

# Legislative Council

Thursday, the 4th October, 1973

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

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL (2ND.)

### *Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by The Hon. R. Thompson (Minister for Police), read a first time.

## MOTOR VEHICLE (THIRD PARTY INSURANCE) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### *Third Reading*

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. R. Thompson (Minister for Police), and transmitted to the Assembly.

## JURIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### *Report*

Report of Committee adopted.

## RAILWAY (KALGOORLIE-PARKESTON) DISCONTINUANCE AND LAND REVEST- MENT BILL

### *Second Reading*

THE HON. R. THOMPSON (South Metropolitan—Minister for Police) [2.39 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill seeks the approval of Parliament to the closure of a small section of narrow gauge railway between Kalgoorlie and Parkeston which is now redundant.

With the commissioning of the standard gauge railway between Perth and Kalgoorlie connecting with the Commonwealth Railways standard gauge line, this small section of narrow gauge line remained to provide for traffic consigned to destinations on the Esperance and Leonora branch lines which were also narrow gauge lines. The consignments for these branch lines were transferred from standard gauge wagons to narrow gauge wagons at Parkeston.

Very little use has been made of this small section of line. No time-tabled services were operated and there were only some intermittent livestock movements for destinations on the Esperance and Leonora branch lines. In May of this year all services over the line were suspended to enable commencement of work associated with the Leonora branch standardisation project.

The Railways Department has made suitable alternative arrangements at West Kalgoorlie yard to handle any require-

ments for transfer which may occur. When the work of standardising the Esperance and the Leonora branch lines is completed, the small section of narrow gauge railway as described in the first schedule to this Bill will be completely isolated and not required for any purpose. The proposal of the Bill is, therefore, to obtain formal parliamentary sanction to close the line and to revest in the Crown the portion of land no longer required for railway purposes on which the line is located.

The Director-General of Transport has examined the proposal to close this section of railway and has recommended that it be agreed to. A copy of the report of the director-general has been tabled, together with a copy of Railway Civil Engineering Branch plan No. 66163, which shows the section of line to be closed and the land to be revested in the Crown. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. R. T. Leeson.

## ADOPTION OF CHILDREN ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 3rd October.

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Upper West) [2.42 p.m.]: I have read the second reading speech made by the Minister and I have studied the Bill in conjunction with the parent Act, and I must commend the Minister on the clarity of his notes.

The Bill contains only three amendments of any consequence. The first amendment deals with the curious situation which can arise from the fact that if the father of an illegitimate child—who under the present legislation does not have to give his consent for an adoption—marries the mother of the child which has been adopted he can take exception to the adoption and have it annulled. This seems to be an anomaly because when a legitimate child is adopted the consent of the mother and father must be obtained. Of course, there is a period of 30 days during which the adoption can be revoked.

I suppose it could be argued that the consent of the father of the illegitimate child should be obtained but I hazard a guess that in many cases that would not be possible. In fact, in some cases the name of the father is not known so it would be impossible to have a Statute to cover such a situation. It is only right that the situation of the father of an illegitimate child marrying the mother at some future time, and having the right to revoke an adoption, should be clarified.

We are aware that this type of legislation deals with a human element and with emotional issues. I have had the harrowing experience of witnessing people having to part with a child after managing and

controlling that child for some years. It is possible that this situation arises more from the fostering point of view than from the adoption angle. We can understand that it would be a harrowing experience for someone who had been bringing up an adopted child for some years to suddenly find that the parents of the child could claim it, so it is as well to clarify the position from the beginning.

A second provision in the Bill deals with the necessity for a report to be made to a judge regarding the suitability of parents who are about to adopt a child. It does seem strange that where a mother or father has had control of a child since its birth, and then remarries, both parties to that union are subject to a fairly lengthy investigation carried out by an officer of the department. I know from my own experience and observation that this provision has caused some serious problems. Persons who have married widows have found themselves subject to an investigation by the department. I think it is wise to exclude this provision from the Act. The Act will still contain a safeguard in that the judge, himself, can ask for a report if he feels it is essential to do so. The director also has the right to make a report to the judge if he thinks that is desirable. I should imagine that if the director did not make a report to the judge, concerning the suitability or otherwise of the persons involved, the judge would call for such a report. I believe the situation is adequately covered.

A third amendment is in regard to the publicity which can be given, and which should be given, concerning the names of the parents of the child. The present Act contains some safeguards, but there are some discrepancies. The proposed amendment will certainly tighten up the situation. I agree that it is essential that in the case of an adoption the less number of persons who know the background of the child the better for everyone concerned. This Bill will tighten up the situation regarding the names of the parents, but it seems the provisions of the Act will be relaxed somewhat in another section.

When one of the parents of a legitimate child dies, and the other parent remarries, the parents of the deceased person have to be notified of the remarriage. This provision will certainly open up the situation when compared with what existed in the past. I suppose there could be some very close family ties in this regard, and some people may want to make some provision in their wills for the benefit of the children concerned. They may find that they want to change their minds after the surviving parent remarries. I consider it is essential that the parents of the deceased person should be notified of any adoption.

I agree with the proposed amendments, and once again I commend the Minister for the clarity of his second reading notes. I support the Bill.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. I. G. Medcalf.

### MOTOR VEHICLE (THIRD PARTY INSURANCE SURCHARGE) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

#### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 3rd October.

**THE HON. F. D. WILLMOTT** (South-West) [2.50 p.m.]: This Bill proposes to amend the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance Surcharge) Act. The parent Act of 1962 provided for a surcharge of £1—or, in modern currency, \$2—to be paid in the case of all vehicles subject to third party insurance. That Act also provided for certain exemptions, which included such things as a vehicle used solely for interstate trade, a trailer-type caravan, a trailer, a tractor, and a motorised wheelchair used by a crippled person.

In 1968 further exemptions were provided, which included the Governor's car, vehicles used by diplomatic representatives, and vehicles used by the Crown and local authorities. In 1971 the surcharge was increased from \$2 to \$5.

The Bill now before us proposes to add a further exemption in regard to the vehicles of farmers and graziers which are equipped for fire control and which are subject to a free license authorising their use on the road for fire-fighting purposes only. I commend the Government for bringing this Bill down. As I have said, the vehicles which are equipped by farmers and graziers for fire-fighting purposes are subject to free license provided they are used only for fighting fires, and they are also subject to concessional premiums for third party insurance because the vehicles are taken on the road only when it is necessary for them to go on the road to reach a fire other than one on the farm on which they were originally equipped. Many of these vehicles could stay on farms for two or three years without leaving, and then a time might come when there are outbreaks of fire in the district and it is necessary to take them out on the road several times in the year.

**The Hon. T. O. Perry:** They might be needed next summer.

**The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT:** That is right. One never knows when they may be needed. One does not wait until the fire reaches one's own land before attacking it. When a fire breaks out in the neighbourhood all fire-fighting equipment is mustered in order to control the outbreak as quickly as possible.

Although \$5 a year may not sound very much, it could nevertheless inhibit some farmers from equipping vehicles for fire-fighting purposes. I think farmers are in need of a little consideration from this Government because they are getting mighty little from the Federal Government at the present time. As a matter of fact, they have had an awful belting, and anything the State Government can do to relieve their predicament will be greatly welcomed by all farmers.

There is no need for me to delay the passage of this Bill because I support it.

**THE HON. R. THOMPSON** (South Metropolitan—Minister for Police) [2.53 p.m.]: I thank Mr. Willmott for his support of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee, etc.*

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

#### **WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ARTS COUNCIL BILL**

##### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 2nd October.

**THE HON. R. J. L. WILLIAMS** (Metropolitan) [2.56 p.m.]: Many Bills come before this House and the other place, and no doubt those of us who remain here will see the introduction of many more Bills; but I do not think any Bill will have a more far-reaching influence on the people of Western Australia than the Bill "to make provision for the encouragement, fostering, and promotion of the practice and appreciation of the arts in Western Australia, and to establish the Western Australian Arts Council".

Some very eloquent and well-researched speeches were made on this Bill in another place and when one reads *Hansard* one cannot but be impressed when one realises that even for a short space of time both the Opposition and the Government agreed in principle to the provisions of the Bill.

The arts have been severely restricted over the years for a number of reasons. The first reason is that in early medieval times the arts were confined to grammar, rhetoric, logic, astronomy, music, geometry, and arithmetic. They were the seven liberal arts as laid down by Cicero. For centuries the world adhered to that definition.

