Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: The Government's approach to this matter is that the closure of Wooroloo, with all its pressing complexities, as a hospital, as well as the Government's endeavour to implement the plan I have mentioned, is in the best interests of the patients.

Our advisers on this issue are hospital and medical experts who are responsible to the Government for the planning and development of a vast health and hospital system for the care and treatment of patients' ills. These experts firmly believe that what is being done is in the best interests of the people of this State.

I will not go on and talk about the useful purposes to which this institution could be put so far as a prison is concerned. I have tried to tread warily in this respect, because of the terms of the motion.

I say again that a committee of experts was formed and it gave advice to the Government on this matter. Those on the committee from the Public Health Department included the Commissioner of Public Health (Dr. Davidson), the Assistant Principal Medical Officer (Dr. H. J. Rowe), the Under-Secretary of the Department (Mr. J. J. Devereux), and the Principal Matron (Miss P. F. Lee). They had the power to co-opt others to examine all facets of the matter. They have examined them over a lengthy period of time and have recommended that this step be taken.

Mr. Davies: Whom did they co-opt?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I suppose they co-opted representatives from a number of departments. I think at one time the committee asked the Child Welfare Department whether it would like to have Wooroloo.

Mr. Graham: It sounds like Government by bureaucracy.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: It is difficult to understand the interjection.

Mr. Davies: It should not be, the way the Minister is speaking.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: It is most unlikely, if not impossible, that these highly-respected officers would recommend such a decision lightly. The Government has accepted the recommendation and intends to proceed with the plan.

Mr. Graham: You will rue the day.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I say this is the right action for the Government to take. I say, too, that the Labor Party will find it will get nowhere at the next election from jumping on this political bandwagon. I oppose the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Davies.

House adjourned at 9.40 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 18th September, 1969

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 3 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (7): ON NOTICE

1. MAIN ROADS

Effect of Main Ord River Dam

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) Are any main roads, or roads connecting Kimberley and Northern Territory station properties likely to be submerged by the waters to be impounded by the main Ord River Dam when completed?

(2) If so, what approximate mileages of variously classified roads now in use are involved?

(3) Have surveys been made, and are plans available, of alternative new routes where deviations are thought to be necessary?

(4) Do some of the proposed deviations encroach on Northern Territory pastoral leases, and if so, have consultations taken place with Northern Territory authorities in regard to the use of the land affected?

(5) Will the Main Roads Department of this State be responsible for the finance necessary to meet the cost of road construction involved?

(6) Is a reliable estimate practicable at this stage to indicate the likely costs involved?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) No declared main roads will be affected by waters of the Main Ord Dam. Almost 36 miles of the Duncan Highway and approximately eight miles of Argyle Downs Station access road will be affected.

(3) Survey has been completed of the 36 mile deviation to replace the affected section of the Duncan Highway, and plans are now in course of preparation. In the case of Argyle Downs access road, no decision has been possible as negotiations are still in progress regarding continuation of this pastoral lease.

(4) Yes. The proposed deviation of the Duncan Highway will be located in the Northern Territory over the greater portion of its length. Negotiations with the Northern Territory authorities will proceed as soon as plans have

been finalised. Some discussion has taken place with pastoralists concerned.

(5) Yes, as provided under the State Grants (Beef Cattle Roads) Act, 1968.

(6) No. Preliminary estimates indicate an expenditure of approximately $613,000.

2. DROUGHT RELIEF

Arrangements with Hire-Purchase Companies

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

In view of the fact that—

(a) many farmers in areas stricken with drought, who have hire-purchase repayments for agricultural machinery due in 1970, and further payments due in 1971, and will have no crop this year to finance these payments;

(b) many of these farmers have endeavoured to renegotiate their hire-purchase agreements so as to omit the 1970 payments and commence again in 1971;

(c) farmers have been told by some hire-purchase companies that an amount of $500 would be required to renegotiate agreements; and

(d) as this situation is impossible for farmers having no crop this season—

will the Minister take all the appropriate action possible to request hire-purchase companies to cooperate with farmers on more generous terms?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Requests for extension of time are not unusual occurrences, but it can be expected that there will be more requests this year.

Usually arrangements are made between the farmer, his banker and the hire-purchase company to overcome the problem.

3. PROBATE

Release of Information

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS (for The Hon. G. E. D. Brand) asked the Minister for Justice:

As the publication of information concerning the granting of probate on certain large estates can cause much embarrassment even at a later date (or time), will the Minister ensure that such information is not divulged without the permission of the family concerned?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Prohibition on the publication of details of the value of deceased estates would require legislation, including restriction on the right of any person to search court documents. Such a restriction would no doubt be opposed by persons who have a genuine interest in obtaining details of the values of estates.

4. EDUCATION

Exmouth State School

The Hon. G. W. BERRY asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) Has a contract for building of new classrooms at Exmouth State School been let?

(2) If so, who was the successful tenderer, and when is it expected that the classrooms will be ready for occupation?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) and (2) A firm which tendered has been advised that its offer is acceptable subject to the submission of a satisfactorily priced bill of quantities. The specified completion period for the contract is eight months from the formal date of acceptance of the tender.

5. ORD RIVER DAM

Area to be Submerged

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE asked the Minister for Mines:

Will the Minister ascertain whether a map could be tabled in Parliament clearly marking the areas to be submerged when the main Ord River Dam is full to its maximum level?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Yes. See Paper 100.

The map was tabled.

