With the reservations I have made, I support the second reading.

HON. L. A. LOGAN (Central) [2.43]: I welcome the Bill. I have been interested in the censorship of films for a considerable time. To me Clause 19 seems unworkable, more so in the country than in the city. In the country there is a picture show once a week or even once a fortnight; and if a man and his wife wanted to go to see a certain type of picture, under this clause they would have to leave their children on the back of their truck outside the theatre. The only alternative would be to stay away themselves. That would be a hardship that country people should not be called upon to bear. It appears to me that the only way we can secure a better class of film is to bring pressure to bear on the Commonwealth censor to be more severe in his censorship. The Bill brings this State into line with most of the States of the Commonwealth in other respects and is necessary in the interests of uniformity. I do not like Clause 19 and I shall vote against it in Committee.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt in the Chair; the Minister for Mines in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 17—agreed to.

Clause 18—Certain films not to be exhibited during daytime on Saturdays, public holidays and school holidays:

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: In reply to Mr. Fraser's remarks on this clause, I would point out that it is in the afternoons in the big towns that children go to pictures by themselves, and I think it is quite right that pictures that are meant for adults only should not be shown on those occasions. If parents accompany their children to a theatre in the afternoon, I do not think it

would be any hardship for them to be deprived of the opportunity of seeing a picture designed for adults only. I doubt very much whether the Minister will be asked for, or will grant, many exemptions in respect of pictures which young children should not be allowed to see.

Hon. G. FRASER: I am not satisfied with the Minister's explanation. In the city parents can pick the show that they want their children to see. The clause would debar the whole family from seeing many pictures. It is the practice for parents to take their children to the pictures on Saturday afternoons, as that is the only time when it is possible—in most cases—for the whole family to attend. After having seen a film designated as not suitable for general exhibition, my wife has remarked to me that she saw nothing in it that would harm children.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: The clause prevents certain films being screened. I would like an assurance from the Minister that exemptions will be given except in the case of a few films.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: The clause is inconsistent in that it prevents certain pictures being shown before 5.30 p.m. but allows a parent to take children to see that film after 5.30 p.m.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: There are films suitable for general exhibition, films suitable for adults only and films not suitable for children. The Bill seeks to lay down that a film not fit for children can only be shown after 5.30 p.m. on certain days. The measure will reassure parents that they may send their children to see any picture show. It should not be any hardship for parents of young families to stay away from picture shows.

Hon. G. Fraser: Ask the housewife.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Many housewives would rather not go to the pictures at all than take children with them. It would be better for the welfare of the State if young children were banned entirely from picture shows.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Tell that to the mothers.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I am telling them through the hon. member.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Is the Minister of opinion that film exhibitors have such a wide range of pictures that they can put on any kind at any time to suit any particular audience? The film people are under contract to show certain pictures at certain times, and they cannot procure any others. The impressionable age in children is from a little under 16 to about 18. It is difficult to keep such children away from the pictures if they desire to attend. Under the Bill it will be impossible for the industry to carry on with picture shows at certain hours of the day.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: The Minister has put up a strong case for the retention of the clause. I think the proviso safeguards the situation. It would be a source of satisfaction to parents if they knew they could send their children to the pictures on a Saturday afternoon and be satisfied that there would be nothing objectionable about them. I think, however, that the measure will restrict the film industry, and I am therefore surprised that there has been absolutely no opposition to it, contrary to what was put forward quite recently respecting another Bill.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: For all the good this clause will do, it might as well be deleted. Film exhibitors have to show their pictures whenever they are supplied to them. Many pictures run for a fortnight and I do not know how the programme could be changed for a Saturday afternoon. I hope the Committee will consider carefully before passing the clause.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The film industry is well satisfied with the Bill except as to Clause 19. If any picture management has entered into a contract to show indecent films, it should go out of business. Many pictures are to be seen that will improve the minds of children and also provide them with enjoyment.

Hon. G. FRASER: A picture-show proprietor in the suburbs or a country town, who only shows at night, will exhibit these pictures without restraint and children will not be prevented from seeing them. It would be better to strike out this clause and leave Clause 19 in the Bill.

Hon. C. H. SIMPSON: I believe every State but South Australia has adopted legislation similar to this. The idea is to get uniformity throughout the Commonwealth.

No doubt members of the local film industry were consulted before this Bill was drawn up. A mother may come to town with her children during the holidays, and may want to send the youngsters to a picture show while she herself goes shopping. She should be satisfied that the pictures they will see are of the right kind. I shall vote for the clause.

Hon. G. BENNETTS: Some of the pictures which are being shown on the Goldfields are of a shocking description. Complaints have frequently been made to the local council about such films. No wonder we have so much child delinquency and crime in this State. Much of that is due to the type of picture children go to see. The other evening I was at a picture show that dealt very vividly with maternity. My blood boiled to find so many children amongst the audience, drinking in all the details. If we want to improve the morals of our children, we should prevent them from seeing some of the trash that is exhibited to-day.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I hope the proviso in this clause will be used with discretion by the Minister.

The Minister for Mines: The hon. member can be assured that that will be so.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: If that is the case, I shall vote for the clause.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 19—Power to require security for fulfilment of conditions:

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I hope this clause will be struck out. It was not in the Bill as originally introduced. Difficulty will be found in administering such a provision as this. How will it be possible for any picture show officials to determine the precise age of children who present themselves for admission?

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: It will certainly be difficult to arrive at the age of children who are presenting themselves as spectators at some picture show. Does the Minister know that this provision was contained in the Victorian Act?

The Minister for Mines: It was put in the Bill by a private member. The Government had nothing to do with it.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: It was found impossible to police it in Victoria.

The Minister for Mines: I am so informed.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: The clause would prove to be absolutely unworkable. The Bill, as originally drawn, is the same as the legislation on the subject in the Eastern States and I understand it is the desire of the Government that this provision should not be agreed to by this Chamber. I shall vote against the clause.

Hon. R. J. BOYLEN: I also oppose the clause, as I consider it is throwing the responsibility of parents on to the proprietors of picture theatres. The provision would be a perpetual source of annoyance to them, on account of the difficulty of determining a child's age.

Clause put and negatived.

Clauses 20 to 32, Schedule, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with an amendment and the report adopted.

Third Reading.

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

BILL—RESERVES.

Second Reading.

Order of the Day read for the resumption from the 12th December of the debate on the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Hon. A. L. Lorton in the Chair; the Honorary Minister in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 5—agreed to.

Clause 6—Part of Reserve No. 4813:

Hon. G. FRASER: This clause deals with the portion of the Point Walter reserve that was occupied as a military camp and is now being used for an immigrants' home. The clause provides that the exemption is to be for 10 years. I am pleased to note that it is not to be made permanent, because the Fremantle people desire that no portion of this reserve shall be revoked. We may be taking a long range view, but the people of Fremantle cherish the idea that possibly the Zoo will be removed from South Perth to

Point Walter. We consider that Point Walter would be the ideal site.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 7 to 11—agreed to.

Clause 12—Part of Reserve 13012:

Hon. SIR HAL COLEBATCH: I am not quite sure exactly what portion of land this is. Is it the portion lying to the west of William-street?

The Honorary Minister: No, east of Bar-rack-street.

Hon. SIR HAL COLEBATCH: It would be well to have a limiting period such as that to which Mr. Fraser referred. Would the Minister object to such an amendment?

The Honorary Minister: No.

Hon. SIR HAL COLEBATCH: I move an amendment—

That in line 3 after the word "hereby" the words "for a period of five years commencing from the first day of March, 1947" be inserted.

If it is found necessary to provide or an extension at the end of five years, it can be done. It would be a mistake to set up the idea that the revocation was permanent.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: I support the amendment but I suggest that the date be made the 1st January, 1948. We might have difficulty in getting another place to agree to March. I have no objection to this land being used as a parking area for the time being, but one does not know what will happen in five years. I am jealous of all the land along the foreshore. I sometimes listen with horror to the suggestion to use the area west of William-street as a car barn site.

Hon. Sir HAL COLEBATCH: I thought it might be desirable to establish a parking area straight away, but I am quite agreeable to the date suggested by Mr. Bolton.

The HONORARY MINISTER: When, by interjection, I agreed to limiting this to five years, I did not realise Sir Hal was going back to last March. I do not think another place would agree to that, and I certainly would not.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you, Sir Hal, agreeable to the date being the 1st January, 1948?

Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: The amendment then will be that the words "for a period of five years commencing from the 1st day of January, 1948," be inserted.

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

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with an amendment and the report adopted.

Third Reading.

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

BILL—GAS (STANDARDS).

Assembly's Message.

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the Council's amendments.

BILL—BREAD ACT AMENDMENT.

Assembly's Message.

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the Council's amendment.

BILL—THE FREMANTLE GAS AND COKE COMPANY'S ACT AMENDMENT.

Returned from the Assembly without amendment.

BILL—GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT (No. 2).

Second Reading.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. G. B. Wood—East) [3.41] in moving the second reading said: This Bill has been rendered necessary by a certain doubt in the minds of the officers of the Crown Law Department as to whether the railways have power to run motor buses, and, of course, whether they can buy them. I hope the Bill will meet with a better fate than have the other two which had something to do with this department. As this is such a small measure, I am optimistic that it will be carried. The principal Act is to be amended by inserting after the word "cars" in the definition of "Rail-

way," paragraph (2), line two, the words "motor and other vehicles."

There is also a safeguard in the amending Bill to bring the department within the scope of the Traffic Act, in the following terms:—

In addition to any other powers conferred upon the Commissioner he may, with the consent of the Minister—

- (a) construct, purchase and otherwise acquire and maintain any motor or other vehicles; and
- (b) subject to the provisions of the State Transport Co-ordination Act, 1933-1946, and of the Traffic Act, 1919-1947, use them for the purpose of conveying passengers and goods on any public highway and on land referred to in paragraph (1) of the definition "Railway" or "Government railway" in section two of this Act.

This power is necessary today, and we must agree, in spite of the eulogistic remarks of some members that the railways are not deserving of criticism, that things are not very satisfactory with regard to the carriage of passengers. So it is desirable that the department should run motor vehicles in conjunction with its present services. Trains take a tremendous amount of time to come from the country, particularly where they run from a branch line on to a main line. In some cases short cuts by road can be taken from remote country areas to the city.

Hon. G. Bennetts: The trains take a long time to come from the Goldfields.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I dare say motor travel would be much quicker than the train, but in that instance it is not so applicable because the train to the Goldfields follows the shortest route possible. I had in mind the Kojonup bus service. Anyone who lives in that district has in the past had to go by mixed train to Katanning from which he would catch the slow train known as the Albany Express, which travels to Perth by a roundabout route through Spencer's Brook. The distance by rail to Kojonup is 258 miles via Katanning and 230 miles via Donnybrook. The trip via Katanning takes 13 hours and via Donnybrook 18 hours. The distance by road is 160 miles or nearly 100 miles shorter than the train journey. The trip by bus occupies only six hours.

The Kojonup service has catered for 9,970 passengers, the gross earnings amount-

ing to £8,094, with working expenses totalling £3,362 and with interest and depreciation at £399, leaving a net profit of £4,333. When we compare that result with the position regarding the railways, members will agree that it is very gratifying indeed and demonstrates the urgent need to establish more bus services than we have at present. This particular service was inaugurated in 1941, Mr. Roche having a lot to do with its implementation. Certainly it was largely through his efforts and despite the opposition against the Railways Department that it was instituted. It has been most successful and is both popular and profitable, so much so that whereas at the start there were two trips per week, there are three trips each way at present.

The service has been extended via Quindanning and more recently another service has been inaugurated between Brunswick Junction and Collie to connect up with the "Australind" train. I hope that very soon a bus service will be established to serve the lower South-West, travelling down through Nannup, Northcliffe and Boyup Brook. We cannot stop progress in this direction. The people have found out how desirable bus services are throughout the country districts. I have been advised that some of the services may not continue when the locomotive position has improved, but, at any rate, they will continue to render valuable aid to the country people until the additional engines are available. For my part I am of the opinion that no matter what the railway service may be, the buses will continue to operate. In view of all the circumstances, I believe members will agree that the Commissioner of Railways should have power to buy motor buses and run services. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

HON. L. CRAIG (South-West) [3.49]: I shall not oppose the Bill, but on the other hand will support it. I hope the promise of the Minister that the Commissioner of Railways will provide a bus service for the lower South-West will be given effect to as quickly as possible. If any section of the community has a bad train service, it is those who live from Donnybrook down along the Preston Valley and out to Boyup Brook, Dinninup and on to Kojonup. There is only one train that leaves Perth at 12.10 a.m. and it is a dreadful one to travel on, especially with children. It takes from midnight until

two or three o'clock the following afternoon to travel a distance of less than 200 miles—a really shocking journey.

People who live at Flinders Bay and Augusta, which districts are making headway, and quite a lot of timber is now exported from those areas, are badly situated, and the journey to Perth is almost a nightmare. I hope the Commissioner of Railways will give close attention to providing a bus service in that part as quickly as possible. Then there is the new "Australind" train between Bunbury and Perth. Whereas that journey formerly took six hours, it now takes $3\frac{1}{4}$ hours only, with the run non-stop except for a stay at Brunswick Junction to pick up passengers from Collie. The train travels at a good speed and is quite comfortable. But anyone who wishes to embark or disembark between Bunbury and Perth has no train by which to travel and has to do the journey by bus. There are disadvantages however, because if a person leaves his farm to travel up by bus, he has to go to the roadside and wait in the hot sun until the bus comes along.

Hon. G. Bennetts: I understood there was a diesel train.

Hon. L. CRAIG: There is no train at all apart from the one that leaves Perth at 12.10 a.m. Not only do the people I refer to have to travel by bus but they are allowed to take with them only 40 lb. weight of luggage. If they have more than that the surplus luggage has to be left behind and a following bus picks it up, but the two buses do not necessarily travel close together. That means that when one arrives at the end of the journey one may have to wait a considerable time before the balance of the luggage arrives. Sometimes people have had to wait for two or three hours. Of course when any new scheme is inaugurated there are bound to be complaints. For instance, take the position of people who live on a farm and wish to travel up by bus. When they arrive at the roadside they do not know if the bus is running early or late. They have to stand there in the sun, which is particularly trying for women with children and luggage as well, wondering whether the bus has already gone or how long they will have to wait. I heard of one instance where a mother had to wait for over two hours, only to find that the bus had run ahead of its scheduled time. Such incidents, if rare, are very annoying.

Hon. C. G. Latham: In that instance, the woman could catch the second bus.

Hon. L. CRAIG: I do not know that there was a second bus in that instance, and furthermore I do not know that the luggage bus would pick up passengers. Then again there are complaints about the cost of the journey. Many people prefer to travel second-class, but the bus fare is equal to that paid by first-class passengers on the railway. I know that many of the residents are quite satisfied and I have no doubt that matters will adjust themselves as attention is given to complaints. It is no good establishing a new type of service and allowing people to become dissatisfied. Such a course would damn the future development of bus services. Special attention should be given to the requirements of those availing themselves of the bus services so that the public will accept them and like them. By such means motor services may be extended with advantage. I hope close attention will be given to the points I have mentioned, and that we shall very soon have an extension of the road services through the lower South-West.

HON. H. TUCKEY (South-West) [3.55]: I support the second reading of the Bill. These bus services should have been established long ago. Over the years complaints have been made about the time occupied by the trip to the South-West. There has never been much complaint about the Perth-Bunbury train, which has always been looked upon as fairly decent. The delay has occurred at the other end from Picton southwards. If a bus service were provided to meet trains at Picton, and passengers were conveyed through to Boyup Brook, Busselton and other centres, much of the present delay would be obviated and much greater satisfaction derived by the people of the South-West. Now the fast train from Perth to Bunbury has been inaugurated, the difference is all the more noticeable when the passengers have to join the slower trains by which they have to complete their journey. That applies to various centres, except with regard to the bus service which has been established to Flinders Bay.

It is a wonder to me that the people in that part of the State have put up with the prevailing conditions for so long. The position regarding the surplus luggage has been particularly annoying and people have had to wait for hours before they could secure

their property. Then again on some of the buses only two prams can be accommodated. That means that on occasions when there have been three prams at the roadside, one has had to be left behind with the result that the mother has had to return to the farm with her family. That is a most unsatisfactory position and something should be done to overcome the difficulty. I hope extra buses will be put on so as to meet the Bunbury train at the other end and avoid the delays that take place at present. If a diesel coach were put on the service between Perth and Bunbury it could pick up the passengers and that should prove satisfactory. I do not know if the department has a spare diesel coach but if that course were adopted, I think it would be better than running buses haphazardly with people waiting at the roadside not knowing when, or if, they would be picked up.

