

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 27th September, 1960

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

MOTOR SPIRIT

Profit on Sales at Wyndham

1. The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) In replying to my questions on the 20th September, 1960, when the Minister volunteered the advice that oil companies have no control over retail prices of motor spirit, did the Minister mean to convey an impression that the companies' agents at Wyndham were charging a margin of profit which was too high?
- (2) If not, will the Minister explain what he means by the statement?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Wholesale prices were supplied as it was thought the honourable member would appreciate the additional information which became available in the course of answering his original question.

WAR SERVICE LAND SETTLERS

Income Required for a "Reasonable Living"

2. The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON asked the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) What annual sum of money has been determined in respect of war service land settlers on project areas as being necessary to "obtain a reasonable living" as referred to in clause 5 (5) of the conditions determined by the Minister for the Interior and dated the 30th day of July, 1953?
- (2) Have any amendments been made to the conditions referred to in Question No. (1) since July, 1953; and, if so, will he table a copy of such amendments?

Assessment of Rental

- (3) Is it a fact that in certain project areas the rental payable subsequent to "final valuation" is being assessed on "cost of development" but in others it will be determined on "economic values"?
- (4) If the answer to Question No. (3) indicates that such differentiation is proposed, how can such differentiation be justified in view of the provisions of clause 7 (3) of the conditions which provide that "the annual rent payable under the lease shall be 2½ per centum of the valuation made under sub-clause (5) of clause 5" and as sub-clause (5) of clause 5 does not provide for "cost of development" as such being the basis for calculation?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- (1) The amount used for the economic calculation is £725 per annum in cash after providing for the working expenses of the farm and the repayment of the instalments on the advances for the purchase of all structures, stock, and plant in addition to the annual rental.
- (2) Yes. Clause 7(2) has been amended by the insertion of the words "or such shorter period as the Commonwealth and State may determine where special circumstances exist" and now reads—

The settler shall be required to purchase the structural improvements and to enter into a lease in perpetuity of the land and ground improvements. Subject to this clause, the general terms and conditions of the lease shall be such as are approved by the Commonwealth. If the Commonwealth and the

State so agree, the lease shall provide for the option for the purchase of the absolute freehold at any time after the expiration of a period of ten years from the commencement of the perpetual lease or such shorter period as the Commonwealth and State may determine where special circumstances exist, and if the Commonwealth and State so agree, the lease will contain provisions to give effect to sub-clauses (7), (8) and (9) of this clause.

- (3) The basis of all war service land settlement valuations is that portion of the cost apportioned to the holding subject to the economic test.
- (4) There is no differentiation and the answer is as outlined in No. (3).

CATTLE AND SHEEP

Treatment at Local Abattoirs

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

Will the Minister inform the House—

- (1) The total numbers of—

(a) cattle;

(b) sheep;

(c) lambs

treated during the months of July and August, 1960, at —

(i) Midland Junction Abattoir;

(ii) W.A. Meat Export Works Robb Jetty?

Exports, Local Sales, and Rejections

- (2) The total weight of—

(a) cattle;

(b) sheep;

(c) lambs

from the above—

(i) produced for export;

(ii) produced for the local market;

(iii) rejected?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Total number treated during July and August, 1960:

	At Midland Junction Abattoir	At W.A.M.E. Works
(a) Cattle	10,892	4,027
(b) Sheep	79,708	28,534
(c) Lambs	63,478	38,290

- (2) Total weight from the above, produced—

- (i) for export:

	At Midland Junction Abattoir lb.	At W.A.M.E. Works lb.
(a) Cattle	1,692,389	474,021
(b) Sheep	629,780	99,237
(c) Lambs	304,102	324,915
	<hr/> 2,626,271	<hr/> 898,173

- (ii) for the local market:

	At Midland Junction Abattoir lb.	At W.A.M.E. Works lb.
(a) Cattle	3,161,086	1,160,190
(b) Sheep	2,514,702	1,084,767
(c) Lambs	1,618,012	789,231
	<hr/> 7,293,800	<hr/> 3,034,188

- (iii) rejected from export, released for local consumption:

	At Midland Junction Abattoir lb.	At W.A.M.E. Works lb.
(a) Cattle	110,063	258,730
(b) Sheep	174,290	71,185
(c) Lambs	47,358	43,304
	<hr/> 331,711	<hr/> 373,219

Note: In reply to question No. (2), where actual weights are not available they have been computed, being based on actual numbers of stock multiplied by the average weights for each class of stock during the year 1959-60 as follows:

at Midland Junction—

Sheep 39.45 lb.

Lambs 30.28 lb.

at W.A.M.E. Works—

Sheep 44 lb.

Lambs 30 lb.

BILLS (2)—THIRD READING

1. City of Fremantle (Free Literary Institute) Act Amendment Bill.

On motion by The Hon. E. M. Davies, Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Assembly.

2. Stamp Act Amendment Bill.

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

COUNTRY HIGH SCHOOL HOSTELS AUTHORITY BILL

Recommendation

On motion by The Hon. H. C. Strickland, Bill recommitted for the further consideration of clauses 1, 3 and 4, and the title.

In Committee

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

Clause 1—Short title:

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: It has been truly said that the wheels of Government turn slowly; and it has also been said that we do best to make haste slowly. When I moved my amendments to the Bill, I did not look far enough, in the time at my disposal, into the measure in order to completely amend it. The previous amendments were quite alright, but further amendments are required. In order to correct the position, I have moved for the Bill to be recommitted. The amendments that I now propose to move will make no difference to the object of the previous amendments. After a discussion with the Parliamentary Draftsman, I was advised that these amendments are necessary to tidy up the Bill and to simplify its intention. I move an amendment—

Page 1, lines 7 and 8—Delete the words "High and Primary."

The words "and Primary" were inserted by a previous Committee.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I merely want to know this: Did we amend the short title?

The CHAIRMAN (The Hon. W. R. Hall): Yes.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Would you, Sir, be good enough to tell me what the short title now is?

The CHAIRMAN (The Hon. W. R. Hall): Yes. The short title is—

Country High and Primary School Hostels Authority Act, 1960.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as further amended, put and passed.

