

Supreme Courts in the other States of Australia. The new scale for Western Australia seems to have a fairly close relationship to that of South Australia and Queensland.

I think it could be argued quite fairly that the degree of work and the responsibility of the judges of the Supreme Court of Western Australia would now be somewhat similar to those which apply in the other two States, even though the population of both Queensland and South Australia is somewhat higher than the population of Western Australia.

The only unusual feature about the introduction of this Bill to increase the salaries of the judges on this occasion is the fact it was not introduced by the Premier and Treasurer of the State. I have not searched back into the history of our legislation, but from my recollection I think a Bill of this description has always in the past been introduced by the Premier and Treasurer of the day. On the present occasion it was introduced by the Minister in this House who represents the Minister for Justice. I am sure the delegation of this responsibility to a junior Minister is not a reflection upon the judges of our Supreme Court.

In the circumstances, and especially in view of the fact the proposed increases have a direct relationship to what has taken place in the other States of Australia in connection with the salaries of the judges, there appears to be no option but to support the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Premier)
[4.55 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 4th October.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.56 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 4th October, 1966

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The **PRESIDENT** (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (3): WITHOUT NOTICE

MAIL TO THE ARMED FORCES IN VIETNAM

Unsatisfactory Delivery

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

In view of the very unsatisfactory delivery of mail to and from members of the forces in Vietnam, will he have urgent consideration given to the problem with a view to making suggestions to the Army through the appropriate channels for the more expeditious handling of mail matter?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

I acknowledge the fact that the honourable member kindly gave me notice of his intention to ask this question. I will take the matter up with the appropriate authorities to see what I can do to assist.

COMMONWEALTH REPATRIATION BILL

Introduction in Senate without Message

2. The Hon. H. K. WATSON asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) With reference to last week's

conflict in the Commonwealth Parliament between the Senate and the House of Representatives over the Repatriation Bill is he aware—

- (a) That the Bill involved the payment from the Commonwealth Treasury of many millions of dollars by way of increased war pensions but did not contain any provision making express appropriation of revenue to meet the contemplated expenditure;
 - (b) that the Bill originated in the Senate; and without a Message;
 - (c) that the Bill was amended by the Senate so as to still further increase by many millions of dollars the overall entitlement of specified persons to war pensions; and
 - (d) that although the amendment so made by the Senate was, on the merits, unacceptable to the Government in the House of Representatives and was ultimately thwarted, it was nevertheless at all times and in both Houses accepted that, as a matter of law and of procedure, the Bill as so introduced in and amended by the Senate was not a Bill appropriating revenue and was in no way out of order constitutionally.
- (2) Since this appears to be in direct conflict with Mr. President's ruling on the 20th September on the Perth Medical Centre Bill, will the Minister inquire from the President of the Senate or the Leader of the Government in the Senate as to the principles upon which it was accepted that the said Repatriation Bill—like the Civil Aviation Agreement Act, 1957—did not require a Message and validly originated in the Senate?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) and (2) The honourable member was good enough to advise me he intended asking this question. Had this question been directed to you, Mr. President, you might have said that the practice in the Senate has no relation to the circumstances in Western Australia.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: It sounds like a "Dorothy Dix" to me.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am not responsible for the honourable member's hearing. However, the question has been directed to me and I will make inquiries along

the lines indicated. I will not do this with the purpose of questioning the decision of this House in regard to the Perth Medical Centre Bill, but in order to ascertain whether there is any consistency with the practice employed by the Senate and the Commonwealth Constitution relating thereto. To my mind, the words in the Commonwealth Constitution cannot have any different interpretation from that of the same words in the Constitution in this State when read and interpreted in the same context.

DARRYL BEAMISH CASE

Report on Professor Brett's Observations

3. The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE asked the Minister for Mines:
 - (1) Has the Government received the report on Professor Brett's observations and implications on the Beamish case?
 - (2) If "Yes," what action does the Government propose to take in the matter?
 - (3) If "No," will he endeavour to expedite the report with a view to its very early consideration?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) to (3) I acknowledge notice of this question. I expect to have the report in the next day or so and the matter will then be considered.

