

of the representatives of the A.W.U. on this aspect I am sure an objection would have been raised and an alteration would have been made. I hope the House will agree to the provision as it stands.

Regarding subcontractors, although they are not defined in the Act, the term "owner" is defined as—

"owner" when used in relation to any mine to which this Act applies, means any person or body corporate who is the immediate proprietor, or lessee, or occupier of any mine, or of any part thereof, and includes a contractor or tributer working therein, but does not include a person who merely receives a royalty, rent, or fine from a mine, or is merely the proprietor of a mine subject to any lease, grant or license for the working thereof, or is merely the owner of the soil and not interested in the minerals of the mine;

This definition seems to include various classes of people, including subcontractors, although they are not specified. There again I might be wrong. I have no doubt the Minister for Mines will consider the submissions which have been made in this debate.

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.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Bovell (Minister for Lands), and passed.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

SIR DAVID BRAND (Greenough—Premier) [11.57 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 2.15 p.m. tomorrow (Wednesday).

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 11.58 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 5th November, 1969

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

QUESTIONS (9): ON NOTICE

RAILWAYS

Derailment near Widgiemooltha

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

- (1) In respect of a derailment south of Widgiemooltha on the 24th October, 1969, when several oil tankers were derailed, has it been ascertained whether it was caused by the foundations under the sleepers turning to mud after the recent rain?
- (2) If not, what was the cause of the derailment?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) A derailment occurred on a temporary deviation at 9.45 p.m. on Thursday, the 23rd October, 1969 and it is presumed that it is to this occurrence that the honourable member refers. The deviation was in use in connection with re-grading being performed in the area.
- (2) A departmental inquiry has been instituted to ascertain the cause of the derailment and at this juncture the finding of the board is not available. However, a preliminary investigation indicated that the derailment was probably caused by the gauge spreading on the temporary deviation.

2. DAIRY MARKETING BODY

Plans

The Hon. N. McNEILL asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Would he refer to the Minister for Agriculture, for some clarification, a report in the *Farmers' Weekly* of the 30th October, 1969, with the heading "Questions on Plans for Dairy Marketing Body"?
- (2) Can the Minister advise whether departmental discussions have taken place with a view to the establishment of a single marketing authority for milk products in Western Australia?
- (3) If such a move is contemplated, when is it anticipated that details of the proposals will be announced?
- (4) What is the nature of decisions reported in the article as having been made by the Agricultural Council with respect to the administration of the dairying industry?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) This has been done.
- (2) and (3) The Minister advises that, to his knowledge, no discussions of this nature have taken place.

- (4) This question has not been considered by Australian Agricultural Council. However, the Standing Committee on Agriculture considered a proposal that supervision of all dairy farms, factories, city milk treatment plants, and stores be vested in State Departments of Agriculture.

Because of the differing circumstances between States, this matter has been left for decision by the individual States.

3. *This question was withdrawn.*

4. EDUCATION

Marvel Loch School

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What was the daily average attendance of children at the Marvel Loch School during—
 - (a) the school year ended December, 1968; and
 - (b) the period February to October, 1969?
- (2) Is it the intention of the Government to close the school in the near future?
- (3) If so, for what reasons?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) 13.
(b) February to October unavailable.
Enrolment at beginning of school year, 1969—8.
Enrolment at the 1st August, 1969—11.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The small numbers do not warrant the continuance of a school when a bus service could take both primary and post primary students to Southern Cross Junior High School and thereby provide a wider education for all children.

5. SHIPPING

Port of Albany

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Has the Overseas Shipping Representatives Association acknowledged the Government's representations for an increased allocation of ships to the Port of Albany?
- (2) Could the Minister indicate whether the reaction of the association was—
 - (a) favourable;
 - (b) otherwise;
 to the Government's representations?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) and (2) Answers to these questions will not be known until after the visit of the Chairman of Overseas Shipping Representatives Association to Western Australia next week.

6. ARTIFICIAL BREEDING BOARD

Report of Operations

The Hon. J. DOLAN asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Under subsection (1) (a) of section 17 of the Artificial Breeding Board Act, 1965-1968, has the Minister received a report of the board's operations for the period from the 30th June, 1968, to the 31st December, 1968?
- (2) If so, when was the report tabled to conform with subsection (1) (b) of section 17 of the Act?
- (3) If not, will the Minister make inquiries as to the reasons for the delay and, if possible, expedite the laying of the report before the House?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) Yes.

7. *This question was postponed.*

8. ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

Subsidies

The Hon. J. DOLAN asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) At a field day at Wokalup Research Station on Friday, the 31st October, 1969, did the Minister for Agriculture, or his deputy, say that a subsidy for each cow artificially inseminated would be paid to farmers?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is "Yes", what would be the anticipated amount of each subsidy, and what would be the estimated total annual cost of the subsidy?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) and (2) The Minister for Agriculture has announced that the Government has agreed to make a grant on each cow artificially inseminated for the 1969 season commencing the 1st January, 1969. The grant will be on the basis of \$1 for each cow submitted for first service. The total grant is estimated to be in the vicinity of \$20,000 and will be paid to the Artificial Breeding Board.

9. *This question was postponed.*

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the Opposition), leave of absence for six consecutive sittings of the House granted to The Hon. R. Thompson (South Metropolitan) on the ground of ill-health.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 5)

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government), read a first time.

Second Reading

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Upper West—Minister for Local Government) [3.14 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill contains 17 clauses which are designed to provide for further amendments to the Local Government Act as the result of representations made to me.

Clauses 1 to 3 are formal clauses necessary to amend the title and the arrangement of the Act, and to provide for the date of operation to be fixed by proclamation.

Clause 4 deals with wards and municipalities. The only provision in the Local Government Act for the creation of wards in municipalities is contained in section 12(1)(g) and in section 12(2) (b), (g), and (h). The former provision provides for the division of a district into wards and the fixing of the boundaries of the wards, and requires a petition from at least one-third of the persons whose names appear on the municipal roll of the municipality of the district. The second provision requires a petition bearing the common seal of the municipality directly affected by the order. It would seem desirable that there should be provision for the Governor to initiate action to prescribe wards within a municipal district, and recent instances have occurred where the absence of this power has been detrimental to the efficient operation of local government.

In the case of the abolition of the Town of Boulder and the inclusion of the area within the district of the Shire of Kalgoorlie, it would have been preferable if wards could have been defined at the outset to enable the representation to be from the existing town and shire districts respectively, and to enable the creation of wards in which pastoral and mining interests could be represented.

Difficulty has also been experienced in determining wards and representations in the proposed new district of the Shire of Swan which will result from the amalgamation of the district of the Town of

Midland and the district of the Shire of Swan-Guildford. It would be preferable if the Governor could determine the number of wards and the representation without having to have a petition from the council concerned.

There are other instances, particularly in the metropolitan area, where development and variation in population densities have created a considerable imbalance between wards as at present constituted in respect of representations; councils, however, are reluctant to take any action to remedy this situation. The amendment is therefore to enable the Governor, without petition, to alter and determine the wards within a municipal district.

The usual procedure when determining wards and representations is to endeavour to obtain some degree of parity, taking into consideration factors such as population, number of ratepayers, area, mileage of road, revenue, and valuations. This amendment is to section 12, and the clause also provides for a further amendment to section 12 to enable the Governor to exercise such power as is recommended by the boundaries commission when a petition has been referred to it. Frequently petitions for severance and annexation of territory between municipal districts or the creation of new districts, are referred to the boundaries commission and when this occurs the commission has made a practice of considering alternative proposals. The recommendations of the commission may not be identical with the proposals contained in the petition and this amendment is designed to enable the Governor to make an appropriate order where the commission, in a report, recommends a course of action which would travel beyond the course of action prayed for in the petition, and it is designed to give effect to the commission's recommendations.

Clause 5 is to amend section 111 of the Act relating to absentee voting. The first amendment is to remove the reference to the 12th schedule and to provide that the forms may be prescribed in regulations. The second amendment is contained in paragraph (d) and is designed to make clear the period during which an application for an absent vote can be made. Paragraph (c), like paragraph (a), is designed to substitute a prescribed form for the forms contained in the schedules to the Act.

