

course, affect anyone else. It is entirely to incorporate in accordance with their internal mechanism, if I may use that phrase, the church in Western Australia, that this Bill is presented. I do not think it requires any further explanation.

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

*House adjourned at 12.18 a.m.
(Wednesday).*

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 20th September, 1961

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

Housing in Remote Areas

- The Hon. G. BENNETTS asked the Minister for Mines:
 - Is the Minister aware that the non-availability of suitable accommodation for railway employees who are transferred to remote areas is placing hardship on those employees and causing them much concern?
 - As this particularly applies to married men who are housed in the railway barracks at Merredin whilst their wives and families reside in other parts of the State, will the Minister have inquiries made with a view to overcoming this problem by having further homes—State rental or railway—erected in the district?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- The department seeks to provide housing at remote centres to the degree that the demand and finances will allow.
- The question of providing additional housing accommodation at Merredin has been investigated in conjunction with the State Housing Commission. The commission will complete a total of 17 houses in Merredin in the current financial year.

CHILD MENTAL PATIENTS

Accommodation at Claremont and Guildford

- The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON asked the Minister for Mines:

With reference to questions asked by me on the 10th August, the 18th August, and the 28th September, 1960, relating to the construction of a new mental hospital at Guildford, and further to my question on the 14th September, 1961, will the Minister inform this House—

 - Why, after being in office almost three years, the Government has made no move to alter the distressing conditions which exist regarding children at the Claremont Mental Hospital?
 - What happened to the plan of the Hawke Government to build a mental hospital at Guildford which would have enabled the accommodation of children there within a year of the present Government assuming office in 1959?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) This is not true. Conditions have been improved; but in the meantime, and as I have already indicated, the department is planning to remove all children to a new modern hospital, the preliminary details of which are in course of preparation for forwarding to the Principal Architect. The Minister intends discussing these with Dr. W. S. Maclay, the Principal Medical Officer, Board of Control of the Ministry of Health, United Kingdom, who will arrive here next month.
- (2) This had to be completely revised in the light of new knowledge of hospital organisation in this field, and will result in less cost to the State.

HEALTH EDUCATION COUNCIL

Membership and Representation

3. The Hon. J. G. HISLOP asked the Minister for Local Government:
Who are the members of the Health Education Council and what organisation, if any, does each member represent?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- Mr. W. J. Lucas (Chairman)—nominated by the Minister for Health.
- Dr. A. Barr—British Medical Association.
- Professor C. W. D. Lewis—University of W.A.
- Mrs. P. R. Paterson—Red Cross Society.
- Mr. M. J. Watts—Local Government Association.
- Mr. A. A. Mills—Road Board Association.
- Mr. H. Kahan—Parents & Citizens' Federation.
- Mrs. R. Giles—Perth Newspaper Proprietors' Association.
- Mr. C. J. O'Connor—Australian Broadcasting Commission.
- Mr. R. J. Mercer—Australian Federation of Commercial Broadcasting Stations.
- Mr. L. G. Severn—Employees' Representative (nominated by the Minister for Health).
- Mr. F. J. Darling—Employers' Representative (nominated by the Minister for Health).
- Mrs. C. Meadowcroft—Country Women's Association.
- Mr. R. E. Halliday—Education Department.
- Dr. L. Henzell—Commissioner of Health.
- Mr. J. Devereux—Under-Secretary, Medical and Health Departments.
- Dr. D. Snow—Health Department.

MURESK AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Advisory Board: Function, Membership, etc.

4. The Hon. A. L. LOTON asked the Minister for Mines:
 - (1) When was an advisory council or committee appointed for Muresk Agricultural College?
 - (2) What was to be the function of the council or committee?
 - (3) (a) Who are the present members of the council or committee; and
(b) when were they appointed?
 - (4) When and where did the council or committee hold its last meeting?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Muresk Advisory Board was formed at the time of the establishment of the college in 1926.
- (2) To advise on matters of general administration, curriculum and educational policy.
- (3) (a) 1. Director of Agriculture.
2. Principal of Muresk Agricultural College.
3. Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Western Australia.
4. W. J. Russell.
5. F. V. Knapp—Muresk Old Collegian.
6. J. H. Barton—Education Department.
(b) The first three are members by virtue of their particular office. Mr. W. J. Russell was appointed in May, 1955; Mr. F. V. Knapp, in August, 1949; and Mr. J. H. Barton, in September, 1955.
- (4) Muresk Agricultural College, May 10th, 1956.

MARRIED PERSONS (SUMMARY RELIEF) ACT

Amending Legislation

5. The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON asked the Minister for Local Government:
In view of the Minister's statement on Tuesday, the 22nd November, 1960, when a promise was given to me that an investigation would be made to enable the introduction of amending legislation to the Married Persons (Summary Relief) Act this session, will he advise whether the investigation has been made and when it is anticipated the amending Bill will be introduced?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

Mr. Clohessy of the Child Welfare Department recently investigated the position in South Australia.

Mr. McCall, Director of Child Welfare, has been asked to arrange an interview between the Hon. R. F. Hutchison, Mr. Clohessy, and himself, to discuss this very problem.

PIG INDUSTRY COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government), and passed.

DIVIDING FENCES BILL

Report

Report of Committee adopted.

FRUIT CASES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [4.40 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to permit fruit cases, originally used for the sale of bananas and pineapples, to be re-used for the sale of any type of fruit.

The parent Act provides that no person shall sell or export fruit in a case which has previously been used for any purpose whatever, except under certain conditions as set out in the provision to the section, which is section 8 of the Act.

There are seven paragraphs in the proviso. Paragraph (ii) limits the second-hand use of banana and pineapple cases to bananas and pineapples, or vegetables only, even though they have been put through the prescribed inspection and treatment.

By deleting this paragraph from the proviso, these cases may, in future, be used for any type of fruit so long as they are clean, and free from disease, brands, and marks of any previous packers or growers, and subject to the provisions of section 5 of the Act having been duly complied with.

The request to delete this proviso from the parent Act emanated from the West Australian Fruit Growers' Association, and has the support of departmental officers, it being considered there is no present reason for maintaining the prohibition existing under paragraph (ii) of the proviso to section 8.

The type of case used for bananas and pineapples is apparently particularly well constructed, as compared with the normal fruit case, and stands up to constant use with little maintenance. The cleaning

process at present in vogue provides for either steaming, or immersion in boiling water, as well as fumigation.

There has been a decided tendency of late for big purchasers of fruit to buy direct from the growers. There is keen competition in the retail field, and the re-use of these cases will, it is considered, facilitate a current desire to cut costs.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. F. J. S. Wise.

COOGEE-KWINANA (DEVIATION) RAILWAY BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [4.43 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill, which is complementary to the Alumina Refinery Agreement Bill, is to authorise the construction of a railway deviation from the Coogee-Kwinana railway. The existing road and railway bisects the area chosen for the works site, and it would be impracticable to retain this through-road and railway in their present alignment.

It has accordingly been agreed that the State will carry out the necessary surveys in relation to the deviation of the railway and the road; and, in accordance with subclause (2) of clause 3 of the agreement, this Bill is introduced to seek the approval of Parliament to the making of the deviation railway pursuant to section 96 of the Public Works Act, 1902.

It would be most undesirable to have a through-railway bisecting the refinery area, and when the deviation has been completed, it is proposed to close the road and railway line within the refinery site. This will be taken over by the company, which is under obligation to make a contribution towards the cost of the construction of the deviations to the extent of a sum equivalent to the cost which the company would be likely to incur if, during the period when the deviation road and deviation railway are constructed, the company had, at its cost, caused the construction of a road and railway comparable with the existing road and railway; that is, at present-day costs.

Although certain deviations are inherent in any original approval for the construction of a railway line, it is thought desirable to have this Bill introduced to ratify the deviation of the line; furthermore, this course is necessary because of the inclusion of the undertaking given in that part of the agreement to which I previously referred.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. R. Thompson.

METROPOLITAN (PERTH) PASSENGER TRANSPORT TRUST ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Local Government) [4.46 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust is accumulating substantial quantities of lost property, and has no statutory authority for its disposal. The Commissioner of Railways has not the facilities to handle this lost property, and it accordingly must be forwarded to the Police Department for sale by that department.

The trust should have power to sell and dispose of unclaimed lost property, and the purpose of this Bill is to grant that power by writing it into the Act. The requisite power in this regard was accorded the Tramways and Ferries Department, and put into effect prior to the acquisition of these activities by the trust.

The proposed amendment to the Act has been recommended by officers of the Crown Law Department and, should the provisions of this Bill become law, it is intended that steps be taken to deal with the accumulation of lost property.

Clause 2 of the Bill provides for the insertion of a new section 75A into the principal Act. Subsection (1) of this proposed new section provides that the trust may give due notice in the *Government Gazette* that any thing left in or on any property of the trust, and its owner being unknown, it will be sold in 21 days or after, unless removed by the owner on payment of all charges incurred. Subsection (2) empowers the trust to sell in the event of the article not being so removed. Subsection (3) refers to perishable things, or things causing offence or a nuisance, and empowers the trust to destroy such things at the expense of the owner. Subsection (4), paragraph (a) authorises the trust to reimburse any expenditure incurred in respect of the thing, and paragraph (b) establishes the right of an owner, within 30 days after the sale, to claim such balance of money remaining.

Subsection (5) provides that such balance, if not duly claimed under subsection (4) shall be paid to the credit of the Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust General Fund Account. Subsection (6) refers again to perishable things and things which might also cause offence or create a nuisance, and establishes obligation on the part of the owner, in the event of his being located, to recoup the trust for any expense in respect thereto, and not recovered by sale. The Bill is a simple measure.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. G. E. Jeffery.

ALUMINA REFINERY AGREEMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 19th September.

THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North) [4.48 p.m.]: This Bill is to approve and ratify an agreement for the establishment of an industry to treat raw material known as bauxite to the stage where that material becomes alumina. The production of aluminium from alumina is, unfortunately, not to be carried out in Western Australia.

For the first stage of treatment, including buildings, works, plant, preparation for removal of the mineral deposits, wharves, etc., the refinery is expected to cost in the vicinity of £5,000,000. It will produce not less than 120,000 tons of alumina per annum.

The Minister stated in the course of his speech that there are already clear indications that the overall expenditure will be £10,000,000, including the opening up and equipping of the deposits, and that the work may be completed much earlier than intended. It is anticipated that on the Victorian part of the works—on the refinery and ancillary plant—the company will spend at least £30,000,000 for the processing of the alumina into the final metal of aluminium.

It is very unfortunate indeed that the total industry cannot be located in this State. The industry undoubtedly will mean to Victoria many millions of pounds in production, and it will also create a considerable volume of employment there.

It is a great pity that in regard to this and others of our minerals, we find ourselves providing the requisite raw materials for processing, but cannot enjoy the other important associated benefits which other States derive from the treatment of those materials.

The Minister for Industrial Development has mentioned—I think he mentioned this in the course of his introduction of the Bill in another place; but he has certainly mentioned it, because I have seen it recorded—that when the Western Mining Corporation, which owns the subsidiary company, Western Aluminium No Liability, was originally given the right to explore for bauxite in the Darling Range by the previous Government—the Hawke Government—it was given the right to explore and prospect for coal in an endeavour to find a deposit of considerable size—of what could be considered of sufficient size to enable power to be made available at the required rate to permit of the production of aluminium from the bauxite.

The company, as the Minister for Industrial Development advises, after considerable exploratory work, investigation

and prospecting, could not, in its view, meet the necessary situation, in regard to fuel, from the coal deposits it was able to locate in this State.

It is interesting to observe that in the case of bauxite itself, some prospecting had been done prior to the time of the first inquiries that were made by the Western Mining Corporation; and that, again, is a case where the small prospector gave the initial lead in what could now be a very important mining development in this State. Since then a very heavy expenditure has been incurred by the Western Mining Corporation parent company in the geological and laboratory facilities it has established in the hills in furtherance of its undertakings.

It is, I know, world experience that large deposits of economic bauxite—that is bauxite of a substantial analysis of alumina content—and low costs for electric power to deal with the final conversion of the product into the metal, apparently go hand in hand. That appears to be world experience in aluminium production. It might be—perhaps it is—that the company did as much as could be expected of it in its search for coal in satisfactory quantity and of the right quality.

The Minister for Mines mentioned last evening that Queensland has very vast deposits of bauxite—we have all seen the publicity in connection therewith—which it is expected will be treated in New Zealand where quantities of cheap and continuous power will be available.

There is something which is difficult to understand—and I intend to quote some figures in connection with this point shortly—and that is that the price of the raw material can carry a freight and handling charge of a substantial kind for a long sea journey, but the next stage—the stage of treatment—is seriously circumscribed by power costs. That point has not in this House, or from my study of debates elsewhere, yet been satisfactorily explained.

Today I made an inquiry at a shipping office in Fremantle regarding the costs of shipping a mineral in bulk from Fremantle to Geelong or Melbourne. In bulk, the company would require 500 tons minimum of a mineral of this kind in order to ship it to Geelong; but, of course, I take it that in connection with this project, chartered ships with a heavy bulk capacity, similar perhaps to the type of ship used by the B.H.P. in transporting iron ore from Yampi Sound to Whyalla and elsewhere will be used. The freight rate from Fremantle to Melbourne for this material is 210s. per ton in large quantities, under charter rates, with, perhaps, a reduction of 25 per cent.; and to that figure must be added 3s. 6d. wharfage and 18s. 6d. per ton for handling charges, making a total of £11 12s. a ton; and if we reduce that

figure by 25 per cent. it comes back to more than £8 12s. per ton for shipping, excluding costs.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: They would take it to Geelong rather than to Melbourne.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Large quantities will be required in order to ship the material to Geelong. That figure, I am assured by the manager of a shipping company in Fremantle, is likely to be the freight cost that would be raised.

I submit, acknowledging the necessity for cheap power in the final treatment of alumina, that I cannot understand why, in a case such as this, export at that cost to another State, or export at a considerable cost to overseas destinations where power will not be at a half penny per unit, prevents us from establishing works for the entire operations at the source of supply; namely, in this State.

I think there must be a reconciliation somewhere between the power costs and all the other costs, but so far we have not had it explained to us.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: When you speak of £8 per ton, is that the freight rate on the produced alumina?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: No, I am speaking of freight on the ore itself.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: How much alumina would you produce from a ton of ore?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: As the Minister knows—or I take it he knows, because he is the Minister for Mines after all, and it is a question I should be asking him instead of him asking me—it is three tons to one.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That is not necessarily so; it depends on the quality of the ore.

The F. J. S. WISE: I am using the figures quoted by the Minister's associate in another place, so they must be correct.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It all depends on the quality of the ore.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Yes, I agree; on the quality of the bauxite ore. I am not entirely new to this subject; I want to make that clear. The Minister for Mines knows what I am about to say is correct.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I do not know what you are about to say.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: In the north of Australia, there is a large deposit of bauxite on the island of Marchinbar which is adjacent to the Northern Territory. It is also found at Gove, an airstrip near the Gulf of Carpentaria. That is a very large deposit; and the Administration of the Northern Territory at the time was endeavouring to find a market for that ore somewhere, or have it treated *in situ*. Inquiries were made about the transport of that ore and for the cheap potential water power that existed in New Guinea, because

it was claimed then that .55d. per unit—the Minister used the figure of 5d. per unit and there is little difference—was the maximum charge any company treating alumina cared to be faced with when processing alumina.