QUESTIONS (3): ON NOTICE

CANNINGTON SCHOOL

Additional Classroom, and Estimate of Intake

1. The Hon. J. DOLAN asked the Minister for Mines:
 - (1) Is there any possibility of another demountable classroom being erected immediately in the Cannington Primary School to accommodate the overflow of students there?
 - (2) If the answer to (1) is "No," is it proposed to do anything during the current school year to make it possible for the children at present using St. Michael's Church Hall, Cannington, as a classroom, to return to the Cannington Primary School proper?
 - (3) What method is used for estimating the number of children who will be attending Cannington Primary School as at February, 1967?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes.

- (3) The methods normally used are to make inquiries as to the housing programme by the State Housing Commission, and of the local authority as to building permits, and for the department to assess at the rate of .5 to .7 children of school age per house.

The result over the years has proved fairly accurate but does vary between localities.

HOSPITAL CHARGES

Outstanding Accounts

2. The Hon. J. M. THOMSON asked the Minister for Health:

Further to the announcement of proposed increased hospital charges, will the Minister inform the House, in relation to each of the financial years from 1961-62 to 1965-66 inclusive—

- (a) What was the amount owing to the Medical Department by way of outstanding accounts for—

(i) general hospitalisation; and

(ii) out-patient treatment?

- (b) What would be the number of patients involved in (a) above?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (a) Strictly speaking, no patients' accounts are owing to the Medical Department. However, the total of outstanding accounts at all public hospitals, including those which are controlled by boards of management appointed under the Hospitals Act, were as follows:—

As at the 30th June—	\$
1962	2,248,787
1963	2,133,105
1964	2,364,703
1965	2,680,456
1966	2,912,167

It is not possible to ascertain what part of the totals shown above was made up of accounts for out-patient treatment. The figures include both in-patients and out-patients and separate figures are not available from most hospitals.

- (b) The number of patients owing the amounts shown under (a) as outstanding is not known. Statistics are not kept of the number of outstanding accounts, but even if this were done some accounts cover more than one patient (e.g., a father who is responsible for hospital accounts for members of his family) and, in other cases, one patient has more than one account outstanding.

To give some indication, the following figures are quoted for the total number of in-patients admitted to public hospitals in the

five years under discussion and also the figures for out-patient treatments:—

	In-patient Admissions	Out-patient Treatments
1961-62	96,603	396,106
1962-63	103,409	453,397
1963-64	108,658	492,077
1964-65	114,174	523,701
1965-66	118,122	559,731

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

Research Programme and Staff

3. The Hon. J. HEITMAN asked the Minister for Mines:

As the question of a special statutory authority for soil and water conservation, and prevention of salt encroachment, has been refused, what steps are being taken for a greatly improved research programme, and an adequate increase in the number of soil conservation officers throughout the State to speed up this all-important work?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The soil research branch of the Department of Agriculture has been strengthened already and another officer from England is expected to arrive shortly. The senior soil research officer, Mr. S. T. Smith, has returned from an international symposium in Holland and consulted workers in Israel, Holland, and the United States of America on aspects of salt water movement in soils and soil salinity which are highly relevant to soil salinity and irrigation problems of this State. Mr. C. V. Malcolm, soil research officer, is at present spending 18 months in the United States of America studying particular aspects of salinity relevant to the State's problems. He will visit several other countries before returning to Western Australia. It can be anticipated that these opportunities, plus a strengthening of the staff, will undoubtedly lead to increases in the research programme.

The soil conservation service has already been strengthened by six graduate officers in the last two years and further recruitments are intended as suitable men become available, bearing in mind the needs of other branches of the Department of Agriculture.

PERTH MEDICAL CENTRE BILL

Rescission of "Introduction and First Reading" Resolutions: Motion

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (Lower West—Minister for Health) [4.51 p.m.]: Under Standing Order 121, I move—

That the resolutions made by the

House on Wednesday, the 31st August, 1966, granting leave to introduce and agreeing to the first reading of the Perth Medical Centre Bill, be and are hereby rescinded.

Following the vote of the House relevant to the Perth Medical Centre Bill, I am advised this is the correct procedure in order that the Bill may be proceeded with in accordance with the dictates of the House.

THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North) [4.52 p.m.]: Members will realise that to carry this motion an absolute majority is necessary; and I hope the Council will agree to it. The motion is presented in conformity with the requirements of our own Standing Orders in such cases, and its introduction is entirely in accord with guidance given in Erskine May's *Parliamentary Practice*. In short, the motion is in strict conformity with the rules of Parliament, and in conformity with our own Standing Orders.

In Chapter II of the 17th edition of *May*, under the heading "Power and Jurisdiction of Parliament", will be found the following words:—

The constitution has assigned no limits to the authority of Parliament over all matters and persons within its jurisdiction. A law may be unjust and contrary to sound principles of government; but Parliament is not controlled in its discretion, and when it errs, its errors can only be corrected by itself.

It also states—

As regards the Colonies, the legislative competence of Parliament is absolute.

Those are very interesting words and apply directly to the matter now before the House. In an earlier edition of *May*, under the heading "The Same Question or Bill may not be twice offered in a Session", appear the following words:—

It is a rule, in both houses, which is essential to the due performance of their duties, that no question or bill shall be offered that is substantially the same as one on which their judgment has already been expressed in the current session.

A resolution may, however, be rescinded, and an order of the house discharged, notwithstanding a rule urged (2nd April, 1604), "That a question, being once made and carried in the affirmative or negative, cannot be questioned again, but must stand as a judgment of the house." Technically, indeed, the rescinding of a vote is the matter of a new question; the form being to read the resolution of the house and to move that it be rescinded; and thus the same question which had been resolved in the affir-

mative is not again offered, although its effect is annulled.

That is exactly what the Minister proposes to do under the provisions of our own Standing Orders and, in particular, under Standing Order 121. It is pertinent to remark, too, that this case is not one of being in conflict with an earlier decision, because we are not dealing with a question originally resolved in the negative. We are dealing with two questions originally resolved in the affirmative: the leave to introduce, and the motion dealing with the first reading.

Erskine May has referred to the difficulty associated with decisions where they are in the negative, because the principle of altering a decision of Parliament in its specific intent is involved in that instance. I have no doubt—and I feel there will be no doubt—when this Bill is presented in the form which this House decided it should be presented, the question again will be resolved in the affirmative.

In this case we are applying entirely—and I think satisfactorily—the rules of procedure provided in our own Standing Orders and in *Parliamentary Practice*.

THE HON. H. K. WATSON (Metropolitan) [4.58 p.m.]: I oppose the motion. It has its genesis in your recent ruling, Mr. President—in respect of the Bill mentioned in the motion—that the Bill was out of order on the ground that, although it nowhere expressly or directly appropriated any revenue or money, it was, nevertheless, a Bill appropriating revenue or moneys within the meaning of section 46 of the Constitution Acts Amendment Act, and was not accompanied by a Message.

I oppose the motion because in my respectful opinion it is founded on a misconception. It proclaims a misconception and it could, to the detriment of the rights and privileges of this House, perpetuate this misconception.

Mr. Wise has referred us to *May*; but I would remind the House that *May* is not the ultimate authority on Parliamentary process. *May* on Parliament is no different from Jarman on wills, Lewin on trusts, Gunn on income tax, and so on. *May* on Parliament is purely a guide to indicate to the reader where to go if he is seeking authoritative information. If I understood Mr. Wise correctly, he read from *May* that, in respect of the colonies, the power of Parliament is absolute. I assumed he meant the power of the colonial Parliament, which is now the State Parliament.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I read exactly what *May* said; not what I said. I quoted from *May*.

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: And then the honourable member proceeded to say that that applies precisely in this case.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: That is so.

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: Accepting that proposition—that the power of this Parliament is absolute—I have yet to learn that this Parliament could, for example, have introduced to it a Bill, or pass an Act, relating to customs, or imposing an excise, or relating to post and telegraphs. The power of this Parliament, like the power of the Federal Parliament, has, since 1900, been restricted within certain limits.

