

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 6th September, 1960

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

MILK SUPPLIES

Producers and Output

1. Sir ROSS McLARTY asked the Minister for Agriculture:
 - (1) How many producers are supplying milk through the Milk Board?
 - (2) What is the average daily quantity sold by each producer?
 - (3) Is it proposed to allow additional producers to enter the industry?
 - (4) Is it proposed to increase the daily quotas of those producers on 50 gallons and below?
- Mr. NALDER replied:
- (1) 527 producers are supplying milk under the Milk Board quota to treatment plants.
 - (2) The average daily quantity sold by each of those producers at present is 76.72 gallons.
 - (3) It is the board's policy to do so.
 - (4) Yes, where in the board's opinion the circumstances warrant.

PASTEURELLA VACCINE

Availability to Stockowners

2. Sir ROSS McLARTY asked the Minister for Agriculture:
 - (1) Is he aware that until last year pasteurella vaccine for the prevention of bracken fern poisoning in young cattle was freely available from the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories to stockowners on payment?
 - (2) Is he aware that today a certificate from a veterinarian is necessary before this serum is made available?
 - (3) What is the reason for this change of procedure?
 - (4) Are veterinary officers of the Department of Agriculture able and willing to give this certificate; and if so, under what conditions?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) During 1959, losses from anaphylactic shock occurred in calves in some of the dairying districts following the use of pasteurella vaccine. Similar losses also occurred in Victoria and Tasmania. As a result of these occurrences, the Commonwealth Serum Laboratory decided that for the time being there should be more control over the issue of the vaccine, in order that Government veterinary officers in the districts concerned would be in closer contact with the properties on which

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

the vaccine was to be used and also to ensure that the vaccine was used only in cases where it was really required and subject to the necessary precautions.

- (4) Veterinary officers of the Department of Agriculture in the districts concerned—i.e., Bunbury, Manjimup, and Albany—are able and willing to provide prescriptions wherever necessary. As long as the veterinary officer is satisfied that pasteurellosis occurs on a property and that it is desirable that vaccination should be carried out, no difficulties are put in the way of the owner in regard to the purchase of supplies of vaccine from chemists.

PRICE OF DOMESTIC ELECTRICITY

Collie-Bunbury and Perth-Fremantle

3. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) What is the average domestic quarterly electricity account in the Collie and Bunbury areas?
- (2) What is the average quarterly domestic electricity account in the Perth and Fremantle areas?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) Collie, approximately £4 3s.; Bunbury, approximately £5 10s.
- (2) Perth and Fremantle, approximately £5.

GASCOYNE RIVER CLAY BARRIER

Investigation by Public Works Department Engineers

4. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Have the engineers of the Public Works Department completed their investigations into the operation of the clay barrier in the Gascoyne River?
- (2) If so, is a report available, and will he table such report?
- (3) If the investigations are not completed, can he advise the House when they will be completed?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) No; but some conclusions have been reached.
- (2) Information to date can be sighted at the office of the Director of Works.
- (3) It is not possible to give an approximate time. It is most desirable to assess the effects of the 1960 major flood by obtaining monthly readings of level of water in the river-bed sands until the next river flow.

FREIGHT RATES: PERTH TO ALBANY

Increases and Previous Charges

5. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Railways:

What were the old freight rates per ton from Perth to Albany for the following commodities, and what are the new freight rates for the same commodities:—

- (a) groceries;
- (b) tea, coffee, drapery and whisky;
- (c) vegetables and fruit;
- (d) miscellaneous lots of vegetables up to 50 lb.;
- (e) hardware, machinery;
- (f) wines and tobacco?

Mr. COURT replied:

	Old Rate per ton	New Rate per ton
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
(a) Groceries	10 7 0	10 16 6
(b) (i) Tea and coffee ..	13 8 11	10 16 6
(ii) Drapery and whisky	16 16 2	17 12 0
(c) Vegetables and fruit (5-ton lots)	4 5 7	4 18 6
Vegetables and fruit (smaller quantities)	5 13 5	6 4 6
(d) Miscellaneous lots of vegetables (50 lb.)	*3 3	*4 6
(e) Hardware (agricultural)	13 8 11	10 16 6
Machinery (5-ton lots)	7 17 4	8 8 6
Machinery (smaller quantities)	10 7 0	10 16 6
(f) (i) Wines (4-ton lots)	5 13 5	6 4 6
Wines (1-ton lots)	7 17 4	8 8 6
Wines (smaller quantities)	10 7 0	10 16 6
(ii) Tobacco	16 16 2	17 12 0

* Actual Charge per Consignment.

ARGENTINE ANT CONTROL

Purchase and Disposal of Vehicles

6. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What was the number of Government-owned vehicles used by the Argentine ant control section of the Agricultural Department for the seasons 1957, 1958, 1959?
- (2) What were the mechanical costs of these vehicles for 1957, 1958, 1959 by way of maintenance?
- (3) How many vehicles were disposed of by tender after maintenance costing, and what price was received for each vehicle, and to whom were they sold for the years 1957, 1958, 1959?

- (4) How many vehicles were bought with the assistance of the Agricultural Department for employees engaged on ant control, and did employees receive mileage payment for their use?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- Year.
- | | | | |
|-----|---------|-------|--------|
| (1) | 1956-57 | ..... | Eleven |
| | 1957-58 | ..... | Eleven |
| | 1958-59 | ..... | Eleven |
| | 1959-60 | ..... | Eleven |
- (2) Costs of maintenance and servicing were as follows:—
- | | | |
|--|---------|-----|
| | | £ |
| | 1956-57 | 773 |
| | 1957-58 | 930 |
| | 1958-59 | 815 |
| | 1959-60 | 559 |
- (3)
- | | | | |
|--|---------|-------|-----|
| | 1956-57 | ..... | Nil |
| | 1957-58 | ..... | Nil |
| | 1958-59 | ..... | Nil |
| | 1959-60 | ..... | Nil |
- (4) (a) One.
(b) Yes.

Acreage Re-sprayed in Metropolitan Area and Albany.

7. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What acreage in the metropolitan area, including Wanneroo, had to be re-sprayed in the seasons 1957, 1958 and 1959, by the Argentine Ant Control section?
- (2) What acreage in the Albany area had to be re-sprayed in the seasons 1957, 1958, and 1959?

Cost of Treatment

- (3) What was the cost per acre for the metropolitan area, as against Albany per acre for complete treatment, including re-spraying, in the years 1957, 1958, and 1959?

Understandard Material

- (4) What quantity of material was returned to the supplier because it was found to be below standard for the years 1957, 1958, and 1959, for the whole of the State?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1)—
- | | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| | Year | Acres |
| | 1956-57 | 648.33 |
| | 1957-58 | 1522.25 |
| | 1958-59 | 2327.5 |
| | 1959-60 | 1663.25 |
- (2)—
- | | | | |
|--|---------|-------|--------|
| | 1956-57 | ..... | .75 |
| | 1957-58 | ..... | 30.5 |
| | 1958-59 | ..... | 53. |
| | 1959-60 | ..... | 305.75 |

- (3) The cost per acre of spraying for the metropolitan area is difficult to determine but would not vary

greatly from the average cost per acre of spraying for the whole of the State. A comparison of average costs per acre of spraying done is as follows:—

Year	State			Albany		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1956-57	11	0	0	14	0	0
1957-58	15	0	0	14	5	0
1958-59	21	5	0	14	10	0
1959-60	20	15	0	14	15	0

In the past two seasons average costs on a State basis have risen considerably owing to the very high costs involved in spraying the Wanneroo swamp areas.

- (4)—

Year						
1956-57	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
1957-58	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
1958-59	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
1959-60	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil

The following information may be of interest to members:—

The total cost of operations at Albany during the campaign was £45,871 of which £9,372 16s. was contributed by the local authority.

WELSHPOOL MARSHALLING YARDS

Resumptions

8. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Have all the resumptions in connection with the Welshpool marshalling yards, markets, and link lines been satisfactorily settled with the landowners concerned?
- (2) What was the total cost of these resumptions?
- (3) (a) Are there any more resumptions imminent in connection with the above?
(b) If so, what are these proposed additional resumptions?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) No.
(2) Cost to date—£406,466.
(3) (a) Yes.
(b) Minor resumptions for road closures and adjustment or diversion in connection with the Welshpool-Midland Junction railway.

