

Legislative Council

Tuesday, 11th November, 1952.

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

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Messages from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:—

1. Physiotherapists Act Amendment.
2. Pharmacy and Poisons Act Amendment.
3. Health Act Amendment (No. 1).
4. Police Act Amendment.
5. Child Welfare Act Amendment.
6. Friendly Societies Act Amendment.
7. Land Agents Act Amendment.

QUESTIONS.

WATER PIPING.

As to Disposal.

Hon. C. W. D. BARKER asked the Minister for Transport:

Is he aware that a line of 4in. galvanised iron water piping, which was laid from Mardi Station to the coast in connection with the recent atomic tests, is to be removed and the piping shipped to the Eastern States? As this material is in such short supply, will he endeavour to have the 13 or 14 miles of piping retained for use in this State?

The MINISTER replied:

This piping is 4in. victaulic and is not galvanised, nor is it being shipped to the Eastern States. It is stacked at Onslow awaiting sale and has been examined there by the Public Works Department's agent. It is not suitable for use by either the Public Works Department or the Metropolitan Water Supply Department. The piping, which is 7½ miles in length, not 13 or 14 miles, has also been offered to other Government departments and to private companies.

STATE SHIPPING SERVICE.

(a) As to Vessel for Fremantle-Esperance Run.

Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY (for Hon. G. Bennetts) asked the Minister for Transport:

Can he inform the House what steps have been taken to have a ship restored to the Fremantle-Esperance run to replace m.v. "Kybra" which is now on the North-West service?

The MINISTER replied:

There is no proposal under consideration to replace m.v. "Kybra" on the Esperance run. Interstate vessels call at Esperance and Albany west-bound and at Albany east-bound, but the volume of cargo handled on the east-bound calls is negligible.

(b) As to Accommodation for North-West Residents.

Hon. C. W. D. BARKER asked the Minister for Transport:

Is he aware that about 400 persons, at present on the State Shipping Service waiting list desiring to travel from North-West ports to Fremantle during the period November-February, will be unable to do so due to the restricted passenger accommodation in the vessels operating on the coast? In view of this, will the Government consider the granting of a subsidy to enable these people to travel by air?

The MINISTER replied:

Approximately 200 names are on the waiting list for southward berths. Any appreciable subsidy would involve the Government in very considerable expense and the money is not available to enable the matter to be considered.

HOSPITALS.

As to Regional Site, Albany.

Hon. J. McI. THOMSON asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) What is the area of the Albany regional hospital site selected in 1945?

(2) What is the area of the proposed new site and how far is it from the Albany Town Hall?

(3) On whose suggestion was the site changed and for what reasons?

(4) Were the plans and specifications drawn up and completed for the building on the site selected in 1945?

(5) Will the proposed shifting mean the total discarding of the plans, specifications and works carried out to date on original site, and the drawing up of fresh plans, etc., for the new site?

(6) Will all this extra work delay the calling of tenders and commencement of the construction of the regional hospital?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) 7 acres 1 rood 25.6 perches.

(2) No specific new site has been selected.

(3) The Minister for Health, upon the recommendation of the Under Secretary, the Commissioner of Public Health and the concurrence of the Principal Architect. Since the site was selected, the development of Albany has been considerable and it would be wise to choose a larger site.

(4) Only a sketch plan has been prepared.

(5) No specifications have been prepared or works carried out on the site. The sketches would require reconsideration when a new site is selected.

(6) No, very little waste of work is involved and the objectives fully justify the change. Tenders could not be called on the present sketches. Detailed plans, specifications and quantities would have to be prepared, which would occupy at least nine months. Financial restrictions are more likely to cause delay.

BILLS (2)—THIRD READING.

1, Warehousemen's Liens.

2, Criminal Code Amendment.

Passed.

BILL—NURSES REGISTRATION ACT AMENDMENT (No. 1).

In Committee.

Resumed from the 4th November. Hon. J. A. Dimmitt in the Chair; the Minister for Transport in charge of the Bill.

Clause 2—Section 1B amended (partly considered):

Hon. E. M. DAVIES: I move an amendment—

That in line 4 the word "trained" be struck out with a view to inserting another word.

If I am successful in this regard, I will move to insert the word "registered" in place of the word "trained." The provision, as it is printed in the Bill, might lead ordinary people to believe that the person referred to in the clause was a trained nurse when, in fact, she was not. Having had the opportunity of perusing the law in New Zealand where the word "registered" is used, I feel that

it will be sufficient here because the nursing aide will be registered in this State. Trained nurses are also registered in Western Australia, but there appears to be some reciprocity between this State and the other States, and also with the United Kingdom where a certificate gained here is recognised.

The CHAIRMAN: Before the amendment is proceeded with, I suggest to the Committee that the debate take place on both this amendment and the one proposed by Dr. Hislop. Both members intend to alter the definition, Mr. Davies in one way and Dr. Hislop in another. They both wish to delete the word "trained," so the motion before the Committee is to delete that word. If it is struck out we can deal with the alternative amendments.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: Considerable trouble has been taken to ascertain the views of the Nurses Association which would be affected. I have here two letters from the Western Australian Nurses Association, and the general executive of that body is anxious to preserve the Bill as it is, without amendment. The first letter, which is dated the 6th November, and is addressed to me, is as follows:—

At the general meeting of the W.A.N.A. all the members present expressed their approval of the proposed alteration in the present constitution to include trained and trainee nursing aides. It is obvious therefore that the training of this body of the nursing profession has not only the approval of the Executive Committee of this Association but of the majority of the active members.

On the 10th November a further letter, bearing on another point that was raised, was received. It states—

At the general meeting of the W.A.N.A. all the members present expressed their approval of the proposed alteration in the present constitution to include trained and trainee nursing aides.

The proposed change from trained and trainee nursing aides to State enrolled assistant nurse could be confused with the present untrained persons working in hospitals under the title of nursing assistants. As these persons will still continue to be employed at various hospitals for many years to come a distinctive designation is necessary.

Therefore we suggest they be called trained and trainee nursing aides.

These letters express the official view of the W.A. Nurses Association Industrial Union of Workers, which is the body most concerned. If I am in order in carrying this a little further, I want to say something that has a distinct reference to the point raised by Mr. Davies and to the

subject matter of the amendments on the notice paper. The Nurses Registration Board, and the W.A. Nurses Association, which is the nurses' union, oppose the amendment entirely.

It is pointed out that these girls cannot be registered. Under the Act, a registered nurse must be 21 years of age and, by being registered, she is entitled to be in charge of dangerous drugs. Nursing aides will not be permitted to be in charge of drugs and therefore they cannot be registered. There is a difference between their being enrolled on a register and being registered. The Nurses Association and the board wish to retain the word "trained", as it distinguishes the girls from the untrained nursing assistants. Those are the official views, and I think the majority of us wish to fall into line with the desire of members of this union. They have good reasons why they want the Bill to be passed unchanged, and why they do not desire the changes which have been proposed.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I most vigorously oppose the use of the word "trained". These people will not have the slightest semblance of training. When one recalls what a nurse is called upon to do, these girls will be nothing more than assistants to nurses, and the Minister, when closing the second reading debate, said these nurses would only be able to assist nurses, and even if they were qualified they would be able to work only under the supervision of a trained nurse. By what stretch of imagination can one say that an individual who takes no responsibility is a trained person? It is a matter of expediency rather than wisdom, and I think we should endeavour to look at it from the broad viewpoint.

This will be only a temporary measure because before long something along the lines I suggested when speaking to the second reading will take place. This system of nursing cannot go on forever and maintain the standard as we know it. The word "trained" is something which we should preserve. The word "registered" is in the same category. If one goes around the suburbs, one will see the name of a nurse on a name plate, and under it will be the word "registered", which means in the sense suggested in the clause that this trained nurse is registered under the Act. Therefore, to use that word would be quite wrong. My amendment will bring it into line with the wording in Great Britain, and will fit in with the custom in New Zealand.

The Minister for Transport: I think I distinguished between trained nurses such as these, with 12 months' experience, and nursing assistants, who would not necessarily have any experience.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: That is drawing red herrings across the trail. The Minister told us that he hoped these people

would replace the present assistant nurses who have no experience whatever and can be about 14 years of age and over.

The Minister for Transport: They have to pass an examination to be nursing aides.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: There seems to be a terrific amount of confusion in the mind of the Minister.

The Minister for Transport: None whatever.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: At present they are employed in hospitals as nursing assistants, and they have no training. We have to make certain that girls with little or no training are not regarded as "trained".

Hon. E. M. DAVIES: I agree with Dr. Hislop that to use the word "trained" would lead the general public to believe that nursing aides have had some training as nurses. While I have not contacted the Nurses Association, I have discussed the matter with other nurses who had to serve a period of three years undergoing extensive training and had to pass certain examinations before they were entitled to receive diplomas as trained nurses. The word "trained" in relation to the people mentioned in the Bill is a misnomer, and why any objection should be raised to the use of the word "registered" I am unable to understand. I believe the term used in New Zealand is, "registered nursing aides". If a nursing aide has received a certain amount of training, she is registered and so is a trained nurse.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: It is some time since this Bill was debated, and in order to refresh members' minds I intend to quote some notes I used during my speech in reply to the second reading. I said—

The opinion has been gaining ground that what the nursing profession requires is a smaller number of more highly-trained nurses and a larger number of less highly-trained nurses in order to provide a complete and balanced nursing system. The Bill is an attempt to provide the second of these categories. It must be realised that in no way does it affect the standard of the training of the trained nurse as we know her today. The inclusion of the nursing aide in the nursing service would ensure this standard. The nursing aide would work under the supervision of a trained nurse and would not at any time be entirely responsible for the treatment of patients. The curriculum of the nursing aide will provide for her instruction in her duties. There is also provision for her to be examined at the end of her year's course. This examination will differ in type from that of the trained nurse, being more practical, but it will

be an examination nevertheless. There will be nothing to stop a trained nursing aide from commencing her general training subsequently as a trained nurse if she so wishes, and if she has the ability to do so.

Hon. J. G. Hislop: Have you read the titles I gave you in my speech?

THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: There will be a number of nursing standards. Members will realise that a nurse may be a single, double or triple certificated nurse, and there is a recognised difference in status between those categories. We propose now that there shall be a recognised status for trained nursing aides who are recognised as having practical experience. They will have an assured status, although they will not be registered nurses in the sense that those who have undergone three years' training will be. There are also nursing assistants who may be very young and I think we might have described them as wardmaids. They will, of course, be hospital employees who belong to a different union altogether. Because of the desire of the union to include these trained nursing aides as a junior branch of the profession, I think we should give their wishes some consideration.

In the course of his remarks, Mr. Davies said he could not understand the objection to the word "registered," but I think I have pointed that out. In this State a girl cannot be a registered nurse until she is 21 years of age whereas a trained nursing aide might be of a lower age, perhaps about 18 years. There are also specific responsibilities which a registered nurse can undertake which cannot be shouldered by a trained nursing aide. Accordingly I hope the Bill will be adhered to in its entirety and it is because of the wishes of those concerned that I oppose the amendment.

Amendment (to strike out word) put and passed.

THE CHAIRMAN: Members will realise that there are alternative proposals on the notice paper and I intend submitting the amendment proposed by Mr. Davies that the word "registered" be inserted in lieu of the word "trained." Those members who would support Dr. Hislop's proposed amendment would naturally vote against the insertion of that word.

Hon. E. M. DAVIES: I move—

That the word "registered" be inserted in lieu of the word struck out.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I appeal to Mr. Davies not to pursue his amendment. I realise how he feels about the matter but, in addition to the comments made by the Minister, it would be almost impossible to register a person, and his amendment might go close to doing what he is trying to avoid. One seldom hears the word "trained" in the nursing profession; the

word "registered" is generally used. "Registered" means that a person is entitled to all the privileges of a trained nurse and can have her name enrolled in the register. It would be just as dangerous to accept the word "registered" as it would be to accept the word "trained." I would ask Mr. Davies, from a professional point of view, not to pursue his amendment.

Hon. E. M. DAVIES: This is a question which I will leave to the Committee to decide. I said previously that I had not consulted the Nurses Association, but some of the other ladies in the profession could not see any objection to the title of "registered nursing aide" whereas they did to the title "trained nursing aide." Dr. Hislop's amendment would make the title very long but I will leave the matter to the Committee to decide.

Amendment (to insert word) put and negated.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move an amendment—

That in line 4 the words "nursing aide" be struck out with a view to inserting the words "State enrolled assistant nurse" in lieu.

