

will be a man with no title except the permanent head. I would like the Minister to ensure that he is placed in the echelon in which he belongs. As the Minister is the parent of the child I think he should be named well.

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Traffic) [2.18 a.m.]: I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for his comments on the Bill. His main concern involved the permanent head because he wanted to know what he would be called and how he would sign documents.

The authority will make the decisions in connection with who will sign the various documents, but they will be signed by the chairman or the chief executive officer. They could be signed by a less senior officer if required because, as members are aware, the authority has fairly extensive powers of delegation.

I can visualise no real problems in connection with this matter because once the authority is established any difficulties encountered will be immediately overcome.

The name of the person involved—chairman, chief executive officer, or whatever it might be—does not matter a great deal. The people on the authority are very competent.

Mr Jamleson: They are pretty well the same as those on the authority under the old Act.

Mr O'CONNOR: Yes. I believe we can rely on them to make the right recommendations. In connection with the question asked by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I would say that either the chief executive officer or the chairman would sign the documents involved. They would certainly not be signed "by the authority of the authority".

I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

MR B. T. BURKE (Balga) [2.23 a.m.]: I move—

That the third reading of the Bill be made an order of the day for the next sitting of the House.

Points of Order

Sir CHARLES COURT: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I raise a question about the propriety of the mover in moving the motion. What is the alternative available to the Government? If the motion is defeated what will be the situation?

The **SPEAKER**: Before I consider this "helpful" motion—

Sir Charles Court: I am sure the Leader of the Opposition will not thank the member for Balga for this.

The **SPEAKER**: Order! I will leave the Chair and consult my advisers.

Sitting suspended from 2.24 to 2.25 a.m.

The **SPEAKER**: The motion as moved by the member for Balga must be put. It is a rather unusual procedure, but it can be put.

Sir CHARLES COURT: On a further point of order, Mr Speaker,—

Mr Bertram: The Speaker is still on his feet.

Sir Charles Court: That is all right; we know our manners.

The **SPEAKER**: Order! The solution is a simple one. The question will go to the vote and if the motion is defeated the Government may move that the Bill be now read a third time. Does the Premier wish to proceed with his point of order?

Sir CHARLES COURT: No, Mr Speaker. You have answered my point as to whether we should amend the motion as moved, or defeat it and then move our own motion.

Debate Resumed

Question put and negatived.

MR. O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Traffic) [2.27 a.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

House adjourned at 2.28 a.m. (Wednesday)

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 13th November, 1974

The **PRESIDENT** (the Hon. A. F. Griffith) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (9) ON NOTICE.

1. FISHERIES

Prawning Licenses

The Hon. G. W. BERRY, to the Minister for Education:

(1) What are the criteria for the granting of prawning licenses in Western Australia?

(2) Is there any variation for different areas?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) The basic criteria for granting prawning licenses in limited entry fisheries are—
 - (a) The degree of involvement in the fishing industry;
 - (b) The history of prawn fishing experience; and
 - (c) The financial capacity of the applicant.
- (2) No.

2. HEALTH

Chiropractors

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Have the Minister's departmental officers studied the New South Wales Parliamentary Committee of inquiry into the registration of Chiropractors?
- (2) Has the Minister's attention been drawn to Section 5.3.18 on page 20?
- (3) Would the Minister investigate in particular the last paragraph in order that the Western Australian public may be protected from the allegations implied in this paragraph?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) No.
- (3) Departmental Officers have not received a copy yet. When it becomes available the Honourable Member may be assured that a full investigation will be made.

3. TOWN PLANNING

Kwinana Freeway Extensions: Objections

The Hon. Clive GRIFFITHS, to the Minister for Justice:

With reference to the hearing of objections to the proposed extension to the Kwinana Freeway, would the Minister advise—

- (1) (a) Why is the hearing being held in private, and who made this decision;
- (b) who are the persons comprising the panel hearing the objections;
- (c) are the same persons hearing all of the objections;
- (d) are the proceedings being recorded in any way; and
- (e) is there a member of the Environmental Protection Authority on the panel, and if so, who?

- (2) In view of the indication given by the Chairman, Mr Hawkins, on television on Friday, the 8th November, 1974, that twelve public meetings had been held to discuss this matter, will the Minister give details of where each of these meetings was held, and by whom were they called?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (1) (a) The legislation does not require the hearings to be held in public. The MRPA decided to hear the objections in private and in so doing were following the same format used when considering objections to amendments made to the Metropolitan Region Scheme in the past and indeed to the formulation of the Scheme itself.
 - (b) The members of the MRPA.
 - (c) The Chairman is attending all hearings together with at least five other Authority members.
 - (d) Yes.
 - (e) A representative of the Environmental Protection Authority is a member of the Authority and this is Dr. Brian O'Brian.
- (2) Date of Meeting; Venue; Called by
 April 29; Main Roads Department; Commissioner of Main Roads.
 May 1; Main Roads Department; Commissioner of Main Roads.
 May 6; Melville City Council Offices; Commissioner of Main Roads.
 May 16; Institute of Transport; Commissioner of Main Roads.
 May 20; South Perth City Council Offices; South Perth City Council.
 June 11; Tree Society, South Perth; Conservation Forum.
 June 23; Melville City Council Offices; Royal Australian Planning Institute.
 July 9; Tree Society, South Perth; Conservation Forum.
 July 24; City Beach; Conservation Council.
 August 7; Perth Town Hall; MRPA.
- In addition to the above MRD officers were also invited by and attended meetings organised by the following—
- Governor Stirling High School.
 - Kwinana Rotary Club.
 - Perth Business Women's Association.

**Environmental Protection
Council.**

**Environmental Protection
Authority.**

Displays arranged by MRD at which public could attend and ask questions were held at:

- (a) MRD after initial announcement of proposal.
- (b) Kings Park Pavilion.
- (c) The Royal Show.
- (d) Tom's, South Perth.
- (e) Melville City Council Open Day.

4. COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Port Hedland

The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Public Works Department is currently calling tenders for the construction of the Port Hedland Community Health Services Regional Offices for the State Government?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that the Commonwealth Minister for Health announced on the 1st November, 1974, that \$210 000 is set aside to construct a women's health centre in South Hedland this year?
- (3) Does the Minister recall that, in answer to my question without notice on the 8th October, 1974, he informed the House that a community health centre would most likely be built in South Hedland in the year 1975/1976, and is expected to cost in the order of \$750 000, and will be designed to provide for a complete range of medical, para-medical, health and welfare services, and be financed 75% by the Commonwealth and 25% by the State?
- (4) Is the Minister aware that the State Housing Commission, as urban developer for South Hedland, has designed and is currently preparing tender documents for a comprehensive complex of Government officers to house both State and Commonwealth departments?
- (5) As the Port Hedland Shire Council and taxpayers of the Pilbara are almost as confused as I am over this apparent proliferation of facilities, would the Minister please provide a brief general comment to describe the direction of medical, health and welfare planning in South Hed-

land and Port Hedland, placing particular emphasis on the manner in which the expensive structures and associated services referred to in the first four parts of this question are to be integrated in the best interests of orderly development and the overall welfare of the South Hedland community?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) Yes. This building to be erected on the District Hospital site will replace the present Regional Office which is housed in a temporary building that must be removed to make way for hospital additions.
- (2) The Hon. Member has misread the Commonwealth Minister for Health's announcement. The Women's Health Centre is a project to be established in the metropolitan area and has nothing to do with Port Hedland.
- (3) The amount of \$210 000 granted by the Commonwealth Government for the South Hedland Health Centre represents the 75% share of the anticipated expenditure of \$280 000 on this project in 1974/75.
- (4) Yes. A Health Centre is not a Government Department and has no relevance to an office block.
- (5) It is believed that the Community Health Programme for residents of South Hedland can be met best by the establishment of one centre which will contain as many of the health services as possible. The statement made by me on 8th October and referred to by the Hon. Member remains unchanged.