I merely mention that by way of illustration and, so far as it is material, I think it is well for us to remember that section 46 of our Constitution is copied from and is a replica of sections 53, 54, 55, and 56 of the Commonwealth Constitution. It was so copied in 1921 and, in this connection, it is beyond my comprehension why anyone in this House should want unnecessarily to inflict restrictions upon this House, and to run so contrary to accepted practice in the Commonwealth Parliament, of which, since we last met, we have witnessed a classic example.

It seems to me rather ridiculous that the same words in similar Acts should have one meaning in Perth and another meaning in Canberra.

I oppose the motion because, as I have said, I think it is misconceived. In my respectful opinion it would have been much more appropriate and much more to the point had we before us a motion to rescind the vote taken on the 21st September; or, perhaps, an intimation through you, Mr. President, that upon further consideration you felt impelled to vary your ruling of the 20th September.

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (Lower West—Minister for Health) [5.3 p.m.]: While appreciating what Mr. Watson has said, I hope members will support the motion which I have moved. I thank Mr. Wise for his comments and, to a degree, I thank Mr. Watson, too, but not to the extent that I want members to support his proposition.

The PRESIDENT: This motion will require an absolute majority.

Question put.

The PRESIDENT: As there is a dissentient voice I shall divide the House.

Division taken with the following result:—

Ayes—27

Hon. C. R. Abbey	Hon. F. R. H. Lavery
Hon. N. E. Baxter	Hon. L. A. Logan
Hon. G. E. D. Brand	Hon. G. C. MacKinnon
Hon. J. Dolan	Hon. N. McNeill
Hon. V. J. Ferry	Hon. T. O. Perry
Hon. J. J. Garrigan	Hon. H. C. Strickland
Hon. A. F. Griffith	Hon. E. H. C. Stubbs
Hon. C. E. Griffiths	Hon. R. Thompson
Hon. E. M. Heenan	Hon. S. T. J. Thompson
Hon. J. Heltman	Hon. J. M. Thomson
Hon. J. G. Hislop	Hon. W. F. Willesee
Hon. E. C. House	Hon. F. J. S. Wise
Hon. R. F. Hutchison	Hon. H. R. Roblason
Hon. A. R. Jones	(Teller)

Noes—2

Hon. F. D. Willmott	Hon. H. K. Watson
	(Teller)

The PRESIDENT: The question is passed with an absolute majority.

Question thus passed.

BILLS (4): THIRD READING

1. Eastern Goldfields Transport Board Act Amendment Bill.
2. Stock Diseases Act Amendment Bill.
3. Bread Act Amendment Bill.

Bills read a third time, on motions by The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Health), and passed.

4. State Electricity Commission Act Amendment Bill.

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

POISONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Assembly without amendment.

JUDGES' SALARIES AND PENSIONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

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

BILLS OF SALE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Assembly's Amendment

Amendment made by the Assembly now considered.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (The Hon. A. R. Jones) in the Chair; The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Justice) in charge of the Bill.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The amendment made by the Assembly is as follows:—

Clause 3, page 2, line 6—Insert the word “, lucerne” after the word “cotton.”

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: When this Bill was being debated in another place the question arose whether “lucerne” was covered by the definitions. Apparently the Department of Agriculture, through the Minister's office, had an inquiry to the effect that there was a possibility that a certain firm would be installing a dehydrating plant for lucerne, and there may be some need for this firm to give financial assistance to the growers of lucerne. For the provisions of the Bills of Sale Act to apply in this connection it is necessary to extend the definition to include the word “lucerne.” Inquiries from the draftsman reveal that the position is not covered at the moment and that is the reason for the amendment. It is a simple one to which I have no objection because it merely widens the scope of the Act.

If a dehydrating plant for lucerne is installed in this State it will be of advan-

tage to farmers in the feeding of stock. I saw something of this in America where green hay is dehydrated and the food value in the hay is thus retained, even though it is dry. In addition, the hay retains its colour to a greater extent than if it is cured in the open by natural means. If this is the sort of thing that is intended by the amendment, then I understand the need for it and it will be of assistance to us. I move—

That the amendment made by the Assembly be agreed to.

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

Report

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

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD BETTING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 22nd September.