In studying the world position at that time—including the vast deposits at Borneo and elsewhere—there was always a close relationship between the costs averred to be the lowest from which power could be produced and the profit margin made on the treatment. But I cannot follow why a heavy freight charge raised against the ore, especially without any refining or treatment has not some compensating aspect and is not interrelated with the cost of the power required for final treatment. There must be some explanation, but we have not had it. I am sure all members would appreciate further information on that point if the Minister could give it to us later.

One authority makes the positive statement that there must be "approaching ideal power conditions"—those are the words used—with a high ratio of production to demand and with almost a built-in power station, so closely and basically tied is the price of fuel to the ability to produce the final product at a profit. I know it is true to say that the big aluminium works of the United States of America and of the North American continent are attached to the cheapest power in the world, namely, the Columbia River Scheme. So we cannot argue against that treatment point insisted on by all companies and manufacturers unless, implicit in it all, is cheap power.

I do not suppose any of us can forecast the prospects of this State within the next 20 years—or, say, within the currency of this agreement which actually would be 42 years; 21 years plus 21—with the use of even atomic power reactors, but if we are forced to accept the situation that, for a considerable time at least, we cannot produce at very low cost the power which is required, we appear to be in the position of being able only to sell the product, and part treat it in its raw state. That is the information gleaned from so many authoritative statements that appear to have been published.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I agree with you that it is most unfortunate.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: However, I impress upon the Minister sincerely, and appeal to him in the most friendly fashion, that this House should obtain an analysis of the relationship between the price of a commodity and the cost it can stand. What is the relationship in the production of any commodity that is to cost £8 or more in shipping freights to have it manufactured, and the potentiality of using dear power at the source of supply of the raw material? I think that is a valid question.

Officially, the proposal is to produce not less than 120,000 tons of alumina a year at a value of approximately £4,000,000. According to the quality of our bauxite, that will take, as close as I can glean from the figures, 360,000 tons of bauxite ore, 12,000 tons of limestone, and 10,000 tons of soda ash which is to be used in the treatment. The Minister did not give us those figures, but I know they are reliable.

The soda ash is a commodity which for this purpose, and at this stage at least, will have to be imported; and, with all, therefore, considerable transport operations and a terrific cost are involved in the preparation required for the treatment at the refinery of the 360,000 tons of bauxite per annum.

The 120,000 tons of alumina—the minimum anticipated to be despatched per annum—is expected to yield 40,000 tons of aluminium. One very important aspect that was touched on by the Minister in his speech deals with the question of nuisance. The Minister said—

Paragraph (b) at the head of page nine was the cause of some debate in another place regarding the possible creation of a nuisance. The intention of the inclusion of this paragraph is to prevent the creation of a nuisance. This is done by placing an obligation on the company to construct the refinery to comply with accepted modern practice in relation to refineries for the production of alumina. The Government has been assured that this particular industry does not produce a great nuisance. The main problem is the disposal of the effluent in the form of red mud and the sands.

Those are the Minister's own words. Let us look at the Bill in this connection. Not only does clause 4 deal substantially with a certain type of nuisance, but clause 6 deals with effluent, and the red mud which the Minister particularly mentioned, which is also mentioned in more than one page of this agreement. The disposal of this is apparently of great moment and gives considerable concern to the processor.

However, I am not so much concerned about the processor as I am about the rest of the community, because if members look at paragraph (b) on the top of page nine of the agreement they will find the words—

In the construction of the refinery and in equipping and operating the works to be carried on on the works site the Company shall comply with accepted modern practice in relation to refineries for the production of alumina and in so doing will endeavour to avoid as far as is reasonable and practicable the creation of any nuisance.

Subclause (2), the next subclause, absolves the company entirely from any legal liability, not only for the effluent mentioned in clause 6, but also for smoke, dust, or gas delivered into the atmosphere.

This places the company in the strongest possible legal position. Any members of the public affected will have no remedy at law if Parliament approves this clause. In the wording of the clause the company will endeavour to avoid, as far as is reasonable and practicable, the creation of a nuisance. It may not be practicable, by any known means to abate the nuisance; and shortly I shall read from a report from another country which casts considerable doubt on the ability of any company entirely to prevent such works from creating a nuisance, because this report states that a similar company has caused colossal damage in the country from which the report originated.

My point is that giving the company full legal discharge and leaving the ordinary citizen no remedy at law is a very serious step for this Parliament to take. The very words the Minister mentioned do not indicate that this will overcome the nuisance. In actuality, they say that the company will take every reasonable and practicable step to overcome it. However, there may be no known way of overcoming, destroying, or dissipating the fumes, particularly the fluorine gases which have proved to be so harmful in other countries.

The real problem may lie in the disposal of the red mud and the sands. That is, so far as the company is concerned in trying to dispose of them. But, so far as we can gather by research and study of the disposal of these effluents to render them quite harmless after treatment, that is not the problem with which the company is concerned. It is a problem because of the quantity of the waste. Why, in this very agreement the Government proposes, quite properly, to set aside 200 acres initially to disperse this red mud effluent; and the residue of red mud is effectively dealt with. I think, in clause 6 of the agreement on page 11 of the Bill before us.

It appears to make full provision for the disposal; but to return to clause 4 of the agreement, I think that is something that cannot lightly be passed over; and after reading the extract, which I am about to read, I intend to ask the Minister whether certain conferences and assurances may take place, even after the passing of this Bill as it now stands, to give the community some happier feeling than can otherwise be the case. I quote from the *South Australian Wheatgrower*, a very reputable journal, under date the 7th April, 1960. The article is headed, "The Dangers Behind Fluorine and Aluminium." It is an article translated from the German by Mr. R. F. Kies of Lyndoch, South Australia, dated the 24th November, 1959; and he translated an article which appeared in a German paper, *Home Friend for Land and City*, dated the 27th September, 1958. In the course of this article—and I do not intend to weary the House by reading it

in full—these words appear, after referring to the establishment of aluminium plants on the Rhine—

The fluorine gases from the big aluminium works at Baden Rheinfelden have aroused the farmers and others who are affected by these poisons to the most desperate and bitter protests. The colourless gas, known as fluor, created and caused in the manufacture of aluminium, for years now has been extending almost systematically an ever-increasing area of destruction for miles around these aluminium works. A deathly veil hovers over the forests and grazing areas, as well as over fields and orchards. The leaves of the plants and trees look as burnt; the fruit withers and shrinks; and gradually, but with alarming progress the whole plant life and vegetation of those areas is bordering on complete ruin. But not only that; animals as well, particularly cows and sheep, are powerless to ward off the evil effects of fumes from these dangerous and deadly fluorine gases.

The article goes on—

The deathly ban rests on plant life and agriculture for miles around this once upon a time so fertile and productive area of the Upper Rhine.

There is much other comment in this article. Owing to the millions of pounds of profits made by the works, there is much comment on the effect on insect life such as bees. Having come into possession of this article, conveyed to me in a letter, it seems that such effects, even if partial would be known to all persons already involved in the treatment of alumina.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: He is talking about the complete treatment of aluminium, is he not?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: He is talking about the treatment of ore to aluminium.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Does he say it is as bad when you treat to the alumina stage?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: That is not discussed. He is dealing with the effect of treatment of the ore in the aluminium works on the Rhine. My concern is this. With the very vast areas involved—and I would point out this is a journal of some standing—

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: May I read that for my own edification?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I will most certainly let the Minister have it later on. I raise this point that such happenings would be known to all persons engaged in the industry; and if they are known, it would be quite unfair to have this complete absolution from any responsibility on the part of the company.

I do not intend to hold up this Bill, as it must be passed and we cannot amend it. The only alternative is to defeat it, which no one would wish to do. However, I would earnestly suggest to the Minister that there are some aspects of it on which we have not had sufficient information. I think it would have been better for us all if the comments of officers to whom the Minister made reference—foresters, many others, and the timber people who have raised some doubts before the Minister for Lands—had been tabled at the time of the introduction of this measure. If that had been done, it would certainly have allayed a lot of fears and a lot of concern. I think the Minister might agree with me about it. This Bill was introduced yesterday. The speech enabling its introduction was not a matter of five minutes or a day's preparation, was it?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: No.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: It represents weeks and months of preparation. In vulgar parlance, put yourself in Gilligan's place in such a matter!

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You put yourself in Arthur Griffith's place when I was over there and you were over here.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: All right. In putting myself in Arthur Griffith's place I can imagine the complaining tone he would have adopted. I can well imagine that. I am simply saying this, Mr. President, and not in a hostile, nasty fashion at all: This is an important part-industry coming to this State, part-processing in this State and using in another State the product of our raw material; and we are tying up, up to 80,000,000 tons of such raw material for 42 years—a mineral which we have sold for 9d. per ton if it is processed here, and 1s. per ton dry if it is exported. I think that is the situation.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Not 80,000,000 tons.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I think that is the figure.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Not for export.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I said that 80,000,000 tons are available.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The company cannot export that much.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I did not say that.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It can export 2,560,000 tons.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I said we have tied up the raw material involved in our deposit.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You said if it is treated here it will be 9d. per ton, and for export it will be 1s. per ton.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: That is right.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The company can export only 2,560,000 tons.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: It does not matter at all what quantity. I can speak for a long time if I am forced to by interjection; but I think the Minister wants to get this Bill through.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Yes, I do.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: By the 21st September, and today is the 20th.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: I think it is 42 years plus five, because we cannot allow anybody else to have it.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: This is a serious matter.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Will I get it through if I keep quiet?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: If the Minister ceases rudely interjecting it will be better for all of us.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: It is clear from the diagrams and maps that have been printed just how much territory is tied up in mineral leases and temporary reserves; but there is no argument against it. The Minister used the words, "The Government has been assured that this particular industry does not constitute a great nuisance." Will the Minister tell the House who has assured the Government on that point? I think it is important; and although we are prepared to take his word for it at this stage, we still do not know.

The Hon. A. L. Loton: Has he got any overseas authorities to support that?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I am concerned that all legal redress for the citizen is taken away; and I would like to ask—and this is the point about which I gave a forecast a little while ago: Will the Minister assure the House that the dangers which I cannot vouch for, but which are the subject of this newspaper article, will not be present? Medical testimony might be able to throw much more light on the matter. Will the Minister ask the company for its comment on what is averred in this article and let the House know at some early date? The agreement, I presume, could only be altered by consultation and close agreement between the Government and the company.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I will endeavour to get all the information possible for you on the second reading reply.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I do not want in any way to be unreasonable on that point. It does not matter if we do not get it on the second reading reply. So far as I am concerned, this Bill passes; but I would like this information at some early

point to have these fears allayed and for the assurance it will give. We cannot amend the Bill; and the Minister desires a quick passage.

We can only assume from his remarks that there are, and certainly could be, very important domestic matters associated with this company, its managing company—The Western Mining Corporation—and other ancillary interests which are at a stage much earlier than the date suggested for the commencement of operations. There are all sorts of arrangements in transport, contract arrangements for delivery of machinery, and, indeed, finance. We can well imagine that the earlier that information is available, the better; and there must be a dozen early arrangements. Therefore, the date line must be suitable to the company.

As far as we on this side are concerned, we are not desirous of holding it up for these questions, which I have validly raised, to be answered satisfactorily at this stage. However, I do draw attention to one other point before I sit down, and that is: in clause 15 of the agreement—page 26 of the Bill—the arrangements made for water supplies for this company, are set out, and they are vastly different from arrangements made with other concerns in agreements passed in this House. There must be some explanation for that.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: In what respect?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: In respect of costs, and gallonage, and all sorts of things.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: You say that these arrangements are more liberal?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Much more so than, say, the arrangements with the paper mills.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Some 9.8 millions per month.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: That has not been mentioned by the Minister; and I am wondering whether there is some reason for that, or whether that was another point that was insisted upon.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I assure the honourable member that I have nothing whatever to keep from him on this matter. Concerning anything I have not dealt with, I shall be only too happy to obtain the information and advise the honourable member to the best extent possible.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: So long as the Minister, in as good a nature as he, at times, possesses, does not chide us for asking these questions. With those comments, and from a cursory analysis of the Bill, I have endeavoured to raise points that are most valid; and many of them require a lot more light being shed upon them. I have no intention of holding up the Bill, and I support the second reading.

THE HON. R. THOMPSON (West) [5.32 p.m.]: Like most members of the House, I welcome the establishment of this industry in Western Australia. I think such an industry is most essential, as we have the raw material here. I would have welcomed it much more, however, if we were to have a complete refinery processing plant established in this State.

Mr. Wise raised some very interesting points when speaking to the debate; and I was interested in the one concerning shipping costs. If we have a close look at the charges for the cartage of bulk ore from Western Australia to Geelong, and compare them with the electricity charges, I do not think the company would be very much out of pocket in refining the complete article in Western Australia. I am led to believe that at present the South Fremantle power house is working at approximately 25 to 30 per cent. capacity. The Bunbury power house is not working to its full capacity. I notice that contracts have been let for the construction of a further power house at Collie. That power house should be constructed in time to meet the requirements of this company.

I think that if transport costs had been given more serious consideration, the Government would have had greater bargaining power with the company for the concessions and rights given to the company for the establishment of a complete and integrated plant in Western Australia.

I wish to deal with the question of road and railway closures and proposed deviations. Practically in the centre of the block of land purchased by the company for the establishment of its alumina plant is contained the only piece of freehold land in the area. I am referring to the Naval Base Hotel. Having looked at the map of the proposed deviation, I cannot see any provision for a crossing at the northern end, or the end closest to Fremantle where the roadway switches to the east.

If a crossing is not to be provided, I would like to ask the Minister whether the Government will compensate the hotel owners and the owners of the shops adjacent to the hotel. The persons concerned have expended a good deal of money in building up very successful businesses. Also, people who wish to get into the existing caravan park would, in order to get there, have to travel via the Naval Base Road, deviate to a point in Hope Valley Road, turn west, and then turn right into the caravan park. This is a long way round to get to the caravan park. If a crossing is not to be provided at the Fremantle end, or if there is to be no access road to the hotel, it will virtually mean the end of that particular caravan park.

I would also like to ask the Minister whether it is the intention of the company to construct its ore bins at the rear of

the hotel; that being the main inlet and outlet of the hotel's patronage. If such is the case, will overways be constructed for the shunting of rail trucks to avoid any congestion around the hotel?

I am told that the administrative block of the company will be situated opposite—in a south-easterly direction—the present hotel building. I think this will have an adverse effect on the hotel. The licensee has another five years before the lease expires; and he has spent a good deal of money on his premises. If a crossing is not provided for the deviation, 95 per cent. of this person's trade will be lost. This could bankrupt him.

It could be argued that some 300 to 400 people would be employed at the refinery, or the company's plant; but that does not compensate a person who has devoted a great deal of enterprise to building up a sound business. The same applies to the storekeeper. He and his sons have worked for many years to supply the area with a needed amenity and this has involved a good deal of expenditure. The Government should give serious consideration to the welfare of these people.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: You would not advocate a level crossing, would you?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: In the brief time I have had to examine the matter, I am not in a position to advocate anything. The Government is bringing down the Bill, and I think it is for the Government to make decisions in the best interests of the people.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Sometimes we can make decisions more readily if the member for the district will give us suggestions.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The average person will follow any deviation road; and these two businesses are likely to lose a lot of trade as a result of the proposed deviation road. A level crossing equipped with lights would suffice. We have them on other parts of the line. We have them south of the existing South Fremantle power house. I cannot recall any accident having occurred at that crossing, and it is a dangerous bend in the road.