5.

DRUG RUNNING

North-West

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS, to the Minister for Health:

Further to previous questions on drug running into Australia through the North of Western Australia, have the authorities discovered how the drugs reached the Tom Price resident who was recently gaoled for 18 months after being convicted of supplying drugs?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

The drug referred to was cannabis, and it was grown in Australia. It is not known how the cannabis was transported to Tom Price, although it is suspected that it came from Perth.

6. **BUFFALO FLY***Eradication*

The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Does the Department of Agriculture regard the buffalo fly as a serious pest in the Pilbara cattle herds?
- (2) How long has the occurrence of buffalo fly in the Pilbara been known to the department?
- (3) Are eradication and/or control measures being undertaken by the Department of Agriculture in co-operation with pastoral leaseholders?
- (4) In view of the fact that it seems probable that cattle will progressively replace sheep on Pilbara stations, would concerted efforts by the department result in the Pilbara's reversion to a "clean area"?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (1) At this stage five coastal properties in the Pilbara are known to have buffalo fly. Whilst the overall position is not serious, heavy infestations of these parasites do affect the growth and well-being of affected cattle.
- (2) Since October, 1972. Old residents of the area claim that buffalo fly have been seen in the area on several occasions years ago but that they subsequently disappeared in dry seasons.
- (3) Yes. Affected properties are placed under quarantine restrictions and other stations in the immediate area have been advised of control measures. Biological control, by introducing dung beetles, is promising.
- (4) Whilst it might be possible technically to eradicate the fly from affected herds in this area at considerable cost, the spread of buffalo fly is largely controlled by climatic conditions and re-introduction in suitable seasons is likely.

7. **CARNARVON DISTRICT HOSPITAL***Completion*

The Hon. G. W. BERRY, to the Minister for Health:

When is it anticipated that the present building programme for the Carnarvon District Hospital will be completed and the hospital made ready for occupation?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

At this stage it is anticipated that the complete project will be finished in mid March, 1976.

8. **EDUCATION***Karratha School*

The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many students were enrolled at the Karratha primary school at the commencement of third term 1974?
- (2) What is the predicted school population at—
 - (a) start of school year 1975;
 - (b) start of second term 1975; and
 - (c) start of third term 1975?
- (3) When is it planned to erect a second primary school in Karratha?
- (4) Where will this school be sited?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) 639 on 4th October, 1974.
- (2) (a) 720.
(b) 760.
(c) 800.
- (3) A Junior Primary School is listed for opening in 1976.
- (4) On the combined high/primary school site. The school site will be extended by incorporation of the area previously designated as a church site and will, therefore, approximate 9.54 hectares (23½ acres).

9. **ABORIGINES***Kimberley and Pilbara: Financial Assistance*

The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Will the Minister please advise the capital expenditure by Commonwealth and State Governments on the following undertakings designed for the well being of the Aborigines of the Kimberley and Pilbara—
 - (a) pastoral properties—
 - (i) Oombulgurri (Forrest River);
 - (ii) Pantljan (Panta Downs);
 - (iii) Pippingarra;
 - (iv) Strelley;
 - (v) Mt. Welcome;
 - (vi) Woodbrook; and
 - (vii) any other;
 - (b) mining projects, such as Yandiyarra;
 - (c) other co-operative business ventures?
- (2) What recurring operational costs are paid by Governments for each of the projects listed in the answer to (1)?

(3) In acknowledging the desirability of providing every possible assistance for worthwhile Aboriginal projects, and the obvious need for major expenditure in the early years, would the Minister make a brief comment on the performance of these projects to date and their prospects for the future?

(4) Would he also advise to whom the management of each project is accountable, that is, are management policies subject to any general approval by any Government instrumentality, and is operational expenditure of funds subject to regular audit inspection?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

(1) to (4) Projects of the type nominated are funded by the Federal Government and the information sought should be obtained from that source.

I regret I am unable to give the honourable member any further information.

ACTS AMENDMENT (ROAD TRAFFIC) BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. N. E. Baxter (Minister for Health), read a first time.

STOCK DISEASES (REGULATIONS) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. N. McNEILL (Lower West—Minister for Justice) [2.43 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The intention of this Bill to amend the Stock Diseases (Regulations) Act, 1968-69, is to enable the Department of Agriculture to initiate eradication procedures at the earliest possible time after detection of an exotic disease of animals.

Section 12(1) of the principal Act provides for the declaration of a state of emergency by the Governor, by Order-in-Council, upon his being advised that an exotic disease exists or it is suspected that such disease exists. The exotic diseases (emergency power) regulations would be brought into effect at this time.

However, in the case of a number of exotic diseases in which infection can be transmitted throughout a wide area of the State with extreme rapidity, there is a real concern that the possible delays which could conceivably occur before a declaration became effective could seriously increase the difficulties of early eradication.

Clearly the adverse effects of a national emergency of this kind could be mitigated by prompt and effective action by the

authorities of the State concerned, and elaborate and detailed plans for eradication have been prepared by Western Australia and the other States and territories in close collaboration. It is the opinion of veterinary experts that exotic diseases could, if introduced into Australia, be disastrous to the agricultural economy and overseas trading prospects of the country. It is fully appreciated therefore that the economic consequences of any delay in implementing the immediate slaughter of affected animals, with compensation, would be very serious.

In this connection I would inform members that comparable legislation of each of the other States allows for slaughter and compensation before the declaration of an emergency if, in the opinion of the chief veterinary officer, an exotic animal disease exists in that State, or if he suspects that an exotic disease exists provided that he believes that immediate eradication measures, including slaughter with compensation, are essential to prevent the spread of the disease and to protect the overall agricultural economy.

I mention further that it has been agreed that compensation for nine of the most serious exotic animal diseases would be paid jointly by all the States and the Australian Government on the initiation of eradication and slaughter procedures in one or more States or territories.

A formula for compensation has been established for each of these diseases, but common to all these formulae is the payment of 50 per cent of the cost of eradication and compensation by all the States acting together, and 50 per cent by the Australian Government. The actual contribution by each of the States is based on number and value of susceptible species of animals within its territory, and is adjusted at three-year intervals.

Australia enjoys a freedom from animal disease second to no other country in the world, and it is conceded that this is due in part to our relative geographical isolation, but equally so to the application of rigorous animal quarantine legislation. It is essential that the Australian States should act with the utmost speed and energy to restore our currently unique position as soon as possible in the event of its being undermined by an introduction of an exotic disease. The proposed amendment will facilitate the immediate implementation of eradication measures and eliminate a potentially avoidable, costly, and disastrous delay by permitting the Chief Inspector of Stock to order the destruction of animals affected by any of the nine diseases which are listed in the amendment, notwithstanding that the Governor has not declared a state of emergency, and if immediate destruction is essential in his opinion to prevent the spread of such disease.

As earlier indicated, the provisions of section 14 of the principal Act as to compensation will apply under this measure as if the animal has been yielded up pursuant to a requisition of the Minister given or made as provided by the regulations.

I commend the Bill to the House.