Today we are faced with a population which is rapidly increasing, which is multi-national, and of which it is possible to say that 40 per cent. of the 1,068,000 people in this State are migrants from other countries who strongly require, if not demand, that some of the culture with

which they have been associated in their countries of origin should be established in Western Australia. It is no fault of any previous Government or the present Government that this Bill has not come to Parliament until now. We in this State suffer from tyrannies over which we have very little control. The first is the tyranny of distance which affects us both economically and culturally and makes Western Australia somewhat of a cultural desert.

In the past the people of this State were far too busy working extremely long hours in order to establish themselves, their properties, and their businesses. Today we are faced with the fact that people will have more leisure hours than working hours, and if we do nothing about it we will have seething discontent in the community.

It is pleasing to know the Commonwealth Government is willing to supply to the States something like \$15,000,000 for the establishment of cultural and arts councils. However, perhaps that is the only danger in the Bill—that the Commonwealth Government will supply the money and the State will become the agent of the Commonwealth. If that happens, it could be quite disastrous.

One only has to read the Press of recent weeks to find out how they are proliferating the amount of staff that will be necessary to administer the Arts Council. The cost will run into something like \$2,000,000 for staff administration purposes alone. If we deduct that \$2,000,000 from \$15,000,000 we will be left with \$13,000,000. If one acts as an agent and is given a certain amount of money, however, the danger is that one will be told what to do with that money, and when to do it. When this happens a far tighter noose than Cicero ever thought possible will be placed around the arts. I say this because the arts are a fluid thing; they are continuously moving.

Culture differs from decade to decade—indeed it differs constantly and in less time than a decade—and consequently the idea of expending money on cultural activities throughout the State is a good one, if we are prepared to leave the spending of it to the people who know the needs of the State.

For example, no-one in his right mind in this State would have purchased "Blue Poles" at \$1,300,000. We would not have had time for that sort of thing. But there again, if one looks at the matter, I suppose that particular painting has its appeal for a certain section of the community. The cost of the painting was, of course, enormous, and I feel so much more could have been done with that \$1,300,000 in Australia than have it translated to nearly \$2,000,000 to some American collector.

If one goes around the world one can draw comparisons, although these are somewhat odious from time to time. One can visit Melbourne and view there the magnificent cultural centre built by the State Government with Commonwealth aid.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: That is where Phar Lap is.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I do not think so, although he does form part of culture. He could well be there, but I did not see him. Given the chance, however, I will return and I will give him the honourable member's regards! To see this magnificent cultural centre with the 25 tons of glass in the roof is awe-inspiring and the sections of art prepared by Australians and donated to the cultural centre from time to time really makes the mind boggle. There is a tremendous wealth of talent evident in that gallery. One can walk around for two or three hours and still not see all that is there.

However there is no use our casting envious eyes at Melbourne. After a great deal of travail and a great expenditure of money Sydney has built an opera house and cultural complex which in my opinion will equal any in the world; with the possible exception of La Scala in Milan, or the Metropolitan Opera House in New York or the Lincoln Centre in New York.

No longer is Western Australia a cultural backwater. It behoves us to prosecute and mobilise as quickly as we can the talents which exist in this State; and within the meaning of the expressions art and culture this State abounds in such talent.

May I, Sir, recall to you a portion of a trip which you recently completed, when you saw a piece of culture which is only about 15 or 20 years old. You went to a small village—it could not be called much more; although perhaps we could call it a town—in North Wales, where you saw the cream of international competition coming together in a very small place, however picturesque, and competing in the choral arts for a fortnight.

The City of Perth was represented on that occasion by the City of Perth Girls' Choir, and it is really wonderful when we realise that these young ladies from the City of Perth travelled those many hundreds of miles and managed to come 12th out of 22 competitors. In their particular division these young girls were singing against professional choirs. So it will be seen there is plenty of talent in Western Australia and it is up to us to foster and encourage it and give it a little help.

In another place the member for Blackwood remarked on the fact that he would like to see a fine arts university established in Western Australia. Certainly one would think this would be an ideal spot for a fine arts school rather than a university; and if in the fullness of time

this is to be prosecuted by the people of the State, then I suggest that the school for fine arts should be established in towns like Albany or Bunbury, but not in Perth.

I think the culture in this State has to be spread far and wide. The people living in the country of necessity are more culturally minded than those who live in an urban environment, and I am not talking about the arts such as opera and ballet; I am talking about the home cottage arts and crafts.

I can think of one man whom I know who was quite a prosperous farmer and who gave farming away to concentrate on sculpture and art in Western Australia. He did very well with a little encouragement and guidance; and I understand that since he has been given further encouragement and guidance he is doing even better.

As legislators we are responsible to see that the quality of life in this community is of the highest order we can provide. That does not mean giving handouts *ad lib* under any guise; it means that we should apportion a sum of money to achieve our purpose. The necessary funds would be of a distinct advantage to the cultural life of the State.

There are people who enjoy the theatre; there are those who enjoy music; while some enjoy the opera, and others delight in spending a fair proportion of their time using their hands to create something whether it be in the form of writing, painting, sculpture, pottery, or jewellery—you name it, Mr. President, and we would have in this State the people with the talent to carry it out. What is perhaps more remarkable is that in this State of ours we have experts who are able to instruct in these arts but who, because of a lack of funds and remuneration, cannot pursue their purpose; because in this day and age the starving artist is not a well-known phenomenon.

From time to time various awards have been made to particular cultural groups to encourage them to continue with their different activities. I am pleased to see the Government has brought down a Bill which will establish an autonomous body, and one would say from its numbers—12 in all—that it will comprise a body of representatives of art and culture within the State.

We do not want to reach the position, however, where perhaps one section of the arts has stronger views than another section on a particular question; and I am sure the Minister for Cultural Affairs who will be appointing the first members of this council will bear this aspect in mind, so that we will achieve as broad a spectrum as possible without vested interests dominating the proposed council.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You can rely on that.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I am sure I can. These people have worked hard and long to give this State some forms of leisure activity for the benefit of the State as a whole, and they are now being collected together. We now have a magnificent concert hall, and shortly we will have a new stadium. Following that one would think that the cultural development north of the line, suggested in 1969-70, would proceed more rapidly than it has done. In particular we know that we need a new Art Gallery, although it cost many thousands of dollars for experts to come to this State from the east a few weeks ago to tell us what we already know; that is, we need a new Art Gallery.

In the proliferation of bureaucracy this is the type of action we must guard against in the cause of culture. We do not want to build in Canberra a huge establishment to administer the arts throughout Australia, with a secretariat set up within each State. That would be a tragedy. We need a council of our own within Western Australia administering to the State's needs and knowing what the State really wants without shuttling backwards and forwards to the east, because not all people who come from the east are wise—far from it.

I now wish to make an appeal similar to that made in another place, but it has to be made in this House; that is, we would hope that the Government would look extremely kindly on the preservation of Her Majesty's Theatre in Perth—not to preserve it in its present state, because as we know it, the theatre, in its present state is inadequate. We know that in certain parts of the theatre vision is restricted. We also know that by a renovating process and by architectural improvements being made this theatre need be redesigned only slightly inside.

I know that the National Trust is keenly interested in preserving Her Majesty's Theatre. It would be a great shame if the bulldozers were to be let loose on that building merely because the theatre was no longer profitable. I am told that in these times it would cost \$2,000 a seat to build a new theatre, and yet we have an existing theatre which has a history and which, by the expenditure of less than \$500 a seat, can be completely refurbished and allowed to remain as part of the heritage of the City of Perth.

Intimate theatre, as such, is well accepted in Perth. We have several small theatre companies, but if we remove Her Majesty's Theatre from Perth we will not get the intimate requirements in theatre for the proper performance of any play before any large audience. It is quite all right to put on a Walt Disney show in the new stadium or at Perry Lakes, because that type of spectacular show can

be well presented in those places. However, good theatre has to be intimate theatre and if members wish to query that statement I would refer them to the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-on-Avon. This is not a huge theatre. I think its seating capacity is in the region of 1,500, but such is the architecture that it creates an atmosphere that Shakespeare wrote about and wrote for, keeping in mind that audience participation within his theatre was most essential.

