

any—is, I do not know at this stage. However, I am informed that that Government is sympathetic to legislation designed broadly to achieve what is being sought in this Bill.

Mr. Roberts: Whereabouts is this legislation in operation if not in Australia?

Mr. GRAHAM: I indicated earlier that in Holland there is legislation which, if introduced here, would be regarded as being vicious in the extreme and most unrealistic. However, I think this is quite fair and reasonable, and it seeks deliberately to avoid some of the shortcomings of, shall we say, a partner Act in the Builders' Registration Act.

In any event, I would be pleased if the Minister would investigate the matter; and I am certain that if he does he will not find anything damaging in the Bill or anything which unreasonably interferes with the liberty of the subject either in the performance of the work of painting, or at the other end of the line as a client. If this Bill is passed, people will be able to proceed as hitherto, but on a sounder basis and with a greater assurance that the work which is performed has been honestly and properly carried out.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Wild (Minister for Works).

House adjourned at 10.43 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 14th September, 1961

CONTENTS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—

Page

| | |
|--|-----|
| Claremont Mental Hospital: Accommodation for Female Children and Adolescent Boys | 928 |
| Five-day Banking Week: Opposition by Employers Federation | 925 |
| Israelite Bay: Survey of Blocks | 925 |
| Road Rollers: Vibrator Type—Damage to Residences | 926 |

STATE HOUSING COMMISSION FILE—

| | |
|--|-----|
| Assembly Member's Allegations Against Minister | 926 |
|--|-----|

CONTENTS—continued

Page

BILLS—

| | |
|--|-----|
| Alumina Refinery Agreement Bill: Receipt; 1r. | 928 |
| Fire Brigades Act Amendment Bill: Receipt; 1r. | 927 |
| Gold Buyers Act Amendment Bill: 3r. | 926 |
| Health Education Council Act Amendment Bill: Receipt; 1r. | 927 |
| Mines Regulation Act Amendment Bill: 2r. | 928 |
| Mining Act Amendment Bill: Intro.; 1r. | 926 |
| Pig Industry Compensation Act Amendment Bill: Receipt; 1r. | 927 |
| Unauthorised Documents Bill: Receipt; 1r. | 927 |

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FIVE-DAY BANKING WEEK

Opposition by Employers Federation

1. The Hon. G. E. JEFFERY asked the Minister for Mines:

In view of the expressed opposition by the Employers Federation of W.A. to the proposed legislation for a five-day week for bank employees—

- (a) who are the members of the executive of the Employers Federation;
- (b) of what businesses are these persons directors, managers or executives; and
- (c) which, if any, of these businesses work a six-day week?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (a) to (c) The decision affirming the federation's policy of opposing the five-day week for bank officers was made by the council of the federation comprising 62 members representing industry working from five to seven days a week. The information requested in part (b) of the honourable member's question is not available.

ISRAELITE BAY

Survey of Blocks

2. The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN (for The Hon. J. J. Garrigan) asked the Minister for Mines:
 - (1) Have any townsite or residential blocks been surveyed at Israelite Bay, east of Esperance?
 - (2) If so, when will the blocks be available for selection?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

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

ROAD ROLLERS: VIBRATOR TYPE*Damage to Residences*

3. The Hon. G. E. JEFFERY asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is the Main Roads Department aware of the damage to private residences in the metropolitan area caused by the use of vibrator-type road rollers?
- (2) Will the Main Roads Department agree to the discontinuance of the use of the equipment in the metropolitan area?
- (3) If not, will the damage be repaired in full by the department?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) The matter of damage to buildings by the use of heavy vibrator-type road rollers has been subject to research and tests by engineers of the Main Roads Department. Those tests have established that the vibration amplitude is insufficient to cause damage to buildings situated beyond the building line from the road pavement. The use of the heavy-type vibrator roller is controlled within built-up sections of the metropolitan area.
- (2) The department will continue to control the use of the heavy-type vibrator rollers in the metropolitan area.
- (3) No claims have been received.