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

RIGHTS IN WATER AND IRRIGATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Order of the Day read for the resumption of the debate, from the 31st October.

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. N. McNeill (Minister for Justice), and passed.

LAKE LEFROY SALT INDUSTRY AGREEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 12th November.

THE HON. R. T. LEESON (South-East) [2.50 p.m.]: The main purpose of this Bill is to authorise the Government to purchase portion of the 15 kilometre spur line from Widgiemooltha to the Lake Lefroy salt processing plant. When the line was rerouted and a new standard gauge line was built from Kalgoorlie to Widgiemooltha and on down to Norseman and Esperance, it was found that the new route converged on the old spur line which was privately built by Lefroy Salt Pty. Ltd. to transfer salt from the lake. The line then became part of the permanent way on the standard gauge line from Kalgoorlie south. If the Government railways are going to use the line permanently, it is only fair that the department should purchase the line from the company.

There are a couple of other small amendments which tidy up the previous agreement. Lefroy Salt Pty. Ltd. has not had an easy task because of overseas markets and shipping problems. The company is endeavouring to meet its requirements so far as annual tonnage is concerned, and I am sure it will be successful. I wish the company every success and support the Bill.

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West—Minister for Education) [2.52 p.m.]: I thank Mr Leeson for his support of the measure and the comments

he has made. There is nothing for me to answer. I expected him to support the Bill as he knows the area. I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Education), and passed.

DAMPIER SOLAR SALT INDUSTRY AGREEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 12th November.

THE HON. D. W. COOLEY (North-East Metropolitan) [2.58 p.m.]: On reading the Minister's second reading speech and examining the Bill, the amendments appear to be quite justified and the Opposition will support the measure.

The original agreement gave the company a lease of a maximum area of some 28 600 acres as a production site. Subsequent surveys have indicated that the company now requires a greater area. Under the agreement the company has a right to exercise, prior to December, 1977, an option in respect of extension of the area, subject to certain conditions being met. It appears those conditions have been met. The Minister indicated in his second reading speech that the Bill also contains a provision for environmental protection, which is a standard clause in these agreements.

We have no objection to the Bill and will support it.

THE HON. J. C. TOZER (North) [3.00 p.m.]: It is not my intention to oppose the second reading of the Bill, but I should like the Minister to give some answers to one or two questions.

In the first place I think it is desirable that we have an understanding of the industry about which we are talking. Members are probably aware that part of the Pilbara coastline is most inhospitable and unattractive. This land which was previously regarded as completely useless is now being directed to the manufacture of solar salt in quite a remarkable way.

In 1973-74 Western Australia earned \$13 million from its exports of salt; most of which came from the Pilbara. To illustrate the manner in which this industry is expanding I would point out that in the previous year—1972-73—the amount earned by way of export was \$8 million.

Incidentally Western Australia's exports of solar salt amounted to 91 per cent of the Australian total. As I have said the Pilbara has this terribly inhospitable coastline which is now being used for revenue-earning purposes.

The area has an ideal climate. People from overseas have remarked on the fact that there is probably no better place in the world than the Pilbara for the manufacture of solar salt. The area has cloudless skies almost all the time; the rainfall is at a minimum—we can expect only a few wet days in the year, and in some years we even miss out on these. The evaporation rate is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ metres each year and this is a most important factor.

In 1973 the Dampier Salt Company itself exported 995 000 tonnes. It is scheduled to export 1.4 million tonnes this year; 1.6 million tonnes next year and 2 million tonnes the year after. The management confidently expects these targets will be met.

The capacity of the solar salt operation at Dampier is about 3.5 million tonnes a year, and the company has spent over \$20 million in developing its project. It commenced harvesting in December, 1971, and started shipping in April, 1972. In other words, it is a very young industry. It employs 130 persons and there are 34 houses in the town of Karratha, plus nine or 10 on the mineral lease itself.

I believe the major factor is not that it is possible to export salt in this quantity from this particular solar salt field but the great processing possibilities introduced in the Pilbara study.

One of the surprising features about the Pilbara study in its examination of the industries that will come to the region is the fact that the linch pin of the whole processing programme is in the chemical and petrochemical field rather than in iron ore and steel-making. It is most significant and one in which the salt industry will play a major part.

I think members are probably aware that the salt is taken overseas and is manufactured into chlorine, caustic soda, and soda ash. The caustic soda is shipped back to Australia for use in the production of alumina. Clearly it is most desirable that we manufacture the caustic soda ash on site in the Pilbara. The most essential requirement for this is cheap power. It is only by the development of major processing industries, as are envisaged for the Pilbara, that the State will be able to achieve this objective.

Fortuitously we have natural gas which we anticipate will come ashore in the next few years. The main component of this is ethylene which is a basic requirement in the plastic industry. Together with the chlorine produced the gas will be used to manufacture ethyl dichloride which is a basis for most plastics. In addition there

will be a wide range of chemical and petrochemical industries which will make such products as polyethylene, vinyl, chloride, monomer and tolylene diisocyanate, important base materials in the plastics industry.

What I am trying to illustrate is that the salt industry, and the natural gas which we confidently hope will come ashore in the next year or two, are completely interdependent and will be the basis of the key industries in the Pilbara industrial expansion.

I mentioned the use of chlorine. Chlorine is used extensively for industry generally. It is not an easy product to transport, unfortunately, and of course the ideal solution is to use it on the site where it is manufactured. This we anticipate will happen in its amalgamation with the ethyl in the natural gas. We would like to think that ultimately alumina will be produced in this area thus absorbing the caustic produced. Soda ash is used in the manufacture of glass and we would like to think that this will eventually be part of the entire complex.

So it is not only a question of the production of salt at which we are looking when considering the lease of land for Dampier Salt Ltd.; we are, in fact, considering major industrial expansion in the region.

It is terribly important that the company should gain the security of tenure it needs over this additional area to ensure it will maintain the production it requires in the future. I am told that 3.5 million tonnes is the capacity of the field at this time, but I am sure this will be expanded when required. We hope that not only will we have this company and Leslie Salt in Port Hedland but other salt producers will also operate in the region.

I mentioned that I would like to place some questions before the Minister, and I hope he will be able to provide the necessary assurances, because there are some confusing matters both in the Bill and in the map tabled in the schedule to the Bill.

The first point is that part of the additional land that will be included in the lease area is marked, "Area required for future plants". This is immediately adjacent to the existing airstrip and I feel the House should be assured that future requirements for, and the development of, the Karratha airport will not be inhibited by the operation of industrial plant in this area. I believe we need such an assurance.

The moving of the lease boundary to the north along the strip of land adjacent to the Three Peak area, immediately south of the Dampier town, removes the boundary of the lease off the edge of the marshland onto the higher broken land. I am apprehensive about the moving of this boundary in this manner. Clearly it is designed to give protection to the haul

route which runs along the base of the broken land, but I would like to think that we could protect access not only for the public at large but also for future developers in this region. This is the second question on which I would like the Minister to reassure the House.

The new lease also embraces a large pondage area to the south of West Intercourse Island. Clearly this additional pondage is necessary for the concentration of brine before its movement into crystallising ponds. West Intercourse Island has always been considered as a possible future industrial site.

The Pilbara Study in the form presented to us here clearly moves the emphasis away from this area to the general Dixon Island area for major processing works. However, it would be a mistake to permit the construction of brine ponds in the area between what I might loosely term the mainland and West Intercourse Island if it would result in preventing access to West Intercourse Island for possible future industrial development. That is question No. 3 which I would like the Minister to answer.