NORTH AMERICAN VENDING MACHINE CO.

Operations in Victoria and Western Australia

9. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Attorney-General:

- (1) Having regard for the fact that the North American Vending Machine Co. Pty. Ltd., has been advertising extensively in this

State and no doubt attracted numbers of Western Australian investors, has he any knowledge of the basis of the reported action of the Victorian Attorney-General's Department of seizing the books of the company?

- (2) If so, will he advise if he has any legal authority in the matter, and if any action is contemplated by him?
- (3) If the answer to No. (1) is in the negative, will he cause urgent inquiries to be made?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) Telegraphic advice received from the Victorian Law Department indicates action was taken under section 465 of the Crimes Act. Section 465 of the Crimes Act of Victoria is comparable to section 711 of the Criminal Code of Western Australia; and it appears that the books of the company concerned have been seized under a search warrant, which may only be issued when there is good reason to believe that an offence has been committed.
- (2) It is intended that the affairs of companies of this class will be regulated by special provisions contained in the uniform companies Bill shortly to be introduced in this Parliament and all Parliaments in the Commonwealth. No complaint has been laid in this State against the company.
- (3) The Victorian Law Department has agreed to advise immediately definite action is decided upon.

MT. HAWTHORN ELECTORATE

Town-Planning Projects

10. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) What projects are expected to be undertaken in the Mt. Hawthorn electorate as a result of Professor Stephenson's report in regard to town planning and regional development?
- (2) Can he briefly outline details of such proposed undertakings which may be commenced in the electorate in the foreseeable future?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) (a) Roads—The following regional roads are within the Mt. Hawthorn electorate:—
 - (i) Part of the northern perimeter highway east of Wanneroo Road.
 - (ii) Part of the Yanchep Highway from Glendalough to Beach Road.

(iii) Part of the North Balcatta Road west of Wanneroo Road.

(iv) Part of Karringup Avenue from Odin Road to Flinders Street.

(v) Part of Scarborough Beach Road from King Edward Road to the future Yanchep Highway.

(vi) Part of Stephenson Avenue from Scarborough Beach Road northwards to Balcatta Beach Road.

(b) Regional Open Space—A major recreational area at Herdsman Lake.

- (2) Roads—Land for the major regional highways—items (a) (i) and (ii) above—has been acquired by the Main Roads Department where the final alignment of these roads has been established.

Construction is not expected for some years.

Land has been made available for road widening on part of the routes of the balance of the roads referred to in No. (1) (a) above. This has been secured in replanning of the areas and in subdivisional approvals.

Construction will depend on finance becoming available and the need for construction.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION

Adoption of Accounts

11. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Were the accounts of the State Electricity Commission adopted by the commission at its meeting on Thursday, the 1st September?

Results of Trading Operations

- (2) What are the details of the results of trading operations of the State Electricity Commission for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1960?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I will hand to the honourable member for his personal perusal and return a copy of the accounts which have not yet been audited.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

WATER RATES

"Pay-as-you-Use" System

Mr. CROMMELIN asked the Minister for Works:

Has a report been received from the independent committee which is investigating the question of a

pay-as-you-use system with regard to metropolitan water supplies? If so, when will the report be made available to the public?

Mr. WILD replied:

Yes; the report was received by me about half an hour before coming to the House. I intend to give it consideration, and will probably make a recommendation to Cabinet next week. At some later time the report will be made available.

EXPLOSIVES AND DANGEROUS GOODS BILL

First Reading

On motions by Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Chief Secretary), Bill introduced and read a first time.

BILLS (2)—THIRD READING

1. Absconding Debtors Act Amendment Bill.

On motion by Mr. Watts (Attorney-General), Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

2. Firearms and Guns Act Amendment Bill.

On motion by Mr. Perkins (Minister for Police), Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

CHEVRON-HILTON HOTEL AGREEMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Premier) [4.50]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The introduction of this Bill arises from an agreement entered into by the Government with Chevron-Hilton Hotels Limited, under which that company will build in Perth a modern hotel and tourist centre, incorporating a city airline terminal. The hotel will consist, initially, of 200 bedrooms and will cost approximately £2,000,000, including the cost of the site. That is all the agreement requires. However, at a second stage, it is intended to increase the accommodation to 400 bedrooms, and subsequently to 600. Each group of 200 bedrooms will be in a separate tower. As a result of a recent visit by the representatives of Chevron-Hilton, initial planning may now extend to 250 bedrooms.

Consideration has been given to the addition of an extra 50 bedrooms in the initial planning, as a result of what the representatives of the Chevron-Hilton hotel group saw whilst they were in Perth, and what they considered would be required for the opening of the 1962 Empire Games in Perth. The building will be fully air-conditioned and will have 23

floors. The top floor will be occupied by a sky-line restaurant offering a complete panoramic view of the city—such view extending to the Indian Ocean. There will be a ballroom capable of accommodating 1,000 guests, together with a cabaret-dining room to seat 500, and there will be other dining-rooms and specialty restaurants. There will also be specialty shops catering particularly for the convenience of tourists and guests of the hotel.

The hotel will follow the high international standard set by Chevron and Hilton hotels, and as such will be a very fine asset to the city of Perth and the State of Western Australia. Its construction will represent one of the most forward moves yet made to attract tourists to this State and will help to meet the shortage of first-class hotel accommodation from which the city has suffered. Opportunity has been taken to incorporate the construction of the hotel into a far-sighted and comprehensive town-planning scheme which is desired by the Perth City Council for the whole of the area bounded by Barrack Street, St. George's Terrace, Victoria Avenue, and Terrace Drive. When completed, this scheme will give Perth one of the finest civic areas in the world.

The agreement which covers the schedule to this Bill accordingly covers a number of matters, all of which are part of the general plan involved. The Reserves (Government Domain) Act of 1940 directed that an area of land between Government House and Christian Brothers' College be set aside for public buildings. In the metropolitan regional plan, the use of this area for public buildings was discarded in favour of the observatory site. Members will recall that a Select Committee inquired into the problem of a suitable site for the erection of public buildings, and it was decided to set aside that area alongside Government House; and legislation was introduced for that purpose. However, in the metropolitan regional plan, which was drawn up by Professor Stephenson, the use of this site for the erection of public buildings was rejected.

By the Reserves Act of last year, Parliament agreed to excise two areas—one adjacent to Christian Brothers' College, with a frontage of 200 links to St. George's Terrace; and the other, adjoining it, with a frontage of 170 links. The two-chain block was to be sold to the Taxation Department for the erection of a building to house that department. The smaller block was set aside for what was stated in the Bill to be "another important purpose." By letters dated the 8th December, 1959, the blocks were offered to the Taxation Department and to the other prospective purchaser. The land resumption officer of the Public Works Department had valued the block proposed for the Taxation Department at £95,000, and the other block

at £90,000. An outside valuation was obtained, which assessed the values at £128,000 and £110,000 respectively.

The Government adopted the private and higher valuation, and these were the prices sought from the proposed purchasers. Early this year, representatives of Chevron-Hilton Hotels Ltd. made known to the Government their interest in this area. They intimated their desire to construct a modern hotel and tourist centre in Perth and stated that, after a thorough survey, this was the only site on which they would be prepared to build it—that is, prepared to build such a large building and spend so much money.

Mr. Graham: That is pointing the gun at you!

Mr. BRAND: They offered to pay the combined price asked for the two blocks of the other prospective buyers. No reply whatever had been received from the Commonwealth property officer in regard to the offer of the block—which was the proposed site for the Taxation Department building—made on the 8th December, 1959; and this offer was withdrawn on the 18th February. We have heard, unofficially, that the price we had asked was considered to be much too high.

