girl of a sum of money, to be decided by the court, for the term of his natural life?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The question of compensating victims of criminal violence has been discussed at meetings of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General but it appears that, in one State only—New South Wales—has experimental legislation been enacted for the purpose. The problem is one of some complexity. Those operating in other places will be evaluated for the purpose of determining whether or not such a scheme would be feasible in this State.

A case such as that referred to by the honourable member would come within the scope of any such scheme and, no doubt, provision would be made to give the State the right to proceed against an offender for recovery of compensation payments made to the victim of his crime.

It might be added that, as the law now stands, although the offender may have paid his debt to society, he is still liable to pay his debt to the victim who may have a remedy in damages at common law.

SMOKING

Discouragement Campaign: Support of Minister

10. The Hon. N. E. BAXTER (for The Hon. T. O. Perry) asked the Minister for Health:

Was the Minister correctly reported in *The West Australian*, dated Tuesday, the 29th August, 1967, when it was stated that he would support any campaign to discourage smoking?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

Yes, especially if such campaign will help those not already victims of the insidious smoking habit.

BILLS (2): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Licensing Act Amendment Bill.
2. Electoral Act Amendment Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Justice), and read a first time.

BILLS (3): RECEIPT AND FIRST READING

1. Lotteries (Control) Act Amendment Bill.
2. Evaporites (Lake MacLeod) Agreement Bill.
3. Iron Ore (Nimingarra) Agreement Bill.

Bills received from the Assembly; and, on motions by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

The Late Mrs. H. Brand: Condolence

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [4.59 p.m.]: Mr. President, members are aware that the Premier's mother passed away in Mullewa this morning and, as a mark of respect to the Premier, I request that the House adjourn. Accordingly, I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question passed, members standing.

House adjourned at 5 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 6th September, 1967

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

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

The Late Mrs. H. Brand: Condolence

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Deputy Premier) [4.31 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, it is with deep regret that I have to announce to the House that the mother of the Premier passed away this morning. I am sure that all members join with me in conveying our sympathy to the Premier in his loss, and, as a mark of respect to him, I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

MR. TONKIN (Melville—Leader of the Opposition) [4.32 p.m.]: I second the motion, and in so doing I wish to extend to the Premier and his relatives, in their bereavement, the sympathy of members on this side of the House.

Question passed, members standing.

House adjourned at 4.34 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 7th September, 1967

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (12): ON NOTICE

ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR

Objection to Appointment

1. The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE asked the Minister for Health:

Is it a fact that objections to the recent appointment of an administrator at Royal Perth Hos-

pital have been lodged by both the Western Australian Branch of the Australian Institute of Hospital Administrators and the Hospital Salaried Officers Association?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

Yes.

SCHOOL AT KAMBALDA

Decision on Establishment

2. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) Has a firm decision been made for the erection of a school at Kambalda for use at the commencement of the 1968 school year?

(2) If so, how many classrooms are to be provided, and for what grades?

(3) What acreage will be needed for the school area?

(4) Has this been arranged?

(5) Has the Government made any provision for housing accommodation for the school teachers who will be needed?

(6) If no final decision has been made in planning for the above, when can it be expected it will be, in view of the fact that there remains only five months before the commencement of the 1968 school year?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Two. Grades 1 to 6.

(3) Approximately two acres. Negotiations are proceeding for the extension of this area.

(4) Townsite planning by Western Mining provides for a school site.

(5) A local house has been allocated for the use of the headmaster.

(6) See above.

3. *This question was postponed.*

CLEAN AIR ACT

Licenses to Operate

4. The Hon. J. DOLAN asked the Minister for Health:

What industrial plants in Western Australia have applied for licenses to operate under the Government's clean air legislation?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

On the 7th September, 1967, 69 applications for licenses were lodged under the Clean Air Act. They were from the following bodies:—

Western Aluminium N.L.
W.A. Match Co. Pty. Ltd.
State Engineering Works.
Courtland C. R. Pty. Ltd.
Cresco Fertilizers (W.A.) Pty. Ltd.
W.A. Metallurgical & Chemical Co.
Whitman L. Pty. Ltd.
Hawker Siddeley.
Westralian Plywoods Pty. Ltd. (2)
Kwinana Nitrogen Co. Pty. Ltd.
Colonial Sugar Refining Co.
Fremantle Gas & Coke Co. Ltd.
Goldmines of Kalg. (Aust.) Ltd.
Metters Ltd.
Lake View & Star Ltd.
BP Refinery (Kwinana) Pty. Ltd.
Great Boulder Gold Mines Ltd.
Universal Milling Co. Pty. Ltd.
Jandakot Woolscouring Co. Pty. Ltd.
Bradford Insulation (W.A.) Ltd.
Cast Craft Pty. Ltd.
J. & C. Lyons & Co.
Stoneware Pipes & Tiles Pty. Ltd.
Westralian Soaps Pty. Ltd.
Forwood Down W.A. Pty. Ltd.
Cockburn Cement Ltd.
Swan Quarries Ltd.
Australian Iron & Steel Pty. Ltd.
Swan Brewery Co. Ltd. (2).
North Kalgurlie (1912) Ltd.
State Electricity Commission (7).
Albany Superphosphate Co. Pty. Ltd.
Esperance Fertilisers Pty. Ltd.
CSBP Farmers Ltd. (7).
Central Norseman Gold Corp.
Hadfields (W.A.) 1934 Ltd.
Metropolitan Brick Co. Pty. Ltd. (2).
Cardup Metro Bricks Pty. Ltd.
Ajax Plaster Co. Pty. Ltd.
Neaves A. L. (Geo. Hill & Co.)
Banks & Sons.
David Gray & Co. Ltd.
Swan Portland Cement.
Brisbane & Wunderlich (4).
Ready Lime Putty Pty. Ltd.
Plaimar Ltd.
Premier Engineering Co.
Henderson & Gribble.

5. *This question was postponed.*

ALUMINA REFINERY

Compensation Payments and Land Returned to Forests Department

6. The Hon. J. DOLAN asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) Since the Alumina Refinery Agreement Act, 1961-1966, has been operating, what sum, in each year, has been paid to the Conservator of Forests for the area of forest destroyed by or in connection with the company's mining activities?

(2) What area of land has been handed back to the Forests Department following the completion of mining activities?

(3) Has the money, received by the Forests Department and referred to in (1), been used or reserved for use for reforestation or special forest work in this area?

(4) If the answer to (3) is "No," how is this money to be used?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

		$
(1)	1962-63	14,792
	1965-66	26,432
	1966-67	98,640
	1967-68	1,600
		$141,464

The amount paid in 1966-67 is in respect of areas to be mined over a period of three years.

(2) Thirty-one acres, on which overburden has been returned by the company.

(3) Yes. In addition to replanting on the area at (2) above, necessarily experimental at this stage, afforestation in the Jarrahdale forest district has been expanded to compensate for loss of wood production on the company's mining leases.

(4) Answered by (3).

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Salaries from 21 to 27 Years of Age

7. The Hon. R. THOMPSON asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) What salary is payable to male officers, aged 21 years, in the following categories:—

(a) Police Force;

(b) railways officers;

(c) civil servants;

(d) native welfare officers;

(e) school teachers; and

(f) fisheries inspectors?

(2) What are the annual increments payable in each of these professions for the ensuing years to the age of 27?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Salaries Quoted are Current Gross Annual Rates

(a) The Police Award, 1965, does not provide for payment on a rate for age basis.
Current salaries under this award are—

Other ranks	$
Probationary constables	2,579
Under 3 years' service	2,801
3 to 5 years' service	2,912
5 to 10 years' service	3,049
10 to 20 years' service	3,293
20 years' service and over	3,571

(b) Railways officers:

(i) Adult male clerical officers

21 years of age	2,453
22 years of age	2,533
23 years of age	2,628
24 years of age	2,733
25 years of age	2,848
26 years of age	2,953
27 years of age	3,073

(ii) General section

21 years of age	2,375
22 years of age	2,460
23 years of age	2,540
24 years of age	2,650
25 years of age	2,755
26 years of age	2,870
27 years of age	2,990

(c) Public service:

(i) Adult male clerical officers

21 years of age	2,452
22 years of age	2,540
23 years of age	2,626
24 years of age	2,734
25 years of age	2,843
26 years of age	2,952
27 years of age	3,071

(ii) General division

21 years of age	2,452
22 years of age	2,540
23 years of age	2,626
24 years of age	2,734

(d) Native Welfare officers:

Assistant district officer

17 years of age	1,482
18 years of age	1,752
19 years of age	2,065
20 years of age	2,292

At the age of 21 years, if his services have been satisfactory, an assistant district officer is appointed as a dis-

trict officer at the following rates:—

	$
First year	3,204
Second year	3,337
Third year	3,470
Fourth year	3,604
Fifth year	3,747
Sixth year	3,891
Seventh year	4,034
Eighth year	4,178
Ninth year	4,331
Tenth year	4,485

Persons appointed as district officers who are over the age of 21 years, are paid in accordance with the above scale.

(e) School teachers: Teachers are not paid on a rate for age basis. A two-year trained teacher who has successfully completed the minimum of two years' full-time tertiary training as a student of an approved teachers' college is appointed on the following scale:—

	$
First year	2,665
Second year	2,835
Third year	3,005
Fourth year	3,175
Fifth year	3,345
Sixth year	3,495
Seventh year	3,645
Eighth year	3,795
Ninth year	3,945
Tenth year	4,085
Eleventh year	4,225
Twelfth year	4,365

Progression through the above scale is subject to the teacher attaining the required standard of efficiency. Teachers with training and qualifications above the minimum commence on higher salaries and advance further.