Mr Cooley referred to the environmental aspects of the Bill. It is interesting to note that, from the outset, this company has been very conscious of environmental matters. In fact, following the initial construction, an additional embankment of some great length was constructed to prevent run-off of concentrated brine from the crystallising ponds into Nickol Bay, which was considered to be a spawning ground for prawns. It is noted that the new boundary of the lease has been drawn in such a manner as to enclose this embankment which, in fact, has been designed to protect the environment of the area. As I mentioned, the company has been conscious of the need to protect the environment and this clause will merely formalise something that has been applied since the company has been operating in the area.

Clearly, it is essential that every protection possible be given in the granting of new leases, and I certainly hope that this will be done. However, I wonder whether we should not defer the Committee stage of this debate until such time as the Minister can give me the assurances I seek. It would be sad if, in doing the desirable thing for one company, we make future activities difficult.

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South West—Minister for Education) [3.13 p.m.]: I thank the two members for their contributions in support of the Bill. I give Mr Tozer the necessary reassurances on the various questions he raised. These matters have been investigated thoroughly. I have no doubt that Mr Tozer, representing the area as he does, has gone into them with the responsible Minister and other people concerned with this measure. It is good to know that members are taking

an interest in these matters and examining legislation for themselves and informing us of the detailed results of their investigations.

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. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Education), and passed.

FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 12th November.

THE HON. V. J. FERRY (South-West) [3.16 p.m.]: I support the Bill before the House; it will permit recognised country tourist resorts to avail themselves of the opportunity to have night trading, if this should meet the wishes of the respective committees.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: The holiday-makers, not the residents of the local area.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: It is interesting to hear Mr Cooley continually chiming in.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: The Bill is for the convenience of the holidaymakers, not for the people in the local areas.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: I have been on my feet for a matter of seconds and the honourable member already is seeking information which he probably has in his possession, or should have from his own inquiries. He does not even have the courtesy to listen to what I have to say.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Don't be so stupid!

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Look who is talking about being stupid!

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: I am not being stupid; I am endeavouring to make a contribution to this debate, and I seem to be somewhat thwarted by Mr Cooley. I do not mind interjections; however, Mr Cooley does not even have the courtesy to listen to what I have to say.

The Hon. R. Thompson: It was a sensible interjection.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Is not Mr Cooley big enough to talk for himself?

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: I do not know whether the hot weather is causing these interjections; I will continue, with your indulgence, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT: The honourable member has the floor.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: The Bill will apply to designated Western Australian tourist resorts in country districts south of the 26th parallel. One of the features that meets with my approval is the voluntary nature of the provisions. There is to be no compulsion on any local area to comply with the provisions outlined in the legislation.

The voluntary nature of the Bill is well and truly laid down in the legislation; local shires must receive applications for the introduction of night trading and must then submit the applications to the Minister. Indeed, there is provision for the establishment of subcommittees to make determinations and recommendations to the local authorities for their concurrence.

It is particularly appropriate for this measure to be introduced at a time when Western Australia is undergoing a trial period of daylight saving. Whether or not one agrees with daylight saving is immaterial; the fact is that this summer we will experience daylight saving on a trial basis. Like the daylight saving legislation, I view the provisions contained in this Bill as somewhat of a trial. I would not be surprised if one or two country resort areas in Western Australia were not well satisfied with this legislation after the trial period of 15 weeks laid down in the Bill.

It is well known that, despite our economic problems, the average wage and salary earner who works regular hours, whether he be a shift worker or a person working normal, daytime hours, has more leisure time at his disposal. Of course, I do not include in this category members of Parliament who, by the very nature of their responsibilities, work all sorts of hours.

There is the period of leisure in the evenings during the time that daylight saving is in operation in Western Australia. It could well be that families would prefer to do their shopping in the cool of the evening. In this respect there could be many advantages, and I think that the proposal is well worthy of being given a trial.

I think service to the public should be encouraged. If it is shown that by permitting shops to trade for longer hours in a given period of the year, a service to the public is provided, we should agree to the proposal; that is, if the public respond to the extended trading hours.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Taking into account the provision in clause 11, how could it be for a trial period? It refers to the same period in each year. This does not seem to be a trial period; it appears to be a continuous period.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: It could be a continuous period. I cannot see that the 15-week period, to be provided for the coming summer, will be extended if in the fulness of their experience the trades

people in the districts concerned feel it is not in the interests of the community to have extended trading hours. Therefore this would be a trial period.

I have referred to service to the community; I am sure that is what we all desire. So many restrictions have been imposed on the public that as a people we seem to be restricting our operations increasingly. For that reason it is refreshing to try something new for a change. Contrary to some views that have been expressed, I believe that the extended hours could provide in some cases more employment opportunities; and that aspect today is worthy of consideration.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Do you think the banks should offer the same facilities to tourists?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: They do now. Every country town has bank agencies which are open on Saturday mornings.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I am talking about the banks themselves, and not the agencies.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: This Bill makes provision for night trading.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: Because of the nature of the banking industry, it is somewhat difficult to provide a service to the public beyond reasonable hours, because safety factors and other aspects come into the question. As an aside, I believe that banks have endeavoured to provide avenues for the public to use, while their main offices are not open for business. They do this by providing agency facilities, but this is the subject of other legislation.

I was referring to employment opportunities, and I made reference to the fact that in this day and age it is desirable that a Bill of this type should provide more employment opportunities, particularly in country districts where employment is never easy to obtain. As a general rule I have not seen any exploitation of the labour force. On the contrary, I could draw attention to the remarks made by Mr Withers last night, and stress that a great deal of co-operation exists in country districts between management and staff of businesses. There is great liaison between them.

I have no doubt that by and large the employees will welcome the additional income they can earn under this arrangement. In respect of hours of work, it is not unusual for them to be staggered by arrangement between the management and the employees, to meet a particular situation in which they find themselves involved.

If the measure is implemented in a tourist resort situation, it could lead to stability in the region; and it could be the means of giving the region more life and soul. Very often in tourist centres after

a certain time in the evening very little happens. There might be the drive-in theatre to visit, and perhaps the odd dance or social, but there is very little else. Late night trading facilities could engender greater participation by the people in social events in their areas. They would be taking time off to avail themselves of late night trading; in so doing they would be able to chat among themselves in the shopping area, meet their friends, and enjoy their leisure while they are conducting their business.

In respect of the type of goods which might be purchased by the public in the late night or Saturday afternoon trading periods, I challenge anyone to say with certainty the class of goods that will be purchased. We would not know this until after the trial period. It would be of interest to analyse the position and determine the type of goods the public buy in the 15-week trial period.

Seasonal trading could well become a feature in a particular area. I do not go along with some expressions of view that a great number of employees will be disadvantaged in many ways. No doubt there will be some difficulties, and the provision of transport will be one of them.

However, we are a fairly adaptable people; and it has been my experience that where transport is required by the community, somehow or other we tend to get over the problem—whether the problem exists in the metropolitan area or in the country—when employees, of necessity under a new arrangement, are prepared to work a little longer than normal and require transport arrangements to be made. This is not an insoluble problem, and being resourceful Australians I am sure it will be overcome.

I support the Bill in the knowledge that it is breaking new ground. I think it is quite refreshing that the opportunity is being given to holiday resorts to opt for extended trading hours in the trial period, if they think it is worth doing so. If in the course of time it is found that no advantage is gained, there would be no harm done and the situation would revert to the normal trading hours that are in operation at the present time. I have pleasure in supporting the Bill.