Sitting suspended from 4.0 till 4.20 p.m.

HON. G. BENNETTS (South) [4.20]: I support the second reading. There are good bitumen roads in the South-West district on which motor traffic can travel, but there are not such good ones on the Goldfields. In fact, the roads there are deplorable from the point of view of motor transport. There is a good road from Kalgoorlie to Broad Arrow which would carry motor traffic, but there are not many more of the same kind. If motor buses can be placed on the good roads, it may have the result of diesel coaches being made available for the Goldfields. You, Sir, with other Goldfields members, have been a great advocate for the district between Leonora and Kalgoorlie to be provided with these diesel coaches. You are aware that the Sons of Gwalia mine is understaffed and more men will have to be employed there.

That is practically impossible at present because people cannot be persuaded to live in the district, largely on account of the poor transport facilities. The same applies to Norseman, which is a big mining centre. There is a large population there which is isolated. On every train on which I travel I find people coming from Norseman and cursing the long run. There is no doubt that it is a rotten trip, and if we can secure the release of diesels as a result of the introduction of road transport we will have been rendered a good service. I consider that

there could be a train practically once a day from Norseman and it would be full. I do not doubt that the same thing would occur on the Leonora line and with this improved transport system, people will have a chance of getting fresh vegetables and other perishable commodities easily.

HON. L. B. BOLTON (Metropolitan) [4.24]: I am glad to be able to support this measure, small as it may be. From the remarks of the Minister regarding the success of the Kojonup service, I should imagine that if the Government went further still in co-ordinating bus services as feeders to the railways, the department would have fewer headaches and fewer losses. I must admit that from the selfish point of view, I prefer to see private enterprise controlling all bus traffic. Private enterprise at least makes a profit, even after paying large sums in revenue to the State, which is not derived from railway or tramway bus services.

I am pleased also to see that the Government services are being brought under the State Transport Co-ordination Act and the Traffic Act. For a long time it has been considered most unfair that the tramways should have a law of their own regarding the running of their vehicles on the streets, on which private companies also operate. I have had many complaints brought to me by owners who required vehicles built of a certain width which was less than that allowed for the average trolleybus. At that time the law of the land prevented a vehicle being made to that width, although the tramways were allowed to operate vehicles of any width they chose.

As the result of the provisions of this Bill the department will have to comply with the Traffic Act and the transport Act. I was sorry to hear complaints from Mr. Craig and others about the "Australind" train. I have not travelled on that yet, but I intend to do so during the holidays in order to see for myself. I think it is an excellent innovation and some little allowance should be made by the travelling public for a while, until the department gets thoroughly into its stride with regard to the running of the train, and can overcome the disadvantages that have been indicated. One of the disadvantages—and I agree it is very annoying—relates to excess luggage.

The Honorary Minister: That is the bus service you are referring to.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: Yes, I am referring to the Bunbury bus service which is run in conjunction with the train. On the bus, a passenger is allowed only 40 lb. of luggage.

Hon. L. Craig: It has already been dealt with.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: I am sure, Mr. President, that you have no objection to my dealing with it also. I was going to offer suggestions that might meet with Mr. Craig's approval. I was about to suggest that a light trailer might be attached to the bus in order that the travelling public could get delivery of their excess luggage at the time of the arrival of the bus. It would not be a costly matter. A trailer is very light to haul behind another vehicle if properly constructed—and it could be. I am not suggesting where they should be built. I am speaking from personal experience, which I am prepared to impart for the benefit of the House. I believe that would overcome a lot of the department's troubles and I commend the suggestion to the Minister. Perhaps his department has given the matter some thought and there may be some reason why it is unable to do something along those lines for the time being. I am not advertising in any way. There are times when one cannot help touching on matters in which one is personally interested; but on those occasions I feel that the advice tendered may be of benefit to the House. I offer the suggestion for what it is worth and am glad to support the measure.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. G. B. Wood—East—in reply) [4.30]: It is amusing to hear the general advocacy of bus services, notwithstanding what we have recently heard about our railway system. During this week, one would have imagined that everything is all right with the railway system. Mr. Craig mentioned certain matters and I consulted the Minister for Railways, who has already looked into the matter of the first-class fares, and has taken it up with the Commissioner. I hope that will satisfy Mr. Craig. The Minister said that it was too much to pay a first-class fare on the bus. He has also taken up the question regarding luggage. Mr. Bolton suggested that a trailer be attached to the bus, but I think it is only on rare occa-

sions that the luggage arrives much later than the bus. It is extraordinary that members should say the Commissioner should be given time to adjust this bus service. Surely, the Railway Department, with all its experience—for instance, the Kojonup service—does not require time in which to make adjustments.

Hon. L. Craig: By pointing shortcomings out, we ensure that they are adjusted.

The HONORARY MINISTER: These questions should never have arisen. I hope that under the new set-up of the railways in years to come, such matters will not arise. I am glad the Bill has been received favourably by the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Bill read a third time and *passed*.

BILL—BUILDING OPERATIONS AND BUILDING MATERIALS CONTROL ACT AMENDMENT AND CONTINUANCE.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. E. M. DAVIES (West) [4.38]: Generally speaking, I have no objection to the Bill, realising that certain controls over building operations are still necessary. The Minister, when introducing the Bill, said it was proposed to bring second-hand timber under control. That might cause hardship in some cases. I know of instances where people have had quantities of second-hand building materials but have not been able to obtain permits to erect buildings. It might be dangerous to bring second-hand materials under control on the same basis as new materials. I would like an assurance from the Minister that the conditions applying to new materials will not be applied to second-hand materials.

I understand it is not necessary to have a permit to purchase new materials to the value of less than £50, and perhaps that provision could be applied also to second-hand materials. Those who dismantle buildings and remove the material to other localities for re-erection often find it necessary to

use a certain amount of new material in the structure they intend to erect. A difficulty then arises as to whether they can purchase the new material necessary to complete the building. Difficulties arise in that way. Where it is not necessary for the person concerned to employ labour on the erection of a building from second-hand material, I hope that the work will be permitted under the conditions I have mentioned.

HON. C. G. LATHAM (East) [4.40]: Buildings are being dismantled in Wiluna and other country areas for removal and re-erection, and I would like to see such materials exempt from the operation of this measure. Many people purchase buildings for removal to the metropolitan area and, although a permit is not required to remove a building, immediately the second-hand material is on the block for re-erection, it comes under control. Many carpenters and other tradesmen are held up for lack of material and therefore, where sufficient second-hand material to complete a building is available, I do not think any restriction should be placed on the work. Often permits applied for are not granted or, if a priority is given, it is frequently some time before a permit is issued. Unoccupied Goldfields and military buildings are often available for removal, providing sufficient material to enable people to erect dwellings, but, as I have said, immediately the material is placed on the ground for re-erection, it is controlled. I hope provision will be made to exclude second-hand material from the operations of the measure.

HON. J. A. DIMMITT (Metropolitan-Suburban) [4.42]: I am sure members must view with regret the necessity for a continuation of the control of building materials. We all hoped that two years after the war matters would have adjusted themselves to a point where control could be discontinued or eased. Controls create opportunities for dishonesty, and make possible black markets. When speaking to the Address-in-reply, I threw out a suggestion to the Government that it should ease controls on the items dealt with under Section 9 of the parent Act. In that section people are limited to varying sums of money that may be spent, without permit, on renovations. The amount allowed for painting, whitewashing, and so on, is £50. When the Act first came into operation, £50 went a great deal further

than it will as from the 1st January next. Painting materials have increased considerably in price since 1945. Wages have also risen and, with the introduction of the 40-hour week, there will be a further increase in costs. I suggested to the Government that consideration be given to extending the values of material allowed under the various subsections of Section 9. It is a pity the Government did not increase that £50 to £75.

Hon. E. H. Gray: It would have been abused.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: I do not think so. However, it was not done. Had it been done, it would have given large numbers of people opportunity of making renovations and replacements that are badly needed. Most houses and business premises have fallen into a state of disrepair owing to compulsory neglect during the war years. It is a pity that the limits under the provisions of the original Act were not increased.