This may seem a bit long but I do not think the words "State enrolled" would be used and the girls would simply be referred to as "assistant nurses." I would like the Minister to read out the titles as they exist in other States or countries; he mentioned them in his speech in reply to the second reading debate. I object to a person who is not trained having the status of a registered or a trained nurse. I think my amendment would serve the purpose very well. There are certain matters that must be State-wide.

It is quite possible that the training of an assistant nurse in one district will be different from that in another, and unless they were controlled by somebody—I would prefer it to be the State in this case—we might have different standards of nursing in various parts of the State. The Minister said there is nothing whatever to stop a nurse who has done her time perhaps as a nursing aide, from going on with her training. The moment that happens there will be a request by that nurse for some portion of her time to be recognised in connection with her ordinary training. The problems of these nurses must be governed by a body with authority, hence my amendment, which I hope the Committee will accept because the words "State enrolled" will be dropped and only "assistant nurse" will be used, so there will not be any tendency to bring the two groups together.

Hon. E. M. DAVIES: I would like to ask Dr. Hislop his objection to the title of "State enrolled nursing aide" as is used in the United Kingdom. He has already said that the words "State enrolled" would be dropped and that only "assistant

nurse" would be used. Why should not a person be known as a "nursing aide" and the words "State enrolled" be dropped?

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I purposely did that because when a group is designated by a fairly long title the latter part is generally used. It would not be long, therefore, before reference to a "nursing aide" was shortened to "nurse," and this should not be if we are to preserve the standard of nursing. We talk about the United Kingdom, but I would like members to know that I have it from Mr. Griffith, of the Royal Perth Hospital, that the designation "State enrolled assistant nurse" is widely used throughout England. There are many grades of nursing in the United Kingdom and, without being in the least derogatory, I must say that the standard of nursing here is much higher than it is in England. My whole aim is to preserve the status of the trained nurse; I am not worried about the status of somebody who is not trained. These people should be called what they are, that is "assistant nurse," and that is what my amendment proposes to do.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: Dr. Hislop asked me to repeat some of the terms employed in other countries. First of all, I might say that the board which controls this matter includes all medical men, namely, the Commissioner of Public Health, who is the chairman, the Inspector-General of the Mental Hospital, Dr. E. J. T. Thompson, two nominees of the B.M.A.—Dr. J. A. Love and Dr. L. Le Soeuf. The other highly-qualified members of the board are Matron Seigle of the Royal Perth Hospital and Matron Walsh of the King Edward Memorial Hospital, who represent the training hospital staff, and Miss Edis, Miss Cockerell and Mr. C. M. Scott.

One member said he was not enamoured of "trained nursing aide" as was proposed in the Bill and thought it might create a false impression. I have had this examined and have been informed the title is the same as "State enrolled assistant nurse." In New Zealand and Victoria the term is "nursing aide;" Canada refers to them as "nurses aides;" and in the United States of America the term is "practical nurse." So it will be seen that the word "nurse" or "nursing" is used in other countries where, I understand, it has caused no confusion. The title of "trained nursing aide" has met with the approval of the Australasian Trained Nurses Association and the Western Australian Nurses Association, which are both jealous of the standing and responsibilities of the nursing profession.

The training of nursing aides will not take in all the non-professional nursing personnel engaged in the nursing field, for there will be many people still employed as nursing assistants in country hospitals who will not, for various reasons,

seek training as aides but who will remain valuable members of the nursing team, so that we will still have the term "nursing assistants." I think it is contemplated that nursing assistants will be another class of people employed in hospitals, but not entitled to the term "nursing aide" which the Bill proposes. They would be those with experience and with recognised status who could go from hospital to hospital and would be in a category in which their status entitled them to be placed. As to their being supervised by a senior nurse, that is true in regard to certain aspects of nursing; but these aides will do about two-thirds of the work that trained nurses ordinarily perform.

Hon. J. G. Hislop: After being trained for one year?

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: It is claimed that in America, after one year's training, such a person can do two-thirds of the work which a fully trained nurse is called upon to perform, such as giving attention to patients in bed and a hundred and one other things with which the hon. member, as a doctor, would be more acquainted than am I. When it comes to handling dangerous drugs or administering certain medicines or duties of that kind, I imagine that the rules would prescribe that a fully trained nurse must take control.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I do not intend to—

The Minister for Transport: You are not criticising me but a body of competent men who have made these statements.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: —press this matter further, but will leave it to the Committee. All I am trying to do is to maintain the status of trained nursing.

Amendment (to strike out words) put and passed.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move—

That the words "State enrolled assistant nurse" be inserted in lieu of the words struck out.

Hon. E. M. DAVIES: Is it absolutely imperative that the words "State enrolled" be used? This is rather a long title, and as Dr. Hislop said, the words "State enrolled" will eventually be dropped.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: One of the difficulties cropping up in the nursing world today is the existence of untrained assistants who we desire should be replaced by this new type that will have at least some training.

Hon. Sir Frank Gibson: Why not use the word "registered"?

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: We cannot register them under the Act until they are 21. If they are State-enrolled, I understand they can be taken care of by the Nurses Regis-

tration Board and admitted into the union which controls the affairs of nurses generally; otherwise difficulty might arise about their being so admitted. I am assured by those in charge in the nursing world that if this title is accepted it will be possible for the State to see they are enrolled and accepted into the fold of nurses.

Hon. E. M. DAVIES: I fail to see the necessity for using the term "State enrolled" and I move an amendment—

That the words "State enrolled" be struck out.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: I agree with the substance of Dr. Hislop's remarks. They were what I said in my second reading speech. The only difference is that he wants to call these people by one name and I want to call them by another. But they will be registered and will be enrolled in this union, and will be entitled to all the protection and benefits of the union. It is a question of the name. The union wants one name and apparently this Committee is not satisfied to give the members of that union what they want. I would rather give them the title they desire.

Hon. G. FRASER: We have taken out the designation that was in the Bill, and if we do not accept Dr. Hislop's amendment we will have no name at all. The Minister is opposing Dr. Hislop's suggestion, but has not put up any alternative name that we can consider.

The Minister for Agriculture: Mr. Davies has.

Hon. G. FRASER: Mr Davies is moving for the deletion of the words "State enrolled" and that will leave in the words "assistant nurse." The Minister is opposing that, but if we do not agree, these people will have no name at all.

The Minister for Transport: I am not opposing the amendment.

Hon. G. FRASER: The Minister is not opposed to the designation "assistant nurse"?

The Minister for Transport: I am opposing the words "State enrolled."

Hon. G. FRASER: But not the words, "assitant nurse"?

The Minister for Transport: Not at this stage. I realise that we must have some name.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I plead with the Committee to leave the title as it is. This wording is exactly the same as applies in the United Kingdom. That is why it has been used here. It has also been used for the reason I have emphasised; namely, that if they are State enrolled assistant nurses, they must be enrolled by a body that will be authorised by the State. There is no doubt, from the contents of the Bill, that that roll will be held by the Nurses Registration Board and these girls will be

part of the field of nursing. If we delete this term, there will be a possibility that they will have the same status as the present untrained nursing assistants.

Hon. L. CRAIG: The Bill says they shall be registered.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: It is a question of how. I am assured that if these words are left in, the nurses can assume ground floor entry into the nursing profession, but there could be considerable doubt about that if the words were deleted.

Hon. G. FRASER: I cannot follow the hon. member. The words seem superfluous to me. I do not think the version given to the hon. member is correct in view of what appears in Clause 12 relating to a register. Such a person will be enrolled whether she is termed "State enrolled" or not.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: It can do no harm to leave in the words.

Hon. G. FRASER: It is cumbersome and we like to call people by shorter names where we can.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: It has been your policy in the past not to remove anything which does no harm.

Hon. G. FRASER: We do not like carrying a load, either.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	....	....	....	14
Noes	....	....	....	11
Majority for				3

Ayes.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker	Hon. C. H. Henning
Hon. L. Craig	Hon. Sir Chas. Latham
Hon. J. Cunningham	Hon. J. Murray
Hon. E. M. Davies	Hon. C. H. Simpson
Hon. Sir Frank Gibson	Hon. H. C. Strickland
Hon. W. R. Hall	Hon. H. K. Watson
Hon. E. M. Heenan	Hon. G. Fraser

(Teller.)

Noes.

Hon. N. E. Baxter	Hon. A. L. Loton
Hon. L. C. Diver	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. J. G. Hislop	Hon. J. McI. Thomson
Hon. A. R. Jones	Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. F. R. H. Lavery	Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. L. A. Logan	

(Teller.)

Amendment thus passed.

Amendment, as amended, put and passed.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: There are consequential amendments to be made all through the Bill.

Hon. G. FRASER: Are you going to deal with the consequential amendments in the usual way, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: No, there are too many variations.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move an amendment—

That in lines 8 and 9 the words "a trained nursing aide" be struck out and the words "an assistant nurse" inserted in lieu.

The CHAIRMAN: The interpretation with that alteration, will now read—

"Assistant nurse" means a person entitled to be enrolled in the register as an assistant nurse.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3—agreed to.

Clause 4—Section 3 amended:

On motions by Hon. J. G. Hislop, clause amended by striking out in line 4 of paragraph (a) the words "trained nursing aides" and inserting the words "assistant nurses" in lieu; by striking out in lines 5 and 6 of paragraph (c) the words "trained nursing aides" and inserting the words "assistant nurses" in lieu; and by striking out in lines 3 and 4 of paragraph (d) the words "a trained nursing aide" and inserting the words "an assistant nurse" in lieu.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 5—Section 4 amended:

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move an amendment—

That in lines 3 and 4, the words "a trained nursing aide" be struck out and the words "an assistant nurse" inserted in lieu.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 6—Section 4 amended:

On motions by Hon. J. G. Hislop, clause amended by striking out in lines 4 and 5 the words "a trained nursing aide" and inserting the words "an assistant nurse" in lieu; by striking out in line 2 of paragraph (a) the words "trained nursing aide" and inserting the words "assistant nurse" in lieu; by striking out in lines 2 and 3 of paragraph (b) the words "trained nursing aide" and inserting the words "assistant nurse" in lieu; and by striking out in line 3 of paragraph (c) the words "a trained nursing aide" and inserting the words "an assistant nurse" in lieu.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 7—Section 5 amended:

On motions by Hon. J. G. Hislop, clause amended by striking out in lines 13 and 14 of paragraph (v) of proposed new Subsection (5e) the words "a trained nursing aide" and inserting the words "an assistant nurse" in lieu; by striking out in lines 15 and 16 of paragraph (v) of proposed new Subsection (5e) the words "trained nursing aides" and inserting the words "assistant nurses" in lieu; and by striking out in lines 2 and 3 of paragraph (j) of proposed new Subsection (5e) the words "trained nursing aides" and inserting the words "assistant nurses" in lieu.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 8—Section 6 amended:

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move an amendment—

That in lines 5 and 6 of paragraph (a) the words "trained nursing aides" be struck out and the words "assistant nurses" inserted in lieu.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 9—Section 8 amended:

The CHAIRMAN: The clause will be consequentially amended by striking out the words "a trained nursing aide" where they appear and inserting the words "an assistant nurse" in lieu.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 10—Section 9 amended:

The CHAIRMAN: This clause, too, will be consequentially amended by striking out the words "a trained nursing aide" where they appear and inserting the words "an assistant nurse" in lieu.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 11—Section 10 amended:

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move an amendment—

That in line 3 the words "trained nursing aide" be struck out and the words "assistant nurse" inserted in lieu.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 12—Section 10B amended:

On motions by Hon. J. G. Hislop, clause amended by striking out in lines 2 and 4 of paragraph (1) of proposed new Section 10B the words "trained nursing aide" and inserting the words "assistant nurse" in lieu; and by striking out in line 2 of paragraph (2) of proposed new Section 10B the words "a trained nursing aide" and inserting the words "an assistant nurse" in lieu.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 13—Section 11 amended:

On motions by Hon. J. G. Hislop, clause amended by striking out in line 3 of paragraph (a) the words "trained nursing aide" and inserting the words "assistant nurse" in lieu; and by striking out in line 4 of paragraph (d) the words "a trained nursing aide" and inserting the words "an assistant nurse" in lieu.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 14—Section 11A amended:

On motions by Hon. J. G. Hislop, clause amended by striking out in line 3 of paragraph (a) the words "a trained nursing aide" and inserting the words "an assistant nurse" in lieu; and by striking out in lines 2 and 3 of paragraph (b) the words "trained nursing aide" and inserting the words "assistant nurse" in lieu.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 15 and 16—agreed to.