If people could only grasp the idea that theatre is an intimate experience, where the audience is expected to participate and identify themselves with the play, their level of enjoyment would be greatly enhanced. So, firstly, from a cultural point of view, and secondly, from an architectural point of view, I hope this Government will do its best to preserve and refurbish Her Majesty's Theatre, because we can never have too many theatres in any one city.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: Who owns it?

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I believe Michael Edgely is the present owner, but naturally his company could not possibly carry out the refurbishing unless it had some form of Government assistance.

This Bill, if passed through both Houses—as I said at the beginning of my speech—will have a most remarkable impact on the life of every citizen in Western Australia. I commend the Government for bringing this piece of legislation forward. It is necessary and essential because if people are occupied during their leisure hours the results will be twofold. Firstly, we will bring about a much greater and enhanced understanding of the arts by the population at large and so create a thirst and a quest for more. Secondly, one of the spin-off factors would be that we would find—I am convinced of this but I will not produce any statistics in support of my contention—that delinquency in all its forms would decrease, and the standard of education in the schools would be raised; and it does need a great deal of raising.

I would like to think that we could have, within the State of Western Australia, a microcosm of every type of culture available in this world. I think we deserve it, and I think the people would appreciate it. I know of no park quite as beautiful as King's Park, but I would like to see, from time to time, some form of cultural activity staged there, be it a band playing, or some form of open air drama being performed. I would like to be able to walk with my family through Hyde Park and to stop at an appropriate place to have a cup of coffee or a drink as one can in the Tivoli Gardens in Denmark. I have always wished to be able to engage in this form of enjoyment, and I know now it is becoming more and more a possibility

through the auspices of this Bill. So I therefore commend the measure to the House and I will give it all possible support.

**THE HON. R. F. CLAUGHTON** (North Metropolitan) [3.19 p.m.]: The introduction of this Bill to Parliament is of particular pleasure to me. I have been interested in its promotion for several years. The Minister did say something about how the idea originated and it may well be said that following the experience of the Arts Advisory Board it was felt there was a need for something to be done beyond that. It must be borne in mind that the Arts Advisory Board was a recommending body only. It did not have power to initiate activity of its own volition.

The main function of the council will be to promote the arts in Western Australia. The advisory board was established by the previous Government in 1969 and since then it has performed very good work.

As announced in 1968 in the policy speech of the Premier, it was the policy of my party to form an arts council, but at that time it was not envisaged it would be a statutory body as is proposed under the Bill. The idea of a statutory body was adopted by my party at its conference in 1970 on the recommendation of a committee of which I was convenor. I, and others associated with me, have been concerned with some of the aspects raised by the previous speaker relating to the staff involved in the establishment of a council of the type proposed. A great deal of the criticism levelled at the Australian Government arts council has concerned the cost of the staff which may be required.

When establishing a department of the arts, which is what this more or less amounts to, a certain cost is involved in personnel and administration. However, we do not want the money allocated to be spent in this way. I hope that when the council is formed the administrative costs will be kept to a minimum so that the maximum amount of money allocated to this section of the community's activities will be used to benefit the people who practise and promote the arts.

A problem exists in connection with co-ordination between the Commonwealth and the State. This is the first State to establish a council of this kind and it could be that it will be the only State to do so. The big problem we face is as a result of the distance between our State and the centres of the population in the Eastern States. Obviously with the greater financial resources of the Commonwealth Government available to them the States are in a position to do a great deal more than is a State on its own in providing the funds necessary to promote the arts.

I have been interested in one particular field—the film industry—and I will quote some figures concerning this later. Of the several millions which have been allocated through the Australian council and the film boards, an amount of only \$14,000 has been spent in this State. So we can see we do have a problem.

I believe that the problems peculiar to Western Australia are best understood by Western Australians. It is not easy for persons located in the major States to understand the problems of those in this State, especially the problems related to the distance between Perth and, for instance, Sydney and Melbourne, and between Perth and overseas countries. We are indeed remote and consequently we have not been able to share in a great deal of the enjoyment afforded by visiting performing groups which have come to Australia.

Despite my misgivings concerning the subsequent costs of staff and administration of an arts council I believe that on balance a great benefit can result from such a council. A good deal of effort must be made by it towards gaining co-operation and co-ordination with the Commonwealth. Up to this time drama, dance, music, and opera groups have always had to make dual submissions, one to the State advisory board, or State Government, and the other to the Commonwealth Government. Decisions arrived at by the different Governments may have conflicted, but I do not think they have. However, the possibility does exist that while the State Government might consider that it would be wise to support one particular group, the Commonwealth agencies may feel that the support should go elsewhere. That would not be a desirable situation and this is why a real need exists for co-ordination and co-operation between the Commonwealth and State arts councils.

Like Mr. Williams, I applaud the Commonwealth for the amount it is spending. Mr. Williams mentioned a figure of \$15,000,000, and I have before me a report which appeared in a Queensland paper in which it was stated that \$2,500,000 had been allocated to help writers around Australia. This is a level of assistance which would have been unimaginable to writers in Australia in the past. Already a number of writers in this State have been helped by the Commonwealth assistance and I do applaud this.

It is the Commonwealth's intention to institute what are called public lending rights royalties. For books circulated through public libraries royalties will be paid to the authors. This again is a matter which the committee, of which I am a member, has supported and urged the Commonwealth Government to support. I am pleased to see that such help is to be

given, but it is help which the State Government could not have given on its own. It is something which can be done only on a Commonwealth scale.

In relation to the legislation to constitute a Western Australian arts council I am pleased to see that the composition of the board has been left open. I know there has been pressure from different sections for the representation to be specified. This is not a desirable method to adopt in the case of arts. It must be left open to the Government to select the best people who are available. The best people may come from any sector of the community at all because there are no barriers as far as art is concerned. People with special abilities or special interests in the arts are engaged in the most unlikely occupations. For these reasons I reiterate that it is a desirable feature of the legislation that the people who are to comprise the board—or the sectors from where they may come—have not been specified.

A great deal has been said in connection with the undemocratic way of selecting members of the various boards under the Commonwealth Arts Council. It is beyond my imagination to work out how this can be done. If a person is to be selected to represent painters, for instance, who are the people to be considered as having the right to elect such a representative of their group? I tend to discount agitation for so-called democracy in the selection of the Commonwealth art boards. In reference to our own arts council I contend, once again, that this is not a sensible way to approach selection nor is it one which can be carried out effectively.

A good deal of excellent work has been undertaken by the people appointed to the Arts Advisory Council since it was first formed. Much has been done to help different cultural groups; assistance has been given to enable certain groups to get on their feet; and there has been some consistency in the way the moneys have been allocated. I express my respect for the way in which the members of the Arts Advisory Council have worked. That body will cease to operate, of course, when this legislation is proclaimed. We do not know whether the same people will, or will not, be appointed to the new board; these appointments will not necessarily follow. We must remember that this legislation is only a skeleton which provides the framework for the promotion of the arts in this State. I know some members of the Opposition have made that remark in respect of other legislation brought forward by our Government. However, this legislation must necessarily be a framework and does not, in itself, achieve anything in the way of promoting or developing the arts. People who are particularly interested in the field of arts would agree that this is a proper basis for legislation in respect of an arts council.

There is need for further cultural development and this has been demonstrated by the response, for instance, to the Perth Concert Hall. Even with the limitations which it has the Perth Concert Hall has gone some way towards meeting the community demand for cultural outlet and it has provided an avenue for groups in our community to perform under excellent conditions. We know the concert hall has its limitations, and these were evident, for instance, when the Stalingrad Kirov Ballet was recently in Perth. It was not possible to put on a complete ballet because the area available on the stage did not allow for that. Consequently the concert hall is limited in its value in respect of some of the performing arts but, at the same time, it has brought many more people out in support of the arts. The community has shown its appreciation of the concert hall by the way in which the people have attended performances there.

The institution of a Western Australian arts council is not enough in itself. Finance is what is essentially required. Otherwise it becomes an empty promise. We cannot do more for the arts without a significant increase in the funds available. I do not know what the demands for grants are in terms of figures. The actual total is not significant but it is impossible, for instance, for the opera company to function on, say, \$20,000 or \$30,000 a year. Considerably more than that is needed to mount operas.