Hon. G. Fraser: It is remarkable how many instances there are where renovations do not cost £50.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: It is remarkable how many cases there are in which the renovations would cost much more than £50 if people were allowed to go to the extent necessary to put their buildings back into good repair. So far as second-hand material is concerned, I think it regrettable that it should come under control. Mr. Latham touched on a point I intended to deal with, namely, the purchase by people of butments and military buildings through the Disposals Commission. These buildings in the past, when permits were unnecessary, played an important part in providing outbuildings for farmers and graziers and that type of person. I think it will hinder their progress if they have to seek permission to re-erect these buildings, which are available and are very useful. I am hoping that perhaps some amendment will be moved in the Committee stage to strike out the provision relating to control of second-hand material. I support the second reading.

Personal Explanation.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: Have I your permission, Sir, to make a personal explanation?

The President: Yes.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: Yesterday, when speaking to the second reading of the mea-

sure, I complained bitterly about the lateness of bringing this measure down and intimated that I had not had time to study it and intended to vote against the second reading. Since studying the Bill, I find it is a continuance measure and therefore I do not feel justified in voting against it. I desire to inform the Chief Secretary that I intend to support the second reading.

Debate Resumed.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. H. S. W. Parker—Metropolitan-Suburban—in reply) [4.48]: I think I should explain some of the matters which apparently I did not make clear originally. The Housing Commission is extremely busy and, like every other organisation, must make mistakes, and anomalies must occur. I assure members that every effort is being made to see that all materials are going through the right channels with a view to expediting the housing of the people. At first blush, it certainly does appear to be quite unnecessary to control second-hand material; but, owing to the shortage of new materials, much second-hand material is required for general housing.

I might explain one matter that came before the Housing Commission. A gentleman bought an Army hut, which he wanted to re-erect in the hills as a winter residence. He certainly required some odds and ends, among which were asbestos sheets. At that time asbestos sheets were not controlled. He was refused a permit to build, for the obvious reason that second-hand material was so urgently needed for housing purposes. Then there is always the smart person who buys up second-hand materials and more or less corners them for the purpose of selling them to build the houses that are so urgently required. There is also the man who buys second-hand materials and starts to make additions to his own house. He invariably requires some material that is controlled.

I made inquiries about the houses being removed from Wiluna. I did not get details of an actual instance, but it was suggested that probably permits were not granted because iron or some other commodity would also be required. I assure members that the granting of permits will be sympathetically and reasonably considered. It is not the desire to prevent building, but to make every effort to erect homes so urgently needed. I think members will agree that a man should

not get a permit to erect a seaside house or a humpy in the hills for a winter resort. I ask members to pass this continuance Bill with its few amendments.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt in the Chair; the Minister for Mines in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 8—agreed to.

New clause:

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I move—

That a new clause be inserted as follows:—
“8. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other Act it shall not be necessary to obtain a permit for the purchase, removal or re-erection of any second-hand material used for building purposes.”

I am utterly opposed to the control of second-hand material. The arguments adduced in favour of such control appear to me to be weak. It is time that we, as the representatives of the people, controlled Government departments instead of the departments controlling Parliament.

Hon. C. H. SIMPSON: I support the amendment. Some freedom should be allowed to people desirous of using second-hand materials from places which have become unoccupied by reason of the industry which employed the occupiers passing out. I have in mind Goldfields towns such as Wiluna. Some years ago I was administrator of an estate that owned an hotel. We had difficulty in selling but finally I bought it for £60. It contained 12 rooms. I eventually sold it at a small profit to a man who had had the misfortune to have his property burned down. He not only re-erected his office, storeroom and tool shed, but had a substantial surplus which was used to good purpose.

Hon. G. FRASER: Is this new clause in order, in view of Clause 3? To my way of thinking, it contradicts Clause 3.

The CHAIRMAN: That is so. I rule the new clause out of order.

New clause ruled out.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment.

Recommendation.

On motion by Hon. L. A. Logan, Bill re-committed for the further consideration of Clause 3.

In Committee.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt in the Chair; the Minister for Mines in charge of the Bill.

Clause 3—Amendment of Section 6:

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I move an amendment—

That paragraph (b) be struck out.

Hon. C. H. SIMPSON: Would it be in order to re-submit Mr. Logan's motion so as to make it apply to an area outside a radius of 50 miles of Perth?

The CHAIRMAN: No.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I have looked at the parent Act, and I cannot see what effect this has on second-hand materials. I have been informed that the Premier agreed to exclude second-hand materials from the operations of the Act, but the Minister has not advised us on it. My opinion is that it is necessary to retain paragraph (b). As far as I can see the Bill has nothing to do with second-hand materials.

Hon. G. BENNETTS: The paragraph should remain. Recently a building was removed from Mt. Magnet to Safety Bay for re-erection. The owner was granted a permit to purchase £25 worth of new material, but he used £125 worth and he was charged in court. We have built 50 homes under the Boulder scheme, and we have had no trouble in getting permits. Again, ex-members of the 28th Battalion, in Ka'goorlie, have erected about 30 homes.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: People cannot build with second-hand materials without a permit. They are allowed to buy second-hand materials, but not to build. If a house is pulled down it cannot be re-erected without a permit. This is necessary because some people buy these houses to break them up, but not to re-erect them. Members can see the trade that would arise if someone bought a number of these houses, broke them down and sold them as timber. We say we cannot stop that, but we can stop the re-erection of homes with second-hand materials, which, in effect, prevents the breaking up of these buildings for the sale of the timber as building material. If a person buys one of these houses for the purpose of re-erection somewhere else, his application will be reasonably and sympathetically dealt with.

Hon. E. H. Gray: Such applications always have been.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes. To strike out this paragraph means that we will rather be going back on our previous wishes. I trust the Committee will not strike it out.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: Do you, Mr. Chairman, still rule that Mr. Logan's amendment is not applicable?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. I would still stand by my ruling.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Therefore, Mr. Chairman, you say that paragraph (b) does cover second-hand material?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: I think there is a misunderstanding on the part of members. At the second reading stage I felt there would be some opposition to this clause and I asked the Premier for certain advice. He told me there would be no objection to a person getting a permit to re-erect, even if it meant supplying a small quantity of new timber to replace any that became broken. The idea is to prevent wholesale trafficking in second-hand material. I am advised that in some cases people have constructed a house partly with second-hand material and then have obtained a lot of new timber and so on in order to complete the work. That is what the Housing Commission has to contend with. We have had an assurance from the Minister that in genuine cases where persons are re-erecting premises that have been pulled down and removed from somewhere else, there will be no objection raised even to granting a small quantity of new timber with which to complete the work. I hope the clause will remain as it stands.

Hon. G. FRASER: I raised the point of order earlier because I did not want the Bill to go to another place in a yes-no condition. Up till then I had not had any opportunity to compare the Bill with the Act, but I have done so and I cannot find anywhere in the Bill any provision indicating the relief regarding second-hand materials that has been suggested.

The Minister for Mines: It is only the building with second-hand materials for which permits are required.

Hon. G. FRASER: I cannot find it in the Bill, although there is some reference in the principal Act.

The Minister for Mines: The provision in the Bill includes second-hand material.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: I hope the Minister will report progress till a later stage of the sitting so that members may give some consideration to the point. We do not wish to take out portion of Clause 3 if the Government desires to retain it. All we want is some further protection regarding second-hand materials.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I have seen the Premier and the chairman of the Housing Commission and they explain that it is because of the wrongful use of second-hand material that the provision is necessary. The intention of the draftsman was to clarify the position. If I have second-hand material, I can get a permit to build, but one to procure the second-hand materials is not necessary.

Hon. G. Fraser: Where does the Bill deal with that?

Hon. C. G. Latham: That is what I want to know.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: During my second reading speech I pointed out that the object of the provision was to make clear what we believed to be the law, and that is that one cannot build with second-hand materials unless one has a permit. No permit is required to acquire second-hand material.

Hon. G. Fraser: And how does the Bill make that clearer?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The draftsman considered that by inserting in line 6 of Section 6 after "building materials" the words "when used as provided in Part IV. and Part V. of this Act," would make it clearer.

Progress reported till a later stage of the sitting.

BILL—COMMONWEALTH POWERS ACT, 1945-1947, AMENDMENT (CONTINUANCE).

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. H. S. W. Parker—Metropolitan-Suburban) [5.22] in moving the second reading said:

The Commonwealth Powers Act, 1945, Amendment Act was passed to refer the matter of prices to the Commonwealth for a period of two years commencing on the 1st January, 1946, and ending on the 31st December, 1947. The preamble shows that the reference of power to make laws regarding prices was associated with post-war reconstruction. The Commonwealth has been regulating prices under its defence powers and during last year, under the provisions of the Defence (Transitional Provisions) Act. The last mentioned measure has been re-enacted by the Commonwealth Parliament for a further year expiring on the 31st December, 1948.