Clause 17—Section 15 amended:

On motions by Hon. J. G. Hislop, clause amended by striking out in each of lines 3 and 5 the words "trained nursing aides" and inserting the words "assistant nurses" in lieu.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 18—Section 16 amended:

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Does the Minister think paragraph (iv) necessary? It seems that for any breach committed by a trained nurse there will be a penalty not exceeding £20 and in the case of a continuing breach a similar penalty and an additional penalty of £1 a day for each day the breach continues. Does the Minister think that that is a just penalty?

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: Most Acts set out certain obligations for a breach of which certain penalties are imposed. The sum of £20 is the maximum and it is rare for a magistrate or a judge, at his discretion, to inflict anything but a nominal penalty for a minor offence. However, it could arise that a nurse might masquerade as something which she was not. I do not think the penalty can do any harm and it might prove to be a measure of protection where necessary.

Hon. G. FRASER: I am of the same opinion as Dr. Hislop because I do not like continuing penalties at any time. Admittedly the penalty in this clause is a maximum of £20, but the higher the maximum the more serious the offence appears. Have there been any cases to justify the Minister agreeing to such continuing penalties? Unless he can cite some glaring instances, I am in favour of moving to strike this paragraph out with a view to inserting some other provision.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: Without reference to those who actually drew up the provisions, I cannot say what was in their mind. I take it the desire was to safeguard against the possibility of something happening. I refer to the possibility of people masquerading as nurses when, in fact, they were not registered. Such people could do quite a lot of damage. If members think the matter should be further investigated, I am prepared to report progress with that object in view.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: The provision simply means that regulations are to be framed and the penalty mentioned will be the maximum. It really does not matter, because the regulations will have to be tabled and, if deemed advisable, their disallowance can be moved.

Hon. G. Fraser: But the regulations might be in force for months before we could have them disallowed.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: There is that point, but I think it should be recognised that this matter will be dealt with by way of a regulation.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I hope the Minister will report progress and look into the matter further. I do not think the question of masquerading comes within the scope of the measure. There have been instances of men masquerading as doctors but they have not been dealt with by the Medical Board but under the Police Act.

The CHAIRMAN: At the next sitting it will be necessary to recommit the Bill for the further consideration of Clause 2, so that the definition provisions may be placed in alphabetical order.

Progress reported.

BILL—HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT (No. 2).

Assembly's Message.

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the Council's amendment.

BILL—UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS.

Received from the Assembly and read a first time.

BILL—EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Report of Committee adopted.

BILL—MAIN ROADS ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 4th November.

HON. G. FRASER (West) [6.10]: I am not too happy about the Bill, mainly because I really do not understand its provisions. I have examined them from all angles but the more I study them, the more befogged I become as regards the meaning of the proposals. I admit that my ignorance regarding motoring and traffic matters generally may have contributed to my unhappy position. At the same time, if members can understand the meaning of some of the clauses, I am afraid I cannot. I have tried to understand what is meant by "controlled access roads" and "local access roads," and the more I delve into such matters, the more befogged I become. When the Minister is replying to the debate, I trust he will make a further endeavour to explain the position so that members may have a better understanding.

Hon. L. Craig: What about a sketch plan indicating what is meant?

Hon. G. FRASER: That would certainly be of advantage. I suppose other members are in a similar position and would like some further information. I do not like agreeing to legislation unless I understand something about the measure. I would ask the Minister to state later on just what are the intentions regarding the Bill. In the metropolitan area at present there are some awful examples of bad planning. Roads dart here and dart

there, all leading to main roads. During the course of the debate it was said that the provisions of the Bill would not apply to existing roads but to those constructed in the future.

The Minister for Transport: The measure will not apply to present highways but to those planned in the future.

Hon. G. FRASER: Then we are to leave the metropolitan area as it stands now, with all its badly planned roads, with no attempt to be made to set things right!

The Minister for Transport: Not necessarily so. Something might be done at reasonable points near the city area but the general idea is to apply the legislation in newly-developed parts so that in future people will be able to drive on main roads without being troubled by traffic from cross-roads except at certain points. That will make for greater safety, which is the intention behind the legislation.

Hon. G. FRASER: I was hoping that legislation would be introduced to attempt to rectify the failures of the past as well as to make better provision for the future. I do not know if it is possible for that to be done under the Bill now before the House.

The Minister for Transport: I think it could be, but it would be so very expensive that such a course is not envisaged.

Hon. G. FRASER: When we consider the three or four main highways in the metropolitan area, we recognise at once that the side roads linking up with them represent just a net-work. It would be hard to visualise alterations to those roads to make the situation conform to what I understand is the purpose of the Bill.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Hon. G. FRASER: Before the suspension, I was asking that the Minister, in his reply, should give certain information regarding the intentions of the Government under the Bill. I want to know whether these proposals are something for the future or something to be applied to the present setup of our main roads.

The Minister for Transport: For the future.

Hon. G. FRASER: I am sorry that that is the answer, unless the Minister is able to amplify it along the lines that an attempt will be made to apply the provisions of the measure to the existing main roads. I have admitted that I know very little about this subject. I am not a motorist and am not accustomed to driving on the roads, but I happen to be a pedestrian who has to show considerable skill in order to cross the roads in safety.

There are so many bottlenecks in the metropolitan area that, if the Bill is to apply only to the future, and no attempt is to be made to rectify existing obvious mistakes, I doubt whether much good will

result from the passing of the measure. I mentioned the main roads leading out of the city—Stirling Highway, Canning Highway, Great Eastern Highway and Albany Highway. If one examines those main roads, one will find a veritable network of streets intersecting them. When I stated that I had difficulty in understanding the provisions of the Bill, I had in mind that an effort would be made to put in controlled and local access roads, and that great difficulty would be experienced. I hope that the Minister, in his reply, will be able to give us some overall picture or, as was suggested by way of interjection, provide a plan to show how this system of roads will work. This is an entirely new proposition in this State.

Hon. L. A. Logan: Does it apply in other States?

Hon. G. FRASER: I have not heard so, but I believe that the system has been adopted in England or America, or some other country and, doubtless because of its success there, an effort is being made to have it adopted here. Although such a system may be successful in another country, it does not necessarily follow that it will be successful here. One would have to examine the state of the main roads in both places and the roads that intersect them before a comparison could be made.

I referred to some of the main highways and the streets that intersect them. Victoria Park is a shocking example of planning, and at the Fremantle end there is an equally shocking example. I am wondering what advantage the officials expect will be derived from the passing of the Bill. The Minister has stated that it is only to apply to the future. If the system has been tried elsewhere and found to be successful, is it not logical that some attempt should be made to improve existing conditions? One outstanding example of where control is needed over access roads—I do not mind whether they are called local or controlled access roads—is at North Fremantle, where there are two of the most dangerous cross-roads—Swan-st. and John-st. I have watched traffic proceeding along the main highway and pedestrians have had to wait 20 minutes before they were able to cross the road.

Hon. N. E. Baxter: What about the cross-walk.

Hon. G. FRASER: What is the value of a cross-walk if oncoming traffic will not permit pedestrians to use it? The worst feature is the long line of vehicles held up in John-st. because drivers using the main highway will not give way. I have seen traffic held up for 20 or 25 minutes before it was able to break into the line along the main highway. I was hoping that, even though the Bill may be designed mainly to meet future requirements, some

attempt would be made to redress the grievances motorists must be labouring under regarding access to main roads.

Hon. N. E. Baxter: Would not traffic lights help?

Hon. G. FRASER: While traffic lights are successful in many cities, local conditions would have to be taken into consideration. There are other respects in which action is necessary. I am mentioning these points because I want the Minister to give us some information as to what attempts will be made to rectify existing mistakes as well as to legislate for the future. I hope the Minister will not make his reply hurriedly, but will pursue investigations such as I and other members have suggested. The Minister, when moving the second reading, may have explained what is intended by controlled access roads and local access roads, but if he did, I am afraid I did not understand his explanation, and I hope he will repeat the information when replying to the second reading debate.

One other phase is the question of betterment referred to by Dr. Hislop. The Bill contains a clause providing for payment of compensation in certain cases, but it is a one-sided proposal because no provision is made for betterment. I was hoping that the Government had considered the report of the Royal Commission on Town Planning and had taken some notice of that aspect.

The Minister for Transport: I think you will find that that has been taken into account.

Hon. G. FRASER: There is no provision in the Bill for betterment.

The Minister for Transport: That is so.

Hon. G. FRASER: The only reference is to payment of compensation, and I do not feel too happy about it. Everybody who is entitled to compensation should receive it, but I do not want the taxpayers to be saddled with the payment of a lot of compensation without deriving some benefit from betterment.

The Minister for Transport: I think you will find that there will be very little compensation envisaged in connection with the roads that will be planned, and very little call for the payment of betterment.

Hon. G. FRASER: If the measure is to apply only to the future, action could be taken when making the roads to ensure that only the smallest possible amount of compensation would be paid, but if, as I think must happen, it be extended to include the present setup, the payment of compensation would enter into it, and would be a very serious matter. From my reading of the Bill, a lot of compensation would have to be paid, and a lot of betterment value would be received by certain property-owners as a result of the work carried out.

The betterment proposals submitted by the Town Planning Royal Commission are logical and fair because they set out that, of the total value of betterment derived by the property-owner, the Government would divide equally with the owner. It may have been that the Government had in mind that, although there has been provision for betterment in the Town Planning and Development Act since 1928 and no betterment has been collected, it was a dead letter, and that it would be useless to include it in this measure.

The Minister for Transport: No, it was not. It was considered that the question of betterment could not be a very serious one.

Hon. G. FRASER: Will the Minister agree that, if an effort were made to straighten out the present condition of affairs, the amount required for payment of compensation would be a serious matter?

The Minister for Transport: That is not envisaged in the Bill.

Hon. G. FRASER: Then the measure will apply purely to the future?

The Minister for Transport: Exactly.

Hon. G. FRASER: And we are expected to allow the present condition of affairs to continue till Auld Lang Syne?

The Minister for Transport: That provision might be amended.

Hon. G. FRASER: Then I take it that the Bill is intended to apply only to future development.

The Minister for Transport: That is its principal and almost its sole object.

Hon. G. FRASER: Can the Minister explain why no attempt is being made under this Bill to alter existing conditions?

The Minister for Transport: I think I can.

Hon. G. FRASER: I do not wish to put any amendments on the notice paper regarding betterment, but it is not fair to ask us to approve of a Bill that is so one-sided. Compensation should not be paid unless there is provision for recompense by betterment.

The Minister for Transport: I think that aspect can be explained.

Hon. G. FRASER: It will take a lot of explaining to satisfy me. I do not wish to vote for any measure that will not effect an improvement in the existing as well as in future conditions. I do not know that the situation could be much worse than it is at present. Something must be done, and done quickly, to improve the present setup. I am hoping that when the Bill finally goes through it will, as well as making provision for compensation, include provision whereby revenue will be raised from which the compensation can be paid. That is only

fair. I am surprised that the Government should bring down a measure which is so one-sided that it will make payment for any damage that it causes to a person's property, but will compel the taxpayer to meet all the expenses regarding it without any opportunity to be recompensed. It seems a lopsided proposal to me, so I am hoping the Minister will make an explanation in answer to the points I have raised. At this stage I reserve my decision as to whether I shall support or vote against the Bill.

HON. H. K. WATSON (Metropolitan) [7.47]: Mr. Fraser said that the Bill contained no provision for a betterment or development charge, and he referred to the fact that the recent Royal Commission on Town Planning had dealt with this question along the lines of the English Town and Country Planning Act of 1947. Because of the remarks of the hon. member and those of Dr. Hislop, and in view of the recommendations made by the Royal Commission, I intervene in the debate, to say it is time the House and the public of Western Australia should be warned of the terrible mess which these development charges under the Act in the United Kingdom have brought about since being put into force in 1947.

It is all very well to theorise and say that by reason of a road going here or there, and being closed or opened as the case may be, a man's property has been improved and he should pay a betterment charge. It was on that theory that the English Act was passed, but the position in practice under the English Act, is based on what is described as a "change of purpose." That is the basic principle on which the betterment or development charge is levied. If a man owns a factory with two factory buildings—and I am now quoting an actual example—and one of the buildings becomes too small for factory purposes and he decides to convert it into an amenities room for his employees, he is liable for a charge of £5,000 under the Act.