THE HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan) [3.28 p.m.]: Along with other members of the Labor Party, I oppose the Bill. At first glance it looks to be a very innocuous type of measure, and does not seem to make much alteration to the existing set-up. However, I see the Bill in a different light. I would refer to it as a kite-flying Bill. It is in line with a number of steps which the Government has been trying to take by stealth.

The measure will test the reaction of people, and somehow or other the Government wants to get into the minds of the

people in the city and the larger centres that late night shopping should be introduced at least one night a week. The Bill sets out in a most stupid manner to make it possible for a tourist resort or a holiday centre, south of the 26th parallel, to make application in line with the provisions of the Bill to enable it to engage in late night trading on some 150 occasions in a year, or in a 15-week period.

What does this mean? Regarding tourist resorts, I do not think that many people going on holidays would want late night shopping or other extended hours of trading. Some of the things mentioned by Mr Ferry have puzzled me, because he seemed to be talking about local people gaining benefit from extended hours of trading. I presume they would gain some benefit from it, but that is not the purpose of the Bill. The purpose of the Bill, of course, is to somehow or other make some of the older areas more attractive. What do people do, mainly, when on holidays?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Look at the shops in the evening.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: They usually go away to enjoy themselves.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: They go shopping.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: That is the last thing they usually want to do. They usually like to lie on the beach, go to a hotel or a restaurant, go fishing, swimming, boating, or sailing. If anyone is to seriously suggest to me that a person goes away on holidays so that he can go shopping, that will be a new innovation and it should appear on our tourist brochures issued by the Tourist Development Authority. "Come to sunny Western Australia and go shopping at Pemberton because during the period of the last Government the local tourist industry, at Pemberton, had to be bolstered!" People will be able to spend their money in the main street of Manjimup. They will be able to watch the trout during the day time and buy a pair of gum boots at night time.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: The storekeepers in Singapore seem to disagree with the view expressed by the honourable member, that tourists do not go shopping.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: The member opposite has raised a very interesting point. The Bill will do more than I thought was intended. It seems that declared shopping areas will be duty free!

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: A jolly good idea.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: Mr Clive Griffiths is implying that one will be able to go to Manjimup to buy a duty free pair of boots.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: Tourists do go shopping.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: How long is that bow which the honourable member is stretching?

The Hon. D. K. DANS: The argument raised by Mr Clive Griffiths is as stupid and as spurious as this Bill. What will the Bill really do? Certain sections of the community have been clamouring for extended shopping hours, but their pleas have been rejected by the people who have to work in the shops. More importantly, the pleas have been rejected by those people who own and run the shops.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: What about the most important people: the public?

The Hon. D. K. DANS: We will come to them in a minute, if the member opposite will be patient. Let us cast our minds back a few years. First of all, it was argued that if we were not supplied with fresh bread on Saturdays we would all starve to death. However, not one master baker would want to return to Saturday baking. When the banks were closed on Saturday mornings—as Mr Ferry would know—it was argued that we would not have any money to spend during the weekends. So one could go on. In spite of the arguments which were raised life continues.

One side effect of extended trading hours—whilst it does satisfy a certain section of the public—from my experience in the Eastern States is that prices are increased. If one takes time out to discuss the wages paid to shop assistants, in New South Wales, one finds that the cost is alarmingly high. The increased costs apply particularly to the small shopkeepers who have to stay open to compete.

It is also interesting to note that even in the United States, where there is a great deal of extended trading, there is a serious attempt to restrict the costs involved.

Those are only asides. This Bill really does not mean a damn thing. It is merely intended as a kite-flying exercise to test public reaction. I do not know how anyone can seriously suggest that a declared tourist centre will somehow or other attract more tourists. I presume that is the idea.

What will be the position in Bunbury, which is a very good example? That is a reasonably large country centre; what will happen if the stores remain open in that town? Every small business will have to join in the act, or go broke.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: But small businesses generally are in favour of the measure, are they not?

The Hon. D. K. DANS: We do not know.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: They certainly are in my area.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: Does the honourable member represent a tourist area?

The Hon. G. E. Masters: Yes, I would consider it to be a tourist area.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: The next point is how are we to define a tourist area? I suppose Fremantle could be called a tourist area; why not?

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: And what about Perth?

The Hon. D. K. DANS: And Perth. If one were to take out statistics one would find that more tourists visit the city of Perth than the town of Bunbury, surely.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: That is right.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: So will the provisions of this Bill extend to those areas, and will an application be made from the City of Perth? These are some of the questions which have not been answered, and that is why I say the Bill is a kite-flyer. It is a little bit of stealth to test public reaction and in my opinion it will serve no useful purpose whatsoever.

In my experience of holiday areas—and it should not be any different from the experiences of other people—where there is a fairly concentrated crowd of people the shopkeepers generally get very uppity about what time they open or close. If a shopkeeper in Mandurah has had a hard day he will close his doors early. I recollect—and I am going back many years—that before Rockingham virtually became a suburb of the city it had some of the most selfish shopkeepers I have ever experienced. When they had had enough they closed their doors.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: Those people would not apply.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: I do not know whether they would. If a group of people apply to have their area declared a tourist centre they will drag everyone else along with them. In many towns penalty rates will have to be paid to the shop assistants. I know that in New South Wales a shop assistant who works for one late night has a weekend off.

The Hon. I. G. Pratt: Did the honourable member find the closing of the shops in Rockingham inconvenient?

The Hon. D. K. DANS: In those days, most inconvenient. When the shops closed at four o'clock on Saturdays it was most inconvenient. The shops simply closed because they had done enough trade for the day. The provisions of this Bill will not make the shops stay open any longer. I agree with Mr Ferry that we cannot force the shopkeepers to stay open if they do not want to.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: The system is successful in southern Europe, so why should it not be successful here?

The Hon. D. K. DANS: A number of things occur in southern Europe and South America which I would not want to see introduced into this country.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: The system is very popular.

The Hon. D. K. DAns: It cannot be claimed that because the system works in another country, it will work here. That argument has been well canvassed, and its use usually depends on the subject under discussion, or on which side of the House one is sitting, and one gives the appropriate answer.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: That is right.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It seems the honourable member is making remarkably heavy weather of this.

The Hon. D. K. DAns: No, I have a bad throat.

I certainly could not support this Bill because it is a phony. It has been introduced simply to test public reaction, and the reaction of the shop assistants and their union.

The Bill does not define where the tourist centres will be located. One could well be in Perth because the metropolitan area is a tourist attraction. The Bill merely seeks, by stealth, to do something which the Government is not game enough to do openly. The Government should introduce a Bill to allow one late shopping night each week. The Government wants to feel its way because it has made so many blunders. It wants to see if there is a light at the top of the stairs. I imagine that anyone who reads the debates which have taken place on this Bill—in years to come—will agree that there must have been some very timid people around at this time. The Government should be honest and say that it wants to get over a hurdle by introducing a late shopping night. That is the aim of the Bill. The Government is exploring the possibility of introducing a late shopping night. I am not sure that it will be of any benefit.

The Hon. N. McNeill: That is not the point of view of the people I have spoken to at Mandurah.

The Hon. D. K. DAns: I am not speaking about Mandurah; I am speaking about the real purpose of this Bill.