While the defence power is deemed to continue, as is the case at present, the Commonwealth has the exclusive and paramount right to control prices and is continuing to do so under the Defence (Transitional Provisions) Act for the year 1948. It is, however, possible that during 1948 the Commonwealth defence powers may be held, as regards prices, to be no longer effective, in which case the Commonwealth regulations would lapse. It is considered desirable that in view of the inequality between supply and demand which still exists, and will probably exist during 1948, the Commonwealth regulations should continue regarding prices during 1948, or, at all events, until the matter has been reviewed by the Commonwealth and the States, and any alternative provisions considered.

The Commonwealth Powers Act, 1945, Amendment Act of this State was intended to support the continuation of the Commonwealth control of prices up to the end of 1947 by referring power over prices to the Commonwealth in case the defence power should no longer be effective. It is the opinion of the Government that this Act should be continued for a further year so that, as regards this State, the Commonwealth should have power to continue the operation of the existing prices regulation up to the end of 1948, thereby avoiding the uncertainty which would exist if the regulation depended solely upon the defence power of the Commonwealth and might be held to be unconstitutional at any moment. It may be added that the State Parliament has further safeguarded the position by the Profiteering Prevention Act, 1939, which may be called into oper-

ation if the Commonwealth leaves the field of price regulation, and the Economic Stability Act, which has been renewed for the year 1948 and which enables the Government to proclaim State regulations in terms of the present Commonwealth regulations, thereby preserving a continuity in the control of prices.

This continuance Bill does not give any support to the suggestion that the control of prices should be permanently transferred to the Commonwealth. This continuance Bill is to help to maintain continuity in prices control and practice for a further year, during which the supply of goods will probably continue to be still, to some extent, short of the demand, although we hope, making substantial progress towards equilibrium as regards supply and demand. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

HON. L. A. LOGAN (Central) [5.26]: State Governments have been accused of not taking on the task of price control themselves and that is why the Commonwealth Government is carrying on. Is the State Government carrying on so that when the time comes it can take up the task?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. H. S. W. Parker—Metropolitan-Suburban—in reply) [5.27]: The States will not, if they can help it, permit the Commonwealth Government to carry on price fixing longer than is necessary. There is freedom of trade between the States and while that is so, the Commonwealth is the right authority to control prices under existing conditions. If the States with their separate price control organisations decreed separate prices, we would find that different charges would be made for different lines and if the price fixed were higher than, say, the price in Victoria, we would simply import the required article from the East. In the circumstances, it is necessary for the Commonwealth to continue price control for the time being.

Question put.

The **PRESIDENT**: As it is necessary to have an absolute majority to pass the second reading, I shall divide the House.

Division taken.

The **PRESIDENT**: I have satisfied myself that there is an absolute majority present and there being no dissentient vote, I shall call off the division and declare the question carried.

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt in the Chair; the Minister for Mines in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—Short Title:

The **MINISTER FOR MINES**: I move an amendment—

That in line 5 the word “and” be struck out.

The **CHAIRMAN**: I think that matter should be referred to another place and to the Minister who introduced the Bill.

The **MINISTER FOR MINES**: I am moving the amendment which I consider is necessary.

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

Clauses 2 and 3, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with an amendment and the report adopted.

Third Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. H. S. W. Parker—Metropolitan-Suburban) [5.33]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

Question put.

The **PRESIDENT**: An absolute majority being required to pass the third reading, I shall divide the House.

Division taken.

The **PRESIDENT**: As I am satisfied that there is a constitutional majority in favour of the Bill, I call the division off.

Question thus passed.

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

BILL—MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS ACT AMENDMENT (No. 1).

Assembly's Request for Conference.

Message from the Assembly requesting a conference on the amendment insisted on

by the Council and notifying that the Assembly would be represented by three managers, now considered.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I move—

That the Assembly's request for a conference be agreed to, that the managers for the Council be Hon. W. J. Mann, Hon. E. M. Davies and the mover and that the conference be held in the Chairman of Committee's room at 7.30 p.m.

Question put and passed and a message accordingly returned to the Assembly.

BILL—FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACT AMENDMENT (No. 2).

Second Reading.—Defeated.

HON. E. H. GRAY (West) [5.36] in moving the second reading said: This small Bill has been rendered necessary by the passage of the Factories and Shops Act Amendment Bill (No. 1) early in the session. That amending measure empowered the Minister to combine shop districts. The present Bill is necessary to make for smooth working of the previous legislation. The sponsor of the Bill in another place quoted Meckering, Tammin and Cunderdin which form one shopping district. A referendum was taken to decide upon the weekly half holiday and the people of Cunderdin and Tammin were strongly in favour of Wednesday afternoon closing, while Meckering decided by a large majority in favour of Saturday afternoon closing. Under the Bill, in the event of shopping districts being combined, the district that is being taken into a larger one has to observe the decision as to closing day in that district. If the Meckering shopkeepers joined the Northam district and the Northam shops closed at noon on Saturday, Meckering would have to observe the same closing day.

Hon. W. J. Mann: Is that democratic—the big ones to eat up the little ones?

Hon. E. H. GRAY: It is democratic because the majority rules. That would suit the people of Meckering.

Hon. W. J. Mann: They are two different communities.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: The shopkeepers of Meckering want to close on Saturday and have joined the larger shopping district. Under the Act they would have to observe

Wednesday closing, so this Bill provides that the district being merged shall observe the closing day of the larger district.

Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch: Without any poll?

Hon. E. H. GRAY: There has been a poll.

Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch: But not of the whole district?

Hon. E. H. GRAY: The people of Meckering would not join another district except of their own volition. Under the Act another poll cannot be taken within two years. For these reasons three amendments are required, namely, to Sections 99, 100 and 105.

The Honorary Minister: Would it not be better if Meckering were in a district of its own so that it could work out its own destiny.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: That is a matter of administration; the Minister has power to say that Meckering may constitute a district. The matter will be left entirely to the decision of the Minister. I have discussed these proposals with the Chief Inspector of Factories and he considers the Bill necessary as a corollary to the previous measure. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

HON. C. F. BAXTER (East) [5.42]: It is very plain that this Bill has been introduced to cope with a difficult situation arising in the Cunderdin - Meckering - Tammin shop district.

Hon. E. H. Gray: There are other districts similarly situated.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: The question of the day for the half-holiday has been a burning question in this district. A majority of the shopkeepers in that area not under the Fourth Schedule sent a petition to the previous Government just about election time. A majority of the shopkeepers in any district may petition the Minister to have the holiday changed from Wednesday to Saturday and the Minister has power to approve of it. That petition reached the Minister after he knew that his Government had been defeated and yet he approved of the request and altered the closing day to Saturday.

This continued for a time and a referendum was taken, with the result that the

people reverted to the Wednesday half-holiday. This almost wrecked the business of the people under the Fourth Schedule because there is no business in those centres on the Saturday. Meckering people observe Friday as their day for doing their business. If Meckering is merged with Northam and closes on Saturday, it will be found that the people who did their business at Meckering will transfer to Cunderdin. That is the position at present.

People go into Meckering and Cunderdin and spend the half-day there and remain at night. In that way they do not break up their week. They do their business on a Saturday afternoon and go to the pictures or some other entertainment at night and spend their money in the shops under the Fourth Schedule—refreshment shops and such like. One of the businesses that objected to the closing on Saturday increased its takings by £70 a week. Why this amendment is wanted I do not know. Why not leave the position as it is at present? If the districts are split up, one small district is not going to do any good, because its business will be taken by adjacent towns. In the farming districts it is not beneficial for the shops to be closed on Saturday afternoon.

Hon. E. H. Gray: They do.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: With what result? They lose a lot of business, especially those not too far from the big centres. There are big business places in Perth which send out illustrated catalogues and order forms. The people can send for goods and pay on delivery at the post office or the railway station, and it is simple for a housewife to write out an order, send it to the city and not be bothered about breaking into the week, which is necessary with Saturday closing. It is annoying to find that a retiring Minister of the Crown should have consented to a petition instead of leaving it to the incoming Government. The Labour Government left the Jackson murder business to the decision of its successors. The retiring Ministers were right in that respect as no executive act should be done when the Government has been defeated. Why should it not have left all other matters to that Government? I know that universal Saturday closing is something dear to the hearts of the members of the previous Government, but it is not good

for the country districts. For the majority of them it is distinctly bad.