6. TRAFFIC

Causeway Approaches

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS (for The Hon. G. E. D. Brand) asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) With the object of relieving the extreme traffic congestion which occurs at peak periods at the eastern end of the Causeway, will the Minister submit the following proposals to the appropriate authorities—

(a) remove the roundabout and create cross roads with traffic lights to enable the free flow of north to south and east to west bound traffic;

(b) control traffic turning left from any of the four approaches to the cross roads by strategically placed traffic islands and arrow traffic signals; and

(c) control traffic turning right by utilising a "right hand turn only" approach bay and appropriate right hand arrow traffic signals?

(2) Is there any plan envisaged to improve the situation at the western end of the Causeway by means of overways and/or underways?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) Yes. The matter has been submitted to the Main Roads Department who advise as follows—

(a) Replacement of the roundabout with traffic lights would bring about a reduction in traffic capacity and only result in increased congestion.

(b) As indicated in (a), it is not intended to install traffic lights. However, the Main Roads Department propose to construct a slip road to improve left turning movements from Canning Highway on to the Causeway.

(c) Answered by (a).

(2) No. However a proposal to provide slip roads to improve left turning movements on and off the Causeway is under consideration.

7. ARCHITECTS BOARD

Tabling of Minute Book

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS asked the Minister for Mines:

With regard to the Minister's reply to part (a) of my question of the 17th September, 1969, requesting the tabling of the minute book containing the record of meetings held by the Architects Board of Western Australia, would the Minister explain why it is not possible to accede to the request?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

As the honourable member should know, there is no obligation whatsoever to table any files or papers.

In regard to minute books or records of meetings it is considered unwise to create a precedent in regard to tabling proceedings of meetings which, out of the context of discussion and debate, can be misunderstood and misconstrued; however, if the honourable member wishes he may peruse the minutes in the secretary's office by making arrangements with the Under-Secretary for Works.

FAUNA CONSERVATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), and read a first time.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ACT

Deletion of By-laws: Motion

THE HON. R. F. CLAUGHTON (North Metropolitan) [3.16 p.m.]: I move—

That the Institute Land by-laws made under the Western Australian Institute of Technology Act, 1966, and published in the *Government Gazette* on the 11th June, 1969, be amended by deleting by-laws 22 (b) and 28 (c).

A great deal has been said at different times about the irresponsibility of youth and yet, in the by-laws made under the Western Australian Institute of Technology Act, we see an example where young adults are not given the opportunity to demonstrate their responsibility. I contend that these by-laws serve to demonstrate the unnecessary intrusion on the liberty of the students by the Council of the Institute of Technology.

For the information of members I shall read the by-laws to which my motion refers. By-law 22 (b) reads—

A person shall not, without the permission of the Council—

(b) distribute or give out any placard, handbill, notice, advertisement or any matter in writing.

By-law 28 (c) reads—

A person shall not—

(c) sell or purchase or offer for sale or to purchase an interest in or a ticket or coupon for, or which purports to be for, a consultation, sweep, horse-race, or lottery.

It is some years now since we in this democratic State achieved the right to publish freely the views we hold without reference to any other authority. Yet we find that an academic institution, such as the Western Australian Institute of Technology, can lay down in its by-laws that this same right can be held by the individual only with the permission of the institute. This is an excessive intrusion on the liberty of the individual. Surely what the institute seeks to prohibit by its by-laws should be the right of every individual.

We might ask ourselves: why are these by-laws made? To what are they directed? Are they to protect the morals of these young people from undesirable influences?

It is difficult to see any other reason. Surely members of the Council of the Institute of Technology do not intend to dictate to the students regarding the way they should behave. That is a personal matter, and the laws of the State are able to protect individuals from those who may wish to corrupt them in some way. Surely it is not necessary for the institute to have its own set of rules. After all, it is a tertiary education institution and it is not dealing with young students. Most of the students are 18 years or older, and probably many of them have reached the age of 21.

Recent legislation has made people of 18 years of age responsible for their hire-purchase debts. Efforts have been made to grant this particular age group the right to vote. They are able to hold drivers' licenses, and yet we would make them go to an authority to ask permission simply to hand out handbills or distribute posters. I do not think this is at all necessary.

It was interesting to read an article recently published under the heading, "Warning on Youth Unrest." The article reported on the comments made by Mr. Gary Killington, who is Director of the Service to Youth Council in South Australia. Amongst other things, he said that the attitude of the adult society was, "Do as I say, not as I do." He also said that youth wanted real democracy where they could have a say; and with their numbers and potential voting strength youth was becoming a force to be reckoned with.

He also pointed out that Australia had nearly 5,000,000 people under 21 years of age; and stated that older people must recognise the tremendous potential young people represent, and join with them in realistic and constructive partnership to build a better community.

I fail to see where there is any degree of partnership with the students in the by-laws to which I have drawn the attention of the House. When speaking to another measure yesterday, I said that Dr. Williams had indicated his desire to achieve co-operation with the students and involve them in the administration of the institute.

I trust that members will join with me if they feel that the by-laws are not needed and vote for the motion. These by-laws are simply a legacy of a bygone age. I would point out that they are in the statutes of the University of Western Australia—that is where they probably originated. The University has been in existence for a much longer time than the Institute of Technology so the rules might have been formulated in the Victorian era.