The real purpose of the Bill is to explore public opinion. As far as I am concerned this is another scandalous piece of legislation—not quite honest legislation. It has been brought into this Chamber to see how it will be received and how the public at large will react to it. This is to operate south of the 26th parallel—why not make it north of the 26th parallel? I read Mr Withers' speech and he seemed to be under the illusion that this legislation will operate in his Province.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: No, Mr Cooley said that.

The Hon. D. K. DAns: I have the speech of Mr Withers here.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: Mr Cooley said it.

The Hon. D. K. DAns: I could not lend my support to this Bill. At some future stage I may be tempted to support a gen-

uine Bill containing all the conditions necessary to give people late night trading. Perhaps one's attitude may change, but at this stage, for the life of me I could not lend any support to a piece of legislation like this.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Before you sit down—

The Hon. D. K. DAns: I am sitting down.

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West—Minister for Education) [3.41 p.m.]: The Labor Party has gone beyond being conservative to being totally reactionary. I am delighted that Mr DAns saw fit today to wear the tie he has on because it is reasonable that we should have something which is a little advanced on the other side of the House.

The Hon. D. K. DAns: Do you like my tie?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: It is an advanced tie—very colourful and bright. However, I want to tell him that the formula found so successful by his leader yesterday when scurrilous attacks were used to accuse the Government of lying and all that sort of thing to get his name in the paper probably will not work twice.

Withdrawal of Remark

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I ask for a withdrawal of those words. I do not print *The West Australian* nor do I decide what items will be broadcast in the news. I request the withdrawal of the words that I accused the Government to get my name in the Press.

The Hon. D. K. DAns: I do not care if my name never appears in the Press.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Leader of the Opposition has asked for a withdrawal of the words used.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I withdraw the words.

Debate Resumed

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I remind Mr DAns that I do not think that sort of policy will work twice.

The Hon. D. K. DAns: What sort of policy is that?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: The policy of accusing the Government of being cheats.

The Hon. D. K. DAns: I never used the word "cheat".

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: It worked once, but it will not work again.

The Hon. D. K. DAns: What worked once?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: We were accused of kite flying in introducing this legislation and we were told that the

Government is not honest in its endeavours. I doubt whether such statements will get the honourable member's name in the Press.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I do not want my name in the Press; I want my remarks to be recorded in *Hansard*.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Mr Dans went on about his speech a moment ago as though that was his sole objective. There was no sense in his speech without that.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: There is no sense in the Bill!

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: The Bill is a genuine endeavour to allow certain areas some late night trading. I also suggested that any member—Mr Dans or anyone else—who thinks that people on holidays do not walk around a country town to do some shopping ought to be a little revolutionary and take his wife for a holiday. That would soon change his mind.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You are not suggesting I do not take my wife on holidays, are you?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: If the honourable member has never been shopping with his wife while away on holidays, I suggest that he has never been away on holidays. Any husband who does not finish up shopping at some time during his holidays would be a most uncommon one.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: What about Sunday mornings?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Mr Cooley made so many mistakes in his speech to the Bill that I do not think he should interject. It was the honourable member who suggested that this legislation would operate north of the 26th parallel and not Mr Withers.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: I did not mention the 26th parallel.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: You did.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: This legislation is something a little out of the usual. Although I no longer represent the area, for 18 years Mandurah was in my Province. Mandurah already has slightly different shopping hours from those pertaining elsewhere. The shops there open on Saturday afternoons and close on Wednesday afternoons. Some of the people wanted to close their shops on a Saturday, but what a backward step that would be for the town itself. We must bear in mind that towns like Bunbury and Mandurah have a higher rating value than other country towns because people utilise them as holiday resorts. So the community is provided with better facilities through these rates, and the local authorities are able to offer amenities to the population and employment oppor-

tunities to the young people. I am staggered that a man who is still the President of the TLC would turn his thumbs down on an attempt to provide better job opportunities in this area.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: It does not give them job opportunities, it gives extra hours of work—they have to work overtime.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: Who says that?

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: The awards that the shop assistants work under.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: The legislation does not say they have to work overtime; the employers may put on two shifts of people.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: There is no provision for shift work in the legislation.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I would have preferred just to have heard Mr Cooley, but nevertheless, let us analyse what he said. Mr Cooley has implied that if more hours of work are available and extra staff are put on to cope with this extra work it does not constitute additional employment. That is the sort of ludicrous opposition we are getting to this measure. That is just what Mr Cooley said in his interjection.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Who said what?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I am not starting all over again.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: You should listen.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Read it in *Hansard*! The additional hours of trading will mean that more purchases will be made in the towns. People driving to Mandurah on a Saturday morning will say, "We will be able to buy milk, eggs, butter, bread, and so on when we arrive because the shops will be open. We will buy those things in Mandurah and then put them in the refrigerator." That is extra money for Mandurah.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: It shows how little you have studied the legislation. They could buy these things at any time up to 11 p.m.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I am not going to reply to the interjections—they contribute nothing.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: People can buy these commodities at any time.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: These people will make their purchases in the town on Saturday afternoon. Mr Dans said that he does not go on holidays to spend his time shopping. I suggest that he visit any town on the south coast and he will see many people walking along the streets. One cannot sunbathe at night-time and everyone is not of an age where they have this burning desire to sit out under the moon.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: Or the opportunity!

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: So the people go into the town, and they may buy goods if the shops are open.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I would believe the Minister if this applied in Perth. I would not take my wife on a holiday to buy an egg or a carpet.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: This is the member who told us a minute ago that he had never taken his wife on a holiday.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I never said that at all; your hearing is bad. My tie has dazzled you.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Mr President, may I address my remarks to you, as I am finding it very hard to ignore the nonsense—

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You are trying to make sense out of something nonsensical—the Bill.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Not at all. The legislation is an endeavour to introduce flexibility into an iron-clad system imposed on the State by the friends of the members opposite—the unionists. We are trying to wake up the trade unions to the fact that the days of slave labour are gone. There are courts to look after the type of problems the Opposition has suggested.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Why not leave it to the courts?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: It is not for legislation to fix any change in work hours which may arise or be desirable to cope with the situation. Parties to the shop assistants' award, which is a State award, have the right to apply to the Industrial Commission for amendments which may be considered necessary. I hate having to read industrial law to the President of the TLC, but it seems necessary to do this after his remarks to the Bill.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Are you suggesting that unionists brought about the first Factories and Shops Act? If you are, I suggest you should undertake some political research.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I am talking about the attitude of our unionists here.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: You do not have to denigrate people.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Any adjustment sought for hours, spread of shift, pay rates, penalty rates, etc., could be dealt with simultaneously. Casual workers are provided for in this award and it is likely that this type of worker could be utilised more when extended trading occurs.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Would it be possible for the City of Perth to apply for this?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Yes, it says so in the Act; but it is not expected to be utilised and, therefore, there is no metropolitan representative on the enlarged committee.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: The thin edge of the wedge.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: The thin edge of the wedge! We talk about reactionaries; members opposite are even reactionary in their blasted clichés! For goodness sake think of something new to say.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I have a high regard for the Minister, but he would not live long as a fish.

Sitting suspended from 3.51 to 4.07 p.m.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Mr Cooley made some reference to a report in his possession which he used when speaking to representatives of tourist bureaux in Esperance in 1973.

The Hon. R. Thompson: No, I was the one who did that.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I am sorry; it was the Leader of the Opposition, was it? This may have been somewhat irregular and may have represented more of an interpretation of the position by a departmental officer, but in any event, if it was an expression of opinion of the previous Government, as then represented by the member for the South Metropolitan Province, it does not represent the view of the present Government. The introduction of this Bill is in line with the expressed policy of this Government to adopt a more favourable attitude to flexible trading hours.