I consider that residents in the area should be kept fully informed of future plans for the area. I have received many queries during the last twelve months. It appears to me that the member for the area is often the last person to be informed of future plans for the area; and the first he learns about them is when he reads about them in the Press. At the present time a rumour is rife in Rockingham concerning the future of the town. A number of people are under the impression that Rockingham is finished; that the town has been set aside for the erection of wharfage facilities, transit sheds, railway shunting yards, and so on.

We all want to see expansion; and I have always advocated an outer harbour. I feel that a statement should be made as to what is proposed for the area, once any proposal reaches the drawing-board stage. It is unfair that people should be allowed to develop their properties, and build houses, when various departments know that within 10 or 15 years the land is going to be resumed or taken away. It is better not to have such development if people are to be disappointed and put to heavy expenditure.

Loss of beaches will follow development of the area. I consider that the existing magazine and jetty should be removed; and I have mentioned this before. I realise that it is a matter for the Commonwealth Government. If we are going to have an influx of industry into the area, it will be dangerous to retain the magazine and jetty. The land could be utilised as a beach area to compensate people for beach areas that will be lost further south. People from all parts of the State come to those beaches; and if one beach area is taken away, another should be provided.

There is another question I would like to ask the Minister. I think the agreement states that 25 per cent. of the shares in this company must be held, for the time being—I think that is the term used—in Australia. I think that should be a must, and that a large proportion of the shares should always remain the property of Australians resident in Australia. This company has vast overseas backing and it could resolve itself into a company along the lines of General Motors Holdens, and all the profits be sent overseas. In this case I think the profits could be colossal, as Mr. Wise pointed out, because of the cheap rates the company will pay for bauxite, and also the cheap rates at which it can purchase the commodity and export it from Western Australia. I think at all times a large percentage of the shares should remain the property of Australians resident in Australia.

Mr. Wise also mentioned the question of water, and how good, from a company point of view, the agreement appeared to be in this respect. Like every other honourable member I realise that water is needed by nearly every person at some time or other; but I think it is grossly unfair that a company like this can come into the State and be given unlimited supplies of water at a cheap rate, and yet old-established residences and market gardens—which are really businesses—situated in Spearwood, and the richest part of Spearwood, are unable to get a decent water supply. For the last two and a half years I have been trying without success—ever since I became a member—to get the position changed, and to have these people provided with a decent water supply. But every time I have met with a refusal. When I say a "refusal," I mean that the three replies to the questions I have asked up

to date have been that the matter will be examined next year, next year, and again next year.

I do not think it is good enough because these people are adding to the wealth of the country through their own enterprise, and without any concessions being granted by the Government. They have done things the hard way; yet they are still denied the right to a water supply. At the moment the position is terrible. The housewives there have to use three times as much detergent as women living in the metropolitan area, and their hot water systems are costing them up to £100 a year for repairs and replacements. At home I have samples of the pipes taken from some of these hot water systems, and they indicate that the pipes have become completely corroded in 12 months simply because of the lime and saline content of the water.

The Hon. A. L. Loton: That is galvanised piping?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: No, copper piping. I will bring these pipes up to the House tomorrow so that members can have a look at them. I think it is caused by what is known as kettlesone. A member can battle for years without any result, but a company has only to say, "We are starting up in Western Australia," and it can get 10 or 12-in. mains, or whatever it wants, to supply the water it needs. I think the system is completely wrong. Householders and other people who have contributed to the wealth of the country should get the same treatment as these companies are getting.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: Hear, hear!

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Where is there a 14-in. main attached to this?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: To cope with the volume of water that would be required by this company I would say that a 14-in. main will be needed.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What is the present main to Kwinana?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Eighteen inches, is it not?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: How much?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Eighteen inches.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I do not think so.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I think it is. It is a pretty big pipe.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I will find out for you. I do not think it is that big.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I would not be sure, but it is a rather large pipe. It would be 15 or 18 inches. I have not had as much time as I would have liked to study the Bill, but there is one further point I would like to bring to the Minister's attention. I refer to the pilotage fees for the ships entering the anchorage. Will the

Minister enlighten me: Who is to be responsible for the fees? I know that the Fremantle Harbour Trust will supply the necessary pilots.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I beg your pardon. What was the question?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Will the company bear the cost of the pilotage fees? The last point I want to make is in respect of the labour required for the construction of the refinery and also for the working of the plant when finished. I think we have all seen, through experience, that the influx of migrants necessary for the construction of the Kwinana refinery was mainly responsible, when the job was finished, for the large number of unemployed in Western Australia. I feel sure that the Government will examine this question—I sincerely trust it will—to ensure that after the completion of this refinery—and that the same thing will happen when any other new company comes to Western Australia—we can reasonably absorb the people who will be displaced.

No Government likes to see unemployment; they all like to see full employment, and I hope something will be done about the matter I have raised and that the utmost caution will be used in bringing migrants to the country until such time as their future welfare is fully provided for. At this juncture I support the Bill.

THE HON. G. BENNETTS (South-East) [5.53 p.m.]: I am speaking only to support the remarks made by Mr. Wise regarding nuisances from stacks, page 9 of the Bill. This is a very important matter, although I do not know exactly the contents of the fumes that will be discharged from the stacks at the alumina refinery, other than what Mr. Wise had to say about this subject. However, we on the goldfields know the trouble and discontent that is caused with certain stacks on the goldfields, because nobody seems to have any jurisdiction over the companies concerned; and nothing can be done to force them to do anything about it, once the stacks are erected, unless the fumes become a menace to the health of the community. Of course, it is very hard to prove that any fumes are a menace to the health of the people.

I would like to mention one lot of chimney stacks on the goldfields, and I refer to the coal stacks at the power house at Boulder. These stacks are very low and broad, and they send out plenty of soot and dust from the coal which is burned at the electricity plant. Anywhere within a radius of half a mile of that power house one can go into homes which are downwind of these chimney stacks, and one will find that the beds in the homes are covered with soot and dust. On the verandah of one place I found the bedding had been

burned by sparks coming from the stacks. On a hot day children who have been washed and dressed in nice clean clothes can look like blackfellows an hour later, because of the perspiration and the soot and dust from the chimney stacks. If that is not dangerous to the health of the community, I do not know what is. The housewives are worrying all the time and are frightened of their houses being burned down.

I had a look at the ceilings of several of these homes, and—especially where the ceilings were matchwood which had shrunk because of the heat and the age of the timber—the soot was dropping on to food in the kitchen and dining-room every time there was any sort of vibration caused to the house. Mr. Teahan and Mr. Cunningham—

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order! I would like to draw the honourable member's attention to the fact that he is speaking to a Bill dealing with an alumina refinery.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: Yes.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): But he is in Kalgoorlie at present. Will the honourable member please confine his remarks to the matter under discussion?

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I am trying to show members how necessary it is to ensure that the Act provides that these people comply with regulations governing the discharge of gases and so on, which may be dangerous to the health of the people. It is of no use coming along afterwards and saying that we thought it was all covered. There are factories I could mention in other parts of the State where the fumes from chimney stacks are a danger to the health of the community.

I could instance the sulphur fumes which are discharged through chimney stacks. The company concerned added another 60 feet to the chimney to try to overcome the problem; it was not compelled to do so but it took that action because it knew the fumes were causing trouble to the people. But unless we have something in the Act to ensure that action is taken in this regard, companies can just carry on and take no notice of the Government at all.

I notice that, according to page 27 of the Bill, the company intends to use up to 20,000 gallons of water a day; and it can use more if required. With all these new industries being established in the State I do not know how we are going to supply all the water that is required; or whether, by supplying these big companies with water, we are penalising people in some of our remote areas. There are many people in the State who are unable to get any water, except bore water, while others suffer water restrictions. I do not express opposition to the fact that the

company is establishing itself in this State; because I think the more industries we can get established in Western Australia the better it will be for the State. But we have to work out how much water is required, and the availability of water in this State over the next few years.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Every Government will do that. They all keep ahead of the demand as much as possible.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: But will our catchment areas be sufficient to cope with the position in a few years' time?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: We are building one catchment after another, as it becomes possible to do it.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: Have we enough water in this State for the industries we want to see established here? Have we got sufficient watercourses and sufficient rainfall in the State to give us the water that all these companies want to use? If we can get subterranean water, perhaps some of these companies could use that instead of using the scheme water, such as Mr. Ron Thompson mentioned just now. He said that some of the water being used in different parts of the State is so brackish that it causes damage to hot water systems, etc.

I know that one can hardly use the water in Esperance because so many chemicals have to be used to purify it. I happened to be working on a plant many years ago and we were using this water which had such a high lime content. It was in the machinery and in one of the engines to such an extent that the jackets on the compressors were covered in small pinholes which it was necessary to plug in order to keep out the corrosion. If that happens to machinery, what is likely to happen to the insides of human beings? We must protect the public from this sort of thing, and I hope the Minister will see whether something cannot be done to tighten this whole matter up by regulation. I have already drawn attention to the nuisance from chimney stacks, and with those few words I support the Bill.

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West) [6.1 p.m.]: The deposits of this bauxite ore are scattered throughout the South-West Province; or at least it was the South-West Province until we received our notes concerning the redistribution. I gather, however, that when the redistribution is completed they will no longer be in the South-West Province.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: But it will still be a good thing for Western Australia.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: As the Minister says, it will still be a good thing for W.A., whether the deposits are in the north or anywhere else. Like any big marketing proposition, this agreement will

bring problems in its wake; and these problems will be both of a national and a parochial nature.

This was touched on by Mr. Wise, and I agree with him that his inquiries were valid, and I am sure we all hope they will receive replies from the Minister. For my own part I have no doubt that the Minister will reply to all the queries raised by Mr. Wise. There are some problems of a parochial nature which can only be solved as the undertaking gets under way. I am sure there will be a number of such problems, as there will be advantages both national and parochial. I might say at this stage that I sincerely hope that some of the parochial advantages will come the way of Mundijong, Serpentine, and Jarrahdale, which are situated in the district from which the ore will be taken.

This is a very wealthy little district and has very sound agricultural potential. However, it does suffer because of its location. As members know it is so close to the city that it may be termed outer metropolitan, and yet it is far enough away from the metropolitan area for us to think of it as being in the country. It is just too far from Bunbury—where there is a big power station—to have derived many advantages from there. This district is below large dams and catchment areas, and yet its towns are so small that they have not got their own water supplies.

Mention was made by Mr. Ron Thompson of the water supply in the Spearwood area; but how much more unjust is it when the very creeks which flow through the towns in the district I have mentioned and which serve huge dams are not able to provide reticulated water supplies for the towns in question. The answer, of course, is quite simple. For a large project all that is necessary is one pipe; but, of course, in the case of towns the detail of cost must be taken into consideration. I know that investigations have been made with a view to providing a reticulated water supply to a certain town, and it has been found that the cost would be in excess of £1,000 per house. This is a little high for a scheme of that nature.

So, as I have said, I hope that some parochial advantages will accrue to the particular district from which this ore will come, because I feel sure it will help that area in securing both water and power. I certainly hope this materialises. There will, of course, be problems, even in that area, as the show gets under way. We will be confronted with such problems as roads, crossings, and so on, but I am quite sure that the sympathetic approach of the Government will help to solve these problems as we proceed.

There are one or two points which Mr. Wise raised, and I feel sure that we will all await the Minister's reply with interest. There are several questions which have

been raised here today, and there are others which come to my mind but which I feel it would be impossible to answer. I am certain that all these parochial problems and the 101 other difficulties that will arise will be solved in the light of circumstances as they arise. When we face the type of progress that the State is undergoing at the moment we must, of course, expect to be upset in various ways.

I know it is very comforting to be able to have the firm belief that one is not likely to be upset by changes brought about by progress; I know it is easy for those who are not likely to be upset to say that people must expect to have minor upheavals in the national interest. I would point out, however, that it could be our turn tomorrow. But when we are on the verge of changes of such magnitude we must expect these inconveniences with which people will be faced in the localities concerned. There is no doubt that there will be a certain amount of disorganisation for the people in the areas where the ore is to be mined. But as a wiser man than myself has said, one cannot make an omelette without breaking the eggs. Accordingly it behoves us all to look to the national interest, in the firm belief that these undertakings will be of great advantage to us all in the long run.

We must make way for progress and put up with small inconveniences in doing so. I know it is easy enough to say that people should view this in a national light and expect to be upset in one way or another, but that is the price we must pay for progress; and I am sure that every precaution necessary will be taken to see that inconvenience is caused to as few people as possible.

If we take the national view, we will go a step forward to providing jobs not only for our own people who might be seeking jobs at the moment but also for our children, and their children, because we will have maintained the balance between agriculture and industry which will pave the way to our being able to live in prosperity and happiness.

An agreement such as the one we are discussing will tend to diversify occupations; and I am sure we will be able to meet the national problems and the parochial problems as they arise. As I have said, if there are any parochial advantages I trust that some of them will accrue to the district from which the ore will be mined.

Sitting suspended from 6.10 to 7.30 p.m.

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central) [7.30 p.m.]: My remarks on this Bill to approve and ratify an agreement entered into by the State with respect to the establishment of an alumina industry will be fairly brief. I approve of the industry being established in the State, but I consider that some safeguards

should have been included in the agreement. I refer particularly to the clause in the agreement which covers the liability of the State to grant the company mining rights over reserves. Once such reserves have been worked by the company in the mining of bauxite, there is no liability on the company to tidy up the areas.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What clause in the agreement are you referring to?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I refer to clause 9 on page 15 of the Bill which relates to a mineral lease granted to the company on Crown land coloured red on the plan marked "C". That plan has not been laid on the Table of the House. This clause also refers to Crown land coloured blue on the same plan. Under the agreement such reserves are not the only ones on which the company will be permitted to operate, because bauxite deposits are found over a good length of the Darling Range, from at least Mundijong to north of Darlington.

The company will carry on its mining operations for many years to come. Firstly it will operate for 21 years under the agreement, with a further extension of 21 years after that period; so, these operations can go on *ad infinitum*. My main concern is with what happens to the Darling Range after the company has mined the bauxite ore, and after mining it for perhaps a period of 100 years. An unsightly mess could be left around the countryside where mining operations had taken place. There is a big possibility of such land being left in such a state that reclamation would be almost impossible.

One has only to consider the unsightly mess in one of our south-west towns where tin has been mined. I refer to Greenbushes. It appears as though oversize rabbits have been burrowing in that locality for years. These remarks also apply to the mining leases around Kalgoorlie. If the Darling Range is to be left in a similar condition, this State will have a sad story to tell about that range in years to come.

A proviso is contained on page 24 of the Bill which deals with the rights of the company to operate in State forest reserves. Clause 13 (2) of the agreement provides that the company, after giving six months' notice, may enter State forest areas; and the conservator, unless he has good and sufficient reasons to the contrary, shall grant to the company a permit to mine in such reserves. A further condition of the agreement is as follows:—

The Company will ensure after its operations on any area that that area is rendered and left tidy but not necessarily restored to its original contour.

I take it this provision relates only to State forest reserves, and not to Crown reserves covered by clause 9 of the agreement.

It is pleasing to note that a provision has been inserted into the agreement under which the company will dispose of the red mud residue from the ore. Once such mud is disposed of, it will have to be covered by sand to a depth of 2 feet, to make it possible for light industry to be established on such areas. I cannot understand why a provision was not inserted in the agreement under which areas in Crown reserves which have been mined should be treated in the same way as forest reserves which have been mined.