About the same time, the other prospective purchaser advised the Government it was not in a position to proceed with its proposal. Further negotiations were then undertaken between the Government and Chevron-Hilton Hotels Ltd., as a result of which an agreement was signed between that company and the Deputy Premier on the 12th May, 1960, the agreement providing for the sale to the company of the two areas which I mentioned, at the combined price of £238,000. In the meantime, the Government had been informed of the Perth City Council's proposed town-planning scheme, and the agreement with Chevron contained a provision that it could be modified if acceptable proposals were evolved. Chevron intimated that, so far as it was concerned, the council's plans were acceptable in principle, provided the council could resolve its outstanding problem with the various parties concerned.

I am happy to say that, as a result of very involved and intricate negotiations, which were marked by a spirit of co-operation and a genuine desire by all parties to secure a solution, success was achieved. The plans of the Perth City Council for the whole of this area are shown on Perth City Council drawing 2432. Copies of this and all other relevant plans and drawings have been laid on the Table of the House this afternoon. Briefly, those plans provide for the widening and beautifying of St. George's Terrace and Victoria Avenue, and for the widening of Terrace Drive and its continuance through the

existing Supreme Court building to join up with the street known as The Esplanade at Barrack Street.

In order to give effect to this proposal, the following arrangements have been agreed upon:—

- (1) The Perth City Council will purchase the existing Christian Brothers' College site. After excising the area required for street widening, the council will sell the balance to Chevron.

That is, the council wants land for widening St. George's Terrace and Victoria Avenue, and for what it will call the ceremonial drive.

- (2) Chevron will purchase from the Government the area as originally proposed, less approximately 14.2 feet on the western side.

The company will sell to the Perth City Council so much of this block as may be required for street widening at both the St. George's Terrace and Terrace Drive ends. The company will then build its hotel on the balance of these two adjoining sites, which will remain in its possession. The hotel will thus have a very fine position on the corner of the new alignment of St. George's Terrace, Victoria Avenue, and Terrace Drive. The third point is—

- (3) In order to provide Christian Brothers' College with a new site, the Government has agreed to make available to the Perth City Council an area of 14 acres north of the Causeway and adjoining the W.A.C.A. ground on its eastern side. The council will complete the reclamation of this site at its own expense and make it available to the college.

Originally the council requested that an area of 18 acres should be made available for this purpose. This, however, was considered to conflict with the metropolitan regional plan. Under the modified scheme of 14 acres, adequate provision was made for a planned road approach system at the western end of the Causeway, and both the Commissioner of Main Roads and the Town Planning Commissioner accepted the new college site as being compatible with the future planning of Perth.

To meet car-parking requirements which had previously been contemplated in this area, the council has undertaken to provide other parking areas in the vicinity. The Government will provide such services as gas, electricity, and water as may be required, but will not be called upon to meet other than normal expenditure in this connection.

Some time ago a one-chain road was provided for along the eastern boundary of the W.A.C.A. ground. In substitution for this, a wider road will follow the new

line of the river foreshore. The old road is therefore being closed; but as certain services—such as water and sewerage pipes—are included in this area, arrangements have been made for easements to the Government for their protection. Further arrangements are—

- (4) In return for the new college site, the council will give to the Government an area of 5½ acres of land adjoining the South Kensington School in Victoria Park. This area has been long sought by the Government for extensions to the South Kensington School.
- (5) The Government has recognised that the council's town planning scheme, when effective, will render it necessary for the land on which the Supreme Court buildings stand to be acquired by the council.

The Government has not been prepared to transfer the Supreme Court site to the council at this stage; but it has been agreed that when the time arrives at which a future State Government may decide to build a new Supreme Court, the Government of that day will transfer the land and buildings to the council. It is provided that when that time comes due regard will be had to the preservation of the building now occupied by the Arbitration Court. I understand that building has great historical significance.

It should be noted that there is no compulsion on the Government of the day to build a new Supreme Court on the site proposed by the council—namely, next to the Chevron Hotel on the Government House side. However, that area will still be available for such purpose if required.

The considerations for the transfer of the Supreme Court site are to be as follows:—

- (a) An area of approximately 41 acres at Mt. Kenneth, which the Government requires for water supply purposes, will be made available to the Government forthwith. It will be valued and the amount of the valuation will be credited but not paid to the council.
- (b) The land on which the Supreme Court buildings now stand will be valued and the amount credited to the Government.
- (c) If and when the Supreme Court site is made available to the council, the buildings will be valued at that time.
- (d) At that stage the council will pay to the Government the difference between the present valuation of the Mt. Kenneth water supply site on the one hand, and on the other hand the present valuation of the

Supreme Court land and the future valuation of the Supreme Court buildings.

The Government is anxious to obtain the site on Mt. Kenneth, in order to construct a reservoir, particularly in view of the demand which it is expected the Empire Games village will make upon our water supplies. Incidentally, it could also be said that had it not been for the demand that this village is likely to make, such outlay of money on the site would not be required for a number of years. Further considerations are—

- (6) The Government similarly appreciates that the completion of the council's plan requires the excision from Government House grounds of such substantial areas on both the north and south sides as to make the existing Government House no longer tenable as a Governor's residence. It is agreed that when the time comes that Government House is no longer required for this purpose—

incidentally, the Stephenson Plan provides, I think, for the Governor to live in King's Park; but that will be a hurdle for somebody else to jump—

the Government of the day will give the council the right to acquire on terms, then to be agreed upon, the land necessary for the widening of both St. George's Terrace and Terrace Drive.

- (7) The timetable for the various stages is dictated by the necessity to have the new hotel completed and in operation before the Empire Games in November, 1962. Details will therefore be as follows:—

The Council will complete the reclamation of the new college site by the 31st December, 1960.

The C.B.C. science building—that is, the science building within the existing building—will be demolished by the 31st December, 1960. The demolition of this portion of the C.B.C. buildings will be sufficient to permit the construction of the hotel to proceed.

I might interpolate here that we are told by the representatives of the company that something like £40,000 has already been expended on planning by architects, and other experts, in anticipation of Parliament's approval, and in anticipation of calling tenders forthwith. Further details are—

C.B.C. will give the Perth City Council vacant possession of the whole of the present college site by the 15th September, 1961, by which date C.B.C. will have completed the erection of their new college.

The council will demolish the remainder of the college buildings by the 30th September, 1961, thereby clearing the boundaries of the hotel site and making way for the widening of Victoria avenue.

The agreement between the Government and Chevron-Hilton Hotels Ltd. covers the following matters:—

- (1) The price to be paid by Chevron for the land purchased from the Government will be £224,160, representing the original price of £238,000 adjusted proportionally to the reduced frontage. A deposit of 10 per cent. (£22,500) will be payable after the approval of this Bill by both Houses of Parliament, and the balance will be payable on two equal annual instalments, free of interest.

The title of the land will not be issued to the company until the whole of the purchase price has been paid and the erection of the hotel completed. The company cannot dispose of, or encumber the land until this has been done.

- (2) The company will complete the first 200-bedroom section of the hotel two months before the Empire Games. The company's architects have been working on the plans for some time, and, as I have said, they have made a great deal of progress. Work on the site is expected to commence by the end of this year.
- (3) The company, in the construction of the hotel, will use local materials and employ local labour, wherever possible.
- (4) The ground and building plans will be subject to the approval of the Treasurer, and will make adequate provision for the privacy of Government House.
- (5) The company will make provision in its hotel for a city airline terminal, if desired by the airline companies operating in Perth.

It is a matter for the companies to make arrangements with Chevron-Hilton Hotels Ltd.; but the Government has stipulated that this service shall be provided in the new hotel, because it considers that facilities for a terminal, as is envisaged in this area, will be most helpful to the airline companies and to the people who travel by air.

Mr. Hawke: And helpful to the hotel.

Mr. BRAND: As the Leader of the Opposition said, it will, of course, be helpful to the hotel. In agreeing to provide these facilities and appointments for an airline

terminal, the company naturally has an eye to the advantages which it will derive. Continuing with the arrangements—

6. It is agreed that the company will be granted a publican's general license and a license to cover four restaurants. The Licensing Court may fix such premium as it thinks fit.

