I am not suggesting that this short cut is a procedure which this House would wish to adopt; I am just pointing out that this system could be implemented under our Standing Orders if it were so desired.

Finally, I wish to say that any criticism levelled against the Speaker is not taken by me as being personal. I believe it is quite right and proper for the Speaker to be criticised by the House. After all is said and done, he is appointed by the House, and he only remains in his position for as long as the House so desires. For the Speaker to be criticised by people outside the House is an entirely different matter, but I repeat that any member of the House is entitled to express his view on any action taken by the Speaker. I do not take such criticism personally, and I thank the House for the indulgence it has shown towards me.

BILLS (12): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

- Rural and Industries Bank Act Amendment Bill.
- Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act Amendment Bill.
 - Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Bovell (Minister for Lands), and read a first time.
- Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement Bill.
- State Housing Act Amendment Bill. Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. O'Neil (Minister for Housing), and read a first time.
- Painters' Registration Act Amendment Bill.
- Main Roads Act Amendment Bill.
 Bills introduced, on motions by Mr.
 Ross Hutchinson (Minister for Works), and read a first time.
- 7. Potato Growing Industry Trust Fund Act Amendment Bill.
- 8. Brands Act Amendment Bill.
- Grain Pool Act Amendment Bill.
 Bills introduced, on motions by Mr.
 Nalder (Minister for Agriculture),
 and read a first time.
- Country High School Hostels Authority Act Amendment Bill.
 - Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Lewis (Minister for Education), and read a first time.
- Aerial Spraying Control Bill, Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture),

and read a first time.

 Licensing Act Amendment Bill.
 Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. May, and read a first time.

House adjourned at 9.39 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

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

QUESTIONS (19): ON NOTICE RETAIL TRADES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Female Representation

- Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Labour:
 - (1) Are any of those named on the Retail Trades Advisory Committee of feminine gender?
 - (2) If not, and on the grounds that wives and/or mothers are principal purchasers of household goods and generally have a better evaluation of quality and price, on

- what grounds of policy are women excluded from such representation?
- (3) If female representation is lacking as a consequence of an oversight of (2) above, will he take early action to ensure female representation on the committee?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The committee deals only with the business carried on in shops, type of goods sold therein, the hours of trading therein, the number of persons employed therein and the classification or registration of shops. It has no powers in regard to quality or price.
- (3) The present representative of purchasers of goods from shops was appointed as provided under the Act for a period of 3 years as from 13/2/64.

TRADE UNIONS

Political Levies and Membership

- Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Labour:
 - (1) Relevant to Press reference (The West Australian 3/3/1966) to parliamentary Liberal Country Party pressure to change the law which permits political affiliation fees to be inclusive with union fees, and granting preference to unionists, is he aware that certain unions, including the Amalgamated Engineering Union, have appropriate rules to grant members the democratic right to claim exemption on a form made available to obtain exemption from political levy?
 - (2) Since political levies are to advantage only to the Labor Party, can he give a definite answer whether or not there is any intention on his part to introduce legislation to grant immunity from political levies or immunity from union membership?
 - (3) If such legislation is intended, will provision be included on a similar basis to grant exemption from membership donations and levies made by members of the Employers Federation, members of the chambers of commerce and kindred organisations to party funds of Labor's political opponents?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) See answer to (2).

ARMADALE TRAFFIC INTERCHANGE

- Plan and Development

 BUSHTON asked the Minister for
- Mr. RUSHTON asked the Minister for Works:
 - (1) Has a design for the interchange of Albany and Bunbury traffic at Armadale been aproved and finalised?
 - (2) If "Yes", may I see the plan?
 - (3) If "No", when is the plan expected to be finalised?
 - (4) Will he give every consideration in the development of the interchange to the preserving of the aesthetics in this area?
 - (5) What work is intended to relieve the restricted area between the end of the dual carriageway southwards to the bridge at the interchange?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) It is hoped to complete a plan for this intersection within the next six months.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Completion of dual carriageways will follow when the intersection design is approved.

KENT STREET HIGH SCHOOL

Roads, Paths, and Bicycle Parking Area

4. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Education:

What is the cost of the current work being done at Kent Street Senior High School in regard to—

- (a) Sealing of roads and paths;(b) kerbing of roads and paths;
- (c) provision of sealed areas for parking bicycles?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(a) to (c) This is all included in the one contract, the cost of which is \$16,684. There is no information as to the cost of the separate items.

OVERSEAS FREIGHT RATES

Restrictive Trade Practices Legislation: Control

- 5. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Premier:
 - (1) Is he aware-
 - (a) of The West Australian 20/7/1966 reference to a Department of Trade official's estimate that Australia's pre-\$600,000,000 overseas sent freight bill will reach \$1,800,000,000 by the late 1970s and the effect of such charges upon Australia's ability to compete on world markets:

- (b) of Pacific & Orient Line 3/3/1966 Press objections to Federal preparation of legislation to give some control of freight rates in and out of Australia?
- (2) Since the Federal Trade Practices
 Bill introduced last year could
 grant some protection in this respect to Western Australian
 farmers and the pastoral industry
 generally, and the general public
 in particular, will he initiate as
 soon as required the complementary State legislation to make the
 Commonwealth Trade Practices
 Bill effective in this State?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) Yes.
- (2) The Federal legislation will operate within the State without complementary State legislation, which, if passed, could apply only in respect of intrastate transactions. No decision is likely for some time as to whether such State legislation will be necessary or desirable.

POLICE

Exmouth: Provision of Vehicle

6. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Police;

In view of the distance which the police have to travel at Exmouth, will he give early and favourable consideration to supplying them with a suitable vehicle?

Mr. CRAIG replied: Yes.

RAILWAYS

Koolyanobbing: Supply of Perishable Goods and Mail

- Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Railways:
 - (1) What provision has been made for the supply of all commodities, including perishable goods and mail matter, to the township of Koolyanobbing when the standard gauge rail haulage commences?

