Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 6th October, 1971

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

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

INLAND WATERS

Passenger Vessels Operating

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH, to the Minister for Police:

Regarding the Bill to amend the Transport Commission Act, 1966-1970—

(1) How many passenger vessels operate on inland waters other than vessels belonging to the M.T.T.?

(2) By whom are they owned and operated?

(3) Under what authority do these vessels operate?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for giving me notice of this question, the answer to which is as follows:—

(1) and (2) The following vessels operate on the Swan River:—

Full Time

Grantala—E. C. Hickson

Rottnest Islander—N.A.B. & D. J. Hunt

Katemaire—Rottnest Passenger Serivce

Temeraire—Rottnest Passenger Service

Panta Rei—E. Ashdown

Westralia—H. Cameron

Part Time

Sambo—A. E. Tilley & Co. Pty. Ltd.

Dawnelle—A. E. Tilley & Co. Pty. Ltd.

Invincible—A. E. Tilley & Co. Pty. Ltd.

Dauntless—A. E. Tilley & Co. Pty. Ltd.

Henley—A. E. Tilley & Co. Pty. Ltd.

May—A. E. Tilley & Co. Pty. Ltd.

Aussie—Elder Prince Marine Services

Australis—Elder Prince Marine Services

Wandoo—Elder Prince Marine Services

Necede—Elder Prince Marine Services

Dawn—Elder Prince Marine Services

Mallee—Elder Prince Marine Services

Karralee—A. Ball & Sons

Kundelee—A. Ball & Sons

(3) The Western Australian Marine Act.

This information relates to the Swan River only.

If passenger vessels operating on other inland waters are required the information will take some time to procure, as considerable research will be necessary.

QUESTIONS (7): ON NOTICE.

1. ELECTRICITY

Increased Charges

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS, to the Leader of the House:

(1) Would he ascertain from the Minister for Electricity whether he was correctly reported in *The West Australian* on Tuesday, the 5th October, 1971, in the article relating to higher S.E.C. charges?

(2) If so—

(a) how was the "average metropolitan householder" increase of 26 cents per week determined;

(b) does he agree that an average metropolitan householder's quarterly account would be in the vicinity of $25 to $30;

(c) if the reply to (b) is "Yes", on the basis of a 21% increase, as indicated in the newspaper article—is it not apparent that the additional amount payable per week by metropolitan consumers would be in the range of 40 to 50 cents per week?

(3) How is it anticipated that the new rate will be applied from 1st November?

(4) Is it intended that each meter in the metropolitan area will be read on the 31st October in order to ensure that no consumer is charged the increased rate prior to the 1st November?

(5) If so, will this not entail a tremendous number of meter readers to be employed for one day at penalty rates in view of the fact that the 31st October falls on a Sunday?

(6) Or is it the intention to charge consumers the increased rate for the full quarter up to the time the meter is read following the 1st November?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) (a) Average consumption per domestic consumer—800 units per quarter.

Increase 800 @ .4 cents =	$3.20
Increased fixed charge	20c
per quarter	$3.40

= 26c per week.

(b) No.

(c) See (b).

(3) The new tariff will be charged on all meters read on and after 1st November. This is the principle which was adopted when tariffs were reduced.

(4) No.

(5) Answered by (4).

(6) Yes.

2. DECENTRALISATION

Government Policy

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS, to the Leader of the House:

(1) In view of the answer to my question on uniform power charges on the 23rd September, 1971, would the Minister advise me if decentralisation is a policy of this Government?

(2) If so, what plans are there for decentralisation, and how will it be achieved realistically on a Statewide basis if industry is limited to the urban areas because of low power costs compared to the high power costs in towns with existing ports close to mineral deposits?

(3) If the answer to (1) is "No" then what plans are envisaged to decrease the birth rate and to house and employ the populace in the urban areas which will expand beyond control without decentralisation?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) It is considered that the cost of power is not the only factor influencing the location of industry. Because the incentives available to industry to encourage it to decentralise were limited and ineffectual when this Government took office, steps have been taken to appoint an interdepartmental committee to examine the question. The committee's report is nearing completion and will be considered by the Government shortly.

(3) See answer to (1).