We have the Institute of Technology trying to be as modern as tomorrow, as the saying is, and yet within its by-laws is a provision from the Victorian era. What effect will the by-laws have on the function of the institute, and how will they affect the institute? If we examine other provisions in the statutes of the institute we will find that the director of the council will still have more than enough power to control the students. Statute 6, 4 (1) (b) states that the director may refuse an enrolment as a student of any person if the director considers that the enrolment would be prejudicial to the efficient operation of the institute. If it is found that a student is handing out handbills, or other matter which is causing a disturbance within the institute, the director has the power to exclude that student.

Under the institute land by-laws a person shall not trespass on the land. So if any other person tried to hand out handbills on the campus he could be barred from the grounds.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: Not a bad idea!

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: The provision is in the by-laws, and it is a rule the institute is entitled to have. What I am saying is that the director has the power to debar any student who is causing a nuisance among the other students, and a person who is not a student can be debarred. I ask: Why are the other by-laws necessary at all? Some of the other by-laws read as follows:—

> 9. Except for some purpose of Institute business or Institute education, a person shall not bring a vehicle onto the land.
>
> 10. A person shall not, without the permission of the Council, bring an animal onto the land.
>
> 11. A person shall not, without the permission of the Council, park on any part of the land.
>
> 19. A person shall not—
>
> (a) spit on any path or on or in any building or erection;
>
> (b) use abusive, insulting, obscene, blasphemous, or indecent language;
>
> (c) behave in any offensive, indecent or improper manner; or
>
> (d) damage or deface any furniture or furnishings.
>
> 20. An authorised officer may remove from the land any person contravening by-law 19 of these by-laws.
>
> 21. A person shall not throw, place, deposit, or leave on the land any rubbish, paper, bottle, can, glass (broken or otherwise), or litter except in a receptacle specifically provided by the Council for the receipt of the particular material.

22. A person shall not, without the permission of the Council—

(a) mark or affix any matter to any part of the land or any fixture, movable, or growth on the land;

and so on.

Regarding property, I think the council would still have the right to prevent anyone from displaying posters, or other matter around the buildings or on any other fixtures around the institute. Other by-laws read as follows:—

24. The Council may prohibit the holding of any meeting.

26. A person shall not interrupt a class, lecture, or meeting by noisy or unseemly behaviour.

28. A person shall not—

(a) gamble;

(b) play a game of hazard or chance; or

(c) sell or purchase or offer for sale or to purchase an interest in or a ticket or coupon for, or which purports to be for, a consultation, sweep, horserace, or lottery.

Finally, by-law 31 states that a person who commits a breach of these by-laws is, in addition to any other legal liability, liable to a penalty of $50. I think members must agree that the council and the director would have more than sufficient power within those by-laws to control the students without the by-laws, to which I have drawn attention, remaining in the statutes.

By-law 28(c), which prohibits the selling of tickets or the running of sweeps, and so on, could cause dissension amongst the students because we all know, even in our own clubs, a minor raffle is quite often conducted to raise funds, or a sweep is held on the Melbourne Cup. Why should this not be allowed? It is not doing any harm, and a provision still remains to prohibit betting as such. I feel there is not much more I can add to what I have said, and I hope that members will support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines).

WOOD CHIPPING INDUSTRY AGREEMENT BILL

Third Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [3.31 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

THE HON. G. W. BERRY (Lower North) [3.32 p.m.]: I do not wish to delay the measure for very long. However, I thought I might bring to the notice of the Minister a matter regarding the water which will be required for this wood chipping industry. We heard from Mr. Ferry that there is an abundance of water in that area, and I have no doubt there is. However, I would like to direct the attention of members to a publication entitled *National Development*, Vol 1 No. 5, September, 1969. In this publication the following article appears:—

> The careful measurement and assessment of natural resources is a necessary preliminary to their most advantageous development and management, particularly when the resources involved are already known to be limited. Water, consumed or used by man in greater amount than any other natural resource except air, is the one with which Australia has been least generously endowed. As custodians of the world's driest continent, Australians need to ensure that the available water is used in the most economic manner for domestic purposes, agriculture and industry.

From that we can see that the water situation in this land of ours is not one which enables us unlimited water usage without some means of reusing it. If I remember rightly, the Premier, after returning from his recent overseas trip, said that Australians generally were more wasteful in their use of water than the people of any other nation with whom he came into contact.

I think the attention of the Government should be drawn to the fact that when industries are established some obligation ought to be placed on the companies concerned to make a study into the possible reuse of water, instead of allowing it to flow into the sea as effluent, or into a septic pond. Although there will be a water shortage in many parts of this State in the foreseeable future, at some time in the past there was no foreseeable shortage. At the present time the position is critical. However, I just mention that when industries are being established in future some consideration should be given to the reuse of water instead of allowing it to flow away as effluent.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [3.35 p.m.]: I always say that water is our most important mineral.

The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs: It is good taken in the right spirit.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: That is an old Scotch custom.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I would like Mr. Berry to know that the Government is very conscious of this point. If the honourable member looks at industrial agreements that have been presented to Parliament in the past he will find that in most cases there are clauses dealing with water and the method by which the

company or party to the agreement can obtain it. The geological section of the Mines Department is constantly employed on research into the uses of water. I feel everything possible is being done, and will be done in this respect; and, as science teaches us the most economic methods of producing more and more fresh water, I feel that we must make use of those methods.

I thank Mr. Berry for his remarks. The document to which he referred is a publication put out by the Commonwealth Department of National Development, and at times some very interesting articles are published in it.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), and passed.