Perth-Southern Cross: Discontinuance of Line

(2) When is it anticipated that the existing rail between Perth and Southern Cross will be discontinued?

Mr. COURT replied:

- The tabled freight train service which will operate when fullscale standard gauge working commences will provide adequate transport for all commodities.
- (2) The 3 ft. 6 in. gauge train service between Perth and Southern Cross

will be discontinued when fullscale standard gauge operations are introduced.

STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY Embankments: Prevention of Scouring

- Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Railways:
 - (1) Will any other method be employed by the Railways Department, other than the planting of grasses, to overcome extensive scouring of embankments in many areas traversed by the standard gauge lines?
 - (2) Is the problem yet regarded as serious?

Mr. COURT replied:

- In certain areas where difficulty has been encountered in establishing grasses, special methods such as straw mulching and bituminous spraying are being employed.
- (2) No.

POLICE STATION AT KOOLYANOBBING

Completion, Living Quarters, and Staffing

- 9. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Police:
 - (1) Is it the intention of the Government to build a police station at Koolyanobbing?
 - (2) If so, will living quarters be provided?
 - (3) What grade station is warranted?
 - (4) When will the station premises be completed and an officer appointed?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Sufficient for two men.
- (4) Building of this station has been placed on the draft estimates for 1966-67 subject to funds being available.

WATER SUPPLIES

Water Research Foundation Committee: Details

- 10. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Works:
 - (1) Who are the personnel of the Water Research Foundation Committee?
 - (2) Does this committee receive payment for services?
 - (3) How long has it been in operation?
 - (4) Does it meet regularly?
 - (5) What are its functions?

- (6) What has been achieved?
- (7) From what source does it draw its operational expenses?
- (8) Is an annual report available and. if so, is it presented to Parlia-

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) Scientists, engineers, and businessmen interested in furthering water research in Australia in accordance with the following list:-

> Water Research Foundation of Australia, Western Austra-

lian State Committee. Mr. J. H. Lord, Chairman,

Mines Department. Mr. B. Clegg, Secretary.

Hon, R. Hutchinson, Minister for Works and Water Supplies.

Mr. J. E. Parker, Public Works Department.

Mr. R. M. Hillman, Metro-Supply politan Water Board.

Mr. W. D. Benson, Metro-Water politan Supply Board.

Mr. I. O'Hara, Metropolitan Water Supply Board.

D. B. Collett, Public Works Department.

Mr. E. P. O'Driscoll, Mines Department.

Dr. T. C. Dunne, Department of Agriculture.

Professor R. T. Prider. Professor K. L. Cooper.

Professor J. P. Quirk.

Dr. R. Silvester.

Mr. V. J. Murray.

Mr. J. Ahern. Mr. F. Hill. Mr. T. W. Horton.

Mr. J. A. McGlew.

Mr. R. D. Palfreyman.

Mr. J. G. Lewis. Mr. P. A. Dunn. Mr. L. Dolton. Mr. S. G. Hart. Mr. W. L. Hughes.

(2) No.

- (3) Water Research Foundation of Australia formed January 1956. Western Australian State committee established February 1961.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) To initiate, promote and further scientific and technological research into the development, control and use of the water resources of Australia.
- (6) A number of research projects in the various States of Australia have been initiated and a number of these have been completed and reports written.

In Western Australia, two research projects as follows are in progress and are almost complete:-

> Small earth dams; Salt water encroachment.

- (7) Donations from firms, private persons, shires and State Governments.
- (8) An annual report is available. It is not presented to Parliament.

CAPE TULIP

Eradication: Research

- 11. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Agriculture:
 - (1) Is he satisfied that 2,4-D is the most effective weedicide for the eradication of Cape Tulip?
 - (2) Does he not consider the cost of 2.4-D is excessive?
 - (3) What research is currently being carried out by the Department of Agriculture or any other depart-ment in an endeavour to develop a more effective and much less costly weedicide for the total eradication of Cape Tulip?
 - Mr. NALDER replied:
 - (1) 2,4-D is the most effective chemical available.
 - (2) Not when advantages of control are taken into account. 2,4-D is supplied by the Agriculture Protection Board at a reduced cost for primary noxious weeds, including Cape Tulip.
 - (3) Development of weedicides is undertaken by large chemical firms. The Department of Agri-culture co-operates by carrying out trials with new formulations at an early stage of development to assist in assessing their value for the control of Cape Tulip and other noxious weeds.

RAILWAYS: PERTH-ESPERANCE Request for Freezer Truck Service

- 12. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Railways:
 - (1) Has the Esperance Chamber of Commerce yet had a favourable reply to its request of the 15th July that a freezer truck service be commenced between Perth and Esperance via Ravensthorpe?
 - (2) If not, is the matter receiving favourable consideration?
 - Mr. COURT replied:
 - (1) and (2) This matter was referred to the Deputy Commissioner of Railways. His report has now been received and a reply will be forwarded to the Chamber as soon as practicable.
- 13. to 19. These questions were postponed.

QUESTIONS (2): WITHOUT NOTICE ORD RIVER SCHEME

Commonwealth Government's Intention

Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Premier:
 In view of the fact that the
 Federal Treasurer, when introduc ing the Budget on the 16th in stant, did not mention any grant
 for the Ord River scheme does

stant, did not mention any grant for the Ord River scheme, does this mean that the Commonwealth Government does not intend to go ahead with the project?

Mr. BRAND replied:

Since the Budget was introduced in the Commonwealth Parliament I have just as much information on this subject as has the honourable member. There have been no communications since then. It is already known that arrangements have been made for a conference between Federal Ministers and the Ministers of this State on the 25th of this month.