(f) Fisheries inspectors:

(i) Cadet inspectors

	$
21 years of age	2,452
22 years of age	2,540
23 years of age	2,626
24 years of age	2,734

Thereafter advancement is to positions of assistant inspector, inspector, grade 2, and inspector, grade 1. Salaries payable to these officers are not according to age.

(ii) Assistant inspectors

	$
First year	2,734
Second year	2,812
Third year	2,886

(iii) Inspector, grade 2

First year	3,204
Second year	3,337

(iv) Inspector, grade 1

First year	3,470
Second year	3,604

8 and 9. *These questions were postponed.*

BULL CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

Intake of Kinlock School Pupils

10. The Hon. J. DOLAN asked the Minister for Mines:

Will the children who qualify at Kinlock School for admission to high school for the school year, 1968, attend the new Bull Creek High School?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Kinlock School has pupils to grade 6 only, none of whom will qualify for admission to high school in 1968.

Grade 7 pupils from the Lynwood area attend Cannington and Canning Vale primary schools. These pupils will attend Rossmoyne High School in 1968.

11. *This question was postponed.*

HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS

Appointment of Australian-trained Officers

12. The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE asked the Minister for Health:

(1) Are two administrators of large metropolitan hospitals due to retire within 12 months?

(2) Does the action in the Royal Perth Hospital case indicate that the Government would be prepared to accept the appointment of other than Australians to these posts?

(3) If not, what action to prevent this from occurring is proposed by the Government?

Royal Perth Hospital Appointment: Tabling of Papers

(4) Will the Minister lay upon the Table of the House, the papers relating to the recent appointment of the Administrator of the Royal Perth Hospital?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) No. I have already advised an honourable member in another place that the Government view is that the best applicant should be

selected, with a preference for those with local knowledge and experience.

(3) The matter is under consideration.

(4) No; the relevant papers contain much confidential information and are under the control of the board and not of the Government.

JUSTICES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Justice), and transmitted to the Assembly.

LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Justice) [2.43 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill contains some amendments to the Licensing Act, a number of which are of a purely machinery character and introduced for the better administration of the Act. Matters affecting the grading of hotels are dealt with in this measure with a view to making the relative sections more watertight. An error which crept in through an amendment passed in 1965, and which deleted all requirements in respect of advertising applications for certain licenses, is set right under one of the provisions in the Bill.

A more realistic approach to unlicensed sales of wine by vignerons is incorporated in this measure. The provisions of the Act are being extended to permit liquor to be sold in trains, under certain conditions to which I shall refer later. Another provision empowers the court to discharge or vary orders of prohibition made against unlicensed premises in the light of later circumstances.

There is also a provision to insert into the Act authority for the certificate of registration of a club to be surrendered in accordance with the wishes of members. It is my intention now to deal with some of these provisions in greater detail for the information of members.

The interpretation of "owner" needs amendment to cover the situation where the licensee is the purchaser of the licensed premises under a contract of sale. In such a case, the purchaser may be said to be the equitable owner but, in fact, the vendor is the owner at law. The court has experienced difficulty in enforcing the carrying out of improvements in such a case, for the reason that the vendor is disinterested and the purchaser probably cannot afford the expense.

The intention is, therefore, to make them both owners for the purposes of the Act so that the court will be able to deal with them both. This amendment should ensure that the rights of the court to enforce necessary renovations and additions required under section 51A of the Act are not nullified in these cases.

The next amendment deals with a rather minor matter of administration; namely, the title of the receiver of revenue. The receiver of revenue under the Act means any person duly appointed for the purposes of issuing licenses for the district in which the licensed premises are situated. Hence, clerks of courts are receivers of revenue, and confusion has resulted from the same title being used in respect of district officers as that applied to the Licensing Court's official receiver of revenue.

It is accordingly proposed to rename that title as principal receiver of revenue; that being the person charged with the duty of assessing moneys paid pursuant to sections 73 and 201, which relate to the assessment of fees on the basis of returns of liquor purchases by general licensees, and in respect of certificates of club registration, respectively.

The next amendment is introduced to facilitate administrative procedures subsequent to the adjournment of a case when only two members of the court are presiding and are not in agreement with each other. Under subsection (5) of section 21 of the Act, there is a provision that two licensing magistrates shall form a quorum for the constitution of the court. This is a useful provision because often the greatly increased business of the court has made it essential for one member to remain in Perth while the court is sitting in country centres. Also, annual leave requirements have the effect of reducing the number of magistrates to two over a period of nine weeks each year.

Subsection (6) of the section provides, however, that in the case of disagreement, where only two members are present, the application or matter shall be adjourned. The Act is silent as to what takes place subsequent to the adjournment. I would mention that in one particular case in dispute, agreement was reached only with difficulty after such an adjournment.

It is submitted that the Act should make provision for this situation and as a rehearing might put the parties to considerable expense, the court submits that the papers might safely be referred to the third magistrate for decision. The Bill proposes that such disputes be determined in this manner, and I submit that the objections to this course of procedure, that could properly be raised in the case of civil or criminal proceedings, are hardly applicable to Licensing Court proceedings.

Certain provisions of section 118 of the Act, having reference to a refusal by a licensee to supply liquor, are not applicable to holders of the Australian wine license and it is considered they should be applicable. An appropriate amendment in the Bill covers this point.

Additionally, there appears to be a demand from some quarters for the enablement of holders of an Australian wine license to take a restaurant license. While it may be considered unlikely that many such premises would prove suitable for the purpose of a restaurant, there would be nothing objectionable, I believe, in the proposal, if some of the bigger interests were prepared to provide the necessary accommodation and facilities.

The Bill accordingly contains an amendment which will facilitate action in this direction, and it is intended that its application be confined to suitable premises where the licensee is willing to supply the two-course meal required, and where suitable cooking facilities are installed.

The next amendment I shall deal with is that affecting the long-standing provision enabling vignerons to dispose of wine in certain circumstances without the necessity of holding a license. One of the provisions of section 46 is that no license is necessary for any person to sell, on his premises, wine in quantities of not less than two gallons at any one time, the product of fruit of his own growing within the State.

This provision is very loosely put together; the premises not being defined and, as the paragraph stands, it appears to permit the sale of two dozen bottles of home-produced wine anywhere. We have, therefore, the cases of local producers establishing wine shops in far away centres and apparently, lawfully disposing of their product without the necessity of holding a license, thus depriving the State of legitimate revenue. The Bill proposes the deletion of this section.

Under another paragraph of the section, an occupier of a vineyard of not less than five acres of vines may sell, on the vineyard, quantities of not less than one quart bottle of wine manufactured thereon, or spirit in bond when sold to another occupier of a vineyard. It is proposed to reduce this area to two acres in the interests of small producers.

It is further intended, in order to ensure that the spirit of the Act is not departed from—and that is not meant to be a pun—in this direction, to make provision that persons making wine on vineyards and conducting sales under the provisions of section 46, shall also deliver the wine to the purchaser on such vineyard.

The necessity of taking this action arises from reports which have been received from the liquor inspection branch and elsewhere, that the intention of the Act has been departed from to such a degree that persons making wine at vineyards are not only conducting shops, as previously mentioned, but are also conducting delivery services all over the metropolitan area, and calling for orders by telephone and other means by the publicity of their premises or on their delivery vehicles.

As neither the liquor for sale nor the premises are under the control of the court, and as no revenue is being paid by these persons, it is clearly necessary that the proposed words should be inserted to restore the original intention. I believe the obvious intention was that the transaction was to be completed at the vineyard, the purpose being not to prevent the sale of wine from its source of production.

A further amendment to section 46 is proposed—this in respect of the sale of liquors for *bona fide* medicinal purposes. Under the provisions of paragraph (e) of subsection (2), no license is required to be held by any person who, being an apothecary, chemist, or druggist, administers or sells any spirituous, distilled, or fermented liquors for these purposes.

It transpires, however, that a case has been reported by the police of a pharmacist who has a comparatively and obviously too large stock of spirits, and it appears that it is he who determines whether or not the sale is warranted for *bona fide* medicinal purposes. Clearly some restriction is warranted in this direction and the most appropriate one is to add the qualification that such requirement will be met on the prescription of a duly qualified medical practitioner. The Bill proposes accordingly.

The Hon. R. Thompson: That will cut out all-night chemists.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not think it will have any effect at all on the situation. An amendment made in 1965 to section 48 had the unintended effect of relieving applicants for airport, canteen, and restaurant licenses of the obligation to advertise their intention to apply. This has the effect of keeping possible objectors in ignorance of the application, and runs counter to the procedures laid down elsewhere in the Act.

The Bill proposes to rectify the position by making a requirement that an applicant for these types of licenses shall publish a copy of his application in a newspaper under the usual conditions.

Another amendment seeks to extend the Treasury guarantee to the owner of premises, the subject of a limited hotel license or a wayside-house license, in respect of advances needed to assist the financing of additional accommodation or structural alterations and renovations directed by the court. This guarantee is available to owners whose premises are the subject of a publican's general license but, as the section now stands, is not available to the other owners as mentioned. This provision will facilitate the court ordering suitable additions and renovations being made where considered necessary.