We must work towards enabling people to work full time in their professional capacity so that someone is not working as a singer, dancer, or painter today and then working in some other occupation tomorrow in order to keep himself alive. We must try to enable these people to maintain themselves over the whole year as fully professional people. Finance must be made available for them to be able to do this. This can be achieved only by greatly increased grants above those which have been made available to the Arts Advisory Board so far. I hope the Government will look at this sympathetically.

On the subject of facilities, Mr. Williams spoke for a short time about the concert hall and the building of a stadium. The need is far far more than that. My own committee—the Labor Party Cultural Affairs Committee—has been pushing very strongly while my party has been in Government for something to be done about the art gallery. So far we have not been able to have an art gallery built. As all members would be aware, this is tied up very largely with the funds which are available. Funds are not the only factor because long-term planning also comes into it in connection with the area which is known as the cultural centre in central

Perth. However, it has also been suggested that the art gallery would, perhaps, be located better somewhere other than in this area. These decisions must be made and consequently there has been a delay and little advance has been made, as yet, in respect of the art gallery and that central area.

I could probably say a great deal more about cultural development in this State, but on this occasion I would like to make a specific reference to the film industry. For some time I have been involved with a group called the Perth Institute of Film and Television, as I believe there is a real need for development of the film industry within this State.

I referred earlier to the considerable sums of money made available through the Commonwealth Government. For instance, \$989,000 was allocated through the Film Board of the Australian Council for the Arts in 1969. Only \$14,000 of that sum came to Western Australia. Again, of the \$3,000,000 allocated over the last three years through the Australian Film Development Corporation, only one guarantee of \$2,500 was made to a West Australian. This indicates a considerable loss to our State. Only a very small proportion of the funds available came to Western Australia. This is because our State lacks an organisation of the nature of that proposed by the Perth Institute of Film and Television. The institute is an incorporated body and it is making progress with its proposals. However, unless the facilities it proposes are finally brought under its control, it will not be able to claim the funds made available to the other States. Nor is this State able to attract film-makers to any degree. These people are going to the Eastern States. We do not have many of the technically-qualified people — producers, directors, cameramen, and the like. All the equipment necessary for film-making has to be flown in. We know that the making of the film, *The Nickel Queen* did not have a big impact on the State. We did not see the industry developing here because all the film-making essentials were brought into Western Australia and when the film was completed they all went out again. While this situation continues, the State will not have a film industry.

Under legislation the South Australian Government has set up the South Australian Film Corporation which receives an annual grant from the South Australian Government of \$100,000 for running costs and salaries. It also has access to a loan of \$1,800,000, to be repaid over 20 years at \$400,000 per annum. So the corporation has this loan fund available to it.

The purpose of the corporation is to establish a feature film industry in South Australia. It is bringing into the State a staff of highly qualified production and

technical personnel, including a director, a production manager, a director of photography, an electrician, sound recorders, and sound engineers. It will have available the technical expertise of all these people. It is also establishing a magnatec dubbing suite, and five major productions are planned for 1974.

*Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.01 p.m.*

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: Before the afternoon tea suspension I was speaking about film promotion in Western Australia and I referred to the amount of funds available from the Commonwealth Government and how little of that money came to this State. I said that the South Australian Government had set up a film corporation which is succeeding in developing a film industry in that State. I also referred to a group known as the Perth Institute of Film and Television, which has been attempting to establish a film industry in Western Australia for some time.

It is becoming evident that little is being done in this State, and I believe that situation will continue until some group—whether it be the Perth Institute of Film and Television or a similar organisation—is set up for the purpose. The institute seeks to provide in this State expert film personnel and all the facilities necessary for film-making and the training of Western Australians who are interested in this field. I believe some people have a basic misunderstanding of the aims of the institute, and this has resulted in some opposition to its work. I would state that essentially the institute is attempting to provide facilities here so that when commercial interests come to this State to make a film they will have readily available to them film-making equipment, dubbing facilities, processing facilities, and people competent in the technical area and in the production of films.

The institute is not working in competition with commercial enterprise. It does not seek to become an industry; it seeks to facilitate the work of those who wish to make films. I believe it is unfortunate that the institute has encountered some opposition. The equipment of the institute is quite costly and its running costs are quite heavy; but it is hoped that these costs will be recouped by fees paid by students and from renting the equipment to others. The institute could be viewed simply as the development of a further industry in Western Australia.

My support for the institute arises from the cultural benefits that will become available to Western Australia. For too long this State and the Commonwealth of Australia as a whole have been subjected to the products of cultures outside our country. We are largely influenced by American films and television programmes,



and to a lesser extent by films and programmes from the United Kingdom and some European countries. It has been most difficult to try to establish an Australian national character because we have so little which reflects the Australian people.

We have not had held up to us a mirror to show us the sort of people we are, how we behave, and what are our characteristics, in order that we may recognise ourselves as a people. I believe we suffer as a result. I am an advocate of nationalism, not in the narrow sense, but in the sense of people being self-confident and standing up with self-respect not just in our community but in the international community; and to do that we must be able to see ourselves, recognise ourselves for what we are, and be proud of it. Such are the benefits that arise from the creative arts within Australia or any other country.

The creative arts express the feelings, the ethos, of the people and that is why they are so important to the community and why it is necessary for the Government to take an active interest in their promotion. The most important of the creative arts today is the medium of film and television, because it is through this medium that people communicate with each other. This is the form of art that our people see most frequently yet it is the form which is most neglected—particularly within Western Australia. So I make a strong plea for a greater interest on the part of the State and the Commonwealth Governments, and on the part of the people of the State, in the development of film and television in Western Australia.

During the afternoon tea suspension I had the opportunity to browse through this afternoon's issue of the *Daily News*. Members will recall that earlier in my speech I referred to the need for increased spending on the arts by the State Government; so it is pleasing to see in that newspaper that the amount to be granted to the arts this year has been increased by \$78,000 to a total of \$310,000. Anyone who has a special interest in a particular branch of the arts is never satisfied with the amount provided; and, of course, I would like to see much more money provided to the arts. However, I think the State Government should be given credit for the substantial increase it has offered.

In conclusion, I would like to say that a report I presented to my party's 1970 conference contained a whole range of cultural needs in Western Australia. Those needs, as far as I have been able to determine them, have not changed a great deal since then; and I believe they will not change a great deal in the future unless we receive the sort of funds that the State Government has indicated it is prepared to offer. I think once the Commonwealth

Government funds start to flow we will see a change in the arts scene in Australia and in Western Australia in particular. I enthusiastically support the legislation and, like Mr. Williams, I say it is a most important measure even though it is merely the embryo of much greater things to come.

**THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON** (Lower West) [4.12 p.m.]: I would like to say a few words on this measure, and in the main I will approach it from an angle different from that of Mr. Williams and Mr. Claughton. I wish to speak to the measure from the point of view of one who was for two years President of the Bunbury Arts Promotion Council. I recently relinquished that position in favour of Dr. Ernie Manea. During my term of office we ran two festivals of the arts in Bunbury. They were not the first festivals to be conducted, but they were held in each of those two years. So I have had the experience of dealing with the Australian Council for the Arts and with Mr. John Harper-Nelson of the Arts Advisory Board. Therefore I have some knowledge of the administrative difficulties which confront any person or group desirous of assisting the promotion of cultural activities in the country areas of Western Australia.

Before going any further, may I say that I agree with the remarks made by Mr. Williams. I realise that he was being polite to Albany when he said that the school of fine arts should be established in either Albany or Bunbury, and that he really meant it should be established in Bunbury as that town is the biggest country centre!

I would like also to state that in the main I disagree with Mr. Claughton. For instance, I do not agree that the Australian Council for the Arts, or any other such body, should give money to authors in order that they may go away and write whatever they want to write. I believe that if an author is to be significant he should be able at least to sell his work, and I fear that if Governments pay an author to write what he wants to write the situation will be fraught with all sorts of dangers not only for the country, but for the author. One could envisage a Government relieving Marx of the difficulties he experienced when his family was dying of starvation by paying him so that he could write his *Manifesto*; and I would certainly be very much opposed to that. I also disagree with the contention that money should be paid in large lumps under any legislation to an industry such as the film industry.

If the Government decides to support an industry it should set up some fund under a separate Bill for that purpose. For a film industry to be viable and operational I believe it should be a profitable one. These days one is able to see artistic,

documentary, nature films and the like; and all of these make money. In my view such industries should be kept separate from what is intended to be covered by the Bill before us.