Could the Minister tell us whether it is possible, even at this late stage, to come to an arrangement with the company to tidy up Crown reserves if such reserves should be mined for bauxite? We have seen the damage caused to land by the extractive industries in the Darling Range, and we do not want to see the same thing occurring in the mining of bauxite. With those remarks I support the measure.

THE HON. F. R. H. LAVERY (West) [7.38 p.m.]: I will approach this Bill in the same way as I have approached other Bills of this type which have been introduced in this House and which could not be amended here. Firstly, I want to draw attention to one or two aspects which have been mentioned by other speakers. A number of my constituents are affected by the establishment of the alumina industry.

I support the remarks made by the last speaker when he outlined the scarring of the countryside by the establishment of mining industries in this State. It appears that in the year 2000 much of the countryside in this State will consist of a great heap of holes, but against that we will find very great industries established here.

I refer to something I brought up during the debate on the Address-in-Reply. I spoke about the scarring of the countryside when gravel was removed for the making of roads. I have since made a study of this matter and I have toured the Gidgegannup area as well as the outer suburban districts. I noticed that where bulldozers had removed gravel from the land alongside roads for the purpose of road-making and had left the land in a reasonably flat state, the wind has blown native seeds on to such land and grass and weeds were beginning to grow.

The Minister for Industrial Development, when introducing the Bill in another place, referred to an arrangement whereby the company is to fill up the terrain on completing its mining operations. If in the course of such work some seeds are mixed with the filling, in time to come grasses and native plants will grow.

I draw attention to clauses 4 (1) (b) and 4 (2) on page 9 of the Bill. They provide that the company will endeavour to avoid as far as is reasonable and practicable the creation of any nuisance. The speech made by Mr. Wise this evening

should leave no doubt in our minds as to what he meant. I have no doubt the company will do everything possible to ensure that the minimum amount of nuisance is caused from the effluent from the proposed works—by that I mean the escape of gas into the atmosphere.

The prevailing winds in the locality where the refinery is to be built come from the west and south-west. They tend to blow dust and fumes from the refinery across the main marketing district of the metropolitan area; that is, Spearwood and Coogee. At the present time the easterly winds also cause a nuisance to the market gardeners in that area, because the dust from the high chimney-stack of the Cockburn cement works is also blown over their gardens. Unlike the cement dust from the Rivervale cement works, the dust from the Cockburn Cement Company consists of fine limestone. This dust settles in the surrounding area. If one were to dampen one's car and left it for a couple of hours, one would find it covered with fine limestone dust.

Should there be a similar emission of dust and gases from the alumina refinery, the market gardeners and residents will be greatly perturbed. In close proximity to these industries are located the Naval Base School, the South Coogee School, and the Spearwood School. Although the Kwinana oil refinery is three to four miles distant to the south, when the wind blows from the south-west these schools are affected by the fumes. The unusual odour emitted by the oil refinery is easily detected. That was the reason why, in the planning of the Medina townsite, it was built two miles inland from the coast and the oil refinery, and a green timber belt was left to act as a filter.

I feel that the alumina company should give great consideration to the effect its refinery will have on the food production area. I would point out that 1,300 acres of this area last year produced over £1,000,000 worth of produce for the markets of the city, and it is vital that that very small area should be guarded as much as possible against any mixing of gases that might fall upon the produce of the area.

Another point to which I wish to draw attention is in connection with water. I have spoken on this subject more, I suppose, than most members over a period of time. The Australian Paper Mills will be requiring, after having been in operation for a very short time, 5,000,000 gallons of water per annum. The B.P. refinery will require 2,000,000 gallons. From the figures contained in the schedule on page 26 of this Bill, it is indicated that 350,000 gallons of potable water will be required per day by this company, and, if my calculations are correct, that will be 9,800,000 gallons per month. If that is the case, I am wondering whether the powers—that be in the Water Supply Department are in a position to supply this quantity of water.

With the ever-increasing population in Western Australia, in the next ten years further water catchments will have to be located; and it is becoming rather difficult to find new dam sites. I was wondering whether the underground water supply could not be tapped for this purpose. It possibly will be, but on behalf of the State as a whole, I would like to see what the Government can do in that regard.

Another matter connected with this Bill with which I would like to deal is that of employment. When the Kwinana refinery was being built it was found that a number of very good workers were not able to get jobs there because they were over the age of 45 years. I drew this matter to the attention of the then Premier (Mr. Hawke), who discussed it with Mr. Mason, the general manager of the Kwinana refinery. Mr. Mason said that provided men were able to comply with the medical requirements, he could see no reason why competent men up to the age of 55 years should not be engaged. To his everlasting credit he saw that this policy was carried out.

Unfortunately, however, it seems that since the new set-up in connection with long-service leave has been introduced into our industrial way of life, it is becoming most difficult for men over 40 years of age to find employment. With all respect I can offer to the company, I ask it on behalf of the workers to give some consideration to these competent men who are unfortunately over 40.

Finally, I feel it is only right that, as soon as it is possible, either the Government or the company should make known to the residents in the Mandogalup area whether the red mud effluent will be disposed of at the back of Hope Valley Road, where at the moment big open swamps exist. It is only fair that the residents of that area should be informed as soon as practicable what the situation is to be in that regard.

I am delighted that this new industry has come to the district I represent and to the State. I feel it is unfortunate that at the moment it is not possible to provide the power at a much cheaper rate as required. However, with those remarks I support the Bill.

THE HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [7.51 p.m.]: The necessity for this Bill must reflect very great credit on our Government, because of its achievement in bringing this new industry to the State. There is no doubt that just as much credit must be given to the Mines Department as to any other department, for the introduction of so many new industries to the State, a good number of which are associated with the metals we possess.

I do not think for one moment that either the Minister for Mines or the Minister for Industrial Development would ask

us to accept any new agreement before we investigated to the best of our ability the points on which we were not completely informed. There are one or two aspects of this agreement which arouse interest in my mind, and I would like at this stage to introduce just one or two thoughts which I think might be worth investigating. Like Mr. Wise, I have no intention whatever of delaying the passage of this Bill. If I had, I would ask for an adjournment of it for a week, because there are so many things I would like to know in regard to the actual metal itself.

I was very interested in what Mr. Wise said about the fluorine disability and the article he quoted; but it made me feel that there was a fluoride content to the aluminium or bauxite being discussed in that article. In the short time that has been available to me, I have looked up the eleventh edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*—which I do not think is a recent edition—and it gives no indication that fluorine would be present in all forms of bauxite. This takes me back to what I would like to know: what is the composition of this clay, that we are going to dig up from our own State? What does it contain? If there is no fluoride associated with the bauxite, then that problem does not arise here.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The fluoride is associated with the smelting process which, from an industrial point of view, we regretfully are not going to have here.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I just want to know in which part of the process it occurs; and it seems that the danger does not exist. It is certainly not in the bauxite itself.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It occurs in the aluminium treatment.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: According to the *encyclopaedia*, bauxite has the composition of $\text{Al}_2\text{O}(\text{OH})_3$, which is purely an aluminium hydroxide and contains 73.9 alumina on the average and 26.1 water.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I wish it did.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: That is normally.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I do not think ours goes that high.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Probably not. It varies considerably in many countries. It is interesting to know that it was first called bauxite, and was originally located at Les Baux in the south of France. The numerous chemical analyses made for technical purposes show that the material varies widely in composition, the maximum and minimum percentages of each constituent being as follows:—

Alumina 33.2-76.9; water 8.6-31.4;
iron oxide 0.1-48.8; silica 0.3-37.8;
and titanate acid up to 4.

The material is a dust usually very impure, being mixed with clay, quartz-sand, and hydroxides of iron in variable amounts.

I think that is all we need to know in regard to the actual chemical structure, and it brings up one or two points of interest. Firstly, I would like to know what percentage of silica is in the bauxite of our own State. I realise it is being brought up as a thick clay. It is possible that there will not be such a lot of dust during the actual mining process, but what will be the percentage of silica left after the chemical first stage is over? And how much silica will be passed into the atmosphere? Also, of what size particles will this silica be made up? Because silica is of no great harm if the particles are large. It is only the almost unseen particles which are dangerous to human beings.

We must consider that we are reaching the stage where we are becoming an industrial city, and I wonder whether our planning is taking into account the possible conditions that can arise from so many of these industries and those which are still to come.

I notice there has been a suggestion for the formation of something like an industrial council, but that looks to me rather like a body for the prevention of accidents rather than a body that is prepared to investigate scientifically the results of the processes of industry upon the human being.

I would like to stress upon the Government that it might well consider the possibility of forming a committee of this sort. There would be many who have been interested in the subject for a number of years and who would be willing to give their services in an honorary capacity. But it would require a department of a small nature in which there was a very experienced officer in charge. I must say that Dr. Letham who has been appointed, is doing everything he can to investigate this matter, but he would be greatly aided by the appointment of a person of long experience in the wide avenues necessary for investigation into so many industries. If there is to be a silicosis problem in regard to these men, I hope it will be looked after better than it is at the Hammersley Range and in the mines of Kalgoorlie.

These are some of the aspects of a new industry which appeal to me, and I wish I could have had the time to go into the question much more thoroughly in order that I could speak with a good deal more authority than I am able to at such short notice.

Another factor I would like to mention has been brought to my notice by a correspondent. I do not think he will mind if I take the liberty of reading his letter. It puts a different light on certain aspects of the difficulties we will face in the future in regard to some of these industries. The

letter to which I refer is from Dr. Porteus. I shall not read the whole of the letter, but just a portion of it. He said—

Yesterday I received from Senator Spooner, who got it from the A.A.E. Commission, details of a 325 megawatt nuclear plant being built at Bodega Bay, 40 miles north of San Francisco, by a private Utility Coy. the Pacific Gas & Electric.

The cost of power produced will be 0.6 pence A. per unit and the cost of building the station £A88 per k.w.h. capacity. This is cheaper than the Muja power station will cost and the power produced will be at a lower figure than Muja which will be at best around 0.8 pence per unit.

The Bodega Bay plant will be completed and producing full power by 1965, and in full competition with other American fossil fuel plants. The P.G. & E. spokesman stated confidently that no more fossil fuel plants would be built in America after 1970, and I am certain that Muja will be the last large conventional plant built in this State.

What conservatively minded technical people in Perth do not yet understand is that when the results of the latest experiments in nuclear power technology become available in 1963-1964, the fall in the cost of producing atomically generated electric power will be sensational. Some atomic engineers predict that it will be cheaper than newly built hydro-electric power.

It is already completely and perfectly plain from knowledge already in hand that a plant of around 350 megawatts designed in 1967 and completed by 1970 at Kwinana could supply an aluminium works with 50 per cent. of its power at from 0.25 to 0.3 pence per unit, while the remainder would be fed into the State grid and sold to industry and other buyers at prices varying from 0.8 pence to 1.5 pence per unit, or more.

My main reason for pointing this out to you in detail is that a grave error of foresight could occur in the Government and the S.E.C. and by 1970 this State could be lamenting the fact that no-one in power in 1961 had the vision to see and to begin making plans for the designing, and later building, of a large atomic plant near Perth.

Just as jet engines seemed to become dominant almost overnight, so will nuclear produced power, and I am hoping that you, as one of the very few scientifically trained members of Parliament, will do your share of waking up the ultra-conservatives to what is really happening in the reactor-power producing field.

That brings up the problem which could arise from giving these people the right to the exclusive use of our bauxite deposits for 42 to 47 years. On the other hand I can see the difficulty the Government might face in regard to such a power plant: that if in 1970, after the company had exported our ore for years to Victoria, a nuclear power station were possible here, the company would be faced, if it were to change its policy, with the problem of building a plant to continue the rest of the process in Western Australia when it had already spent a very large sum of money in Victoria; and that would be unprofitable to the company and to us, because we would certainly have to share in the cost of the transfer.

Therefore when this letter asked me to keep in mind what might happen in the future, I felt we could not suggest a transfer in regard to this agreement. Yet I have been told by those who were associated with the early stages of this matter that there was some discussion with the company in regard to any change of policy should cheap power, such as I have described, suddenly become available.

In the time I have had to read through this agreement, I have not been able to find any definite statement in that regard. If it is an unwritten agreement then, of course, I am afraid it is just as good as if there were no agreement at all, because the amount of cost that I can envisage will be considerable.

My mind would be eased if I knew it was possible to control the fluorine evil or "plague" as it is called in the article that Mr. Wise quoted, because there is no doubt there is a high percentage of fluorine in the atmosphere; and it would certainly be injurious to animal life within a considerable distance of its source. When we realise that this whole city lives on the south-west wind, which for many years has been known as the Fremantle Doctor, the fluorine could be a definite disability. Therefore any noxious fumes or dangerous gases would certainly drift across the area described by Mr. Lavery, and across Fremantle and perhaps a good deal further.

It is possible that the Government has been assured that there is now every possibility of controlling these fumes, but it would be of interest to many of us to know exactly how this problem is to be dealt with, and what will happen to the fluorine when it is controlled; because it must be conserved by some means in the plant if it is not allowed to escape. It would also be of interest to know what use can be made of it.

These are just points that enter one's mind when one sees an agreement of this sort. They enter my mind simply because the interests of the men employed in these new industries must be of some concern to us. Also the interests of those who live in the area of the industry must be of concern to us. We have seen something

of the disabilities of the effluvia on the other side of the river at Rivervale, and so on. The less of these effluvia that we have in the future, the better will be the living standard of the whole community.

I trust that the Minister will not regard these as just being difficult questions: they are simply matters of interest, and if one can be reassured in regard to them, one will be much happier about the passage of this Bill, which certainly will be passed.

THE HON. A. L. LOTON (South) [8.8 p.m.]: I would like the Minister to give me some clarification on a couple of matters when he replies to the debate. Mr. Wise touched briefly on the question of water; and I looked up the agreement entered into by the Government in connection with the paper mill. At page 243 of last year's statutes the paper mill agreement states—

The State anticipates that it will also be able to meet the estimated ultimate requirements of the Company in regard to the supply of water and upon the Company giving to the State at least twelve months' notice in writing in that behalf the State will use all reasonable endeavours to supply such further quantities of potable water as may be reasonably required by the Company for further development.

Under the present agreement we find the following words used at page 27:—

Subject to the Company giving to the State at least twelve (12) months' notice in writing in that behalf the State will supply such further quantities of water.

That is a straightout undertaking that the State will supply the water.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: As may be reasonably required, again.

The Hon. A. L. LOTON: Yes; but it is an agreement that it will supply as may be reasonably required. It is a straightout undertaking.

I raised some queries when we were talking on the paper mill agreement; and after the winter which is now completed, because we are in the spring season, I say that we must exercise caution in regard to the amount of water we shall make available to industry, until such time as some other method is arrived at—nuclear power or something else—which will enable us to turn salt water into water that can be used for industrial purposes.

The Public Works Department, because of the undertaking entered into to supply the rural parts of the State with water from Mundaring could, by the end of this summer, be in dire distress. It will be something unusual if we get a great deal more rain to augment the catchment at Mundaring this year.

If we do not get any more rain, a certain amount of water can be drawn from Canning Dam, because I understand it is connected with Mundaring Weir. But Canning Dam is 24 ft. below overflow. That, I think, was the figure published in a newspaper last Saturday. Were it not for the catchment at Serpentine, Perth would be facing a water famine at this stage.