(68)

3. PENSIONERS

Fare Concessions: North West

The Hon. J. L. HUNT, to the Leader of the House:

Owing to the fact that "K" boats will possibly be taken off the north west run in the near future, will the Government give an assurance that fare concessions to women pensioners and all others concerned, be transferred to the airlines operating in the area?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

In view of the present financial problems of the State, it is not possible for the Government to give such an assurance.

4. HOSPITAL

Northampton

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN, to the Leader of the House:

(1) Has the Northampton Hospital Board made representation to the Health Department for a new hospital to replace the very old building at present being used?

(2) If so, to what stage has planning progressed?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) No planning has been done as there is no possibility of funds being made available for a new hospital at Northamption until all higher priority work is financed.

5. TOWN PLANNING

Roebourne Townsite

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS, to the Leader of the House:

(1) Will the Minister advise when the interim development order will be lifted from Roebourne?

(2) If a date cannot be given, will the Minister advise if the Lands Department will be allowed to auction land for commercial development during the period of this order when commercial landholders are prevented developing land directly opposite the Government lots because they have been advised that they have had their commercial blocks re-zoned as homesites?

(3) If the answer to (2) is "Yes", will the affected landholders be compensated?

(4) If the answer to (2) is "No", then—

(a) how will existing landholders be compensated, if affected; and

(b) how will the town be developed without private enterprise?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

(1) The interim development order will be lifted from Roebourne when a planning scheme has been prepared. This will be done when contour maps are available and when a new bridge site on the Harding River has been selected.

(2) Yes. Two commercial lots were offered for auction today (6th October).

(3) Compensation for injurious affection would be payable in certain circumstances if the administering authority refused an application made pursuant to the interim development order to carry out development on any land on the grounds that the proposed town planning scheme is to include that land within a reservation for public purposes. As far as I am aware no application has been refused on such grounds and therefore no compensation is payable.

(4) Answered by (3).

6. HOUSING

Allocation of Funds to Building Societies

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF, to the Leader of the House:

In view of the fact that for many years it has been customary for an announcement to be made early in the financial year as to the allocation to building societies of funds made available under the Commonwealth State Housing Loans Agreement Act, which funds have on the average exceeded $4,000,000 during each of the last three years, which would be sufficient to assist in the construction of at least 400 new homes at $10,000 each, and in view of the present needs of the home building industry, will the Minister indicate whether or not any such amount is to be made available during the current year from any quarter, and if so, when will an announcement be made?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

The new housing financial arrangements imposed by the Commonwealth upon the States apply from 1st July, 1971, but there will be no form of Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement as in the past.

However, the State, as a condition of receiving a Housing Assistance Grant for the five year period 1971-1972 to 1975-1976, has to allocate a percentage of State Loan Funds appropriated for Welfare Housing.

As the member knows, the protracted negotiations of these arrangements were only concluded recently, and being entirely new and developed without consultation with the States, has left Western Australia as a consequence of the expiry of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreements, 1956-1971, without statutory appropriation authority to operate a State Home Builders' Account from which advances can be made to building societies and approved institutions.

The Government is fully aware of the needs of the home building industry and is taking steps as a matter of urgency to ensure allocations being made to building societies and approved institutions at the earliest possible time and, at the same time, avoid problems for the State Housing programmes being financed by State Loan Funds in 1971-1972.

As soon as current deliberations have concluded, a Government announcement will be made.

7. TRAFFIC

Roebourne District

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS, to the Minister for Police:

(1) Who is responsible for traffic control at Roebourne?

(2) Where is the office for this Authority?

(3) How many traffic officers are there?

(4) How many vehicles are used?

(5) What is the area of this control area in square miles?

(6) Are there any existing plans to increase the control of traffic in this region?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

(1) Shire of Roebourne.

(2) Roebourne.

(3) One.

(4) One.

(5) 8,452.

(6) Adequate traffic control will be provided should traffic control be taken over on a State-wide basis.

LAND

Timber Rights: Motion

THE HON. F. D. WILLMOTT (South-West) [4.49 p.m.]: I move—

That this House is of the opinion that as the Government has previously made a decision that all timber on freehold and conditional purchase land should become the sole property of the land holder as from the 1st February,

> 1972, and a Ministerial statement having been made to this effect, this decision should be adhered to, and furthermore, this House views with grave concern the evasive and misleading answers given to questions in this Parliament.