METROPOLITAN MARKET ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Report

Report of Committee adopted.

ARCHITECTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [3.39 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The object of this Bill is to amend the existing Architects Act, 1921-1965, in the following particulars:—

(1) To strengthen the board and to remove personal liability of its members.

(2) To clarify the qualifications necessary for registration.

(3) To broaden the scope of the provisions dealing with professional misconduct.

(4) To update and define in more detail the educational provision.

(5) To make adequate allowance for future increases in fees and subscriptions.

(6) To clarify the appeal rights of persons refused registration by the board.

(7) To repeal redundant clauses and references to the provisional board.

In principle, the proposed amendments are not intended to change the intent or scope of the Act, but are for the purpose of clarifying and strengthening it, with a view to providing more positive provisions for the control of the education and registration of architects in Western Australia.

The board, which now comprises nine members who are all registered architects and members of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, is to be strengthened by an additional member, who will be nominated by the Western Australian Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

This proposed increase will serve the following purposes:—

(1) It will lessen the demands on the time of the busy professionals who attend to board matters in a voluntary capacity.

(2) It will ease the problem of obtaining six members to hear complaints of misconduct. The board has adopted this as a practice because of the importance it places on fully investigating all such matters.

(3) The board will have the benefit of an official opinion of the institute in all matters of common interest; i.e., ethics and education—a feature common to the registration Acts of other States.

At the present time, the president of the local chapter of the institute is also a member of the board, but this need not necessarily be so. In fact, as membership of the institute is not a compulsory requirement for registration, it is conceivable that, without such a nomination, the board and the institute would have no common link.

Whilst the Act is specifically designed for the protection of the public, the institute is the only Federal body governing the important aspects of ethics and education and, as such, the inclusion of an official member of the institute will tend to produce a degree of uniformity in these matters between all State registration Acts.

The Act is deficient in personal protection for *bona fide* acts of members of the board whilst acting in their capacity as board members. It is proposed to rectify this deficiency.

The provisions of the principal Act, in connection with the requalifications—

The Hon. J. Dolan: The word is "qualifications."

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Is the honourable member checking my notes?

The Hon. J. Dolan: You gave me a copy of them. I thought it was for the purpose of checking.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFTTH: That is, afterwards; otherwise I would not be giving the honourable member the notes. On one occasion I did the same as the honourable member has just done, but I was very quickly corrected. I realised the error of my ways.

The Hon. J. Dolan: I am just as quick as you are to learn.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I am sure it will not happen again.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The word is "qualifications." The provisions of the principle Act, in connection with the qualifications necessary for registration, are unnecessarily complex in view of the development in architectural education and training. The amendment proposed reduces the requirements to simpler terms without in any way compromising in standards and provides that, in addition, the board shall have power to satisfy itself of an applicant's knowledge of the practice of architecture.

The proposed amendment sets out three ways in which a person can become registered—

(1) by passing a course of studies in architectural subjects approved by the board at an educational institution approved by the board; or

(2) by passing the examinations in architectural subjects conducted by the board and having not less than six years' practical experience in the work of an architect; or

(3) by being a member of an approved professional institute or by being registered by a prescribed body or authority.

In addition to having to meet one of the above requirements, the board maintains the right to satisfy itself that the applicant for registration possesses sufficient knowledge of matters concerning the practice of architecture before approving of registration.

In the case of the student who qualifies under clause 5(a) or 5(b) of the Bill, the board requires that at least a further 12 months' experience shall be obtained before sitting for the final examination in architectural practice. The board would also require applicants under section 5(c) to prove their ability and knowledge of State building requirements.

As indicated by the Minister for Works, the provisions of the Bill dealing with the examinations conducted by the board have been reviewed, and in order to remove the possibility of hardship being inflicted on students currently registered, a further amendment to the Bill is proposed.

This amendment will provide that any student who is registered with the board prior to these amendments coming into effect will be eligible for registration, provided he has satisfied the examinations of the board, and has had at least four years' experience in the work of an architect. Students registered after this time will be required, in addition to passing the examinations, to have at least six years' experience in the work of an architect.

The increase in the number of years of experience from four to six has been necessary to ensure that the part-time student is not placed in a more favourable position than the full-time student who attends at an educational institution approved by the board.

Other amendments increase the prescribed maximum registration fee and annual subscription payable, the intention being to make possible increases in these charges as the board sees fit from time to time, without recourse to amending legislation. The amendments also provide some machinery clauses to strengthen the administrative procedures in connection with collection of fees.

The most important amendment is one which brings together, in a logical sequence, specific actions considered by the existing legislation to be misconduct, and which are now contained in a number of sections.

The amendment also seeks to widen the scope of the definition of "misconduct" in a manner similar to that provided for in other registration Acts. As is the case with regard to other registration Acts covering various professional occupations, it is hoped that this amendment will ultimately lead to the establishment of a body of case law which can be used to define improper conduct in a professional respect, without the necessity to rigidly specify each act.

The Act to date has defined specifically actions considered to be misconduct. It has been argued that, unless an act of misconduct falls within the definition of one of action contained in the Act, there is technically no misconduct; and as there is no limit to human ingenuity a broad clause is proposed which will increase the power of the board. Persons charged with misconduct under this clause, if they feel aggrieved, have the right to challenge the decision of the board through to the Supreme Court.

The strengthening of the sections dealing with misconduct is considered necessary in view of the rapidly changing conditions in the building industry.