RAILWAYS: PERTH-ESPERANCE
Reply to Esperance Chamber of
Commerce

Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Railways:

As the Minister, in his reply to question 12 on today's notice paper has stated that a reply will be forwarded to the Esperance Chamber of Commerce as soon as practicable, will he kindly let me have a copy of the letter when it is forwarded?

Mr. COURT replied: Yes.

LESLIE SOLAR SALT INDUSTRY AGREEMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Court (Minister for Industrial Development), and read a first time.

RURAL AND INDUSTRIES BANK ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. BOVELL (Vasse-Minister for Lands) [2.28 p.m.]: I move-

That the Bill be now read a second

This Bill is essentially one which will permit the Rural and Industries Bank to play an even greater part in the State's housing programme. Members will know, from a perusal of the bank's report for 1966 recently issued that, in the last 10 years, the bank has made loans totalling almost \$13,000,000 to 13,923 applicants for some aspect of housing—a not inconsiderable contribution to the State's housing needs.

Mr. Graham: We have a great deal of leeway to make up for what the Housing Commission has been missing out on.

Mr. BOVELL: With the exception of the Empire Games Village homes, the sale of which the bank actively sponsored, the bank's housing loans have been made in the normal course of business with the customer coming to the bank for assistance to buy or build a dwelling.

It is now proposed to go beyond this point and to enlarge the bank's scope to enable it to have dwellings constructed to meet the needs of the State's rapidly increasing population, including the migrant intake.

These new proposals are to be subject to the approval of the Minister and the Treasurer, so that whenever they are employed the bank will be implementing a policy in line with the State's requirements.

The Bill provides for section 19 of the principal Act, dealing with the powers of the commissioners, to be amended by adding two subsections. In summary, the first of these will permit the commissioners to—

- (a) purchase land and construct houses or flats for the purpose of sale or rental;
- (b) sell land, either with houses thereon or vacant and enter into building partnerships or consortium arrangements in order to assist the housing situation.

The second additional subclause provides, briefly, that the Governor may grant the commissioners Crown land on such terms as he thinks fit for the purpose of advancing the bank's approved housing policy, and that a municipality may sell or exchange land with the bank for the same purpose.

In the erection of homes all sections of the building industry may have a share providing the interests of the eventual purchaser are preserved by way of cost. Naturally, so long as quality and standards are maintained, jobs will go to the lowest tenderer.

A fair proportion of its building blocks may be sold by the bank, not only to accelerate progress but also to give purchasers the opportunity to make their own arrangements as regards the choice of builder, design, and finance. This will also give the smaller builders an opportunity to participate in the scheme by building homes for individual owners.

All blocks sold will be subject to a suitable building covenant so as to prevent speculation. Where they consider it desirable, the commissioners will endeavour to take some similar precaution in the cases of homes to be sold. Over the first two years of the scheme the bank will earmark \$2,000,000 for the project as a rolling fund. Any profit made from the land will also go into the rolling fund and be available to Western Australian home

builders in perpetuity. The standard of homes will at least be equal to that of the area in which they are erected.

Watching over this and all other aspects will be an advisory committee consisting of an architect well versed in housing construction, a member of a prominent Perth real estate firm, and a senior officer of the bank. The committee will also liaise closely with the Taxation Valuation Department.

Many of the homes to be built will be suitable for those, who, by reason of income, are not eligible for State Housing Commission assistance; but they will, of course, be available to both sectors of the community. The overall result will be that together, the State Housing Commission and the Rural and Industries Bank will meet the needs of a wider group of people than would otherwise be the case.

The bank will set no maximum or minimum prices, but at this stage it is anticipated that the price of the house and the land will range between \$9,000 and \$14,000 dependent on the area and demand. It will not be mandatory for the purchaser to finance his home through the Rural and Industries Bank.

Finance may be arranged through any bank, building society, or similar institution of his choice. The Government is aiming at good homes at reasonable prices and, most importantly, at a significant contribution being made to meet the rising demands for houses caused by development and migration.

Tenders for the first 16 homes have been received but not accepted. The bank is awaiting legislative powers. Generally tenders will be called for the erection of homes in five, 10, 15 and/or 20 lots, depending on such things as street layout. contours, etc.

The Government will sell land to the bank at such price as will achieve the Government's objective of good homes at reasonable prices. At the present time it is difficult to have any firm opinion on the number of homes which will be built each year, but it is thought that a figure of between 80 and 100 is attainable.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Kelly.

COMMONWEALTH AND STATE HOUSING AGREEMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. O'NEIL (East Melville—Minister for Housing) [2.36 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill is designed to enact legislation to ratify a new agreement between the Commonwealth and the State to provide for advances from the Commonwealth to the State for housing purposes for a period of five years from the 1st July, 1966.

The introduction of the Bill provides an opportunity to review for the benefit of members the different Commonwealth-State housing agreements that have been entered into since 1945, and to explain briefly the variations that have occurred in them. In the interests of clarity, I shall refer to the different agreements as the 1945 agreement, the 1956 agreement, and the 1961 agreement.

The purpose of the original Commonwealth State Housing Agreement in 1945 was the provision of rental homes for low and moderate income families; the Commonwealth and the State were to share the losses on the basis of the Commonwealth meeting 60 per cent., and the State 40 per cent. The 1945 agreement also provided for the granting of rental rebates calculated on family income. Initially, homes could not be sold to tenants, but an amendment to the agreement in 1955 enabled this to be done.

The second agreement in 1956 did not include the provision for sharing losses, and the erection of houses and the conditions of sale or rental were left for the State to determine. The 1956 agreement, which was for a period of five years, included a provision that building societies would be allocated 20 per cent. of the funds in the first two years of the life of the agreement, and 30 per cent. for each of the following three years.

The State was also required in the 1956 agreement to allocate up to 5 per cent. of the funds for the building of homes for serving members of the armed forces, if requested by the Commonwealth to do so. Any such allocation was to be matched by a similar sum by the Commonwealth as an additional loan to the State for that year.