HON. SIR. HAL COLEBATCH (Metropolitan) [5.48]: This Bill reminds me of the old story of the fox that lost its tail and wanted all the other foxes to lose theirs. I understand that business people, with the exception of those at Northam, are very sorry they voted for Saturday closing.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: My word they are!

Hon. Sir HAL COLEBATCH: Amongst those who are regretting it deeply are church people who were induced to support the proposal on the ground that it would mean that big football matches would be played on Saturday instead of Sunday. That has not happened at all. If this larger district which seems to be contemplated—it may include Meckering and Cunderdin; I do not know how far it goes—conducted a poll to see whether the people approved of Saturday or Wednesday closing, I have no doubt that they would vote for Wednesday closing. But whatever they voted for, well and good. This Bill proposes to include within the northern district a number of neighbouring districts without giving them a voice as to whether they approve of Saturday or Wednesday closing. That is entirely unjust and I shall vote against the second reading.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. G. B. Wood—East) [5.50]: I am rather in accord with the belief that a district like Meckering should be in a shop district of its own. Meckering is 23 miles from Northam and 14 from Cunderdin. Why should it be dragged in with either Cunderdin or Northam?

Hon. E. H. Gray: The Minister can say yes or no.

The **HONORARY MINISTER**: The argument has been advanced by Mr. Baxter and Sir Hal Colebatch that these people would vote away their Saturday holiday. That does not hold any water at all. York had an experience recently of six months Saturday closing. Then a poll was taken and York is still closing on Saturday. As for traders losing money, that is not the case at all. I have made it my business to ask the various traders how they have been

getting on; and, strange to say, though they did not use Saturday closing as a reason, they said that their figures had gone up in comparison with those of last year. They have not lost money and are quite satisfied. A majority of traders were in favour of the shops remaining closed on Saturday.

Hon. H. L. Roche: What about the public?

The HONORARY MINISTER: They appear to be quite happy. We were told the hotels would go hung, and the picture shows. We find in York that the hotels appear to be doing just as well and the pictures are crowded every Saturday night. People come in on Fridays and on Saturday morning and they seem to return on the Saturday night for their pleasure. The old argument that people cannot travel into town twice a week has gone by the board in these days of quick transport. I venture to suggest that if a poll were taken tomorrow in Narrogin and Wagin and all towns on the Great Southern, the shops would still be closing on Saturday afternoon.

Hon. H. L. Roche: They are already doing it.

The HONORARY MINISTER: And they would still do it after a poll had been taken. Northam was substantially in favour of Saturday closing. It is no use saying that if they had a poll today something else would happen. We do not know that. I daresay a few storekeepers would like to be open on Saturday afternoon, but the majority would not. The Bill provides that the Minister can say that a poll may be held within two years. I know that the Meckering people want to revert to the Saturday half-holiday and this is the way they would be able to do it.

Hon. H. L. Roche: They want to be in the same position as York.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Yes. I have every respect for the Cunderdin people. But why make a dragnet of the business? Let others work out their own destiny. It is not as if they were absolutely up against another town. There is a fair margin of distance around Meckering. I am prepared to vote for the Bill.

HON. L. B. BOLTON (Metropolitan) [5.55]: I oppose the Bill. I agree with previous speakers that country towns should have the right to say whether the shops shall be open or closed on Saturday.

To my way of thinking, Wednesday is the logical day to close.

Hon. E. H. Gray: You are old-fashioned.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: I am in favour of Saturday opening of shops. It is logical that shopping should be done on Saturday. Men do a little work on Saturday morning. Then they go to town and stay in to the pictures.

Hon. E. H. Gray: That can be done now.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: The shops are closed.

Hon. E. H. Gray: At noon.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: Some farmers have enough work to do before lunch to keep them going and they cannot get into town until the afternoon.

Hon. E. M. Heenan: Would you favour Saturday opening for Perth as well?

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: No, that is entirely different. Recently a poll was taken at Moora and the people agreed to Saturday afternoon closing. They had hardly settled down to that before they were sorry and wanted to revert to Wednesday closing. We should not pass a Bill that will define what some other town shall do, just because Northam happens to have done it.

HON. E. H. GRAY (West—in reply) [5.57]: This Bill does not specify Northam or Meckering or anywhere else. I did not expect to hear a debate taking place on Saturday closing, under this Bill. The matter is in the hands of the people and the Minister has the right to say yes or no. Surely we can trust him.

Hon. H. L. Roche: You are on the wrong side.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: It must be recognised that the progressive farmers and other people like a long week-end, and that is why they want the shops closed on Saturday. Wherever Saturday closing has been tried it has been a great success. No hardship will be inflicted on any town by this Bill. I am sorry that Mr. Baxter mentioned the Minister because every Minister carries on until his successor takes office.

Hon. L. Craig: Does the Minister determine districts?

Hon. E. H. GRAY: The Minister can make boundaries bigger or abolish them. There is nothing sinister in this amending

Bill and I would be very sorry if I lost this very small measure at Christmas time.

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

Ayes	8
Noes	18

Majority against 10

Ayes.

Hon. G. Bennetts	Hon. W. R. Hall
Hon. B. J. Boylea	Hon. E. M. Heenan
Hon. E. M. Davies	Hon. G. B. Wood
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. G. Fraser (Teller.)

Noes.

Hon. C. F. Baxter	Hon. C. G. Latham
Hon. L. B. Bolton	Hon. J. A. Logan
Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch	Hon. A. L. Loton
Hon. L. Craig	Hon. W. J. Mann
Hon. H. A. C. Daffen	Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. J. A. Dimmitt	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. R. M. Forrest	Hon. H. Tuckey
Hon. F. E. Gibson	Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. J. G. Hialop	Hon. G. W. Miles (Teller.)

Question thus negatived.

Bill defeated.

BILL—BUILDING OPERATIONS AND BUILDING MATERIALS CONTROL ACT AMENDMENT AND CONTINUANCE.

In Committee.

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting. Hon. J. A. Dimmitt in the Chair; the Minister for Mines in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Progress was reported on Clause 3, to which Mr. Logan had moved an amendment to strike out paragraph (b).

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I have had an opportunity further to consider this amendment, and I now find that the idea behind it is to restrict the words "building materials" to Parts IV and V of the Act. The Act is divided into two sections, dealing with building operations and building materials control. Building materials are set out in the interpretation, and it is intended by the amendment to apply that only to Parts IV and V, and to include all other parts of the Act from the interpretation of building materials. The next interpretation, building operations, refers to all parts of the Act with the exception of Parts IV and V. I am of opinion that no alteration should be made if the Government wishes to include in the Act power over the construction of buildings after the second-hand material has been placed on the land. I do not think the

Committee should agree to strike out the paragraph. I believe a mistake was made in the amendment moved and ruled out of order.

Hon. G. FRASER: If the mover of the amendment persists with his intention, he will find it is a boomerang. As Mr. Latham has mentioned, building materials are to come only into Parts IV and V. The idea is only to cover the erection of the building material, and that is all the control that will be exercised if the Bill is passed in its present form. The measure will still be clear regarding building operations and will cut out the arguments that have occurred in the past as to costs, where building materials have appeared in the costs. It will cover all materials, whether new or second-hand, because the costs portion is included in the Act in Parts other than IV and V. My experience has been that where no new material or labour has been required for the erection of a building, the permit has been granted immediately.

Hon. H. L. Roche: You cannot speak for the Housing Commission.

Hon. G. FRASER: I am speaking of what I would expect, from my own experience. If the new material involved in the re-erection of a building is to cost less than £50, I do not think a permit would be necessary. The permit is necessary only for a job that will cost more than £50 for new material and labour. That provision will not be altered.

Hon. A. L. Loton: Which will not alter the Act, the Bill or the amendment?

Hon. G. FRASER: The Bill will not, but the amendment would, if agreed to. Even if the amendment is agreed to, Mr. Logan will not achieve the objective he has in mind.

Progress reported till a later stage of the sitting.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 8.40 p.m.

BILL—MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS ACT AMENDMENT (No. 1).

Conference Managers' Report.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I beg to report that the conference managers met in conference on the Bill and reached the following agreement:—

The Legislative Council will not insist on its amendment. Clause 5 is to be amended by

deleting the word "fifty-two" in line 3 of page 3 and inserting in lieu the word "fifty-one."