In accordance with clause 12 of this agreement this Bill makes provision for—

- (a) Approving and ratifying the agreement.
- (b) Requiring all parties to the agreement and the Christian Brothers' College to carry out their respective obligations.
- (c) The grant and issue of the required license under the Licensing Act.
- (d) Closing the portion of the road adjacent to the W.A.C.A. ground.

Mr. Graham: The company will be granted a license, notwithstanding the Licensing Act.

Mr. Bovell: Parliament is supreme.

Mr. Graham: It will be granted a license notwithstanding the Licensing Act.

Mr. BRAND: It is clearly understood that in view of such a huge outlay by the company, it should be provided with security. The company did not quibble about the premium which it has to pay in respect of the license. From inquiries I have made, I understand that the amount is substantial. The company desires security in respect of obtaining a license.

Mr. Nulsen: Under the Licensing Act, would it not be a provisional license?

Mr. BRAND: I suppose it would be, but the Attorney-General would be able to give the information.

Mr. Watts: A provisional certificate will be issued first of all. This Bill will grant a license straight out, subject to the Licensing Court fixing the premium.

Mr. BRAND: To proceed—

The Reserves Act passed last session provided that the proceeds of the sale of this land would be devoted solely to the purpose of erecting new public buildings on the Observatory site. In order to ensure this provision will be carried out, the land to be sold to Chevron-Hilton Hotels Ltd. has been vested in the State Government Insurance Office. The proceeds, when received, will be credited to that office, which will retain them and invest them in the proposed Government buildings.

This line has been taken to ensure that the proceeds from the sale of this land, which has been set aside for public buildings, will be used to construct public buildings on the site prescribed in the metropolitan region town-planning scheme. It

will be appreciated that this is a most important Bill, making provision, as it does, for the following:—

- (a) The erection on a magnificent site of a modern hotel and tourist centre of international standard. The company has shown great confidence in the future of Western Australia by its decision to make this large investment. Moreover Perth will receive valuable publicity through Chevron Hotels in Australia and Hilton Hotels in U.S.A., Canada, and other parts of the world.
- (b) The commencement of a town-planning scheme which will add great beauty to the city of Perth and provide it with a civic area unequalled by any capital city in Australia.

In order to carry out its obligations, the Perth City Council decided to raise the sum of £230,000 by loan. The time required for lodging objections to this loan has expired and no request for a poll of ratepayers was received by the council. It may thus be assumed that the council has the support of its ratepayers in its town-planning scheme for this area. To continue—

- (c) The transfer of a large college of over 800 boys from its present cramped and inadequate site. The grounds which it will occupy will be transformed from a waste and unsightly area to a site where the college will be able to develop in surroundings befitting an outstanding educational institution.
- (d) The acquisition by the State of two areas of land which it urgently requires: one for the extension of the South Kensington School, and the other for water storage in the City Beach locality.
- (e) The acquisition by the State of a substantial sum of money which it will be able to devote to providing urgently required new public buildings on the Observatory site.

This is an outline of the history of these proceedings. On this, the second reading debate of the Bill, I want to place on record the Government's appreciation, firstly, of the part which the Attorney-General played in the negotiations, and of the help given by him in respect of a very difficult piece of legislation involving so many agreements and so many parties; and, secondly, of the hard and long work undertaken by the Solicitor-General (Mr. S. Good), and the Crown Law Department which has enabled the Bill—although a bulky document—to be presented to Parliament in a manner which can be readily understood by all members; and, thirdly, of the co-operation of the chairman of the Tourist Development Authority (Mr. R. Doig).

Already this hotel of 200 bedrooms has been over-booked, no doubt in anticipation of the Empire Games to be held in 1962.

Mr. W. Hegney: Not all the accommodation will cost £220 a week.

Mr. BRAND: For the information of the honourable member, who is one of the more affluent of those in this Chamber, I do not anticipate that will be the case. However, we have all read that the company will be charging £4 to £4 10s. for bed and breakfast. Those of us who travel to the Eastern States from time to time are not unaccustomed to being charged those rates at the Canberra Hotel, or the Windsor Hotel in Melbourne. In any case, I cannot imagine this company, which is to spend £2,000,000 on the project, not being reasonably assured of some return on its investment.

The great advantage to this State, as a result of the establishment of this hotel, is that the company will, as far as possible, ensure that the hotel accommodation is filled, but it will draw the patronage of people from outside Western Australia—from the Eastern States and overseas. In that way, the hotel will be the means of attracting a great many visitors to this State, and those who are attracted will see Western Australia, in many instances, for the first time. They will be able to realise its possibilities and the advantages of investing in this State.

Mr. Graham: What effect do you think the establishment of the new hotel will have on the existing city hotels?

Mr. BRAND: I cannot say. It is quite obvious that the construction of a hotel of a very high standard, which will provide 200 bedrooms, must naturally cut across the patronage of the existing hotels in the city. That happens everywhere. Whenever a new competitor enters the field—whether it be in the hotel business, the grocery trade, or any other—the effect is the same as outlined by the honourable member.

Mr. Graham: The only difference is that hotels in the ordinary course of events must apply to the Licensing Court for a license; but in this instance, irrespective of the circumstances, Parliament is to grant the license.

Mr. BRAND: That action is taken in order that this State may obtain the definite advantages which a hotel of this standard will bring. The Government has not overlooked the fact that there has been some criticism of the accommodation available. In reading through the speeches made by the member for East Perth, I will be surprised if he has not, from time to time, referred to the lack of good hotel accommodation in Western Australia—the kind sought after by international tourists.

Mr. Graham: I do not think I have.

Mr. BRAND: Perhaps the honourable member has not made such a reference, but I have heard a similar reference made in this House time and time again. Here is an opportunity to bring competition into the hotel field. At present quite a number of hotels in this city are very busy improving the standard of their accommodation. It is very high indeed in some cases.

Mr. Graham: There are fewer hotels in the heart of the city today than was the case a generation ago.

Mr. BRAND: That is the trend in every other city in Australia.

Mr. Graham: This might flatten a few more.

Mr. BRAND: As far as I can make out, these people have no monopoly in the field; and I cannot help but feel that the coming to Western Australia of Chevron-Hilton Hotels Ltd. will be a decided advantage to this State in the ways which I have mentioned during the introduction of this Bill.

Mr. J. Hegney: What about the foresight of the Perth City Council in its planning?

On motion by Mr. Hawke, debate adjourned until Tuesday, the 13th September.

Message: Appropriation

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

CORONERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 1st September.

MR. NULSEN (Eyre) [5.22]: This Bill is to prevent statements being made at inquests that may prejudice the subsequent trial of a person charged with murder or manslaughter, and deals also with incidental matters. It will bring about a somewhat similar reform to that which applied under a Bill introduced in England in 1934. A coroner can accept hearsay evidence which will not be accepted by a criminal court.

Lawyers on both sides could go on a fishing expedition to obtain statements from witnesses in regard to a criminal charge, and these could prejudice the mind of a potential jurymen when they were published. The danger lies in the publication of committal proceedings. The accused is very often at a disadvantage because of the psychological impression that a jurymen may get. I think jurymen are cautioned not to take any notice of what they read, but only to listen to the evidence, which should be given fair consideration.

I would like to have seen the publication of police court committal proceedings dealt with, as well as proceedings at the

coroner's inquest. In my opinion, such publication could be detrimental to the accused person where it was seen by one or more persons who later became jurymen on the trial of the accused, particularly where the publication included a reference to evidence which, on trial in the Supreme Court, was held to be inadmissible. However, the Bill before the House is the Coroners Act Amendment Bill.

I listened attentively to the Attorney-General when he introduced this measure; and I have subsequently read it. I feel his exposition of the Bill was very clear, and I do not think anyone who has taken the trouble to read it would quibble with the measure. Acceptance of evidence by affidavit in a coroner's inquiry is quite informal; but sometimes there is a dispute. However, this is covered by the Bill. If one reads page 2 of the Bill one will find the following:—

On an inquest evidence may be given by affidavit, but the coroner, if he thinks just cause exists for doing so, may summon the person making an affidavit to attend before him as a witness for further examination or cross-examination.

There is no need for anyone to be fearful in this regard, so far as the Bill is concerned.