A third agreement in 1961, also for a period of five years, was basically on the same conditions as the 1956 agreement, with the exception that not less than 30 per cent. of the funds each year was to be allocated to building societies.

The Bill before the House provides for a further agreement for five years, and the conditions for the erection, sale, and letting of dwellings are again to be determined by the State. The main purpose of the 1966 agreement is still to provide homes of reasonable size and standard for the low and moderate income group of families.

Money advanced by the Commonwealth will continue to be at a concessional interest rate, this currently being fixed at 1 per cent. below the long-term Commonwealth bond rate.

Briefly, the amendments contained in this Bill are that the definition of "member of the Forces" is extended to include "a member of the Forces for the purposes of the Repatriation (Special Overseas Service) Act 1962-65." Such members are those who serve in South Vietnam or Malaysia, or any other area that may subsequently be called a "special area".

In the 1956 and 1961 agreements it was necessary, before building blocks of flats exceeding three storeys, to obtain the agreement of the Commonwealth Minister for Housing. This restriction has been deleted in the 1966 agreement.

Mr. Graham: Three cheers!

Mr. O'NEIL: Houses for serving members of the armed forces were previously restricted to dwellings of the size and standard normally erected by the State. This provision has been amended in the present Bill to enable the building of houses that accord with, but do not exceed, the scales and standards set out in the services scales and standards of accommodation for the time being issued under the authority of the Department of Defence.

This amendment was deemed necessary because members of the forces were subject to transfers; and the provision of additional items, such as built-in cupboards and furniture and, in some cases, garages or carports, avoided unnecessary transport of furniture. Any arrangement as to standards to be adopted is subject to agreement between the Commonwealth Minister

and the State Minister.

To facilitate assistance to home builders in country areas where there is no existing building society, there was provision in previous agreements for a proportion of the home builders' fund to be made available to a Government lending institution, subject to the consent each year of the Commonwealth Minister. In Western Australia, portion of each year's funds has previously been made available in country areas through the Rural and Industries Bank.

The amendment in this Bill provides for the institution to be approved by the Commonwealth Minister, and once approved the approval would be for the five years covered by the agreement, thus obviating the need for annual approvals. Funds allocated under this provision are intended to be made available for the purchase of homes in the more remote rural towns where it is deemed impracticable to establish and operate building societies.

The amendments, as proposed in this Bill, were discussed by the various State Ministers at the Housing Ministers' conference in Adelaide in March, 1966, and were generally agreed upon. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Graham.

PAINTERS' REGISTRATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Works) [2.43 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Painters' Registration Act was designed principally to ensure that whenever a registered painter is employed by a member of the public, that person will know he is obtaining the services of a person qualified to carry out painting work. This is so, because all persons who carry out this type of work to a value greater than \$100 must be registered under the Act by the Painters' Registration Board, and those who are so registered must satisfy the board as to their competency as painters.

Recently it has been noted that painters not so registered have been designating themselves "registered painters", although they are not registered under the Act. Consequently, when a member of the public employs a person calling himself a registered painter, he has no knowledge of whether this person is competent to do the work. As the Act stands at present there is no way of preventing a person from calling himself a registered painter even though he is not registered under the Act, and this Bill is designed specifically to prevent anyone from holding himself out to be a registered painter when, in fact, he is not so registered.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Graham.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE ERADICATION FUND ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [2.46 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This is a small, but nonetheless important, amendment to the Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication Fund Act, yet to be proclaimed. The Commonwealth and all States have passed legislation for the establishment of a foot and mouth disease eradication fund to compensate owners of animals and property destroyed to eradicate or prevent the spread of this disease.

These Acts would be proclaimed simultaneously in the event of an outbreak of the disease anywhere in Australia. The fund would be subscribed on a proportionate basis by the Commonwealth and States.

The Exotic Diseases Committee recommended to the Standing Committee on Agriculture in April, 1965, that the relevant legislation be widened to cover, besides foot and mouth disease, two other diseases—vesicular exanthema of swine, and vesicular stomatitis which is a disease of horses, cattle, and swine. These diseases are clinically indistinguishable from foot and mouth disease, and both cause similar symptoms and lesions. The three conditions can only be differentiated by inoculation and laboratory tests.

In dealing with foot and mouth disease for purposes of eradication, it is essential that speedy and drastic measures be implemented at the earliest possible moment. It could be disastrous if action were delayed to establish a differential diagnosis to determine whether the disease was, in fact, foot and mouth disease, vesicular exanthema, or vesicular stomatitis. An outbreak of any of these diseases must therefore be regarded as foot and mouth disease, and dealt with accordingly until proved otherwise.

The Standing Committee on Agriculture in July, 1965, adopted the recommendation that these two diseases be included in all foot and mouth legislation, and this has been done as far as the Commonwealth Act is concerned. It is now proposed that the legislation in this State be amended to provide a definition of "foot and mouth disease" to include the two diseases, vesicular exanthema and vesicular stomatitis.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Norton.

MAIN ROADS ACT AMENDMENT BILL Second Reading

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Works) [2.51 p.m.]; I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This amending Bill aims to amend the Act in three separate areas and, logically enough, I intend to deal with each of these areas in the order in which they appear in the Bill.

Firstly, the Act as it stands permits the Main Roads Department to employ civil engineering cadets only. There is no provision which allows the employment and training of cadets in any other professional category. As members will realise, many different types of professional people are employed by the department and much difficulty has been experienced in the past in obtaining sufficient numbers of these people to carry out the ever-growing work of the department.

To help overcome this problem this amendment is designed to enable the Main Roads Department to train cadets in various fields. This, of course, will be of considerable advantage to the department in that it will help to overcome the shortage of trained professional men, but it will have advantages far beyond this, inasmuch as it will provide more opportunities for young people to obtain an education which perhaps, because of financial limitations, they would not otherwise be able to obtain. At this time in our history, Western Australia desperately needs highly trained men, particularly in the engineering and related fields. Therefore this amendment will benefit not only the department, and

those students who take these cadetships, but also the State as a whole.