Under the existing legislation, the minimum penalty which the board can apply is suspension. There are a number of minor transgressions which do not warrant suspension, and one of the proposed amendments seeks to give the board an additional power of reprimand.

Another amendment proposes the reconstitution of the Committee of Architectural Education and a restriction of the functions of the committee to advice and

recommendation. Under existing legislation, the committee, subject to approval by the board, is responsible for the control and administration of architectural educational practices. There can be no doubt that this important function should not be delegated to a committee but should be in the hands of the board.

It is proposed to amend the appropriate section of the principal Act to clarify the actions to be taken by the board when a registered architect has been guilty of falsifying the register or of making false statements.

The principal Act contains a number of sections which no longer have any significance. These refer to the provisional board and its proceedings.

The provisional board was appointed by the Governor with a view to establishing the procedures necessary in connection with the registration of architects. This board ceased to exist on the first meeting of the Architects Board. The various amendments propose to delete those sections which are now redundant.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. J. Dolan.

Sitting suspended from 3.49 to 4.9 p.m.

CHILD WELFARE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 17th September.

THE HON. CLIVE GRIFFITHS (South-East Metropolitan) [4.10 p.m.]: I would like to pass a few remarks on this Bill which, as previous speakers have already mentioned, is designed to bring the Act and its administration up to date.

The provision to which I wish to refer specifically is clause 3(b)(i). This adds to the interpretation of "neglected child," as follows:—

> (i) by adding after paragraph (6) the following paragraph—
>
> (6a) is found in a place where any drug is used, or uses any drug himself, and in either case is in need of care, protection or control by reason thereof;

Like other members, I have been increasingly concerned about the apparent increase in the use of drugs by young people in Australia and, indeed, in Western Australia. An article in the paper yesterday indicated that the laws covering the use of drugs in the United Kingdom are to be made tougher. The article also indicated that the young people are the worst offenders in this regard in overseas countries.

In the same article reference was made to a report by the Attorney-General in Washington, America, in which he stated that he had told a Senate committee meeting, among other things, that juvenile delinquency was increasing in America in general with regard to young people using drugs. He stated that the number of arrests for the use of narcotics and other drugs had increased 16 times in the past 10 years. He said also that of the number of people arrested for narcotic and drug offences the number of youths under the age of 21 had increased from 14.1 per cent. in 1958 to the present percentage of 56.5.

Although over many years the drug problem with young people in America and, to a lesser extent, in England, has been well publicised, the problem is becoming increasingly worse in Australia, especially over the last couple of years; and I repeat that I am very concerned indeed about the situation. In today's *Daily News* there is an article in which it is reported that Dr. E. R. Csillag, Senior lecturer in psychiatry at the Western Australian University, has written a booklet in which he makes reference to the widespread and excessive use of stimulant drugs in Australia. He says it is a very significant problem.

This only goes to confirm the feeling which I have. In this day and age young people are allowed more freedom than they were in days gone by. Certainly they have many more opportunities than young people had previously, and unquestionably they have much more money. Nevertheless, we find this problem is increasing week by week.

I have read the definition of "neglected child" which is in clause 3 of the Bill. Through the amendment, amongst other things, a neglected child will be one who is found in a place where any drug is used. I wonder what sort of a place it is where young people go to use drugs, or where they start using drugs.

There are many night spots which cater for young people around our city at the moment. I have had a look inside only a few of them and certainly I have never been inside any of them. However, one significant point came to my mind on the few occasions when I looked inside. This kind of place, as a form of entertainment, is a direct contrast to what used to exist when I was a young fellow.

When I was young I went to gymnasiums and boxing clubs. These were dark, dingy places with cobwebs in the corners and an electric light cord with a 40-watt bulb attached hanging down in the middle of the room. This is where we used to spend our time. However, if we went out at night for entertainment we went to a brightly lit dance hall, or somewhere like that.

For some reason or other the situation around the town is reversed today. The gymnasiums are polished up with chrome fittings and mirrors, and are beautifully lit. However one has to light a match to find one's way into a night spot, because the lights are either switched off or else there are no lights at all.

The Hon. G. E. D. Brand: You cannot see what you are eating.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: I am not suggesting that this happens, but in this kind of atmosphere, where a night spot has practically no light at all and is crowded with young people who are spending their leisure time there, it would be fairly difficult to know what one was eating or drinking, and whether or not some drug was being pushed on to an individual by somebody who was sufficiently unscrupulous to want to see another person become addicted to this shocking habit.

The Hon. G. E. D. Brand: They would not get it for nothing.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: I do not know about that. I have read some literature on the subject and, from the articles on drugs which I have read, it seems that this is exactly what is done for a time. The people who have drugs give them to another person for nothing until that person becomes addicted and needs to continue with the drugs. This is the time when the people who possess drugs put on the pressure and make the addicted individual pay for them.

I have only mentioned this point because, from my observations around the town, I have noticed that people suddenly consider that electric lights in dance halls and places of this nature are old-fashioned. As I have said, the position was the reverse in my young days because, at that time, gymnasiums were the places which seemed to have poor lighting. However we certainly made the best use of the facilities which were available to us and enjoyed ourselves immensely. I repeat, though, that dance halls and places of entertainment were always well lit.

I do not know why this apparent use of drugs is suddenly occurring in Australia, but I am very concerned indeed about it. I do not know what the amendment to which I have referred, and which is in clause 3 of the Bill, will effect except, of course, that it provides that a child may be declared a neglected child if it is found in a place where drugs are used.