Section 51D provides some of the machinery necessary for the grading of hotels. Under the existing provisions of the Act, it

appears that once a hotel has been graded, it cannot be degraded, or the grade lowered should the standard fall below that required for the particular grade. As it is feasible that with perhaps a change in licensee and the diminution in service given, the allotted grading could cease to be warranted, it is considered the power to reduce or degrade is essential and an appropriate provision is contained in the measure to enable this to be done.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: Will similar circumstances apply to upgrading?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: On application to the court; they can be upgraded to the extent that the court thinks this is warranted. As I have said, however, once the grade is given there is no provision for it to be lowered. There is a further matter to which I am coming, which might interest the honourable member.

In the matter of hotel grading also, I submit that the entire basis of the grading system would be weakened fundamentally were an ungraded hotel permitted to indicate in any manner that it had been graded or, if the owner or proprietor of unlicensed premises were permitted to resort to a similar allegation. Indeed, an example of the latter type of activity has already come under the court's notice, and the grading system has barely started. It is considered essential, therefore, to make appropriate protective provisions in the Act against the possibility of such practices becoming prevalent, and a suitable penalty is accordingly provided.

Prior to the inadvertent repeal and re-enactment of subsection (2) of section 48 in 1965—to which I have already referred when speaking of the necessity for publicising applications for airport, canteen, and restaurant licenses—persons desiring to remove licenses to other premises were required to advertise for the seven-day period, advise the clerk of courts, and affix the notice to the premises.

The repeal of the subsection has resulted in their being obliged to advertise for one month in a newspaper, and in the *Government Gazette*; and this is considered unreasonable. The appropriate amendment now proposed seeks to restore approximately the original position, except that a 14-day advertisement is suggested, as it is essential that some notice should be given so that objectors may not be deprived of their rights.

Section 61 enables the granting of provisional certificates for a publican's general license, a wayside-house license, and an Australian wine license. Experience has shown that an applicant for a restaurant license may be put to considerable expense in an attempt to make his premises suitable for licensing; and then the license may or may not be granted. The court is of the opinion that it should be possible to seek a provisional certificate for a restaurant license, and the Bill provides accordingly.

Another amendment makes provision for the court in Perth being kept informed as to the renewal of licenses in country areas. This is purely an administrative matter.

The repeal and re-enactment of section 116 is submitted to members, consequent upon the debate which occurred in 1965, as to the possibility of unqualified persons, in the course of their inspections, involving licensees in considerable expense. I am sure members will recall that this engendered some considerable debate at the time. It will be remembered that an amendment to the section, which was sought in 1965, was to enable an inspector to require a licensee to make repairs to licensed premises. This amendment was not proceeded with at the time for reasons already indicated, though the recommendation made in this regard always had in mind minor repairs.

I believe that if members can satisfy themselves from the explanation which I will give that the person requiring the repairs is required to be a qualified person—namely, a health inspector—and if the aggrieved licensee has a simple and inexpensive means of bringing his objections before the court, members may no longer have any misgivings about the amendment. I desire, therefore, to emphasise that the two inspectors attached to the court are both qualified health inspectors, and there are two such in the Liquor Inspection Branch of the Police Department.

I hope the restrictions imposed by the current amendment will remove objections raised in 1965. The amendment now before members limits the cost of minor repairs to $200. It authorises only inspectors who are qualified health inspectors to order such minor repairs. It makes provision for review by the court, if asked for, and it provides a monetary penalty in lieu of suspension of license if thought proper by the court. These, I believe, are all very reasonable safeguards and I trust the amendment now submitted for consideration, and which I commend to members, will prove acceptable.

It will be agreed that the present position is little short of being ridiculous as if a window, for example, needs a new set of sash cords, or a hole in the floor wants repairing, the inspector has to report to the court and the court, in turn, is required to communicate with the licensee requiring the repair to be made.

As previously stated, the court employs two qualified supervisors and the liquor branch two others. Under the circumstances, these would be the only persons authorised by the amendment, but as the court supervisors are regularly on country circuits, and the Liquor Inspection Branch reports regularly on city hotels, it is thought that proposals now put forward would be a great improvement.

I mention once more that the existing power given to the court necessitates the

suspension of the license, and as in many cases this could be far too harsh a penalty, a monetary penalty has been inserted as an alternative.

Section 118 of the Act provides the penalties for refusing entertainment; that is, refusal to receive a guest or to supply any person with food, liquor, or lodging.

The section also authorises the Licensing Court to prescribe the hours during which meals shall be obtainable, and if the court is satisfied that any licensee is not genuinely catering for the requirements of the public, it may prescribe tariff for meals to be supplied to customers. Thus it will be seen that the section empowers the court to prescribe tariff for meals, but, in accordance with a legal opinion obtained, makes no provision for the court indicating the nature or kind of meals that are to be supplied. As a consequence, where a tariff of, say, $1, is prescribed for luncheon, the licensee is able to charge that amount for quite a nominal repast. This was not the intention when the section was inserted, and with a view to putting the matter beyond doubt, appropriate words are to be inserted in subsection (3) of the section in order that the nature of the meals may be prescribed also.

The next amendment is one requested by a number of members of Parliament representing the north, including The Hon. G. E. D. Brand, The Hon. E. M. Heenan, and Mr. R. P. S. Burt, and also the Murchison Ward of the Country Shire Councils' Association, and has reference to the sale of liquor as defined in the Act.

It has been pointed out to me that when the Act was amended some years ago, for the purpose of allowing the sale of two bottles of beer on Sundays in the goldfields area, the word "liquor" was used; this meaning any form of liquor could be purchased. It is now desired to limit the Act in this regard to the sale of beer. Members who were here at the time when the late Mr. Boylan introduced the Bill concerned, will recall that someone gave the Bill a nickname. I am certain in my own mind the intention was that the Act should permit the sale of beer, but the word "liquor" crept into it. If members have a look at the definition of "liquor" they will see it is certainly not limited to beer.

I am advised by the Chairman of the Licensing Court that, if the restriction to beer only in bottles and cans on Sundays is to be applied, it will be applied irrespectively to all customers. This is quite equitable, but the sale of liquor generally is not necessarily always desirable. Hence the amendment contained in this measure.

Now that the grading of hotels is in hand, it has been found that the particulars, which section 123 provides for the insertion in hotel registers, do not afford sufficient information as to the length of stay of residents and other matters necessary to give a complete picture for grading, and this matter is to be rectified.

The next amendment affects section 134B relating to permits granted for unlicensed premises. The Licensing Court is empowered under subsection (5) of this section to make an order prohibiting the bringing of liquor onto unlicensed premises, the subject of a successful objection having been substantiated.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: At present is upgrading as well as downgrading precluded?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: Has any action been taken or order made by the court under that section?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: As I go on I will relate some of the experiences of the court in this regard.

The position then is that, if an order of prohibition is made, it can only apply to the premises occupied at the time. This is unfair in two ways. It prevents the landlord from letting the premises to another person for a similar purpose, notwithstanding that that other person might be much more suitable in the capacity in respect of which his predecessor was found wanting; and, secondly, it does not prevent the offender from taking other premises and opening there to continue in a similar trade. So members can read between the lines.

It is desired, therefore, to put the court in the position, should it think fit, of preventing the offender from opening elsewhere, and also to enable it to assist the landlord to get another and a responsible tenant.

Further, in this regard, it will be recalled that new provisions were incorporated in the Act in 1965 to cover unlicensed restaurant premises where rowdyism or other objectionable conduct warranted the prevention of liquor being brought onto the premises, either absolutely or except in accordance with a permit.

The section is silent, however, as to the duration of the permit, and the court is of the opinion that it should expire and require renewal in the same way as a license expires and requires renewal. This approach would enable the court to hear objections, or to vary the provisions of the permit at least annually; and I support this contention.

Another aspect of those provisions introduced in 1965 is that they appear to make premises that are subjected to them, subjected for all time. Thus there is no great incentive on the part of the occupier, or his transferee, or reversioner, to improve the nature and standard of the restaurant. Once premises are subjected to a prohibition or a permit, this becomes, as it were, a restrictive covenant that runs with the land; and the innocent purchaser, trans-

feree, or reversioner can do nothing about it. It appears to me that the court should have power to discharge or vary the original order when it is satisfied that the character of the occupier and the conduct of the business warrants it, and I commend the amendment which has been inserted in the Bill to enable this to be done.

Subsection (1) of section 177 states that the licensee of a publican's general or limited hotel and wayside-house license may forfeit the license if, among other things, he fails to maintain the premises and accommodation "at the standard required by this Act." Unfortunately, the Act is silent on the subject of the "standard required" and the subsection is accordingly meaningless.

As standards vary according to place or circumstances, it is extremely difficult to see how best the provision can be amended to be both meaningful and effective. The proposed amendment is submitted to members as representing a reasonably good solution of the problem.

Section 190 deals with notice of application for registration of a club, or conditional registration of a club, and there appears to have been some confusion of thought as to when an application is, in fact, made, or what constitutes it. Under procedures difficult to follow, applicants can be led into error, and to eliminate the difficulties attendant to this, it is proposed to fix the times or occasions when specific procedures are applicable. A similar amendment is necessary in respect of section 190A.

While subsection (6) of section 201 makes provision for the rebatement of portion of the annual fee where the registration of a club is suspended or cancelled, and although the Act provides for the surrender of licenses of every kind, there is no provision for the surrender of a certificate of registration of a club. Difficulty has already been experienced by reason of this omission in the case of a club that has ceased to function and this matter is being attended to by the insertion of a new section in the Act.