To return to my comments on the administration aspects involved in the measure, in the main it deals with the setting up of the council. The clauses which are of major interest to anyone who is associated with art and culture are 11 and 12. These set out the functions and the powers of the council. I am delighted the Bill has been framed in a fairly flexible form. In particular I draw attention to clause 12 (2) (b) which provides that the council may make grants, pay subsidies, or furnish advances.

In this respect I refer to the Bunbury Arts Promotion Council with which is affiliated the representatives of most of the organisations in that town. There is an executive committee of that body. One year the council conducts a literary prize, and the next it conducts a music composition prize. Both have achieved some fame throughout Australia in their particular fields. They have been able to function for one reason and one only; that is through the generosity of Sir Thomas and Lady Wardle.

On the occasions the Town of Bunbury ran a festival, it was necessary to budget for this purpose. The difficulty with functioning under the Australian Arts Council is that a body has to conduct a show and sustain a loss before it can recoup any of its expenditure. On that occasion the body concerned was required to fill in a complex form, and it shied off doing so until almost the death knock.

Fortunately on two occasions we received reasonable sums of money. One amount was brought by Mr. Garland, M.H.R., who opened one of the festivals, and the other amount was brought by Dr. Jean Battersby who was on the Australian Council for the Arts working in conjunction with Dr. Coombes. This really saved the situation for Bunbury. We had to spend the money, and to gamble on being able to obtain a refund. One is always in some trepidation because one is not always assured of success.

It is a pity that John Harper-Nelson will probably not continue in his present position; that is, if the rumours going around are correct. I believe this piece of legislation will go a long way towards helping country people to enjoy the art and culture they would like to enjoy.

If we look through the lists of money that has been allotted by the Australian Council for the Arts we will find there is enough for places where the council has established branches. There is a branch in New South Wales and one in Victoria. Both States have done pretty well from the council. I suppose this is a case of

he who is nearest the baker gets the best bread, because the organisations in States where there are branches of the council are able to find out how to fill in the forms. Furthermore they have ease of contact with the branches. It is not difficult for officers from the branches to go out and look at the problems confronting the organisations.

In the main I am not talking about big sums of money. It is only reasonable that large sums should be allocated to items of national importance, such as the ballet, the philharmonic orchestra, the Patch Theatre, and the W.A. Opera Company. These bodies are able to provide pleasure through radio and television beyond their immediate environs.

However, when we take the country areas into consideration we find that big sums of money are not involved. A pottery class could function very well if a kiln were supplied. Such an item would cost up to \$240. The class could be assisted by a teacher being provided to give instruction at the weekend. The assistance which country towns look for is the provision of, say, a string quartet, an organist, or similar artists.

The Bunbury Arts Promotion Council was able to achieve this, and it overcame many difficulties. Mrs. Mulcahy used to arrange billets for the visiting artists. Fortunately we were able to obtain the use of St. Augustine's Presbyterian Congregational hall which has a very fine organ and is able to seat about 200 people. On one occasion an organist and a supporting artist came along, and provided a fine musical evening. Such a function might show a loss of \$20 to \$25, and the Bunbury Arts Promotion Council would subsidise the body concerned. The tickets would be sold at 50c or \$1 each. We knew it was a worth-while proposition.

Functions such as these should be brought to the country towns more frequently. On one occasion Bunbury was able to get Joan Campbell, an internationally famous potter whose particular field is Raku pottery, to come along. She stayed for the weekend. She ran classes and demonstrated how to construct a kiln. Many people attended the classes and paid for the tuition. This was not a very costly effort to the council.

The Bunbury Town has been given the use of the premises which formally housed the infants' school in James Street. This was handed over to be used as the Bunbury Arts Centre. The arts society has moved in, and modest alterations have been made. This is a very excellent centre to cater for the arts.

In his contribution Mr. Claughton referred to film work. On one occasion the Bunbury Arts Promotion Council donated \$20 to a group as petty cash, and offered

the use of a room at the rehabilitation centre for holding meetings. By that means a film society was established in Bunbury, and at the meetings amateur film makers were able to exhibit their films, discuss their problems, and learn from each other.

The Bunbury Arts Promotion Council called together a number of people who were interested in pottery, weaving, and the like. It gave those people \$10 as petty cash to start them off as a cottage craft organisation. Elaborate accommodation is not required, because in this instance those people started off in a garage, and a Mrs. Nuttley lent her beach shack to this body so that its members could have somewhere to make pottery, and leave their wheels and clay. Subsequently these people were able to move into the Bunbury Arts Centre, which is established at the school I mentioned previously.

I am putting this on record, in case my comments will be read. I do not believe that organisations in the metropolitan area—with the exception of national organisations such as the Opera Company, the Patch Theatre, and The Hole in the Wall Theatre—should be the recipients of the bulk of the money allocated to the arts. Most of the organisations in the metropolitan area have adequate membership and centres where their members are able to meet. It is the people in country areas who are confronted with great difficulties.

This comes down to the question of viability. In the world of theatre, if a city has a theatre with 100 seats and a population of 100,000, then it is necessary to attract one person in every 1,000 in order to fill the theatre. However, if a city has a theatre with 100 seats and a population of 500,000, then it has to attract one person in every 5,000 to fill the theatre; so the task is five times as easy.

If there is a repertory club at Bunbury which has a theatre to seat 200 people, then it is much more difficult for this organisation to run a season of eight nights, as compared with a theatre accommodating 200 people in Perth or Sydney.

I understand that the Australian Council for the Arts claims that most of the funds are distributed on a *pro rata* basis of population. I maintain this is an extremely unfair way to distribute the funds. It should be distributed on a viability basis. In other words, Sydney should receive much less per head of population than Western Australia receives; and Perth should receive much less per head than country areas in the State receive. I should point out that in the Kimberley it would be extremely difficult to provide the cultural items in which the people are interested.

The main things we are talking about are handicrafts, such as pottery, weaving, spinning, and carving. A century ago all these crafts were necessary to provide utensils and clothing for the people. Pottery was used to make the utensils for food, and weaving was used to provide clothing. These pursuits became handicrafts, and the people became interested in them.

A great number of country towns have thriving centres in which art and craft are taught, and painting is carried on. It is desirable that the people should be able to participate in these crafts. I believe that participation is the key word.

As I look at the Bill I find that the key is participation. The Western Australian arts council has a big prospect of success. In the short time that he has been at this work, John Harper-Nelson would know the people in the country areas who are involved. He would be able to ascertain from a visit, which might take a day and very little in money, how little is needed in finance to get an organisation off the ground. However, we find that the Australian Council for the Arts has been sending its officers on plane trips from Canberra and Sydney over here to look at some set-up which might involve \$200 or \$300.

I do not think that any of these organisations should reach the stage of being affluent. It is necessary for them to suffer some slight degree of hardship or need. We cannot be wasteful of money, and we should use the money available wisely. Most people take it for granted that they have to buy the clay if they are interested in pottery, and they accept the fact that they have to pay something to attend the classes. However, they do need assistance in the way of accommodation, so that an article which is only half finished can be left at the centre.

There is a need for centres where people can share in the purchase of a kiln in which to bake their pottery. There is a need for some form of club where people can learn from one another, and where they can put on an exhibition such as a display of paintings so that other people can admire and criticise the work. I think that each of us has had the experience of attending displays in halls, and such places, and observing the work which is being done.

I have had some experience with the extreme difficulties associated with approaches to the Australian Council for the Arts, and I trust the new Western Australian arts council will keep its administration requirements to a minimum. Application forms will need to be simple.

I am delighted to observe that the council will be able to offer advances for festivals or exhibitions. Organisers of such events will be able to make an application

for, say, \$200 which will be repaid if the exhibition is successful. I am pleased that such a provision is included in this Bill.

I would be less than honest if I did not say that the Australian Council for the Arts has treated the Bunbury Arts Promotion Council, with which I was associated, quite generously over a period of a couple of years. However, the response from the board was mainly due to the extreme persistence of the applications made to it. It was not a simple process, or a very personal sort of thing. When dealing in this sphere it is necessary to be simple and personal in order to achieve what is desired.