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [5.16 p.m.]: The Bill before us contains several adjustments to the Act. All of them have been submitted to the racing and trotting authorities concerned, and have, in turn, been considered by the board which controls the conduct of totalisator agencies. For instance, the establishment of agencies on-course will be carried out only with the approval of the clubs concerned. The extension of such betting on-course will not interfere with the facilities which exist at the moment, but will incorporate a specific type of investment known as quinella and doubles betting. It seems to me that this is a desirable feature, in that it provides for on-course patrons the facilities which are available to people who bet off-course. If there is a safeguard for the payment of commission to the clubs concerned, then I can see no reason for quarrelling with the proposed amendment.

The amendment in the Bill for the adjustment of off-course totalisator dividends presents a more difficult problem. It is one which has, from time to time, caused concern to the board. The formula proposed in the Bill—to operate on Eastern States events—is designed to give the best overall average result in the interests of racing, and in the interests of the board. Probably it is not possible to reconcile the advantage to the board with the advantage to racing; but in arranging something to satisfy the two interests the limitation of odds is satisfactory.

A formula providing for limits is better than one without limits, in view of the amendment in the Bill which guarantees that the dividend to be declared will always be greater than the amount invested either for a win or for a place. In

the past, on occasions, dividends of less than the amount invested have been declared, and the punters concerned—although they were on a winning or a placed horse—received less in return than the amount invested. Once this Bill becomes law the minimum dividend for a 50c investment will be 55c. This is not a magnificent result to the punter, but nevertheless, in terms of finance, it is quite a lucrative return if the punter can receive it often enough.

The distribution of the surplus of the board between the racing and trotting clubs will, I suppose, be the subject of controversy between the supporters of trotting on the one hand, and the supporters of racing on the other. The fact that the new basis of 60 per cent. to 40 per cent. has met with the approval of the authorities concerned is the most important feature of this part of the Bill. Personally I feel some regret that racing will lose a percentage of the present basis of distribution, particularly country racing clubs, because there has been a distinct improvement in country racing as a consequence of the increase in the betting tax collections.

Even though the total loss of \$36,000 to the racing clubs is seemingly small—\$3,600 of this will be borne by the country racing clubs—it nevertheless represents that much less income to the clubs and to the amount of money which can be paid out in stakes. The methods of spending the surplus funds received from the board by the racing and trotting clubs cannot be compared. Some people believe that a particular club, in using these funds in a special manner, confers a greater benefit on its patrons than another club does with its patrons. We have to bear in mind the fact that those holding official positions in the racing and trotting clubs—particularly those in the metropolitan area—are bound to budget these funds on an overall basis, by increasing the stakes gradually and, at the same time, improving the amenities for the people who follow the sport.

In this respect I have seen the improvements which have been effected over the years, and from a perusal of the reports of the racing and trotting bodies it is obvious that they intend to proceed further with the provision of modern amenities from the funds that are made available to them under this legislation. It is fitting that money obtained directly from racing and trotting should be returned to the clubs.

I am a little concerned with one amendment in the Bill which proposes to increase drastically the penalties for illegal betting. It seems there is little difference in the compulsive act of betting—either legally or illegally. Indeed, there is very little to offend one's conscience in making an illegal bet with a person who is prepared

to accept it, compared with the making of a legal bet on a racecourse or in a betting shop.

However, the increased penalties have been accepted, and if they are intended to be deterrents then I see some merit in this approach. But I do not like the idea of increasing penalties drastically for betting illegally, because to me the offence is not a very serious one.

There is a provision in the Bill which seeks to amend the Justices Act to provide for a five-year period of retrospectivity in the launching of prosecutions for illegal betting offences. I consider this to be a drastic move. Although retrospectivity for a period of six months has presented difficulties in producing evidence for successful prosecutions, in my view retrospectivity for five years is too long. It could be that the commission of one or several offences in one year was a past chapter in the life of a person, because not everybody bets consistently all the time. Some people bet quite heavily for a short time before deciding to give up betting. Others bet consistently and regularly, and in the main they are the ones who use the recognised channels for betting—on the racecourses or in betting shops.

I feel that in general this legislation can be supported, by adopting the proposals contained in the Bill and by trying them out. If subsequently, in the light of experience, any matter contained in this Bill is found to be too harsh, or unnecessary for the implementation of the Act, then there would be nothing to prevent us from bringing an amendment before Parliament to have the matter adjusted—as is being done in the present instance.