It has been noticed in the latest reprint of the Act that the conversion of the monetary penalty provided by section 216 to a decimal currency value was incorrectly made as the word "pounds" was not converted to dollars and, as a result, the penalty has been doubled. It is important, I suggest, that this error be corrected.

Finally, I turn to the proposal to permit the sale of liquor on trains, under certain conditions. Anticipating the situation which will obtain with the inauguration of the transcontinental standard gauge passenger trains in 1969, consideration has been given to the whole question of the sale of liquor on trains in this State. This is not at present allowed under the transport administration, yet the position in other States is that, in all States, liquor is served with meals in dining or buffet cars. It is considered that this arrangement should apply here also.

While the question has arisen more particularly with a view to anticipating the running of the through service from Perth to Sydney, if this proposal is to be agreed to, it would be illogical to retain any embargo on the intrastate services between Perth and Kalgoorlie or, for that matter, on other long-distance train services provided in other parts of the State.

I believe this to be a very reasonable proposal, and the Bill accordingly makes provision for the sale of spirituous and fermented liquors in dining, lounge, cafeteria-club, and buffet cars on long-distance services.

Some complementary amendment to the Railways Act is required and as doubtless some structural and other preliminaries will need to be attended to by the Railways Department, it is desired that this amendment be passed as early as possible in order to facilitate the changes which will have to be made. My colleague, the Minister for Railways, will introduce the appropriate amending clauses to the Act in the Legislative Assembly.

As I have already outlined the amendments proposed in this Bill have been prepared with a view to permitting the smoother administration of several particular aspects of the Act by overcoming some administrative difficulties which have become apparent since the parent Act was last before the House for amendment and, with respect to some sections, to enable a more realistic interpretation to be made of provisions which have to some extent become outmoded.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the Opposition).

BILLS (2): RECEIPT AND FIRST READING

1. Indecent Publications Act Amendment Bill.
2. Police Act Amendment Bill.

Bills received from the Assembly; and, on motions by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), read a first time.

ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Justice) [3.19 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill has been drafted as a result of a periodical review of the Electoral Act. A number of the proposed amendments are minor and are consequent upon alterations already made to other legislation. Some of the amendments were included in Bills submitted in 1957, 1963, and 1966.

All the amendments are intended for the better operation and administration of the Electoral Act, and I consider they have a great deal of merit.

Clause 1 of the Bill is the short title and citation clause, and clause 2 provides that the amendments will come into operation on a date to be fixed by proclamation. Clause 3 seeks to amend section 17 to provide that a person claiming enrolment must have lived continuously in the district or subdistrict for which he claims to be enrolled as an elector for a period of one month immediately preceding the date of his claim. The existing period is three months.

Clause 3 also includes the following additional amendments:—

(a) provisions for a claimant to have lived in the Commonwealth of Australia for six months continuously, and

(b) for three months in the State (instead of the existing six months), and

(c) a consequential amendment to subsection (2) to alter the period of six months to three months during which an elector changing his place of living to another district may vote.

The amendments to section 17 follow the recent review of the provisions of the Act, and they will bring the general qualifications of electors more into line with those applying in the Commonwealth and in the States of New South Wales and Victoria.

At this point I should remind members that on more than one occasion a Bill to give effect to the amendments proposed in the present measure has been introduced in another place, but always rejected. Following the last attempt, the Minister who represents me in another place—the Minister for Industrial Development—told members he would consult with me with a view to reviewing the proposal contained in that measure. I have reviewed it and I have now inserted the provision in the Bill before us.

Clause 4 embodies a consequential amendment to section 40. The title "Inspector General of the Insane" no longer exists, and the correct title under the Mental Health Act, 1962, is now the "Director of Mental Health Services."

Clause 5 includes in subsection (1) of section 42 a provision that the witness to the signature of a claim shall also sign the claim as that witness. The section as it is now worded does not stipulate that the witness is to sign in that capacity, and it is considered this requirement should be included. A similar requirement is embodied in the Commonwealth Act.

Clause 6 contains an amendment to section 44 consequential upon the amendment in clause 5. It makes the signature of the witness an essential part of a claim.

Clause 7 contains a provision new to the electoral legislation of this State. This amendment, which will add a new subsection (3) (a) to section 45, is to provide that where the Chief Electoral Officer is satisfied that through physical incapacity, mental illness, or mental disorder a person fails to enrol, such failure shall not be deemed a contravention of section 45. The amendment was culled from section 26A of the Elections Act of Queensland.

As it is at present, the Electoral Act contains no specific provision for any eligible person over 21 years of age to be excused from enrolment. The amendment will enable this to be done, and the person or his relatives assured accordingly.

Clause 8 embodies in a new section 51A provisions similar to those in clause 7, but this time relating to where the Chief Electoral Officer is satisfied that a person is unable to comply with the compulsory voting requirements of the Act, owing to physical incapacity, mental illness, or mental disorder.

I understand that the reasons given for non-voting at elections include a number of cases in this category, and clause 8 will enable the Chief Electoral Officer to remove the names of those persons from the roll once he is satisfied as required by that clause. Probably all members have had experience of this sort of thing. Someone will often say to a member, "My parent is so old and senile that he cannot get to the polling booth to vote"; or another person might say, "My mother does not want to vote and has lost interest in elections." At the moment there is no provision in the Act to excuse such a person from not complying with the law, and I believe the provision in the Bill to be reasonable.

Clause 9 repeals and re-enacts section 57. The existing section requires the Inspector General of the Insane to furnish the Chief Electoral Officer with quarterly returns, showing the name of every person received by him as an inmate of a hospital or reception house for the insane. In accordance with section 60 of the Act, the Chief Electoral Officer then orders the removal of the names of those persons from the rolls.

As a result of the coming into operation on the 1st July, 1966, of the Mental Health Act, 1962-1964, the title "Inspector General of the Insane" no longer exists, and the term "hospital or reception house for the insane" is no longer applicable. The last-mentioned Act now refers to the "Director of Mental Health Services," and to "approved hospitals."

It is considered that the inapplicable existing provisions of section 57 should be replaced by the new provisions in clause 9 to enable the removal from the electoral rolls of the names of persons in the category contained in clause 9; that is, those who have been reported under the Mental Health Act as being incapable of managing their own affairs, and who are inmates of approved hospitals.

Clause 10 amends section 82 to provide that any candidate may withdraw his nomination at any time not later than noon on the day of nomination, and in that event the deposit lodged by him will be returned.

In the existing section 82, a candidate may withdraw his nomination at any time not later than seven clear days before polling day, in which case he shall forfeit his deposit. However, the Act contains no provision to cover the position of postal votes which may be issued from the close of nominations until the time the candidate withdraws, particularly in regard to the allocation of preferences shown on those postal votes.

The proposed amendment in clause 10 will bring the position in regard to the withdrawal of nominations into line with the general provisions of section 80 of the Commonwealth Act.

It is worth mentioning that I cannot recall any occasion when a candidate in an election has withdrawn his nomination within seven days of polling day and, subsequent to the closing of nominations, when postal ballot papers have been sent out. However, if there were more than two candidates in an election—whether it be three, four, or five—I can visualise what an awful mess could occur when several people in an electorate could be absent on holiday; when postal votes have been applied for and registered; when preferences have been given to all the candidates, and then one of the candidates decides he will withdraw from the election. The Act is silent on what should happen in the circumstances and the Government thinks the legislation should provide that a candidate can withdraw his nomination up to the closing date for the receipt of nominations.

The amendments to section 88 in clause 11 are consequential upon the alterations contained in clause 10. The existing section 88 deals with the position which applies on the withdrawal or death of a candidate after nominations have closed.

Clause 12 contains a minor amendment to subparagraph (i) of paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 92, to bring it into line with the wording of paragraph (d) of subsection (9) of section 92.

Clause 13 embodies an amendment to subsection (1) of section 93. That section refers to the "North-West Area as defined in the Electoral Districts Act, 1947." The Electoral Districts Act, 1947-1965, now shows this area as the "North-West-Murchison-Eyre Area," and it is necessary to alter the name of the area as appearing in section 93.

Clause 14 amends section 99A of the Act in regard to absent voting. At present this section provides that "where on polling day for an election an elector is not at any time during which the poll is open within the boundaries of the district for which he is enrolled," that elector shall, subject to the regulations relating to absent voting, be permitted to vote as an absent voter at any polling place open outside the district for which he is enrolled.

It is considered that the provisions of section 99A should be amended to make it possible for an elector to claim an absent vote at any polling place which is open, irrespective of whether he will be in the district for which he is enrolled at any time during the hours of polling.

Members will know what this means. The officer in charge of a polling booth is supposed to put the formal questions to the elector as he approaches the table; if the elector cannot answer them in the required manner, then the officer in charge is obliged to direct him to return to his own electorate, as he has not complied with the terms of the Act. The next general elections will be conducted on new boundaries—as a result of the redistribution of seats—and there will be 51 seats for the Legislative Assembly. Many of the electorates will have new names, and it will facilitate the convenience of electors if we agree to the proposal in the Bill.

An amendment on similar lines was included in a Bill introduced in 1957, which did not receive the approval of the House. However, the provisions permitting absent voting at any polling place which is open function for State elections in New South Wales; they have applied in the Commonwealth sphere since 1966; and it is considered that similar facilities for electors should now also apply in this State.

I might add they should apply, particularly in view of the fact that elections for this House are now on the same franchise as that applicable to another place. Previously the conditions of absent voting were different in the two Houses, because of the difference in the franchise.