Clause 6 amends section 112 and requires that, in future, the returning officer will have to post all absent vote certificates unless they are delivered to the applicants at the place of issue. Paragraph (b) of this clause substitutes the words "prescribed form" for the words "forms in the 12th Schedule," and paragraph (c) requires that the returning officer must notify

applicants for absent voting papers whether an application has been rejected, and the reasons for the rejection.

Clause 7 amends section 113 which relates to authorised witnesses and makes it clear that the witnessing is in respect of absent vote certificates and not to the absent votes. The words "vote certificates" are substituted for the word "votes."

Clause 8 amends section 114(e) which at present requires the elector to hand the sealed envelope containing his absent voting papers to the authorised witness for insertion in the outer envelope. The amendment is designed to bring the requirements of the Local Government Act into line with the Electoral Act which requires that, except in the case of an incapacitated elector, the elector retains possession until he forwards the completed postal voting paper to the Chief Electoral Officer.

Clause 9 is designed to amend section 117 of the Act to clarify the requirement that a separate ballot paper must be provided for each vote in municipal elections. Previously there has been a certain amount of confusion amongst returning officers, some of whom have sent one paper only.

Clause 10 will amend subsection (2) of section 135, which prescribes the payment to officers who act at municipal elections. The provision is designed to make the rate similar to that applicable to elections conducted under the provisions of the Electoral Act, with a minimum of two hours for the payment of officers who are required to work overtime.

Clauses 11 and 12 amend section 170, which at present provides that a council may appoint such number of members being less than half of the total number of members of a council, as an occasional or standing committee. Section 182(2) provides that the mayor or president is *ex officio* a member and chairman of the committee so appointed. It has generally been understood that the total number of members of a committee shall be less than one half of the total number of the council. However, it was recently discovered that because the mayor or president is not appointed to the committee, the number prescribed in section 170 does not include the mayor or president. This means that contrary to previous belief, a committee can consist of more than half of the members of a council and thus be certain of having its recommendations confirmed by the full council if all members are present.

The Local Government Association, the Country Shire Councils' Association, and the Country Town Councils' Association have all indicated that they favour an amendment to provide that the number of members of a committee including the mayor or president, shall be less than half the total number of members of a council.

Clauses 11 and 12 are designed to give effect to this requirement and also to enable a mayor or president, if he so chooses, to not serve on a committee or be included in an *ex officio* capacity in the numbers.

Clause 13: In recent years there has been a number of drownings in swimming pools appurtenant to private dwellings and these accidents have been followed by many requests for legislation to enable municipal councils to force owners to provide some form of protection at swimming pools. Members will recall that Mr. Stubbs introduced a Bill to amend the Local Government Act to enable this very thing to be done. At the time I promised that when the amendments which are now contained in the Bill before us were proposed to the Local Government Act, I would incorporate among them a provision to give local authorities the right to make uniform general by-laws to cover the situation. This amendment is designed to enable a council to make by-laws relating to swimming pools, and also for the Governor to make uniform general by-laws on this subject. The by-laws will be for the purpose of protecting persons who may, with or without the knowledge or consent of the owner or occupier of the premises, enter upon land on which a private swimming pool is constructed.

Clause 14 amends section 374 relating to appeals to the Minister. The amendment proposed is designed to enable the Minister to appoint persons to hear appeals and to report to the Minister. The number of building appeals in recent years has grown and it is now deemed advisable for the Minister to delegate some of the duty in respect of the hearing of appeals.

Clause 15: The present form of the 18th schedule to the Act has not proved satisfactory and it has been suggested that it should be amended to give some information in respect of the property the subject of appeal against valuations, and it is considered desirable that such forms should not be included as a schedule to the Act, but should be prescribed in regulations. This clause is designed to provide for the change.

Clause 16 is designed to amend section 665A to include a similar provision to that contained in the traffic regulations and to add a further paragraph (c) as follows:—

drives a vehicle carrying a load unless the load is so arranged, contained, fastened or covered that the load or any part of it cannot fall or otherwise escape from the vehicle.

This amendment was recommended by the Local Government Association and agreed to by the Minister for Police and Traffic. By being included in the Local Government Act this provision will enable councils in the metropolitan area to police the provisions and thus assist in reducing the litter problem.

Clause 17 is designed to delete the 12th and 18th schedules, which will in future be prescribed in regulations.

Debate adjourned on motion by The Hon. R. H. C. St. John.

CONSTITUTION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

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

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Justice) [3.25 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill has two main operative clauses. The first of these amends paragraph (5) of section 38 of the principal Act by substituting for the words "for two consecutive months of any session thereof," the words "for an entire session thereof."

The purpose of this amendment is to ensure that, in granting leave of absence to members of Parliament, there will not be any legal doubts, and their seats will not be declared vacant. This problem has arisen as a result of having two periods in one session of Parliament.

Enlarging on this theme, I would mention that when Parliament adjourned prior to Christmas, 1968, intending to resume the session in March, 1969, each House granted leave of absence to all its members during the period of adjournment.

Consideration was given to the necessity for such a resolution. Section 38(5) reads as follows:—

38. If any Member of the Legislative Council or Legislative Assembly after his election—

- (5) fails to give his attendance in the Legislative Council or in the Legislative Assembly as the case may be for two consecutive months of any Session thereof, without the permission of the said Council or Assembly as the case may be entered upon its journals: his seat shall thereupon become vacant . . .

Arising from the introduction of a system of more than one period in a session, the provision, as it stands at present, is not easy to construe; and this is principally because the period of an adjournment whether long or short remains part of a session. The consequences of a failure as directed in the section are serious. It is recommended therefore that the provision be amended along the lines I have already

indicated in order to ensure that its application be in respect of one entire session of Parliament.

It is believed that, by this amendment, we ensure the continuity of representation in Parliament and remove any legal doubts as might presently exist in the matter.

There is also included in the Bill a clause which increases the Governor's salary from \$14,500 to \$17,000 per annum. In this connection I think we should mention that the salaries paid to the Governors in the other States are somewhat higher than the salary paid to the Governor in Western Australia, but having regard for the concessions and considerations granted in each State, it is submitted that the proposal to increase the salary in Western Australia is a fair adjustment.

It might be of interest to members if I mention the salaries payable in other States. In New South Wales, the salary paid to the Governor as at September, 1965, was \$15,000 and in April, 1968, it was increased to \$20,000. It is still \$20,000.

In Victoria, as at September, 1965, the salary was \$18,000 but the Governor is now paid a salary of \$20,500. In September, 1965, the salary in Queensland was \$15,500, but today it is \$18,750. In South Australia as at September, 1965, it was \$15,000, and today it remains at the same figure. The salary in South Australia has not been increased because of the Government's lack of a constitutional majority. I understand that consideration has been given to the Governor's salary by the granting of allowances. As a result of this, the salary with allowances is at the present time \$18,000 per annum.

In Tasmania, as at September, 1965, the salary of the Governor was \$13,000, but he is now being paid \$15,000.

So by the adjustment proposed in the Bill to increase the salary of the Governor in Western Australia from \$14,500 to \$17,000, we are bringing the salary up to a reasonable average and this rise is to take effect as from the 1st October, 1969.

Members are reminded that it has been policy in the past to increase the salary of the Governor shortly after the salaries of members of Parliament have been increased. Some short delay in this connection has already occurred.

It is intended to bring Western Australia into line with the other States by paying the expenses of the Governor, his wife, and his staff when they tour the State. This is considered to be fair enough because, having examined the position of the other States, the Government found that in practically every one of them a similar concession has been granted.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the Opposition).

BILLS (2): ASSEMBLY'S MESSAGES

Messages from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Council to the following Bills:—

1. State Housing Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).
2. Bush Fires Act Amendment Bill.

BILLS (2): RETURNED

1. Fauna Conservation Act Amendment Bill.
2. Mines Regulation Act Amendment Bill.

Bills returned from the Assembly without amendment.

RURAL AND INDUSTRIES BANK ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 30th October.

THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North) [3.32 p.m.]: This short and concise Bill, simple in its form, gives very little suggestion of how far-reaching may be its effect on the history of this State. The Bill has two provisions; namely, it will allow the investment by the bank in shares or share capital, or debentures, in bodies corporate with the consent of the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister; and, secondly, it will permit a commissioner or an officer of the Rural and Industries Bank to become a director of a body corporate in which the bank is to be a shareholder. In that connection, there is a relationship with section 9 of the Rural and Industries Bank Act.

The Minister's speech made clear to us what the whole proposal involves and means. I think it is important and heartening to know that the commissioners of the Rural and Industries Bank continue to see, as their primary role, the services involved in being bankers to the community. I think it is a remarkable tribute to the bank, to its management, and indeed to the State, that an institution under 25 years of age has been approached by giant organisations in banking, in a world sense, to join in the setting up of a merchant bank in Western Australia.

On the 27th September, 1944, when the Rural and Industries Bank Bill was introduced, and until it passed this Chamber on the 15th December, 1944, no-one would have believed that within such a short period a Bill like this would be presented on behalf of that institution. The Bill which was introduced in 1944 did not pass

very easily; it passed after much contention and after a conference between the two Houses.

The Minister made a very conclusive and a well prepared speech—a speech comparable with the one delivered in another place, which was obviously prepared with great care and with great authority. It is clear that the Rural and Industries Bank has been approached by the organisation known as Crown Agents, in conjunction with the Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago, and Credit Lyonnais of Paris, to set up an investing company in Australia with headquarters in Perth.

The Minister advised us that the Crown Agents and its office date from 1833 when it was instituted on behalf of the British Empire as a financing medium for many Crown Colonies and many countries associated with the British Crown. By 1968 the Crown Agents were acting as financial and commercial agents for 80 Governments, both within and without the Commonwealth, and for more than 160 public authorities and international bodies.

It is interesting to observe that in addition to this powerful organisation with great influence—the Crown Agents—the Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago has a capital of \$6,640,000,000, and Credit Lyonnais of Paris has assets totalling \$5,950,000,000. The Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago is one of the foremost banking institutions of America, and Credit Lyonnais of Paris has close connection with the banking houses of the free western world.

In the first instance it is proposed that the new Western Australian company will have an authorised capital of \$10,000,000, \$5,000,000 of which will be paid up. Each of the three institutions will provide 20 per cent. of the capital. The same proportion is being offered to the Rural and Industries Bank, and the balance is being offered to other Australian interests.

The new company is to be known as Westralia International Limited. This most certainly appears to be a method for a bank in our State to enter into very sound business channels within the State and, indeed, in a world sense.

It is pertinent to observe that other banks which operate both in Western Australia and in other States of Australia have joined with other national banking interests in recent times to form merchant banks within Australia. Recently the merchant bank Partnership Pacific, with an issued capital of \$3,000,000, was disclosed to be a joint effort with the Bank of New South Wales, the Bank of America, and the Bank of Tokyo. The Commercial Bank of Australia has recently linked up with the Midland Bank Limited, the Standard Bank of South Africa, and a Canadian bank to establish the Midland and International

Bank in Australia. Further, the Chase N.B.A. Group Limited, which is another new group, resulted from the joining of the National Bank of Australia, the Chase Manhattan Bank, and A. C. Goode & Company in a \$5,000,000 company.

It is very much to the credit of the Rural and Industries Bank that, during its short and successful life, it has not entered into the lucrative but highly risky field of high interest business by financing, as other banks do through subsidiary companies, hire-purchase schemes and other such operations. Of course, when high interest rates are earned the operation is usually of a very risky kind. In the past the old trading part of the Rural and Industries Bank has not been involved in hire-purchase undertakings and, in the future, the new company will not be involved in these areas of finance.

With very little research, members may find that several banks trading in this State are associated with such companies. The E. S. & A. Bank, for example, has a wholly-owned subsidiary in ESANDA. General Credits Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary of C.B.A. The Bank of Adelaide has as a subsidiary the Finance Corporation of Australia Limited, and other trading banks have similar degrees of equity in many such organisations.

I am sure members will have noticed that the move to establish a merchant bank in Western Australia was heralded in the Press two or three weeks ago. However, the article which appeared in *The West Australian* of Friday, the 31st October, deserves, I consider, to be placed on record in the *Hansard* of this Parliament. The article needs no paraphrasing. I think it is best to express what the financial editor of *The West Australian* sees as the prospects of the proposed institution.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.2 p.m.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: A reference in *The West Australian* of Friday last written by the Finance Editor of that journal gave in a very concise form an outline of the position. I presume, though I do not know, that the Finance Editor of that paper would be known to many of us. He is Mr. Jack Lawrence, a man who is very conservative, safe, and sound in his judgment of most financial matters. He had this to say—

The Rural and Industries Bank's participation in merchant banking will bring a more sophisticated form of industry financing right to the State's doorstep.

A Bill to permit the bank to join with two overseas banks and Crown Agents, a British body which provides a public service, is now before State Parliament.

The association will mean the formation of a merchant bank with a strong local attachment which should benefit the State considerably in general development but particularly in the development of natural resources.

In recent years, Australia has attracted many merchant banks with an international flavour. Merchant banks, unlike trading banks, do not provide day-to-day banking facilities for deposits, for cashing cheques or for overdrafts.

They concentrate on finding funds for industry and major projects, generally providing finance on the long term and for periods generally outside the traditional short-term lending of trading banks.

Several of these merchant banks are already represented in Perth, on their own or in association with some Australian financial institutions.

But the present proposal now before Parliament will make Perth the headquarters of a new organisation which will have the benefit of the R and I Bank's wide knowledge of the State with the backing of the State Government. It is a unique opportunity for the State to widen its influence in the financial sphere.

It will mean the existence of a big financial institution with overseas affiliations directly interested in promoting development in W.A. and probably looking to the Government for possible avenues of development.

The R and I Bank's association will induce confidence in the local operations of the new organisation and will give the State its own particular entry to a new source of overseas funds.

The proposal is something which rarely comes the State's way and it is too good to miss.

In his speech the Minister said—

The Crown Agents took the lead in seeking an association with the Rural and Industries Bank because they wished to anchor the proposal to an indigenous bank. It was considered, too, that a demonstration of local confidence could best ensure the participation of the two wealthy overseas banking partners. Moreover, the Crown Agents wished to show a general concern in matters Western Australian.

The Minister went on to say—

The purposes of such consortia are to bring about a direct participation of overseas funds in the development of Australian national resources and to provide the expansion of productive enterprises.

If members refer to the speech made by the Minister they will see an amplification of those sentiments which appears to indicate that we in this State are very fortunate indeed and, I repeat, we should be very flattered that an institution of this kind should be approached by organisations of such force and strength.

As I said initially, it is so very important that the commissioners regard their most important role as being bankers to the community; of giving service as bankers, and this role will not be interfered with at all.

At the same time, Westralia International Limited will provide a strong interest in the direct participation of overseas funds for the development of our natural and national resources. As I mentioned initially, the Bill itself is a very simple one. It makes provision for easy entry by an initial subscription of \$500,000; and here again the bank is showing its caution in not initially providing the full amount of \$1,000,000 for which the measure makes provision.

In this short Bill we are also given the opportunity to broaden section 35—a section which I recall very clearly. Section 35 deals with the financing of the bank itself and by a simple amendment to that section it is possible to provide, on the recommendation of the Minister and with the consent of the Governor, that certain capital contributions may be made from our own institution to this merchant bank.

The only other section of the parent Act to be affected is the one which provides for a senior officer or a commissioner to become a director of companies which are being financed separately by the joint organisation of the merchant bank.

That, of course, is a very important business arrangement; one which will give the bank the opportunity to probe the channels and to ensure that all things coming to the company are in the best interests of the new bank as well as in the best interests of the State.

There is an affinity between new section 107A and section 9 of the parent Act which provides in essence that no commissioner can have interests other than the carrying out of the business of the R. & I. Bank. This is fully expressed in that Act.

It is, I suppose, almost instinctive that I should be expected to support this Bill. I think it is a remarkable happening in the history of the State to see an institution of such humble origin reach the heights where it is approached by international institutions to join them in such a venture.

I feel sure a very close look at all that is involved will indicate that it must react to the great benefit of Western Australia. Not only do I wish the new institution well but I also hope for the continued progress of the old.