Another case was where a church was converted into a factory. Here again a development charge of £5,000 was levied. Similarly, if a doctor practising in St. George's Terrace decided to practise at his house in Mount-st., the principle of change of purpose, so far as his house in Mount-st., is concerned, would apply and he would be up for a couple of thousand pounds development charge. The matter has reached such a stage in the United Kingdom that recently the Government made an inquiry into the Act with a view to seeing what could be done about it.

While I was in England a public meeting was held to discuss the question of betterment, and the chairman explained that the speaker who was going to address the meeting was the one man in the United

Kingdom who understood the contents of the Town and Country Planning Act, so far as it related to betterment. He went on to say that there had been two, but the other had gone off to a lunatic asylum.

Hon. G. Fraser: You believe in the State bearing all the expense.

Hon. H. K. WATSON: The question has become so farcical and, I might say, so serious in the United Kingdom that the Government recently conducted an official review of the whole question, and the present indications are that it will, in the light of the five years' experience of the Act, repeal the provisions relating to development charges. For the information of the House, I would like to read an extract from "The Times" of the 30th October, 1952—about a week ago—

The Government have reviewed the development charge imposed under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, and have reached a conclusion which will be announced soon in Parliament. Mr. MacMillan, Minister of Housing and Local Government, announced at Southport yesterday. He was opening the national annual conference of the National Housing and Town Planning Council.

Speaking of the financial provisions of the Act, he said: "The point on which most criticism has fastened has been the development charge which, it is said, has not been working out satisfactorily in practice. Instead of being, as in theory it should be, part of the purchase price of land it is in effect a tax. It is a tax, moreover, which has to be borne by the developer, whose enterprise ought to be fostered instead of hindered, at the time when he is least able to meet additional cost."

The position of the ordinary individual who buys a block of land for £400 or £500 is that he may have to wait for anything up to 5 or 10 years to find out what the development charge on it will be, and it might be anything from £100 to £1,500. I utter this warning because during recent weeks it does seem that one or two members have been advocating the development charge without knowing what it means.

Hon. G. Fraser: Do you not think we have studied it?

Hon. H. K. WATSON: By the hon. member's remarks, I would say no.

On motion by the Minister for Transport, debate adjourned.

BILL—MARKETING OF BARLEY ACT AMENDMENT (CONTINUANCE).

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 4th November.

HON. A. R. JONES (Midland) [7.53]: I obtained the adjournment of the debate so that I could reassure myself that the growers of barley wanted the continuance of the measure. I have so reassured myself, and have nothing to add to what the Minister had to say when moving the second reading.

HON. G. FRASER (West) [7.54]: I do not intend to delay the House on the Bill, but I wish to ask the Minister one or two questions about it. It looks quite innocent because it is purely a continuance measure, and normally one would not have much doubt about supporting it, but I did see—I think in the Farmers' Union journal of the 30th October or thereabouts—that instructions had been given by the union to its representatives on the Barley Board—I think there are two farmers' representatives with an independent chairman, so they would be the dominating factor on the board—to vote for the compulsory pooling of barley.

When the Minister replies to the debate, I would like him to inform the House whether that is correct or otherwise, because I have made some investigations and I find that the users of two-row barley are very perturbed at the whole of the barley being bulk-handled because they say, whether rightly or wrongly I do not know, that a certain amount of damage is done to barley when it is bulk-handled which renders it of less use to them, and so it goes overboard. I would like the Minister's opinion on that point, and also in regard to prices.

The Minister for Agriculture: Market prices.

Hon. G. FRASER: There is no control in connection with prices at all.

The Minister for Agriculture: No.

Hon. G. FRASER: I have a fear—it may be groundless—that if the Bill is passed and all barley is bulk-handled, and the price increases, there is the possibility that local users of barley will import it from the Eastern States instead of purchasing it in Western Australia. I admit this is a remote danger, but it is possible. This point also has to be taken into consideration that when anyone has a monopoly of an article the tendency is to be not as careful in the handling of it as when competition is keen, and, secondly, not to be so careful about the price. I would like the Minister to give us some information, firstly, on the question of compulsory bulkhandling, and, secondly, on the intentions of the board in regard to prices. If the Minister can satisfy me on these points I shall be happy to vote for his Bill, but otherwise I shall oppose it.

HON. F. R. H. LAVERY (West) [7.57]: I support the Bill because it is required by the growers, but I would like the Minister to give me the assurance I have been

asked for by people who are worried about this matter, namely, that two-row and six-row barley will not be mixed so as to be inseparable in compulsory pooling.

On motion by Hon. J. A. Dimmitt, debate adjourned.

BILL—PRICES CONTROL ACT AMENDMENT AND CONTINUANCE.

Second Reading.

Order of the Day read for the resumption from the 4th November of the debate on the second reading.

Personal Explanation.

Hon. G. FRASER: Before the debate proceeds, I would like to remind members that when I spoke on the Bill last week I intimated my intention to vote against the second reading. Since then I have had given to me by an industry in this State certain information which has set me thinking very seriously, because this industry would suffer considerably if the legislation went overboard. The industry I refer to is the tanning industry, and the repercussions affecting it, if the Bill were defeated, would be so severe as to bring about either a partial or total cessation of manufacture, and consequently a further disability so far as the boot and shoe trade is concerned. The information appears so serious to me that I have decided to reverse my decision, and vote for the Bill. I thought I would like to make this personal explanation before the debate proceeded further.

Debate Resumed.

HON. H. S. W. PARKER (Suburban) [8.0]: I propose to support the Bill although I would like to see all these controls removed. I am glad that the measure proposes to repeal the Profiteering Prevention Act because that legislation was brought into being during the dreadful period in the early days of the war when most extraordinary powers were given to the Government of the day. If those powers were to be exercised in these days they could have a most disastrous effect.

The Profiteering Prevention Act could still be used because, according to the wording of the measure, it applies "during the period in which His Majesty is engaged in the present war and six months thereafter." There is no mention of when hostilities have ceased, and legally Her Majesty is still at war with Germany until peace is declared and the way things are at the moment it is difficult to know just when peace will be declared. Consequently to leave that Act on the statute book would not be right and it should be removed. I hope that in 12 months' time the Government will see fit to let this price-control legislation lapse and if this measure

is passed it will mean that price-fixing will continue for a further 12 months only. I hope that that will be as long as this type of control will remain in force.

HON. E. M. DAVIES (West) [8.21]: I feel that this Bill is of great importance and in my opinion it is necessary that price-fixing legislation should remain on the statute book of this State for some time to come. I would not say that the system of price-fixing has been carried out as we should expect it to be administered, but I am not blaming the Act for that. When price-fixing was relinquished by the Commonwealth, as the result of a referendum, it was taken over by the States who said that they could and would control prices. If one or two States were to relinquish control of prices, chaos would result and if this State refuses to pass this Bill, and the other six States have a system of price-control, it will be an impossible situation. Therefore I believe that it is necessary for us to pass this measure because the time has not yet arrived when we can afford to relinquish the control of prices.

Like my colleague, Mr. Fraser, I was not greatly enamoured with the Bill when it was first introduced because I felt it was a clever piece of drafting. It deals with the repeal of the Profiteering Prevention Act, the dairying industry, the price of butter and also a continuation of the legislation dealing with price-control. We all know that the Profiteering Prevention Act can be used only for the duration of the war and six months afterwards, or until such time as peace is declared. The way things are now, that legislation should be left on the statute book. However, if I am to support the continuation of price-control, I must vote for the repeal of the Profiteering Prevention Act.

I have had the opportunity of listening to advice that has been tendered by those who are vitally affected by this measure and I know that should this Bill be defeated many items necessary to the general public will rise in price immediately after the 31st December of this year. I have in mind one of the most vital commodities and I refer to petrol. I am sure that the price of petrol would be increased if the Bill were defeated. An important aspect was also mentioned by Mr. Fraser and that concerns hides, leather and footwear. At present the price of hides is under control and world parity is approximately 22d. per lb.

Hon. H. K. Watson: It would be nearer 15d.

Hon. E. M. DAVIES: The information I have is that it is 22d. However, the Australian price is 10½d., but I believe that world parity is 22d. If this State relinquished price-control it would mean

that those who are responsible for providing hides to the tanneries would keep those hides until after the 31st December this year and then they would be able to sell them at a higher price. If that were done, people engaged in tanning and the manufacturer of footwear in this State would not be able to get the necessary hides for the manufacture of leather goods or footwear.

Hon. A. R. Jones: That is better than having them thrown away as they are at the moment.

Hon. E. M. DAVIES: There are various points of view, but if price-control is discontinued and hides are withheld so that there can be an increase in price, firms in the Eastern States can send us the necessary leather and take over some of the industries in this State. Our tanneries would be forced to close down and approximately 200 men would be thrown out of employment. So on that point alone we should take a keen interest in this measure and I feel that I would be justified on this occasion in supporting the continuation of this particular price-fixing legislation.

HON. H. L. ROCHE (South) [8.10]: If we are going on with this legislation again, in the year of Our Lord 1952, we might as well accept the fact that we have to continue it forever. I have opposed this legislation before and I do so again. It is satisfying no one. It does not satisfy those people who are controlled and it does not satisfy those who speak on behalf of the people for whom the controlling is done. We have been told that the legislation is all right, but the way in which it is being applied is all wrong. So there is no satisfaction there. In that case why go on with the measure? Mr. Davies and Mr. Fraser mentioned the question of hides. There is one section of that industry that can ill afford to carry the load for the users of leather in this country.

Hon. H. K. Watson: Hear, hear!

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: I refer to the beef producers in the Kimberleys and the northern parts of Western Australia where so much of the meat has been exported and the prices they have been getting have not been as remunerative as those received by the people in my areas. The farmers there have been able to sell their beef on the local market and what they lost on the hides they passed on to the price of beef. That is something to remember when people speak about the price of beef being too high.

People cannot have it both ways. We are trying to continue with this sort of legislation six or seven years after the crisis for which it was framed has passed. Despite what may happen if this Bill is defeated and the Profiteering Prevention Act remains in force, no Government

would be likely to apply the provisions of that Act unless another crisis occurred. Let us see what happened in regard to meat. Admittedly the price has not fallen much in the city but in some country towns it has already fallen by 6d. a lb.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: Because of seasonal conditions.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: That is not so in the towns to which I refer. Meat prices are decontrolled and I think we will see in the near future a certain amount of competition between the butchers in Perth and they will be endeavouring to sell their meat.

Hon. A. R. Jones: There is now.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: Despite the fears sincerely held by some members, and the doubts they have raised, I think the time has arrived when we should get back to the ordinary ramifications of business and we should remove these harassing restrictions that are embarrassing everyone and helping no one.

HON. E. M. HEENAN (North-East) [8.15]: For a long time I have realised that the gravest problem we have to battle with today is that of inflation. I agree with other members that price-control, as we have practised it in the State since the loss of the referendum a few years ago, has failed adequately to fulfil its function. Only last week I made an extensive tour of the Eastern Goldfields and the Murchison and if ever the ill-effects of inflation were brought clearly and distinctly before me, it was during the past week.

People on the Goldfields and on the Murchison are being driven out because of the ever-rising cost of living, and of the ever-rising cost of making available the wealth that they produce in those parts. I must admit I do not know what is going to be the end of it all, but if costs keep spiralling as they have during recent years, I can assure members that there will not be many people left in those parts. In some of the outback towns a gallon of petrol costs 1s. 6d. more than it does in Perth; a tin of jam costs 3s. and so it goes on.

These gallant people who are trying to live and carry on in those areas are fighting against odds which are insuperable. Mr. Roche referred to the situation which rendered price-control necessary as having passed. I cannot agree with that contention. There is still a general shortage of most commodities and if price-control is lifted, the obvious result will be that people with money will just pay whatever price is demanded in respect of commodities. I am not enamoured of the Bill because it proceeds only about one-tenth of the way that I think it should go.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: You mean, have it for ten years instead of one?

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I do not know about that. If a town is surrounded by floods and commodities are in short supply, there has to be price-control and rationing so long as the emergency exists. It is obvious that in Australia the emergency still exists, and this measure at any rate entails a modicum of control. I support the Bill, though, like other members, I wish it were unnecessary to have such legislation. But I cannot agree with those members who are in favour of defeating the Bill because they feel that the time has arrived to dispense with price-control.