I move—

That the report be adopted.

Question put and passed, and a message accordingly returned to the Assembly.

BILL—BUILDING OPERATIONS AND BUILDING MATERIALS CONTROL ACT AMENDMENT AND CONTINUANCE.

In Committee.

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting. Hon. J. A. Dimmitt in the Chair; the Minister for Mines in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: During the tea suspension, I have had the opportunity to investigate the Bill which is now before the Committee and also the parent Act. After further consideration, and with the objects of the Bill in mind, I feel justified in reversing my decision and allowing further consideration of the proposed new clause.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I ask leave to withdraw my amendment to delete paragraph (b).

Leave granted.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The Bill was recommitted for a specific purpose and consequently I move—

That the Bill be now reported.

Bill reported.

Further Recommittal.

On motion by Hon. L. A. Logan, Bill again recommitted for the consideration of a new clause.

In Committee.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt in the Chair; the Minister for Mines in charge of the Bill.

New clause:

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I move—

That a new clause be inserted as follows:—
"8. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act it shall not be necessary to obtain a permit for the purchase, removal or re-erection of any second-hand material used for building purposes."

This is somewhat different from the new clause which I moved earlier in the evening. That clause was likely to be confusing, as it might have conflicted with health or building bylaws of local authorities. The reason for the insertion of the word "home-building"

is that we want all the material we can get for houses. It will not be necessary to obtain a permit for second-hand material for other purposes.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: With all due respect, I am afraid the amendment is meaningless. It is not necessary to obtain a permit to purchase second-hand material or to remove it. All that is necessary is to obtain a permit to erect buildings from second-hand material. What is meant by the words "It shall not be necessary to obtain a permit for the re-erection of any second-hand material"? I can understand the erection of a building comprised of second-hand material.

Hon. A. L. Loton: You are splitting straws.

Hon. L. A. Logan: What are you going to do with it?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: What is happening to it if it is put into the ground to support a tree?

Hon. L. A. Logan: You are re-erecting the material. But the wording goes further and states, "used for home building purposes."

The MINISTER FOR MINES: What are home building purposes? Is it the building of a doll's house?

Hon. A. L. Loton: That is silly.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Of course it is.

Hon. G. FRASER: A point that has been overlooked is that most, if not all, local governing bodies would have to approve of any plan for re-erection, and they will not approve of plans without their first bearing the stamp of the State Housing Commission. If this clause is included it will be useless. It will open the door wide to those who construct unauthorised buildings.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I cannot agree with Mr. Fraser because if what he said is correct no authorised buildings would be erected. I know of a man in Nedlands who was fined £10. He got a permit from the local governing authority to erect a building.

The Minister for Mines: Was the amount involved less than the minimum? I think the local governing bodies will issue a permit for a building costing under £50.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: No, this was for a house. I know of no better way to check

the position than to provide that the local governing authorities shall not issue a permit until such time as the Housing Commission has given its approval.

Hon. G. Fraser: Most, if not all of the local governing bodies work on that basis now.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I was hoping the Committee would agree to the amendment. A permit is not required to buy or remove second-hand materials, but to re-erect them. Many tradesmen are held up because of lack of materials. At York there are four buildings under construction and the tradesmen are delayed because there are no materials. The man who has the requisite second-hand materials with which to erect a building should have the permit granted without any difficulty, and that is the appeal I make. No one desires to hamper any person who wishes to secure a home. I can buy second-hand material by pulling down an old house and erecting it somewhere else provided I get the necessary permission from the local authority. We are not allowing them to do so without getting the permit from the Housing Commission.

The Minister for Mines: And they would get the permit easily.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: If the amendment be agreed to, it will remove from the operations of the Act the erection of buildings with second-hand materials. There are not so many buildings available on the Goldfields or elsewhere. I know of one instance where a man moved from an agricultural area to the Great Southern and he pulled down a shed on his own farm in order to provide himself with a home. Now he cannot get a permit to re-erect the shed where he proposes to live.

The Minister for Mines: Have you made any representations regarding the matter to the Housing Commission?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: No.

The Minister for Mines: Then you are probably incorrect in your facts.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: The man approached me about the matter and I suggested what he might do. The man cannot get a permit for any new materials and he cannot erect the building at Mt. Barker because he cannot secure a permit from the Housing Commission.

Hon. W. R. HALL: I cannot agree with Mr. Fraser's remarks regarding the local authorities. At Kalgoorlie people who want to erect homes submit their plans for approval. Recently I received a letter from a Kalgoorlie resident who had bought part of a de-licensed hotel in Laverton. He secured the approval of the Kalgoorlie Road Board for his plans for the erection of a dwelling in that district, and he went on with the building without making any application to the Housing Commission. I had a ruling today that he is liable to prosecution. He did not require any new materials apart from plaster boards or ceiling, which lines are not on the restricted list. I got in touch with the Housing Commission and was informed that if the building cost over £50 or the work entailed in its erection or the transport of the second-hand materials ran into over £50, it would be necessary to apply for a permit to build.

The Minister for Mines: That is correct.

Hon. W. R. HALL: Probably through ignorance this man secured permission only from the local authority under its health regulations but did not get a permit from the Commission.

Hon. G. FRASER: Most road boards make their approval of plans for buildings subject to the approval of the Housing Commission. When the plans are submitted to the Housing Commission, the local authority is invited to make inquiries with a view to recommending or otherwise whether the permit for the building should be issued.

Hon. G. BENNETTS: Plans submitted to the appropriate committee of the Kalgoorlie Municipal Council are always granted, subject to the Housing Commission granting a permit for the erection of a building. When the plans are submitted to the Housing Commission, the council is communicated with and asked for particulars and for a recommendation as to whether the permit should be granted. As to whether there are many homes available in the country districts, I know that at Westonia, where the mine is closing down, the whole of the properties there are to be sold by auction soon and 50 or 60 homes will be removed to other districts where they are required. Then again at Geraldton a number of places were bought by dealers, but the materials were divided and not used for homes but for other unnecessary work.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: An intolerable condition of affairs will be created unless the amendment be agreed to. Under the Bill I would not be able to demolish a building on one part of my farm and erect it on another part. Why should I have to get the permit? Possibly I would be given a first priority and take my place with 5,000 first priorities already ahead of me. A mountain has been made out of a mole-hill with respect to second-hand materials and this is just further evidence of the mania for controlling this, that and the other. The intention here is just to cope with mythical difficulties that apparently prompt these restrictions. The Committee would be well advised to agree to the amendment. The measure of abuse is so small that we can well afford to take the risk.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: I do not think a case like that suggested by Mr. Roche should come into the picture at all. He would receive his permit without any difficulties.

Hon. A. L. LOTON: Why should he have to make any application at all?

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: And when will I get my permit?

Hon. H. TUCKEY: The amendment will defeat the requirements of the Commission.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: What are the requirements of the Commission?

Hon. H. TUCKEY: The Minister tried to explain the position clearly. It is that people start to erect a building with second-hand material and when they are half-way through, want to buy a whole lot of new timber and so forth in order to finish the job.

Hon. A. L. LOTON: You were opposed to regulations regarding radio workers.

The Minister for Mines: But he has seen the light.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: The Minister and the chairman of the Housing Commission have stated definitely that any man who has the required second-hand materials will have no difficulty in securing the necessary authority to do the work. Some reference has been made to local authorities. I know they have been told not to grant a permit unless the Commission has issued one.

Hon. C. G. Latham: They need not obey the instruction.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: Apparently some people build without obtaining a permit from anyone.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: The new clause will have the effect of sheltering crooks and those guilty of sharp practice.

Members: Not at all.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: You may know something about Fremantle.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: Crooks are undermining the work of the Commission and, under the existing Act, lawyers have been able successfully to defend people who have indulged in this illicit trading. Experience has proved that the provision is necessary and we should support the department in trying to prevent illicit trading.

Hon. A. L. LOTON: I am amazed at Mr. Gray's statement. He is attempting to build homes by words. Unless some of these regulations are abolished, we shall make no progress.