Secondly, this Bill is designed to give the Commissioner of Main Roads certain powers to carry out roadworks on any road in the metropolitan area, provided that such works are financed from the department's share of traffic fee funds. This provision is almost identical with that which existed previously in the Act as subsection (4) of section 34. Section 34 contained a number of redundant financial provisions and the entire section was repealed when an amendment was made to the Traffic Act by Act No. 67 of 1964.

The new section proposed in this Bill is almost identical with the subsection that was struck out. Although the commissioner has continued to provide finance for traffic fee roads under the authority of section 14 of the Traffic Act, some doubt has been expressed as to the commissioner's powers to carry out roadworks under this section. To place the matter beyond any doubt, it is considered desirable that the authority be specifically stated in the Main Roads Act as was formerly the case before the relevant section to which I have referred was repealed.

The third provision made in this amending Bill is to prevent any structures being placed on areas which are part of an access road, without the prior consent of the Commissioner of Main Roads. If the commissioner does not have this power, it is possible that expensive services may be placed over or under these access-ways and, when structural alterations have to be made, such services will have to be pulled down or replaced, and this could prove to be extremely costly. Since the commissioner will be in a position to know if any alterations are likely to be made to the access-way or access road, and what such alterations are likely to be, it is most desirable that his approval be given before such services are commenced. In this way, costly future alterations can be avoided.

Where any organisation does erect a structure over or under such an access road without the commissioner's prior approval, the commissioner will be empowered to order the removal of such structure, and, if it is not removed, the commissioner may then remove the structure himself at the cost of the organisation which erected it.

There are two other minor provisions in the Bill, one being to define the present interpretation of "local authority"—this is done merely to bring the interpretation into line with the Local Government Act of 1960—and the final amendment is merely consequent on the amendment I first mentioned regarding cadets.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Tonkin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition).

FARMERS' DEBTS ADJUSTMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—Minister for Lands) [2.57 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

In moving the second reading of this Bill I would like to inform the House that the measure provides for the continuance of the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act for a further period of five years, terminating on the 31st March, 1972. The parent Act came into operation in 1931 for a set term and has been extended by successive Governments, from time to time. The last extension covered a five-year period which will expire on the 31st March, 1967.

The Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act provides the machinery enabling a farmer to apply for a stay order whilst his case is investigated by the director and submitted to the trustees when warranted. It is complementary to the Rural Relief Fund Act through which advances are made for adjustment of farmers' debts in instances of national emergency.

As the relief fund Act provides that farmers must first apply under the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act, it is necessary to extend the latter if the Rural Relief Fund Act is to continue to function and the trust funds be available for continuous use for debt adjustment purposes.

Assistance given by the trustees amounted to \$2,583,460, most of which was granted by the Commonwealth Government. The Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act has been of considerable assistance to primary producers, and it is considered advisable that it remain on the Statute book.

Perhaps I might give a recent example of Commonwealth emergency assistance in the Eastern States of Australia. There has been a drought in northern New South Wales and in Queensland, and farmers generally, have been placed in a very difficult financial position.

I think those who listened to the Commonwealth Treasurer (Mr. McMahon) delivering his Budget would have heard that special Commonwealth assistance was granted to New South Wales and Queensland in regard to drought-affected areas and to those individuals who might have suffered because of drought.

Let us hope we in Western Australia do not have a drought or any other national emergency which will adversely affect our primary producers. However, we have to guard against any such eventuality and if any such circumstance arises, such as the drought I instanced, then the Commonwealth Government would be approached for funds as it was during the depression years. These funds would be placed to the credit of the Rural Relief Fund under

the Rural Relief Fund Act, and then primary producers would be entitled to apply for assistance to the Director of the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Board.

I just mentioned that drought because it is occurring in the other States at the moment, and whilst we hope that no such circumstance will occur in Western Australia we must be ready in case it does. If legislation were not on the Statute book, and especially if Parliament were not in session, then it may be difficult first of all to obtain the financial accommodation from the Commonwealth; and, secondly, to arrange the means of distributing it.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Kelly.

POTATO GROWING INDUSTRY TRUST FUND ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [3.3 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now a read a second time.

This small amendment to the Potato Growing Industry Trust Fund Act has been found necessary as a result of the introduction of decimal currency on the 14th February this year.

The Potato Growing Industry Trust Fund was established in 1948 to meet the costs and expenses of measures taken to prevent or eradicate pests and diseases affecting potatoes; also for the payment of compensation to growers as a result of these measures. In addition, the fund is used for the promotion and encouragement of scientific research for the improvement and transport of potato crops, and any other purpose considered by the Minister to be beneficial to the potato industry.

The trust fund is financed by a levy deducted by the Potato Marketing Board from potato growers' accounts. The balance in the trust fund at the 31st July, 1966, was \$111,145. This fund meets the expenses of those activities carried out by the Potato Growers' Association for the benefit of growers—these expenses amounted to \$9,148 in 1965-66—also the cost of the potato research programme, at present \$3,800, which the growers have requested be increased for additional research into new varieties of potatoes.

In addition, the growers have plans for sending an expert, possibly from the Department of Agriculture, overseas to study the potato industry in other countries. Meanwhile a reasonable balance must be maintained in the fund to be used to eradicate disease outbreaks and compensate growers if necessary.

At the present time the maximum contribution by growers is 2d. or 1.666c for each hundredweight of potatoes. This is a difficult calculation and, in order to facilitate deductions by the Potato Marketing

Board, it is desired to amend the Act to increase the maximum contribution to 2c per hundredweight of potatoes.