Question put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	.....	13
Noes	.....	10
Majority for	.....	3

Ayes.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker	Hon. F. R. H. Lavery
Hon. E. M. Davies	Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. C. H. Stimpson
Hon. W. R. Hall	Hon. H. C. Strickland
Hon. E. M. Heenan	Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. C. H. Henning	Hon. Sir Frank Gibson
Hon. Sir Chas. Latham	(Teller.)

Noes.

Hon. N. E. Baxter	Hon. A. L. Loton
Hon. J. A. Dimmitt	Hon. J. Murray
Hon. L. C. Diver	Hon. J. McI. Thomson
Hon. A. R. Jones	Hon. H. K. Watson
Hon. L. A. Logan	Hon. H. L. Roche
	(Teller.)

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt in the Chair; the Minister for Agriculture in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—New Section 10A added:

Hon. A. L. LOTON: I hope the Committee will not agree to the clause. When introducing the Bill the Minister said the Government would continue the measure for a further 12 months. The Minister for Commerce and Agriculture in the Commonwealth Government has stated that there should be control for a period of five years. So I fail to see the reason for this clause. I believe that under the Federal Constitution, if the Committee disagrees with this clause, there cannot be any differentiation between the various States in this matter. In supporting the second reading, I said the Bill as introduced was full of tricks and this has been amply borne out by more than one member who has spoken in support of the measure. Those opposed to controls are slowly but surely gaining in numbers.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I hope the Committee will not agree to strike the clause out, for that would be disastrous.

Hon. A. L. Loton: In what way?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: An agreement has been entered into by the States for a fixed ex-factory price for butterfat; that is arranged for every State in Australia. In some States it was done by an administrative act and in others by price-fixing legislation. The Commonwealth Government has no power over the matter; it was left to each State to make its own arrangements. Though the Bill provides for an extension of one year, there is nothing to prevent this State from introducing legislation next year in regard to the arrangements made between the State and the Commonwealth.

Hon. A. L. Loton: Why was it not done this year?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The course adopted was found to be the easiest way.

Hon. A. L. Loton: It was trickery.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: If the hon. member is so minded, he can call it what he likes; I am not well-versed in trickery.

Hon. A. L. Loton: Oh!

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: This was done in accordance with the wishes of the dairy producers that they should have some plan to work on; they have accordingly planned for five years ahead. Members representing dairying districts are well aware of the arrangements made between the Commonwealth and the States. I would be reluctant to agree with Mr. Loton for another reason, namely, it would mean that somebody would have to make refunds because the money has already been paid since the 1st July.

Hon. H. L. Roche: Do you suggest the subsidy will not be paid?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: It is not a question of subsidy but fixing the price ex-factory. On condition there was a fixed price ex-factory, the Government would pay a certain sum of money to bring the price up to 4s. 10½d. for the dairyman.

Hon. H. L. Roche: Then subsidy does come into it.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Not into this; that is an ex-factory price—otherwise the price might be anything.

Hon. N. E. Baxter: Are you responsible under this Bill?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I take the same responsibility as any other Minister does, and if the hon. member ever becomes a Minister, he will have to do the same.

Hon. N. E. Baxter: In other words, it was on your recommendation?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I am not going to answer that; the hon. member will not get Cabinet secrets out

of me. If the hon. member knows anything about constitutional Government, he will know that what I have done I have done on oath. I do not mind reasonable questions, but I am not going to answer that one. I hope the Committee will bear in mind that this will benefit the people represented by Country Party members. It will enable them to get a little more out of the industry than they would if there were no controlled marketing.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: If what the Minister has said is true, it means that the subsidy will not be payable to our producers if this provision goes out of the Act. My personal view is that irrespective of whether this remains in the Act or not, the subsidy will be paid. I think that cheese and butter were included in this Bill in order to get it through this Chamber, and I do not believe this clause is of very great importance to the industry. I hope it will be deleted.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I would like to assure the Minister that we are not objecting to the principle. We all agree that it is necessary for those in the dairying industry to be paid the fixed price. What we object to is that the provision appears in a continuance measure extending an Act for 12 months only. It is silly to ask us to insert in a measure which is to last for only 12 months a principle applying to a five-year period. We certainly do not want to stop dairymen from getting their subsidy. I intend to vote against the clause.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I want to make it very clear that this is not a subsidy. It is a method of determining a fixed price for the butter producer. The money is paid into a fund to enable the consuming public to get their butter a little cheaper, exactly as in the case of tea. It is paid by the Government not for the benefit of the producer, though he does get a better price on that account. I can hardly believe that the hon. member, who represents producers, would agree to defeat this clause when I say that it is essential it should be passed this year.

Hon. L. A. Logan: Why did you not bring it up in another way?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I had nothing to do with the drafting of the Bill. My own Bills are drafted and introduced by me in this place. I cannot be responsible for what happens when Bills are drafted by another Minister.

Hon. H. L. Roche: Do you think the Commonwealth Government will pay a subsidy to the other States and not to this State?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I think it might be the means of bringing the whole thing down throughout Australia.

Hon. H. L. Roche: The same as wheat freights.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: That had nothing to do with the Commonwealth Government. It was a question of an outside board—the Australian Wheat Board, which represents the wheat producers. I am not going into that argument, because the hon. member knows as much about it as I do. He is only trying to lead me off the track to see whether I have any knowledge of it. I am very anxious that effect should be given to this provision. If there is any doubt next year and I am in my present position—there may be a new Minister and if so I hope he will do the same—I shall try to meet the wishes of the dairying people plus those of the Commonwealth and State Governments. I hope the Committee will not divide on this clause; and that if there is a division, the clause will be supported.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 3—Section 18 amended:

Hon. H. K. WATSON: I hope the Committee will not agree to this clause. Some members made it very clear that they voted for the second reading only because of Clause 4, which repeals the Profiteering Prevention Act. This then is the proper time to make an attempt to see that the co-existing Prices Control Act is not continued, but that it shall be allowed to expire on the 31st December.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I think it is only right I should explain that I shall vote for this clause because I realise that if I do not and it is not passed the Bill will be sent back to another place.

Hon. A. L. LOTON: You are not afraid of that, are you?

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I am afraid that if it is not passed the Bill will go back to another place and there may be some disastrous effect, far worse than otherwise would be the case.

Clause put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	.....	15
Noes	.....	9
Majority for	.....	6

Ayes.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker	Hon. Sir Chas. Latham
Hon. E. M. Davies	Hon. F. R. H. Lavery
Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. Sir Frank Gibson	Hon. C. H. Simpson
Hon. W. R. Hall	Hon. H. C. Strickland
Hon. E. M. Heenan	Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. C. H. Henning	Hon. J. Cunningham
Hon. J. G. Hialop	(Teller.)

Noes.

Hon. N. E. Baxter	Hon. J. Murray
Hon. L. C. Diver	Hon. J. McI. Thomson
Hon. A. R. Jones	Hon. H. K. Watson
Hon. L. A. Logan	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. A. L. Loton	(Teller.)

Clause thus passed.

Clause 4, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

BILL—PLANT DISEASES (REGISTRATION FEES) ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. Sir Charles Latham—Central) [8.45] in moving the second reading said: This is a short measure the purpose of which is to increase the fee for the registration of orchards from 1s. to 2s. per annum. Due to the very high cost of postage and certain administrative difficulties this increase in the fee for registration of anything up to one acre of orchard is requested.

Under the present legislation we could have raised the fee to 1s. 6d. by an administrative act but the collection of fees has become so costly that it is proposed now to enable the householder who wishes to register his backyard fruit tree to register it for five years on the payment of 10s. Officers of the department have informed me that as the registration fee is due early in July they have at that time of year to put on additional staff to cope with the many problems that are created. This measure will help both the registered orchardist and the officers of the department. I do not think the measure requires further explanation as the increase in the fee is in conformity with the present-day value of money. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

HON. A. L. LOTON (South) [8.46]: I am pleased that the measure proposes to enable orchardists, who wish to register, to pay their fee covering a period of five years, but there are many who at the expiration of that time will not realise that the registration has expired.

The Minister for Agriculture: We will notify them.

Hon. A. L. LOTON: With that assurance I am satisfied, and I support the Bill.

HON. E. M. DAVIES (West) [8.47]: I have no objection to the increase in the fee as proposed in the Bill but I would like to know what service is being given to people in the metropolitan area in return for the payment of the fee.

The Minister for Agriculture: They cannot expect much service for one shilling.

Hon. E. M. DAVIES: It is essential, in the interests of the fruitgrowing industry and in order to eradicate fruit-fly, that periodical inspections of orchards and fruit trees be made. I understand that on payment of a certain sum an officer of the department will do the necessary spraying of fruit trees in order to eradicate the fruit-flies and their larvae, but if no attention is given to backyard fruit trees it is little use concentrating on orchards. In the area in which I live

I do not think there has been an inspection by an officer of the department for a considerable number of years.

The Minister for Agriculture: Many summonses have been issued.

Hon. E. M. DAVIES: I can remember the time when regular inspections were made in the area in which I live but for a long time I have not seen an officer of the department in that district. I would not mind an even greater increase in the fee if some service was rendered to those in the metropolitan area who register backyard orchards. It is no use attending to the fruitgrowing districts if the fruit-fly and other pests are allowed to multiply in backyard orchards, as in many cases they do. It might require considerably more staff in the department but it should be possible to arrive at a method by which periodical inspections could be made and advice given to the owners of fruit trees. Some people make no attempt to bait their trees but many would be glad to do so if they were advised in that regard by officers of the department. I hope the Minister will give due consideration to that aspect of the question. I support the Bill.

HON. W. R. HALL (North-East) [8.50]: In the district in which I live regular inspections are made by an officer of the department who periodically does a house-to-house canvass. I spoke to him only last week and he told me he was stationed in Nedlands and had that district to look after. I believe that more frequent inspections should be made at this time of year as, failing that, many people will not take the precaution of spraying their trees. It is no use one man giving his fruit trees attention if those of his next-door neighbour are neglected.

HON. J. A. DIMMITT (Suburban) [8.52]: I believe there has been an annual inspection in the district in which I live for the last 10 or 11 years and it has been most helpful. Mr. Welby—I believe he is one of Mr. Davies' electors—gave us some very good advice in regard to our lemon tree. He took samples of the soil and told us what elements it lacked and with his advice we were able to increase the yield from that tree.

The Minister for Agriculture: You should have to pay 5s. for that.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: It is a wonderful service that is given and I am surprised that the fee has not been increased by more than 100 per cent. I compliment the Government on the work these officers are doing, and I support the Bill.

HON. F. R. H. LAVERY (West) [8.55]: I do not much mind the increase in the fee—

Hon. C. W. D. BARKER: It is all right if you have a pocketful of money.

Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I am not one who has a pocketful of money. I understand that when this legislation was originally passed the idea was that the department should send inspectors around to ensure that those people who kept a couple of fruit trees in their backyards should do their duty towards those engaged in the fruitgrowing industry, but owing to the shortage of labour and other factors during the war years those inspections lapsed to such an extent that many people now think they have been cut out altogether. I agree that it is a good idea to allow people to pay 10s. registration for a period of five years, but are there enough of these officers in the department to do the necessary inspection work? Thorough inspections are necessary if we are to keep fruit-fly and other pests from retarding the development of the fruitgrowing industry and I hope that any shortage of staff in that regard will be remedied so that the legislation may be policed.

HON. C. W. D. BARKER (North) [8.57]: The 1s. rise in the fee is quite warranted. I fully agree with Mr. Dimmitt, who said that the officers of the department are most efficient. From personal experience I may say that they are chosen with great care and that they render excellent service. Mr. Dimmitt has told us of the service and advice he received from such an officer and that is the spirit throughout the Department of Agriculture. The officers are courteous and willing to help anyone at all times. I support the Bill.

HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [8.58]: It would take a man of most methodical mind in these days to remember everything that he must register. Were it not that life and fire insurance companies and various departments that collect fees send out notices when payments are due, one would be in a hopeless position in this respect. The householder must notify the department of the possession of a single fruit tree and in view of that I believe it would be better to raise the fee to 2s. 6d. and to include a provision that the department should notify the householder each year when the fee is due. I doubt if I would send in my fee were it not for the fact that I have a patient—I think connected with the department—who regularly collects the necessary shilling from me once a year.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: Do you charge him for that visit?

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Of course not. I suggest that the fee be raised to 2s. 6d.

The Minister for Agriculture: If you pay the fee for the five-year period, we will send you a notification when it is due again.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: The annual fee should be raised to 2s. 6d. in order to cover the cost of notification being sent to householders.