Clause 3—Interpretation:

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I move an amendment—

Page 2, line 3—Delete the word "High."

By deleting the word "High" this clause will be in conformity with the short title. This deletion will also simplify the Bill.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as further amended, put and passed.

Clause 4—Country High School Hostels Authority constituted:

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I move an amendment—

Page 2, line 25—Delete the word "High."

The deletion of this word will bring the title of the authority, as it appears in clause 4, in line with the rest of the Bill.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Title:

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: A previous Committee amended the title and it now reads—

An Act to Provide for the Establishment of a Country High School Hostels Authority, and to provide or cause to be provided accommodation in hostels for students enrolled in High Schools or Primary Schools, and for incidental and other purposes.

I have two amendments to make to the title. One is designed to delete the word "High" and the other one is to delete all the words inserted by the previous Committee. Therefore, I move an amendment—

Page 1—Delete the word "High" where first appearing.

Amendment put and passed.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I move an amendment—

Page 1—Delete all words after the word "Authority" down to and including the words "Primary Schools" inserted by a previous Committee.

Amendment put and passed.

Title, as further amended, put and passed.

Bill again reported with further amendments, and further amendments to the title.

ADMINISTRATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Assembly's Message

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Council.

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT BILL

First Reading

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

DOG ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Recommittal

THE HON. R. F. HUTCHISON (Suburban) [4.55]: I move—

That the Bill be recommitted for the further consideration of clause 5.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I have an amendment that I wish to make to clause 3.

The PRESIDENT: Very well. We will regard the two clauses as being included in the motion.

Question put and passed.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (The Hon. W. R. Hall) in the Chair; The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 3—Section 19 repealed and re-enacted:

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: My amendment is quite simple. I have made a mistake. Mr. Chairman, my amendment will be made to clause 6. I regret my error.

Clause, as previously amended, put and passed.

Clause 5—Section 29 amended:

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I move an amendment—

Page 4—Delete paragraph (c).

Whilst we deny citizenship rights to natives, we should not take away any of the privileges that they already enjoy. This provision would deprive a native of the privilege of being able to register one dog free of charge with any local authority. It is only fair that we should allow natives to continue to enjoy that privilege.

There is not enough employment offering to these natives, and they are still under-privileged. While they are denied ordinary rights, such as citizenship, we should not impose restrictions upon them. If my amendment is agreed to, natives will be able to have one dog registered free of charge.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: The amendment will do a disservice to natives if it is passed. The Act now provides that a native is permitted to have one unregistered dog. In practice, when an inspector visits a native camp or mission, he permits one dog to each adult native. If there are 20 adult natives but more than 20 dogs, the dogs beyond 20 are automatically destroyed.

This amendment has the effect of compelling the natives to comply with registration, although such registration will be made free of charge. If the Bill is passed, a native owning more than one dog will have to pay for registering them all, except one.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: If an inspector goes on to a camp or mission, he will be able to discover whether there are more dogs there than adult natives. If there are, the additional dogs will have to be registered. At present an adult native has the right to register one male dog free of charge. If he possesses more than one, he will have to register the others.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: I do not think that at present natives are permitted free registration of one dog. I do not think any certificate or document is issued to the native. The position is that natives do not have to register the first dog owned by each of them. It is a negative

rather than a positive situation. They are permitted to own one dog which they do not have to register.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: If the honourable member would agree to amend her amendment to enable free registration in respect of one dog for an adult native, that would suit us. That would also do away with the objection to the inspector assuming that each native in a camp or mission owns a dog, and to the number of dogs over the number of natives being destroyed.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I understand that a native at present receives free of charge a dog collar and a disc for one dog. I do not want the natives to be deprived of that right, because many of them are not in a position to pay for registration. I am agreeable to amending my amendment to enable a native to have free registration of one dog.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: This clause was agreed to when it was discussed by the Committee previously. This provision was included in the Bill at the request of the local authorities; the reason for its inclusion was to deprive natives in the South-West Land Division of a free license for a dog. Over the years the local authorities in that area have ascertained that most of the trouble from stray dogs which mauled stock around the countryside emanated from dogs owned by natives.

Mr. Cunningham was not quite correct in his statement, but the mover of the amendment was correct in saying that a dog collar and a registration disc for one dog are issued free of charge to a native. That applies throughout the State. This clause, if passed, will deprive only natives in the South-West Land Division of free registration. The clause was introduced at the request of the local authorities in an endeavour to control the large numbers of unwanted dogs in the South-West Land Division.

As the amendment stands, it does not make sense. Even if it is agreed to, paragraphs (a) and (b) of the clause will still remain in the Bill. The honourable member could take the course of voting against the clause. The local authorities have realised the extensive damage caused by dogs owned by natives in agricultural areas. We should not allow our humane feelings to override the damage and loss caused to the property of people.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I support the remarks of the Minister on this occasion. My son-in-law is established in the South-West Land Division. He was able to raise sufficient money to purchase a stud ram, but only a month ago it was mauled by a stray dog. The ram is still under the veterinary surgeon, and it is not known whether it will recover from the injury.

I am in sympathy with conferring free registration to natives who require a dog for hunting purposes; but in many

places where free registration applies, the police have had great difficulty in policing the provisions of the parent Act. Three years ago when a similar measure was introduced here, comments were made that dogs owned by natives were killing many lambs—hundreds of them—in the South-East Province. The natives have a happy knack of knowing when there is to be a round-up of stray dogs. They take the number exceeding one for each adult native into the bush so that they cannot be found. These dogs are brought back when the inspector has left.

It was also stated that a grazier was not permitted to shoot the natives' dogs found on his property. In areas where dogs cause damage and loss, a restriction should be imposed; and the clause will be able to achieve that purpose.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I agree with the Minister's comments that the amendment will not achieve the objective sought by the mover. Section 29 of the Act does permit an adult male aboriginal to register one male dog free of charge, and to be issued with a dog collar and disc. I have the notes of the Minister's speech during the second reading of the Bill. He said—

The next amendment is the insertion of a new subsection in section 29 of the principal Act. Section 29 as it stands at the present time authorises an adult male aboriginal native to register one male dog free of charge, and it also requires the local authority to issue a collar and disc free of charge on demand.