Clause 15 embodies amendments to section 119 which deals with the questions to be put to voters. These amendments are consequential upon the proposed amendments to section 17, as contained in clause 3 of the Bill, in regard to the qualifications of electors; and they require no elaboration at this stage.

Clause 16 contains a new section, numbered 155A, which requires the Chief Electoral Officer to furnish in writing to the Minister after each general election for the Assembly a report showing the number of electors on each of the rolls made up for that election. This new provision is related to section 12 of the Electoral Districts Act, 1947-1965, which refers to a report being submitted to the Minister by the Chief Electoral Officer when it appears from the rolls made up for the last preceding general election for the Legislative Assembly that the number of electors on each such roll in respect of not less than eight districts—it used to be

five—falls short of, or exceeds by one-fifth or more, the quota for those districts.

So that the Minister will be informed of the numbers on each of the rolls so made up, irrespective of the requirements of section 12 of the Electoral Districts Act, 1947-65, it is considered that the provisions appearing in clause 16 should be included in the Act. It should be realised that under the Act the Chief Electoral Officer only makes a report when the seats are out of balance; if that does not occur there will be no point for him to report upon.

Clause 17, the final clause in the Bill, contains consequential amendments to section 190. These amendments are resultant upon the variations sought in clause 3 in regard to the qualifications of electors, as set out in section 17.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. R. Thompson.

LOTTERIES (CONTROL) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [3.36 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This brief Bill, as will be seen, refers to the operation of a device commonly known as a chocolate wheel. As members are aware, the purpose of the Lotteries (Control) Act of 1954 was to make provision for the conduct and control of lotteries and other similar devices.

Part III of the Act contains provisions with respect to lotteries conducted by the Lotteries Commission constituted under section 5 of the Act.

The amendment before members comes within the ambit of part IV of the Act, which makes provision for the regulation of lotteries conducted by a person other than the commission. Such person is required, under section 12, to make application to the commission for a permit to do so.

Under the section of the Act proposed to be amended by this Bill, namely, section 18, the commission is authorised to grant a religious body or charitable organisation a permit to hold any guessing competition, raffle, or art union in connection with any bazaar or fair proposed to be held by the religious body or charitable organisation on such terms and conditions as it may think fit to impose. The permit so granted removes the person who receives it from any penal consequences which might otherwise be brought to bear under the provisions of the Criminal Code or of the Police Act.

For instance, under subsection (6) of section 66 of the Police Act, every person playing or betting through any instrument of gaming, or through any unlawful game, in any public place, commits an offence. Consequently, in view of this, the game of chance provided by the device commonly known as a chocolate wheel is, in effect, an illegal game. The Commissioner of Police has, however, taken no action against organisations, of the nature to which I have referred, which have conducted this game at charity fetes and similar affairs.

Indeed, the commissioner has gone to the extent of issuing permits, a policy which has been followed by successive commissioners. Of late, however, the commissioner has been inundated with requests of this nature and, as a consequence, the commissioner has had more or less to draw a line of demarcation as to who should be entitled to receive a permit.

To a degree, it may be regarded as unfortunate that some organisations have been refused this permission. I am advised that numbers of members of Parliament have made representations to the Minister for Police with a view to having the position clarified and, no doubt, to avoid the possibility of anomalies occurring. This Bill, accordingly, fulfils an undertaking given by the Minister for Police, in response to representations made in that direction.

It is considered that the Lotteries Commission is placed in a better position to assess the value or otherwise of any applications received for the operation of a chocolate wheel. This Bill, therefore, proposes to amend the Act along the lines desired by the insertion of the words contained in clause 2.

This will enable the Lotteries Commission to grant religious bodies or charitable organisations permits to hold not only guessing competitions, raffles, or art unions at their public fetes but also to operate the chocolate wheel. I have among my papers a definition of the chocolate wheel and later shall be pleased to convey this to the House, Mr. President, should you think it necessary.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs.

EVAPORITES (LAKE MACLEOD) AGREEMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [3.41 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to ratify an agreement dated the 16th February, 1967, between Texada Mines Pty. Ltd. and the Government of Western Australia.

This agreement presents us with the possibility of bringing into production an area previously thought to be of no particular economic value. This is through

the establishment of a potash industry based on the evaporite deposits of Lake MacLeod, north of Carnarvon. The agreement contains some special features which will be of interest to members.

The depression known as Lake MacLeod is quite extensive, being approximately 80 miles long and situated about 30 miles due north of Carnarvon. The Minister for Industrial Development, when introducing this measure, which has been passed in another place, emphasised that the Bill to ratify the agreement contemplated rather than provided for the establishment of a potash industry for the reason that the company still has to carry out considerable research to prove beyond doubt that the brines of Lake MacLeod will yield potash as a commercially viable operation.

I granted the company a temporary reserve over the area under the provisions of the Mining Act in June, 1965, and between that date and February of this year, the company has carried out a considerable amount of exploratory work, with a view to determining the extent of the reserves of evaporites and their ability to yield brine for processing. This work is to increase within five years with a production of about 200,000 tons of potash per annum being envisaged.

Under the agreement, the company is granted a further two years to carry the experimental work to a stage where potash will be produced in a semi-commercial plant. The production methods proposed are the subject of patent rights held by the company in Peru and, at the same time as experiments to prove the production methods are in course, investigations will be undertaken to determine by a thorough geological and geophysical investigation the extent of the evaporite deposits. The company will investigate the best route from the production site to the seaboard for development of a heavy duty road or railway, and the most suitable location and design for a wharf; and also, a source of water for the mining areas, location, and dimensions for suitable stockpile areas and markets.

Upon the completion of this two-year period of further study, the company is to submit detailed proposals for the establishment of a full scale commercial plant and associated facilities, capable initially of producing and loading into ships 75,000 tons of potash per annum which, within five years, will be expanded so that it will be possible to produce and load into ships 200,000 tons of potash per annum. It is estimated that the plant and all facilities are to cost not less than $13,000,000.

Members may be interested if I were to digress at this stage and give some background information on potash, Lake MacLeod, and the investigations undertaken to date. All of Australia's requirements of potash are at present imported. Importations of muriate of potash for the year 1965-66 were valued at $2,371,487, represented by 75,000 tons of this commodity. Imports into New Zealand in the same period were 170,000 tons. It may be expected that, by 1970, Australia will be using 100,000 tons per annum and New Zealand's consumption will have risen to 200,000 tons per annum. It is of interest also, to be aware that Japan imported in the same year, 1,000,000 tons of potash, and importers in that country estimate that they will require 1,300,000 tons by 1970.

There is provision in the agreement that the company will use its best endeavours to have potash available at all times for sale in Western Australia and the Commonwealth. As a consequence, the company would not only be making a contribution to Australia's economy by exporting a product for which there is strong demand but would also save Australia the outlay of considerable sums in foreign exchange for the purchase of an essential fertiliser used for our primary industries. The interest throughout Australia in this proposal near Carnarvon is considerable.

The area of the lake bed, to which I have not previously referred, is approximately 800,000 square miles. The bed of the lake lies from 10 to 12 feet below mean sea level and is flooded to some extent almost every year. The Lyndon and Minilya rivers discharge their waters directly into the lake bed and the Gascoyne River can enter the southern end of the lake during major floods. As constituted, the lake bed is an absolutely featureless level plain, completely free of vegetation. Even where there is no water, most of the lake bed is soft and will not support conventional vehicles. This has introduced some problems requiring the use of a special type of vehicle by the company.

The company's geologist is of the opinion that, in the very recent geologic past, Lake MacLeod was a shallow arm of the sea. Sediment brought down by the Gascoyne River, when in flood, gradually filled the entrance to the open sea. As the connection became more restrictive, the trapped sea water began to concentrate through evaporation, finally reaching saturation and depositing, firstly, gypsum and then common salt. The deposition of 25 feet of these evaporite salts is equivalent to the evaporation of 2,500 feet of sea water, indicating that the connection to the sea was partially open for some period of time. Finally, the inlet was completely closed off by shifting sand dunes and the bay evaporated to dryness. Yet it is still subject to periodical flooding by fresh water when the rivers run. Invariably, this evaporates quickly, leaving the subsurface brines unaffected.

Although salt is very largely in evidence in the work of the company, members will perceive from what I have to say in the

matter that this project is quite different from that conducted by the Leslie Salt Company of Port Hedland and that operated by the Shark Bay Salt Pty. Ltd. at Useless Loop, Shark Bay. The immediate concern of those two companies is the collection of salt for export by evaporating sea water. The bitterns, which can contain many chemicals, are, in the early stages of the project, poured off to go into the sea.

The Leslie Salt Company at Port Hedland will later develop a commercial industry for the purpose of processing the bitterns instead of their being poured off into the sea, but this is considered a major chemical operation. With the Texada industry, the reverse is the case. During the course of its operations, the company has to stockpile the salt to free the potash for export. As a result, in obtaining eventually a production of about 200,000 tons of potash for export per year, the company will handle something like 3,000,000 tons of salt a year. This will be stockpiled in the early stages and I shall make some further reference to this later.

Sitting suspended from 3.50 to 4.6 p.m.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Texada, during the course of its study of the lake, drilled 13 holes. This disclosed that the lake bed consists almost entirely of gypsum with a core of rock salt in the central part. The total depth of the evaporites in the centre is at least 25 feet. From the information obtained by drilling, it has been estimated there are approximately 2,000,000 tons of common salt in the bed of Lake MacLeod. This quantity of salt could have been produced by evaporating 60,000,000,000 tons of sea water, leaving the bittern containing approximately 70,000,000 tons of potassium chloride equivalent in solution.