The Minister for Agriculture: That would not be practicable, as it would require an enormous increase in staff.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: It would seem that the business community can send out such notifications while the Government cannot, perhaps because it does not charge sufficiently large fees. I support the Bill.

HON. G. FRASER (West) [9.0]: When a similar measure was before the House last session or the one previous, I raised certain points in regard to it.

The Minister for Agriculture: It was in 1944 that it was previously before the House.

Hon. G. FRASER: It is not as long as that; it must have been some other legislation dealing with fruit-fly.

The Minister for Agriculture: The last amendment was in 1944.

Hon. G. FRASER: Nevertheless, I did suggest then, when speaking to the measure, that there would be a number of people who would do what they could to eliminate fruit-fly but who did not know how to go about it. The majority of people will go to the department and pay their shilling, and the object behind that is to have a house-to-house inspection.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: That is the principle of the Act.

Hon. G. FRASER: I agree that that is the principle; to destroy fruit-fly as much as possible. The Minister might tell us how many inspectors are employed by the department, I do not think their number is sufficient or in conformity with the growth of the population in recent years.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Or the growth of the trees.

Hon. G. FRASER: Because of that, some trees must be neglected. When a similar measure was being debated, I suggested that an officer of the department might be made available at a fee to carry out the spraying of the trees and the laying of baits whenever a householder required it to be done.

The Minister for Agriculture: Why have a highly-paid officer doing the work when an ordinary individual could do it?

Hon. G. FRASER: I do not care who does it as long as the department makes someone available to those people that require such services. There are many men who might be experts in their own fields, but they have no knowledge of how to deal with fruit-fly. The spraying of trees and the laying of baits requires some knowledge. I have made similar requests in the past, but it appears that they have fallen on deaf ears.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: They get into "Hansard."

Hon. G. FRASER: But the Minister does not read "Hansard", and takes no notice of the requests. I am prepared to say that there would be many people who would pay for such a service. The prevalence of fruit-fly is most acute in those backyards where there are only two or three trees. What is the use of one man complying with the Act when his next-door neighbour neglects his obligations? I would like the Minister to give me some information as to making more officials available for the work of spraying fruit-trees and the laying of fruit-fly bait.

HON. L. C. DIVER (Central) [9.5]: I rise to support the measure which proposes to increase orchard registration fees. I would point out, however, that at present there are certain areas in the fruitgrowing districts that are prescribed areas under the fruit-fly baiting scheme. I have in mind the eastern hills scheme, and a correspondent of mine has expressed hostility regarding its administration. He claims that in that area there are 1,593 persons who would be eligible to vote, and yet on the occasion when a ballot was taken in that area, only 60 or 70 people exercised their right to vote. He also said that it was due mainly to the ignorance of the residents concerned in not knowing the requirements of the Act.

Another of his complaints was that no balance sheet was presented by this organisation and he wants to know where he can find it, and from where the money is derived. He also pointed out that the present prescribed area does not cover the whole of the fruit-fly infected area. Therefore, it is not so easy to overcome these difficulties as would appear. Had I known the Bill was to come before the House, I would have obtained more information from my correspondent, but he is so insistent in his complaints that I am inclined to believe that where there is smoke there is fire.

The Minister for Agriculture: The hon. member will receive plenty of such letters as he goes along.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: I did not want to ignore his correspondence, and I want to make certain that the department is carrying out its part of the contract. It is the duty of the responsible Minister to rectify such anomalies.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. Sir Charles Latham—Central—in reply) [9.7]: I am pleased at the reception given to the Bill. In reply to Mr. Diver, in return for this registration fee we do not render any service except that on the back of each receipt is a prescription—if I may call it that—for the destruction of fruit-fly, either by spraying or by baits

Therefore, the people who register receive some instruction in the methods of dealing with this pest.

In those parts where fig-trees grow readily, many people neglect them and the fruit-fly becomes very bad, with the result that an inspector catches quite a few offenders. I represent the same district as Mr. Diver, and when I have to sign the summonses issued against people I find it is not very palatable to do so against a person who is sometimes a friend of mine. Nevertheless, I have to do it. Generally, the fruitgrowers in the several districts form themselves into groups and the orchardists pay an extra sum of money into a fund to provide a mechanical apparatus to spray their orchards.

From the departmental returns and the reports I have received, it is clear that this proved a very satisfactory method and there is no cause for complaint. However, there are one or two orchardists who refuse to pay into the fund with the result that the others complain that they have to do twice the amount of work, due to the difficulty of dealing with these eccentric people. I assure Mr. Fraser that I will endeavour to see that inspectors are sent out more frequently in future. These men are usually qualified in other spheres, and we could not keep them solely engaged in inspecting fruit trees when fruit-fly is prevalent.

The inspectors are expected to give a good return for their salaries, but their duties in inspecting fruit trees mainly comprise making suggestions to owners of orchards how to spray the trees or, if necessary, to advise them to destroy the trees. Unfortunately, in this State we have had difficulty with fruit-fly, and even some jam-producers are complaining because they have difficulty in obtaining clean fruit. In one instance a factory had to close down for this reason.

So we must do our best to eliminate this pest. I point out to Dr. Hislop that if a person registers his orchard for five years, it is proposed to send him a coloured card, and he will be notified when a renewal is due. I think there were about 23,000 registrations last year, and to send notices to that number would require considerable staff. Some people say it is not worth going to the department to pay 1s., but we notify owners of fruit trees through the Press that the registration fee is due on the 1st July every year. There has been a suggestion that we should prohibit the growing of more than three trees in a backyard orchard.

Hon. A. R. Jones: They are the ones that do the damage.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes, but I do not think we need go to that extreme because very often such trees are the source of providing fruit for jam-making in the home.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

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

BILL—NATIVE ADMINISTRATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 4th November.

HON. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM (South-East) [9.15]: Firstly, I commend the hon. member for the intention behind the Bill. However, I must apologise for my feelings that preclude me from supporting it. I believe that the publicity given to this problem in the Press in recent months is to be deplored. Possibly, the original intention of such publicity has been attained. It has brought the question of our native population into the limelight of public interest and criticism. At the same time, it has had this very unfortunate effect; it has tended to make people take sides. From time to time we read in the Press of the same problem in other countries, and it is one that is growing and becoming more terrible as time goes on.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: And so it will here, if we do not take steps to rectify it.

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: I agree, but nevertheless I do not believe the present approach is the right way to tackle it. I repeat that it has had little effect until now, but it has brought the matter under public notice at last.

Hon. G. Fraser: What is the good of bringing a matter under the notice of the public unless action is taken?

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: The course that has been adopted is not the proper one. Until now we have had the two extremes of opinion. There have been those who say the native is in his right place and we cannot do more than we are doing. I do not agree with that contention for a moment. On the other hand, there are those who say that our natives are the worst treated in any civilised country.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Do not you believe that?

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: No, neither does the hon. member sincerely believe it.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Then you have to be educated!

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: Much more could and should be done with respect to the native problem. There are many members who know less about the administration of native affairs than I do. I am very much concerned about their problems, and I will support any Bill that is introduced to deal with the subject on completely non-party lines and in the true interests of the natives.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: That is a national necessity.

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: I quite agree. I also assert that there is a section of the native population, irrespective of the proportion of native blood in their veins, that is probably a more law-abiding group than any section of the white population. There is less crime per head among the natives than there is among the whites, and even so in many instances the crimes associated with the natives have their origin in the actions of white people.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: Then surely those natives are entitled to citizenship rights!

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: But that is not dealt with under a measure like the one before the House at the moment. This will throw the whole of the responsibility on to the native. In adopting that course, we are by no means doing the natives a good turn. In effect, we are depriving them of their full opportunity, because we throw the responsibility of full citizenship on to them when they are unprepared for it; and they will be left unprotected. At present they are under the protection of the Department of Native Affairs, but if this measure were approved they would not be in that position. Mr. Barker may snigger, but what I say is true. The natives, as defined by Mr. Strickland in his Bill, may be ready in many instances to accept full citizenship rights, but, unfortunately, it will not be of advantage to many of them. There are very many white citizens who are not ready for the exercise of citizenship rights.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: But why debar natives because of that?

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: It is not a question of depriving the natives of their rights. We are not depriving them of anything by not agreeing to give them citizenship rights. The proper way of according them citizenship rights, with a full measure of justice and protection, is to adopt the course pursued by the native missions. I refer to those conducted by religious institutions.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: How many natives are dealt with in those missions?

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: Admittedly, not sufficient. I believe that greater help should be given to the natives through those missions. When those bodies get hold of the natives in their early years or in their teens and, are able to educate them and prepare for their after-life, they then place them in Christian homes and find work for them. I believe that the native dealt with in that manner would then be quite prepared to assume the full responsibilities of citizenship rights.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: Do not you think any of them are in that position now?

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: Yes, I believe some are, and that the missions, acting along the lines I have indicated are doing a wonderful job for the natives.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: But do you not really think the natives are prepared for it?

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: I do not say that some natives are not, but the trouble is that the hon. member desires to give full citizenship rights to all natives in the category he has specified. If that should happen, there is little doubt that a great number of our native population will, from then on, be in all sorts of trouble and will find themselves in the courts, because they will be under the influence of the wrong people in our towns and elsewhere. I referred earlier to the unfortunate position that has grown up in some parts of the State. Some people say our natives are the worst treated in the world but in saying that they are not only wrong and unfair but unjust. I doubt if there is any other country in the world where one could go to the capital city and in the theatres there find natives sitting in the seats alongside whites, and their presence unresented.

The Minister for Agriculture: It could not be done even in up-to-date America.

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: Nor in Africa or several other countries. On the other hand, any day in the week we can visit theatres in the city here and find natives there. We do not feel any resentment at their presence. I believe that in some parts of this country there has unfortunately grown up, contributed to by the unfortunate publicity this subject has received, a feeling among some people that our natives cannot avail themselves of public transport facilities or visit places of entertainment without being subject to the vicious and stupid publicity that is apparent in other countries. It is unfair to say that the natives here are the worst treated in the world.

Hon. G. Fraser: How would you deal with the problem?

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: The hon. member is not being fair. He has not been paying attention to what I have been saying.

Hon. G. Fraser: Yes, I have.

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: I do not claim to have the full answer to the whole problem. It has proved too big for men more brainy than I am. My interest in the subject has convinced me that the proper plan for assisting the native is through our missions. I shall support any assistance that can be rendered in that direction. I believe the Government could lend further support to the work that has already been started, and I believe that is the direction in which the answer to the problem lies. I challenge anyone as-

sociated with the native problem to visit the Department of Native Affairs and prove that more has ever been done for the natives than that accomplished by the present Government, which has done more than all the previous Governments put together.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Now you are making it a party matter.

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: I am not.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Yes, you are.

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: All I am saying is that I challenge any man to go to the department and disprove the statement I have made. I do not suggest that the Government has done all that was possible, but it has done a tremendous amount for the natives. I suggest that much more could be done and if that were so, some of the unfortunate things that are said by probably well-intentioned people—I do not say for one moment that those who subscribe to the theory are not genuine—would be obviated because, as it is, those people are doing more harm than they appreciate. They do not know what may result from what they are saying. If they appreciated the real position, they would not make use of that stupid argument when they ask one whether one would take a native into one's home or allow one's daughter to marry one of the natives.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Nor is there any reason why you should take a half-caste Chinese into your home or allow your son or daughter to marry a member of that or some other native race.

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: That is my whole point.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Then why apply it to these people?

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: I am referring to the people who advance that stupid argument. The person who asked whether I would allow my son or daughter to marry a halfcaste is simply advancing a stupid proposition, for the same thing would apply to a Chinese or any other coloured national. There are white people living in the city with whom I would object to my daughter entering into matrimony.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: But people do marry them.

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: And I could not do more than raise my objection. Nevertheless it would be my right to voice my objection if I felt so inclined. The argument I refer to is merely stupid and contributes nothing towards the solution of the problem.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: Are you condemning "The West Australian" for publishing those articles?

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: No, I think "The West Australian" endeavoured to bring a sane viewpoint to bear on the problem.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: You said it was all humbug!