The advisory committee of the trust fund recommended this increase to be included in the schedule to the Decimal Currency Act, 1965, but it was excluded as it represented an increase in charges and it was physically possible to deduct—when multiplied as a rate—from growers' accounts.

Since the introduction of decimal currency, however, the matter of the levy has been carefully considered by the State Executive of the Potato Growers' Association. After being referred to all potato growing zones, it was confirmed that the association expressly desired that the levy be altered to 2c per hundredweight. It is therefore proposed to amend the Act to increase the trust fund levy from 2d. to 2c.

The opportunity has been taken at this time to substitute appropriate amounts in decimal currency for references in the old currency at present contained in the Potato Growing Industry Trust Fund Act.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Hall.

STATE HOUSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. O'NEIL (East Melville—Minister for Housing) [3.8 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purposes of the amendments proposed in this Bill are—

Firstly: to overcome an anomaly with respect to eligibility to purchase dwellings in country areas.

Secondly: to increase the permissible house cost or value where advances are made on the security of second mortgages.

Thirdly: to permit advances by way of second mortgages to be made to the extent of 25 per centum of moneys (a) appropriated by Parliament, and (b) borrowed by the commission from sources such as the raising of debentures.

Fourthly: to enable the commission to administer the Commonwealth and State housing agreements of 1961 and 1966.

The Act defines a "worker" as a person in receipt of an income not exceeding \$2,632 per annum plus \$50 per annum for each dependent child under 16 years of age, with a proviso covering dwellers north of the 26th parallel. This income limit is subject to basic wage variations.

No income limit is defined for applicants for houses erected under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, but commission policy is to adopt the State Housing Act limitation of \$2,632 for the metropolitan area only, and to allow \$3,146 for areas outside the metropolitan area, but south of the 26th parallel; and \$4,213 for areas north of the 26th parallel.

This policy creates problems when the commission builds houses in country areas with State Housing Act funds, as the houses may only be sold to applicants receiving not more than \$2,632 per annum; whereas in the same town houses built with Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement funds may be allocated to applicants earning up to \$3,146 per annum.

To overcome this anomaly it is considered that provision should be made in the State Housing Act for the Minister, on the recommendation of the commission, to fix a higher income for persons outside the metropolitan region—as defined in the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act—similar to the provisions at present in the Act for residents north of the 26th parallel.

The amendment will enable the commission to build houses in country areas with either or both State Housing Act and Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement funds, and to sell or let the houses on similar conditions to those at present applying to homes erected under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement.

Section 60A of the Act at present empowers the commission to make advances up to \$2,000 by way of a second mortgage—provided the cost of the house to be erected, or the value of the house to be purchased, does not exceed \$7,000, the value of the land being excluded.

In 1955 the permissible amount was fixed at \$6,000, but due to increasing costs this amount was lifted to \$6,300 in 1961, and \$7,000 in 1964. Persons assisted under this section of the Act are those who arrange a first mortgage privately from a source such as an insurance company, and who desire a second mortgage to bridge the gap between the first mortgage plus deposit and the cost of the dwelling to be erected or purchased.

Private first mortgages are usually at a higher rate of interest than that charged by the commission—this at present being 5g per cent.—and applicants for second mortgages are those who can afford a higher financial commitment.

To encourage applicants to utilise this form of assistance—which conserves commission funds because only a relatively small advance is made in each case—and because of the continuing increase in costs, it is necessary to increase the permissible house cost or value from \$7,000 to \$8,000.

Members will appreciate that second mortgage applications are satisfied by advances of up to \$2,000, whereas houses erected by the commission and sold on a first mortgage basis require advances of up to \$6,000.

There is, therefore, a considerable saving of funds where families, who can afford a higher financial commitment, obtain homes by arranging first mortgages privately and thus need much smaller loans from the commission than is the case where the commission is required to provide the bulk of the finance.

Total advances on the security of second mortgages are limited by the Act to an amount not exceeding 25 per cent. of loan funds appropriated by Parliament each year. As the funds of the commission are now largely raised by the issue of debentures, an amendment is proposed to apply the 25 per cent. limit not only to those funds appropriated by Parliament but also to the money raised by debentures.

The State Housing Act provides for the commission to administer the Commonwealth-State housing agreements of 1945 and 1956. A machinery amendment to the Act is required to enable the commission to administer the 1961 Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, and also the new 1966 agreement.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. May.

BILLS (3): MESSAGES

Appropriations

Messages from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the following Bills:—

- 1. Rural and Industries Bank Act Amendment Bill.
- Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement Bill.
- 3. State Housing Act Amendment Bill.

BRANDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [3.15 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

There are two amendments contained in this Bill to amend the Brands Act. The first one refers to the woolbranding of sheep. At present the requirements are unsatisfactory to the extent that the dimensions of the brands used for this purpose are not stipulated under the Act.

As a consequence, very small and closely spaced brands are often used. These are difficult to decipher even when freshly applied and, upon fading rapidly, become illegible. This amendment therefore provides that the minimum overall measurements for every woolbrand be 7 in. in length and 3 in. in width, and each letter or numeral—whether upright or hoizontal—to be not less than 3 in. in height or length. The space between any adjacent letter or numeral is to be not less than 3 in.

The second amendment also deals with the woolbranding of sheep and particularly of sheep under the age of six months, which at present are not required to be branded. It is considered desirable that all sheep, irrespective of age, should be woolbranded immediately after shearing. It is not unusual to see freshly sheared unbranded lambs at Midland and other markets side by side with sheared and legibly-branded grown sheep. This is not in the best interests of the administration of the Brands Act and is open to criticism. Whilst some of the unbranded lambs appear to be more than six months old, this is invariably disputed by the vendor.

There is no objection to the exception of sucker lambs which are sold for slaughter in the wool, but where lambs are retained on the property and are sheared it is logical to require them to be branded as in the case of adult sheep. Also, the proviso in the Act exempting the woolbranding after shearing of stud sheep registered in any recognised stud or flock book is retained.