CLAREMONT MENTAL HOSPITAL*Accommodation for Female Children and Adolescent Boys*

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

- (1) What steps have been taken by the Government to provide separate and suitable accommodation for female children inmates at Claremont Mental Hospital?
- (2) How long will it be before such accommodation will be available?
- (3) Are any arrangements being made to provide a separate ward for adolescent boys who are now in adult wards.
- (4) Is the Minister aware of the distress and discontent among parents of these adolescent boys in the present circumstances?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) The department is planning to remove all children—male and female—from the Claremont Mental Hospital to a new, modern hospital, and the preliminary detail is in course of preparation for forwarding to the Principal Architect.

(2) It was hoped that a start would be made on building towards the end of this financial year, but this may not be possible until the following financial year.

(3) Adolescent boys are already accommodated in separate wards from adults. They occupy themselves during the day under nursing supervision with adults because this is believed by the medical officers to be to their best advantage. New plans provide for their removal to a working settlement away from the Claremont Mental Hospital.

(4) I am aware of one complaint from a parent; and, as previously mentioned, steps have been taken to improve the situation.

MINING ACT AMENDMENT BILL*Introduction and First Reading*

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

GOLD BUYERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL*Third Reading*

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

STATE HOUSING COMMISSION FILE*Assembly Member's Allegations Against Minister*

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [4.39 p.m.] I seek your permission, Mr. President, to make a personal explanation.

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): The Minister may proceed.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I feel this is a matter I should explain. It has been brought to my notice that a complaint has been made, or shall I say a charge has been laid against me by the member for East Perth that in answering a question by him in the Legislative Assembly, and in the tabling of a file, I was responsible for telling lies and fiddling with the file.

Well, Sir, there is no foundation whatsoever for the statement made by the member for East Perth; and rather than ask my colleague, the Minister for Health, to accept the responsibility for explaining this, I think it will be more satisfactory if I explain it to the House myself; because, unless I do, the statement in *Hansard* will go unrefuted. I will be as brief as possible about this matter. On the 3rd

August, 1960, the member for East Perth asked the following question in another place—

- (1) Is it a fact that policy has been altered now requiring as standard practice £100 instead of the previous £50 as a minimum deposit on homes purchased under the State Housing Act?
- (2) If so, what are the reasons for the increase?

The reply given by the Chief Secretary on my behalf was as follows:—

- (1) The present policy which requires a deposit of £100, has been found to be very satisfactory; but, where necessary, on compassionate grounds or for other valid reasons, a smaller deposit will be accepted.
- (2) An analysis of arrears on purchase accounts showed that the highest number of arrears, and also the largest amount of arrears, are where a purchaser pays a deposit of only £50.

On the 11th August, 1960, Mr. Graham asked the Chief Secretary, who represented me in another place—

Will he supply a copy of the analysis of arrears on purchase homes under the State Housing Act, to which he made reference in reply to a question asked by me on the 3rd August?

The Chief Secretary explained that as the question specifically referred to deposits of £50, and the original survey prepared by the purchase and statistical section of the commission at the request of the commission having followed the normal statistical frequency of £0 to £49, £50 to £99, and so on, it was necessary to prepare an additional table to record the information in the manner required by—

Point of Order

The Hon. A. L. LOTON: On a point of order, Mr. President, is this a personal explanation, or a disagreement between two parliamentary members, one of whom is in this House, and one in another place? I do not know whether or not it is a personal explanation or under what Standing Order the Minister is speaking.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): In reply to the honourable member, I would point out that there is a Standing Order that provides for personal explanations; and if the integrity of any member of this House has been challenged and that member requests me, as President, to give him an opportunity to make a statement, I shall do so under that Standing Order.

Personal Explanation Resumed

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: This is by no means a question of a disagreement between another member and myself; but a charge that will go unrefuted unless an explanation is made.

It was necessary to prepare an additional table to record the information that the member for East Perth was seeking; and, on the 16th August, 1960, Mr. Graham was supplied with a copy of the original analysis and the supplementary information; also, the file was tabled.

The file that was tabled, as a result of the request by Mr. Graham, included folio 51 showing the original analysis dated the 2nd September, 1959; and it also contained folio 51A, which is a copy of the original information supplied on the 2nd September, 1959, together with the additional information that was compiled and supplied to the honourable member on the 16th August, 1960, a year later. Folio 51A was placed in the file for the information of the member for East Perth; and it had not been placed on the file—and it was not on the file—on the date in question, namely, 1959.