I do not decry the needs of the city areas, but I believe city people have greater opportunities to visit art galleries and exhibitions. City people have access to all sorts of clubs and the like and those facilities are not available to people who live in remote country areas. For that reason there ought to be an imbalance in favour of the country areas, especially in Western Australia with its large areas and great distances.

An examination of the list of grants made over the last couple of years by the Arts Advisory Board reveals that an imbalance does, in fact, exist in Western Australia. The imbalance is in favour of country areas because about half of the money available is spent in the metropolitan area, and the balance is spent in the country areas. The same cannot be said about the Australian Council for the Arts because the bulk of the money available to that organisation has gone to the most populous States which, by their very nature, are more advanced in cultural and artistic pursuits than the less populated States. I think that is wrong.

I wish the Bill well, and I have every intention of supporting it.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. J. M. Thomson.

## QUESTIONS (11): ON NOTICE

### 1. WATER SUPPLIES

#### *Extensions from Mains*

The Hon. T. O. Perry for The Hon. N. E. BAXTER, to the Leader of the House:

With reference to the reply to question 8 on Tuesday, the 18th September, 1973, regarding water supply extensions—

- (1) (a) Why are supply conditions in rural farmlands not comparable with those in the metropolitan area; and
- (b) in what way could supply conditions affect extensions through private property?

- (2) (a) What would the Department consider would be the length of a very long extension; and
- (b) would not prior inspection reveal any place where inspection of a pipeline would be very difficult?
- (3) With reference to leaks developing and serious wastage of water resulting, would not leaks be more easily detected in the heavier soils in the rural areas than those in the metropolitan area where the water is quickly absorbed in sand?
- (4) Why did the answer to question 8 refer to "unauthorised connections" as there was no reference to these in the questions asked?

The Hon. R. Thompson for The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) (a) Because of the great difference in the size of properties involved;
- (b) answered by (1) (a).
- (2) (a) This is necessarily a somewhat indefinite figure but any extension in excess of 20 chains would be considered very long in this context;
- (b) yes in some cases. However generally long lengths of private main laid across property cannot be adequately inspected.
- (3) Slow leaks are generally more readily detected in clay soils. However the prime factor in readily locating leakage is for the main to be accessible for frequent inspection.
- (4) Because this is another important factor as to why the Public Works Department does not favourably regard long lengths of private mains.

## 2.

## MINING

### *Government Financial Assistance*

The Hon. V. J. Ferry for The Hon. W. R. WITHERS, to the Leader of the House:

In view of section 91 in the Federal Constitution which allows a State to grant aid to, or bounty on, mining for gold, silver or other metals, is it the intention of this Government to financially assist those mining industries which were adversely affected by recent actions of the Federal Government?

The Hon. R. Thompson for The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

The State Government has already made approaches to the Australian Government for assistance to the mining industry.

3.

**INCOME TAX***Farm Improvements: Deductions*

The Hon. C. R. Abbey for The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Does the State Government consider that changes proposed in the Federal Budget to change sections of the Income Tax Act so that moneys expended on—

- (a) soil conservation;
- (b) water conservation;
- (c) vermin control; and
- (d) weed control;

will no longer be deductible to a farmer in full in the year of expenditure, will have a detrimental effect on the natural resources of this State?

- (2) If so, will the Government prepare a report on these vital matters for the benefit of this Parliament, the primary producers of this State, and the Federal Treasurer?

The Hon. R. Thompson for The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) and (2) The Minister for Agriculture is concerned at the specific budgetary provisions proposed and has written to the Minister for Primary Industry seeking early discussions with a view to having the decision reviewed.

4.

**POLICE STATIONS***Whitfords and Nollamara*

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) (a) Is it the Government's intention to locate a police station at Whitfords;
- (b) if so, when is it expected that this station will be completed?
- (2) Will the Minister implement as soon as possible the request I made in July last for an additional vehicle to be located at Nollamara?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON replied:

- (1) (a) No. The growth of many localities in northern suburban areas makes necessary the provision of overall Police protection of the districts along modern lines. Research and planning are proceeding;
- (b) answered by (a).
- (2) An additional vehicle is on order.

5.

**BIRDS***Investigation into Legislation*

The Hon. V. J. Ferry for The Hon. W. R. WITHERS, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Are meetings being held between officers of the Department of Fisheries and Fauna, the Agricul-

ture Protection Board, and a group of people, to discuss the current Acts and Regulations pertaining to the protection, caging or eradication of birds in Western Australia?

- (2) How many meetings have been held?
- (3) What organisations were represented by the non departmental persons attending the meetings?
- (4) Were the executive officers of the Avicultural and Wild Life Association invited to send a representative to the meetings?

The Hon. R. Thompson for The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Five.
- (3) At one or other of the meetings—The Avicultural Society of W.A., The Rockingham and District Caged Bird Association, the Melville Districts Caged Bird & Improvement Society, The Avicultural and Wildlife Association, The Canary and Caged Birds Improvement Society of W.A., The Budgerigar Society, The Midland and District Caged Birds Society and The Northern Districts Caged Birds Society.

- (4) The Avicultural and Wildlife Association and all other known clubs were sent invitations to the first two meetings. After the second meeting all the non-governmental people formed The Combined Bird Organisations of W.A. The Government officers understand that an office bearer of the Avicultural and Wildlife Association initially agreed that his organisation would also participate but that subsequently it decided to withdraw. Notices to this effect were published on behalf of the Combined Bird Organisation of W.A. in *The Sunday Times* of 1st April, 1973 and 15th April, 1973. The text of the notices is subtended. The advertisement appeared in *The Sunday Times* dated 1st April, 1973.

Headed "Attention to Bird Lovers".

Let it be known that the Combined Bird Organizations of Western Australia comprising of Canary and Caged Birds Improvement Society, of W.A., Inc., Melville District Caged Birds and Improvement Society, Midland and Districts Caged Birds Society, Northern Districts Caged Birds Society, Rockingham Caged Birds Society, The Aviculture Society of W.A., Inc., The Avicultural and Wildlife Association, The Budgerigar Society of W.A., has been formed

for the express purpose of stopping the impending anticipated slaughter or deportation by the Agriculture Protection Board of the many varieties of caged and aviary birds being held by aviculturists in Western Australia. Any bird lovers wishing to support our fight can contact the Organization by writing

C/- P.O. Box 55  
Victoria Park, 6100.

Signed Berkley Allen,

CHAIRMAN.

In *The Sunday Times* of 15th April, 1973.

Combined Bird Organizations of W.A., wish to advise that contrary to our advertisement in this paper of the 8th April, 1973 (wrong date) the management of the Avicultural and Wildlife Association of W.A. unfortunately have written that they do not wish to be associated with our organization, formed to resist impending restrictions that are being placed on all bird keepers.

H. A. Bedford,  
SECRETARY.

#### 6. POTATO MARKETING BOARD

*Inquiry by Private Consultant*

The Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Has the report by King Lissiman and Co., Chartered Accountants, engaged by the Government early this year to inquire into the affairs of the Western Australian Potato Marketing Board, been completed?
- (2) If so—
  - (a) has it been presented to the Government; and
  - (b) when will the report be tabled?
- (3) If the report is incomplete, when may it be expected to be finalised?
- (4) Will the Government await the report before introducing to Parliament the long promised amendments to the Marketing of Potatoes Act, 1946, such as—
  - (a) provision for all commercial potato growers to have the right to vote in the election of elective members of the Board;
  - (b) provision for a graduated scale of fines for offences involving the planting of potatoes without a license;
  - (c) provision for a right of appeal against reduction or cancellation of a license to grow potatoes; and
  - (d) any other provisions?

The Hon. R. Thompson for The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) Before the end of this year.
- (4) No. However there is little likelihood of these amendments being introduced during this Session of Parliament.

#### 7. POTATO MARKETING BOARD

*Chairman: Appointment*

The Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) At what date did the term of appointment of Mr. H. Threlfall as Chairman of the Western Australian Potato Marketing Board expire?
- (2) Is it the intention of the Government to re-appoint Mr. Threlfall for a further term?
- (3) If not—
  - (a) has another person been appointed to this position; and
  - (b) if so, what is his name and qualifications for the position?
- (4) If an appointment has not been made, what is the intention of the Government in this regard?

The Hon. R. Thompson for The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) 30th September, 1973.
- (2) Mr. Threlfall is not eligible for re-appointment because of existing Government policy in regard to the age of appointees.
- (3) (a) No;  
(b) answered by (3) (a).
- (4) The appointment of a chairman is at present under consideration.

