

In Committee, etc.

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

INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 1st April.

MR SKIDMORE (Swan) [9.24 p.m.]: This amending Bill is consequential upon the Bill which has just been passed. We on this side of the House wish it a speedy passage and are in complete agreement with it.

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.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 1st April.

MR SKIDMORE (Swan) [9.26 p.m.]: In speaking to this Bill I wish to indicate to the Minister that we agree with it but I should like to make a comment expressing some alarm at the probability of giving adequate notification to the people under clause 2 which says—

2. Section 52 of the principal Act is amended by adding after paragraph (v) the following paragraph—

(va) Requiring the prescribed units of measurement to be used in the sale and in the offering, exposing and advertising for sale, of prescribed goods or articles or classes of goods or articles, either in specified parts of the State or generally throughout the State.

We express some concern that adequate time should be given for people to be aware that there will be a requirement upon them to use the prescribed units, metric units, in certain areas. We feel that adequate time should be given to the people to be able to understand that, having been given time, they will then move from the old weights system to the metric system. We suggest a period of two or three months so that people will be adequately prepared to understand the changes that will take place.

MR GRAYDEN (South Perth—Minister for Labour and Industry) [9.28 p.m.]: I thank the honourable member for his support of the Bill. I can assure him that we will give adequate notification in the circumstances to which he has referred.

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.

PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 1st April.

MR SKIDMORE (Swan) [9.30 p.m.]: We on this side of the House agree with the amending Bill and do not oppose any of its provisions.

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.

House adjourned at 9.32 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 5th May, 1976

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

MODE OF ATTIRE IN CHAMBER

The Hon. T. O. Perry

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. A. F. Griffith): Honourable members, the Hon. T. O. Perry has advised me this afternoon that he has suffered an injury in a traffic accident. His doctor's advice is that he be dressed in a comfortable manner. In the circumstances I have allowed him to appear in the Chamber this afternoon in the manner in which he is now dressed, including the collar!

The Hon. T. O. Perry: Thank you, Mr President.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

State of Parties

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

In view of the Press report on the front page of this morning's paper, regarding the position of the Hon. A. A. Lewis, could the Minister advise the state of the parties in this House at the present time?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

I do not think I would be required to answer the question, but I acquaint the Hon. D. W. Cooley with the fact that the state of the parties is 18 Liberal Party members, nine ALP members, and three Country Party members.

QUESTION ON NOTICE

IRON ORE INDUSTRY

Single Union Coverage

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

Has the Minister received any proposals from workers employed in the Pilbara region for the formation of a single union to cover the iron ore industry?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:
No.

BILLS (5): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Justices Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by the Hon. N. McNeill (Minister for Justice), and read a first time.

2. Family Court Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Attorney-General), and read a first time.

3. Child Welfare Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by the Hon. N. E. Baxter (Minister for Community Welfare), and read a first time.

4. Juries Act Amendment Bill.

5. Criminal Code Amendment Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by the Hon. N. McNeill (Minister for Justice), and read a first time.

BILLS (2): THIRD READING

1. Companies (Co-operative) Act Amendment Bill.

2. The Confederation of Western Australian Industry (Incorporated) Bill.

Bills read a third time, on motions by the Hon. N. McNeill (Minister for Justice), and transmitted to the Assembly.

TEACHERS' REGISTRATION BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West—Minister for Education) [4.48 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The object of the legislation, as stated in the Bill presently before the House, is to safeguard the public interest by ensuring that the teaching, and the administration

of the teaching of courses of instruction to pupils in schools, are undertaken only by competent persons.

The movement towards registration of teachers has been an issue before Education Departments and teachers' organisations in Australia in recent years. Although registration has been operating in Victoria since the early 1920s, it has been introduced in the other Australian States only in recent years.

In introducing this Bill the Government is ensuring that teachers in Western Australia, like their colleagues in other parts of the Commonwealth, will be bound by the principles of registration, and that the students and the community generally will benefit, as do their counterparts in other States, from the protection afforded them by the registration of teachers.

When the proposition for the registration of teachers was first considered by the Government, it was agreed that all interested parties should be involved in discussions and in formulating proposals.

A committee representing the Education Department, the State School Teachers' Union, the Association of Independent Schools, the Catholic Education Commission, the Independent Schools Salaried Officers' Association, the Tertiary Education Commission, and the Teacher Education Authority, was formed and it prepared the proposals which are now presented in this Bill.

The principal objective of registration is to enhance the status of the teaching profession in Western Australia as a whole, and to engender the confidence of the community in the profession. It is intended that registration should be open to all persons in Western Australia who possess the qualifications to be employed as teachers.