I would like to explain this situation to the House. Where stud sheep are concerned, and dealing firstly with British breeds, it is required by the Stud Stock Association, or the stud under which the particular breed is registered, that each animal to be tattooed in the ear so that the identity of each animal is assured. Where it applies to merinos, in some instances the merino has a tag in the ear which, of course, also identifies the sheep. It is possible to recognise them at any place or at any time. So this proviso which exempts the woolbranding of stud sheep still applies because the sheep, as I have mentioned, are identified because of the special branding or tattooing, whichever the case may be.

Finally, the opportunity has been taken at this time to amend all monetary references to corresponding references expressed in terms of decimal currency.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Brady.

COUNTRY HIGH SCHOOL HOSTELS AUTHORITY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. LEWIS (Moore—Minister for Education) [3.22 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The legislation which established the Country High School Hostels Authority also provided, in a general way, for the appointment of committees by the authority and for the delegation of powers and functions to those committees. It has been found in practice, however, that it

would be desirable to prescribe these delegated powers and functions in more detail by way of regulation.

The Crown Law Department is doubtful whether the present provisions of the Act empower the making of such regulations, and this amendment has, therefore, been brought down to put the issue beyond doubt. It will, in essence, permit the promulgation of regulations enabling the authority or its duly appointed committee to undertake the general management of its hostels.

The proposed regulations would provide for-

- The engagement and dismissal of hostel staff and the determination of their powers and duties;
- (2) the regulation and control of admission, suspension and expulsion of students and their conduct within the hostels; and
- (3) provision for the maintenance and enforcement of discipline.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. W. Hegney.

GRAIN POOL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning-Minister for Agriculture) [3.25 p.m.l: I move-

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill seeks to amend the Grain Pool Act to enable a linseed pool to be established in Western Australia. The growing of linseed as a crop in pasture rotation has become a new agricultural development, particularly in the Esperance area. I might say, also, that it extends along the south coast and as far west as Mt. Barker, but this amending legislation has particular reference to the Esperance area where most of the linseed is grown at the present time.

Mr. Jamieson: I don't like the move to further socialisation; it is no good to me.

Mr. NALDER: Because of the climatic conditions and soil types, the Department of Agriculture expects the major part of the 2,000 to 3,000-acre crops to be sown within 20 miles of the Port of Esperance, and economic yields to growers are expected.

Linseed grown in this area in recent years was sent for processing to a Perth mill, which has subsequently ceased operations. At the present time, there appears to be little prospect of disposing of the local crop in Australia, as the growers in New South Wales are able to completely satisfy the home market. Growers were, therefore, faced with seeking an outlet for their linseed and, to this end, the Esperance Linseed Growers' Association sought the assistance of the trustees of the Grain Pool of W.A.

Samples of linseed sent abroad received enthusiastic praise for their quality. Also, inquiries made overseas by the Grain Pool indicated a buoyant market, with Japan as the logical market for the Esperance product; and the trustees are satisfied that the marketing of linseed can be done efficiently and profitably. In order to conduct a pool similar to those operating for oats and barley, arrangements were made to secure finance for a first advance to the growers.

The Rural and Industries Bank advises that, subject to the appropriate amendment to the Grain Pool Act, and subject to the seasonal investigation of overseas markets, the Government could safely approve the conduct of pools for linseed grown in the Esperance district, and guarantee repayment of borrowings for an approved first advance to growers.

In view of the limited acreage involved, it is expected that the linseed pool's, borrowings each year would be unlikely to exceed \$100,000. In addition, the Rural Credits Department of the Reserve Bank has indicated that there would be no difficulty in adding linseed and linseed products to the second schedule of the Reserve Bank Act, as commodities whose marketing the bank could assist.

Although not a very large section of primary industry, linseed growing can be a worth-while export product if attention is given to its marketing overseas. A linseed pool will achieve this and will also greatly assist growers of linseed, particularly in the Esperance area.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Kelly.

AERIAL SPRAYING CONTROL BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [3.30 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The principal objectives of this Bill are to provide greater protection for crops and livestock from aerial spraying operations, particularly with herbicides, and to ensure that operators are in a position to meet claims if responsible for damage.

The Bill seeks to establish control of aerial spraying so that agricultural chemicals do not fall accidentaily on land outside the area to be sprayed, with detrimental effect on crops. There are also requirements for the compulsory insurance of sprayers to ensure their ability to compensate for any accidental damage they may cause by drift of spray to crops other than those of the person whose land is being sprayed.

The need for this legislation has been brought about by the post-war development of agricultural aviation in Australia, which has rapidly expanded in recent years. Last year approximately 16,000,000 acres of agricultural land throughout Australia were top-dressed or sprayed by aircraft, and it is estimated that more than 20,000,000 acres will be fertilised and sprayed from the air by 1970.

In Western Australia last year, 1,000,000 acres were sprayed with herbicides from the air plus 210,000 acres with insecticides in the same way. In addition, 700,000 acres of agricultural land were top-dressed with fertilisers from aircraft. The fertiliser was, in the main, superphosphate. With improvement in equipment and greater efficiency resulting in reduced charges, it is expected that there will be a continued expansion in this method of spraying and fertilising over the next 20 years.

This new technique has been accompanied by instances of damage being caused to susceptible crops and livestock when they receive the drift of sprays and other agricultural chemicals. To date, the main cause of damage has been weedicide sprays, but other agricultural chemicals such as insecticides and fertilisers, could also cause loss to crops or livestock. a result of this increasing incidence of damage, many primary-producer organisations throughout Australia requested legislation to control the distribution of agricultural chemicals from the air. It was then brought to the notice of all organisations thought to have an interest in, or to be affected by, this problem and this resulted in the necessity for legislative control of aerial spraying operations receiving wide support.

