

parliamentary debates of this kind, not all the debate is reported. We have to rely upon the good sense of those who control the newspapers to report what is said in a balanced way, in order that everyone concerned should be given a fair deal.

So I would ask hon. members to express their views when the next opportunity offers, and tell us what they think is fair and reasonable in the circumstances. But I sincerely hope and trust that after the motion has been debated adequately, it will be allowed to stand over without a vote being taken. I think it would be most unfortunate if we lined up on this issue, particularly in a party division. That would certainly do the Esperance Plains people no good at all. It would probably further increase their difficulties and reduce their chances of raising capital. It would do Western Australia no good, and it would certainly do Esperance no good at all.

On motion by Mr. Perkins, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 10.33 p.m.*

## Legislative Council

Thursday, the 16th October, 1958.

### CONTENTS.

	Page
<b>AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT</b> .....	1525
<b>QUESTIONS ON NOTICE :</b>	
Albany regional hospital—	
Fares and travelling time paid to employees .....	1525
Tabling of plans .....	1525
Railways, re-opening of Bonnie Rock line	1525
Sub-junior students, number of white and native enrolments .....	1526
<b>BILLS :</b>	
Electoral Act Amendment (No. 3), application of Standing Order No. 242 .....	1526
Legal Practitioners Act Amendment (No. 2), 3r. ....	1526
Western Australian Aged Sailors and Soldiers' Relief Fund Act Amendment—	
2r. ....	1526
Com., report .....	1526
Tuberculosis (Commonwealth and State Arrangement)—	
2r. ....	1526
Com., report .....	1527
Bank Holidays Act Amendment, 1r. ....	1527
Weights and Measures Act Amendment—	
2r. ....	1527
Com., report .....	1528
Totalisator Duty Act Amendment, 2r. ....	1528
Local Government, 2r. ....	1528

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

The PRESIDENT: I have received from the Auditor General a copy of his report on the Treasurer's statement of the Public Accounts for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1958. It will be laid on the Table of the House.

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE.

#### ALBANY REGIONAL HOSPITAL.

##### *Fares and Travelling Time Paid to Employees.*

1. The Hon. J. M. THOMSON asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) How many employees engaged on the Albany regional hospital building are receiving fares and travelling time?

(2) What is the calculated radius from the Albany post office to the new hospital site?

(3) What is the distance by road from the post office to site?

(4) If fares and travelling time are being allowed how are the rates calculated?

(5) What does the extra money per man amount to per week?

(6) What is the total amount paid for fares and travelling time from commencement of work on the Albany regional hospital building until the last pay period?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND replied:

(1) One hundred and twenty-eight at the present time, in accordance with Clause 18 of the Building Trades Award.

(2) Two miles to centre of site.

(3) Two and one half miles.

(4) Four shillings per day in accordance with Clause 18 of Building Trades Award.

(5) One pound.

(6) Two thousand one hundred and sixty-three pounds.

##### *Tabling of Plans.*

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

Will the Minister have laid upon the Table of the House the plans of the Albany regional hospital for the period of two sitting days?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND replied: Yes.

### RAILWAYS.

#### *Re-opening of Bonnie Rock Line.*

3. The Hon. C. R. ABBEY asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) Will the inquiry by Mr. A. G. Smith (Royal Commissioner) into the possible re-opening of the Bonnie Rock railway line, take place before harvesting commences in the area served by this line?

(2) If the Royal Commissioner recommends the re-opening of this line, will the Minister take steps to act immediately

on the recommendation to enable the large quantities of grain expected to be harvested in the area to be handled expeditiously?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND replied:

(1) The Royal Commissioner hopes to inquire in that district during the latter half of November.

(2) Due consideration will be given to all aspects of the Royal Commissioner's report when presented.

### SUB-JUNIOR STUDENTS.

*Number of White and Native Enrolments.*

4. The Hon. G. E. JEFFERY asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) What is the total number of pupils enrolled in schools in Western Australia up to, and including, the sub-junior year?

(2) Of this total, what number are in the sub-junior year?

(3) In respect of the numbers in No. (1) and No. (2), what number are natives, as defined by the Native Welfare Act?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND replied:

(1) Only Government schools available to date (July Census 1958):

103,955 (excluding handicapped children).