THE HON. V. J. FERRY (South-West) [4.11 p.m.]: I rise formally to support the Bill. I believe that most things that need to be said have already been said during the course of the debate. Nevertheless there are one or two points which I wish to make, which to me appear to be of some significance.

The provisions in the Bill which relate to the Rural and Industries Bank in this State emphasise the stability the State now enjoys. I think this has been underlined by the proposals we are now debating. The measure also underlines the growth potential of Western Australia. I very much doubt whether this measure would have been contemplated a few years ago. I think what it proposes has been brought about by the developments that have been fostered in Western Australia together with the bank's actual growth in so many fields.

It is certainly a tribute to the management of the R. & I. Bank that this group should have been formed. I am sure many of us know most of the executives of the bank and we all know that there is no doubt whatever as to their integrity. So it is, I believe, that the bank is well based on this ingredient of integrity. Had this not been so I am sure the consortium in question would not have been contemplated.

Competition is a healthy thing in many fields of endeavour, not the least being the profession of banking. Despite the limitations that may be placed on banking institutions by statutory requirements from time to time there is a degree of competition and a competitive atmosphere which, at times, is rather keen between the various banks.

Although the general guidelines for the lending institutions of this country are laid down by regulation and statutory requirement there is indeed a flexibility which is exercised by the management of each particular bank. I believe the strength of our banking system today lies in the fact that within the framework of each banking institution there is a human understanding of the problems and needs of the community at large.

When I speak of needs I do not speak only of the major industrial developments or of the major problems of primary industry. Banking covers the whole field of the operations and endeavours affecting every citizen of this country.

Whether the account be large or small; whether it be an overseas account or a small savings deposit, I believe the banks serve the community very well and it is within this atmosphere of competition between the banks that I see the R. & I. Bank placed to some advantage. By that I mean it will be able to compete with

other banks which have a similar arrangement with other banking agencies in various parts of the world. This is indeed a common trend in world banking today, and I am certainly pleased the Rural and Industries Bank will, if this Bill is passed—and I hope it will be—have the opportunity to further serve the needs of this State. I wish the bank every success in its endeavours.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [4.16 p.m.]: I would like to respond briefly by thanking both Mr. Wise and Mr. Ferry for their helpful remarks. I was struck by Mr. Wise's concluding remarks when he said it was almost instinctive that he should vote for this Bill. I can imagine it must be of considerable satisfaction to him personally to see this bank make such progress because he was the Minister for Lands at the time the Rural and Industries Bank Bill was introduced. I repeat that because the progress of this institution has been so marked, it must be of considerable satisfaction to Mr. Wise for him to be able to support a Bill of this nature.

I feel there is no necessity for me to make any other comment except again to offer my thanks for the support the Bill has received.

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.

Third Reading

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

MARKETING OF EGGS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Health), read a first time.

SWAN RIVER

Reclamation at Preston Point: Assembly's Resolution

That this House do resolve to approve, pursuant to subsection (1) of section twenty-two A of the Swan River Conservation Act, 1958-1966, the reclamation of an area of about 5.5 acres of the Swan River near Preston Point which area is shown in the plan deposited in the Public Works Department and marked P.W.D.W.A. 40970—DRG. No. 2 and therein coloured red, and as so shown in the copy of that plan laid on the Table of the House; and that the Legislative Council be requested to so resolve.

Motion to Concur

Debate resumed, from the 4th November, on the following motion by The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Health):—

That the request contained in Message No. 49 from the Legislative Assembly, be agreed to.

THE HON. F. R. H. LAVERY (South Metropolitan) [4.20 p.m.]: This motion deals with the reclamation of 5.5 acres of the river on the south-eastern side of Preston Point. This is an area which is well known to any person who has spent any time in the Fremantle district and, as Mr. Dolan said last night, the area has changed so completely over the past few years, that anyone returning after an absence of even five years would not know he was back at Preston Point.

When motions concerning river reclamation are before us, we should study them very carefully and also visit the site ourselves in order to have an appreciation of the situation. To this end, as a result of a request by an honourable member in another place, the Minister for Works arranged for a trip down the river to Point Walter and then by bus to Preston Point. A number of members of Parliament took the opportunity to inspect the area.

While I agree with all that Mr. Dolan said last night concerning the reclamation of any part of the river, I also agree with what Dr. Hislop said about what has taken place in the river upstream of the Causeway; but the situations are entirely different. The part of the river to which Dr. Hislop referred is in the upper reaches, where it was necessary to clear away all snags, and so on. However, the proposition in this motion is an entirely different matter. The Harbour and Light Department will dredge a channel, through the bank opposite Rocky Bay, to a depth of nine feet and 100 feet wide and use the spoil therefrom to clean up what some people may call an untidy corner.

As I said a moment ago, this area is entirely different from what it was five years ago. Within a distance of 1,800 feet on the south side of the river, starting from a point almost alongside the naval depot jetties, are to be found a marina, the Fremantle Rowing Club, the Navy League launching pad, and the Swan Yacht Club, plus an area of ground to which a little is to be added under this proposition. Of this shoreline of 1,800 feet, the public has access to the water over only 250 feet or 350 feet in two separate sections.

The Swan Yacht Club desires to build a junior club because, under the licensing laws, a club for juniors must be established some distance from the adults' club where strong drink is available. The actual area required for this junior club would, in my opinion, be less than a quarter of an

acre. However, because of the untidy nature of this section of the river on the opposite side of Rocky Bay—there is a shipbuilding establishment in the area, which, by the way, was where the first ships of any size were built for the Army and launched in about 1942—the opportunity is being taken to tidy it up.

This part of the beach was, for a considerable time, used by small boat owners. They used to pull their boats up onto the beach for repairs. At the same time a sandbank in the area was a playground for quite a number of nearby residents. It was one of the best crabbing spots in the district. However, because of all the buildings which have been established there, it is now proposed to dredge a channel.

When we were on the inspection tour arranged by the Minister, I consulted the town clerk of East Fremantle who told me that if this motion is agreed to, we must stipulate that none of this reclaimed land, except the small piece which is to be used by the Swan Yacht Club, is to be used for commercial purposes. The plan makes perfectly clear the proposed use of the area. There will be a new launching ramp for those boat owners who wish to launch their boats from trailers. The total area to be improved is eight and three quarter acres, of which five and a half are situated between RL plus two and a half feet. The town clerk believes that under no circumstances should any of this land be made available for further commercial use; it should be reserved for use by the general public.

As long as we keep that suggestion in mind, I believe that this is a proposition which must, more or less, be accepted because it is feasible and, put another way, it is necessary. I agree with Mr. Dolan when he said that not any part of this area should have been used for commercial purposes. However, although some buildings have already been established there, under this proposition the areas marked in red on the plan, and at present very dirty, will be tidied up.

The membership of the Swan River Conservation Board was increased by an amendment to the Swan River Conservation Act—namely, Bill No. 27 of 1966—when the composition of the board was increased from four to five persons. The fifth person is a biologist who is nominated by the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna.

At various times we speak of tidying up the river and, as Mr. Dolan said last night, we gradually take a little piece here and a little piece there. The Minister for Mines interjected on Mr. Dolan when he was speaking and asked what he thought of the reclamation in the area of Burke

Drive. That was not reclamation but a sanitary fill, which is quite different from reclamation.

When work of this kind is proposed we should not lose sight of one fact; I refer to the flora—weeds and rushes—and to the fauna which live on the river. I have mentioned that there is a biologist on the board. I would like to quote some comments from another biologist who says—

Filling in of Shallows—Ecology of River

There is a belief that if the part of the river being filled is too shallow for boating or swimming no real harm is being done. This can be quite wrong. Areas of shallows have many functions in a river. A recent visit to the disputed area showed that a variety of water birds were using the very shallow area that would become land under the scheme. These birds included pelicans, two species of ducks, Rottneest snipe, avocets and the many smaller migratory wading birds. All of these birds feed by wading or dabbling and need shallow water in which to feed.

Not only birds may be affected, fish make use of such shallows and certainly in happier times prawns have made their earliest appearance in this area. The fact of the matter is that most people do not know what may result from filling in any part of the river.