I agree that where it appears that a person causes the death of another, that person should be dealt with under the Justices Act rather than under the Coroners Act. Under the Coroners Act, evidence may be admitted that would be inadmissible in the Supreme Court; and this may prejudice a fair trial by a jury because of the publication of evidence before the trial. In the circumstances, this is a very good Bill; and, as I said before, a somewhat similar measure was introduced in England in 1934. Queensland and Tasmania, too, have adopted similar legislation. I do not really know what effect police court evidence would have on committal charges.

Mr. Watts: At least the Police Court is bound by the rules of evidence as is the Supreme Court, but not the Coroners Court.

Mr. NULSEN: When I was Minister, several complaints were received from various organisations in connection with the conduct of the Police Court. I am not a lawyer, and I do not know what the real effect would be; but if it would not prejudice a potential jurymen, I think that something should be done about it later on. Perhaps the Attorney-General will be able to explain the position in regard to the Police Court.

Mr. Watts: It is another jury; you cannot deal with that under the Coroners Act. I know that.

Mr. NULSEN: I agree to the Bill and commend it to the House. However, there is one small point I wish to raise. The

Attorney-General made mention of counsel who sought to bring a committal charge before the Supreme Court prior to its being dealt with by a coroner. I am still harping on this point; but could not that position also occur in regard to the Police Court?

I am satisfied with the Bill and feel that it will do what we, on this side of the House, have been advocating for many years. I dare say I am a bit of a culprit; I should have brought down similar legislation while I was Minister. However, we must be grateful to the Attorney-General for his having brought down the Bill. It removes some power from the coroner, in many instances, but it will protect the accused.

At different times an accused has suffered because of the fact that committal evidence, which has not been admissible, has been published; and, as a consequence, this has had an effect on the jurymen. Even if they are warned and told not to take any notice of anything they read in the paper in connection with the case brought before the coroner, there is a psychological effect resulting. I feel, in a prejudice against the accused.

I have felt very strongly about this matter for many years, and am pleased that at last something has been done in regard to it.

MR. HAWKE (Northam) [5.31]: I did not have the opportunity of hearing the Attorney-General explain the provisions of this Bill and am therefore not in a position to know for sure whether there is anything in it which would assist in the speeding up of coroners' inquiries; nor am I suggesting that anything like that might be attempted in this Bill if nothing in this connection is already included in it.

Mr. Watts: I think it will have that effect because there are some coroners' inquiries now held which will not be necessary under this Bill. Therefore there will be less work for the coroner to do.

Mr. HAWKE: The angle with which I am concerned has to do with those coroners' inquiries which are held months after some tragic occurrence has taken place. When the tragedy occurs, the near relatives of the person who is killed have of necessity to go through a harrowing period. Then after some months—it may be three months or four months; I suppose it could even be longer—the near relatives in question have to appear before the coroner and have the whole tragic affair reopened; and again they go through that harrowing experience to which I have already made reference.

I realise that in cases of this kind there has to be inquiry and investigation by the police and by other people before all the information required to enable the coroner to commence his inquiry can be made available. Nevertheless, on occasions when

I have been reading reports of coroners' inquiries, the length of time which has elapsed between the tragic occurrence and the commencement of such inquiry does seem to have been altogether too long. Therefore, my concern in the matter at this stage is to bring this feature under the notice of the Attorney-General in the hope that he will give it additional consideration, not so much in connection with the contents of this Bill as in relation to speeding up the investigatory processes so that they might, in regard to any case which has to be heard before the coroner, be completed in a far shorter period than appears to occur in some of the cases of which I have read reports in the newspapers from time to time.

MR. WATTS (Stirling—Attorney-General—in reply) [5.34]: I thank the member for Eyre for his contribution to this debate, and say to him that whatever views he may hold or I may hold in regard to the proceedings in the Police Court, to which he made reference, there is no place for them in this Bill. We cannot deal with the proceedings before justices under the Justices Act, or magistrates under the Justices Act, in a Bill to deal with coroners; and therefore discussions on that subject can be adjourned, I think, to a subsequent date.

I listened with interest to the Leader of the Opposition. I am aware that a number of people are concerned about the considerable delay that takes place in regard to some coroners' inquiries. Part of the reason for that is, of course, the need to call as witnesses other persons involved in the tragedy, and very frequently those persons are not available for many weeks because of the injuries they themselves have suffered; and therefore it is quite impracticable to proceed with the inquiry until they have sufficiently recovered to testify before the coroner—or anyone else, for that matter—so that sometimes the inquiry is opened and adjourned; while sometimes it is not even opened, for the reasons to which I have referred. However, I agree with the honourable member that there are other cases where there seems to be rather more delay than can be fully understood. I do not profess to know the reasons in regard to those instances.

I would say in regard to this Bill that there will be some instances where coroners' inquiries will not be necessary because, for example, an arrest may have been made and the coroner will not need to go on with his inquiry, as the person arrested will have been dealt with by the court. Therefore, the necessity to hold a coroner's inquiry into the matter will not arise, if he is convicted of the offence. But, in regard to the position generally, outside those two aspects, I am prepared to make inquiries and ascertain whether the position is as we think; and if so, I will advise the Leader of the Opposition.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

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

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 1st September.

MR. NULSEN (Eyre) [5.42]: This Bill, which is a protective measure in regard to radiation, has been introduced on the advice of the National Health and Medical Research Council.

In 1954 I brought down a Bill for a similar purpose, but on a greater scale. On that occasion doctors and dentists did not have to be licensed for X-ray photography. However, this amendment to the original Act makes it essential that doctors and dentists must register any irradiating apparatus that is used.

Mr. Hawke: More regimentation!

Mr. NULSEN: It means that all irradiating apparatus shall be registered, even though the doctors and dentists may be trained in their profession with regard to the use of radiation equipment. We now find that the National Health and Medical Research Council wants a complete record of all radiation apparatus; and I therefore feel this is a tightening up of the original Act. It will give the National Health and Medical Research Council a complete record of all radiation apparatus used and will assist it so far as inspection is concerned. I think it is only right that the council should be able to trace the use of any radiation equipment; and, under the terms of this amending Bill, doctors and dentists are required to register any irradiating apparatus they may possess.

I feel that the Bill will be helpful in giving the National Health and Medical Research Council further power with regard to tracing any use of radiation apparatus. I support the Bill and feel it is an amendment in the right direction.

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Health—in reply) [5.45]: I am happy to have the support of the honourable member in regard to this small amending Bill. It is brought down to help close a gap in the defence against radiation hazards for the benefit of the public by and large.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

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

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 1st September.

MR. EVANS (Kalgoorlie) [5.49]: In resuming the debate on this measure, I need only say that the Attorney-General, in introducing the Bill, clearly elucidated its principles and the amendments he sought.

There are two main amendments. The first is to overcome a difficulty that has been experienced—we might even term it an embarrassment—on some occasions by the legal profession concerning complaints about the conduct of some members of the profession made by members of the public to the Barristers' Board. This first amendment is to enable the secretary of the Law Society, if authorised by resolution of the council of that society, to make a complaint in writing to the Barristers' Board that a practitioner has been guilty of illegal or unprofessional conduct, or of neglect or delay in the conduct of his professional duties; and the amendment will authorise the society to appear and be heard at any inquiry by the board held in consequence of such complaint.

That seems a very satisfactory solution to this problem which, as I have stated, has been a source of some embarrassment in the past. But there is one point which could be borne in mind: not all the members of the legal profession are members of the Law Society. However, that is not my problem, if it is a problem at all.

I now pass to the second amendment. I intend to be brief in speaking to this measure, as I entirely support it. This amendment is to overcome a further difficulty which has been facing the Crown—not the profession this time—and it is in regard to the recovery of costs. For many years it has been the practice for costs to be awarded to the Crown when its own salaried officers have appeared for the Crown or its instrumentalities, and the Crown has been successful. However, in recent years, as the Attorney-General has pointed out, some doubt has been cast upon the competence of the court to award costs to the Crown and Crown instrumentalities when salaried officers of the Crown Law Department have appeared in court, as these officers have not, or generally did not, possess a practitioner's certificate, which is issued annually.