(2) Only Government schools available to date (July Census 1958):

7,374 (excluding handicapped children).

(3) Not available. As the Education Department does not differentiate between natives and non-natives, statistics relating to this question are not required of the schools so the information is not known.

### ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 3).

*Application of Standing Order No. 242.*

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban) [2.36]: Before you proceed with the Orders of the Day, Sir, would you be kind enough to inform the House whether Order of the Day No. 9 (Electoral Act Amendment Bill (No. 3)) passed through the third reading stage with an absolute majority of the hon. members of the Legislative Assembly?

The PRESIDENT: I have just received a copy of the Bill, but there is no indication as to whether the third reading was passed with an absolute majority of the hon. members of the Legislative Assembly or not, because there is no certificate attached to the Bill.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am of the opinion that the Bill is of a constitutional nature and that if it does not conform with Standing Order No. 242, and if it has not been passed by the Legislative Assembly

with an absolute majority of members voting, it cannot be proceeded with by this House. Therefore, I ask that you give a ruling on the matter.

The PRESIDENT: I am not prepared to give a ruling at the moment. I shall ask that consideration of this Bill be postponed until Tuesday next, and in the meantime I will consult the Crown Law authorities on the question.

### LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2).

Read a third time and returned to the Assembly with an amendment.

### WESTERN AUSTRALIAN AGED SAILORS AND SOLDIERS' RELIEF FUND ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

*Second Reading.*

Order of the Day read for the resumption of the debate from the previous day.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

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

### TUBERCULOSIS (COMMONWEALTH AND STATE ARRANGEMENT) BILL.

*Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North—in reply) [2.44]: I have here the official report from the department in connection with the matters raised by the hon. Dr. Hislop. It is not as comprehensive as it could be, owing to the little time available in which to prepare the reply. It is as follows:—

Each year the annual report of the Commissioner of Public Health is presented to both Houses of Parliament. This includes not only the commissioner's summary of developments in relation to the incidence and treatment of tuberculosis, but also detailed reports and figures regarding notifications, treatments, deaths, and the associated activities of the tuberculosis control branch presented by the director of the branch and his officers.

The register of tuberculosis cases is a record of persons notified to the branch as suffering from the disease. Names are removed only in cases of death, cure, movement from the State, or when the person has shown negative results to tests for such a period that, having regard to the circumstances, justifies the assumption that

they are unlikely to break down and be a menace to the health of others. The register is not a record of active cases in the community at any one time.

The information presented in the annual reports is available to members who are keenly interested in this subject and is far too voluminous to present as an introductory speech to a measure of this kind.

It may fairly be stated that the existence of this agreement has materially contributed to the great success of measures taken in this State to relegate tuberculosis to a disease of relatively slight public health significance. By continuance of the present organisation, which is continually keeping abreast of the most advanced aids in this fight, it is hoped that this happy position will be achieved in a short period of years.

I associate myself with the remarks of the hon. Dr. Hislop, particularly with regard to the submission of a progressive report relating to expenditure over the past 10 years, the total expenditure involved within the State on a matter such as this, and the results obtained through such expenditure. It is quite reasonable for a forecast to be made in a case of this nature by the preparation of a budget for expenditure for the coming five years, so that comparisons can be made readily by hon. members.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

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

#### **BANK HOLIDAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

Received from the Assembly and, on motion by the hon. G. E. Jeffery, read a first time.

#### **WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

*Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

**THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON** (South-West) [2.50]: This is another Bill to ratify an agreement between the State and the Commonwealth, and it seems to have become habitual that any Bill of this nature is treated as a foregone conclusion. The amount of information given to us is sparse in the extreme. I am not criticising the Minister or the hon. member who finds himself in the position of having to introduce the measure, because I feel that he is as much a victim of this attitude as we are.

The habit seems to be growing that any matter at all that deals with an agreement between the Commonwealth and this State is expected to be given our mark of approval just for the asking, and no-one should be sufficiently presumptuous to request information with regard to the matter. Here again is a measure which I should say, from the little information I have been able to obtain, there is probably every justification for passing.