There is a limit to the amount of money which can be raised under this legislation. There will be a levelling-off in the income of the Totalisator Agency Board when the population becomes stabilised and the value of money remains static. When that time arrives the income of the board will flatten out. In checking through the comments the Minister made during the introduction of this measure, it is noticeable that there seems to be some flattening out in the income of the board now, as revealed by the figures in its financial report for 1965, and in its estimates for 1966. I support the measure.

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

SWAN RIVER CONSERVATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 20th September.

THE HON. J. DOLAN (South-East Metropolitan) [5.29 p.m.]: As I see it, this Bill proposes two things: It proposes to amend the Swan River Conservation

Act, 1958, and to repeal the Melville Water and Freshwater Bay Road Act, 1912, and the Swan River Improvement Act, 1925-1960.

The main provisions of the latter two Acts are to be incorporated in the amendments which are proposed to the Swan River Conservation Act. The Melville Water and Freshwater Bay Road Act goes back over 50 years. In all that time none of its provisions have been used in any shape or form, so in my opinion the time is now ripe—because during the 50 years since it was passed it has not functioned—for it to be repealed or for some action to be taken on it. The move to repeal it and to incorporate its provisions in the Swan River Conservation Act is long overdue.

It was proposed originally under this Act to make provision for reclamation work both in Melville Water and Freshwater Bay so that, if necessary, sufficient ground would be available for a road a chain wide. As I have said, that provision has not operated.

The other Act—the Swan River Improvement Act—contained only one difference. Under the first Act, only one particular stretch was required; but, on the other side of the Causeway, sufficient land was required on each side of the river in order that two roads each a chain wide could be constructed, if necessary, and reclamation would take place accordingly.

Although we can see evidence on the other side of the Causeway of reclamation that has been carried out, generally speaking this reclamation has not been of the river. The marshy land alongside the river has been reclaimed and in this respect much good will result. I hope that this new area on the other side of the Causeway will eventually resemble areas such as Langley Park, or the section on the south-western side of the Causeway where playing fields, tennis courts, and so on, have been established. The trend on the eastern side of the Causeway has been to widen the river rather than to reclaim part of it for works.

The proposal in this Bill to repeal the Acts I have mentioned, is a good one because the provisions in those Acts will be covered by the Bill, and the board will have the necessary power under the Swan River Conservation Act, as amended.

Under the principal Act the board was composed of a chairman, appointed by the Minister, and 16 members; and I do not think any other body is so representative of all the interests so vitally concerned. I do not suppose it will do any harm to acquaint members with the composition of that board, because it will take me only a few minutes. I feel that occasionally we can remind each other of the personnel of some of these boards so that we know how well they are representative.

The chairman, as I have said, is nominated by the Minister. Two persons are appointed to represent the Perth City Council, one being the senior qualified civil engineer. Four persons are nominated by the Local Government Association to represent the interests of local authorities, and it is proposed to increase this number to five. In his second reading speech the Minister indicated that the Local Government Association would appoint that other person from one of the shires bordering the Canning River. In those circumstances the association will have a fairly wide choice. I take it South Perth will be included. Would that be counted as a shire?

The Hon. L. A. Logan: No. South Perth is on the Swan River.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: Yes, but that local authority has territory on the Canning also.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Yes.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: Also involved are the Melville Town Council, the Canning Shire, and the Gosnells Shire. Therefore, out of those four, no difficulty should be experienced in appointing a suitable man as a representative.

One member of the board is appointed by the Associated Sporting Committee to represent persons who use the foreshore and the waters of the Swan. Also on the board is a member appointed by the W.A. Aquatic Council, and one appointed by the Chamber of Manufactures. In addition, on the board are members of Government departments interested in various aspects of the river.

I now want to refer to the representative of the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department. I was wondering whether this would be the appropriate time to amend the Act in this respect. The word "department" should be replaced by the word "board", as the body is now known as a board.