I consider there is a bigger problem to be overcome; that is, to get at the fundamental reason for young people frequenting places where drugs are used and finding themselves in a position where they have to use drugs. I hope we can find this solution so that Australia will not have the problem which overseas countries obviously have from the reports and articles which we read from time to time. I support the Bill.

THE HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [4.22 p.m.]: My contribution to the debate might be regarded as quite small. However, I particularly wish to mention clause 6 of the Bill which refers to a period of six months' imprisonment, if the child is aged 16 years or more, and to a period of three months' imprisonment if the child is under the age of 16 years.

I wonder whether the Minister would agree with me when I suggest that this provision could, perhaps, make a person into something which he, or she, should not be. I think a period of six months' imprisonment for a girl who is 16 years or more is only being harsh on a child of that age.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: So do I.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I suggest that the House should give consideration to deleting the word "imprisonment," unless a person of a much greater age than 16 years is involved. I consider that we should simply replace the word "imprisonment" with the word "detention." The part of the clause to which I am referring would then read—

(a) three months' detention, if the child is under the age of sixteen years; or

(b) six months' detention, if the child is aged sixteen years or more.

As the Bill reads at the moment, these youngsters would be prisoners. Personally, I feel this would be spurring young people into doing things which they know they should not do.

I suggest that members of this House are capable of thinking this matter out together to see whether it is sensible to delete the word "imprisonment" from the clause.

I have no quarrel with the rest of the Bill which is quite acceptable to me. I am certain the Minister himself has given great thought to the matter. The only point I wanted to make is that I do not like the idea of somebody who is 16 years of age or under being a prisoner. I am sure there is some substitution which could be used.

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Upper West —Minister for Child Welfare) [4.25 p.m.]: I would like to thank members for the interest which they have taken in this Bill, which is an amendment to the Child Welfare Act. It is obvious that child welfare is a subject in which, I would say, all members are particularly interested.

I wish to thank members for the very kind remarks they have made in connection with the officers of my department. They have a responsible and difficult job to do and, at times, it is a very frustrating job. Unless officers are dedicated to the work they cannot do it properly. This is where the

difficulty lies, of course; namely, in recruiting men and women with the necessary dedication who are prepared to take on a job such as this. Over the years the department has improved the standard of its staff. Practically all officers today, whether they are men or women, are trained in one way or another to deal with situations which may arise. Whilst the caseload is not yet down to the point where it ought to be, at least the department is doing the best it can.

Dr. Hislop made some remarks in connection with clause 6 of the Bill. I would like to remind him that at the present time the Act lays down that a child under 16 years can serve three months' imprisonment, and a child between the ages of 16 and 18 years can serve six months. What the Act does not say is that, if there is a concurrent term, a child cannot serve more than three months or six months, as the case may be, altogether. I am trying to achieve this by the provisions in the Bill.

Under the terms of the amendment in the Bill it would not matter how many charges were involved. A child could not serve sentences concurrently for a period which was longer than three months, or six months.

Mr. Medcalf made one or two remarks in connection with drafting. In the little time I have had to spare in my office I have endeavoured to consult with the draftsman. He has given me a few amendments which I have circulated to some members in the House. I am quite prepared to accept them and I feel sure the House will be prepared to accept them. A further amendment has now been suggested by Mr. Medcalf. I examined it at five past four this afternoon and had a very quick discussion with the honourable member. There is no difference in principle or difference in wording, in effect. Probably Mr. Medcalf could add to this and explain it much better than I could. However, what he is endeavouring to do is to split the clause up into two or three phases instead of rambling on with one. I have not been able to circulate this amendment. However, if members are prepared to accept it, I am prepared to accept it.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Usually in these cases the Minister is very careful to submit amendments to his advisers. Why not do that on this occasion?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I have only just received the amendment.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I think it is unfair to the Minister to have to give an off-the-cuff decision.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I have had a quick look at the amendment. However, I am easy on the matter. Perhaps the Bill could be read a second time and the Committee stage held over to the next sitting if Mr. Willesee would prefer.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I would prefer the Minister to be emphatic as to the rights or wrongs of the amendment.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I am only going on my own judgment.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I respect the Minister's judgment very much, but usually he gets good backing for his judgment.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: It may be better to enable all members to consider the impact of the amendments. I do not think it would be fair to other members to give an off-the-cuff decision. They will probably wish to look at the amendment Mr. Medcalf has suggested to see whether it is right or wrong. It would be better, perhaps, if I had all the amendments placed on the notice paper so that they may be considered in Committee in the correct manner.

The point raised by Mr. Clive Griffiths is very important. In fact, when I first received the draft of the Bill I thought that I may have some reaction to it; that some members may consider it is going too far. However, I do not think we can go too far, because I agree with Mr. Clive Griffiths that this is a real problem. At the moment the Director of Child Welfare is overseas attending a world conference. He will discuss, and inquire into, all aspects of child welfare including that one, but it is the growing drug problem that more directly brought this question to my notice and made me realise an amendment to the Act was necessary.

Some people might call me old-fashioned, or a square, but I venture to say that, before long, because of loose morals, and because our morality is degenerating to such an extent, the world in general—and the time is not far ahead of us—will rue the day when we became a permissive society. We need only refer to history for proof of this.