In the course of its study of the lake's potential for supplying potash, a four-mile long collection ditch was excavated and this has been pump tested with satisfactory results. The company has also determined that, in the southern part of the lake there is an area where the ground is naturally impermeable and this would be suitable for the development of solar evaporation pans. Under the terms of the agreement the company will be obliged to submit to the State proposals for the development of the potash deposits, including details of plant for the mining extraction and loading of potash; wharf and adjacent worksite areas; berth at the wharf and dredged channel; turning basin, etc.; roads, housing, and associated facilities; fresh water and brine supplies; any other works or facilities proposed or desired by the company; and satisfactory evidence of the availability of finance.

Upon acceptance of these proposals by the Government, the company will be entitled, under clause 8 (1) (a), to lease with renewals for a term which shall not exceed 63 years an area of 550,000 acres, being part of the present temporary reserve. It will also be entitled to special leases of land for wharf area to be dredged, for railway, roads, air strip, etc.

Members will note that under the provisions of clause 9, the company is obliged progressively to make full use of its leased area or submit to a reduction of it.

This ensures that the State has certain rights in respect of part of this area if the company does not, of its own volition, undertake a sufficiently aggressive developmental programme once the project is approved.

There is provision, also, that the State and third parties may use the company's wharf and facilities upon reasonable terms and at reasonable charges. It does not appear likely at the present time that the company will use the existing jetty at Carnarvon. There is only 16 feet of water available there and the jetty structure itself would have to be strengthened and modified. Also, any dredging to increase the draught available would be likely to be subject to sedimentation from future flooding of the Gascoyne. No final decision, however, has been made in this direction.

One of the major problems of Texada will be the finding of a suitable site for the development of port facilities, and a thorough engineering investigation will need to be undertaken for this purpose.

A royalty of 50c per ton on potash is provided. There is also a royalty payable on salt, although at this stage the company has no immediate intention of marketing this product, even though it is estimated that approximately 3,000,000 tons per annum will be available as a by-product from the production of 200,000 tons of potash per annum. This salt would need some further treatment to be suitable for export.

Should the world market for salt improve and Texada be able to negotiate sales, then the royalty payable will be 5c per ton on the first 500,000 tons shipped in any year, 6.25c on the second 500,000 and 7.5c on all tonnage in excess of 1,000,000 tons per year. These rates are identical with those provided in the Leslie Salt Company agreement.

If the potash project is launched successfully the company has future proposals with respect to other elements contained in the bitterns, such as boron, bromide, magnesium, iodine salts, etc. For such chemicals recovered, the royalty payable will be 2 per cent. of the F.O.B. value. It is considered desirable to specify this as a percentage rather than as a specific figure per ton, for, at this point, we would not have any reliable information regarding the respective values of these added chemical products at the time of their recovery.

Under clause 10 (a) the company has the right to lease 150 lots in the township of Carnarvon for the purpose of building

houses for employees. Subject to the building of accommodation, eventually the company will be able to purchase the lots. All houses needed by the company will be built at no cost to the State. The company has decided that if the venture proceeds, these will be built at Carnarvon where employees can be integrated into the existing community rather than establish an isolated township adjoining the worksite. As already indicated, the leased sites, subject to the building of accommodation, will be freehold in due course. There is provision under clause 10 (u) for escalation of rents and royalties, subject to the world market price of potash or common salt.

Despite flooding of the lake bed, which has persisted since the beginning of this year, the company has made good progress. A one square mile area of crystalliser pans at the southern end of the lake has been constructed. This work involved the placement and compaction of approximately 230,000 cubic yards of material. A 20-mile ditch will be excavated between the crystallising pans and the southern extremity of the lake's salt deposits.

As soon as the ditch has been constructed, the pumping of brines into the evaporating ponds will commence and then will follow a 12-month period of experimentation to determine the feasibility of the project. It is the intention of the company to have consultants examine, during this period, possible port sites and other engineering aspects of a commercial full scale plant.

If all goes well, development of the commercial plant and export facilities could commence early in 1969. On the other hand I should emphasise, I think, that the project is essentially at the pilot plant stage only, though there have been encouraging developments taking place.

There is a great deal to be determined both on the engineering and on the chemical side of the project; not the least of the problems to be resolved being how best to work this area in view of the unusual nature of its formation and the difficulties of access.

The Government is hopeful that out of this agreement Carnarvon will obtain a new industry creating additional employment opportunities and providing another basis on which the town can expand.

This is another example of an area previously thought to be of no particular importance or to have any outstanding economic value yet now presenting great potential prospectively to be put to valuable use in the interests of the State.

It is extremely interesting when we realise that the mineral development of the State, and the interest that is being created by activities in minerals, is bringing this sort of project into Western Australia. By this development we are gaining in technical knowledge, the investment of money, and know-how, if I can use that expression; and I gain some personal pleasure from introducing a Bill of this nature. However, I repeat what I said before: There is still a long way to go but if the efforts of the company can be brought to a successful conclusion the State as a whole undoubtedly will benefit.

Finally, I would like to lay upon the Table of the House a plan of the Lake MacLeod area, so members may be able to see for themselves just where the lake is situated. I am not suggesting all members will have to be told where the area is; some, of course, know it far better than I do. However, the plan will be tabled for the information of members.

The plan was tabled.

Debate adjourned until Wednesday, the 13th September, on motion by The Hon. E. M. Heenan.

IRON ORE (NIMINGARRA) AGREEMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [4.18 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill now before members is to ratify an agreement dated the 11th August, 1967, between the Government of Western Australia and Sentinel Mining Company Inc. The agreement deals with the mining, transport, shipment, and processing of Pilbara iron ore and manganese. It gives authority for the company to proceed with exploration and negotiations for sales, etc., on a basis that conditions for future development will be clearly understood if the project proceeds.

The agreement differs in some respects from those previously ratified by Parliament, which have dealt in the main with the initial export of iron ore as direct shipping ore, and later secondary processing including pelletisation. Some agreements, notably Hamersley and Mt. Newman, have also included provisions leading to the establishment of iron and steel industries.

The Nimingarra agreement covers the initial export of iron ore but later provides for the establishment of a plant for the production of metallised products from iron ore, or a plant for the production of ferro manganese. It is in this latter respect that this agreement differs from previous agreements, as a plant for the production of ferro manganese, if established, would mean a diversification of processing in the mineral field in the north-west of the State.

I have mentioned that the agreement provides for the establishment of a metallised products plant, or a ferro manganese plant, and for the information of members

the final product of the metallised products plant is a material containing metallic iron which would be used either as feed for a blast furnace or as a replacement for steel scrap in the manufacture of steel.

Ferro manganese is an alloy basically comprising manganese and iron, but which has a content of not less than 16 per cent. manganese, and this product would be used in the manufacture of special steels.

The Sentinel Mining Company is one incorporated in the United States of America and registered in Western Australia. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of National Bulk Carriers Inc., a Delaware Corporation, and the agreement itself is more popularly known as "the Ludwig Agreement" because of the close association of D. K. Ludwig.

The company will explore and develop deposits 90 miles due east of Port Hedland —Nimingarra—and deposits at Mt. Rove, some 180 miles south east of Port Hedland.

Similarly, as in other agreements, the operations of the company can be readily divided into three phases: namely, investigation, export, and secondary processing. A description of the company's commitments under these headings can best be described as follows:—

Investigation:

(a) The company commenced investigational work in late 1963, and in fact since November of that year has spent more than $3,000,000 on testing and sampling of iron ore deposits at Nimingarra, these including a geological and geophysical investigation of the deposits.

(b) Various sites have been examined in an endeavour to select suitable sites for the operations that are proposed under the agreement.

(c) Engineering investigations have been undertaken in respect of roads, a railway from Nimingarra—known as mining area "A"—to the port, and wharf installations for the export of iron ore.

(d) Engineering investigation of the port site has also been undertaken and this location must be mutually agreed upon; and although this has not been agreed as yet, the most likely site is near Cape Keraudren, some 80 miles north east of Port Hedland. Any location finally agreed upon will, as usual, have regard to the proper development, use, and capacity of the port as a whole by parties other than the company.

(e) Investigations have taken place in order to find suitable localities for the supply of water to the townsites and the port.

(f) In consultation with the State the planning of a suitable townsite has been undertaken, but again regard has had to be given to the general development of the port and the deposits townsite for use by others as well as the company.

(g) Metallurgical and market research: the agreement may be conveniently regarded as operating in certain phases, the first of which is concerned with investigation and will lead to the submission of plans and proposals by the 30th September, 1967—or agreed later date—for export overseas of iron ore of not less than 2,000,000 tons in the aggregate in the first three years, and not less than 1,000,000 tons thereafter, so that a required contract of not less than 10,000,000 tons may be satisfied.

Export:

After the investigational period has been concluded, export in accordance with the manner I have illustrated is required and the capital cost on all the necessary facilities must not be less than $25,000,000.

The port which must be provided must contain a wharf for use by vessels having an ore carrying capacity of not less than 60,000 tons, but expandable at the option of the company for use by vessels having an ore carrying capacity of 240,000 tons.

For the transport of ore from the mine townsite at Nimingarra to the port—a distance of some 40 miles—the company may construct either a railway or road—or use some other appropriate form of transport—but as the project develops the company will be required to build a railway some 160 miles in length from Mt. Rove—mining area "B"—to Nimingarra and onwards to the port.