In view of the fact that in the South-West Land Division aboriginal natives are now able to obtain satisfactory employment, there is no justification for the continuance of the practice of free registration which is, of course, a relic of the time when the natives were more tribalised.

The amendment, therefore, is to confine the right to a free license to the areas outside of the South-West Land Division.

When speaking to the second reading of the Bill, I did say—and I repeat—"How can we, as responsible people in the community, impose an added burden upon those people whom Parliament considers are not entitled to citizenship rights?" I quoted the figures as follows: Approximately 1,000 persons in the South-West Land Division have citizenship rights, and approximately 8,000 to 9,000 people do not. It is the latter people I am concerned about; and I will therefore support the amendment.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I would like to know why it always has to be the native's dog that does the damage. I do not believe it is. I have seen this damage go on; and I know too much about it. The dogs concerned often do not belong to natives at all, but are town dogs. While

there is a doubt, I reiterate that I will fight to the very last minute against the taking away of any privilege from these under-privileged people. The half-castes who have these dogs are the products of our own viciousness. We have these people tied down; and we are going to impose a measure that will take a privilege away from them. I am ashamed at the attitude adopted in this chamber. I repeat I will not have a privilege taken from a people who have so little, and whom we are not even ready to treat as human beings—and I do not mean that emotionally, either. If a native can have one dog registered free, there are plenty of ways of ensuring that he does not have a number of dogs that might do damage. Why is it always the native's dog that does the damage? I know quite well it is not. For the main part the damage is done by kangaroo dogs that are used for hunting by white people. Any member who knows anything about the country, knows that.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Bill again reported without further amendment.

Further Recommittal

On motion by The Hon. J. G. HISLOP Bill again recommitted for the further consideration of clause 6.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (The Hon. W. R. Hall) in the Chair; The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 6—Section 29A added:

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Last week the Committee agreed to an amendment to clause 6 in which the words "veterinary officer" appeared. My purpose in asking for a recommittal of the Bill is to have the word "surgeon" substituted for the word "officer." The word to be deleted appears twice in the amendment agreed to by a previous Committee. I move an amendment—

That the word "officer" in an amendment inserted by a previous committee to subsection (1) of proposed new section 29A be deleted and the word "surgeon" substituted.

Amendment put and passed.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move an amendment—

That the word "officer" in an amendment inserted by a previous committee to subsection (2) of proposed new section 29A be deleted and the word "surgeon" substituted.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as further amended, put and passed.

Bill again reported with further amendments.

METROPOLITAN REGION TOWN PLANNING SCHEME ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Town Planning) [5.28]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The reason why the House is being asked at this early stage to remove the limitation from the life of the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Authority and from the taxing legislation which provides that authority's revenue stems from a report by its finance committee which that authority placed very strongly before me by way of deputation.

The report, which I propose to table for the general information of members, indicates very clearly that the anticipated costs of implementing a region scheme would be to the order of some millions of pounds. In view of this, the authority was faced in the matter of policy with the need to decide whether it should proceed by way of expenditure of revenue comprised in the fund, or by way of funding loans.

The object of the regional plan is to secure major improvements in the metropolitan area, and additional facilities in accordance with long-term plans to be realised, step by step, with the growth of the region and the State.

I agree with the chairman of the committee (Mr. Lloyd) when he says, "The cost of such improvements and facilities should logically be spread over the extended period of realisation of the plan, and that it is neither feasible nor desirable to attempt to meet the whole costs at the outset and wholly at the expense of the present taxpayers."

I desire to emphasise this point very strongly, because it shows very clearly that the logical decision by the authority is to finance its undertakings by using its improvement tax revenue to fund the long-term loans. The authority is authorised to raise loans, but in practice is not able to do so without Government guarantees. Such guarantees cannot be recommended by the Treasury while there is no security forthcoming from the authority beyond the initial three years' duration of the Act.

Members will appreciate then very clearly the need for the removal of the limitations concurrently, one might say, from both Acts.

In the light of the experience gained, even in the short period during which the authority has been in existence, we find ourselves in a most unfortunate dilemma. We have a long-term scheme being controlled by a short-term authority, which has no security as to its revenue beyond

1962. While authoritative opinion is unanimous in the theory and the practical application of the fact that our Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme must intrinsically be a continuing process, we have here in our hands but a discontinuing statute.

As members of this Chamber itself are only too well aware, the hands of the Government—both central and local, I should think—are tied in a matter of great importance—at least to the leaders of governmental and civic thought—to a "progress report" due on the 30th June, 1962. Why name the date so far ahead when I, as the spokesman of the Government on this matter, am able now to give a full and complete report?

The report I have to make is a good one. It says that in every other major metropolitan area of the world interested in long-range civic planning, there is a recognised need—and an accepted one—for an over-all planning instrumentality with security of tenure. These facts are accepted by qualified town planners and their sponsors all over the world.

There are, unquestionably, many metropolises in countries of advanced thinking, even, in which progressive thought in the matter of town planning has been rudely thwarted on seeking advice from experts on future planning. We are very fortunate in the great possibilities and the practical applications which may be applied in the matter of town planning in our city.

Serious setbacks in this regard have been endured not only in the older metropolises of our civilisation; close to home, in more than one of the Eastern States' capitals, insurmountable or almost insurmountable difficulties have stood in the way of progress.

When speaking of other types of development, it is often said that we in this State have "missed the bus" on occasions when our big Eastern States' sisters have scooped the industrial pools and forged ahead in industrial achievement and expansion. There is, however, no logical reason for us "to miss the bus" in Perth in the matter of town planning. In fact, it must be well-known to all members of this chamber that the practical application of town planning in Perth has won us many a bouquet from town planning identities of world-repute.

There is almost unlimited scope for effective planning here; the time is right; the scheme ripe for development. However, no one would try to underrate or write down the extremely heavy cost of such ventures. Nevertheless, we have here many issues, and recurring ones, calling for determination in relation to the interests of the metropolis as a whole. Against this our efforts are being restricted by an arbitrary time limit, the purpose of which the legislation before the House is to remove.