The Bill provides for the establishment of a teachers' registration board, representative of the many interests involved but with no one interest having a majority representation. The board will be charged with the administration of the registration procedures set out in the body of the legislation, which I will not go into in detail at this time.

Members will notice when studying the Bill that after a settling-in period only registered teachers will be permitted to teach in Government or non-Government schools in this State. However, this provision will not preclude the use of "occasional" teachers in schools. The Government is mindful of the value of using people with special expertise and the legislation will allow the board to issue permits to teach to persons who are not educated in the methodology of teaching but who contribute so much to the education of our young. Members will, I am sure, be familiar with many examples of the employment of such expertise, ranging from an elderly Aboriginal at Halls Creek

teaching young Aboriginal students how to make artifacts, to professional engineers and suchlike who are involved in our high schools.

The board to be established under the proposed legislation follows a somewhat similar pattern to the many other registration boards associated with the various professions, examples of which would be known to members. In this case the teachers' registration board will be charged with the professional discipline of teachers and the Bill contains provision for the cancellation or suspension of registration in certain instances.

The Bill is relatively simple in nature and purpose and is commended to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. R. F. Cloughton.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 6th April.

THE HON. GRACE VAUGHAN (South-East Metropolitan) [4.53 p.m.]: Mr President, we support the Bill but while I have the opportunity to do so I would like to say a few words about the value of occupational therapists and commend the Minister and his department for bringing the Act into line with the increased prestige which occupational therapists have achieved in the health care team in this day and age.

Occupational therapists have had the dimension of their profession greatly widened. They are very important not only in the physical rehabilitation and preparation of patients but also because they take a great interest in the social adjustment of patients by virtue of the professionalism which the therapists have reached in this State. As a person who is concerned with the health care of people in this State, I would like to pay a tribute to occupational therapists and congratulate them on their new prestige which has been recognised by the Minister and the department.

In the main, the Bill is concerned with changing the governing body from the university to the Western Australian Institute of Technology, and also with refining the definition "occupational therapist" to include the duties they perform these days, which are much appreciated by other professionals in the health care team.

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central-Minister for Health) [4.55 p.m.]: I express my appreciation to the Hon. Grace Vaughan for her support of the Bill. I believe it is a forward step and I commend the Bill to members.

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.

PERTH MEDICAL CENTRE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 4th May.

THE HON. R. THOMPSON (South Metropolitan) [4.58 p.m.]: As explained by the Minister in his second reading speech, the Bill contains two small amendments to section 5 of the Perth Medical Centre Act; namely, to substitute the words "three hectares" for the words "five acres", and to add the words "or roads, or both drainage and roads".

In order that members may be *au fait* with the effect of the amendments, I will read section 5 of the Act, incorporating the amendments, because it is Government land which is being given away. The section as amended will read—

5. The Governor may by Order in Council published in the *Gazette*, excise from the land described in Part I of the Schedule an area not exceeding three hectares and may deal with, and dispose of, the land so excised for the purpose of drainage or roads, or both drainage and roads.

Traffic problems have been experienced in the area. The Minister advised that both of the councils which have some authority in the area have moneys available to proceed with the roadways. I therefore do not think we should hold up the legislation. It has our blessing and I hope it brings in the area some new road patterns and less congestion. I support the Bill.

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.

Sitting suspended from 5.02 to 5.27 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

THE HON. N. McNEILL (Lower West—Minister for Justice) [5.27 p.m.]: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Marihuana: Publication of Information

THE HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [5.28 p.m.]: I have here a publication titled "Whole Perth Catalogue—Living, Resources and Recreation" which contains information to which I wish to refer. Pages 77 and 78 deal with the growing of marihuana and its use.

One of the reasons I wish to raise this matter is that the two sons of a woman who contacted me recently were convicted in the Police Court for growing marihuana. Like many parents she became a little upset about the way the case was handled. I studied the matter and consulted legal people and ascertained that, in actual fact, the magistrate had dealt with her sons in a fair manner and did not impose anywhere near the maximum penalty. The part that worries me is that we have a law which imposes severe sanctions against people who smoke marihuana and yet, at the same time, the law permits the circulation of information such as that contained in the publication to which I have referred and which can be purchased freely for \$3.50 at newsagents and a number of other sources.

I have no doubt that the Chief Secretary knows of its existence. The question is not whether I agree or disagree with the use of marihuana. I am concerned with the fact that severe sanctions are imposed against people who use marihuana, but at the same time we have a publication which tells us how to go about growing it.