To date this year, rainfall has been just average; but in order to have an average we have good years and bad years; and, if in the next couple of years, we have a poor season, Perth will be in severe difficulties; because people today are encouraged to use water. They have septic systems—such systems are provided in all the new housing areas—and there is great stress on personal hygiene, so that everyone has a bath. In addition the Empire Games will be held next year, and the people are asked to make the city look as beautiful as possible; and that all takes water.

I am concerned with the continual drain on our not inexhaustible supply of water, because Mundaring, Canning, and Serpentine have not got rivers flowing into them, but only small streams; and most of the catchment area is straightout soakage.

I know it was announced today that a new wall will be put up at Logue Brook, but it is only a very small matter; it will ease the irrigation position at Harvey where restrictions have applied in the last two years.

If we are going to interfere with the terrain of the Darling Range, because of the mining of bauxite, there will be some destruction of timber. Most of the millable timber will be used, but the waste timber will be destroyed; and we must take cognisance of the fact that when we start to destroy the natural vegetation there is always an increase in salinity. I have it on fairly good authority that the water flowing into the Wellington Dam at the end of the summer increases year by year in its saline content. That is caused, no doubt, by the clearing and cultivation of the upper reaches of the catchment area.

The position is all right at this stage; but after 20 or 30 years, with the destruction of the forest in the Darling Range, and the removal of the topsoil, which will prevent the run-off of the water—because the water will go straight into the soft ground if the hard surface is broken—we will have to take notice of whatever position arises.

The company is to be permitted to augment its supplies by bore water. I do not know the maximum quantity of water that has been obtained from any bore with an artesian flow in the Kwinana site. Perhaps the Minister can give us some indication of the maximum amount of water that is being obtained from any bore in that area.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I cannot give you that information offhand.

The Hon. A. L. LOTON: Very well, but I am sure the Minister will be able to obtain the information later. I said I was going to raise certain queries and as I have done so I hope they will be satisfactorily answered. We will no doubt have another opportunity of debating further agreements such as this, and it is to be hoped that a greater concession will be given in regard to obtaining potable water. None of us can visualise what may happen in the future. It is not so very long ago that it was debatable whether we could convey water from Perth to Kalgoorlie, but today, we may have to turn our eyes the other way—we may have to bring water from the Ord River to Perth. Such a suggestion is not beyond the bounds of possibility if our present progress is to continue and we are to encourage industrial development in this State.

I also wish to raise the question of harbour dues, which Mr. Ron Thompson also briefly touched upon. I feel sure the Minister will have an answer to this inquiry. The point is that in view of the fact that this company will be granted its own berthing facilities, how much will the Fremantle Harbour Trust lose by being denied the opportunity to handle the bulk freights which will come from the Western Mining Corporation?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You will find that on page 15, clause 8 (2) (b).

The Hon. A. L. LOTON: I thank the Minister for drawing my attention to that clause. I know the trust had something to do with the negotiations in regard to the installation of harbour wharfage for this company.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That paragraph deals with harbour dues.

The Hon. A. L. LOTON: It is purely a question of how far the Fremantle Harbour Trust is to extend its operations and carry out its duties in the manner for which it was constituted if we are to continually permit one large undertaking after another to obtain waterfront berthing facilities which will take away from the Fremantle Harbour Trust those dues which would rightfully belong to it, because that trust has the responsibility of handling all inward and outward cargo at Fremantle. With those remarks I support the Bill.

THE HON. G. E. JEFFERY (Suburban) [8.19 p.m.]: In rising to support the Bill I am conscious of the fact that the Government is anxious to conclude its agreement with the company, and therefore I do not intend to delay the House for any lengthy period.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: We are not in that much of a hurry. We would still like to hear you.

The Hon. G. E. JEFFERY: I realise that the Government is up against time in bringing this measure forward, but by the

same token I, with other members of this Chamber, would probably like to have more time to check on the facts surrounding this agreement and know a little more about this industry than I do at the moment. Therefore, if I am not as accurate in my figures and statements as I would like to be, I hope the Minister will be charitable and realise that both myself and other members of the Chamber are at a disadvantage in discussing the merits or demerits of this measure.

Quite frankly, this company has invested a great deal in the development of Western Australia. To my mind the Western Mining Corporation has done a good deal more for this State than have some of the other large companies which have established themselves here, and which have taken much more out of the State than they have put into it; especially in regard to their plans for the future. There are some aspects of the measure about which I am not completely happy; whether I am unhappy because of the facts or because I am ignorant of the subject is another matter, but the Minister will no doubt be able to enlighten me when he replies to the debate.

In the first place, I realise that to establish an industry of this size in Western Australia, a great deal depends upon the availability of cheap power. As the Minister said, when introducing the Bill, the permissible figure was .5d. per unit. I realise, of course, that at this moment this State has no chance of supplying power at that figure. I am quite happy that the company will be able to mine 2,500,000 tons of ore over a period of seven years and that, at this moment, the known ore deposits in this State are approximately 80,000,000 tons. To my mind that indicates the industry has some future, and no doubt other deposits will be discovered, all of which will make some further contribution to the prosperity of Western Australia.

On studying the costs, I have made a rough estimate of the sort of figures other members would have liked to know. I have done this because I am unable to obtain the actual figures. On the figures presented, the ore would cost 9d. a ton if treated in Western Australia, but 1s. a ton if exported for treatment outside the State. I would like to know what would be the actual cost of producing the electricity required to treat one ton of this ore. To my mind the cost of wharfage, handling, and freight charges would be such that the company would be lucky to ship it to Victoria at a price of under £6 per ton. As I have said, my figures are only an estimate, and I am trying to base them on the fact that the normal freight charge to Melbourne is 110s. a ton for ordinary cargo, but making an allowance for bulk cargo, I am estimating that it would cost the company £5 a ton to ship the ore to Victoria for treatment.

Therefore, to my way of thinking that would match the cost of producing electricity to treat one ton of ore. What I have in mind, in raising this question, is that if, when the figures—they have not, of course, been made available to members of this Chamber—of the cost of the complete treatment of this ore in Western Australia are analysed, it might be found that the Government would be able to subsidise this industry to balance one thing against another. The cost to the Government would have to be weighed against the greater employment that would be created for the people of this State. In other words, what would be the relationship between the number of people employed in the complete treatment process at Kwinana as compared with shipping the ore for treatment at works in Victoria?

No doubt the Government considered that aspect when negotiating this agreement with the company. There must be a fairly good margin in the production of alumina when a company is prepared to transport it from this State either in the form of raw material or as a refined product for final treatment in another State. I would also like to know what tonnage of bauxite is being shipped out for treatment and the place where it will be treated. Perhaps, also, we could be given an analysis of the freight rates between Victoria and Fremantle and where it is going to be treated. If this information were given it would throw much greater light on the whole picture. As I have said, I do not know the exact figures and I am well aware that they would not be easily obtainable.

The principal factor which governs my thinking on this matter is that in the future the inflation trend will continue. With few exceptions inflation has been the continual trend over the years and I believe it will continue in the future. Therefore, inflation will play an important part in the freight and transport costs, more so than in the cost of producing electricity in Western Australia. I do not know whether that is an actual fact or not, but that is my belief.

In speaking to the clause concerning the construction of the railways, I realise, the same as other members do, that this will pose a problem, but I would say that the business side of the agreement is fairly equitable to both parties and to the State in general.

I am intrigued with the point raised by the Minister in his introduction of the Bill, and also the point raised by Mr. Wise. When introducing the Bill the Minister said the Government had been assured that this particular industry does not create a great nuisance. I would be keen to know where the assurance came from and on what it was based. I would also be keen to measure this assurance against a statement that has been made tonight on what has taken place in the Rhine Valley. I believe my

colleague, Mr. Lavery, said that if there are fumes to be spewed over the area adjacent to the refinery, the people living in a north-easterly direction from the refinery will be affected in the not distant future.

I am also concerned and intrigued about the disposal of the red mud and sands, but before proceeding to deal with that matter I would point out that the nuisance created by the Swan Cement works at Rivervale has been mentioned. In fairness to the company concerned, I would like to say that one of the biggest headaches I had to deal with when I entered Parliament was making inquiries in regard to the dust nuisance that was created by the Swan Cement works. I ascertained that that company spent thousands of pounds in its endeavours to prevent this nuisance, not only in experimentation but also in the installation of various appliances that had been recommended to it as being able to abate the nuisance. Frankly, however, quite a lot of the expenditure by the company was wasted, and the nuisance continued to exist, although to a lesser extent.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The company did conscientiously try to remove the cause of the nuisance.

The Hon. G. E. JEFFERY: Yes. In the agreement contained in this Bill the company can do just as it likes.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I think you will find that this company will be just as conscientious in its approach as the Swan Cement company.

The Hon. G. E. JEFFERY: I hope the Minister's confidence in the company will not prove to be misplaced. The law in regard to this matter may be harsh on offenders, but to honest men and companies it is quite just. Therefore, if this company is as good and as conscientious as we are led to believe, it should have no objection to a clause being inserted in the agreement containing the same provisions that are applied to other people in the community concerning the abatement of nuisances.

At the present day we hear many complaints about people keeping half a dozen fowls in the backyard, or complaints about the rooster crowing early in the morning, and in a civilised community we all have to recognise an appropriate sense of responsibility in these matters. I have every reason to believe that the company is quite honest, and therefore it should have no objection to a clause such as I have suggested being inserted in the agreement which will tie it down to make proper supervision of the discharge of fumes into the atmosphere, in the same way as similar provisions are applied to other people and industries in the metropolitan area.

The discharge of red sands would be akin to the discharge of pyrites wastes from the superphosphate works at Basendean and Bayswater. In these matters

we have to look to the future. I did read the comment of a Minister in another place to the effect that there are conditions provided which will, for some time, cover such a situation; and from my reading of the Bill and the way in which the conditions are worded it would seem that we have nothing to worry about. It reminds me of the chap I mentioned the other day who raised the question of rubbish disposal. He made the comment that all one has to do is to throw it over somebody else's back fence, and your worries are over for the time being.

When the superphosphate works were first established they used to burn sulphur for the manufacture of sulphuric acid. With the outbreak of war, however, they were forced to burn pyrites which was obtained from Norseman because sulphur supplies were not available. Over the years those works have sluiced the residue to various parts of their properties to such an extent that today they are faced with the problem that they have used up all the available ground and have no place where they can dispose of this waste material. That is the problem with which this company will be faced in the future. What I am concerned with is the damage that will occur from the waste material after it has been sluiced to the selected site. A conscientious company treats these wastes before they are disposed of so that no harm will result to the surrounding countryside or the residents in the vicinity.

There are certain factors over which these companies have no control, such as power breakdowns, during which time the process of manufacture still goes on for a short period and the wastes continue to pour out without being treated and before something can be done. As a result, this injurious material is untreated and sinks underground to affect the residential blocks that are adjacent to the works site. The residents of the houses built on those blocks eventually find that the trees and shrubs that they have planted and cared for during their growth eventually cast down their roots until they reach this waste material, and the next thing the residents know is that they have dead trees on their hands.

Therefore, I do not want to see any devastation of the area around Kwinana. At this moment, if we have confidence in this State, what we regard as being the rural or urban areas of the metropolitan area will gradually be built up into heavy industrial areas. The metropolitan area is expanding rapidly; and, whilst one may think that one may be out in the bush some few miles distant from the centre of the city, in 10 or 15 years' time we will find that those parts will be closely settled with residences and occupied by many industries. Therefore, we should know a great deal more about how long this disposal area for wastes will take to

fill up, based on an overall figure of production. We want to know how long the area concerned will last for the disposal of waste material in that manner.

There is one other matter I want to raise. It is my opinion—and I have no legal qualifications—that clauses 23 and 24 on pages 29 and 30 are completely superfluous and not worth the ink they are written with. I think they may impose a moral obligation on the Governments of the future of this State to act along the lines suggested in the agreement, but frankly, in my opinion, they do not; and perhaps the Minister in his reply to the debate will assure the House that these clauses have no bearing whatsoever.

High Court decisions, over the years, have shown that at all times Parliament is supreme; and this Parliament has no power to abrogate the power of some particular Government of this State in the future. I think these two clauses are superfluous. They may look pretty in ink, but to my mind they are completely worthless; and I think the company should know that they are; if my contention is correct. I support the second reading.

THE HON. E. M. HEENAN (North-East) [8.31 p.m.]: I have pleasure in supporting this Bill, which is for the purpose of establishing another important industry in Western Australia. The highlights which impress me are the provisions for the export of 2,500,000 tons of bauxite over the next seven years, and the erection of a refinery and auxiliary buildings, including a wharf, at Kwinana at a cost of £5,000,000.

Another aspect which pleases me is that the company involved is an offshoot of the Western Mining Corporation Ltd. which is well and favourably known in Western Australia because of its past fine record on the goldfields of this State.

As far as we are concerned in this House, our role is to ratify or to refuse to ratify an agreement made between the Government of Western Australia of the one part, and the company of the other part dated the 7th June, 1961. It is our duty, however, to study the agreement critically and point out any matters that give us concern, as very few agreements, no matter how carefully drawn, are perfect in themselves; and now is the time for careful scrutiny. This does not imply there is opposition to the project in itself.

I was particularly interested in the remarks made by Dr. Hislop when he referred to the incidence of silica in the proposed mining operations. We have heard enough about this subject in recent sessions to realise it has far reaching consequences to those engaged in mining operations. I hope that all modern precautions will be adopted to safeguard the

health of miners in this regard; and knowing the past record of the company, I believe this will be done.

There is one matter that is causing me grave concern, and that is the reference to the Mines Regulation Act in clause 9, paragraph (7). Clause 3 of the agreement provides for the sale of 137 acres at Kwinana to be used as a works site. Then, clause 9 provides for the granting of a mineral lease or mineral leases, to be termed "the leased area." In paragraph (7) of clause 9 there is a provision that the company in its operations on the mineral lease or the leased area shall be subject to the provisions of the Mines Regulation Act, 1956; and the company shall comply with and observe such provisions.

So the agreement stipulates that on the mining leases the provisions of the Mines Regulation Act, 1956, are to apply, but it makes no reference to the works site. I repeat, the agreement stipulates that the company has to comply with the Mines Regulation Act on the leases that it is working, but it says nothing about the works site. This raises a serious doubt in my mind as to whether the men working in the refinery will be covered by the provisions of the Mines Regulation Act.

It seems to me that the draftsman inadvertently left out a reference to the works site, because I am creditably informed that the company desires and intends to comply with the provisions of the Mines Regulation Act at the works site, as do the mines in Kalgoorlie with men working underground. They are covered by the provisions of the Mines Regulation Act which provides for inspectors and all sorts of things for the safe working of the mines. These provisions also apply to the treatment works on the surface where the ore is treated. In my opinion, and I am sure in the opinion of the Government and also of the company, it is the intention and wish that a like situation shall prevail in connection with this industry. Why the draftsman did not add the words "works site" in paragraph (7), I do not know; but I express the view that it has occurred through inadvertence. In the interpretation of statutes, if mineral leases are specified and it is specified that the Mines Regulations Act is to apply to them, and reference to the works site is left out, the implication could easily be that the Mines Regulation Act is not intended to apply to the works site. On page 31 of the agreement, clause 30 reads as follows:—

This agreement shall be interpreted according to the laws for the time being in force in the said State.

I am also conscious of the definition in the Mines Regulation Act that stipulates a mine means a place within a mining district where any operation for the purpose of obtaining metal or mineral has been or is being carried on, or where the

products of any such place are being treated or dealt with or where explosives are being used. I anticipate that in his reply the Minister will argue that the provisions of the Mining Act which are in existence will apply to this site or to this proposed refinery. But as against that argument, it could be said: Why in paragraph (7) was the refinery site specifically left out?