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: The hon. member should appreciate that I was referring to stories from other countries. I do not desire to refer to individual cases because I realise they are apt to go to extremes. I have in mind one instance, however, where citizenship rights could be conferred on a very worthy and public-minded native named Jackaboy who resides at Norseman. He is an Eastern States native. I doubt if there has ever been another native who has worked more unselfishly or more effectively or who has done more good for the State Government than Jackaboy. I make that statement even though I may exclude other well-known natives such as Tommy Windich and others. Jackaboy has received nothing at all in recognition of the services he has rendered the State over a period of years. We tried very hard to get a pension for him but we found that was not possible unless he possessed citizenship rights. With those rights, he would be debarred from living in a reasonable home on the native reserve at Norseman. Jackaboy wanted made available to him discarded railway sleepers with which he proposed to build reasonable homes on the reserve. He wanted to instruct younger natives in the building of such homes but we found there was no way by which we could help this man who speaks perfect English and whose character is above reproach in every conceivable way. If Jackaboy were to receive citizenship rights, he would be debarred from associating with his own people on the native reserve where he lives. We wished to have him made caretaker of the reserve, but there always appeared to be some technicality that prevented such a course.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: Is he a full-blood?

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: Yes. I believe that in such a case the law should provide some means by which he could be rendered assistance. Unfortunately no such provision exists. That sort of impediment must be removed. Without wishing to repeat myself, I cannot refrain from saying that I feel there are much more important and urgent matters that could be dealt with by the Government before we throw this very great responsibility upon the natives holus bolus, as has been suggested.

There is a native mission which has been running for some two years under the auspices of a religious order on a site where the department at one time had a mission. I am afraid that the record of the mission under the departmental

officer was horrible and disgraceful, but in the two years that these religious people have been running it, the difference in that district has been incredible. The Government has been able to say that it has cleaned up the end of the Trans line where this mission is situated. The Government is proud of it and a suggestion has been made that other States should do likewise. However, the Government cannot claim the full credit for what has been done there.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: You are referring to the mission where water is charged for at 1s. a gallon.

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: The Commonwealth charges 1s. a gallon for water. There is a move to alleviate that burden.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: They were told not to start a mission there.

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: That is not right.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: It is right.

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: When these people began the original settlement near Madura, they were not aware of the fact that the natives migrated from the north, hit the Trans line and stopped there.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: You are speaking of full-bloods.

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: Not all of them are full-bloods. Therefore, the matter is relevant to the Bill. These natives, as I was explaining, travelled as far as the Trans line but no further. Originally the mission people were told that they could not start a mission without the sanction of the department. Later they were told that the site was unsuitable, and it was suggested that a move should be made to the site of an old native tribal and hunting ground. They were told that water was frightfully scarce, but were promised assistance to find it. Certain assistance was given to dig small dams, and this has been done, but still water is scarce because there has been no rain in the district, and the mission authorities are still paying 1s. a gallon for water. It is believed that water can be obtained by sinking, and the Government has given an assurance that when an application is received for a drill, the equipment will be forthcoming.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: You are not suggesting that 1s. a gallon is charged for water in order to make a profit.

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: Not at all.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: It is costing 1s. a gallon.

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: I would not say it is costing as much as that. Originally the supposition was that the water was costing 2s. a gallon and the

price was reduced to 1s. This mission is suffering from hardships that do not beset many other missions, which are served by railways and are conducted under a much better and happier setup. The State railways carry a good deal of their freight free of charge and grant other concessions.

A much more balanced approach could be made to this problem, and I would support such a move, but not to give straight out citizenship rights as proposed. Grant assistance and more assistance, but build up slowly, though not too slowly, to alleviate the immediate problem! At Merredin we are doing our best to house these people. They are entitled to housing, but the impact of full citizenship rights would be disastrous to them and to the whole problem. We should not make a wrong approach because then we should probably experience the bitter and cruel treatment of the native population that has occurred in other countries, and this we must avoid at all costs. An error of this sort can be avoided only by a friendly and sympathetic approach by the Government, and when the day comes to support such an approach, I shall be found in the Government's corner.

HON. L. CRAIG (South-West) [9.37]: This is a most important measure, one that casts a heavy responsibility upon each member of the House. It is a responsibility not to be regarded lightly. Those who vote for or against the Bill will assume a responsibility that is most important, and I hope it will not be treated in a party or biased way because it involves a tremendous problem. The only question entailed in the Bill is that of the half-caste. A quadroon assumes citizenships rights. The Bill proposes to give to everybody except a full-blood the rights of citizenship. Therefore the sponsor of the Bill has taken upon his shoulders a big responsibility and I hope that he fully realises what he is doing.

In the area represented by Mr. Strickland, the half-caste problem is not nearly so serious as it is in the southern districts. In the north there are fewer natives with white blood than there are in the south, and it might be possible—I do not know enough about the matter to say definitely—that the comparative few in the North could be perhaps watched if citizenship rights were given to them. In the southern districts, however, it is an entirely different question. The number of full-bloods is small; the half-castes are in hundreds and they are an issue, not of white and black blood, but of half-castes who have intermarried and are breeding at a great rate. This Bill would confer upon all such people citizenship rights. Many of them are just pale niggers and have no more idea of living as white people than have the full-bloods.

I believe that natives, properly handled, have possibilities. I and my brothers have a station, the whole of which is run by natives or half-castes. On rare occasions, a half-caste has been left in charge for three months and has kept the station in perfect order. But those natives have been brought up on the station under strict supervision. They are well housed, and are provided with electricity, radios and refrigerators. They have been brought up from birth just as white people would be. Under strict supervision—and only under supervision—such natives do well, but they are not capable of having responsibilities placed upon them unless they are under control. The problem on a station is not a serious one because the natives are continuously under control from childhood.

To provide broadly that every one in the southern districts who is not a full-blood shall have the rights of the white man raises a problem that is full of difficulties. This proposal would not only give them the rights of the white man, but it would also deprive them of the protection afforded to natives, and that is the most important consideration of all. Portions of the Native Administration Act deal with the protection of the natives. We are asked by this measure to take the whole of that protection away from every native who is not a full-blood.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: How does it protect the native?

Hon. L. CRAIG: Being treated as a white man, the native will lose the rights provided for him.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: What are the rights of the native?

Hon. L. CRAIG: They are numerous.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker. What are they? The Act does not give him anything.

Hon. L. CRAIG: It gives the native protection in regard to the reserves provided for him.

Hon. N. E. Baxter: And medical treatment.

Hon. L. CRAIG: White people are prohibited from entering a native reserve, and if natives are to be treated as white people, they will no longer have such protection. If a native is diseased, he may be examined compulsorily.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: That applies also to white people.

Hon. L. CRAIG: Members must not think that, by extending citizenship rights to natives, they will alter their habits. The native is instinctively a child of Nature. What he wants to do he does, irrespective of whether it is right or wrong. Many of them cannot distinguish between right and wrong but do something simply because they want to do it. It is the inherited urge. The native does not say, "Do I do this because it is right or fail

to do it because it is wrong?" He does not argue in that way at all. He wants to do a thing and so he does it. Consequently, it has been necessary to include in the Native Administration Act provisions affording protection.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: It has been necessary to do the same thing for white men.

Hon. L. CRAIG: All that protection would be removed by the passing of this measure. Those protective provisions have been embodied in our legislation because the people concerned are natives and for no other reason. It is realised by those who know that these people are not capable of protecting themselves. The Bill proposes to take all these protections away. The motives of the hon. member are of the highest.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: They can be put back under the Bill.

Hon. L. CRAIG: No, because the hon. member is going to say to these people, "If you are not black you are a white man and deserve everything we have."

Hon. H. C. Strickland: And the Commissioner can put them back under him.

Hon. L. CRAIG: Only if he approves of certain things. Hundreds of people will suddenly become white. On the House devolves this huge responsibility. We may or may not ruin the lives of many hundreds of natives who will be classed as white people—and I am referring particularly to the female native. It is an offence to cohabit or have intercourse with a female native. I do not know whether members are aware of what the inherited habits of the female native are. It is not a question of right or wrong with her.

Today if a white man cohabits with a native woman he commits an offence and the penalty is rather severe. If we take this protection away we leave the position open. We are imposing on the half-caste a responsibility which she is unable to accept because it is the nature of the girl that she cannot accept it. By voting for the Bill members will be taking upon themselves a huge responsibility which must not be lightly accepted because it is a serious matter to take from these people the protection which is given them by law. I believe that the large majority of the natives who are not black need the protection that the Government gives them, and we have no right to take it from them.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: How many are getting it?

Hon. L. CRAIG: Hundreds of them. If there was no penalty for going into a native camp, we would find white men in the camps all the time. There are reserves spread from Armadale to Albany and out to the eastern wheatbelt access

to which is denied to white people, and to which white people will not go because they are afraid of the consequences. If we take this protection away from the natives, the bad whites will be amongst them all the time. I ask the House to consider seriously what it does before it takes this protection away from the natives who are not white. We have appointed an administrator who, I believe, knows more about natives than any of us. Each of us thinks he knows something about natives. I think I know something about the natives of the North, not because I have lived amongst them, but because for years we have been station people. For 50 years we have had stations in the North and have handled natives and, if I may say so, handled them with credit to ourselves and credit to the natives.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: Very strictly.

Hon. L. CRAIG: They have been brought up under the best circumstances, and they have been good servants to us. But I do not know the problems of the natives of the South. I believe those problems are much greater than those of the natives of the North, because in the North they are a primitive, honest, and decent class of people if they are handled properly. In the South they have got out of hand; and every latitude we give them is to their detriment.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: Will not the problem grow if you restrict them?

Hon. L. CRAIG: No. We have a Commissioner of Native Affairs who, I believe, is doing a good job. I believe we can absorb the natives who are not white, slowly into our midst. I am of the opinion it is being done, but slowly.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: The Bill will do that.

Hon. L. CRAIG: It will not. The Bill will suddenly launch hundreds of semi-white people into the rights of ordinary whites. Members know what will happen. The native has no control over himself concerning drink. He goes completely mad. He does not know what it is to resist drink. Anyone who knows anything about natives is aware that they cannot resist drink. They just do not understand. If they want a drink, they go and have one. The Bill will throw the pubs open to hundreds of half-castes who have no right to go into bars because they have no capacity to control themselves.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: That does not apply in Victoria.

Hon. L. CRAIG: There is no native problem in Victoria.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: There are natives in that State.

Hon. L. CRAIG: How many?

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Quite a number; some from here.

Hon. L. CRAIG: They have for years been absorbed into the community. There is no native problem in Victoria as we know it.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: No, they are all citizens.

Hon. L. CRAIG: We have hundreds of natives living in camps, and their only difference from black men is in their colour. Many of them do not live as well as the full-bloods. They live as dirty whites, with the bad habits of both the whites and the blacks. People who believe they know a lot about natives have given a tremendous amount of consideration to this question, and we are now gradually approaching it on a proper basis. Let us continue with the gradual endeavour to lift into the white community those who are capable of being so lifted, yet capable, an incentive to be treated as and let us give to those who are are not white people. I believe that a native, almost like an animal, has to be given an incentive. If we want him to do anything we have to make him a promise; we have to offer him a prize.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: That will take years.

Hon. L. CRAIG: It is better to do that than to destroy the morality of hundreds of natives, as I believe the Bill will do. I am of the opinion that we should offer a prize, so that if a native behaves himself and is willing to live as a white man, and can prove that he can live as a white man, he will get all the privileges of a white man. This privilege will be given to him because he can be trusted to live, not as a nigger, but as a white man. Is not that an incentive to a man who has white blood in him rather than to say to these people—and probably 90 per cent. of them are not capable of receiving citizenship rights—"You are all white men. You can go into the pubs and invite white people into your camps." That is what the Bill does. No one would welcome more than I the introduction of the natives into the citizenship of white people so that we might absorb them into the community, but the time is not yet ripe. We have neglected the native for years. We are only just starting to do something now.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: You said, 54 years, did you not?

Hon. L. CRAIG: I do not know. I am talking about the North. It is a pity there are any natives off the stations. There they are happy. Never do we see a happier form of humanity than among the natives on a well-run station. They laugh from morning till night.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: They are full-bloods.

Hon. L. CRAIG: No, the half-castes.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: There are not many of them.

Hon. L. CRAIG: I admit that. The problem of the half-caste in the North is not a serious one. Why is that? Because it is a serious offence for a white man to cohabit with a native.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: Yes, but you opposed a big penalty for that.

Hon. L. CRAIG: Because it was an unjust penalty, and the hon. member knows it, too. I gave reasons for it to the chief magistrate who was chairman of the Royal Commission inquiring into native affairs and he agreed with me. He said there were cases where it would be an injustice. For the benefit of members I will quote the cases, because I remember them. It was a serious offence for a white man to have intercourse with a native, and the penalty was imprisonment. At the time I mentioned two cases were brought to my notice. The first was of a young, educated man who lived in an out-camp about twenty miles from the nearest white man.