Also on the Swan River Conservation Board is a qualified medical practitioner, or health inspector, representing the Health Department, and this is most desirable when matters affecting health arise. The other Government departments represented are the Harbour and Light Department, the Harbours and Rivers Branch of the P.W.D., the Government Chemical Laboratories, the Lands and Surveys Department, and the Town Planning Board.

Under this Bill it is proposed that a biologist be appointed; and I consider that a person qualified to speak with authority on the wild life and fish life of the river is a desirable person to have on the board.

When we are discussing the board I think it is an appropriate time to pay a tribute to the men who have worked on it. The fact that this amendment proposes to alter the board's present authority

in regard to reclamations—the acreage will be reduced from 10 to two—involves no criticism of the board. The time has been reached when it is necessary that proposals concerning extensive reclamations should be referred back to Parliament. That is the general wish and the Government is wise in taking heed, not only of public opinion, but also of the opinion of members of the House.

I feel it might be appropriate to refer to the fact that when this legislation was submitted to the House originally, Dr. Hislop had the foresight to suggest that restrictions should be placed on reclamations of the river. He successfully moved a 10-acre limit, but indicated that he had five acres in mind. The fact that eight years ago members of the House were of the opinion that restrictions should apply should convince us that the proposal of two acres is not unwarranted. If circumstances require extensive reclamation in the future, the proposal should be submitted to Parliament so that members might discuss every aspect and reach a decision which would be acceptable to all.

As I said earlier, I wish to pay a tribute to the members of the board. They have done an excellent job when we take into consideration the over-all picture. Every day on my way to Parliament House, and on my way home, I see evidence of their work; it is a credit to them, and a boon to the districts affected.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: Plenty of good work has been done upstream, too.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: Yes. Excellent work has been done everywhere. I know many members of the board personally, and they are dedicated to their work. We are fortunate to have on the board men who are so public-minded. In the last couple of weeks one local authority indicated that it wished to put sewage into the river. It would, of course, have been treated, and I know some engineers are prepared to drink it to show that there is nothing offensive about it. It is a strange thing that many people have a prejudice concerning their children swimming in the river when sewage has been allowed to enter it.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: It is only clean water.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: That is right; but it is hard to convince the average person of that. The average parents read the paper and when they know that sewage has been allowed into the river they consider the water is then filthy and they will not allow their children to swim in it. This creates unnecessary prejudice.

However, on this occasion the board was realistic and, apart altogether from the practical purposes involved, decided against permitting the sewage to enter the river. I am not going to take sides on

this matter, but at least, as far as the public is concerned, the board has helped to remove the prejudice concerning sewage in the river.

The Bill meets the wishes of all interested in the retention of control over the river. The board is doing an excellent job and we should encourage it. The only suggestion I have to make is in regard to replacing the word "department" with the word "board." As I have said, it is wise that the board should submit to Parliament any proposal concerning extensive reclamations. This will meet the wishes of everyone.

We on this side believe the Bill is commendable and support it.

THE HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [5.41 p.m.]: I cannot refrain from congratulating the board, because I have seen its work. It has been an eye-opener to many of the citizens of Perth to see what has been done and what can be done on the banks of the river. This is so, not only in regard to the lower reaches of the river, but also to the area beyond Canning Bridge. A tremendous wide stretch of river exists there, and the growth of the suburbs on the banks of that river is truly amazing.

Not one member of the community could raise a voice against anything the board has done. I have every degree of faith that it will adhere to all the restrictions placed on it; but I hope that those restrictions are not made too great because, if they are, the viewpoint of those who have to extend, as it were, the uses of the river and the banks thereof, will be rather stultified.

I intend to make one suggestion to the Government which, if adopted, would, I think, be very popular with the people of this city, and could well add to our tourist attractions. In Sydney, on a Sunday afternoon, it is possible, for about 4s., to join one of the launches for a tour which covers almost the entire harbour. The harbour is a magnificent sight and the tour has been praised by many Sydneysiders. The launch is nearly always full. On one particular afternoon when I went on this journey—not for the first time—I met a number of individuals who had come from afar to see the sights, as they can be seen plainly whilst sitting in the launch.