Before proceeding to deal with the subject matter of the motion, I take this opportunity to tender an apology to the Minister for Lands. I undertook to do this, both publicly and privately, if the Minister for Lands could show me he was not responsible for the answer given to a question which I asked in this House on the 15th September. In a statement made by the Minister on the 22nd September, he showed, quite clearly, that he was not responsible for that answer.

I hereby tender my apology to the Minister for Lands. Furthermore, I unreservedly withdraw anything I said or implied in regard to the Minister for Lands being responsible for the false answer given in this House. I repeat again that he has shown, quite clearly, he was not responsible for that answer and so I withdraw anything I said in that regard.

I would like to set one other matter straight. It has been said by the Minister for Lands—and this has been reported in the Press several times—that any mistake was due to my confusion between the two Ministers. That is not correct because never at any time have I been confused between Mr. H. D. Evans, Minister for Lands, and Mr. T. D. Evans, Minister for Forests. My confusion was of a different nature and it occurred because I was under the impression, as a result of the letter to which I have referred, that a decision had been made regarding the timber rights becoming the sole right of the landholder. That being so, I was aware of course that the Minister for Lands would be the Minister responsible for implementing that decision.

I made this fairly clear when I was speaking on the urgency motion I moved in this House, and to refresh the memories of members I will quote a little of what I said. On page 1515 of *Hansard* on the 21st September, I said—

> As the matter of reservation of timber rights is under the control of the Minister for Lands by regulation under the Land Act—as clearly demonstrated by the previous questions and answers—he would naturally be the person to supply the answers, although I think the decision as to whether or not timber rights should be any longer reserved to the Crown mainly lies with the Forests Department.

That passage clearly indicates that the reason I thought the Minister for Lands had supplied the answer was that I believed he would implement the decision reached by the Government.

Having said that, I now turn to the subject matter of the motion and I will deal initially with the first part which calls on the Government to adhere to the decision that timber rights revert to property owners as from the 1st February, 1972. This should be done for several reasons, and I will try to outline them as briefly as I can.

As I said previously when I moved the urgency motion, knowledge of the decision made on or about the 20th August had become very widespread, but since then it has become a great deal more so. One of the reasons the information was circulated so rapidly was that the recipient of the letter I quoted in this House is a person who has for a number of years conducted an intense campaign for timber rights to revert to the landholders. In fact, this man appeared on the television programme "Today Tonight" on this very matter. This could have been as long ago as 18 months or two years. So he has been very close to the subject for a long time, and anything he says is regarded by those in the area to be on the ball because he has followed the matter so closely.

In addition, on the 22nd September in the *Manjimup-Warren Times* reference is made to this in an article which is headed, "Battle for timber royalties appears won." I do not intend to quote the article at any length but, in part, it reads—

> According to a letter written by Lands Minister Evans the removal of these restrictions will apply from February 1 next year.

That is referring to the restrictions on timber rights.

That article indicated very clearly to many people throughout the area that the timber rights will revert to the landholders as from the 1st February. This has been made very plain to me since that time. I have received inquiries from people as far away as the Vasse and Blackwood areas because they know that the man who received that letter should know the true situation.

This letter was given to the Press by the man concerned a week before I saw it. I knew the letter had been received because he had told me so over the telephone, but I did not know its contents. I was of the opinion that perhaps he had misread something the Minister had written to him. This prompted me to ask a question on the 15th September in order to clarify the matter. When I received the answer that a decision had not been reached, I was thrown into confusion, and it was why I immediately went to see the man to obtain the letter to read for myself.

I then realised that no ambiguity at all existed. It was quite obvious that at the time the letter was written a decision had been made. One week after the article

appeared in the paper another article was published and again I will quote only a part of it. It will indicate to members the confusion in the area as a result of the second article. The first article stated quite plainly that timber rights would revert to landholders as from the 1st February, but the following is to be found in the *Manjimup-Warren Times* of the 29th September:—

> On behalf of Mr. T. D. Evans, Mr. Willesee has told Mr. Willmott that no decision had been made on abolishing timber rights held by the Crown on private land.
>
> Mr. Dave Evans said the letter Mr. Willmott referred to was one of three he wrote to constituents.
>
> In it he said a decision had been made to abolish the timber rights and that this would come into effect next February.
>
> The decision to abolish the rights had been made at the time he wrote the letter which was dated August 20.
>
> However, on September 7, Forests Minister T. D. Evans was informed of a serious anomaly that could have called for a change of policy.