The agreement, in keeping with previous ones, requires the company to construct towns complete with power and water at both the mining and port sites, whilst ore extraction, handling facilities, and roads must also be provided. Within three years after its proposals have been approved by the Government the company should be ready to begin exports.

There are of course provisions for reasonable extensions of time.

Processing:

When initial export has been undertaken the company may apply for rights of occupancy in respect of mining area "B," and these include the sole right to carry on with the search and prospecting for iron ore, manganiferous ore, and manganese ore.

Its preliminary exploration and investigations will continue prior to making a complete and thorough geological and, as necessary, geophysical investigation of the area. Within two

years following the date of the agreement this investigation must be completed and must include a general reconnaissance of the mining area with a view to establishment of various sites required for the purposes of the agreement.

When the investigations to which I have referred have been completed, the company may, within three years from commencement date, apply for a mineral lease in respect of mining area "B." This lease must not be in excess of 300 square miles, plus an area equal to some mineral claims for manganese then held by the company.

When the application for the second mineral lease is submitted, it must be accompanied by detailed proposals for the establishment of a plant for the production of metallised products, or a plant for the production of ferro manganese. The investment required in respect of the metallised products plant must be not less than $115,000,000, and not less than $8,000,000 for the ferro manganese plant.

The capacity of the metallised products plant must be such that it is capable ultimately of processing not less than 750,000 tons of ore per annum, with progressive increase in capacity from not less than 250,000 tons of ore during year five to 750,000 tons in year 11.

Should the company decide to build a ferro manganese plant instead of a metallised products plant, this plant must have the capacity to process not less than 50,000 tons during year seven with progressive increase in capacity to 150,000 tons in year 13, and this would be its ultimate capacity.

There is provision in the agreement for the State temporarily to reduce the capacity figures I have quoted, but this is dependent on the company showing that the tonnages required cannot be treated on an economic basis at any particular time. However, the reduction cannot be below 375,000 tons per annum in the case of a metallised products plant, and not below 75,000 tons per annum in the case of the ferro manganese plant.

The agreement also provides for progressive increase back to the maximum tonnages on a revised programme.

Members may wonder why these qualifications exist in the agreement, but it is for the reason that investigations are not at the present time sufficiently advanced to guarantee supply of the requested quantity of ore to meet the commitments.

Because the company is required to submit proposals for a metallised products plant, or a ferro manganese plant, additional facilities will no doubt be necessary; and for this reason the proposals must include details of additional port development, including expansion of the port for use by vessels having an ore carrying capacity of not less than 100,000 tons. These port proposals would also include particulars in respect of additional dredging, additions to wharf, berth, swinging basin, and port installations and facilities. A railway proposal is also to be submitted and would cover the route between mining areas "B" and "A," and thence to the port if a railway is not already in existence between these latter points. Finally, the proposals must also cover the townsite on mining area "B" and, if necessary, for extension of the townsite on mining area "A."

An important provision of the agreement is that should the company not apply within three years from commencement date, or cease to be entitled to apply for a mineral lease in respect of mining area "B," it will not have any rights or interests in respect of that particular area—other than in respect of mineral claims acquired by it apart from the agreement—and the agreement will continue for a period of 21 years from the export date, or until the company has mined all the available iron ore from the mineral lease in respect of mining area "A," whichever later happens, or until the agreement is determined. However, the company is not permitted to produce from the mineral lease more than 3,000,000 tons of ore—other than locally used ore—in any year, without the consent of the Minister. In the event that the quantity of ore mined in any financial year after three years from the commencement date and shipped for export is less than 500,000 tons, the State may, within a period of six months following expiration of that financial year, give notice to the company that it intends to determine the agreement if in that financial year, and the next two succeeding financial years, the tonnage of ore shipped is less than 1,500,000 tons.

There is an important provision in the agreement which ensures that revenue from products of either a metallised products plant or a ferro manganese plant is at least the same. If a ferro manganese plant is constructed it will be of such capacity that it will provide for products, including ferro alloys and ferro manganese that, beginning with year seven after the Minister's approval, the sale of these products will produce gross revenue equal to or greater than that which would have resulted from the production and sales of a metallised products plant. Because of this provision the State will benefit to the same extent as far as economic value is concerned.

As for royalties, the only difference from those specified in the other iron ore agreements previously ratified lies in the manganiferous ore and manganese ore which is at the rate of 15c per ton. Royalties on direct shipping ore, fine ore and fines, are the same as in the other iron ore agreements.

However, if by the end of the sixth year from the date of the agreement the com-

pany has not in production a plant for the production of metallised products, or a plant for the production of ferro manganese, there is an important alteration in the royalties payable. The State would then receive increased royalties to the extent of a further 50 per cent. on direct shipping ore and slightly more than 50 per cent. on fine ore. As a result, the royalty on direct shipping ore would be increased from the usual 7½ per cent. and 60c minimum to 11¼ per cent. with 90c minimum; and in the case of fine ore, from the usual 3¾ per cent. with 30c minimum to 5⅝ per cent. with a minimum of 46c. The State has imposed another penalty, pursuant to its policy of encouraging companies to proceed to secondary processing. By this, the company must pay to the State a lump sum royalty equivalent to a further 50 per cent. of the total sum paid as royalty in respect of iron ore shipped or sold by it up to the end of the sixth year, if it fails to establish the secondary processing plants referred to by the end of the sixth year.

To encourage a contraction in the areas the company holds, rents will range from 35c an acre for the maximum area down to 20c for less than 100 square miles. The rents will apply to the company's chosen mineral leases—which can be slightly in excess of a maximum total area of 600 square miles—from its existing 2,626 square miles of temporary prospecting reserves.

It is expected that the port site for the company's operations will be at or near Cape Keraudren, but a firm proposal on this has not been submitted. Exploration work is going ahead on mining areas "A" and "B" where three drilling rigs are at present engaged, while the company awaits advice from the Commonwealth on its application for an export license.

In addition to the exploration, metallised test work is being carried out in the Amdel laboratory in Adelaide, and in a research laboratory in Cleveland, Ohio. Also proceeding in the Amdel laboratories and in the Lurgi laboratory in Frankfurt, Germany, are upgrading tests on medium grade ore—this is ore well under 60 per cent. Fe.

The Netherlands harbour works has received design study contracts involving the design, followed by a feasibility report on marine structures required for the Nimingarra project.

The Utah Construction Company has received a similar design contract for railways, crushing and screening plant, stockpile, and materials handling facilities. I also desire to lay on the table of the House, for the information of members, plans of the mining areas relative to the agreement.

The plans were tabled.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. F. J. S. Wise.

DENTISTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 29th August.

THE HON J. DOLAN (South-East Metropolitan) [4.37 p.m.]: It is my intention to support the Bill, though I cannot say I am over-enthusiastic about it; because I have the feeling it will act only as a palliative and not as a remedy of the problem with which we are faced in this profession.

I noticed in the *Daily News* of Monday the Minister said it was a world-wide problem; and with that I agree. Consequently I cannot see how, even with the provisions the Bill contains, we can expect to remedy the position by getting dentists from other parts of the world. I feel we must look to our own State for the remedy; to the work that will be done in our own Dental School. I intend to talk about that very shortly.

I have no complaint with the provisions in the Bill. The first provision is to remove certain restrictions on dentists who come to this State from overseas. But the first amendment which inserts the words, "has gained by examination and," ensures that we will not be getting, from other parts of the world, dentists who have secured their diplomas possibly because of long service at a university or a dental school which they might have attended. I understand there are parts of the world where, if one attends a school long enough, it is possible eventually to secure a diploma—whether it is given to get rid of the person concerned, or because the person has done well, I do not know. But the dentists who come here will be qualified by examination.

Paragraph (b) of clause 3 substitutes for a passage already in the Act the words, "that was, when the diploma or degree was granted, in any part of the British Commonwealth of Nations or the Queen's Dominions." This clause also brings the Bill more into line with the present position in the world, and refers to those dentists who secured their diplomas or degrees when South Africa or Malaysia were part of the British Commonwealth.

The Bill also makes provision to accredit those who carry diplomas in dental surgery and dental science granted by an institution in the United States, and which is accredited by the American Dental Association. Members probably know that the set-up in America is a little different from what it is here. Over here we have a dental school in each State, but we have no Federal body which exercises an overall control. In the United States there is the American Dental Association which exercises control over between 32 and 36 of the States, where there are good schools, and where the American Dental Association recognises their qualifications. Consequently, if we get any men from there

we can be assured they will be fully qualified to operate in our State.

I would now like to refer again to the local set-up. In this State we have the Western Australian Dental Board and the Western Australian Dental School, both of which are responsible for the very high standards attained by our graduates; and also for the quality, in every respect, of those who practise dentistry. I give these bodies the highest commendation for the standards they have set, and for the fact that they have maintained those high standards.

The only hope we have of ever bringing our dental service to a stage which is desirable, is to support the local product. Any figures I am about to quote are those supplied by the Minister in answer to questions asked in another place; so if those figures are questioned they will be the figures provided by the Minister which are being questioned.

The Minister estimated that by 1980 we will need approximately 290 more dentists —which is approximately 24 dentists a year —in order to keep pace with the additional population, and the vacancies caused by dentists who have died; by those who have withdrawn from practice, or who have gone somewhere else. That figure is working purely on an average; it could vary from year to year.