I think it was Mr Cooley who suggested that an amendment be made to the composition of the holiday resorts advisory committee which will be established by this Bill. He seems concerned that two members of this committee will represent employers, but of course that will not necessarily be so. A person appointed to represent the occupiers of shops could be a representative of smaller shops that do not employ staff, and there are many such shops.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: They can remain open now until 11.00 p.m. Those shops do not employ staff.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: We are talking about two totally different things. I repeat that Mr Cooley was concerned about the composition of this proposed committee. He said that two representatives of shops could be employers, but I point out that they need not be employers; they could be representatives of small shops. I know that small shops are permitted to remain open after normal trading hours now, but I am not talking about that aspect; I am talking about the composition of the committee.

I am advised that the Minister is prepared to accept the suggestion Mr Cooley put forward that one of the consumer representatives should be a person nominated by the TLC. If the honourable member moves his amendment in the Committee stage due consideration will be given to it at that time. This action is being taken in an endeavour to assist the unions despite the reactionary attitude of many of their representatives and their opposition to progress. I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and and division taken with the following result—

Ayes—19

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Hon. C. R. Abbey | Hon. M. McAleer |
| Hon. N. E. Baxter | Hon. N. McNeill |
| Hon. G. W. Berry | Hon. I. G. Medcalf |
| Hon. H. W. Gayfer | Hon. I. G. Pratt |
| Hon. Clive Griffiths | Hon. J. C. Tozer |
| Hon. J. Heitman | Hon. R. J. L. Williams |
| Hon. T. Knight | Hon. W. R. Withers |
| Hon. A. A. Lewis | Hon. D. J. Wordsworth |
| Hon. G. C. MacKinnon | Hon. V. J. Ferry |
| Hon. G. E. Masters | (Teller) |

Noes—8

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|----------------------|--------------------|
| Hon. R. F. Cloughton | Hon. R. T. Leeson |
| Hon. D. W. Cooley | Hon. R. Thompson |
| Hon. S. J. Dellar | Hon. Grace Vaughan |
| Hon. Lyla Elliott | Hon. D. K. Dans |
| | (Teller) |

Pair

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Aye | No. |
| Hon. T. O. Ferry | Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs |

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (the Hon. R. J. L. Williams) in the Chair; the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Education) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 4 put and passed.

Clause 5: Section 92A added—

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Mr Deputy Chairman, I wonder whether you would be so kind as to suspend the proceedings for about five minutes.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order! I will leave the Chair until the ringing of the Bells.

Sitting suspended from 4.16 to 4.21 p.m.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I move an amendment—

Page 3, lines 16 and 17—Delete the words “one shall be a person willing to act as member” and substitute the words “two shall be persons willing to act as members”.

Amendment put and passed.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I move an amendment—

Page 3—Delete subparagraph (v).

I take it the word “and” in line 21 will be deleted automatically.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (the Hon. R. J. L. Williams): Yes. The word “and” will then appear at the end of line 15.

Amendment put and passed.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I have had some experience of the tourist industry, and having listened to the speeches of members this afternoon I am convinced they do not know the meaning of the provisions in the Bill. Mr Ferry said that as we are at present experiencing daylight saving, local people would find it more convenient—

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Which clause are you on?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I am indicating what Mr Ferry said earlier.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (the Hon. R. J. L. Williams): I remind the Leader of the Opposition that the question is that clause 5 stand as amended.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I am dealing with the clause now. There is nothing wrong with that.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Provided you do deal with it some time.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Mr Ferry seemed to understand that the legislation was being introduced for the benefit of local people, but I would draw attention to proposed subsection (9) (b). I do not think we should become confused, because Mr Masters, who lives in Kalamunda, said that area could be declared a tourist resort. Although I may differ on this point from the view held by other members of the Labor Party, I consider the Bill should be specific and stipulate that any town involved must be in a recognised tourist area.

I also draw the attention of members to proposed subsection (13) (a) under which the Minister for Tourism or someone specified under the Act must determine whether the place involved is a holiday resort. No-one can tell me that Rockingham or Kalamunda is at present a holiday resort. They are suburbs of Perth. I refer members to paragraph (b) of proposed subsection (13) because a lot hinges on it. I do not suppose the Minister could explain the words “population that is large by comparison with its normal resident population”. Must the population increase be 5 per cent, 15 per cent, 20 per cent, 30 per cent, or 100 per cent?

I would like some answers to those questions because on my reading of it the Bill is not specific, although in reply to Mr Dans the Minister said he considered Perth could be declared a tourist resort under its provisions. I fail to see that.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Sit down and I will tell you.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: If that is the purpose of the Bill, I agree with everything Mr Dans said; but the Minister seemed to agree with Mr Dans, and I do not agree with either of them.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I thought the Leader of the Opposition was the Minister for Tourism at one time.

The Hon. R. Thompson: That is right. There is no need to be sarcastic.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Why do members of the Opposition always jump to that conclusion?

The Hon. R. Thompson: After what you said this afternoon, I am entitled to do so.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (the Hon. R. J. L. Williams): Order!

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I was genuinely not sure. The attitude continually seems to be that I am being nasty or sneaky. I am not. I asked a simple question and I wanted a simple answer.

I always understood that the great virtue in tourism was that it brought money into an area, and of course the people in the area profit because they own or work in the shops, and so on. That is the first point the Leader of the Opposition raised when he referred to what Mr Ferry said. Of course it benefits the local people.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I did not mention that at all.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I suggest the Leader of the Opposition read his *Hansard* duplicate when he receives it.

Clause 5 sets out what the Bill proposes to do in regard to flexible trading hours, and without doubt the main purpose of the Bill is to provide more flexible trading hours at tourist resorts in country areas. That is clearly indicated in the proposed new section 92A (2) (b), which provides for representation of the Country Shire Councils' Association and the Country Town Councils' Association on the committee. There is to be no representation of metropolitan local government authorities. Nevertheless, any local authority in the State may apply for extended hours if it qualifies under subsection (9) of the proposed new section 92A; the qualification being that the resort has a holiday population which is large in comparison with its normal resident population. That is a matter for determination by the committee.

It could well be that if a large festival were to be held close to the metropolitan area the shops would be so crowded that someone in authority might consider trading hours in the metropolitan area should be extended during that period, and the application would be granted. That is possible under the legislation but it is not the main purpose of the Bill. Subsection (13) of proposed new section 92A clearly requires the Director of Tourism or the holder of some other office to substantiate whether or not the holiday population qualification has been met. That is reasonable enough. They are responsible officers.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You are agreeing with everything I said.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: That is right. There is nothing wrong with what the Leader of the Opposition has said

except that I am an advanced, forward-looking member of the Liberal Party and he is a reactionary member of the Labor Party. That is the only difference, so we could argue forever.

After consideration of the application the Minister may order the exemption of the shops in the area on certain conditions or refer the application to the committee for investigation and recommendation under proposed subsection (8). That is the interpretation of the clause.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I thought I dealt rationally with this Bill last night. I mentioned that as Minister for Tourism I carried out surveys. Unfortunately, the Minister was unable to be present last night as he was on parliamentary duties elsewhere, but had he read my speech he would not have said, "I was under the impression that the Leader of the Opposition was the Minister for Tourism."

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It slipped my memory, that is all.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Did the Minister answer the three queries?