Hon. W. J. MANN: I should like to assist a man who buys a house on the Goldfields to erect it elsewhere, but have no sympathy with one who would purchase second-hand material to build a dance hall or garage. We should support the Commission wherever possible because the position is grave. A person desiring to build with second-hand material could advise the Commission of his intention and, if an inspector were satisfied that the material was second-hand, the authority could be issued. That would overcome some of the difficulties.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: If we can get second-hand material used for the building of homes, they will represent so many more roofs over the heads of people who need homes and will leave the new material for other people. How this provision would increase black marketing, I do not know. Why should not a man be able to buy a house on the Goldfields and re-erect it on his farm? Why should he have to go to the Commission for a permit? How long would it take him to get a permit?

Hon. G. FRASER: Not as long as the discussion on this new clause is taking.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Many people have been chasing permits to build second-hand places and have been unable to get them.

New clause put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	6
Noes	17
Majority against .. .	11

AYES.

Hon. R. M. Forrest	Hon. A. L. Loten
Hon. C. G. Latham	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. L. A. Logan	Hon. W. R. Hall
	(Teller.)

3

NOES.

Hon. G. Bennetts	Hon. E. H. Gray
Hon. L. B. Bolton	Hon. E. M. Heenan
Hon. R. J. Boylen	Hon. J. G. Hislop
Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch	Hon. W. J. Mann
Hon. L. Craig	Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. H. A. C. Duffen	Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. E. M. Davies	Hon. G. B. Wood
Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. H. Tuckey
Hon. F. E. Gibson	(Teller.)

New clause thus negatived.

Bill again reported without amendment and the report adopted.

Third Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. H. S. W. Parker—Metropolitan-Suburban) [9.29]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

HON. C. G. LATHAM (East) [9.30]: I can only hope that the passing of this measure will make it easier for people to get homes. I am very concerned indeed about the terrifically long wait for homes which some of the returned soldiers have had in this State. Some of them have had a priority for three years and are still without a house. It seems to me that places like Tasmania, where controls have been relinquished, are able to have homes built far more rapidly than we are.

Hon. H. L. Roche: We believe in controls!

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: This Bill will not help one bit. As a matter of fact, the more restrictions there are, the more difficulties we experience. I know that we can do nothing.

The Minister for Mines: You can talk!

Hon. C. G. LATHAM. I agree that we are in the minority. The Government in its wisdom has decided on its course of action, but there will be many people who will look to those who voted in the minority just now, with a great deal of pleasure at the thought that there are six members who have some sympathy for them. That is not a reflection

on the others. To my mind they do not appreciate what it means to these home-seekers. In Victoria Park there are six families living in one house.

Hon. L. Craig: What has this to do with that?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: We might have been able to give them some relief if they could have erected a shack so that they might be removed from the conditions under which they are living. I know that I am annoying the Minister, but I do not care. I intend to express myself.

The Minister for Mines: You do not annoy me; you amuse me!

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: If I can amuse the Minister by speaking of the suffering and the indignities experienced by some people in their homes I am perfectly satisfied—

The Minister for Mines: You will not be satisfied until you have this seat.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I want to see homes built.

Hon. G. Fraser: What was the reason for that person waiting for three years?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: He cannot get a permit.

Hon. G. Fraser: For what type of home?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: He has a No. 1 priority for a home.

Hon. G. Fraser: Not for a home to build himself.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I do not think so.

Hon. G. Fraser: That is a different proposition.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: He cannot get his home. If I went around I daresay that I would ascertain that there are many men who have a No. 1 priority, but cannot get a permit to build. They cannot get a permit for the materials.

Hon. W. J. Mann: Whose fault is that?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Are we doing anything to help?

The Minister for Mines: You are not.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: If we are not, I am perfectly satisfied the Minister is not. I am willing to do anything I can to help.

The Minister for Mines: You are not showing it.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I have noticed that in Tasmania where controls were relinquished, they get somewhere. The more controls there are, the greater difficulty there is for people to get anywhere with their requests. I do not blame the officials of the Housing Commission; I think they have a terrific job. They are cluttered up with applications with which they cannot deal. I do not know what the outcome of the Royal Commission will be. I do not know if it will help, but it will bring to light facts that will probably make the Minister realise that there is something in what I have had to say.

HON. G. FRASER (West). [9.34]: I do not intend to take second place to anyone in my efforts in connection with housing. I would not have risen but for statements made by Mr. Latham. His remarks convinced me that he is mixed in his ideas regarding housing. He spoke of a No. 1 priority and a permit in the same breath. A No. 1 priority is issued to a person who has made an application under the tenancy section of the Commonwealth-State Housing agreement, under which houses are being built by the Government. Under that scheme persons do wait a considerable time. There are some thousands of applications and only a few hundred homes being built in the course of two or three months. But I do not know of anyone who has had a permit and has had to wait three years. If that is the case, that person has probably been unable to raise sufficient capital to build. There is a distinction between the person with a No. 1 priority and the person with a permit. The person with a priority is one for whom the Government is building; the person with a permit is building for himself. The time taken for a person on the priority list to get a permit to build his home is generally 12 months for a brick home and eight months for a timber-asbestos home.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and *passed*.

The Minister for Mines: Unanimously!

BILL—MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS ACT AMENDMENT (No. 1).

Assembly's Further Message.

Message from the Assembly received and read, notifying that it had agreed to the conference managers' report.

*Sitting suspended from 9.37 p.m. to
12.30 a.m. A*

BILL—CENSORSHIP OF FILMS.

Assembly's Message.

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendment made by the Council.

BILL—RESERVES.

Assembly's Message.

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendment made by the Council.

BILL—COMMONWEALTH POWERS ACT, 1945-1947, AMENDMENT (CONTINUANCE).

Assembly's Message.

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had disagreed to the amendment made by the Council, now considered.

In Committee.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt in the Chair; the Minister for Mines in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: The amendment made by the Council to which the Assembly has disagreed is as follows:—

Clause 1—Delete the word "and" before the words "and figures 1947" in line 10.

The Assembly's reasons for disagreeing to the amendment made by the Council are as follows:—

The Commonwealth Powers Act, 1945 has been amended this session by two Bills, namely, that relating to the price of wheat which is numbered 31 of 1947, and that relating to the price of milk which has not yet been numbered. The words in line 10 of the Bill, "and (blank) of 1947" relate to the second of these Bills and the number left blank will be inserted by the Clerk of Parliaments when this second Bill is numbered.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I move—
That the amendment be insisted on.

The Clerk of Parliament quite rightly suggested to me that the Bill be amended. Through some mistake in another place our amendment was objected to. I have since discussed the matter with the necessary authorities who realise that the Clerk of Parliaments is correct and that our amend-

ment is in order. If we insist upon our amendment, the Assembly will accept it.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment insisted on.

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

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. H. S. W. Parker—Metropolitan-Suburban): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 3 p.m. today.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 12.35 a.m. (Thursday).

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 17th December, 1947.

CONTENTS.

	Page
Questions: Railways, as to conversion of engines to oil burning ...	2920
Servicemen's land settlement—(a) as to cost of stock, etc. ...	2920
(b) as to departmental committee's report ...	2920
Traffic obstruction charges, as to disparity between town and country ...	2920
North-West, as to erection of workers' homes ...	2920
Education—(a) as to handicraft materials for backward children ...	2920
(b) as to site for Brunswick school ...	2921
Goldfields water supply, as to meter rents and charges ...	2921
Canning Bridge jetty, as to renovating, etc. ...	2921
Swan River Crabs, as to policing regulations ...	2921
Indeterminate sentences, as to number imposed and releases ...	2921
Legislative Council reform—(a) as to franchise for flat-dwellers ...	2922
(b) as to candidates' pledges of support ...	2922
(c) as to Council members' support of Government policy ...	2922
(d) as to obligation to support policy ...	2922
(e) as to defeated Bill and Government policy ...	2923
Bills: Gas (Standards), Council's amendments ...	2923
Bread Act Amendment, Council's amendment ...	2923
The Fremantle Gas and Coke Company's Act Amendment, Com., remaining stages, passed ...	2927
Censorship of Films, Council's amendment ...	2950
Reserves, Council's Amendment ...	2952
Commonwealth Powers Act, 1945-1947, Amendment (Continuance), Council's Amendment ...	2952
Council's Message ...	2979
Government Railways Act Amendment (No. 2), returned ...	2950
Municipal Corporations Act Amendment (No. 1), Council's further message ...	2950
Conference managers' report ...	2950
Council's Message ...	2952
Building Operations and Building Materials Control Act Amendment and Continuance, returned ...	2979
Annual Estimates, 1947-48: Com. of Supply, Votes and items discussed (points of order) ...	2927
Adjournment, special ...	2979

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