In the matter of roads, for instance, the siting and alignment of main arteries and many other means of communication call for a continuing process and continuity of expression. The pattern of land use, as the planners say, which governs the volume and direction of traffic movement, together with the development of utility services which are closely interrelated, requires the guidance of a permanent regional authority with an assured income to back up the loan moneys which will become necessary over an extended period in our own lives, and others, if anything real is going to be done in the matter of city planning.

As I indicated earlier in my speech, this authority waited upon me recently in deputation and placed the foregoing views before me, with which no one could but concur.

Its representatives requested the removal of the limitation of its life and activities, the substance of which I place before members this evening for their earnest consideration.

This is no matter to be done in half measures, and I desire to emphasise that the activities of this body are interrelated and under the control, to a degree, of many governmental agencies whose co-ordination is an essential to the eventual fruition of the scheme, perhaps decades ahead, but no less certain of accomplishment with the willingness of members of this Chamber.

Upon whom might we rely for this co-ordination if the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority ceases to exist in the near future? The planning body is based broadly on central and local government sponsorship in co-operation with membership representing industrial and commercial interests; and are not these interests the backbone of any city?

The scope of the planning body's responsibilities is, I am sure, fully appreciated by those of us whose interests turn in the direction of the "civic splendid." Not all, perhaps, can be expected to have a keen interest in this type of development. I would urge these at least to read over sections 25 (d) and (e) of the Act.

There is no question to be answered but that the whole concept of Perth-metropolitan planning implicit in the legislation and explicit in Professor Stephenson's plan and report is of a permanently-established metropolitan planning authority. I have therefore no hesitation in appealing to all members of city, town, and country representation alike to support this major measure.

Perhaps at this stage I might mention that the regional committee consists of Mr. Maurie Hamer, the Chairman, Mr. Smith representing group B—he is also the Chairman of the Mosman Park Road Board—Mr. R. R. Piercy, representing group A—he is a member of the Cockburn Road Board—and Councillor Spencer from

the Perth City Council. He is also the chairman of the planning committee of the Perth City Council.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: It is a big committee.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: It has 11 members. The Government's representatives are Mr. Leach (the Commissioner of Main Roads), Mr. Kenworthy (the Chief Engineer of the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Department), Mr. Camm (the Surveyor-General), and Mr. Lloyd from the Town Planning Commission.

Mr. Cole is the representative of group C, representing the south of the river; Mr. Doney is the member from group D representing the Midland Junction area; while Mr. Tom Eilbeck is the representative of the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Manufactures, and the Real Estate Institute.

I think that is a fairly strong authority; these men are all sound in their judgment and principles; but, in the very short space of time since they have been elected as the authority responsible for reviewing the Stephenson Plan and presenting it to Parliament for ratification, they have found a weakness in this limitation of the life of the authority, and also in the lack of time allowed from the financial angle. Because of this they waited upon me as a deputation and asked for this limitation to be removed.

Naturally I saw the force of the argument and said I would bring it to Parliament to see what could be done about it. For the benefit of members I shall read out the names of those persons who represent the different groups on the district planning committees. The names are as follows:—

Group A—

Mr. H. L. McGuigan: Kwinana Road Board.

Mr. R. R. Piercy: Cockburn Road Board.

Mr. D. Dvoretzky: Rockingham Road Board.

The Hon. E. M. Davies, M.L.C.: Fremantle Council.

Mr. W. Wauhope, J.P.: East Fremantle Council.

Mr. O. Bowyer: Melville Road Board.

Mr. C. P. Rule: North Fremantle Council.

Group B—

Mr. R. H. Rance: Subiaco City Council.

Mr. R. F. Burton: Perth Road Board.

Mr. A. J. Hobbs: Peppermint Grove Road Board.

Mr. J. W. Armstrong: Nedlands City Council.

Mr. C. L. Harvey, J.P.: Cottesloe Council.

Mr. E. G. Smith: Mosman Park Road Board.

Mr. S. R. Hardwicke: Wanneroo Road Board.

Mr. M. Kott: Claremont Council.

Group C—

Mr. G. Strickland: City of South Perth.

Mr. J. W. Cole: Canning Road Board.

Mr. J. E. Murray: Armadale-Kelmscott Road Board.

Mr. W. H. Wright: Belmont Park Road Board.

Mr. A. A. Mills: Gosnells Road Board.

Mr. H. C. Kentish: Serpentine-Jarrahdale Road Board.

Group D—

Mr. F. M. Anderson: Guildford Council.

That, of course, will have to be altered now because of the amalgamation. There is only one authority and that member is no longer there. To continue—

Mr. D. H. Ferguson: Swan Road Board.

Mr. W. S. Donay: Midland Junction Council.

Mr. R. C. Owen, M.L.A.: Darling Range Road Board.

Mr. W. E. Morley: Bayswater Road Board.

Mr. H. E. Marnie: Mundaring Road Board.

Mr. G. P. Gamble: Bassendean Road Board.

I think members will agree that those who form the district committees—and who, in turn, are working in co-operation with the planning authority, whose members I have just mentioned—are a good cross-section of the metropolitan region. Those people are doing their best in the interests of the region to implement this town planning scheme. It is this cross-section of the community who have asked for the limitation in the Act to be removed. They are unanimous in their request that the authority be allowed to function as it should do without any limitation on its life or on the tax itself.

I trust that the House will give due consideration to the thoughts of these people and that, for the benefit of the planning of the metropolitan region, they will agree to pass the Bill.

On motion by The Hon. F. J. S. Wise, debate adjourned.

METROPOLITAN REGION IMPROVEMENT TAX ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Town Planning) [5.41]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Although it may not be necessary to recapitulate what I have already said, because one Bill has a bearing on the other, perhaps I should read the notes I have as there may be some figures which should be put before the House.

One of the first and most important responsibilities of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority was to carry out a very close investigation of its financial position and its commitments. The finance committee of this body, having established what the likely total expenditure to be met from the Metropolitan Improvement Fund would be, posed the question to me, as a matter of policy, whether it should proceed by way of expenditure of revenue comprised in the fund, or by way of funding loans.