I leave members to imagine the confusion which must now exist in the minds of the people in the area. They just do not know where they stand, and this can have a much more serious effect than many people may realise.

The Government has taken no action to clarify the matter for these people. I am certainly not aware of any action having been taken or any statement having been made.

Many members in this Chamber represent rural areas and would realise how keen farmers would be to sell their timber as quickly as they could if timber rights which they have not previously enjoyed were given to them. This statement is particularly true at this time because many farmers are only too anxious to get their hands on some ready money.

For this reason it is quite possible some farmers have already entered into contracts for the sale of their timber. Only last night I was talking to the man who had received the letter which I quoted in this Chamber. I was talking to him on quite a different matter but during the conversation he said he was extremely glad I had found out that he may not own his timber rights because he was on the point of contracting to sell his timber. He is one man who knows the position. As I have said, others from Blackwood and Vasse have approached me on this subject. I have told them not to attempt to sell their timber until there is some clarification. However, many others will not be in contact with a member of Parliament and it is quite on the cards that some may have contracted to sell their timber.

Some members may not be aware of the method by which timber is sold. As a rule timber can be sold in two ways, although the knowledgeable make use of only one way. If an individual contracts to sell his timber by the load, or by the tree, the money received is subject to income tax. However, if he sells it by means of what is known as a cutting right, the money received is not subject to income tax. Anybody with knowledge of this subject sells it in the second way wherein an agreement is entered into allowing the person who intends to harvest or cut the timber the right to cut it on a given piece of land for a given period. The date in the contract may be for a three, six, or 12 months period—whatever is agreed upon. As a rule the agreement stipulates the size of the timber to be felled so that immature trees may be preserved. This is the general way in which timber is sold.

There is something of a recession in the timber industry at the moment and many small spot mills are battling to remain alive; in fact, I know of quite a number which have closed down. The main reason for closing down is the insufficiency of timber to supply their mills. Consequently, many spot millers will be only too anxious to sign contracts to obtain the cutting rights on the land of people who expect to be given timber rights.

As I have said, I can readily visualise that this has happened already in some cases and the contracts would naturally be dated from the 1st February, the date when the rights are to be given.

Although the agreement usually states the period of the cutting rights in terms of months, I have often seen another clause inserted to give the harvester or miller—whoever takes the timber—the right to renew the contract for a further three months or other period of time on payment of a small sum of money. Harvesters and millers will be anxious, I am sure, to sign such agreements to tie up the timber for their own future use. In addition, of course, farmers who are to be given timber rights for the first time will be equally anxious to sell, because everyone knows their position in the south-west areas today. I am sure Mr. Baxter, who has himself farmed in the lower south-west, realises farmers would be quick to sell their timber to get their hands on the money.

Perhaps members do not realise what this could mean, in terms of money, to some of the small farmers, particularly those in the Pemberton and Warren areas. In the main, these are the people who have applied the most pressure for the release of timber rights because of the poles on their properties. Some two years or so ago—it may be longer—there was a heavy demand for poles, mainly from the State Electricity Commission, and each pole was worth anything from $18 to $24. A great

deal of money is involved and members will realise that a property would not need to have many trees suitable for poles to make the cutting a profitable venture.

It was one of these men who, as I have said, told me only last night that I had just saved him from contracting for the sale of his poles. He would have done this to take effect from the 1st February.

Any idea of altering the decision will cast confusion over the whole issue. Let us look for a moment at what has been referred to, in a statement made by the Minister, as an anomaly which has occurred and of which he became aware on the 6th September. He said this could cause a change in the decision which had previously been made. The anomaly was the discovery of two properties—one in the Manjimup area and one in the Scott River area—which are carrying considerable quantities of timber. Although hundreds of properties are involved in respect of people who were to be given timber rights on the 1st February, only two have been found to be carrying large quantities of timber and, because of this, the decision is to be altered. In the first place it is insufficient reason for the Government to alter the decision when a ministerial announcement had been made by means of the letters to which I have referred.

The Hon. J. L. Hunt: What would the honourable member call a large quantity of timber?