What Mr. Clive Griffiths has spoken about can quite easily happen here when the lights are dim. It has happened before in other parts of the world. In many instances drugs are administered to youngsters unbeknown to them, and they have become drug addicts.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I have a feeling that it might already be here.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: That could be. I do not mind being called a square, but I think it is about time the community in general and the mass media started to take some notice of what will be the ultimate result of our permissive society and the lack of morals which is now being exhibited throughout the Commonwealth and in other countries of the world.

I believe the mass media can play an important part in correcting the problem if they assume the responsibility which I believe is theirs. Now is the time to act, and the sooner we do so the better. Once again, I thank those members who have

spoken for their support of the Bill and for the kind remarks they have expressed about my officers. I will certainly pass their sentiments on because I feel sure the officers will be pleased to hear that someone appreciates the work they are doing. I will be only too happy to place the proposed amendments on the notice paper so that they can be dealt with at the Committee stage.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 4)

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 17th September.

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central) [4.34 p.m.]: It is not my intention to speak at great length on the Bill. It includes a number of amendments to the Local Government Act which, after making a study of the Bill, I think are most necessary. The first one on which I wish to speak deals with traffic control. This provision is similar to one inserted in the Traffic Act either last year, or the year before, and it deals with the identity of a driver of a motor vehicle. It is most necessary for a traffic inspector to be in the same position as a police traffic officer when he apprehends a driver of a vehicle and wishes to issue a summons against him. To do so he has to ascertain from the owner of the vehicle who was the actual driver.

Another provision seeks to deal with the removal of obstructions at street corners, particularly high fences, hedges, and trees. For safety purposes, this provision is most necessary. A further provision deals with the fixing of minimum standards for the construction of streets. I believe that some standards should be laid down for the type of streets that are constructed by the various local authorities. On some occasions roads are constructed in a shoddy manner and within a short time they break up, potholes appear, and, as a result, the work has to be redone.

A further provision is sought to give power to a local authority to grant a permit to a person to take down a building, or part of a building. This is a very necessary provision, because the person taking down the building should be made to take all necessary precautions.

I now wish to refer to clause 16, which contains words already appearing in section 190 of the Act. Comparing the proposed subsection in the clause, one finds it is little different from the subsections in section 190 and section 434, which section the clause seeks to amend.

Section 434 reads as follows:—

> (1) A by-law may be made under this Division so as to impose for a breach of the by-laws so made—
>
> (a) a maximum penalty of one hundred pounds; with or without provision for
>
> (b) a maximum daily penalty of five pounds for each day during which the offence continues.

If we add the words as proposed in the amendment in the Bill they will be out of context with what is provided in section 190, subsection (7) which commences with the words, "a by-law may be so made." Then follows the words which are the same as those in paragraph (a) of proposed subsection (1a) in clause 16. Subsection (7) of section 190 goes on to deal with the penalties that will be imposed for a breach of the by-law.

I believe, for the amendment in the Bill to be consistent with the section in the Act, it should be inserted before the provision for the penalties, because the Act would then be easier to read. The point is not of particular importance, but I consider that the amendment should be dealt with in this way, and I place the suggestion before the Minister for his consideration.

I now wish to refer to the clause which deals with the power to be granted to the council of the municipality or the appropriate appeal court to declare what is "farm land" and "urban farm land." These provisions are all right, except when we come to proposed new subsection (3a), in clause 22, which reads—

> (3a) A council may, in respect of the financial year commencing on the first day of July, 1970 and any subsequent financial year, impose the general rate on urban farm land at a lesser rate, for each dollar of the unimproved value or annual value of such urban farm land, than the general rate imposed under the provisions of this section for other land.

This leaves the matter entirely in the hands of the council to declare whether land is "farm land" or "urban farm land."

This may mean that urban farm land may be rated at a lesser rate than that which is imposed on farm land. This may occur when one takes one's mind back to some of the things that have happened in local government where the word "may" has been used. For instance, a council may impose the maximum rate that can be imposed on an unimproved block. This provision was inserted in the Act some years ago, and we now find that some local authorities impose the maximum rate, whereas others impose a lower rate. I am rather inclined to think that in this instance, after examining their budgets, some councils will say, "We will not impose a lower rate on urban farm land, but retain

the rate we have been imposing up to now." Therefore, this provision will not offer any relief to those people who are operating a farm on farm land. Instead, the rates they will be charged will be fairly substantial.

If this amendment is agreed to, I think it will subsequently be found that another amendment will have to be introduced to give some relief to people who own urban farm land. As I have said, I do not think many of the councils will offer much relief to such people by way of reducing their rate, in comparison with the rate to be paid on other land, some of which could carry a fairly high valuation and could affect the value of urban farm land.

I have not much faith in the amendment bringing relief to people owning urban farm land. I can only say that it could have a good effect, but it remains to be seen how the various shires will act. Those affected will probably be Swan-Guildford, Wanneroo, Rockingham, Cockburn, Melville, Kelmscott, Gosnells, Darling Range, and Mundaring. Unfortunately some of these shires have within their boundaries a large area of forest land, and others, particularly the Mundaring Shire, have a large section reserved as a watershed. Those shires find it difficult to rate the residents in their shires high enough—despite the fact that the rates are already very high—to carry on the works required in those areas.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: The rates imposed by the Mundaring Shire are not very high; they are about the lowest in the metropolitan area.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: They may be the lowest in the metropolitan area, but the rating on farm land within the Mundaring Shire is fairly high compared with the rates paid by the owners of adjoining farms. My property adjoins some blocks in the Mundaring Shire and the rates on those blocks are not low compared with mine and those imposed by the Northam Shire.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: The Northam Shire has nothing to do with its money.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Yes, that is so, except to build roads. It has little to spend the money on as far as the shire itself is concerned. The only town of any consequence within the Northam Shire is Wundowie. A little money has to be ploughed back into that township. Comparing the rates of the shires of Mundaring and Northam, those imposed by the Mundaring Shire are fairly high. I do not agree with the Minister that they are not very high as far as the smaller farms in that area are concerned. I have looked at some of the rate assessments sent to those farmers and, in my opinion, they are fairly high.