Very strong representations were made to me by way of deputation, during the course of which it was pointed out that costs to the order of some millions of pounds needed to be faced during the course of the implementation of the scheme. This, in itself, pointed to the need for consideration of a policy directed towards the raising of loans, it being considered quite unfair to the present generation that it should be called upon to meet out of revenue such substantial expenditure.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: That is on the same basis as the country hostels.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes. Because of the limitation placed on the life of the parent Act, and of the authority itself, we find ourselves now in the position of having to give practical consideration to a scheme which could well cost upwards of £6,000,000, with no more than some hundreds of thousands of pounds income guaranteed.

While the authority is authorised to raise loans, it cannot do so in practice without government guarantees of repayment of principal and interest. These guarantees are not forthcoming from the Treasury for the simple reason that the authority can guarantee no income after the 30th June, 1962, to meet its undertakings. In effect, we find that where there is no security in a business proposition, the proposition does not eventuate.

As members will see from the papers which will be tabled, there was a balance of, roughly, £120,000 to the credit of the fund at the end of August last. More than £90,000 had been expended in acquiring a very small number of lots of land; and this in itself points to the probability that property acquisitions within the next few years will call for much greater finance than the revenue from the tax will be bringing in. This points to the urgent need for assured continuity in income, in order that loans may be funded.

The heaviest expenditure is likely to be entailed in the acquisition of properties in the inner city area for the reservation of regional roads. Their development becomes a matter of increasing urgency if the inner city area is to function efficiently in the matter of transportation. Those who have most to gain in this connection

are the city's commercial and industrial interests, and theirs would be the greatest loss were the scheme to fail.

Failure to deal effectively with the city's changing pattern would inevitably result in depreciation of real property values. Transportation costs would tend to rise because of gradually slowing transportation through devious routes.

We do not desire to be faced, in years to come, with having to pay exorbitant costs for land required for parks and recreational areas. A great deal of such land is now available at reasonable prices, being partially, if not wholly, vacant. The point may be raised that the process of planning entails the prohibition of the development of land which is reserved for public purposes; and it is agreed such property-owners are entitled to have their land purchased without undue delay, or otherwise be allowed to develop it for their own purpose.

While there is little likelihood of there ever being sufficient money to meet the vast number of demands which could be made for improving and developing a metropolitan area such as ours, and providing all the modern community facilities and equipment which one might envisage, there is no question but that no great success can be achieved until we build up the Metropolitan Improvement Fund by capital borrowings, with long-term repayments.

A perusal of the amount of money required—and the resume given below is a very sketchy one—will show that almost immediately, within a short matter of years, the finance committee could see it would want £6,650,000; and that without going very far.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: In the main what would that be for?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Mainly for the acquisition of land. The purposes are as follows:—

	£
(a) Acquisition of land for regional open space, park and recreation purposes	2,250,000
(b) Acquisition of land for regional roads.....	2,500,000
(c) Acquisition of land as consequence of refusal of development consent under I.D.O.	500,000
(d) Acquisition of land within proposed cultural centre	500,000
(e) Acquisition of land for redevelopment of East Perth	650,000
(f) Acquisition of land in vicinity of Welshpool marshalling yards area	250,000
Total	£6,650,000

I can assure members that is not all.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Like the man with the ball and chain—that is not all.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Members will appreciate it is impossible for an authority set up by Parliament to plan the metropolitan region to function unless it has a continuity of office, and power to enable it to borrow money and raise revenue for funding its loans.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Will you explain the limitation you have mentioned, and further implied, with regard to its borrowing power?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I would reply to that interjection by asking the honourable member whether he would lend money without security to anybody whom he knew could die in two years' time?

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: If his estate were worth plenty, yes.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: On this occasion we have not got any estate to consider.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Why?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Because we have not. At the end of 1962 both the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority and the tax could go out of existence.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: Does not the State guarantee the authority?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The honourable member will be putting the State Treasurer in a very awkward spot if he is advocating borrowings.

The Hon. A. L. Loton: Not in a worse spot than he is.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: We want to avoid his being put in a spot at all. There are many other jobs for the State Treasurer to carry out.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: In that return, is there a statement of expenses for this current year?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes, but it is not up to date.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: And of the receipts?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes. An amount of £212,654 was received up to the 19th August, 1960, from the metropolitan region improvement tax.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: You expected £140,000?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: That is so; but while I might have been a bit conservative in my estimate, I think that should prove to members how land values have gone up in the metropolitan area; it is those values which brought in this tax.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: And they are still going up.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: That is so; and the more values go up, the more the authority will have to pay for the purchase of land.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: It is not purchasing all the land.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: We must purchase the land to make the plan operate. Mr. Strickland mentioned the Western switch road, and said that we brought in somebody from America in connection with it. We did nothing of the kind. There was a highly qualified man in the Eastern States; and while he was there we made use of him and of his experience. We asked him to tell us whether the switch road was in the right place, and how long it would take to develop it. We wanted to know whether we were moving along the right line.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: It is a matter of who takes care of the caretaker's daughter.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: It is a matter of interest to know that we anticipated it would take five years to accomplish, but the expert in question in his report suggested that we should complete it in 2½ years. He also said that our plan was a very good one.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: If the first Act were made permanent, and borrowing powers were given to the authority, could the tax be reduced and there still be a long-term view?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: That is possible; but I cannot give any guarantee. If valuations go up, and if the amount received from the original tax goes up to any extent as a result of more land being developed, I for one would be prepared to look at the matter again, to see whether we could not reduce it by, say, 10 per cent. or 15 per cent. That is only reasonable. While the authority has its borrowing power, it can borrow sufficient to meet its commitments. It does not need more than is necessary to cover its interest and sinking fund. But until a reasonable figure is obtained, nothing much can be done about the matter.

I hope members will give this measure a great deal of thought, because I think it is most essential. To those members who have any doubt about the matter, I would point out that the planning of this metropolitan region can be likened to the human body, of which the heart is the city block. If we start closing off the arteries in the human body, the heart becomes affected; and the same applies to the inner city. If the arteries are not flowing freely, it is likely to die away.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: It is for the benefit of the State?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: It is mainly for the benefit of the region. I say that because people in this region are within easy reach of theatres; they enjoy the best of the music that is brought to the State; they are right alongside the University; and they enjoy the facility of a

technical college in the centre of the region. In addition there are two teachers' training colleges in the centre of that region; the cathedrals are within the region; the people within that region enjoy every major sporting event; they are able to see their main football fixtures, grand finals, and the like; and they are also able to enjoy watching interstate and international cricket matches, because they are easy of access to everybody within the region.