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

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I was absent at one stage.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I referred to the relevant clauses.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: During his reply the Minister referred to the policy of the Government, because of something which was circulated at Esperance and which is still the policy of the present Government. The question I hoped the Minister would answer was: What goods can people in country areas not buy at the present time which they would be able to buy under this legislation, with the exception of furniture, electrical goods, and hardware?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: And butchers, hairdressers, clothing and footwear stores, and the like; none of those shops will be able to open under the special exempt shop classification.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: How many tourists would want to buy those goods? We are dealing with tourists and we must look at what the Bill provides in relation to tourists, and nothing else. The Minister said I said something to Mr Ferry which I did not say at all. In reply to Mr Ferry I said some Government members did not understand what was in the Bill, and when the Minister has to read out something I just read out, which was supplied to him, it is obvious he does not know much about what is in the Bill. But we have taken time to study it.

Withdrawal of Remark

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I must object to this attitude that I cannot read and I do not understand the Bill.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I did not say you could not read.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: The Leader of the Opposition has said it on previous occasions. I do understand the Bill and whether or not I read out something is my prerogative. I want withdrawn the imputation that I have not enough brains to think anything out.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I will withdraw any such imputation, if so made, but I did not make it. I will repeat what I said. If the Minister had read my speech or had listened to the clauses of the Bill which I read out, he would not have got up and paraphrased them immediately afterwards. He read out the provisions which I said I agreed with.

Committee Resumed

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The Bill deals with tourists, not local people.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Of course it helps local people. They own the shops. That is the point I made.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Well, local residents. Let us say that on their scheduled run three Pioneer buses pull into Manjimup on a Tuesday night. Perhaps Manjimup does not enjoy late shopping on Friday nights. If the influx of tourists into a given area occurs on Tuesday nights, will the local people ask for late shopping on Friday nights or Tuesday nights? My feeling is that they will ask for extended hours on either Friday night or Saturday afternoon. My understanding of the Bill is that the late shopping should coincide with the influx of tourists into the town. The arrival of buses is the only means of gauging how many people will be coming to a town at some future time. Is it intended that the Minister for Tourism should say, "This town has been classified by the advisory committee as a tourist resort and it can therefore have extended trading hours on Fridays or Saturdays"? Or will the Minister take into consideration the fact that the majority of tourists arrive in the town on a Tuesday? I want answers to these questions.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: I want to clear up what I was alleged to have said about local people. Perhaps I used the expression "local people", not because of ignorance about the Bill but in the context of a locality at a particular time. After all, the shops would be open to local people at that time, whether they came in by bus or helicopter. My use of the expression "local people" does not mean I do not understand the importance of the Bill. Obviously, all people will be able to take advantage of the extended trading hours in the locality.

I also acknowledge, from experience, that nothing ever works smoothly. Therefore, the holiday resorts advisory committee which is to be set up will be

charged with determining applications which come before it for the granting of extended hours. I do not see any problem. I do not think we should haggle over terminology. We should recognise that the provisions are primarily for the tourist trade, and in suiting the tourist trade the wishes of the local people, who may be in the majority, will be met. The Bill would therefore assist all people in that context.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: The Leader of the Opposition asked a number of questions and cited the case of a tourist bus coming into a comparatively small town, which would constitute that town a tourist resort for purposes of late shopping on, say, a Tuesday night. I said I did not consider such a case came within the framework of the conditions as laid down and I did not think it would meet the terms and conditions in subsections (12) and (13) of proposed new section 92A, under which the Minister must make an assessment and, before he reaches a decision, refer the application to the Director of Tourism or another appropriate officer, following which he can take action.

Right throughout the Bill all sorts of conditions and parameters are laid down, within which the decision must be made, the implication being that it must be a fairly continuous situation and the number of people concerned be large enough to warrant the extension of trading hours. There must be a desire for it on the part of the local shopkeepers. All the other conditions must apply, advice must be sought, and a decision must be reached.

The requirements of the legislation are reasonable and there are many precautions. It is not a simple matter of declaring an area a tourist resort because a bus calls there every Tuesday night. It must be a declared holiday resort in the first place.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: Perhaps something nice could be said to please the Minister and to cool him down a little in regard to the allegations he made, some of which are correct and some incorrect. I express my appreciation of the amendment moved to this clause to give employees greater representation on the holiday resorts advisory committee. Whilst the amendment does not go the full way, it certainly is a help. There is a need to give trade unions full representation on such committees, and I hope the Government appreciates that. I have advocated this course here and in other places for a long time.

I take the opportunity, as Mr Ferry did, to correct some of the comments made about me. The Minister, who was not present last night when I made my speech, seemed to think that Mr Withers' reference to snide trickery was something of an achievement. I completely misunderstood

Mr Withers. I thought he was referring to the North-East Metropolitan Province, and was asking whether I had received any inquiries from my constituents. I hope the Minister has full regard for that.

The Minister accused me, as President of the Trades and Labor Council, of not having the interests of employees at heart. He said the Bill will create employment, although he did not say that in his second reading speech. He did say he recognised that no doubt arrangements would be made in respect of the impact this proposal would have on staff.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (the Hon. R. J. L. Williams): I remind the honourable member that I have already advised him considerable latitude in making a personal explanation, and he must now speak to the clause under discussion.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: I am sorry if I have digressed. However, some of the comments made in respect of my position were quite inaccurate. Early in my speech I indicated the proposal is contrary to the policy of the trade unions and to the policy of the Australian Labor Party.

With regard to proposed new section 92A(12), I would like to know whether the Government has had regard for the fact that the shop assistants' award provides only for hours of work between 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. Has it had regard for the overtime shop assistants must work under this provision and the hardships they will suffer as a result of working long hours? The Minister could declare that the shopping hours will be from 6.00 a.m. to 12.00 midnight, and those hours could apply continuously for 15 weeks.

The other point that concerns us greatly is whether consideration has been given to protection of young female staff who may be required to knock off at 11.00 p.m. and walk a long way home over dark country roads. We read almost daily of criminal violence not only in the city but also in country areas, and I think protection should be afforded to such people who may be affected by a decision of the Minister in respect of extended hours.

Those are the points which worry me. I appreciate probably the Bill will be carried, having regard for the vote on the second reading.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I am not sure whether Mr Cooley genuinely wants me to reply. I am aware that he knows from his vast experience in industrial matters that while under this Bill we can order the hours of shopping to be extended, we cannot make an order that a shop assistant who commences work at 8.00 a.m. shall remain on duty until midnight. I know of no award which allows that. This is an industrial matter which would be determined by a commission not the subject of this Bill. As President of the TLC, Mr Cooley must be aware of that.

He would also be aware that while it would be extremely unlikely for a shop to remain open until midnight or some other dark hour when rapists are prowling the countryside with a dastardly gleam in their eyes, this matter may also be the subject of an industrial agreement. Indeed, such an agreement applies in this Parliament in respect of female members of the staff who are provided with taxis if they are required to work after a certain hour. Such matters are not the subject of this Bill. It seems to me we have dealt with the Bill *ad nauseam*, to the point where we are now discussing industrial matters which have nothing at all to do with the measure.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, with amendments, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Education), and returned to the Assembly with amendments.

ROAD TRAFFIC BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. N. E. Baxter (Minister for Health), read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. N. McNEILL (Lower West—Minister for Justice) [4.56 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 19th November.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.57 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 13th November, 1974

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

QUESTIONS (39): ON NOTICE

1.

MUTTON

Prices and Marketing

Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) In view of the present low level of mutton prices, could he advise of any action contemplated by the Government to rectify the situation?