I do not think we realise the beauty that exists along the river beyond Canning Bridge, and if a launch, capable of accommodating 20 to 40 people, were to make a tour of the area on Sundays, it would prove a very great tourist attraction. With such a tour the boat could come down one side of the river for a certain distance along the lower reaches, return, and then travel up to the reaches beyond Canning Bridge, almost to the far bridge. Even the citizens of Perth would

be amazed to see the width of that part of the Canning River.

Finally, of course, the time will come when portion of that river will be dredged because many shallow areas exist, particularly towards the banks of the river on the south side; and it is very difficult to travel on the north side as it is at present.

I commend the Bill to the House and I commend the Swan River Conservation Board to the public. I hope it will continue adding to the beauty of the river, as it has done, and continue adding to the areas of beaches which are now being used by children.

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Upper West—Minister for Local Government) [5.46 p.m.]: I would like to thank Mr. Dolan and Dr. Hislop for their contributions to the debate on this measure. In regard to the query raised by Mr. Dolan, unless I am mistaken I think we still have a Water Supply Department, which is controlled by a board. I am not certain but I think that is the situation.

The Hon. J. Dolan: Its official title includes the word "board."

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I will check on this and, if necessary, the Bill can be recommitment. However, I think it will be found to be controlled by a board. It is only a question of representation and it does not matter whether it is a department or a board.

I am very pleased that both members have extolled the work of the Swan River Conservation Board because, undoubtedly, anyone who travels the river from Fremantle to the Upper Swan Bridge will see evidence of the work the board has accomplished over the years. Its work is nowhere near completed because it still has a lot to do between the Causeway and the Upper Swan Bridge.

I would mention that there is a similar board operating on a voluntary basis at Bunbury, under the chairmanship of Mr. Bond, who is the chairman of the Swan River Conservation Board. The Bunbury board, which is working quite well, is a voluntary set-up which I was able to establish there. It has regular meetings at which the members discuss the Collie River, and the board works constantly towards the beautification and control of the river there in the same way as the Swan River Conservation Board does in Perth.

I refer to the suggested tours which were mentioned by Dr. Hislop. I do not know whether he or other members know, but there is a launch which goes up the river every Sunday as far as the Upper Swan Bridge, and then returns.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I have been on it.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I would advise all those who have not taken this trip to

do so. I was a guest of the Swan River Conservation Board and the Bunbury Conservation Board on a trip up and back. I would mention that it takes a good skipper to navigate this course because the length of the boat is nearly as great as the width of the river.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: It is lovely, too.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes, it really is a lovely trip and I suggest that we cannot really know our river unless we see it from the river itself. One does not get any opportunity of seeing it from the road at present.

There are many problems in regard to the further development north of the Causeway. I am not making this suggestion to anyone but, if I had any money, and was in a position to buy land, I would buy it north of the Causeway as quickly as I could. In 10 years' time, and as soon as the development takes place, the value will be increased 500-fold.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: Would the Government resume the land if people were to buy it?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: If it involved the one and a half chains, the Government would resume because it is most essential to keep one and a half chains for the benefit of the community.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: You might have started a mild land boom.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I am sure this will happen regardless of whether or not I mention it here.

There are no other points to be raised in connection with this measure. I will ask the Minister in charge of the legislation to convey to the board the complimentary remarks made by the two members who spoke to the Bill. I am satisfied this measure will allay the feelings of many people in regard to the river.

I think each and every one of us appreciates the value of the river. Of course, there are certain disabilities, and I think every one should appreciate these, too. In Perth, we are positioned somewhat similarly to Sydney. In order to reach the heart of the city of Sydney, one has to travel over a lot of water and, when rather extensive sections have to be bridged, this is very costly. Here, we have the same position because of the very wide stretches of water. Invariably it is the widest parts which one wants to bridge and this creates a disability from a transport point of view. However, the river is one of our heritages and, as a Parliament, we quite agree that we like the river as much as anyone else and we will endeavour to maintain it.

As I said, I will check on this question of the board, or department, before the Bill goes to the third reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

House adjourned at 5.53 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 4th October, 1966

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

QUESTIONS (13): ON NOTICE SCHOOL AT BENTLEY Site

1. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Education:

Where is the site of the proposed new primary school for Bentley as