Apart from this, in the centre of the region there are the markets, the business centre, the seat of government, the turf club, the trotting club, the public library, the museum, and the major beaches. In addition to these facilities, the people within the region are able to have easy access to their members of Parliament. To revert for a moment to the beaches, I will admit that some country towns have their beaches, while many inland towns have none. When a swimming pool is built the people pay two-thirds of the cost and the balance is paid by the Government.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: You are not suggesting that the ratepayers of Perth will not pay for the swimming pool?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I did not mention the swimming pool of Perth. Because of an amendment to the Act in this House the other night, many local authorities outside the region in question will have to contribute to the Empire Games. Whether we can divorce the Olympic pool from the Empire Games, I do not know, but much of their contributions will go towards the work to be undertaken in Beatty Park.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: What are the boundaries of the region?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The road boards I have mentioned—the Wanneroo Road Board, the Swan Road Board, the Mundaring Road Board, the Armadale-Kelmscott Road Board, and the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Road Board.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Rockingham?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I was taking the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Road Board as the one furthest south. Those who come in from outside must sustain an added cost. It is only fair and reasonable that improvements to this region should be paid for by those who benefit. It was thought that the people at Rockingham would obtain no advantage from this regional development; but, I point out, that I left that road board office at 11.15 one morning, and I was able to come into Perth, park my car in Cathedral Avenue, and walk into my office at 11.56.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: No speed cop saw you.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I was able to do that because of the process of town planning; because of the facility provided by the Freeway and the Narrows Bridge.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Without any regional tax.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Some of the money that went into that venture should have gone to the country. How are we to find the millions of pounds required if we are not to impose this tax?

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: From the same fund.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: That is not possible.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: What about the £1,000,000 land tax which has already been collected from the metropolitan region?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: That is entirely different; that goes into Consolidated Revenue. If we are to take £6,000,000 out of Consolidated Revenue—

The Hon. H. K. Watson: No-one suggested that.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: What would the honourable member suggest we should stop building? Every penny is used. Earlier I gave the reasons for this tax; and those reasons are quite obvious.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Can you tell us anything about the land tax reduction which it is intended to introduce?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: If the honourable member had read the Premier's Budget speech he would find that there is to be a 10 per cent. reduction in land tax on improved land. I purposely refrained from introducing these Bills until such time as the Premier had introduced his Budget, because my words were bandied around freely in another place as the result of a promise I made in this House last year. I did not want any member in this place to doubt my word. Therefore, I kept these Bills down on the notice paper. I hope members will give considerable thought to the measure which I have introduced.

On motion by The Hon. F. J. S. Wise, debate adjourned.

MOTOR VEHICLE (THIRD PARTY INSURANCE) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Local Government) [6.3]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This is rather a short measure. At one stage I intended to try to have quite a few amendments to the Act ready, but I was not able to do so. However, the amendment contained in this Bill is rather important; and rather than delay its passage, I have brought it forward for ratification by Parliament.

For some considerable time, the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust has been concerned at the withdrawal of participants, particularly withdrawals necessitated by the takeover of participant companies by other companies. It is considered that some past withdrawals may have been prevented if the Act had been amended to allow a company to dispose of either its entire interest in the trust or part thereof.

As it is, as participants withdraw, other small companies' interests are increased proportionately, thus giving the latter companies some concern. The Commercial Union Assurance Company Ltd. has sold its Australian interests to a new company, the Commercial Union Assurance Company of Australia Ltd., which was to be formed on the 1st July this year. To all intents and purposes the business will remain the same, and will be carried on at the same premises as those occupied by the old company and by the same staff as that employed by the old company.

Legal advice which the trust has received in the past is to the effect that when a participating company disposes of its interests to a new company, the new company cannot become a participant of the trust. I understand that the Commercial Union Assurance Company of Australia Ltd.—that is the new company—is anxious to take over the old company's interests in the trust and thus remain a participant. This I consider is most desirable. I think the Bill speaks for itself. The trust is anxious not to lose any more of its members, as a considerable number has been lost since the trust was formed; and it is important to retain those members it has.

On motion by The Hon. H. C. Strickland, debate adjourned.

HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 21st September.

THE HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [6.4]: This is quite an interesting measure as it proposes an alteration in the methods under which inquiries are made into maternal deaths. The Bill proposes a number of changes; and it does away with the magisterial inquiry. The Minister in his second reading speech gave the reasons for such an amendment.

The position in future will be that an investigator will be appointed and these inquiries will have legal protection; and, as a result, each one will be more in the nature of an inquiry than a legal procedure. When a death of this unfortunate nature occurs, everybody concerned is certainly disturbed; and it does not necessarily follow that there has been either negligence or carelessness in the shape of an illegal act which brought about the death of the

woman. That there should be a continuation of inquiry is only natural, because the birth of an infant should be a natural process; and a death in a natural process should be subject to an inquiry. The medical profession is of the opinion that the form of inquiry, as laid down in the Bill, will be better than that under legal proceedings.

There are certain aspects in the measure to which one must give consideration. There will be a number of permanent representatives and a number of provisional representatives appointed to the proposed committee. The permanent representatives will sit on all occasions; and the chairman will be the Professor of Obstetrics. The professional members will be those who will take part as the result of an occurrence within their own districts or within their own sphere of activity.

For the purposes of the measure, the metropolitan area has been taken as that part of the State within a radius of 50 miles from the General Post Office, Perth. If a maternal death is being inquired into within the metropolitan area, there will be from the metropolitan area two general practitioners of considerable standing appointed to the committee. If the occurrence happens outside the metropolitan area, there will be appointees of some standing who live and practise outside the metropolitan area. If nurses are involved in the inquiry then nurses may be appointed to the committee. It will be in the hands of the Commissioner of Public Health to decide who shall be appointed to the actual inquiry; and the people appointed will vary according to the situation of the occurrence, and with those who were concerned in it.