#### 8. MINING

*Northern Mining Corporation Agreement*

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon for The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) On what dates were the temporary reserves, the subject of the agreement between the Northern Mining Corporation N.L. and the State, first granted?
- (2) Would he please provide full particulars of the temporary reserve areas?

The Hon. R. Thompson for The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) 3900H on 6/10/1966.  
3901H on 6/10/1966.  
3902H on 6/10/1966.  
5790H on 10/5/1973.
- (2) 3900H—approx 7.5 square miles at Mount Gould, Peak Hill Gold-field.

3901H—approx 269.14 square miles at Jack Hills, Murchison Gold-field.

3902H—approx 59 square miles at Weld Range, Murchison Gold-field.

5790H—approx 38 square miles at Robinson Range, Peak Hill Gold-field.

## 9. DEVELOPMENT

### *Manjimup Canning Co-operative: Inquiry*

The Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Leader of the House:

Adverting to my question 13 on the 21st August, 1973—

- (1) Has the Minister for Development and Decentralisation received the results of a departmental inquiry giving a full report on the Manjimup Canning Co-operative?
- (2) If so, will the report be tabled for perusal?
- (3) What sources of financial assistance are now supporting the Cannery, and to what extent is each commitment?
- (4) Arising out of the recent departmental inquiry and evaluation of a recent Director's report, will the Minister give a detailed statement on the present position of the Cannery, and also, a full appraisal of its future trading, including any likely further requirements for financial backing?

The Hon. R. Thompson for The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) A decision will be made when the report is received.
- (3) —

	Commitment \$	Balance at 30/9/73 \$
Government Guarantees		
Long Term Loans—		
Superannuation Board of W.A.	420,000	420,000
Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust	535,000	535,000
	<u>\$955,000</u>	<u>\$955,000</u>

### Seasonal Finance—

Reserve Bank of Australia	315,000	104,187
Rural & Industries Bank of W.A.	120,000	120,000
	<u>\$435,000</u>	<u>\$224,187</u>
Total Guarantees	\$1,390,000	\$1,179,187
Government Loans	\$195,000	\$173,000

\* Referred to as \$190,000 (estimated) in answer to Question 13 of 21st August, 1973.

- (4) A full statement will be made when the report on the departmental inquiry has been received and considered. A copy will be forwarded to the Hon. Member for his information.

## 10.

## HEALTH

### *Medical Practitioners: South-West*

The Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Is the Government aware that there is need for additional practitioners to service the medical needs of the people residing in the South West?
- (2) Is the Government also aware that it has been stated in a news item appearing in *The West Australian* of the 2nd October, 1973, that the Bunbury Regional Hospital and the St. John's Hospital, Bunbury, are both running at a 90 per cent capacity?
- (3) (a) If the Government is aware of the situation as stated in questions (1) and (2), what action is being taken to encourage more doctors to practise in the South West; and  
(b) if the Government is not aware of the situation as stated, will it investigate the position and advise its findings as soon as possible?

The Hon. R. Thompson for The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) The Government is aware that there are areas where more doctors could be employed.
- (2) There has been no indication that the hospitals are unable to cope with the situation adequately.
- (3) The Government has advertised within and outside Australia for doctors for country practices. Replies from various parts of the world are being received and examined.

## 11.

## EGGS

### *Prosecutions at Esperance*

The Hon. C. R. Abbey for The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Leader of the House:

Further to the reply to question 2 on the 3rd October, 1973, what is the expected cost of counsels' fees and court costs?

The Hon. R. Thompson for The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

(a) Under the State Marketing of Eggs Act—E. J. & R. J. Kent, and Nobard Pty. Ltd., counsels' fees and court costs amounted to \$239.65c of which \$89.65 will be recouped from the defendants, the balance being \$150.

(b) Under the Commonwealth Poultry Industry Levy Act—Nobard Pty. Ltd.,—counsels' fees and court costs amounted to \$28, all of which will be recouped from the defendant.

**NURSES ACT AMENDMENT BILL***Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 3rd October.

**THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON** (Lower West) [4.47 p.m.]: This is a simple piece of legislation which makes it possible for the Nurses Board to receive a Government guarantee of financial assistance in order to buy a building situated at 1140 Hay Street. I think most of us know where that is.

The only point about the Minister's speech which surprised me a little was that there was really no explanation as to why the board wants to buy the building. All he said was—

The Minister for Health is satisfied that the board's desire to purchase its own building is justified and financially sound.

I therefore made some inquiries to find out whether the purchase was merely on the basis of Parkinson's law or whether there was any justification for it.

As the Minister said when introducing the Bill, the parent Act, which was passed some time ago, having been introduced into this House by me, handed over the control of nursing activities in this State to the nurses themselves by establishing an autonomous body known as the Nurses Board. Since that time the board has become very active in the field of nurse education, and registration of nurses has been stepped up and streamlined. Something like 1,000 nurses are coming into this State annually from other States and overseas. They have to be registered and their qualifications have to be checked in order to ensure they have attained the standards of nurse education required to comply with the laws of this State.

There has been a great deal of activity with regard to nurse education, post-graduate education, and the like. Special courses are being run and a sister with special qualifications in the education field has been appointed as an examination officer.

Parking problems are being experienced in the present building. The lease runs out in October this year and the building currently occupied by the board is to be offered for sale. There is therefore justification for the purchase of the building at 1140 Hay Street, which has better space and accommodation, will give the board permanency, has a commodious meeting room, ample parking space, and the like.

There are one or two other provisions in this very small Bill tidying up the Nurses Act with relation to gifts of money which can be applied for the purpose of managing the affairs and interests of nurses.

I am delighted that since the Nurses Board has moved from being a small section of the Medical Department it has prospered so well under the chairmanship of Dr. Le Souef, and I trust the new accommodation will lead the board on to even more efficient operations. I support the Bill.

**THE HON. R. H. C. STUBBS** (South-East—Minister for Local Government) [4.50 p.m.]: I thank Mr. MacKinnon for his support of the Bill. I am sure he knows much more about the subject of nurses than I do because, as the Minister for Health for so long, he had a great deal to do with it.

It surprised me to learn that 1,000 nurses were coming into this State each year.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The figure was given to me this morning. It surprised me, too.

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: I suppose it is a very good thing for the nursing profession. At one stage we had a shortage of nurses.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Probably a number of nurses leave, too.

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: That is the trend today. Young people travel a great deal. Some go away and come back, which is a very good thing, because travel broadens the mind. I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee, etc.*

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

**COAL MINE WORKERS (PENSIONS) ACT AMENDMENT BILL***Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 3rd October.

**THE HON. T. O. PERRY** (Lower Central) [4.53 p.m.]: This Bill proposes to cover under the Act those timber cutters who are engaged solely for the purpose of supplying timber to the deep mines in Collie. As those timber cutters are already covered by a general award and receive the same long service leave entitlement as do the miners, I do not think it is unreasonable that they should be covered by the provisions of the Coal Mine Workers (Pensions) Act.

Prior to the last World War, quite a number of men were engaged in cutting timber for the deep mines. At that time all the coal mined at Collie came from the deep mines. Since the introduction of open-cut mining the number of timber



cutters for the deep mines has been reduced considerably, and I understand only about six men are so engaged today. Mr. Don Mills holds the contract. He does not cut the timber himself but he is responsible for the cartage of the timber from the place where it is felled to the pit head.

Some people might ask why sawn timber is not used in the deep mines. The Minister for Local Government would understand this because he has a good understanding of coalmining. However, several people have asked me the question from time to time. Of course, sawn timber is subject to breaking or fracturing under stress and strain, and it is considered dangerous to use some sawn timber. With round poles, in which the grain runs with the timber, there is practically no risk of the timber fracturing or breaking.

I understand it has been said in another place that the previous Government refused to accept timber cutters as mine-workers under the Coal Mine Workers (Pensions) Act. I am forced to ask whether that statement is correct and whether it is a valid accusation. In the light of the many amendments the previous Government made to the Mine Workers' Relief Act, I cannot believe it rejected such an application out of hand.