The member for East Perth has charged me with saying that I had to get this information for him when it was already on the file and had been there for a period of 12 months. That is the situation. Folio 51A was numbered accordingly and placed on the file for the information of the member for East Perth after the information had been compiled; and it was actually put on the file on the 16th August, 1960, the day on which the information was actually compiled.

Quite apart from the fact that I think it is a pretty serious charge to accuse a Minister of the Crown of telling lies, I think that if the member for East Perth had asked for an explanation, I would have very readily given it to him; and I am sure that would have cleared up the situation. However, I wanted it placed on record that that is exactly what happened; and I am sure that the members of this House have had sufficient experience of me to know that I do not tell lies; nor do I fiddle with files.

BILLS (5)—RECEIPT AND FIRST READING

1. Health Education Council Act Amendment Bill.

2. Fire Brigades Act Amendment Bill.
Bills received from the Assembly; and, on motions by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government), read a first time.

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

4. Pig Industry Compensation 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.

5. Alumina Refinery Agreement Bill.

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

MINES REGULATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 29th August.

THE HON. E. M. HEENAN (North-East) [4.50 p.m.]: This is a comparatively short but rather important Bill. The purpose of the Mines Regulation Act, as its title implies, is to set out the law relating to the management and control of mines, and to establish a system whereby proper standards of safety and efficiency are maintained.

It is common knowledge that mining is a hazardous calling, and it is obviously imperative that those whose duty it is to supervise the practice in mines, and those whose duty it is to be in charge of mining operations, should be adequately skilled and qualified for such responsible positions. As I understand the Bill now before us, one of its main proposals is to raise the existing minimum standards as they apply to inspectors of mines and to underground managers.

We have been told by the Minister that the proposed changes have been recommended by the board of examiners which, I am informed, consists of the State Mining Engineer, the principal of the School of Mines, the senior district inspector of mines, and a representative of the Chamber of Mines. The judgments and recommendations of such a body should obviously be treated with respect.

At present the highest mining qualification, short of a university degree, is the diploma which is issued by the School of Mines of Western Australia, and which commands recognition and respect all over the world. I understand that this course normally covers a period of five years study at the School of Mines, including practical experience in the mines.

Next to the diploma comes what is called the mine manager's certificate, which was an additional course introduced in 1959, presumably to provide a shorter course of three years and to meet a then urgent need for more qualified men. The standard of this certificate is high but it is obviously inferior to that of the diploma, which covers a five-year course.

The next certificate is called the underground supervisor's certificate, and this is issued by the board of examiners. It is based on five years practical underground experience and proved efficiency, plus a general knowledge of mining practice and methods. A written and oral examination has to be passed. This certificate was

introduced in 1935 largely to ensure that those who acted as shift bosses underground had some qualifications. It will be understood, therefore, that we now have the School of Mines diploma, the mine manager's certificate, and the underground supervisor's certificate.

If the proposals in the Bill are adopted, the set-up will be changed and we will have what is to be termed a first-class mine manager's certificate to be issued to those who hold a diploma of the School of Mines or, presumably, a university degree or some other equivalent qualification; and what is to be termed a second class mine manager's certificate, which will be issued to those who attain the standard now required for the mine manager's certificate. That is the certificate which is issued by the School of Mines, and which takes a period of three years to acquire. The underground supervisor's certificate is to be retained in order to set a standard of efficiency for those who desire to qualify as shift bosses.

My explanation may seem somewhat involved. I have endeavoured to the best of my ability to make the explanation as clear as possible. I assure members that in my opinion the overall result, if this Bill is passed, appears to be that district inspectors of mines, and men who act as underground managers, of both large and small mines, will have to possess higher qualifications than are now required for those positions. I hope that the higher standard will bring about an all-round beneficial result, particularly in the sphere of safe working methods and general efficiency.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: By the same token, the new method will still continue to give those with lesser capabilities an opportunity of qualifying for a lesser position.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I concede that point. I know from the remarks of the Minister that the status of persons at present employed as inspectors of mines, underground managers, and shift bosses, is to be safeguarded; and, presumably, no-one will suffer any loss of status if the changes proposed in the Bill are adopted.