I hope, therefore, the Minister will have a look at this provision to ascertain whether people who own farm land will enjoy some relief from it. At this stage I doubt it unless there is some specific figure stated in the legislation whereby such people will be assured that they will gain some reduction in their rates. With those remarks, I support the Bill.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. F. R. White.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 17th September.

THE HON. R. H. C. STUBBS (South-East) [4.44 p.m.]: This Bill seeks to repeal section 14 of the Weights and Measures Act, 1967, and to amend the Weights and Measures Act, 1915-1967. This legislation originally came into being in 1899. It was repealed in 1915 by Act No. 50 of 1915 which was assented to on the 20th November, 1915. Since then further amendments have been made to the Act.

It was amended in 1926, again in 1958, 1964, 1965, and, of course, there was also the amending Act No. 34 of 1967, which was not proclaimed. The purpose of the present legislation is to standardise weights and measures throughout Australia to permit the establishment of a uniform packing code which will help in making trade between the States a lot easier.

I understand that all the States will introduce similar legislation and that those who have not done so will no doubt in due course legislate for uniformity.

There are, of course, certain articles which cannot be included in such a code. For example, drugs will continue to be packaged under the provisions of the Health Act, and rightly so; because certain specific requirements are necessary in the case of drugs, apart from which we are faced with certain impediments in their packing.

I understand that this amending Bill will supersede the food and drug regulations. In the past these have had some bearing on the packaging and labelling of goods, and also on the size of the necessary printing.

There will, of course, be a phasing-out period, and this is understandable, because manufacturers and retailers who are left with goods in their stores will need to quit them to the public, and prepare for the new type of labelling.

Working to a set of standard conditions will be very beneficial both to the consumer and to the manufacturer. As we all know, some articles are affected by moisture—some absorb moisture while others lose it as a result of climatic conditions. Certain guidelines will be set for such articles, and this seems to me to be reasonable.

In the rather warm conditions of the north-west and goldfields areas some articles lose moisture through dehydration, and because of this they lose weight. On the other hand, articles which are refrigerated also lose weight because a certain amount of moisture is absorbed and when it is necessary to defrost the refrigerator the moisture clings to the ice box in which they are stored and we find there is a consequent loss in weight in the article due to the loss of moisture.

This being so it would be well for anyone who might have a bottle of his favourite beverage in his refrigerator to drink it before it goes up in frost and loses weight!

On the other side of the scale, there are some articles which absorb moisture and so gain weight. We know that tobacco which is stored in hot conditions for a long time loses both moisture and weight. So a two-ounce packet of tobacco would lose weight under certain conditions. I think all of us have seen smokers place a piece of potato in their tobacco pouches to give the tobacco the moisture content necessary for a good smoke.

I have no quarrel with the legislation. I see that section 14 of the Act is to be repealed, and the new section 27C which is to be added requires the packer of the goods to mark his name and address on each of the packages for purposes of identification. This also applies in the case of an approved brand. Incidentally, there is a penalty of $200 which seems reasonable, though it would not deter some of the larger manufacturers. Perhaps the Minister could give some thought to incorporating a daily penalty in certain circumstances if the present provision is not satisfactory.

Subsection (2) of proposed new section 27C states that where an article is packed by a person as an employee of another person the name and address must be shown; and subsections (4) and (5) of proposed new section 27C make it an offence to sell pre-packed articles not marked in accordance with the legal requirements of the State. Here again, the penalty for default is $200.

In passing I would like to refer to the skills employed by high-pressure advertising firms to appeal to human psychology. One sees articles marked "king size," "economy size," and "giant size"; while others indicate that vitamins are added; and in some cases we even see that enzymes are added. I have always thought that this was a biological process.

There seems to be something in the human makeup which falls for this sort of advertising. This attitude is particularly apparent at auction sales where we see people pushing and shoving each other. Indeed, some of the ladies who attend the sales at our leading stores would make the West Perth-East Perth football match look like a game of tag the way they shove and jostle each other.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I do not think John Wynne would appreciate that!

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: We give the Bill our blessing, because we feel it will be of some use to the manufacturers.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [4.53 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 30th September.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.54 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 18th September, 1969

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

QUESTIONS (32): ON NOTICE

1. NATIVES

Housing

Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

What amount of money has been made available from the Commonwealth Government for Aboriginal homes in the—

(a) metropolitan area;

(b) country areas?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

The Commonwealth Government made $546,639 available in 1968-69 and has undertaken to provide not less than $547,000 in 1969-70. It does not stipulate what proportions are to be expended in the metropolitan or country areas. The 1968-69 grant was applied as follows:—

(a) $381,900.

(b) $164,739.

The allocation of the 1969-70 grant cannot be determined at this stage.