I am not prepared to be absolutely certain as to what the correct interpretation of the provision is, but it raises a grave doubt, especially as I believe it will be the intention of the company and of the Government for the provisions of the Mines Regulation Act to apply to this site. I especially request the Minister to look into the position and perhaps elucidate it before the Bill is concluded in this House. I should say even at this stage if there is a grave doubt, both parties could easily insert those words in paragraph (7) of clause 9, initial them, and clarify the position. I wish the industry every success, and I hope it will be another step that will advance the welfare of the State.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [8.46 p.m.]: First of all, I would like to take the opportunity of thanking members for the objective way in which they dealt with this Bill. They are very much entitled to direct their questions and criticisms to me, and to the best of my ability I will reply to them. If I omit any information because of my inadequacy and lack of knowledge concerning this industry—and I stress that my knowledge of the industry is indeed very small—I will endeavour to obtain the information before the Bill is read a third time.

I thank members for their contributions to the debate and for the questions they have asked; because I believe their contributions will help us to have a clearer understanding of what this industry means to Western Australia.

I will not go through the history of this State, but it is interesting to realise that Western Australia is approximately 160 years old. This great State of ours began to develop with the discovery of minerals. The finding of gold in Kalgoorlie in the 1890's was followed by primary production; and during the period of our history we have mainly been a primary producing State.

I join with Mr. Loton in expressing the view that that is the particular thing we must endeavour to protect. I hope that Western Australia will go on being a primary producing State. But in order that we may prosper we have to have a balance—or some may prefer the word equilibrium—of secondary industries within the State; and to that end I am sure the Government has endeavoured to achieve success.

We have got to shape up to the fact that we are now going to have industry coming into Western Australia. As Mr. MacKinnon pointed out, there is no doubt that as industry comes into the State there will be growing pains, and there will be difficulties; and certain people will suffer inconveniences, sometimes great and considerable. But in the long run the people of our State will, I am sure, prosper and benefit as a result of industry coming to Western Australia.

I would like to say, at the outset, that when this Government—as I am sure does any Government—enters into an agreement of this nature with any company, it endeavours, to the best of its ability, to drive the hardest bargain it can for the State; and, in turn, the company endeavours to represent itself in order to get the best possible deal it can so far as its working conditions and negotiations are concerned.

My part in these negotiations was during the early stages and concerned the question of the temporary reserves that had, admittedly, already been given to the company by the previous Government. I would say, without any hesitation whatsoever, that the executives of this company, from the chairman of directors down, have been the best possible people with whom to deal; and I feel quite sure that they will conscientiously carry out their obligations under this agreement to the very best of their ability.

I do not think we need have the fears concerning this industry that have been voiced this evening. Voice them, of course, we must; because we are suddenly finding ourselves—and I use that term advisedly—moving out of one era into another: an era of secondary industry. The growth of the State will be fast once it starts. Once the broad gauge is completed; once the integrated iron and steel industry commences operations; and once the Kwinana area fulfils its destiny in this State; we can expect, without any doubt, to see the growth of industry in Western Australia.

As a young country, we must endeavour to watch and see that we protect the interests of the people to the best of our ability, having always in mind that the economics of industry must also be served until we get the complete—or near complete—understanding between this State and the people who want to bring industry into the State for the benefit of the State.

I think that is what this Government has been striving for. The Minister for Industrial Development handled the major part of the negotiations dealing with all of the industrial phases of the agreement, and he deserves the credit to which he is entitled. The company deserves credit for its efforts; because when I first started to talk to the management of the Western Mining Corporation early in 1959 this agreement and this industry was a long

way off. At that time it was a dream that it was hoped would be achieved. Even when this agreement was entered into, the company hoped to achieve it by the year 1967. But when the negotiations were commenced it was hoped that the work on the refinery would commence before Christmas; but fortunately for all of us it is now hoped that the work will commence before Christmas.

To the best of my ability I will reply to all the points that were raised. I repeat that one cannot help but be pleased with the constructive criticism that has been offered in the remarks made by members. In the first instance, the success of this project depends on the availability of cheap power. Mr. Wise was quite right when he said that. He pointed out that in his experience all aluminium plants were based on the availability of cheap coal. Together with the right to search for bauxite, the company also searched for coal, and covered a total area of something like 6,000 square miles from Wilga Basin to York, Lake Muir in the south-east, and nearly up to Perth.

The search went on for a long time. Unfortunately, the deposit of coal upon which to base this industry was just not available in Western Australia. The Mines Department played a significant part in the search that took place. I feel quite certain, and I can assure the House, that nobody more than Western Mining Corporation and its subsidiary, Western Aluminium N.L., wished to see the complete treatment plant established here in Western Australia. The company aimed to achieve that, but unfortunately was not able to do so. Had the deposits of coal at Anglesea—something like 400,000,000 tons been available here with an extraction rate of something in the order of 10s. per ton, things would have been different.

I suppose it would be true to say that the aluminium plant could have been based at the Muja open cut. If that were so, then the Government had a choice to make: it had the choice of either basing the industry on the Muja open cut, or ensuring that the power station—which some people believed would never be built there; but which is going to be built there—would be assured for its lifetime of a reasonable supply of coal at a fairly reasonable price; which would ensure that the people of this State would not be prejudiced so far as the supply of electricity was concerned.

In view of the deposit in Anglesea, and in view of the situation on the coal fields, the choice that the Government had to make was primarily to establish the power station at Muja; and that is what is going to be done. I would add that I have been assured that if at any time cheap power became available in this State, the company would be the first to interest itself in such cheap power.

An important aspect of the negotiations on behalf of the company was that the company would receive its power on the basis of .5d. or 1d. per unit. Mr. Wise asked whether members could be given some figures, as a comparison, which would show why it was necessary to take the alumina to the Eastern States for treatment rather than pay the excessive amount for power that could be offered to the company in Western Australia; to compare the Western Australian price as against the price of power and the transport of the material in the Eastern States. I will try to reply to that.

In the first instance, the lowest power rate quoted from the S.E.C. schedule is approximately 1.6d. per unit—that is, 1½d. per unit. It is a recognised fact in alumina treatment in the world that the ratio of cost must be in the order of approximately a halfpenny a unit or less to obtain a satisfactory economic rate of production. To proceed from bauxite—which is the raw material, as mined out of the Darling Range—to alumina, which is the first stage of treatment, takes from 2.8 to 3 tons of bauxite to produce 1 ton of alumina. It takes 2 tons of alumina to produce 1 ton of—I will call it metal, so that I do not get mixed up between alumina and aluminium.

So it takes two tons of alumina to produce one ton of metal; therefore, 5½ to 6 tons of bauxite is required for the production of one ton of metal. One pound weight of alumina, the production of the first treatment of bauxite, requires 1½ units of power.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: To get it to the alumina stage?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes, but one pound of metal requires about 8½ units of power to produce which, at 1d. a unit, is in the order of £45 to £50 for a ton of metal—that is aluminium. Obviously, if the power had to be used here, at 1.6d., it would mean that the price would be three times £45 or £50 a ton, and that would range somewhere within the order of £135 to £150 for a ton of metal. On the question of using the power here at that price, at Mr. Wise's figure of a ton of bauxite costing £8 for freight, it would mean that we would have a cost of £135 to £150 per ton less—

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: At 1.6d.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes. And it would be less £8 a ton for freight as against the position in Victoria of £8 a ton for the freight, plus the £45 to £50 a ton to produce the metal at the Anglesea coal deposits in Victoria.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: The question was worth asking.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I quite agree.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: And well answered.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I had to get a lot of guidance on this, because it is a technical question which I do not profess to understand. However, I have been given the information by an executive of the company. The company will use in the order of a million tons of ore a year—something between 800,000 and 1,000,000 tons per annum. It is unthinkable, of course, to bring coals to Newcastle, because the cost of bringing coal here would be fantastic, and would put the whole question right out of proportion. Therefore I think that has cleared up that particular question.

I think I should say too—in regard to the remarks Mr. Wise made that not all the information is given; and he will appreciate it—that a Minister introducing a Bill tries to give the House all the information he can, and it is from the speeches made by members that it is possible to make further inquiries and reply to those queries when replying to the debate. Of course it is always probable that some explanation will be left out. However, speaking for myself, and I am sure for any other member who has been or will be a Minister in this House, we are anxious to try to obtain all the information we can to answer any questions that members may ask.

On the question of the material that is required for the production of alumina here, Mr. Wise mentioned 10,000 tons of soda ash and 100,000 tons of lime.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: No, 15,000 tons.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes. Of course in respect of soda ash there is not a sufficient quantity produced here, and it has to be imported.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: What is the prospect for the future?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not know. Soda ash is produced here but not in sufficient quantities; but I am sure that as soon as it is available here the company will purchase it because it would be fallacious to think that the company would import it if it could be produced in Western Australia at a competitive price.

Mr. Wise dealt in detail with the problem of fluorine or fluoride—I do not know which it is, but I think it is fluoride; that is the effluent from the burning process required to produce aluminium. The honourable member was good enough to let me have a look at the article relating to the establishment of the industry at Baden in Germany. Incidentally, I have been to Baden, and although I did not see the aluminium plant, I thought Baden was one of the most beautiful places that I had seen anywhere in the world.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: You have not seen Perth yet!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I said one of the most beautiful places. I have also been down the Rhine, and I think that is

one of the most beautiful rivers I have seen. This destruction of grasses and fauna, cattle, and property that was talked about, is difficult to understand; not for a moment am I suggesting that the writer of the article was not giving authentic details, but the fact remains that we are not going to get the aluminium plant in Western Australia. We are going to get the alumina plant, and I am told that there is no fluoride gas from this process; it occurs only during the burning process, and if there is no treatment then there is no fluoride gas.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: You are going to give it to Mr. Bolte instead!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: We are not going to give it to Mr. Bolte. The plant is going there out of sheer necessity.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: I was only just making a humorous comment.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I realise that, and I know the honourable member is not taking a shot at me. I would like to assure members that right from the start of the small part I played in these negotiations my intentions were, if at all possible, to get the industry for Western Australia. But if the industry were established here then, of course, we would have to face the difficulties that go with it; and I believe we have to make up our minds upon this very point: if we are going to get secondary industry and if we are going to progress, we will have to put up with the difficulties that secondary industry will undoubtedly bring.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: You cannot have breakfast in bed without crumbs.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: You must be a careless eater.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Of course I cannot answer the honourable member, because I am always up long before I have breakfast.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I have never had that experience, either.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: There will, of course, be stacks on the steam boilers at the refinery, but they will not give off fluoride gas; and the stacks will be protected to the fullest possible degree. I think we have to accept the statement made by Mr. Jeffery; and I do know that the Swan Portland Cement Co. made conscientious efforts to try to overcome the problems. That company did everything possible to overcome the difficulties associated with smoke and effluent from its works, and to a large extent those difficulties were overcome. I feel we must have some faith in the people who start industries in this State—industries which will undoubtedly be profitable so far as the State is concerned. I am sure that they will conduct themselves in a proper way, and that in this instance the company concerned will conduct itself in keeping, as the agreement says, with the

modern trends and the modern practices in industry, and that it will provide a refinery plant that will give the minimum trouble.

It is true, as Mr. Wise said, that we have tied up quite a lot of country. Up to date the company has proved something in the order of 80,000,000 tons of bauxite ore. There is a restrictive clause in the agreement which enables it to export 2,560,000 tons of bauxite ore in total; but I would like members to appreciate that in the establishment of an industry it is desirable for a company to be able to export some of its raw material, because that raw material sometimes goes to those customers with whom negotiations are being conducted for the purchase of the finished article; and that could be the case in this instance.

A point was raised whether the company was getting water at cheap rates. I had a quick look at the agreement and I did not think that the company was going to get water at cheap rates. If I remember rightly, the water will be bought at the ruling rates.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: It is on page 26.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I thank the honourable member. I am trying to find where it says in the agreement that the company will pay the industrial rate.

The Hon. A. L. Loton: It is on page 27, the fourth line down in subclause (6).

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes. It says—

... shall be at the rate ruling from time to time for excess water supplied for industrial purposes by the Metropolitan Water Supply Sewerage and Drainage Department.

So the company is not going to get its water cheaper than anybody else. Regarding quantity, the company is not going to use a great deal—350,000 gallons a day plus 40,000, and I think that in the year it will use something like 117,000,000 gallons of water. I realise that we have to watch the water situation in this State—I realise that only too well. But what happens when an agreement of this nature is negotiated? The particular matters appertaining to various departments are taken to those department and consultations take place with the heads of the departments. In this case I am informed that the Water Supply Department is satisfied that it can fulfil the company's needs.

I would point out to Mr. Loton that if he looks at page 27, the second last line of subclause (4), he will see that it says—

... as the State considers may be made available for the purpose.

I take it that if the State does not consider the water can be made available then it will not be provided. I think they are protective words.

As regards the questions raised by Mr. Ron Thompson, concerning compensation, at this particular point of time I cannot tell the honourable member, but I will ascertain the information for him. In respect to the future of Rockingham, my colleague, the Minister for Local Government, and Town Planning, informs me that Rockingham is being planned, and he assures me that he does not think the people of Rockingham have any need to worry.

On the question of an access way over the railway line, that, too, will be taken up to see whether it is intended to be provided or whether anything can be done to provide it if it is not intended.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: That has already been taken up.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: My colleague informs me that the matter had already been taken up before the honourable member made his speech. As far as I have been able to ascertain, the main to Kwinana is a 10-in. main—that is the one that runs on the top of the ground, on the ocean side of the road as one goes down. The fees to be paid by the Fremantle Harbour Trust are set down in clause 8 (2) (b) at page 15 of the agreement.

Mr. Bennetts also shared the view in respect to the fears of fumes from smokestacks, and he joined with other members and expressed his fear of the water position. Knowing that we are not going to get the aluminium plant at Kwinana will, to some extent, dispel the fears about the fumes. The remarks made by Mr. MacKinnon were well founded. There is no doubt that there will be pinpricks, difficulties, and growing pains. If we think we will have trouble over this, what sort of difficulty will we be in when we get the broad gauge railway from Kalgoorlie to Perth, or the steel rolling mill at Kwinana? When we get those we will really start to go.

Some of the problems can only be solved when we come to them. Mr. Baxter was concerned about the destruction of the forests in the Darling Range. It must be appreciated that, in addition to the fact that the company has entered into certain covenants in the agreement that it will do certain things in respect to afforestation, only about 25 acres of forest land will be affected. It will only take approximately 25 acres of land to produce the amount of ore that will be treated. It will be mined in the Jarrahdale area and the bauxite will be crushed somewhere in that district; though the actual location has not yet been determined.

It will be transported to Kwinana in the manner I have explained, where it will be treated; bearing in mind that we have the railway deviation Bill dealing with this subject. Although we are not dealing with the aluminium plant, the Bell Bay plant has been in operation for some years,

and I understand there has been no outward sign of destruction as a result of the production at Bell Bay.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: Do they start from bauxite?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am not certain, but I think they do. In the treatment of aluminium apparently the smelter is the danger. Where there are no smelters of course there is no gas. Knowing that only 25 acres of ground will be affected on an average each year, I think Mr. Baxter's fears can very largely be dispelled.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: The excavations will be fairly deep.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: No; I understand they will not necessarily be very deep. This mineral does not lie at very great depth.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: About 6 to 8 ft.?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: A little more than that; I think it goes down to about 15 ft. But the company has arranged to back fill; and I would like to add that this agreement has been seen by the Conservator of Forests and he is in full accord with and has registered his approval of the arrangements made.