We are fortunate in this country that, over the years, weights and measures have been so standardised that we have virtually taken them for granted. Many countries are not in the same fortunate position which is why sometimes we find that migrants from certain parts of the world barter, being firmly convinced that although they might be asked to pay 4s. 6d. for a pound of butter, it is not a pound of butter at all. Where they come from, in some cases, the standards by which their weights and measures are set are not policed as well as ours and so, despite the fact that the shopkeeper in their country might contend that it is a pound, they would probably find when they arrived home and weighed it on accurate scales that it was only 14 or 15 ozs.

The fact that we set such great store by the complete and absolute accuracy of our standards has had its effect on our normal trading, and the desire behind this agreement to arrive at standards which are set on the Commonwealth-wide basis, is very admirable.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It is a pity they are not on a world-wide basis.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: The hon. Mr. Griffith has just pinched my next line. It is a pity they are not on a world-wide basis; and indeed when we are purchasing machinery we often wish that quite a number of mechanical measures and gauges were on a world-wide basis, as the purchase of spare parts and odd things of all kinds would be much easier. Scientists, of course, find when they are dealing with very small measures, accuracy becomes more important still and it has become increasingly necessary that a careful standard should be set.

This Bill is a step in the right direction in that it does help to establish standards on a national basis so that advantage can be taken of the work that has been done by the C.S.I.R.O. But I do feel that I should add my voice to those other hon. members who have spoken with regard to the Bill being introduced to ratify the agreement between the Commonwealth and the State Governments, and I consider that we should be presented with more detail and with a better prepared account of what has taken place and what is intended. We cannot keep abreast of everything that goes on, and I feel that it is unfair, primarily, to

the hon. member asked to introduce the measure, that more information is not available, and unfair also to all of those hon. members who have to vote on the issue; despite which, I support the measure.

**THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE** (North—in reply) [2.55]: Quite briefly, I thank the hon. member for his remarks and I will see that they are conveyed to the appropriate Minister.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee*

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

### **TOTALISATOR DUTY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

#### *Second Reading.*

**THE HON. H. C. STRICKLAND** (Minister for Railways—North) [2.57] in moving the second reading said: This is a very small measure. It has the objective of giving the racing clubs in the metropolitan area an additional, or larger share, of the totalisator tax. The legislation stems from a request by the Western Australian Trotting Association for a greater share of the investments made on totalisators on jackpot and quinella betting. Most hon. members probably will be aware that the parent Act provides that 13½ per cent. shall be deducted from the gross takings of each totalisator, that is, from total investment. Of this, 7½ per cent. is payable as tax to the Government, and 6 per cent. is retained by the racing and trotting authorities.

On Monday last, the Trotting Association in a further interview with the Minister in charge of the Betting Control Board asked that this increase be extended to cover doubles betting. The deputation explained that the mode of betting was such that it had been necessary to do away with doubles bookmakers, and there was now no doubles betting at all. The association said it was now, however, in a position to put up another proposition. It considered the quinella was here to stay, but said that jackpots ebbed and flowed and were at present fading rapidly. Where £1,000 was once invested in a night on the jackpot, it was now down to £300 to £400. The association was now anxious to reinstate doubles betting but to use the medium of the totalisator instead of bookmakers. The deputation considered the jackpot would fall away to nothing, and could then be replaced by the doubles. The Minister advised that he would place this matter before the Treasurer, and it is now under consideration.

The proposal in the Bill is to increase the racing and trotting authorities' share from 6 per cent. to 10 per cent., and

reduce the Government's share from 7½ per cent. to 3½ per cent. Outside a radius of 25 miles from the G.P.O., the clubs, since 1951, have received 10 per cent., and the Government 3½ per cent. In effect, the Bill will bring the distribution of the totalisator tax into general proportions which will operate throughout the State.

Subsequent to this legislation being agreed to by Cabinet, and drafted, a deputation from the W.A. Turf Club waited on the Minister with a further request for assistance. Up to the present time that request has not been dealt with by Cabinet; as yet it has not reached that stage but it is expected that it will do so in the very near future. As a result, there is no need for us to be anxious and hurry the Bill through. We can take our time with it to see whether further amendments are necessary as a result of the representations which have been made by the turf club.