Before any further public works affecting the river are put in hand a thorough ecological survey should be made of the river and foreshores. Has the Government an adequate knowledge of the biological implications of its proposals? It seems unlikely.

Conservation of as much as possible of the natural life of the river is an important consideration. It is essential that the biological implications be at least known before decisions are made.

That is all I intend to quote. I wished to illustrate that it is not only the question of reclamation but the consequences of reclamation which are of interest to people who are concerned with the river, and the motion before us is a motion for reclamation.

Before I close I would like to refer briefly to the proposition which was suggested to us on the boat trip. At a later date, when money is available, I think consideration should be given to dredging a channel through from Preston Point. However, when we speak of cleaning up the river so far as sanitary fill and reclamation are concerned, I believe that the ecology of the river should be considered, as was pointed out by the biologist I have mentioned, who happens to be a member of

the Southern Foreshores Protection Society. Surely it would be within the province of the biologist on the Swan River Conservation Board to look at these things. He has been appointed to the board for the purpose of specifically interesting himself in the flora and fauna of the river. Certainly the ecology of the river should be considered when proposing any future reclamation of any part of the river.

I would like to congratulate the Government for deciding not to go on with the other reclamation which was proposed. I consider that people in Western Australia who have any thoughts at all on the river and all that goes with it have to thank Mr. Bill Paramor. I feel that it was as a result of his efforts that the Government took notice of the wishes of the people and withdrew the motion from the notice paper. The work of Mr. Bill Paramor was non-political in every way and I am sure the results are to his credit. Although I agree with what Mr. Dolan said so far as future reclamations are concerned, the present proposal is apparently one with which we should agree.

THE HON. G. W. BERRY (Lower North) [4.37 p.m.]: I rise to support the motion. I, too, went on the boat trip which was organised to enable members to visit the areas under consideration. I was very pleased to avail myself of the opportunity to look at these areas.

Like other members on the trip, when we heard what was proposed for Alfred Cove, I thought it was a good idea. After Alfred Cove we went on to Point Walter which has changed considerably from when I used to go there some 40 years or so ago. In those days it was a popular part of the river foreshore and many picnics were held there. From my memories of the area, the grounds seem to have become somewhat dilapidated, but on the other hand the beaches which have been dredged are more attractive now than they used to be. I certainly consider the beach at Point Walter has been greatly improved although, as I say, I was disappointed in the grounds.

From there we went on to the site of the projected reclamation at Preston Point. That brought back memories, too, of the many times when boats were stuck on the sandbank when trying to negotiate the bend in Rocky Bay. In those days river trips were very popular. However, because of the sandbank one took a chance as to whether one caught a bus or walked home. Sometimes the navigators used to miss the mark by a few yards and the boat would go on the sandbank. Of course, on occasions the delay was only for an hour or thereabouts.

When the purpose of the reclamation was explained and we were able to see the present yacht club and Aquarama it seemed to me that what is suggested will improve the area.

It was explained to members that a channel will be dredged which will allow for easier navigation, and the spoil will be used to reclaim the area of foreshore which, in its present state, is not of very much use to the public. With this I must agree. I mention, incidentally, that I remember going to Preston Point in the old days to catch crabs.

I certainly agree that the area will be improved through the spoil being placed there. Also, I agree with Mr. Lavery in that I sincerely hope no more of the river will be taken for building boating facilities or marinas. I fully appreciate that, as time goes on, probably more and more craft will want to moor in the river and to use it, but this is a matter which will have to be considered by other people at some future date.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: There will be a new bridge to go over the Swan River.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: Yes, that was mentioned, too. It was also suggested that the present launching ramp at Putney Road would be shifted to a more suitable place on the reclaimed land. I think this is a very good suggestion because Putney Road has become congested, and people do not have the facilities which they wish there. A channel will be dredged to allow people to launch their boats into the water. I am referring to people who bring down their boats on trailers. Consequently a facility will be provided and I think it is a necessary one.

Parliament represents all sections and many people take up boating these days. Indeed it has become very popular in post-war years. I refer particularly to power boats, because prior to the war there were very few power boats with out-board motors. It is possible to put this type of craft into the water and take it home again on a trailer. Power boats lend themselves to this type of transportation and they have become popular, possibly for this reason. However, it is often very difficult for people to launch their boats in the river and consequently the move proposed for this area of the river, together with the parking facilities which will be provided, will be a great boon to many people. It is one of the benefits that will flow from the reclamation.

Like Mr. Lavery, I want to stress that I hope there will be no more extensions to existing premises on the foreshore in addition to those which are currently planned; namely—

	Acres
Extension to Swan Yacht Club lease	½
Vacant Crown land—unallocated	½
Public launching ramp and parking	2½
Public open space and road reserve	1½

As I have indicated, I think the passing of this particular motion for reclamation of the river will have beneficial results. It is in the interests of all, and I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (Lower West—Minister for Health) [4.43 p.m.]: I thank members for their comments. There is an inevitability about this sort of debate and, strangely enough, the inevitability is very much akin to that which applies to the river itself and to the change in the river.

I commend members to a study of a small report entitled, "Swan River Reference Committee, Report by Sub-Committee on Pollution of Swan River." The printing of this report was authorised by the then Minister for Works in Western Australia (The Hon. J. T. Tonkin), and it is dated, Perth, Western Australia, February, 1955.

At this time the problem was one of pollution in the Swan River and there was a desire to arrive at some conclusions with regard to this. Consequently a committee was set up and it was asked to define "Pollution" and to ascertain means of controlling it. The report contains some delightful reading, because it includes some very old letters which have to do with the early history of and arguments on the Swan River.

Very early in this little book the following appears at page 10:—

It would therefore seem that the only solution is in carefully planned reclamation, and construction of retaining banks in such a way that dead algae do not accumulate in these places, and where this is unavoidable, to remove the algae before decay takes place.

So we start on a pattern of development of the river, not necessarily to improve it, but certainly to change it. Improvements are a matter of opinion, but a change is inevitable. It is interesting to note that in "A Voyage of Discovery to the Southern Hemisphere" Monsieur Bailly, in describing the river in the vicinity of the present Causeway, stated—

On the 18th of June, at the break of day, we re-embarked to continue our voyage. On leaving the place where we had spent the night, we again met with great numbers of pelicans, which came and flew about us; we killed two of them, after which pursuing our way for about half an hour we found ourselves aground on a shoal of soft mud, extremely greasy and sticky; we had much difficulty in dragging our boat off this shoal, which at length we did after much labour.

On their way down the river they again ran aground—

For above 13 hours we had been in the mud up to the waist, striving ineffectively the whole time to save our boat.

The Hon. J. Dolan: They deserved that for killing the pelicans.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I was struck by the comment of Mr. Dolan that these swamps do not matter; and I was further struck by the comment of Mr. Lavery who, of course, believes that they do matter. However, it is a question of one's point of view. Certainly the point is that in a river which people want to make use of, those mud banks had to go; but while the river was in that condition the pelicans were so thick that those people could kill two of them with comparative ease. So the river must have been alive with fauna. However from a human's point of view the river was also foul with flora.

This book traces the history of the river; it traces the arguments involved with the river; letters are quoted which are written in the picturesque language of the time; it explodes a tremendous number of myths about the river; and it illustrates the dangers of reaching conclusions without careful research. As a matter of fact, from the point of view of animals, the swamps are of tremendous importance. They are the starting point of all the life of the river. Should we destroy them and upset the pattern?

The Hon. G. W. Berry: The swamps are getting fewer and fewer.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Why? Because human beings demand that. If I lived adjacent to a swamp which bred mosquitoes and was conducive to the development of foul smells—about which a great deal of comment is made in this book—I would want the swamp to be filled in by whatever method of reclamation may be available; it may be the land-fill method, or it may involve pumping out the mud.