This amendment to the Bill is to overcome that difficulty: to provide that Crown Law officers appearing in such cases shall be regarded as private practitioners, and that costs may be recovered accordingly. I discussed this matter with the Attorney-General this afternoon because I have one pet aversion in regard to this matter, and it is in relation to the Justices Act. I think it is possible for an amendment to be made to this Bill to overcome what I

consider is an anomaly. I am having inquiries made to ascertain whether it would be competent for me to move this amendment, and also whether it would be desirable. It is my intention, when the information is available, to try to have an amendment placed in the Bill in another place.

If you will grant me this slight indulgence, Mr. Speaker, it appears to me that under the Justices Act it is not possible for a person who has been convicted of an offence in the court of first instance, and who successfully appeals against the Crown, to recover costs. If such is the case, I desire to amend the Bill by adding the following words:—

The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any action suit, or other proceedings in which, if the opposite party had been successful, such party would not have been entitled to such costs as ordinarily follow the event.

The subsection referred to is printed in the Bill (in proposed new section 62A). If I were to move that amendment, I do not think I would be offending our Standing Orders which provide that a private member cannot initiate any legislation which will have the effect of casting a burden upon the Crown. The effect of such an amendment would be far from increasing the burden, or placing a burden on the Crown. It would not decrease the revenue of the Crown but it would, in some cases, prevent the revenue to the Crown from being increased; because, under the Bill, if the Crown were successful, salaried officers would be competent to recover costs, but if the other party were successful, that party would not be able to recover costs. The effect of the amendment would be that where such a situation prevailed and the Crown was successful, its officers would not be able to recover costs either.

As I mentioned, I am having inquiries made in regard to this matter and an amendment may be moved in another place. In the meantime, I support both the provisions of this amending Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

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

MARKETING OF EGGS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [5.59]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This small but important amendment has been introduced at the request of the Western Australian Egg Marketing Board, and it is aimed at assisting that board in overcoming marketing problems, both locally and overseas. Although the phrasing of the amendment will enable the board to pay a premium on eggs for any particular quality required, the immediate problem is yolk colour. Overseas markets have progressively deteriorated and, as a result, greater emphasis must be placed on home consumption.

The deterioration of the overseas market has been brought about by keener and more efficient production methods in the European countries, because so many of these countries are producing much more than their own requirements. As a result, they are entering the export market that we have enjoyed exclusively in past years. For some time now marketing authorities, not only here but elsewhere, have been greatly concerned about poor yolk colour. Despite all arguments that pale eggs are of good quality, consumers want a golden-coloured yolk, and the purpose of this Bill is to authorise the board to promote the production of this type of egg by the payment of a premium.

Although nutritional experts agree that yolk colour is of little or no significance, and is not related to food value, there is no comparison, from the point of view of appearance, between a pale egg and one with a richly-coloured yolk; and, in stimulating sales and increasing consumption, appearance is a most important aspect. Experts say that this problem is easily overcome by feeding green feed, and therefore the producer is the only person who can put colour into the eggs; and, although it may cost a little more in extra labour, the authorities are satisfied it is a means of increasing sales.

Mr. Jamieson: It is a little like putting value back in the pound.

Mr. NALDER: The honourable member may have some information about that; and, if he has, I am sure the Treasurer would be pleased to know about it.

Mr. Jamieson: I know he would.

Mr. NALDER: It is felt that there is room for increased consumption on the local market; and any stimulus in this direction will be of great benefit to the industry as a whole, due to the better local prices as compared with export prices.

Regardless of the local market, however, we must look to our export markets to absorb the surplus production; and, in common with local consumers, the desire of the export markets is also for eggs with deep-coloured yolks. Overseas buyers have in the past drawn attention to the fact that our egg yolks have been pale compared with those bought from other countries. In addition to all the efforts on the

part of the board, the Department of Agriculture, through its poultry advisers, has always strongly advocated the feeding of green feed to all flocks. Unfortunately, despite these efforts, a large proportion of the eggs delivered to the Western Australian Egg Marketing Board contain pale-coloured yolks.

A survey made in February, 1959, included 66,639 dozen eggs from 584 farms; and of these eggs 36.8 per cent. had very pale yolks, 18 per cent. were reasonably coloured, and 45.2 per cent. had good, brightly-coloured yolks as required. I am assured that, from an administrative point of view, no insurmountable difficulties are foreseen. In the majority of eggs the candlers will be able to determine the pale-yolked eggs from the darker-coloured ones, but the exception occurs with brown-shelled or mottle-shelled eggs. In any case, it is proposed to have break-out tests on each line.

I would also point out that in almost every case of eggs forwarded to the board there is a percentage of cracked eggs or eggs with blood spots. Of course, automatically, those eggs are broken. This Bill will help the candlers to prove whether there are good quality yolks in the case of eggs forwarded by the producer.

As stated previously, the proposed amendment does not specifically refer to egg yolks, but to any quality which the board may desire to create or improve. For instance, it is quite possible that some future market might insist on eggs with either white shells or brown shells; and by the amendment the board will be in the position to promote the production of the required eggs by the payment of a premium. The board proposes to meet the premium from its equalisation fund; and it has given a written assurance that the proposal will not result in any additional cost in the price of eggs to the consumers. The equalisation fund, or pool scheme as it is sometimes called, is a fund to which all egg producers contribute on a uniform basis.

This fund is used to help offset losses incurred on export eggs, and the contributions by the producers vary. For example, the pool scheme charges are higher when production and exports reach their peak. Last spring the charges amounted to 9½d. per dozen, but later dropped to 2½d. per dozen in the autumn, when production fell. At present, the board also uses this fund to pay a premium of 2d. per dozen on eggs of export quality. In conclusion, I can only hope that adoption of this proposal will give egg sales the stimulus that is needed.

On motion by Mr. Kelly, debate adjourned.

COUNTRY HIGH SCHOOL HOSTELS AUTHORITY BILL

Second Reading

MR. WATTS (Stirling—Minister for Education) [6.8]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

In doing so I would like to say at the outset that one of the major reasons for the introduction of the Bill to Parliament is the expectation that the authority, when created, will be able to exercise the borrowing powers which will be conferred upon it if the Bill becomes an Act. This is to enable it to provide some additional funds with which it is hoped to grapple, to a better extent than has hitherto been possible, with the problem of affording high school students, who live a distance from the school, hostel accommodation when they come in from those distant places to high schools in the country. For, although the expenditure from loan funds to be applied to buildings for the Education Department was, last year, somewhat greater than has hitherto been provided—and this year will be very substantially greater than was provided last year—nevertheless the problem of being able, in addition, to grapple with the necessity for providing, in a number of new places, buildings that will be suitable for the reception and lodging of high school students, is becoming rather more difficult, than less difficult.

So consideration was given to ways and means whereby some contribution could be made to the overcoming of this difficulty in the manner I have mentioned; and therefore it was decided to introduce legislation for the creation of this authority. There are some other advantages to be gained by having such an authority; especially in the circumstances that exist so far as the management of existing hostels in various country places is concerned; because it does afford an opportunity of giving some recognition to those institutions which hitherto have taken a major part in the conduct of these premises, greatly to the advantage of the students; and, at the same time, giving great assistance to the Education Department and, hence, to the Government of the State.

Nobody, I think, who is here, contemplates with any equanimity the idea of Government boarding-houses, run as such; and therefore the service rendered by such bodies as the Country Women's Association and the Church of England—and, to some extent, others—has, as I have said, been of immense value to the students concerned, to Western Australia, and to its Government over a long period of years; and through the terms of office of succeeding Governments of the State.

In order to give some idea of the hostels that exist at the present time for the accommodation of high school students at

several centres, I have here a list of Government-owned hostels conducted by approved associations. We find that at Albany there is The Rocks Hostel, in Grey Street, which is controlled by the Country Women's Association. There is also the Priory Church of England Hostel, in Burt Street, Albany, which is controlled by the Church of England. There is, again, The Residency, in Stirling Terrace, Albany, which is controlled by the Country Women's Association.