Holding those views I propose to support the second reading. Some minor amendments have been proposed in respect of hoist drivers, and in respect of Sunday work at Yampi Sound. Those are features which my colleagues from the goldfields will probably deal with, so I shall not trespass on their sphere. The Bill is one which we can support. The portion which deals with the qualifications has considerable merit.

THE HON. J. D. TEAHAN (North-East) [5.5 p.m.]: As the previous speaker mentioned, goldmining is a hazardous occupation. Only within the last three or four days there has been one underground fatality on the Golden Mile, and there has

been one near fatality. They involved two persons I knew very well. These accidents go on and on, so I am glad to see there is to be no relaxation in respect of the qualifications of the underground supervisors and underground managers—not that I am aware of any case where the ability of such officers has been questioned.

The Bill will protect their present status. Any action which can be taken to step up the qualifications of those who are responsible for the safety of human lives must be commended. The union and the men working in the industry will have no quarrel with that part of the Bill.

When we come to the question of Sunday work at Yampi Sound, I know that provision will be challenged. It is a very dear principle in the hearts of trade unionists, gained many years ago, that no Sunday work underground in the goldmines should take place. It has long been held by medical authorities that in the interests of the health of miners, who work five or six days underground breathing in unhealthy air and taking dust into their lungs, no Sunday work should be permitted.

In the present Act there is provision to enable the Minister to permit Sunday work for various reasons, such as timbering the mine or carrying out safety measures. The Minister has power to permit such work on Sundays. It is considered that this power is sufficient to cope with what is desired in the Bill, without prescribing in the Act that Sunday work at Yampi Sound is permitted.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Don't you agree there should be an honest approach to this problem, and the Minister should not have to say on each occasion, "You can work on Sunday"?

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: Never in the past has the judgment of the Minister in this regard been questioned. His first step was to ascertain whether work was necessary on Sunday, and if it was he would give the required authority.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Sunday work is going on at Yampi Sound through sheer necessity.

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: The Minister has power to give permission under the existing Act. I now refer to the question of hoist drivers. I notice that their qualifications are to be minimised. The reason advanced is the difficulty of obtaining the first-class diesel certificated drivers. So, some relaxation is necessary. There seems to be some disagreement on this point. I do not think the unions hold the same view, namely, that first-class men are not readily available. That was the opinion I arrived at from my investigations. However, I intend to support the second reading of the Bill with certain reservations.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [5.10 p.m.]: It is not my intention to take the Committee stage of this Bill today, but at the next sitting of the House. I am grateful for the contributions made by Mr. Teahan and Mr. Heenan in this debate, and for their realistic approach to the problems. The first matter concerns the supervisor's certificate. This is not an important question. The second matter refers to the use of motors of greater horse-power underground. In these modern times we have to advance with the times. The increase in the horse-power is not very great—merely an increase from 12 to 20 horse-power.

In respect of Sunday work at Yampi Sound, this is not a matter which generally this Government or any other Government would seek to cover by legislation. It arises on this occasion from sheer necessity. Mr. Teahan, and most certainly the members representing the North Province, would know the difficulties which face the Broken Hill Pty. Ltd. in stockpiling iron ore at Cockatoo Island and Koolan Island. I understand such work has been going on for a long time—long before I became Minister for Mines. It is an absolute necessity to get the huge tonnages of iron ore away from the deposits; and, in order to do that, it is sometimes necessary to work on Sundays.

The approach of the Government to this problem is an honest one. It seeks to provide for Sunday work in the Act, rather than leave the Minister to decide on each occasion. That is the reason the Government has asked Parliament to agree to work being carried on on Sundays at Yampi Sound.

I am aware that members opposite are opposed to the principle of Sunday work. On principle, I myself am opposed to it, because that is the one day of the week on which we should have some rest. I assure the House that this provision in the Bill has been included through sheer necessity. When the Bill is dealt with in the Committee stage next week we will have the opportunity to examine that provision more closely.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

House adjourned at 5.13 p.m.