I find myself in total disagreement with the points made concerning Alfred Cove. I do not think there was a skerrick of party-political content involved in the proposal. It does not matter what happens to the river; the policies of the Liberal Party or the Labor Party will not be changed by that. I believe it is as inevitable as tomorrow that this proposal will eventually be carried out. In the fullness of time, when people want more water to use for boating purposes, if a Labor Government is in office and the agitation is sufficient, it will act in the same way as the Minister for Works did. He was let down to some extent on his previous advice, and was forced to withdraw on this occasion.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: The Government would probably have got away with it had it agreed to a Select Committee.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: That may be so; but I consider, after all the investigations which have been made into this particular area, a Select Committee would not have come up with anything new. But that is another problem.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: But the general public would have been advised.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: If we stop one project we literally have to go back to the river as it was. It is obvious that members have goodwill towards this motion. However, I was struck by this little book. Some members here might not be aware of it, although it must be in the Parliamentary Library. I cannot leave my copy here, but those who are interested may find a copy in the library. I recommend it to members because it makes excellent reading.

The Hon. J. Dolan: Would you tell us the name again.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: It is the "Swan River Reference Committee" and is a report by a sub-committee on pollution of the Swan River. The members of the subcommittee were Dr. W. S. Davidson, F. M. Kenworthy, and J. C. Hood. I derived a great deal of pleasure from reading it and I am sure other members would also. I think some members have already read it.

I will not delay the House any longer. I thank members for the comments they have made and, like everybody else, I believe that our river is a playground for the people and a scenic feature. It is improving immeasurably in that regard, but not as a haven for fish, and wildlife. I think we should try to ensure that the distinctive birdlife of the Swan River is retained in portions here and there, even if not as abundantly as in times gone by.

Question put and passed, and a message accordingly returned to the Assembly.

PETROLEUM PIPELINES BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Assembly without amendment.

METROPOLITAN REGION TOWN PLANNING SCHEME ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 4th November.

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [4.53 p.m.]: This is a small Bill, and from my observation I would say it is one which is of a precautionary nature.

When introducing the Bill the Minister said he wanted to protect the interests of the person who was the owner of land at the time the property was reserved, and he cited probable instances which could occur if a person with spurious intent attempted to trick the owner in some way. Apparently, in the judgment of the Minister's officers, there is a possibility of this happening.

It is pleasing to note that so far no such instances have occurred and no damage has been done. However the important point at issue is the proposed amendment to section 36 of the Act. At the moment section 36 states that compensation for injurious affection of any land is payable only under paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of this section—and after the word "section" the following words are to be added—

and is payable to the person who was the owner of the land at the date of reservation referred to in that paragraph.

Then the rest of the existing legislation applies. This is an important section of the Act because it refers to the compensation, the betterment, and the acquisition terms under the metropolitan region town planning scheme.

As I said, the Bill is simply a precautionary measure to cover a possible loophole and to tighten up the Act in favour of the owners of land. As such, I see no reason to delay its passage.

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.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Town Planning), and transmitted to the Assembly.

WHEAT INDUSTRY STABILIZATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 4th November.

THE HON. S. T. J. THOMPSON (Lower Central) [4.59 p.m.]: This Bill, like the last one, is a small but important measure. To me the most significant point about it is that it indicates the plight of the wheat industry at the present time. Almost exactly 12 months ago we discussed the Wheat Industry Stabilization Bill in this House. On looking through *Hansard* at the debates which took place

both in this House and in another place, I found that the main complaint raised by all speakers was that the measure introduced a two-price structure. Yet, within 12 months we have had an amending Bill presented to us which provides for a three-price structure within the framework of the same Act. I feel that this indicates the serious plight in which the wheat industry is placed at present. This Bill will be a great relief to stock feeders throughout Australia. However, its provisions could possibly act to the detriment of our barley and oats industries.

There is one significant point which was brought out in the Minister's notes when he introduced the Bill last night—I refer to the amount of home consumption wheat. The figures he gave last night indicated that the amount of wheat used for home consumption had increased greatly when compared with the figures given last year. According to the debate which took place in 1968, the home consumption figure for the 1966-67 season was 61,000,000 bushels of wheat but, according to the Minister's figures last night, it was 89,000,000 bushels for the same season.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: That is not only for local consumption.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: The figures the Minister gave last night showed that the local consumption for 1967-68 had increased still further to 100,000,000 bushels.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: That would include seed wheat, too, of course.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: Yes, but it is a significant increase—from 89,000,000 bushels to 100,000,000 bushels: perhaps the largest for many years. The estimate for this year is also 100,000,000 bushels. I was rather surprised that that estimate is not greater in view of the amount required for stock feed owing to the drought in Western Australia and Queensland. However, I suppose a large quantity of wheat was used during the Victorian drought, and probably that is why the figures almost balance out.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: In Queensland and New South Wales, too.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: There is not a great deal I can say about the measure. Its proposals have been submitted to us by the Australian Wheat Growers' Federation and it is really a matter of all States agreeing to ratify the legislation to make it possible for the Wheat Board to sell wheat under a three-price structure system. With those few remarks, I support the Bill.

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

MARKETING OF EGGS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (Lower West—Minister for Health) [5.3 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

I would introduce this measure by mentioning that section 40 of the Marketing of Eggs Act made provision that the Act should continue in operation for 25 years after the date of its proclamation, and no longer. The Act was assented to early in 1946, and its provisions do not expire until the 22nd March, 1971; so members could be excused for inquiring why this amending piece of legislation need be brought to the House at this juncture.

Although the present Act has a further life of about 16 months before the expiry date comes around, such period is of comparatively short duration when taking into account the activities and future planning of the board. In a marketing organisation of this nature, it is essential that forward planning and projections for the future be under consideration at all times, and these activities could be inhibited, I suggest, if the future of the board and the life of the Act under which it operates, are uncertain.

For this reason it is considered vital to the present plans of the Egg Marketing Board that the life of the Act be extended, and this Bill proposes an extension of a further 15 years after the present expiry date. This reference is in clause 5 of the Bill.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: What do you think the price of eggs will be in the next 15 years? They have gone up to 7c each over the last 15 years.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I suppose that will depend on the degree of inflation. Another amendment relates to the definition of "commercial producer," who under the existing Statute, is described as one who owns or controls more than 150 head of adult female poultry. The amendment in clause 2 provides a new definition under which a commercial producer must own at least 250 head of adult female poultry and, on his own account, deliver at least 3,000 dozen eggs to the Egg Marketing Board in the 12-month period immediately preceding his nomination for membership of the board. The term "commercial producer," as appearing in the principal Act, is relevant only to the constitution of the board.

The next amending clause proposes that a person who was a commercial producer at the time of his election will cease to hold office on the board as such if he ceases to be a commercial producer. This will be contingent on his failing to hold

the qualifications required for his election, if for a continuous period of three months that person ceases to be a commercial producer. In cases where the person concerned is, for all intents and purposes, continuing in the industry, this exemption of up to three months is provided. This will cover instances where a commercial producer has, for example, not met the requirements of the Act because of the reorganisation or rearrangement of his egg-producing unit. The exception will be applied only to a person holding office on the board and not to a nominee for election.

Both the Egg Marketing Board and the Poultry Farmers' Association of W.A. support the proposal in clause 4 that the chairman of the board should be appointed for a set term instead of for the existing tenure of office, which is during the pleasure of the Governor. The term proposed for the chairman is three years and this is in line with the term fixed in the existing Act for the other members of the board. The present chairman will, of course, hold office for three years from the date of the coming into operation of this proposed amendment. He will also be eligible for renomination. I commend the Bill to the House.

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

RESERVES BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 4th November.

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [5.7 p.m.]: Last year when a Bill similar to this was before us I drew attention to the fact that I had hoped we would be given a long period during which we could examine the proposals contained in that measure; because they are important and they affect the whole of the State of Western Australia, and thus all members of this Chamber.

With Reserves Bills there is insufficient time between the introduction of the second reading and when a member is expected to resume the debate for him to read the notes, study the plans and sketches of the areas involved, and talk about the problems with those directly affected. Last year the Minister for Health rather supported my line of thinking and I had hopes that this year we might see the Bill introduced in parts, or that we would be permitted to adjourn the debate for some considerable time to give us an opportunity to study all the Bill's implications.