Page 77 contains some cartoons which deal with LSD. On page 78 is the following—

GROWING DOPE

The absolute necessary requirements for growing resin producing cannabis is well-drained fertile soil and plenty of sunshine.

With the benefit of these and sufficient moisture, cannabis can easily grow to 15 feet of luxuriant vegetation in a single season.

I will not read it all. The article explains that there is a male and female plant and how the cannabis is obtained from the fertilisation of one plant by the other. It then continues—

WHEN PLANTING, LOOK FOR—

1. A secluded spot as free from human and animal as possible. Don't be seen.
2. Well-drained soil. Higher spots of the landscape will provide the best drainage.
3. Fertile soil. Any deficiencies can be corrected but seek areas supporting lush growth.
4. Sunshine: 8 hours daily. Nothing must shade the plants.

AVOID—

1. Your own property—it's not worth it
2. Riverbeds, creek beds, etc—too damp.
3. Animal pastures—hungry, dumb cows or sheep—or the risk of being mowed down.
4. Ruined buildings—they attract people.

5. Public parks—King's Park it out, too many wandering people.
6. Clay soil—holds water which inhibits root growth.
7. Land depressions etc.—they retain cold air.

Plant in July or August. As it gets warmer, pick in November or December when the sun brings out the resin.

Note: It's a good idea to start them off in jiffy pots and then transport the seedlings to their permanent location.

It gives a good description of how the plant is picked, dried, cured, and sweated. Then it gives a further description of curing and sweating and yet another description of just sweating. It must be an involved process. I do not intend to read it word for word, but the publication then goes on to describe curing and gives illustrations of how to roll a joint. Over the page are a number of cartoons which depict what happens when one smokes a joint or reefer. Further on it then provides information on what is referred to as "getting busted for dope", and goes on to give the penalties. This section reads—

GETTING BUSTED FOR DOPE

To be busted it has to be proved to be yours—so best leave the dope in the garden, especially if you live in a communal home.

— If you can't keep it on the outside, then keep it in a communal area e.g. kitchen, living room, bathroom, etc.

— And if you get raided while smoking, put it in the middle of the table or floor and say that a visitor left it there.

— If it can't be pinned on anyone then the house owner or lessee will probably be charged with "Keeping premises". A \$30 fine instead of one of \$300 — and everyone can chip in.

REMEMBER — whatever you do, don't admit to possession even if they find it on you; allow yourself to be arrested.

DON'T make a statement — many people have implicated themselves before a lawyer could get to them.

— Come the next morning, enter no plea and have the case adjourned so that you can seek legal advice.

And so it goes on. It gives information on education groups. It also gives some credits for the information supplied in that particular section.

I want to be fair and state that the book does, in fact, contain a great deal of useful information. I have checked up on two other publications available from America which give some indication of drugs, but nothing so comprehensive as is contained in this document. There is also a very good publication available from

Melbourne which lists very carefully the places to which one can go to obtain some cure.

I want to repeat that I do not intend to enter into an argument as to whether marihuana is good or bad because that debate has ensued for a long time and still does not appear to have resulted in any definite conclusions being reached. However, I am indicating that we have a peculiar situation.

I want to quickly establish that I am not pointing the finger at anyone. However, the law imposes severe sanctions on people for being in possession of cannabis. They do not have to be smoking it, but could easily be just growing it, which was the case concerning the two young lads to whom I have referred. At the same time people of an impressionable age can pick up a book such as this one in which they are given all the necessary information for the growing and preparing of marihuana. When the publication comes into their possession they may have no intention of having a joint. However, they could decide to plant the seeds and in the process get found out and suffer the full force of the law.

I suppose the Chief Secretary has knowledge of this book. I would be surprised if he did not. Whether it would come under the obscene publications legislation I do not know. However, surely if we are to be consistent in our attitude on the use and possession of cannabis it does not seem quite right to me that we allow such a publication to be available in the community for only \$3.50. The people who come into possession of the book might never have had any inclination to engage in this kind of activity, but this book not only encourages them to do so, but helps them in the experiment of growing it. Once having grown it they may then be tempted to cure and sweat it, and whatever else must be done, and subsequently at some time of course they could be arrested for being in possession of cannabis or they could even be tempted into trying to sell it.

The book also contains a number of other items of information on major drugs and their uses, including stimulants, psychedelics, and depressants. I have not dealt with those, but I believe we could well do without such information while the community attitude remains as it is. If the community attitude changes on the question of marihuana there would be nothing wrong with the book.

On page 73 is a cartoon on which are the words—

So, have fun and freak out but remember: Speed kills.