Since this Bill was introduced I have had quite a number of discussions with members of the profession and with officers of the Health Department. An aspect which concerns me is whether there should be a representative who is a pathologist appointed to this committee. I have no doubt in my mind that the Professor of Pathology believes a pathologist should be one of the permanent appointees. There are others who believe that many of these inquiries will be conducted without the necessity of having a pathologist on the committee. It has been suggested that the Professor of Pathology, or his deputy—provision is made in the measure for deputies—should be appointed as one of the provisional members. It is just a question of considering what actually is the situation in regard to each inquiry.

In these cases there will always be a report from a pathologist; and it is a question of whether a report from a pathologist presented at that inquiry is sufficient, or whether the pathologist should be there in person to present his report. That is where the difference of opinion lies at the moment. As a pathologist takes an active

part in the preparation of the details of the inquiry, I am of the opinion that he should be present in order to submit his views, rather than that they should be submitted in the form of a report.

I refer to this aspect in the purely medical sense. Any information regarding the health of the patient or the medical condition of the patient at the time of death might well be taken by report; but I feel that if there were a pathologist on the committee, there would be a wider scope for discussion amongst its members. I have not yet thought of an amendment which would satisfy all persons concerned; I will have to make up my mind shortly whether I shall move an amendment to include a representative of pathology on the committee.

I cannot make up my mind whether this representative should be a permanent representative, or a provisional member to be called upon when required. From discussions with the department, I have ascertained there would be no objection to a pathologist on the committee; but whether this appointment should be permanent or provisional is in doubt.

I think one of the doubts might be resolved in this way: This committee has deputies, and it would be somewhat difficult at times if most members on the committee were of high authority in the profession and one deputy had lesser experience. I am never happy about deputies being used on committees of inquiry that seldom function. I believe there have been very few cases, even in the recent past, where the services of deputies should have been used at all. However, if deputies are used, it should only be when there are very peculiar circumstances.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I was discussing the question whether a pathologist should be a permanent or a provisional representative on this committee. There are some aspects of this committee with which I should like to deal, one being the expense involved to meet present conditions. It seems that when we are dealing with this problem it might be as well to carry our investigations into at least the first month of the life of the child; and I will try to give some idea why I consider that is necessary.

It does not seem to me to be very wise thinking to cease the investigations on the arrival of the child, and discuss with this committee purely the death of the mother during the late stage of her pregnancy, without realising that the purpose of the pregnancy was the birth of a child. If the child dies within the first month there is, surely, just as much reason for the parents and the public to be conscious of the fact that the pregnancy has failed.

It might be wise to enlarge this section of the Health Act to cover an inquiry into the death of an infant in the first 30 days. The pediatrician might consider that the period of 30 days is too short; but it is in those 30 days that we lose the greatest number of our infants; and, after all, surely what the whole inquiry is aimed at is the successful termination of pregnancy; and the successful termination of a pregnancy must be the birth of a child who continues to live after the danger period.

Also I make this suggestion for the reason that at present further investigation into this matter is well within the realms of possibility because of the Coronation Gift Fund, the help of the Government and the Lotteries Commission, and the appointment of Dr. Hahnel from West Germany. He is to start what is known as a hormone-assay laboratory in this State. An estimation is made of the amount of active substance being poured into the bloodstream by the ductless glands of the human being; and one of the projects in mind is that when a pregnant woman is admitted to the King Edward Memorial Hospital, if there is any doubt at all about her condition, a sample of blood should be taken and the hormones estimated. Later on, if something should go wrong, a further estimation would be made in order to ascertain whether any change in this field of medicine had occurred. I consider it would occur also if a child died or was born deformed.

So we have a further avenue of investigation which may be open to this committee; and I feel that it may be wise—and I hereby offer the suggestion to the Minister—to call a conference of those who are interested so that we might examine the views of the Professor of Pathology in regard to the part he would play in the investigation as originally determined; and so that we might examine the extension of the investigation into the near-natal deaths, and the invitation to the Professor of Pediatrics to the committee either as a permanent representative or as a provisional representative. He would bring a lot of interest to that committee which would help to ensure that the pregnancy was successful.

It might also be wise, if thought necessary, to obtain a report from the scientist who will be investigating the hormones circulating in the blood of the mother and possibly of the child that died. In this way I feel we could join together in a much more comprehensive way to solve a problem which we must all regard as a very serious one. Not only is the death of the mother a most unwelcome affair in the termination of pregnancy; but surely the death of a child within the first 30 days must be equally abhorrent. Therefore I suggest that we might as a body of people—and I would willingly offer my

services to the Minister—get together with the idea of seeing whether we cannot enlarge the scope of this inquiry for the benefit of all concerned. I think we could do this. If a field of research can with benefit be widened, I think that at all times it should be widened; because by keeping research or investigation on a narrow field we can overlook some matter in a close by-field of investigation that could have answered the original problem.

Therefore it is my belief that this whole matter of investigation into maternal deaths should be looked at again in order that it may be widened to take in the field of near-natal deaths; that we should consider the appointment of a pathologist as a member of the permanent committee or the provisional committee; and that at the same time we should consider the appointment of the supervisor of child death.

The trust of the Coronation Gift Fund has seen the wisdom of this because it has called in the Professor of Obstetrics, now a permanent member of the trust, and the supervisor of child health and the Professor of Pediatrics (Professor McDonald) to advise on the set-up of the research which it proposes to undertake. I believe that if we were able to extend in this way, we would have something about which the State could really be proud—an organisation which would bring results.

The committee meeting to discuss maternal deaths fortunately does not meet very often; and, as the Minister said in introducing this Bill in another place, the maternal death rate has dropped an amazing amount over the last few years.

In the frame of mind I am in at the moment I hate very much to criticise some words given to the Minister for Health to use as a commentary on the work of the committee as it has existed over the last 23 years, but in fairness to my profession I think I should add some comments. The statement was made that this committee had kept the doctors and nurses "on their toes" in the practice of the art of obstetrics—I am not using the same words but "on their toes" is quoted—rather than face the embarrassing consequences of a magisterial inquiry. It might be well to add that there are always the few in any profession or organisation who will not strictly abide by the ethics of the profession; therefore I think that the general comment is unfair.