Let us consider the position in this State so far as our Dental School is concerned. At present there are 50 first-year students; 25 second-year students; 17 third-year students; 23 fourth-year students; and 9 fifth-year students. I take it that, provided they pass their examinations and are licensed by the Dental Board, these nine students will be qualified to practise dentistry in Western Australia next year.

I understand there is a certain amount of wastage of students who come from the Dental School, and that only 73.5 per cent. remain in Western Australia. This means that of the nine fifth-year students we can expect to lose two. That would be an average loss. This means that of the 24 dentists who are required each year to bring our dental profession up to the mark, we will only be able to provide seven; which means a lag of 17.

Where will the 17 extra dentists required come from? The Bill aims at getting a certain number from other countries. Let us see what will happen. There have been no inquiries from Canada at the Dental Board by men who want to come to Western Australia to practise. Similar legislation has been in operation in New South Wales and Victoria, and I understand that so far only one or two Americans have applied for permission to practise in those States.

Accordingly, when we find these men not prepared to practise in the more populous States of Australia, I cannot see how we are going to persuade dentists with American qualifications to come here. From where will we get these dentists? Some of them will come from the United Kingdom.

From my research, however, I find that dentists who come here from the United Kingdom, generally speaking, are not young men; they are the older fellows who, to a certain extent, find that the modern day rush in dentistry is pushing them out.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: They are on a pretty good wicket, financially, in the United Kingdom.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I will clear up that point for the honourable member's benefit. Quite a large number of young dentists have left Australia; in fact, from my research, I find that in Harley Street—and my informant was there only a couple of years ago and had a good look at the position—there is one building of several storeys in which most of the occupants are former Australian dentists. These are young men who, of course, are out to make money. I do not blame them for that. They have a good profession which has a high standard of ethics, and they are quite entitled to make money.

I understand some of them operate as many as three surgeries in their suite of offices. Three dental nurses are employed, one for each surgery, and the dentist goes from one surgery to the other. While the nurses in the other two surgeries are preparing the patients, the dentist attends to the patient in the third surgery. He goes to each surgery in turn in this way so that he does not have to waste any time at all. The dentists there are, as members will realise from this information, working at very high pressure all the time, and only young men, full of vigour, can cope with it. It is for this reason that I say we are getting some of the older dentists from Britain. They find that they cannot have a talk to the patient and fulfil the role of the family dentist. They find the pace is too fast for them and so they prefer to go to another country where they do not have to rush so much.

This brings me back to my point that we must train the local product. For some unknown reason dentistry has not been a very popular profession over the years. Why, I do not know. Perhaps it is because when the young fellows consider a profession like dentistry, they feel that the medical profession is better. This may be because they consider it is on a higher plane, culturally or socially. Anyway, whatever the reason, they usually take on medicine instead of dentistry.

There is a possibility the reason might go deeper than that, right back to the old days when a barber combined his hairdressing duties with those of dentistry. Perhaps students felt that because of this earlier practice, the profession was not now worth while. That may have accounted for the lack of interest in it.

This is not the position today because I understand many excellent students are ready to take up dentistry. The trouble

now is that the facilities for their training are just not available. I do not criticise the Government in this respect, but I do express regret that it has not been possible to make money available for the purpose.

When universities wish to expand their operations, and this expansion involves capital expenditure, submissions are made to what is called the Australian Universities Commission. This commission examines and evaluates the various submissions made. Three-yearly periods are involved, these being called triennium. One started this year and will extend till 1969.

This commission has become quite expert. In the past it has been an almost foregone conclusion that any submission made by this commission to the Federal Government will be accepted and any requests involved granted.

Prior to the last triennium, very few requests made by the commission to the Government were refused. However, there is a catch. Whatever money is involved is shared on a fifty-fifty basis, the Commonwealth Government paying half and the university concerned—or, in this particular case, the State Treasury—paying the other half.

When the last submission was made—that is, for the present triennium—it included a request from our Dental School for $650,000 for expansion. If this request had been granted, we would have been on the way at least to relieving the position to some degree. However, when the triennium started, the Federal Government cut by 20 per cent. the total money recommended by the commission. The Federal Government did this because some of the States had made it known that they would be unable to provide the matching money for the work required. I therefore assume that the request for $650,000 for the expansion of the Western Australian Dental School was refused because this Government was not in a position to pay its share of the money involved.

It might be supposition on my part, but I believe that the adviser to the University Senate, although not a member, would be the same adviser on financial matters as the adviser to the Government. This, of course, would be the Under Treasurer. He must have indicated that the money was just not available and that the project would have to be postponed.

In order to ascertain when it will be possible to make a start, we must now wait until the next triennium, which commences in 1970. To substantiate this point I will read an extract from a letter from Senator Gorton who is, of course, the Minister for Education and Science in the Federal Government. He said—

> Further grants cannot be considered until the recommendations of the Australian Universities Commission for the 1970-72 triennium are available.
>
> Therefore . . . . construction could not commence until the first day of the next triennium.

So if we are to expand our Dental School we must wait for the first day of the next triennium in 1970. I take it that to construct a school of that size, a year would be necessary and therefore, as the course is a five-year one, it will be 1975 at least before some of these students will be graduating from our Dental School. Consequently it will be 1975 before we can expect to begin to catch up on the present lag.

I understand that next year we are likely to get seven out of the 24 required. That position will deteriorate, because in 1968 there will be a lag of 17. Things will begin to improve a little in 1969 because of the students who are coming on, and the backlog will be only seven. In 1970 it will be 12, and six in 1971. So, in 1971, we will have fallen behind by a further 42.

I cannot see that we are going to remedy that state of affairs with the expected arrival of students or degreed men from other countries. I just cannot see it. I have tried to look at the position objectively, and I am not raising this matter in a critical manner. However, I do feel we must deplore the fact that the situation has been allowed to reach this stage.

This problem is world wide, according to the Minister's own statement, and therefore I do not feel we will gain any relief from other countries. I believe that whatever Government is in office must take into consideration the position which will develop unless a move is made at the next triennium. In view of what can be expected financially from the north of the State, it is possible the Government will have money available for the project. The school must be expanded. We know that students from this school are of the highest quality and a credit to the profession as well as being of great value to the State. I know both the Dental School and the Dental Board will ensure that this very high standard will be maintained.

Before I conclude I would like to say that we should establish reciprocity between Western Australia and the countries from which we expect to gain dentists. To be quite fair, I do not feel we could have made any approaches to those countries before, but now we are intending to allow them to come here, in all fairness the Dental Board should take up the matter of reciprocity with the American Dental Association. It would not be necessary to negotiate with the individual States of America because the matter could quite satisfactorily be negotiated with the American Dental Association.

The same applies to the British Commonwealth countries to which we are now opening our doors. If reciprocity were arranged, I feel there would be no skin off anyone's nose.

I mention these matters because I believe the problem is very acute and I have sympathy for the Minister and those responsible for overcoming it. Unless plans are made now so that in 1970 a move is made to expand our facilities, the position will undoubtedly worsen.

I support the Bill because I feel we might get some benefit from those other countries, and I would not be a party to anything which would stand in the way of solving the problem.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. J. G. Hislop.

House adjourned at 4.58 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 7th September, 1967

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

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Acknowledgment of Presentation to Governor

THE SPEAKER: I desire to announce that, accompanied by the member for Canning and the member for Merredin-Yilgarn, I waited upon His Excellency the Governor and presented the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech at the opening of Parliament. His Excellency has been pleased to reply in the following terms:—

> Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly: I thank you for your expressions of loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen and for your Address-in-Reply to the Speech with which I opened Parliament.

QUESTIONS (24): ON NOTICE

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Powers to Witness Documents

1. Mr. ELLIOTT asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

   Will he explain precisely what powers are vested in a member of the State Parliament as far as the witnessing of documents is concerned?

   Mr. NALDER replied:

   Pursuant to section 2 of the Declarations and Attestations Act, 1913-1962, members of Parliament have the same power as commissioners for declarations to witness any statutory declaration either under State or Commonwealth law, and to attest instruments. A copy of the booklet *Notes for the Guidance of Commissioners for Declarations*, which is supplied to commissioners for declarations on appointment, will be forwarded to the honourable member.

HOUSING

Priority over Cultural Centre

2. Mr. BRADY asked the Premier:

   (1) In view of the great number of people waiting for purchase homes, tenancy homes, and single-unit flats, totalling approximately 12,000, does the Government intend to proceed with the proposed cultural centre in Perth in 1968?

   (2) Would it not be preferable for all available money to be spent on homes to ease the big demand from applicants to the State Housing Commission?

   (3) Is he aware of the distress caused to many families due to lack of housing?

   Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

   (1) to (3) Whilst recognising the high priority of housing in the programme of works, the Government accepts the fact that some percentage of available funds should be set aside to provide for the promotion of cultural projects and associated works. The Government has gathered from various Press reports that the public generally are in favour of a start being made on this long-term project.

SUPERANNUATION AND FAMILY BENEFITS

Legislation to Increase

3. Mr. BRADY asked the Premier:

   (1) Is the Government considering amendments to the Superannuation Act to enable additional superannuation to be paid to Government employees on retirement?

   (2) When is the legislation to be introduced?

   (3) Can he give any indication of the Government's views on the proposed amendments?

   (4) Will all sections of Government employees be entitled to increased superannuation payments?

   Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

   (1) Yes.

   (2) In this current session.

   (3) and (4) The Government's intentions will be announced in due course.