It was realised that there was a need for pilots of aircraft to be thoroughly familiar with the effect of the materials they were likely to use, and further that there should be some control over the methods of application. Furthermore, it was realised that ample provision should be made for compensation in cases where susceptible crops were damaged as a result of aerial spraying.

Various committees were set up in the States, particularly in Queensland and in Western Australia. The reports of these committees were considered by the Standing Committee on Agriculture and the Australian Agricultural Council, and it was agreed that most of the problems associated with the aerial application of weedicides and other chemicals could be overcome by—

- (a) Improvements in the flying ability of pilots engaged in aerial agriculture;
- (b) a statutory requirement that such pilots should have a basic knowledge of the proper use of the agricultural chemicals used for such purposes and the hazards associated with them; and

(c) the introduction of legislation to control spraying in or near areas having a concentration of susceptible crops or livestock.

With regard to the first two items, the Department of Civil Aviation is now issuing to pilots wishing to engage in the aerial agricultural industry a comprehensive flying manual and additional operational handbooks, and is requiring them to obtain a special license. A manual on agricultural chemicals, prepared as a co-operative undertaking by the States' Departments of Agriculture and the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry is also on issue.

The Australian Agricultural Council also agreed that the regulations for training pilots in the use of these materials and the legislation for control should be uniform throughout Australia as planes and pilots do move from State to State. a result of this decision, the Standing Committee on Agriculture arranged for the preparation of a draft Bill which could be used as a basis for legislation in the individual States. This Bill was then drafted by the Chief Parliamentary Draftsman in Western Australia in consultation with officers of the Department of Agriculture. Following review by the Committee of Attorneys-General, the draft was endorsed by the Australian Agricultural Council and referred to the States for individual action.

The Bill now before the House follows closely the provisions of the draft uniform Bill. These proposals were made known to aerial agricultural associations, primary-producer organisations and other interested bodies, and their comments were invited; so this Bill has received the general agreement of all those vitally concerned in these control measures. I shall now outline the provisions contained in the various clauses of the Bill.

Firstly, the various terms used throughout the Bill, such as "aerial spraying", "agricultural chemical", "spray drift", etc., are clearly defined by the interpretation clause.

Clause 6 prohibits aerial spraying unless the pilot in command of an aircraft is the holder of the required certificate. Provision for the application for, and the issue of, these certificates to pilots is contained in clause 7. In addition to holding a pilot's license with an agricultural rating—that is, a special knowledge of flying under the conditions of aerial agriculture—pilots wishing to use agricultural chemicals will be required to obtain a certificate from the Director of Agriculture.

The certificate will be issued after the pilot has passed an examination based on the chemical rating manual. This manual has been prepared specifically for commercial agricultural pilots, to provide

basic information of the nature, usefulness, and limitations of the chemicals employed in aerial agriculture, their effects on plants and animals, and the conditions under which they should and should not be used. A certificate issued in any other State would be valid in Western Australia, as provided in clause 16.

Clause 8 allows a person whose application for a certificate or renewal has been refused, varied, suspended or cancelled by the director, to appeal to a stipendiary magistrate in the court of petty sessions.

Clause 9 provides for the Minister to declare any district a hazardous area, within which all aerial agriculture may be prohibited. The declaration may contain a restriction on certain classes of materials and a limitation on the times of their application. Districts likely to be proclaimed are those containing concentrations of highly-susceptible crops, such as vine-growing districts, and deciduous-fruit and vegetable-growing areas.

Clause 10 contains a provision for the lodging of security by the owner of any aerial spraying aircraft, against damage arising out of aerial spraying. The owners are required to lodge a security of not less than \$30,000 with the director, in order to protect persons who may suffer any material loss or damage as a result of the application of sprays by their aircraft.

Under clauses 12 and 13, pilots are required to maintain detailed records of all operations for a period of two years after the spraying is carried out. These records are to be made available to the director on demand. If damage to crops, trees, pastures, or other growth or animal life is reported to the director, clause 14 authorises the director, or his officer, to enter on the land and make an inspection to ascertain the extent of the damage and also to ascertain possible sources of spray drift. When a person alleges damage from aerial spraying or spray drift, he shall notify the director in writing within 14 days of observing the damage and before crops are harvested or picked, or before plants or animals affected are destroyed. An authorised officer will then make an inspection and submit a report, and, together with the owner's records, this may be used in any action for damages.

Clause 15 states that if a person fails to notify the director of the damage, court action can only be taken under special circumstances. Under Clause 19, the Governor may make regulations for the effectual carrying out of the provisions of the Act.

It is expected that with the putting into operation of the control measures contained in this Bill, and the requirements for the examination, and the issue, of certificates to pilots, there will be very few cases of damage caused by aerial spraying operations in the future.

I am sure this Bill will be particularly welcomed by people in those vine-growing.

fruit-growing, and vegetable-growing areas where they are aware of the tremendous damage that aerial spraying can do to crops. Also, with the greatly increased activity by aerial spraying operators of recent years, a Bill of this nature becomes even more essential. I understand Victoria has already introduced this uniform legislation, and the Commonwealth is about to do so in the present session. The other States, as agreed, will be introducing these measures shortly.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Jamieson.

House adjourned at 4.42 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 23rd August, 1966

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

QUESTIONS (2): ON NOTICE

BOATS

Fairway Buoyant Apparatus Mark II: Capacity

 The Hon, J. DOLAN (for The Hon, R. Thompson) asked the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna;

In view of the incorrect answer given by the Minister in reply to my questions regarding life rafts on Thursday, the 4th August, 1966, would the Minister state the correct supporting capacities of the Rigid Fairway Buoyant Apparatus Mark II, and advise if this life raft is going to be acceptable as equipment on fishing boats whose crew members number between two and 12 persons?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied: It is not considered that an incorrect answer was given. The