I have checked with the Mines Department, the Coal Miners' Pensions Tribunal, and the Miners' Union, and not one of those bodies has been able to give me an instance of an official application to be covered by the Coal Mine Workers (Pensions) Act. One would imagine the present Secretary of the Miners' Union in Collie would have knowledge of this because he represented the miners in the matter of pensions for many years. He would be the first person to have knowledge of such an application. During the nine years I have represented Collie, I have not been approached by members of the union to support a claim for the timber cutters to be covered by the Act. I do not know whether Mr. MacKinnon, who represented Collie for some years before I was elected, was ever approached in this matter by any of the miners' organisations. I certainly have no knowledge of such an application. I would appreciate it if the Minister for Local Government would advise me whether it is true that an application was made to the previous Government and was refused.

I have had a great deal to do with those who at one time were engaged in cutting props for the mines. Many of them were log choppers and, as an axeman registered with the W.A. Axemen's League, I came in contact with them from time to time. I understand these people were approached to see whether they wished to be covered by the Coal Mine Workers (Pensions) Act in order to receive the benefit of the pensions, but that they voted against such a move. They did not wish to contribute

to the fund because, had they done so, they would have had to retire compulsorily on reaching 60 years of age. Many of the men indicated to me that they did not wish to retire at 60 or to contribute to the fund.

I would appreciate it if the Minister for Local Government could put me right on this matter because, having discussed it with the men from time to time, I understand it was at their own wish that they were excluded. I may be wrong because there may have been negotiations between the Miners' Union and the previous Government of which I have no knowledge.

With those few words, I support the Bill.

**THE HON. R. H. C. STUBBS** (South-East—Minister for Local Government) [5.00 p.m.]: I wish to thank Mr. Perry for his support of the Bill. I will certainly try to obtain the information for which he asks. It would not, of course, be possible for me to give him that information straight away.

I worked in a coalmine for five years and the latter part of what the honourable member said about men not wanting to join the union did apply at that time; but that was a long time ago.

Mr. Perry made some reference to timber. We always have timber in its natural state when it is hewn; it is used to support the ground above. The only time we use sawn timber is when we need to prevent the sides from caving in. I helped timber the old Stockton Mine from the ground up. This was in the days when I was quite young and when everything was done with a shovel. I do not think I would like to return to those days.

As I have said I will endeavour to obtain the information asked for by the honourable member and if he is happy about it I will let him have that information at the third reading stage.

The Hon. T. O. Perry: Thank you.

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.

## MENTAL HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL

*Second Reading*

**THE HON. R. THOMPSON** (South Metropolitan—Minister for Police) [5.03 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

It is sometimes necessary for the purposes of mental treatment to require a person to be conveyed to an approved hospital on

the authority of an order issued under division 3 of the Mental Health Act, 1962-72. In such cases, the assistance of the police and other persons is usually necessary.

Present legislation however fixes no obligation to assist and this Bill seeks to rectify this disability. Provision is accordingly included in the bill for persons who give assistance as a consequence of the proposed legal requirements to be indemnified against claims for damages.

In the Legislative Assembly, at the suggestion of a former Minister for Health (Mr. Ross Hutchinson), there was written into the Bill the requirement that where force is used in the conveyance of a person to, and reception into, an approved hospital, pursuant to an order of a court or of a justice, this fact, and particulars of the type and degree of force used, shall be reported in writing within twenty-four hours thereafter, to the Director of Mental Health Services by the senior police officer and any medical practitioner aiding and assisting in the execution of the order.

Another matter dealt with concerns the 1971 amendments to the Offenders Probation and Parole Act which placed beyond doubt that persons become the responsibility of mental health services when Her Majesty's pleasure is made known by the Governor's order under section 48 of the Mental Health Act.

The deletion of the words "or to strict custody" from the Mental Health Act is a consequential amendment to the amended Offenders Probation and Parole Act making this reference unnecessary. The Governor still retains all the powers to order the patient to be returned to hospital if a breach in the terms or conditions of the person's liberation occurs.

The other matter dealt with in the Bill is a provision to enable the disposal of patients' unclaimed property following death or discharge from mental health institutions. Such provision does not exist in the present legislation. Yet on account of the small value of the property held, the time and cost of action under part VIII of the Disposal of Uncollected Goods Act would be disproportionate to the value of the articles to be disposed of.

This amendment will simplify the procedures required but will still provide proper security of the property.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon.

## FIREARMS BILL

### Assembly's Amendments

Amendments made by the Assembly now considered.

### In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (The Hon. N. E. Baxter) in the Chair; The Hon. R. Thompson (Minister for Police) in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: The amendments made by the Assembly are as follows—

#### No. 1.

##### Clause 4.

Page 2, line 16—Insert immediately after the word "firearm" the words "but does not include ammunition rendered inoperative for the purpose of a collector's item".

#### No. 2.

##### Clause 15.

Page 9, line 28—Insert after the passage "commercially," the word "or".

#### No. 3.

##### Clause 15.

Page 9, lines 29 to 39—Delete paragraphs (c) and (d) and insert in lieu a new paragraph (c) as follows:—

- (c) any other firearm, including any replica of a firearm of the kind referred to in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) of this subsection, which can be shown to the Commissioner to be a collector's item or of especial sentimental value to the owner.

#### No. 4.

##### Clause 19.

Page 14, line 10—Insert after the word "who" the word "knowingly".

#### No. 5.

##### Clause 19.

Page 14, line 20—Insert immediately after the word "who" the word "knowingly".

#### No. 6.

##### Clause 19.

Page 14, line 21—Delete the word "knowingly".

#### No. 7.

##### Clause 19.

Page 14, line 31—Insert after the word "who" the word "knowingly".

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I understand these amendments were originally suggested in this Chamber, and I therefore propose to deal with them *en bloc*. Accordingly, I move—

That the amendments made by the Assembly be agreed to.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: As the Minister has said, these amendments were initially proposed and moved in this House. Strangely enough, however, they were opposed by the Government and consequently we were unable to have them inserted in the Bill. I am pleased to see, however, that when the Bill reached the other place it was decided that the arguments put forward by members of my party were obviously correct at the time and the Government has now seen fit to accept the proposals. I am pleased to support the amendments moved by the Assembly.

Question put and passed; the Assembly's amendments agreed to.

#### *Report*

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

### **DENTAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 3rd October.

**THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON** (Lower West) [5.12 p.m.]: One would wish that all Bills were as simple as this which contains an obvious correction of an error made when the legislation was before us in 1972.

**THE HON. R. H. C. STUBBS** (South-East—Minister for Local Government) [5.13 p.m.]: I thank Mr. MacKinnon for his support of the Bill and I commend the second reading.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Co-operative, aren't we?

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee, etc.*

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

*House adjourned at 5.14 p.m.*

## **Legislative Assembly**

Thursday, the 4th October, 1973

The **SPEAKER** (Mr. Norton) took the Chair at 11.00 a.m., and read prayers.

### **BUDGET**

#### *Photographing of Premier on Delivery*

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr. Norton): I wish to advise members that I have given permission to *The West Australian* to take a photograph of the Premier delivering the Budget.

### **HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Bickerton (Minister for Housing), and read a first time.

### **WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL (2ND.)**

#### *Third Reading*

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Harman (Minister for Labour), and transmitted to the Council.

### **ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)**

#### *Report*

Report of Committee adopted.

### **APPROPRIATION BILL (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND)**

#### *Message: Appropriations*

Message from the Lieutenant-Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the Bill.

#### *Second Reading*

**MR. J. T. TONKIN** (Melville—Treasurer) [11.10 a.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

I have pleasure in presenting the Budget for 1973-74.

When introducing last year's Budget, I commented that it had been framed in a difficult economic and financial climate. Our financial problems have not lessened, but it is gratifying to record that the State economy has moved out of the doldrums and that we are on the threshold of another extended period of development and economic growth.

I also said at this time last year that there was little satisfaction to be drawn from a survey of the State economy in the past year. Such has been the turn of economic events that on this occasion I can take considerable satisfaction from a review of economic performance in 1972-73.

#### **The Economy**

During the past year there was a marked resurgence in most sectors of the economy and current indicators point to a healthy growth situation in the year ahead. Highlights of economic activity in Western Australia during 1972-73 were—

continued strong recovery in the rural sector, led by rising prices and increased demand for wheat, wool, and beef;

a revival in mining, particularly of iron ore, where increased world demand has led to a stepping up of production rates and an acceleration of expansion programmes, contrasting with the