During the session I, like other members, I suppose, received a letter from a Mr. G. E. Rundle. I felt he took me to task—and I suppose other members felt the same—for the rather cavalier way that we

treat this legislation; because, as I have just said, it is most important and it affects so many members. I propose to read paragraph five of his letter because I think it is most significant. He said—

Furthermore, established reserves are being encroached upon. The "C" Class Dales Gorge (reserved for the protection of flora and fauna) Wittenoom has been reduced by 16,000 acres by the encroachment of Temporary Mineral Reserves. Each year, near the end of the last session of Parliament a Reserves Bill is usually tabled. This Bill usually seeks to reduce or re-aliasenate "A" Class Reserves. Where nature reserves are concerned, full consideration and probing investigations are required. For example, in the Reserves Act, No. 72 of 1966, 115 acres of Neerabup National Park (Reserve No. A27575) was excised for shire quarry purposes, probably for limestone. Couldn't the Wanneroo Shire Council obtain similar material from deposits outside of the National Park's boundaries? The Bill went through both Houses of Parliament virtually without discussion. In view of the fact that this State has such meagre nature reserves, the next time a Reserves Bill is introduced into Parliament, I urge that more earnest thought be given to its contents.

I replied to that letter in these terms—

It is hoped that the two Sessions of Parliament in each year now in operation may allow of more time for legislation to be considered at the closing of the Session.

In any case, I will certainly scrutinise future "Reserve Bills" with a view to watching for the sort of thing that you mention in your fifth paragraph.

I cannot carry out that promise because, in regard to the Bill before me at this moment, although I know something of the proposition relating to Broome—Mr. Wise acquainted me of it and alerted me in regard to it—I do not know anything about the proposals for the other parts of the State.

I think it could truly be said that in most cases there is no problem. However, when we have had our attention drawn—as has been done in the letter to which I referred—to the very serious encroachment that we are permitting on State reserves, simply because of a lack of opportunity to examine the Bill in detail, I think we should do something about it. There is no reason at all why legislation such as this should not be introduced and allowed to stay on the notice paper until the March period of the session. It is true that in the past Bills like this had to be introduced late in the session because, owing to their importance, they needed careful and detailed preparation.

However, that position does not obtain now that we have two parts to the session and I feel I must protest about what is being done in this connection. I could not possibly have the Bill defeated, nor would I try to do that. But I do protest that, now that we have two periods for a session of Parliament, legislation such as this is introduced and passed so quickly. It could easily be introduced in November and debated in March. That would give every member in this House an opportunity to study in detail the application the legislation has to his own particular electorate. If a member sees fit to agree with the proposals then there is no harm done; however, if there is something wrong, or there is a conflict of interests between flora and fauna and mining, for instance, then it is up to the member concerned to do something about it.

I hope that some member will move for the adjournment of the debate on the Bill; and that this is the last time we will see a Reserves Bill introduced and passed in this period of the session. As an alternative it might be possible to introduce the Bill in the autumn period of the session, and reach a conclusion on it. It seems that every move outlined in the Bill has been deliberated on, calculated, and well thought out; therefore it has not been hastily, but in fact slowly, conceived. For that reason members should be provided with ample opportunity to debate its provisions.

THE HON. V. J. FERRY (South-West) [5.16 p.m.]: I support the Bill. Although I have not examined every parcel of land that is encompassed in the legislation, I can see nothing wrong with the provisions dealing with the reserves with which I am familiar. I take this opportunity to refer to clause 15 which deals with a reserve at Cranbrook. Previously this reserve was classified as of Class "A" and set apart for "Agricultural Show Grounds." The land has been held in the names of the trustees—Francis Eric Hitchins and John Thomas Newton.

As a very small boy I was reared in the Cranbrook district, and my late father was a foundation member of the district agricultural society. These grounds are very familiar to me, and I remember the two gentlemen, Mr. Hitchins and Mr. Newton, very well. My late father came to this State from South Australia at the turn of the century. He and other pioneers of the Cranbrook district—equipped with a Kelly axe and a stout heart—took up small parcels of land. The land which has been used as the agricultural show grounds was developed by the pioneers of the Cranbrook district. It is interesting to note that with the passage of time these show grounds are no longer required for that purpose, and the land is to be set aside as a recreation reserve.

I want to pay a tribute not only to the pioneers in the Cranbrook district, but also to those of other districts, for their contributions to the agricultural shows held in their districts. Today there seems to be a tendency to drift into a form of regional show, and I believe this is a good thing; but in times gone by the local shows held a real significance for the local residents. I pay a tribute to those who have helped in promoting the agricultural shows, and in particular to the two gentlemen, Mr. Hitchins and Mr. Newton, for the interest that they have taken in their district.

It behoves any member who has an interest in the reserves of this State to examine the parcels of land which have been included in the Bill, particularly those which are embraced by the boundaries of their electorates. I agree that this takes a little time. The parcels of land mentioned in the Bill are examined by representatives of districts throughout the State, and with its passage through both Houses it is my belief that the interests of the people are adequately safeguarded. With those remarks I support the Bill.

THE HON. J. M. THOMSON (South) [5.20 p.m.]: I wish to make a few comments on the Bill. It contains four clauses which are of interest to me; namely, the clause relating to the reserve at Ravensthorpe, the one relating to the reserve at Cranbrook, and the two relating to reserves at Albany.

I appreciate the remarks which Mr. Ferry made in respect of the reserve in the Cranbrook district. Lengthy negotiations were conducted with the object of returning the land to the shire for the purpose of a recreation reserve. This land will be returned to the shire and will be put to good use.

The reserve at Ravensthorpe which has been set aside as a camping site is to be returned to the shire to be used as a recreation reserve. In the interests of the community in the two towns I have just mentioned, it is very desirable for the land to be returned to the shires to be so used.

In reference to the two clauses in the Bill which relate to the two reserves in the Albany area, I have no objection to the proposal contained in clause 12. This land is to be set aside for the purpose of a "Commercial Fishing Station" at Herald Point. If one looks at a map of King George Sound one will see that Herald Point stretches right out to Cape Vancouver. Apparently no fauna or wildlife exist on this reserve to justify its retention as a "National Park." For that reason I raise no objection to the proposed excision from this reserve.

However, I do express concern with, and opposition to, the proposed excision of nearly one acre of land at Two People Bay. Members will recall that not so

many years ago the town of Casuarina was supposed to be located in this area, but on the direction of the Minister for Lands the townsite was cancelled for very obvious reasons. This area of land has been used for the purpose of "Conservation of Fauna—Noisy Scrub Bird." The purpose of this reserve is of great interest to many people in this State, and the noisy scrub bird is a great tourist attraction.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I think when I reply I will be able to satisfy you as to the intention of the proposed excision.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I hope the Minister will be able to satisfy not only me, but also those people who contacted me whilst I was home during last weekend. As was reported in *The West Australian* on Friday last, an area of this reserve is to be excised for a "Commercial Fishing Station."

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I am sure that if the situation is explained both you and your constituents will be satisfied.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: The excision of the land for the benefit of Charles William Wilson and Lilian Jean Wilson, who at present are the occupiers of a site very close to the beach, will lead to a lot of dissatisfaction, because of their attitude to people who in the past desired to make use of the beach for swimming, for fishing, or for relaxation. I admit that the land in question is a very small area, of less than one acre, out of a reserve consisting of many thousands of acres; but it is on the principle involved that I rise to express my concern and also that of many of the residents in, and visitors to, the Albany district. When this area is excised, the people named will be able to erect any type of structure they like on it, because no conditions are laid down in the Bill.

If, as is stated in the Bill, the excised area is to be set aside for a "Commercial Fishing Station" then it will, no doubt, encourage other people to come into the area and to utilise it. I am thinking particularly of amateur fishermen and people who might wish to start an industry for the processing and canning of fish. I admit that this is an area of less than one acre, but nevertheless the danger is present when the right is given to some people to occupy it to the detriment of others.

Passing on to another aspect of this reserve, it is set aside for the noisy scrub bird, which is protected as it is unique. The C.S.I.R.O. has gone to great lengths to install pieces of equipment in the area to record the cry of the bird. Botanists and those who are interested in the study of birds—the ornithologists—come from all over the world to watch the noisy scrub bird. This bird has created a tremendous amount of interest in overseas countries,

and visitors from France, Germany, and the United States of America have come to this State.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It is the very department which is charged with the responsibility of protecting the noisy scrub bird which has seen fit to bring about a change in the excision, for the very good reason that this is in the best interests of the noisy scrub bird.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I thank the Minister for those comments. I have no doubt that he will have something further to say on this matter when he replies to this debate.