Coming back after seeing to the windmills and fences he found an attractive and good looking young native girl swimming naked in the tank attached to the windmill opposite his camp. The other case I quoted to the House concerned a similar young man coming back to his camp and finding a similar type of native girl in his bed. Had connection occurred between them, the young men would have been imprisoned. I pointed out the extreme injustice of imprisoning a young man for the offence in those circumstances. I am sure the House will agree that it was only justice that a man should not be imprisoned for the offence in those circumstances. Those are the cases to which the hon. member refers, and they are vivid in my mind because the magistrate came to me in Perth and said, "I entirely agree with you."

Hon. H. C. Strickland: The penalty was reduced to a fine.

Hon. L. CRAIG: Imprisonment was cut right out at my suggestion, but imprisonment was originally intended. This is a most serious Bill. Members of the Country Party will know a lot about the problems of the half-caste and I do not believe that one of them would give carte blanche so that every half-caste could become a white man. I do not think it is a good thing to give these people all the rights of a white man and to take away the protection which they receive today. I know the motives of the hon. member are quite good, but I do not think he knows anything about the problems of the South. In the circumstances, I strongly oppose the second reading of the Bill.

HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central) [9.59]: Like Mr. Craig, I think this is a dangerous measure. It will take away all the protection provided for the native under

the Native Administration Act, one of the first sections of which provides that the department can protect the native from injustice, imposition and fraud. Natives are just like children. They can be exploited very easily. Another matter referred to by Mr. Craig is that of the medical control the department and its inspectors have over the natives. If an inspector knows a native should be attending a doctor, he can immediately make arrangements so that he is forced to attend.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: That applies to an ordinary citizen.

Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Natives in the lower sections of Western Australia would not attend a medical man if they were not compelled to do so, but would carry on with their disease and eventually spread it amongst the rest of their kind. Those two reasons alone make this Bill particularly dangerous, especially if these part-white people are given the rights of a white man. There is another matter, too, where natives are placed in reserves and even where they reside in their own districts. Under the present Act they must have a permit to move from place to place in the State and a check can be kept upon them. If they are able to move anywhere in the State it will not be possible to keep a check upon them and it will be impossible to police their habits and their way of life. Where these people live on reserves there can be no interference from outsiders. The ordinary white man is debarred from entering a reserve and if he does so he incurs a heavy penalty. That helps to protect the natives and caste people.

Members must know that there are white people who are prepared to go among the natives, and the caste people particularly, and supply them with liquor and generally break down what little moral standards they have. That is another reason why this Bill is so dangerous. There is a section in the Act which relates to the marriage contract and that is another protection. Natives must get permission from the Commissioner before they can be married and that is a safeguard because it gives the Commissioner power to see that a decent half-caste or caste girl does not marry a man whose character is not all that it should be. Such a man might drag her down to his level whereas she might be able to influence him to become a decent citizen. Naturally these people have the right to appeal to a magistrate and he can decide when he has information in regard to the people concerned.

During his speech Mr. Craig dealt with a matter under Section 47 of the principal Act in regard to people cohabiting with natives. I know these natives; I see them every week and I can assure members that if these people can get liquor at any time

they will do so. They are not averse to taking it to their camps and in my district I have gone out with the local policeman during the night time in order to help him control these people after they have obtained liquor from some source or other and have become troublesome. Many natives get liquor because some of them have citizenship rights and can go to various areas where they are not known, obtain liquor and take it back to the camps. Also, some white men will supply it to them and natives are usually dangerous when they have drunk large quantities of liquor.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: It is generally poor quality stuff that is sold to them.

Hon. N. E. BAXTER: We have found in the country districts, that as soon as they drink a certain amount of liquor they start to fight. At one time I was down at Brunswick, in Mr. Craig's province, and the railway workers there assured me that many nights they have to dodge behind trucks in the shunting yards to avoid being hit over the head with a piece of wood or an iron bar when a liquor-mad native is chasing one of his kind. At one time I saw one of these people break a picket off the fence and chase his wife, or one of the caste people. When she went into a telephone box this native poked the picket through the glass and smashed it. If the Bill is passed these people will have the right to get liquor and the position in the lower section of the State will become chaotic.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Did you see the picture in the paper this evening?

Hon. N. E. BAXTER: We school the caste children in our institutions in the country districts. We try to instil into them some sort of ambition, but how far do they go with it? As soon as they finish at school they go back to the humpies and the mia mias.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Where can they go?

Hon. N. E. BAXTER: That is the whole secret of it.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: That is our responsibility.

Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I agree and that is where our Governments in the past, and the Department of Native Affairs, have not gone far enough.

The Minister for Agriculture: It requires a lot of money to do all these things.

Hon. N. E. BAXTER: But we are prepared to spend money in other directions so why cannot we spend some on these people from whose forefathers we took this country? These natives should have some social life after they leave our schools.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Quite correct.

Hon. N. E. BAXTER: These children go to our schools, among our white children, but as soon as they leave the schools they are forced to go back to the mia mias. I know of a girl—she was almost white and a blonde—who, when she left school, had to go back to the natives and their humpies. Fortunately the head teacher of the school arranged for her to come down and have a look at Alvan House in Mt. Lawley. She came down and took a liking to the place and became a resident there. That girl will be able to carry on with her education and that will be followed up with a certain amount of social life. She will not have to go back to the native way of life.

Several members have said that this Bill is a national necessity. I admit that this question is one of national necessity, but it must be handled in a different manner in different parts of Australia. The natives who reside below the 26th parallel in Western Australia are entirely different from the natives of the North, and the same applies to the natives of the Nullabor, Victoria or any other part of Australia. In my opinion there is only one way to handle the matter and that is to create reserves for the castes.

Give them areas and provide them with amenities and the chance for some ambition so that their children can get some advantage from that way of life. We will not see any result with the present generation, but we must look to the future. If these castes had settlements of their own we could give them opportunities to earn money in the settlements and that could be placed to their credit so that they could look after themselves and provide some form of social life in the settlements, such as dances, pictures and so on.

I know this will cost a lot of money, but if we are to handle this question in the right way we must spend money. The only way to follow up their schooling is to provide them with some form of social life afterwards. At the moment, as soon as the children leave school, they have to go back to the humpies where they lie on the ground with a few bags to cover them. They have no ambition.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: Do you want to keep them like that?

Hon. N. E. BAXTER: A large number of them earn £25 and £30 a week from shearing and they can earn £12 and £14 a week at any time, but they have no ambition to provide themselves with decent homes. Giving them citizenship rights will not develop in them any ambition because those who have the rights now have not shown any ambition. By giving a native citizenship rights, when he has not reached the stage of being able to live decently, will not do anything but drag him down in the mire. I intend to oppose the Bill.

HON. A. R. JONES (Midland) [10.10]: I oppose the Bill and I intend to give my reasons for doing so. I have had a long association with the natives in the southern areas: I went to school with them, I worked with them on my father's farm and I have had them working for me—full-bloods, quarter-castes, half-castes and every other type of caste.

As Mr. Craig said, most Country Party members have had a wide experience of natives and not only have we worked with and employed them, but we have also been members of road boards who have done their best for the natives in the districts involved. I mention those things to enable members who are supporting the Bill to understand that we know what we are talking about when we speak in opposition to the Bill. Mr. Logan and other speakers have said that it would be a retrograde step, a calamity and a disaster if this Bill were passed. I believe it would be, too, because the time has not yet arrived for us to pass this sort of legislation.

Religious organisations throughout the country areas are doing their best for the natives and are looking after the young children. They are tackling this problem as it should have been tackled 50 years ago. In my opinion it is useless to allow a native or coloured child to go to school and give him an education as we do at the moment. They are educated to the same standards as our white children and when they leave the schools they have to go back to the humpies and do not make any better citizens than they would have made had they not gone to school.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: Where else can they go?

Hon. A. R. JONES: I admit that they cannot go anywhere else, but to allow these people full citizenship rights, willynilly, irrespective of whether they will make good citizens or not, is too silly for words. If they have the right outlook on life, and sufficient interest in the community to conduct themselves properly and keep apart from natives, they can obtain citizenship rights and the hon. member knows that.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: They have to go to the reserves.

Hon. A. R. JONES: The hon. member knows that my sympathies are with the natives because in my short time in this House I have introduced amendments to the Act and when anybody has put up a sound proposition on behalf of natives, I have always supported him and will continue to do so. We must take these children from a young age and divorce them from their people. If we took them from, say, 10 years downwards we might have a chance of training them and they would make good citizens.

A lot has been said about what might happen with natives if the Bill were passed and I would like to give an

illustration of the experience we have had in my district. Several quadrooms who were under the control of the Moore River settlement authorities for a number of years found out, from a departmental officer, that they were entitled to become citizens. These people came to the publicans in the district, showed them letters which stated that they were entitled to citizenship rights, and asked them for beer. That was the first thing they thought of. It just shows what could happen and what, I am certain, would happen if we handed citizenship rights to every coloured person other than the full-blood.

During the course of his contribution to the debate, Mr. Craig said the natives are not capable because their instincts will not permit them to think in a sane manner and they act as they are prompted by their instincts. I was very helpful to a fellow who worked for me; I put him in a good home and assisted him to rear a family of six children, which incidentally has now grown to 10; I helped him to obtain citizenship rights. He had only held those rights for two years when he was in strife. He was involved in two court cases which cost him £50 each.

I feel sure that man would admit that citizenship rights did him no good, and he would not ask for them again. He was continually plagued by coloured people coming to his house and by relatives who also pestered him to buy them quantities of liquor. He would fall for the money he was offered and would secure the liquor for them. Before he obtained his citizenship rights, he was one of the best types of quarter-caste or half-caste fellows I have met; he was certainly one of the best stockmen I have seen at work. It only goes to show that by giving these people citizenship rights we are not going to improve their lot at all.

Personally, I am firmly of the opinion that we are on the right track, and I hope the Government will make a sum of money available to the religious organisations so that they can tackle the problem and continue with the job they have set out to do. While it is possibly believed that we have a good administrator at the present time and that he is thoroughly conscientious, I feel that when people are paid to do a job, they do it because it is a job, and while a certain number of them have a degree of feeling and goodwill towards natives, they are not to any extent likely to be of such great benefit to the natives as those who volunteer their services, as do the religious organisations.

We have the right people to deal with this problem in the religious organisations. I trust the House will not accept the Bill. I feel sure that every member will gain in his outlook on the native problem from the debate that has taken place, and, I hope that before long we will be

in a position to ask the Government, indeed to implore the Government, to spend more money than is being expended at the present time, in the manner other members and I have advocated. I am very reluctant to say that I cannot support a Bill to improve the lot of the native but the proposals embodied in this Bill will not be of benefit to them.

On motion by Hon. H. L. Roche, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.20 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 11th November, 1952.

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

QUESTIONS.

PETROL.

As to Price at North-West Centres.

Mr. RODORED A asked the Attorney General:

(1) What is the retail price in shillings and pence per gallon of petrol at the following centres:—

Carnarvon;
Onslow;
Roebourne;
Port Hedland;
Meekatharra?

(2) What differential covering freight and charges can be added to above prices for retail sale at the following centres:—

Wittenoom;
Marble Bar;
Nullagine?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL replied:

(1) The price at which petrol could be sold has always been fixed at the cost of petrol to the reseller, plus the money margin which was in operation on the 20th September, 1948. The actual price in shillings and pence has not been fixed.

Schedules fixing the price in all towns in Western Australia are in course of preparation, and these should be completed at an early date.

(2) Calculation of inland freights is included in the investigation mentioned.

TRAFFIC.

(a) *As to Road Patrols and Accidents.*

Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Police:

(1) How many traffic police are employed on the Great Eastern Highway?

(2) Has there been an increase or decrease of patrols in the last three years?

(3) How many traffic accidents have taken place between the Causeway and the Midland Junction Town Hall in the past 12 months?

(4) How many accidents have—

(a) had fatal results;

(b) resulted in physical injuries?

(5) Is it intended to increase the number of traffic patrols in the next 12 months?

The MINISTER replied:

Assuming that this question refers to that portion of the Great Eastern Highway which is in the metropolitan traffic area—

(1) One.

(2) There has been an increase.

(3) and (4) The records maintained of traffic accidents do not localise information, and the information requested is, therefore, not available.