There are conditions for royalties; and the company is required to give notice when it wants to enter forest land so that the conservator can mark certain trees and take them out when necessary.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Not all the reserves referred to are on forest land.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: No; but the area covered is quite large, as it must be in an undertaking such as this.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: The company will carry out tidying-up work?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes, that is a condition of the agreement. I would refer the honourable member to the afforestation plan which is on pages 24 and 25 of the agreement under the heading "Access to Forests." Mr. Loton raised the question of water, and I believe the department is watching this very closely, which, of course, it is obliged to do. I am not able to tell the honourable member what bores have been put down in that area, or what sort of water has been produced.

The Hon. A. L. Loton: Will you let me know in due course?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes, I will try to find out. In reply to Dr. Hislop's query, I would say there is very little slag. At the screenage at which this material is to be produced, the slag is not as evident as it would be if it were ground finer.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: What percentage?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not know. In regard to the question of nuclear power, I think we must have all received a letter from Mr. Porteus; but I fear that nuclear power is a long way away so far

as this State is concerned. In this agreement neither the company nor the Government was in a position to sit down and wait for anything. The aluminium industry is a very difficult one to get into, and it stands to the credit of the company that it was able to influence the Alcoa group to go into this venture with it in Western Australia.

I cannot do more than give Mr. Jeffery the assurances I have already given on behalf of the company in respect to the effluent nuisance. I feel sure the company will do all it can to ensure that it eliminates to the greatest possible extent any effluent or other nuisance that may result. In regard to red mud and sands, the company must do certain things. Investigations have shown that the country it will fill will be capable of taking light industry, and also buildings up to three storeys.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: I think it will be in the Mandogalup area.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I could not say. It will be in the low-lying area, and instead of being a nuisance it may bring the land to a point of some value.

The only other point was that mentioned by Mr. Heenan in respect to the Mines Regulation Act. The honourable member was perfectly right in thinking that I would put up the argument that the Act already dealt with the situation. He must have had some doubt in his mind to have given me the lead and to think that I would make this explanation. The interpretation of a mine in the Mines Regulation Act is as follows:—

"Mine" means a place within a mining district where any operation for the purpose of obtaining any metal or mineral has been or is being carried on or where the products of any such place are being treated or dealt with or where explosives are being used.

I emphasise the words "or where the products of any such place are being treated or dealt with." On the next page of the Mines Regulation Act we find the following:—

The Governor may from time to time exempt from the operation of this Act or any of the provisions thereof any mine or class of mines for such period and on such conditions if any he may think fit.

I will go no further than to say that is the law; it is written into the Mines Regulation Act, and I am advised by the Solicitor-General that the interpretation under the Mines Regulation Act has regard to this particular agreement. I will not go further than that.

The Hon. E. M. Heenan: Why was it left out?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not know. If the honourable member looks at the plan he will find that the whole of this works site area is part and parcel of the

mineral lease. I think Mr. Jeffery raised the point about clauses 23 and 24. He said he did not think they were worth the paper they were written on. If the honourable member considers they are so innocuous then we need not worry about them. Those clauses were included so that the company would not find itself in the position of being unprotected from a hostile Government.

Mr. Heenan suggested that we should hold up the passage of this Bill. I would ask him not to do that. It is imperative that we gain the consent of the Legislative Council to the passage of this Bill. As I said last night when introducing the measure, there are certain arrangements going on about which I naturally cannot speak, even here, because they are matters of negotiation so far as the company is concerned.

The Hon. E. M. Heenan: You say the works site is part of the mineral lease.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: If the honourable member looks at the plan he will see that in the mineral lease area is included the works site.

The Hon. E. M. Heenan: That probably clarifies it.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not want to go any further than that. The law is there and it applies the interpretation of a mine under the Mines Regulation Act. The following clause gives the exemption. That is all I need say.

In conclusion, I would thank members for the objective manner in which they have dealt with this Bill and for the conclusions they have drawn. I hope I have been able to give a reasonably satisfactory explanation of all the points raised. I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

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

Clauses 1 to 3 put and passed.

Clause 4: Closure of portion of certain railway and road—

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: This clause provides that so much of the public road known as the Perth-Naval Base Road, as is necessary to give effect to the agreement, shall be closed and all rights of way over it shall cease. Will that mean that the portion of this road north of Hope Valley Road will remain?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I cannot answer the question at this stage. It could be dealt with in the debate on the railway Bill, which is related to the alumina industry.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 5 put and passed.

Schedule put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

BILLS (2)—RECEIPT AND FIRST READING

1. Companies Act Amendment Bill.

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

2. Metropolitan Region Improvement Tax Act Amendment Bill.

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

HEALTH EDUCATION COUNCIL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 19th September.

THE HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [9.37 p.m.]: I sought the adjournment of the debate on this Bill in order to refresh my memory as to the constitution of the Health Education Council, and to examine its progress with a view to making a few suggestions. The present membership of the council is 17, in addition to which there is a secretary and an assistant; so, there are probably 19 persons sitting at the meetings.

This Bill has been introduced to increase the membership by one—the nominee of the Australian Dental Association. From time to time it may become desirable to enlarge the representation on the council, or it may be desirable to reduce the membership. It would be much easier to do that by giving the Minister the power to increase or to reduce the membership, instead of having to introduce a Bill on each occasion. As time goes on groups of citizens are formed into useful bodies in this State, and they may desire representation on the council.

I have examined the parent Act which was passed in 1958. It provides that the council, for the purpose of carrying out its functions and duties, and of exercising its powers under the Act, may appoint certain committees. That is contained in section 9. I am not at all certain that it has the power to form an executive. Surely this council, which consists of 17 members and two staff members, is too big an organisation to carry out its routine duties. To give the council the power to appoint an execu-

tive would be a wise move. The Minister may contend that such power exists, but I cannot find it in the parent Act.

The Health Education Council, as a constitutional body, was formed in 1958 when the Act was passed, although it was early in 1959 before the Act was proclaimed. It would be interesting to examine some of the activities undertaken by this body. Its report for the year 1959 indicates that its major effort was in the direction of home safety, and the prevention of accidents in the home. The Corrigin plan, which was so successful in preventing accidents in the home, was implemented; and this matter was taken up by the Rotary organisation and other bodies in this State. This plan has been instrumental in reducing the percentage of accidents in the home.

If one were to look at the programme of the council for 1959-60 one would find that the Corrigin project was extended to other centres, but as yet no report has been received as to the success of such extension of the project. Various features were included in this report, one of which created considerable interest. That was the Medina dental study project. It would pay members of this House to learn about what was done under the Medina project, in respect of dental health.

Another feature in the report also created great interest, and that relates to food handling—a subject in respect of which regulations were recently gazetted by the Public Health Department. The report proposes that a food hygiene committee be formed with representatives from the Perth City Council, the Cafe and Restaurant Proprietors' Association, the Public Health Department, and the Health Education Council. It suggests that the function of this committee should be to investigate and recommend the scope of training to be undertaken. I am not sure from what follows who are the people to be trained, or whether they are to give instructions to cafe proprietors and similar people after their training.

If the parent Act does not contain any power for the council to appoint an executive, I suggest the Minister might look at that question, because I consider it should have that power. From my experience, I doubt whether councils, with a membership as large as the membership of the Health Education Council, can function effectively. They would experience difficulty in organising their meetings and in going through their agendas, particularly as each member of the council has the right to appoint a deputy. With such a large membership and with the provision to appoint deputies, the council must experience considerable difficulty in carrying out its duties.

I have never been in favour of deputies in this sort of thing at all because if the individuals concerned were taking an interest in their work, they would desire to be present at the meetings. However, if

deputies are allowed, then I think there should be a smaller body which could meet regularly and consistently as an executive without deputies in order to hasten the functions of the council. Apart from this matter, I have pleasure in supporting the measure.

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Local Government) [9.45 p.m.]: By just a quick glance through the parent Act, in trying to find the answer to Dr. Hislop's request in regard to an executive committee, I find that section 10 provides that the council may, from time to time, constitute committees and assign names to those committees for the purposes of this Act. Therefore I imagine that under that section they could, if they so desired, elect an executive committee and call it such. Under that section they have elected three different committees, these being a finance committee, a dental health committee, and a teaching aides committee; but, as far as I can see, according to the report they have not as yet introduced an executive committee. Under subsection (10) of section 6, seven nominee councillors or their respective deputies, including the chairman or his deputy if present, constitute a quorum of the council. Therefore seven of the 17 members could form an executive committee if they so desired.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: That is not a real executive.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I appreciate that, but it means it could operate if seven members were present.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: I think you will have to put it in the Bill.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Under section 10 I think it would be possible to elect an executive committee. After all, under that section the purpose of the Act would be to elect an executive committee to operate if it so wished. However, I will have that position examined.

The other point Dr. Hislop made was in respect to the necessity for the Act to be amended in Parliament every time it was desired that another health body be represented. I think the honourable member has the right idea, because we should not waste the time of Parliament just to add another representative.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: They might need a physiotherapist next.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes. There is definitely some merit in that point of view. The report which the honourable member mentioned is a very good one; and not only is the report itself important, but so is the information contained in the appendices—perhaps more important than the report itself. It would be worth while for any member, who has time, to study it.

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.

FIRE BRIGADES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 19th September.

THE HON. J. D. TEAHAN (North-East) [9.51 p.m.]: This is a small measure, and a little research into it reveals that not very long ago fire brigades seemed to have been established purely for the extinguishing of fires, and had little or no authority in ordering or taking action in the prevention of fires, until, in 1942, the Chief Fire Officer in the State was given certain powers in this direction, although they were not very great. It was not until after the establishment of the Fire Brigades Board in 1959 that power was given to the board to direct an owner or occupier of premises to install equipment, apparatus, and appliances considered necessary for the purpose of prevention of fires, the extinguishing of fires, and the prevention of injury or damage to persons or property by fire.

That was an admirable action to have been taken, and it appears that directions have been freely given to those in control of buildings, factories, etc., to install equipment and take such measures as are necessary to comply with the provisions of the Act passed in 1959. However, when the board came to accept a challenge from certain places that had not complied with the directions given, and commenced to take proceedings, it found that there was a loophole in the Act and it was unable to proceed as desired.

This measure is therefore designed to give the court the necessary power to insist on any directions being carried out, and is therefore a commendable one and deserves the support of all members.

THE HON. F. R. H. LAVERY (West) [9.53 p.m.]: In supporting this Bill I desire to raise a protest. In the last two or three sessions of Parliament we have been getting a continuing number of Bills presented to us, because some word has been left out or someone has suddenly found that we have no authority under the Act. I well remember when this Bill was before the House; quite a lot of discussion ensued on it.

It ill behoves me to criticise the draftsman or any other person in this connection, but I do believe that it should be unnecessary for Bills to be presented because Acts have been passed in such a manner that they provide loopholes. When this measure was before the House a lot of debate took place as to what authority

the board would have. I believe that the position is that while there is a number of firms which have accepted the directions given by the Fire Brigades Board to have certain equipment installed or certain action taken, about 80 have not; and that is the reason for this Bill.

However, surely to goodness we have reached the stage where we should make these situations clear when the legislation is first passed. That is the only point I have against the measure.

THE HON. H. K. WATSON (Metropolitan) [9.55 p.m.]: I think there is a good deal of merit in what Mr. Lavery has said. When this Bill was amended by empowering the board to make a direction, clearly, unless the board has some power or the person to whom the direction was made was under some penalty, there was not much sense in giving the board the power to make a direction. It is a matter which should have been looked after. On the other hand, we here probably nodded on that occasion because we also failed to pick up the omission.

This legislation was passed in 1959, and if my memory serves me rightly, as a result of the inquiries I made then it was explained to us that power was not required for use willy-nilly. It was required mainly with respect to large city buildings such as the T. & G. to ensure that where the building was higher than the ladder, or some such thing, an adequate water supply was installed at the top of the building. In other words, the ordinary small individual—particularly the person whose property had been erected for some years—would not be harried needlessly by directions from the Fire Brigades Board; because after all the average person does pay his insurance premiums, and there was a feeling that the object behind the amendment which was moved two years ago was to enable insurance companies to protect themselves on the cheap, as it were.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: That is so.

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: And whilst the Minister did not mention it in his speech, I understand that in 12 months after the legislation was passed in 1959, something like 300 orders had been issued; and probably 200 had been complied with, while 100 had not been complied with. The Minister could correct me if he would be good enough in his reply to the debate. However, I understand that is approximately the position.

I did indicate to the Minister that I would be obliged if he would give some information on the one hand as to the nature of the directions that had been issued to various persons and had been complied with; and, on the other hand, the nature of the directions which had been issued to other persons and which had not been complied with. The Minister has furnished a statement but it merely

relates to half a dozen persons who have not complied, and half a dozen person who have complied. I do not know whether that is intended to be a typical statement of the hundred who have or of the 80 who have not. But I do notice that one of the persons who has been given directions has been granted an exemption, or is installing the work progressively on account of the cost of the work that he has been directed to carry out.

One company has been instructed to install a sprinkler fire alarm system; and, throwing my mind back, that was an illustration I raised at the time the original measure was before us. I pointed out that while it may be one thing to direct a wealthy company to install a sprinkler system, it was a very different thing to direct a company, not so financial, to install a sprinkler system; because when we talk of such systems we talk in costs not of thousands of pounds, but of tens of thousands of pounds.

This particular company, which apparently had no such provision in the first place and was recommended—I like the word “recommended”—to install a sprinkler fire-alarm system, owned a store of such a nature as would, I think, merit the direction that was given.

I repeat the views which I expressed 18 months ago that the board having got this power, it is hoped that it will exercise it sparingly and with a bit of commonsense. I trust that the business community, particularly in the City of Perth, will not needlessly be put to heavy expense by virtue of the power that will be given to the Fire Brigades Board.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: There is a right of appeal, is there not?

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: No; we did discuss the question of giving a right of appeal. Members may recall that we got into a state of confusion over the matter. At one stage we discussed giving a person the right to appeal to a magistrate. But whether the provision went into the Bill and then came out of it, or whether it did not go in at all, I do not know now. The question, however, was discussed and there was a substantial body of opinion in this House which believed there should be a right of appeal. But at the moment there is no such right.

If the board in its wisdom—and there was a feeling that the board meant the Chief Fire Officer and that it would express one man's opinion—gave a direction, there was substantial opinion in this House that there should be the right to appeal against the direction; but be that as it may, no such provision went into the Bill.

What I have said is really incidental, because the main purpose of this measure is simply to tidy up an obvious drafting error which should have been attended to in the Bill which went through a year or

two ago. Therefore I am not going to oppose the Bill; but I express the hope that the Minister will convey to the Fire Brigades Board the views I have expressed.