**The Hon. A. F. Griffith:** Do you mean that we can ask for an adjournment for one week?

**The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND:** I have no objection to its being adjourned for a week. I am hopeful that Cabinet will receive and deal with this further request, which has been placed before the Minister controlling the legislation, at an early date—I hope it will reach Cabinet by Monday so that we can have some further information on the matter. If that information is not available in a week's time, we can probably adjourn the measure for a further period. Because we are waiting for this information, there is no great hurry about the Bill.

**The Hon. A. F. Griffith:** We could postpone it for longer than for a week.

**The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND:** I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by the Hon. J. Murray, debate adjourned till the 22nd October.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL**

#### *Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

**THE HON. R. C. MATTISKE** (Metropolitan) [3.4]: There is no necessity for a long speech on the second reading of this measure, because all the various aspects of the Bill were thrashed out at great length last year. Therefore, I shall not waste the time of the House unduly. But I would like to take this opportunity of referring to the possible reasons why the measure is before us again this year; and I should like to quote from the transcript of a broadcast made by the Premier at 6.30 p.m. on Monday, the 2nd December, 1957. He said—

The Local Government Bill was lost in a conference between managers of the two Houses, and was lost because

of the unfair and stubborn stand adopted by one of the managers in the Legislative Council.

Actually the conference had compromised unanimously on the major controversial issues in the Bill, when one of the Council managers tried to have put into the Bill a proposal which he had moved in the Legislative Council and which had been defeated there.

His attempt to get his own proposal into the Bill by a sort of back-door method cannot be too strongly criticised. In effect, he defeated the wishes and the will of all other members of the Legislative Council and of all members in the Legislative Assembly.

The Government will most certainly re-introduce the Local Government Bill next year and it is hoped the Legislative Council member concerned will have developed more sense of proportion in the meantime.

That obviously is the reason for the Premier's re-introducing the Bill this session. I should also like to quote from "The West Australian" of the 29th November, 1957, when, among other things, the Minister for Justice (the hon. E. Nulsen) was reported as having said—

It was lost—

that is referring to the Local Government Bill—

—because one Legislative Councillor insisted on an extra amendment—one that had already been rejected by the House he represented.

Then again, in "The West Australian" of the 15th October of this year, the Minister for Justice was reported as having said—

Replying to an interjection by Watts, Nulsen said that remarks made by a member of the Legislative Council about last year's conference on the Bill were not true. If he (Nulsen) were to mention names and tell the whole story members would be astounded.

On Tuesday last I asked the Minister for Railways to table the re-write of Clause 42 in the Local Government Bill, as submitted to the conference of managers.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: By whom?

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: By the Chief Secretary. The reason why I asked for that re-write to be tabled was so that hon. members of this Chamber could have an opportunity of seeing the reason why the conference broke down. At no stage did I submit anything at all to the conference, or try to force anything through. Clause 42, as it had been passed by this Chamber, was coming up for discussion in due course, after we had previously considered the five major principles of the Bill,

when the Chief Secretary said that, in his opinion, Clause 42 wanted re-writing, and thereupon submitted a re-write.

The PRESIDENT: I think the hon. member should get on to the subject matter of the Bill before the House. At the moment we are not holding an inquiry into what took place last year.

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: My reason for explaining this point—and I shall link it up with the Bill—is to show the necessity for this measure being before the Chamber again this session.

The PRESIDENT: I do not think the hon. member need do that. The Bill is at present before the Chamber, and I do not think there is any necessity for explaining why. It is the contents of the Bill that we are discussing.

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: Very well, Mr. President. When we get to the Committee stage, and we are discussing Clause 42, I hope I will have the opportunity of speaking to that particular clause, and that I will be permitted to give a little of the history concerning it. In the meantime I can only say how much I look forward to the tabling of that re-write so that hon. members will have the opportunity of seeing it.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Were you given a copy of it?

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: I was not given a copy of it at the conference, although I asked for it. As I said at the outset, I shall not labour the debate on this measure, as all the ground has been amply covered previously. I simply say that I support the second reading and hope that the suggestion put forward by the hon. Mr. Watson, for short-circuiting all the amendments which took up so much of the time of the House last session, will be adopted by the House, and by that means we will be able to save a good deal of debate. I formally support the second reading.

On motion by the Hon. H. C. Strickland (Minister for Railways), debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 3.10 p.m.*