It will be seen that in those cases the three premises have been provided by the Government: one by purchase—that is, The Priory Church of England Hostel in Burt Street; another by the conversion to the present usage of certain Government buildings that exist in the Albany township; while The Rocks, of course, was originally a Governor's seaside residence, and about 12 or 13 years ago, I think, was converted to its present purpose.

The Residency was the former dwelling of the resident magistrate at Albany; and, when the present magistrate became the proprietor of his own dwelling, this building was converted to its present use. In each case, of course, there was involved some Government expenditure in the way of alterations or renovations. In the first case I am given the figure of £3,506; and in the case of The Residency, an amount of £7,326; while the purchase price of and renovations to The Priory building involved the Government of that day in a total expenditure of £22,636.

At Bunbury, there is a somewhat similar position. Craig House Boys' Hostel, in Fraser Street, is run by the Country Women's Association; and the expenditure by the Government on that was only a matter of £3,001. The C.W.A. Girls' Hostel, in Hay Crescent, is run also by the Country Women's Association, and involved the Government in an expenditure of £22,400. There is at Merredin what is known as St. Michael's House, run by the Church of England, which is, of course, the property of the Department of the Interior, and is at present leased to the State Government.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. WATTS: At the tea suspension I was referring to the fact that at Merredin there was a hostel run by the Church of England, the building used in connection therewith being the property of the Department of the Interior of the Commonwealth Government, and rented by the State Government. I would say that this is one of the first places that the authority, if constituted, will find it necessary to give some attention to, as the premises are not particularly desirable; and I understand also the Commonwealth Government is not anxious to continue the lease for any lengthy period.

There are also, in country high school towns, privately-owned hostels which are run by approved organisations. They include Forrest Lodge at Geraldton, which is run by the Church of England; St. Christopher's Boys' Hostel at Northam, which is run by the Church of England; and the Girls' Hostel at Northam, which is controlled by the Country Women's Association. There is at Albany the Norman House Hostel, the premises of which are owned by the Albany Methodist Church and in respect of which the Government pays a rental. That is the only one at present controlled by the Methodist Church at a country high school centre.

I have referred to the fact that a very much more substantial amount is being made available for the erection of Education Department buildings during the current year than was the case last year or previously. According to figures supplied by the officers of the department, last year 238 classrooms were completed, which was a greater number than had been completed in any previous financial year. I anticipate the number which will be completed during the current financial year will be greater than the number which was completed during the last financial year. In those circumstances the additional classrooms this year will make some substantial contribution towards catching up with the arrears, and towards providing the essential accommodation in places where it is required; in some instances none exists because of the development of new centres in recent times.

As I have indicated, even with all that, it is extremely unlikely that the full demands of the department can be met from the available funds. This Bill is intended to make a contribution towards meeting the situation to the extent that it will enable the authority to be created to tackle the problem of hostels in country high school districts. There is a number of places where high schools already exist; and for the moment I do not include in the term "high schools" the many schools which are known as junior high schools. I exclude them for the moment and still say there are many places where some attention must be given to this problem, notable among them being Manjimup where, without question, there is a need for some accommodation to be provided. There are also other centres where no accommodation exists, and they must be given consideration. In some, such as Albany, there is a warrant for increased accommodation, if only by additions to its existing buildings.

It is proposed to bring the Act into operation on a date to be fixed by proclamation, because it is necessary to determine the personnel of the board or the authority before it is proclaimed. The Bill provides that a high school means a Government school established or maintained

as a senior high school or high school under the Education Act, 1928, and situated in the country areas of the State, and any junior high school established or maintained as a junior high school under that Act and so situated which the Minister declares to be a high school for the purposes of the Act.

There may be at some future time premises which are required in a town where only a junior high school is being conducted, for the reason that a number of the students attending that school have, by reason of its situation in this State, to be brought from a distance. While I would say there is no present intention of declaring any such place—a town in which a hostel would be required for a junior high school, with the possible exception of Carnarvon—nevertheless it is desirable that the term “high school” should include the term “junior high school,” where such a declaration is made by the Minister who is in office for the time being.

The Minister, of course, is defined as meaning the Minister for Education; and in a measure of this kind, I should think this would be regarded as being completely desirable. It is proposed that the authority, in the first instance, shall consist of six members to be appointed by the Governor. There is a proviso, however, that if later on other organisations than those which are at present conducting three or more hostels on behalf of the Government—as I have indicated, we now have the Country Women's Association, and the Church of England—are placed in the same position, such organisations can be added to the personnel of the authority, and thus increase it beyond six—but the Bill provides that it shall not go beyond nine.

Dealing with the position as immediately contemplated when the authority consists of six members, it is provided that two of them shall be nominated by those bodies which, immediately prior to the coming into operation of the Act, were conducting three or more hostels. The other four shall consist, in the first instance, of a person nominated by the Minister; secondly, a person nominated by the Treasurer of the State; and, lastly, two persons nominated by the Minister, who shall be public servants under the provisions of the Public Service Act, and of whom one shall be an officer of the Education Department of the State.

Obviously, from the balance of the Bill it will be apparent why it is desirable that there should be a representative of the Treasurer; and in dealing with the question of the appointment of two public servants, I think the Bill provides specifically that only one shall be an officer of the Education Department. It is obviously competent, as both officers are to come under the Public Service Act, to appoint both of them from the Education Department if that is considered desirable. On the other

hand, it might be more advantageous to find, in certain circumstances, a more suitable officer from some other department of the service. Therefore it is proposed that there shall be some freedom of choice in that direction.

The authority will be deemed to be established when the six persons referred to have been appointed. It is provided, too, that the term of office shall be five years; but there are provisions for retirement of some at the end of three years, and of others at the end of five years, so that there may be a prospect of some continuity in regard to the policy or management of the authority.

It is provided, too, that the Governor shall appoint one of the members as chairman. The decision of the authority shall be decided by the majority of the persons present and voting, no provision having been made for any casting vote by the chairman. It is not intended that the members of the authority shall be paid any specific allowance or fees per meeting; but there is provision that they shall be entitled to such travelling expenses as are prescribed, because it can easily be observed that it may be necessary for them to do some travelling; and, quite obviously, if they incur expense in that direction they should be recompensed for it.

The Bill provides that the authority, when established, shall be a corporation with perpetual succession and a common seal, and with all the powers of dealing as a corporation as set out in the Bill. It also sets out the functions of the authority, the major ones of which are to provide, or cause to be provided, accommodation in hostels for students enrolled in high schools; to supervise and maintain hostels; to recommend to the Minister the alteration of or the addition to any premises used as hostels, the erection of new buildings, or the purchase or sale of buildings, for hostels; with the prior written approval of the Minister, to erect buildings for hostels, alter, add to, or sell buildings used as hostels, or purchase buildings to be used as such; and to arrange for the leasing or the grant of a license to any person, upon such terms and conditions as the authority and that person agree upon, as a hostel for the purpose of providing accommodation for students therein.

Of course, “person” is defined by the Interpretation Act, and covers corporations as well as persons. It does not, therefore, mean individuals only—rather the contrary. At the present time, and for some time past—I think my honourable friend, the member for Melville, directed this particular action—no rental has been charged to organisations which are using Government premises for hostel purposes. Prior to that time, some very nominal rentals were charged; but I agree that the present system is a better one, because I see no

evidence—and I think the honourable member would agree that this was the position at the time he made the direction—of any very profitable operations being conducted by these organisations. Therefore, the suggestion of charging them rent seems to be completely out of court. There is no intention that such practice shall be departed from. Indeed, that is one of the reasons why it is proposed that the Minister should have, as will be seen from the Bill, some overriding control, because the Bill goes on to say in the succeeding clause—

In the exercise of its powers and functions under this Act the Authority shall have regard to any representations that may be made by the Minister to give effect to any decision of the Government in relation thereto, conveyed to the Authority in writing by the Minister.

While I do not suppose that a body having upon it two representatives of organisations which are accustomed to running these institutions would be likely to favour any alteration in that policy, nevertheless that clause would permit its being prevented, if that idea came before the authority.