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Local Government) [10.4 p.m.]: Mr. Watson did not mention that I gave him a few examples of the orders which had been made and which had been complied with, and of the orders which had been made but which had not been complied with. I did ask for the total number of orders to be given to me, and what I have quoted is what I received in response to my request; but I agree that it does not answer the question that Mr. Watson asked me. I do not know where

he saw the figure of 300, but I saw or heard it somewhere myself, so it is probably somewhere near the mark.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: It was in the Assembly debate, but I was not allowed to refer to it.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: It is probably pretty well correct, then. The orders that have been made and that are being complied with number half a dozen, and the orders that have been made but are not being complied with also number half a dozen; and members will have a better appreciation of the position if I mention, not the names of the firms, but the nature of the concerns. The firms which complied with the recommendations are as follows:—

Nature of concern	Appliances installed previous to recommendations	Appliances recommended
Electrical Manufacturers	Nil	3 soda acid 2 foam 2 CO ²
Paint and Hardware Retailers	Nil	7 soda acid 4 foam
Food Processers	13 soda acid	6 soda acid
Residential Flats	Nil	14 soda acid 2 CO ²
Retail and Bulk Electrical Store	Nil	7 soda acid 2 foam 2 CO ²
General Bulk Store	Nil	Sprinkler fire alarm system 15 soda acid 1 CO ²

The Hon. H. K. Watson: Have you any idea of the cost of the appliances recommended in the case of the first concern?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: No. I imagine that in the case of the last concern the

cost of providing the appliances recommended would have been fairly large, but the company, in its own interests and for its own protection, perhaps, carried out the instructions of the board. The following are the firms that have not complied:—

Nature of Concern	Appliances Installed Previous to Recommendations	Appliances Recommended	Remarks
Plasterboard Manufacturers	14 soda acid 6 foam	Additional— 5 soda acid 1 foam 7 CO ²	Owing to cost, units are being installed progressively. To date, 2 soda acid, 1 foam and 2 CO ² have been installed.
Glass Merchants	Nil	6 soda acid 1 CTC	4 soda acid installed. Firm refused to comply with balance of recommendations.
Car Park	Nil	75 CO ²	Concession that unused floors, if permanently sealed off, be without fire extinguishers, granted to firm. At August 15th, 1961, extinguishers installed totalled 11 soda acid and 9 foam and action not yet taken to permanently isolate any floor.
Electrical Workshops and Motor Accessories	2 foam	Additional— 3 soda acid 1 CO ²	Recommendations made on 19/4/61 and to date no action taken for installation.
General Upholstery	1 soda acid	Additional— 1 soda acid	Recommendation made in April, 1961, and to date no action taken to install.
Manufacturer of Electrical Fittings	1 soda acid 1 foam	Additional— 1 CO ²	Owner not prepared to install.

I think it is because of the last concern, which was not prepared to carry out the recommendations of the board, that this amendment was brought forward.

I agree that possibly the Bill should not be before the House but that this matter should have been attended to by the draftsman last year. But I remind members that ever since Parliament has been Parliament amendments have been made to Acts because of some fault in drafting; otherwise I do not think Parliament would sit so often. Parliament deals with a lot of anomalies that occur in our statutes. I agree with Mr. Watson to a certain extent that we are not entirely blameless. We give a Crown Law officer the job of drafting a Bill, but it is up to members to see that the draft is correct and satisfactory to Parliament. Mr. Baxter tries every now and again to correct measures that come before us.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: The Minister's job is to get Bills through intact.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The less messing around with them the better. I recall the debate that took place on the question of appeal, but I do not think that anybody then could decide to whom the appeal should be made. I did have an appeal from a firm; I had to call in the fire chief and the building surveyor of the Perth City Council, and then I had to make a decision on the case presented to me. The matter had something to do with a fire escape and a fire hazard, but it was not exactly an appeal under this Act. The application concerned a fairly big building, and I am afraid I had to find against them on that occasion.

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.

Sitting suspended from 10.13 to 10.30 p.m.

MINES REGULATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (The Hon. W. R. Hall) in the Chair; The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 3 put and passed.

Clause 4: Section 25 amended—

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: I oppose this clause, and I do not know why legislation of this nature should come before the House. This clause means that something is being given to someone and something is being taken away from someone else.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What are we taking away?

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: We have to have students from the School of Mines for the purpose of metallurgy, assaying, etc., but in five years one cannot learn as much as a man does with years of practical experience. I have had a supervisor's certificate since 1935; and it was not handed to me because I went to the School of Mines, but after long years of work and experience. If we are going to save lives in the mines we must have men who have had practical experience. There are many hazards in the mining industry, and one false step could be fatal. I suggest the Act be left as it now stands, because this amendment will be detrimental to the man who goes prospecting outback and who may employ 12 or 15 men. Although he has never been to the School of Mines, nevertheless he has the practical experience to carry on his own show. I oppose the amendment.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I would still like to ask the honourable member, as I did by way of interjection: What are we taking away? That is the starting point upon which we should continue this debate.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: This Bill does not give the man with 20 or 30 years' experience the right to manage a mine in the bush. He has not been to any School of Mines, and he does not hold a university degree, but he has the necessary years of practical experience.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not know how far one should persist, but the honourable member still has not told us what we are taking away. We are not going to alter the situation as it exists at the moment; but, in addition to the present position, we are going to provide for two standards of efficiency, one for a man with 25 men underground, and one for a man with more than 25 men underground. However, the underground supervisor's situation will not be altered. We are not taking away anything, but we are providing for an additional standard of examination that the board of examiners has recommended should be introduced.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: I differ from the Minister.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Tell us what we are taking away.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: I do not know for how long the Minister has been talking to supervisors, but last weekend at the goldfields and during the racing round I had the opportunity to talk to underground supervisors who obtained their certificates by long years of practical experience.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: We are not taking their certificates away from them.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: I know that; but the right is being taken from them for them to go into the bush and manage a small mine. They will have to

have a mine manager's certificate. They have never been to the School of Mines and under this amending Bill they would not be able to manage a small mine.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: As I understand the proposed amendment, the status of those who hold certificates at the present time is to be preserved.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That is right.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I have been given an assurance from the highest authority that all those who hold underground supervisors' certificates will be issued with the new certificate which is to be called a second-class mine manager's certificate. So, if these beliefs of mine are correct, and if the assurances that have been given to me are correct, and the Minister will confirm them, I can agree with him that there is nothing wrong with the amendment. My understanding of the position is that the intention is to ensure that those who are in charge of underground workings will be adequately trained and qualified to fulfil the responsible jobs that they hold. If the beliefs I hold are correct, I think the fears of Mr. Garrigan have no substance.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The board has a discretionary power; and the situation in regard to existing holders will be protected. From henceforth there will be an opportunity for men to gain two certificates of competency, but the existing holders will not be affected. That is what prompted me to say to the honourable member, "What are we taking away?" We are not taking anything away, but giving an opportunity for men to gain two certificates in addition to the existing certificate.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: There has been considerable comment about this Bill in Kalgoorlie; and I have heard quite a lot of criticism. Whether it has been based on a wrong interpretation or not, I do not know, but I gather the main concern is this: At present a mine of any size has an underground manager with the qualifications required at present, but there may be a small mine out of town with only a few men employed. At the present time a man with considerable practical experience, but with no paper qualifications, is regarded as a competent and acceptable man to manage that sort of mine. With the creation of this second-class underground certificate, will the man who would normally be able to work that mine be excluded? That is the point which I think concerns so many people. At the present time he does not have to have a second-class certificate to manage that mine, but by creating a second-class certificate that man may not be able to manage the mine.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The board of examiners suggested to me that they were of the opinion that the current

underground supervisor's certificate was not adequate to cover such duties as shift foreman. I readily admit that I do not profess to know as much as people who work in the industry. There were therefore requests that the Act be amended to provide for another certificate to be known as a second-class mine manager's certificate. This would be based on the School of Mines examination at a lower level than the existing mine manager's certificate. The qualification for a first-class mine manager's certificate would be a mining diploma from the School of Mines, to provide for such places as Yampi Sound, where there are special conditions, and Wittenoom Gorge.

There was a man to whom the board of managers issued a restricted certificate. That man came to see me and he complained very bitterly that the board had no right to issue him with a restricted certificate; and he challenged the authority of the board to do that. I told him that I was quite willing to obtain some legal opinion on the matter, but that he would have to appreciate that if the legal opinion were to the effect that the board did not have the right to issue a restricted certificate then I would be obliged to cancel the certificate and he would not have the right to do what he was doing. However, the man was persistent.

The opinion of the Crown Law Department was obtained and we were told that the board was in error in issuing the certificate; and the certificate was cancelled. The person concerned had been doing a job, but he could not pass the examination. If we pass this amendment it will give such a person a second string to his bow. The man to whom I have referred was unable to pass the more severe examination, but under these provisions he could get a second-class certificate. The board can examine the qualifications of applicants for positions as mine managers or underground supervisors, and it can examine applicants in writing, orally, or both, and thereupon determine what degree of competency the man has.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: With all due respect to the Minister, there is an old saying among those who work underground. It is: "Never ask a man to do what you cannot do yourself." One could not expect a young man, straight out from the School of Mines, working underground as an offsider, telling a more experienced miner, with 30 years of experience behind him, what to do. One cannot learn underground mining in five years. This provision will take the right away from a man working a small show in the bush. There are quite a number of New Australians doing an excellent job in a small way; but they could not pass a written or oral test. However, they would easily pass any practical test. This

measure will take away the right of such men to operate a small show in the bush. Practical experience is very important.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I would like the Minister, at this stage, to report progress in order that we might obtain further information on this matter for the benefit of the House.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: By all means, I would like members to understand that I am not trying to force this upon them. This has been suggested to me by the board of examiners in order to improve the position.

The Hon. J. J. Garrigan: They are not infallible, either.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: None of us is infallible. I would be quite happy to postpone consideration of this clause to enable inquiries to be made.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: The best course might be to refer the Bill to a Select Committee. I am unable to refer to the Standing Order to find out whether this is possible.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Any move for a Select Committee may be made after the second reading of the Bill. If we had a Select Committee—and I hope we do not have one—it would have to travel all over the State to areas where goldmining is carried out. We can get as much information by not going all over the State. I move—

That further consideration of the clause be postponed.

Motion put and passed.

Clause 5 put and passed.

Clause 6: Section 46 amended—

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: This particular clause gives me some cause for concern. It relates to a proposed alteration to provisions governing winches, or winding machines for winzes, or shafts. All regulations in the mining industry are made for the purpose of ensuring safety conditions. A winze is an underground shaft, usually not timbered; merely a hole in the ground leading to the lower part of the mine workings. It is an internal shaft. Normally, the sinking of such a shaft requires the services of a qualified engine driver. But for winzes down to 100 ft. or so, where a big machine is not required, a permit is granted to a selected employee to do all that is necessary to supply material and men to the working face, using a small winch driven by electricity or compressed air.

The law has so far stated that such a machine shall not be greater than a 12 h.p. winch and shall not operate to a greater depth than 250 ft. The man concerned is normally subjected to an oral examination, and a practical test, and is considered on his general ability to handle the machine.

At Norseman there has been used what is called a Holman hoist which is a reciprocating steam hoist converted and adapted. This is rated at 20 h.p. and is operated by compressed air. Normally a machine of that size—greater than 12 h.p.—would require a qualified second-class engine driver. Management would have to pay a higher rate for a qualified man, and qualified men are difficult to obtain. The union and the board of examiners have been reasonable in their approach to the problem and have enabled men to be tested as to their ability to run the machines. Men who have passed the tests have been granted the right to drive 20 h.p. winches to a depth of 250 ft. Although a permit has been granted in such cases, it has, in effect, been illegal.

This particular clause proposes that a higher powered winch be included in the Act in order that a man may be legally permitted to drive a winch similar to the Holman hoist. The union concedes some ground in acquiescing; but it will ease the present problem. Normally a qualified man would be required to drive a winch of this size.

The clause also proposed to extend the depth at which a man will be permitted to work. It is a hundred feet to the top of the Gleddon Building. The depth at which these men will work is two and a half times that height. Let us imagine the danger involved when a man is riding in a bucket in such a shaft no wider than a kitchen table.

One can immediately see the danger that is involved, particularly if the man is not skilled in the handling of his winch. It is that portion of the clause about which the men do not feel happy. Taking all factors into consideration, I suggest that the Minister should not insist on paragraph (c) of clause 6, which proposes to add after the word "feet" in the Act the following words:—

or such greater depth as the Minister may in writing approve, and subject to such conditions as the Minister may in writing from time to time impose in each case.

If the Bill is passed with paragraph (c) deleted it will mean that a selected employee will be able to be tested, instructed, and given a permit to drive a winch on one particular mine and no other. The cardinal rule of safety is uppermost in mind. I consider that this is a reasonable appeal and I hope the Committee will agree. Therefore, I move—

Page 3, lines 34 to 39—Delete paragraph (c).

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I would like to hear the remarks of some other gold-fields members who have practical mining experience on this clause. This clause has been proposed on the advice of the State Mining Engineer and the Chamber of

Mines, and has been submitted for the consideration of the mining division of the A.W.U.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: I support the amendment. We refer to these men as underground hoist drivers, and they have been employed in such a capacity ever since the goldmines have been in existence. As we all know, a first-class winding engine-driver, who controls the cage at the top, is a fully-qualified man, and such men are very scarce. However, in the case of winches, which are used to lower and raise gear from a depth of up to 250 ft., only practical men should be employed. These men are well versed in the practical ways of mining and have driven hoists of various types for many years. Therefore, there is no reason why they should not be given a permit to operate such hoists. I support the amendment.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: Is the depth of 250 ft. mentioned in the Bill?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: No; that appears in the Act.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I am concerned about a kibble being lowered to a depth of 250 ft. by a hoist or winch without a competent man being in charge of it.

The Hon. J. J. Garrigan: If he were not a competent man he would not be in charge of it.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: On the goldmines, certificated winding engine-drivers are employed on the surface to pull men and material in the cage from a depth of approximately 1,600 ft. In most mines of great depth there is an internal plant underground which pulls from a depth of 2,000 ft., and then another winder takes over. The combined weight of men and materials in a cage is a terrific load on one drum. In 1912 my father was one of the first engine-drivers employed on the Golden Mile. He was one of the winch-drivers engaged in the sinking of the Ivanhoe shaft and, if I remember correctly, they could operate efficiently to a depth of 100 ft. He was a certificated engine-driver.

Today we are asking that non-certificated men be permitted to operate hoists pulling material from a depth of 250 ft. In my opinion, that part of the clause should also be deferred until further information is obtained.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: For the benefit of Mr. Bennetts, I have an open mind on this clause. The section of the Act we are amending is section 46 (4) which deals with the horse power rating of the hoist and the depth at which it can be operated. At the moment, there is a specific clause providing that the pull shall be from a depth of not less than 250 ft. If the clause in the Bill is agreed to it

will give the Minister discretionary power to permit the haulage of material from a depth greater than 250 ft. In these matters it is perhaps wise to make progress slowly. Modern winches are rated at 24 H.P., but the question that worries goldfields members is that of depth. However, I think Mr. Bennetts was a little off the beam when he referred to a depth of 2,000 ft.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: I was talking about the operation of winders.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: This discretionary power would apply only to small shafts.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It would apply if the Minister thought it desirable it should be applied. I do not want to provide anything that will endanger the safety of the men, but we must go forward with the times. The Committee has accepted an increase in the horse-power rating, and I will compromise by accepting the amendment moved by Mr. Cunningham. Will the honourable member have to move to delete the word "and" in paragraph (b)?

The CHAIRMAN (The Hon. W. R. Hall): No; it will be deleted automatically.

Amendment put and passed.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It is the wish of goldfields members that we report progress for the reconsideration of postponed clause 4 until next week. In the meantime I take it that those members will be in places where they can talk with people who are concerned with this clause. I will have a talk to my departmental officers on the clause and when the goldfields members return, to deliberate in Committee we can confer on our investigations.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines).

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 2.30 p.m. tomorrow.

House adjourned at 11.12 p.m.