The progress that has been made in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology in the last few years has not been made because of fear of a magisterial inquiry, but because of the terrific advances that those practising the art of medicine have demanded from their fellows. It would be of interest, I think, if I were able to produce—which I cannot at the moment—the list of postgraduate lectures given almost every day of the week in this city. It would be interesting to bring to this House

the list of overseas lecturers who have been brought here because of the work of the Postgraduate Committee and Federation of Australia.

Only recently we had amongst us for a fortnight—brought here as a result of the efforts of the postgraduate committee and the Coronation Gift Fund—Professor Israel of Philadelphia whose work delighted the obstetricians and gynaecologists, and added a great deal to the knowledge that is possessed within this State.

Members of the profession do not spend large sums of money in going overseas and interstate to attend conferences, or utilise their lunch hours or evenings to attend postgraduate meetings several times a week on an average, just to avoid a magisterial inquiry. The attendance at some of those postgraduate meetings is very considerable when one realises the number of men practising in this State. We have seen audiences of 250 doctors at lectures given at Royal Perth Hospital—not once, but many times.

Therefore they do not do these things for the reason that they will miss a magisterial inquiry, but because the hippocratic oath still holds, and they feel it is their bounden duty to raise the standard of the work in the profession. And that applies to the profession not only here but all over Australia, and, in fact, all over the world.

Before concluding I would like to add one or two serious words, and say that no matter how long one has been practising the art of medicine; no matter how great one's experience is; and no matter how often one has seen death, death still brings a feeling which is unaltered over the years. I admit there have been times when I have almost prayed that death would relieve some of my patients of their sufferings; but it does not make much difference; because when death comes it comes, and it brings with it the same feeling and the same emotional upset that it brought when one first entered the profession. The result is, of course, that to those who are engaged in the part of the profession in which death comes to what should be a normal event, the emotional effect is even greater.

Thus it is quite wrong to suggest that certain individuals practise a higher degree of their art in order to miss a magisterial inquiry; they are still faced with the fact that one to whom they have given care for months has passed on. Such inquiry would not make any difference to the members of the profession—and I refer to those who take their tasks seriously: probably 99 per cent. of the profession—because the real fear is the loss of that individual; and most of us have amongst our patients some of our closest friends—not that they started as friends; they started as patients. That is the reason why progress is great in the art of obstetrics in this State.

I conclude by asking that the Minister for Health have another look at this measure; and I am certain we will all give him every ounce of support that we can in

order that considerably greater benefits will be available to the mothers, the children, and all the others concerned.

THE HON. J. D. TEAHAN (North-East) [7.49]: Any move made by the Government, or any other authority, to reduce the maternal mortality figures is to be commended; and that appears to be the object of the Bill. At present when maternal deaths occur they could be the subject of an inquiry by a magistrate or a coroner. The most efficient and careful midwife or obstetrician could, while having nothing to hide, and after having given his fullest attention to a particular person, still feel ill at ease at the thought of having to attend a coroner's inquiry, although he might have nothing to fear. The Bill sets out to remove that aspect and to ensure that the inquiry will be carried out by a highly qualified obstetrician.

I think this is an improvement on the present position. The make-up of the board is of a technical nature; and Dr. Hislop is in a better position to comment on that aspect than I am; and he has commented on it. Generally I say the Bill is to be commended, and I support the second reading.

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Local Government—in reply) [7.51]: Naturally I am not in a position to answer the queries raised by Dr. Hislop, but I assure him I shall take them to the Minister concerned to get a reply for him. It must be remembered that the committee was set up as a result of the State Health Council delving, in 1958, into the problem of child mortality. The Health Council appointed a subcommittee composed of Professor Gordon King and Dr. Snow to draw up some amendments to section 336 of the Health Act.

At that time Dr. Snow went overseas and visited Minneapolis. He was asked to investigate the set-up in Minnesota where there is the lowest death rate in the world. Dr. Snow, as a result of his investigations there, reported to the State Health Council when he returned; and this committee was set up. Whether the council did not go far enough in its investigations before setting up this committee, I do not know, but I imagine it would have made comprehensive investigations.

Whether the inclusion of a pathologist will be of any advantage to the committee, I am not in a position to say; but I understand that pathologists are the ones who do the post mortems. Therefore their evidence has to be collated some time or another. Whether it is wise to have their findings conveyed to the inquiry by the pathologists themselves, or by letter, I do not know. Possibly it would be better if it were conveyed by the person himself; and by his being present at the inquiry. I will have a look at that aspect.

It is a credit to everyone concerned that our death rate has dropped from 4.18 per thousand in 1937 to 1.08 in 1951; and I imagine that by now it is still less. But that does not leave us in the position where we can say, "We have done a good job; we can knock off." We have to get to the stage where the death rate is nil; and any suggestions made by Dr. Hislop for the purpose of achieving that end will be worthy of every consideration.

His last suggestion in regard to blood counts, particularly under the Coronation Gift Fund where money is being made available for the purpose of co-ordinating blood counts and maternal mortality, has quite a lot of merit.

I think we can deal with one or two clauses of the Bill in Committee; and when Dr. Hislop thinks we should go no further, I will be prepared to report progress.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (The Hon. W. R. Hall) in the Chair; The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2 put and passed.

Progress reported, and leave granted to sit again.

House adjourned at 7.56 p.m.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Thursday Hours

MR. WATTS (Stirling—Deputy Premier) [4.30]: On behalf of the Premier, I desire to inform members that on Thursday next, the 29th September, the House will not meet until 3.15 p.m.

The Premier also wished me to advise members that it is his intention that the House should sit on Thursday nights as from the 13th October, inclusive of that date.

I confirm the Premier's announcement that it is not intended that the House should sit on Wednesday of Show Week.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

MIGRANT CHILDREN

Subsidisation by State Government and Non-claimant States

1. Mr. HEAL asked the Minister representing the Minister for Child Welfare:

(1) What was the subsidy paid by the Government on migrant children entering Western Australia, not including moneys paid by the Lotteries Commission, for the years 1953-59?

(2) What is regarded as the average yearly expenditure on migrant children in non-claimant States?

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 27th September, 1960

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