I do not know whether that means that there are worse things in the community than this particular drug.

I do not like delaying the House, but in view of the interest I took in this particular situation I thought I should raise the matter here. I told the woman that in all fairness the law as it was had taken its course and the particular magistrate, whom she thought had been rather harsh, had, in fact, been extremely helpful. I thought as a matter of public concern the subject should be raised here.

I am advised by the librarian that this publication is available from various sources including the Community Education Centre in Fremantle, city booksellers, and some suburban newsagents. It can also be obtained on application to Post Office Box 301, Subiaco.

I will say no more about this subject, but I hope the Chief Secretary will have a look at it. As I say, by and large the publication is good, but I am pretty sure people would agree that while the law remains as it is it would certainly be a better publication without the inclusion of those couple of pages of instructions.

THE HON. N. McNEILL (Lower West—Minister for Justice) [5.39 p.m.] In one sense I am grateful that the Leader of the Opposition has brought this matter to the attention of the House. He was right when he indicated that he thought my department and I were aware of the publication. We are, and it has been and is of some concern to us.

The Leader of the Opposition has stated that he has no wish to involve himself in a discussion as to whether marihuana is good or bad. For the sake of the record I am prepared to commit myself and say I believe it is bad and I do not believe that there should be the opportunity available for the promotion and growing of marihuana which would provide, as the Leader of the Opposition has said, a temptation to people.

I indicated that in one sense I was grateful the Leader of the Opposition had raised the matter. In another sense perhaps it might have been as well if he had not done so because as he has raised it additional publicity has been provided.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I have not got shares in the publishing house.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: I think the Leader of the Opposition knows what I am referring to. I do not believe the promotion of this book and its wide distribution are to be encouraged from the point of view of the material to which he referred becoming more generally available.

I repeat that I am aware of the existence of the book and it is certainly under consideration in that, as the Leader of the Opposition said, there may be some inconsistencies in terms of penalties available under the law for possession as well as for use and the pushing of drugs, and also that a publication like this is generally

rather freely available. When I say "freely available", I ignore the fact that the going price of the book is \$3.50.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: It is printed by people who will not carry a cigarette advertisement in their paper.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: The comments of the Leader of the Opposition are noted and the matter is receiving serious consideration by my department.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.42 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 5th May, 1976

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

QUESTIONS (32): ON NOTICE

1. EDUCATION

Accidents at School: Hospital Attention

Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) In view of the many serious accidents which occur to children attending school, does the principal or headmaster have to wait for the parents' permission before any student can be taken to hospital?
- (2) If "Yes" what is the reason?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Section 10.12 of the Education Department's Administrative Instructions to teachers states, *inter alia*:—

When, in the opinion of the teacher, a child is so badly injured as to require immediate medical or hospital attention, the teacher will be regarded as acting on behalf of the department or the parent, as the case may be, in seeking such attention and will be recouped expenses that it may be necessary for him to incur by so doing.

The principal should immediately report the accident to the department, keeping strictly to the facts. Notification of the accident and of the action taken should be given to the parent at once.

- (2) Not applicable.

2.

TRAFFIC

Air Patrol: Easter Period

Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Traffic:

- (1) Will he advise the name or names of the firms from which his department hired the aircraft for the Easter period air traffic patrol?
- (2) Will he further advise the period of time the aircraft were hired?
- (3) What was the cost of hiring each aircraft including the helicopter?
- (4) How many prosecutions were made during the Easter period by the air traffic patrol against erring motorists?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Two fixed wing aircraft from Trans West Air Charters, one helicopter from Bell Bros. Pty. Ltd. for the period 16th April to 19th April inclusive.
- (2)

	Hours.	Minutes.
Cessna 182	22	10
Cessna 172	15	45
Helicopter	8	
- (3) Cessna 182 \$687.00;
Cessna 172 \$346.50;
Helicopter \$1 064.00.
- (4) One hundred and nine apprehensions resulting in 68 prosecutions, including one offence of exceeding 0.08%.

3. ROAD TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Staff Appointments: Advertisements

Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Traffic:

In view of the statements made by the Chief Administrator of the Road Traffic Authority that the road traffic patrol was understaffed, will he advise in what newspaper or form of media the Road Traffic Authority advertise or have advertised for road traffic patrolmen?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Road patrolmen are drawn from the police force after evaluation of their suitability for the duties involved and therefore vacancies are not advertised in the media.

I suggest to the honourable member that policemen are perhaps required to obtain higher qualifications than he is required to obtain to achieve his present position.

Mr Bateman: I would back my qualifications against theirs.