These are the points which concern us considerably. If the area is allowed to be used for a commercial fishing station who is to say that the number of people using it will not increase? A person who owns a cat or a dog could go to the area and such an animal could cause considerable damage.

Those are the points which I think members have not considered, and no harm will be done if we decline to agree to clause 14 of the Bill. A number of shanties have been removed from the area by order of the Minister for Lands. This occurred when the area was declared a fauna reserve. In the interests of the reserve, clause 14 should be deleted from the Bill and during the Committee stage I propose to move in that direction by voting against the clause.

THE HON. E. C. HOUSE (South) [5.32 p.m.]: I cannot help but agree with Mr. Willesee when he says that when reserves are to be reclassified the covering Bill should be left to lie for a certain time so that members have an opportunity to examine the provisions more closely.

Quite a few of the areas involved in the present Bill are in my province. Mr. Jack Thomson has already mentioned Ravensthorpe, and I have no quarrel with the provision in the Bill relating to that particular reserve. I know the area concerned, and the change is for a very good purpose. The same applies to the reserve at Cranbrook.

When we consider the reserve at Two People Bay, the preservation of the noisy scrub bird is the main point at issue. Any activity in the area will have a detrimental effect on this unique bird and when that occurs I think the House should start to take some notice.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Does the honourable member know that Wilson has a fishing station slap-bang in the middle of the reserve now? We want to move him from the middle of the reserve to the edge of the reserve, but if the clause is deleted from the Bill he will remain where he is now situated.

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: That would not be very satisfactory, either.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Of course, it would not.

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: I think it was in 1966 that this matter was debated at great length in another place. On that occasion it was the Government's intention to evict the people who had actually built homes and were living at Two People Bay. Admittedly, those people were squatting but they were to be evicted for one purpose only—to protect the environment of the noisy scrub bird.

Quite a deal of objection was raised and a petition was presented containing, I think, 870 signatures. The petition was against the action of the Government in wanting to evict the people from Two People Bay because of the presence of the noisy scrub bird. However, the Government took no notice and decided that the noisy scrub bird was far more important than to have people living in the area who might create a disturbance, distract the bird and possibly bring about its disappearance.

The bird was thought to have been extinct for at least 70 years until it was found at Two People Bay. Its discovery created world-wide interest and even the Duke of Edinburgh tried to take photographs of it. I know the opposition which would be forthcoming if the Government tried to take even one-sixth of an acre of King's Park. King's Park is looked upon by city people as a sanctuary which must not be touched.

The Government decided that Two People Bay should be the same sort of place and I think it should stick to its original intention which was to evict people from the area to make sure there was no possible chance of any interference with the noisy scrub bird.

The Hon. G. W. Berry: Is the bird fishing in the area?

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: It is very hard to say because it is a difficult bird to see. It has created a great deal of interest and tape recorders and cameras have been hidden in the area. The bird has been photographed and tape recordings have been made of the noise made by the bird.

We can go further and say that fish-cleaning sheds are not always in the best interests of the beaches, and more often than not there is controversy between the Department of Fisheries and Fauna and the shire councils. I do not know whether the Minister can give me any assurance that the Albany Shire Council actually passed a motion agreeing to this move.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Would you describe a fish station to the House, and state the period during which it is used each year?

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: I will do that: it is a tin shed—or it can be a bough shed—which is erected on the beach not far from the water's edge. It is erected as near as possible to the water in order to get rid of the blood and mess caused by the cleaning of the salmon, or other types of fish which are caught. It is used only during the salmon run.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Both the forward run and the return run.

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: Yes, two runs. That is the only time it is occupied to any great extent—that is admitted.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: For a period of about six weeks.

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: Actually, the season lasts a lot longer than six weeks because the salmon fishermen have to be there early. The run is either early or late and it is necessary to have spotters and equipment ready on the beach just in case.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Say, two months.

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: I will not argue with the Minister. However, I will still stick to the principle that the Government—if I may say this with respect—seems to do these things to suit itself. When the Government did not want the noisy scrub bird disturbed, it evicted the people from the area; but when it wants an instrumentality to suit its own wishes it is prepared to set up a fishery at Two People Bay.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: That sounds a bit ruthless to me!

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: The fisheries section and the fauna section are closely linked, and, therefore, there could be no argument between them because they are, virtually, one and same department. However, I am quite sure the fisheries section has more jurisdiction and overrides the fauna section.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: No, the director is the Director of Fisheries and Fauna.

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: I know he is, but what I am trying to explain is that when it comes to a preference, the fisheries section gets that preference. I think that is true.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I am sure you must admit that the director is as reasonable as you are.

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: I would like to give full praise to the Director of Fisheries and Fauna. I think he is very capable and honest, and is doing a remarkable job. However, that does not alter the fact that the fishing industry means money, and that birds are ornamental. When it comes to a question of money, naturally the fishing industry takes preference.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Birds are more than ornamental.

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: They are ornamental in the eyes of the Government. I would join with Mr. Jack Thomson; I am very unhappy about this clause. I think the move will set a precedent because the Government took one line of action in 1966 and has virtually reversed that decision.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: Are people still living at Two People Bay?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Only the research officer.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: What about all the holiday houses?

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: They have gone. The Government insisted that they go so that the owners would not disturb the noisy scrub bird. That is the point I am trying to make: when it suits the Government on one occasion it can evict the people; and on another occasion it puts in a cleaning factory. That is an important point.

From past experience we know the contentious issues which can arise between shire councils and salmon fisheries, with their cleaning sheds. The Minister cannot deny that. Trouble has been caused in other areas because swimmers have disturbed the salmon, and the shire councils have objected to the state of the cleaning sheds. So it goes on. This present move by the Government is not popular from the public point of view.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That does not necessarily make it an unjust move.

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: No, I did not use the word "unjust."

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I did.

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: I support the Bill in principle but I shall also support Mr. Jack Thomson in his move on clause 14, relating to the noisy scrub bird reserve at Two People Bay.

THE HON. F. R. H. LAVERY (South Metropolitan) 15.43 p.m.: I wish to comment on two clauses of this Bill. First of all I refer to the reserve at Malcolm. It has been set apart for the purpose of a racecourse and the land will be now re-vested in the Crown and transferred to the Leonora Shire Council for the purpose of a commons.

I know that part of the country very well and I am wondering what is going to happen with regard to mineral exploration in the district. Is this move not a little premature?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The land will be used as a commons and can be returned.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I also wish to refer to clause 17. The reserve involved is, for the time being, part of the Fremantle public cemetery. The trustees will

be authorised to lease to the Australian Wool Bureau, established by the Wool Use Promotion Act of 1953, of the Parliament of the Commonwealth, an area of land comprising 27 acres, 3 roods, 7 perches. This is, or could be, a very valuable piece of real estate.

I draw the attention of the House to the fact that the Fremantle Cemetery Board has already surrendered a fair area of the cemetery reserve to the Main Roads Department for the extension of the dual carriageway from High Street down to Stock Road and cemetery land is in short supply. We should watch this carefully.

The area of 27 acres vested in the Fremantle Cemetery Board has the wool sheds situated on it, and already the Egg Marketing Board, on a site embracing seven acres, intends to erect a building. If this trend continues, and the area controlled by the Fremantle Cemetery Board is to be further restricted, what land, in the future, will remain for use as a cemetery?

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Health).

House adjourned at 5.47 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 5th November, 1969

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

QUESTIONS (35): ON NOTICE

1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Perth Shire Councillors

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Is it a fact that those persons—or some of them—who were returned as councillors of the Perth Shire Council approximately six months ago are still unaware of their terms of office?
- (2) What factors are responsible for this unusual and unsatisfactory situation?
- (3) How, when, and by whom is the position likely to be resolved?
- (4) What action is proposed in order to avoid a repetition of such a state of affairs in any local authority?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Questions relating to the determination of the terms of office of members are awaiting decision.