There is provision for committees to be appointed to exercise delegated powers of the authority; and there is also power for the authority to co-opt the services of any officer within the meaning of the Public Service Act as secretary or officer of the authority, by agreement with the Public Service Commissioner. It is not possible—at this stage anyway—to see the necessity for any full-time permanent employment of more than, perhaps, one person; but even that would be subject to agreement with the Public Service Commissioner. Therefore, I think the point is well covered.

There are, of course, provisions to protect the privileges of any such person co-opted under the Public Service Act. It is proposed that the land and buildings now used as hostels shall be vested by the Governor, when requested by the Minister, in the authority; but it is also set out that the authority shall use the land so vested under and subject to this Act and for the purposes of this Act; and shall hold it for and on account of the Crown. So it is not proposed that the Crown shall be thoroughly divested of its rights in regard to the land; it is only proposed, for the purposes of the operations of the authority, that the land shall be vested in the authority, subject to what may be regarded as a trust for the Crown.

Then follow the borrowing provisions, which I have already indicated are among the most important parts of the Bill, whereby the authority, with the prior approval of the Treasurer in writing, is authorised to borrow, but not to go further than £100,000 in any one year, and the Treasurer can give a guarantee not only in respect of the capital money but also in

respect of the payment of interest, because obviously in the absence of any rents or fund of that nature, the authority is not going to have any great revenue unless someone, as is suggested in one part of the Bill, might feel inclined to leave it something in his will. So it will be quite obvious that the Treasurer would have to pay, as indeed he does now in respect of any obligations that exist regarding moneys owing in regard to existing hostels, the interest as well as the capital. Guarantees will have to be extended to both.

There follow then provisions that the authority shall in July of each year prepare a statement showing all the moneys advanced by the authority for the erection or repair of hostels, or any addition made thereto, and repayments made by the authority on account of any principal sums borrowed and interest thereon then remaining unpaid; and a revenue account and balance sheet for that year; and all expenses incurred and money spent by the authority in the administration of this measure by the authority. The authority shall send a copy of the statement to the Minister within seven days after it has been prepared. There is a typographical error which I propose to have altered in Committee. The word "board" is used instead of "authority."

Next there is a provision for indemnity for a person who has been a member of the authority, making that person not personally liable for anything done or committed in good faith in connection with the exercise or purported exercise of any power conferred under the Act. Lastly, there is provision for the Governor to make necessary regulations. Provision is made for him to impose a penalty not exceeding £20.

For the reasons I gave first of all in regard to those matters, it will be apparent that it is desirable to create this authority. I am satisfied that if it is in a position, as I fully understand it will be, to raise from extraneous sources—by "extraneous sources," I mean not from Government loan funds—a sum of £100,000 a year, to carry out that programme for, say, three years, on present indications it will have made a very great contribution to the solution of a somewhat difficult problem. That is not to say that its operations will not have to continue beyond three years; because, quite apart from other aspects that may arise, one cannot completely foretell the growth or demand that may exist after a period of three years; but this present situation would appear to indicate that the immediate operations of the authority could be substantially satisfactory during a period of three years if it were able to expend £100,000 per annum.

It is difficult, of course, to form any estimate of the cost of any given building, because that can be assessed only when the size of it and the number of persons to be accommodated are known; but it would be

extraordinary if that sum did not enable the acquisition or erection of at least three suitable premises in each of the three years; and that, I think, would go further towards the solution of this problem than we have been able to go in any period of three years up to the present time.

On motion by Mr. W. Hegney, debate adjourned.

MESSAGES (2)—APPROPRIATION

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

1. Marketing of Eggs Act Amendment Bill.
2. Country High School Hostels Authority Bill.

POLICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. PERKINS (Roe—Minister for Police) [8.56]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is one that really falls into three sections. In the first instance it is sought to revise penalties under the Act; secondly, to amend two sections—66 and 90A—which, by recent happenings, have been highlighted; and, thirdly, to make an amendment which is aimed at giving the Commissioner of Police control over people carrying placards or notices on city roads.

The need to increase penalties prescribed in the various Acts and regulations has received consideration by various Governments in past years. In 1957 it was agreed in principle by the then Government, that fines which had been prescribed prior to 1948, and had not been altered subsequently should be doubled. To enable this, it was necessary to amend each individual Act or regulation. Since that time attention has been given to the penalties imposed in a number of statutes as they came up for amendment.

One of the last was the Justices Act which was amended to provide imprisonment of one day for the default of each £1 in lieu of three days for each £1.

Police Act penalties, many of which have remained unchanged since they were imposed by the Police Act of 1893 and 1894, have not been touched, and I feel that the time has arrived for revision to bring it more in keeping with present-day values of money so that the increased amounts will act as a stronger deterrent, as no doubt they were intended to in past years.

The Bill, however, does not confine itself to increases, but suggests that provisions for the minimum penalties be deleted, as it has been felt that the fetter of a minimum penalty could lead to injustices in certain cases. I feel that a magistrate

having heard the evidence by both prosecution and defence, is in a position to reasonably assess a suitable penalty.

As to the extent of the increase, it has been found unwise to adopt a set formula. For instance, in most sections of the Act dealing with public nuisances the present penalty is 40s. Examples are sections 42, 44, 96, 98, 103, 104 (£1), 112, and 117. Similar offences are dealt with by the Health Act, 1911; the Road Districts Act, 1919; and the Municipal Corporations Act, 1906, together with the by-laws made under those Acts. The penalties prescribed by the by-laws in all cases are £20. Accordingly, I feel that to preserve uniformity the maximum penalty in all these cases should be raised to £20. However, it has not been necessary to make such an increase in all cases.

Section 66 at present deals with the person having in his possession or custody without lawful excuse, implements of housebreaking such as picklock, key, crow, jack, or bit. However, experience has revealed that explosives designed for use in the commission of crime, such as safe-blowing, are readily available to offenders through retail shops, or by thefts of such matter from temporarily unattended quarries.

The destruction of two cars by the use of fractureur and the finding on the person of a notorious criminal of sticks of fractureur readily come to mind to emphasise the need to include in the subsection "explosive substance."

A further suggested amendment to this section is the inclusion of an additional paragraph to cope with the type of offender, commonly referred to as a "Peeping Tom." Reports of the activities of these people are amongst the most persistent reports received by the police. At the present time resort is had to the provision regarding loitering, under section 43 of the Police Act; or that concerning a person being "unlawfully on the premises," under section 66, subsection (8) of the Police Act. Some years ago it was held, on appeal, that peeping at women disrobing in their dwelling was not unlawful, and that a charge of being unlawfully on premises should not be laid.

The suggested amendment will enable police to deal with a type of pest whose known presence—although he may not intend any indecency or have any intention towards the person he is watching but merely derives some personal satisfaction—does cause the inmate or inmates of the dwelling to become fearful.

In regard to section 90A, which deals with false reports to the police, a new subsection is suggested to combat the actions of the type of people who are far too numerous and mislead the police, causing essential manpower, whose life is sometimes endangered, to carry out investigations on fictitious offences.

Owing to a ruling some years back by the then senior puisne judge, it is evident that as the Act now stands the Commissioner of Police does not have sufficient control over people carrying placards or notices on city roads. This is not desirable, and thus an amendment is sought to give him such power. It might be thought by some that such amendment should be made to section 96; but this section appears in Part VII of the Police Act, a part which does not have any force or effect if a local authority enacts by-laws or regulations for effecting a similar object. For this reason the amendment is sought by the provision of a new section to follow section 59.

On motion by Mr. Brady, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 8.2 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TRAFFIC EDUCATION CLASSES

Attendances

- Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Transport:
 - How many traffic offenders have attended the traffic education classes since their inception?
 - How many persons have voluntarily attended those classes?

Traffic Breaches of Those Attending

- How many of the traffic offenders committed offences relating to driving behaviour as distinct from parking, absence of windscreen sticker, and suchlike?
- How many of those referred to in No. (1) have since been charged for subsequent traffic offences?
- How many of those referred to in No. (3) have since been charged for subsequent traffic offences relating to driving behaviour?
- How frequently are the traffic education classes held?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- 4,021.
- 452.
- 2,010.
- 288.
- 144.
- Lectures are held every alternate Tuesday evening, public holidays permitting.