The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT: From memory something like 2,000 loads were mentioned. I am speaking only from memory and do not know whether this quantity applies to both properties or to one only. Even so, that is not a great deal of timber in the overall. Certainly in my opinion it is not sufficient reason for causing the present confusion.

I firmly believe the Government has the right to alter its mind a dozen times if it desires to do so, provided an announcement has not been made. However, as an announcement was made, it should take more than what has been put forward for an alteration to be considered. This is my firm opinion. The situation at the moment is that the people simply do not know what will happen.

Another factor, I believe, has some bearing on this. In recent years there has been an upsurge for the release of timber rights for various reasons. One of the main reasons is that methods of clearing have changed. In pre-war days before the use of bulldozers timber was killed by means of ringbarking. Clearing was a slow process, because stumps and trees were burnt out. With the advent of the bulldozer a different situation entirely arose and timber was pushed out of the ground. Simultaneously with the use of bulldozers, chain saws, too, appeared on the timber felling scene. Previously stumps were felled by belly cutting with an axe and cross-cut saw. The trees were felled at a height comfortable to a standing man and, in some cases, a little higher. With the advent of the new machinery much of the timber was cut low to the ground; in fact, only a few inches above the ground. This has left landholders with stumps which are almost impossible to move with a bulldozer. A stump from a large tree only a few inches above the ground can only be shifted with a very powerful bulldozer and, normally, this type of bulldozer is not used in clearing operations.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: They were impossible to shift.

The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT: Yes, quite impossible, and for this reason pressure started to build up because people who did not hold timber rights when the timber was cut were left with the stumps, and the small amount of royalty received from the timber went nowhere near the cost of clearing the stumps. This is the main reason for the building up of pressure.

Mr. Ferry would well know that pressure has been applied upon us for a considerable number of years to try to alter the situation. We have undertaken this task and the result was that the previous Premier (Sir David Brand) announced in his policy speech before the last election that the reservation of timber rights to the Crown would be abolished if his Government were returned. Of course, this did not happen and it is pointless grizzling about that.

The fact remains the people were on to us again to try to do something. We were pleased indeed when they received letters from the Minister for Lands and thought that our efforts had met with success. The people were jumping with joy. It is hard to describe the subsequent confusion and I very much fear some of them may have contracted to sell their timber as from the 1st February

I have given the reasons, to the best of my ability, for asking members to support the first part of my motion which calls on the Government to adhere to the decision which has been made and announced.

I turn now to the second part of my motion which reads—

> . . . this House views with grave concern the evasive and misleading answers given to questions in this Parliament.

The answer given to me on the 15th September could perhaps be claimed to be true. It was, "No. The matter is still under review." This answer was given after the decision had been made and the Minister had become aware on the 6th

September of what is alluded to as the anomaly. A great deal of confusion and talking on my part could have been avoided had a little more information been given in reply to that question. The Government was aware it had made a decision and was also aware of the possibility of its being altered.

Had the Government not given me the bare answer, "No, the matter is still under review," it would have saved a great deal of trouble. The answer would have been enlarged upon and I consider it to be an evasive answer. I do not think I am overstating the case when I say that.

Let me deal with the answer which I say is misleading. I turn now to a question which was asked by the member for Vasse on the 26th August. I would remind members that the letter I quoted previously in this House which stated that a decision had been reached was written on the 20th August. That decision remained until the 6th September, according to the statement made by the Minister, because it was not till then that we became aware that an anomaly existed. The question asked by the member for Vasse on the 26th August was as follows:—

> Does the Government intend to allow property owners at present without timber rights full royalty concessions?

The answer was—

> The Government has considered this matter and a decision can soon be expected.

A decision had clearly been made and furthermore there was no indication at that stage that it was ever likely to be altered, because the Minister did not become aware of the anomaly until the 6th September.

This is the reason I ask members to support me in the second part of my motion. I believe I have let the Government down very lightly when I say the answer is misleading. This part can be said to be true: "The Government has considered this matter." That is true enough. This is why I say I have let the Government down very lightly in the wording of my motion, because the answer I received is what I would call a half-truth—a half-truth which is so often worse than a lie.

That is what I believe this answer to be. I do not wish to detain the House any longer. I have endeavoured to put forward a case as clearly as I could in the hope that members might support my motion. I have done this in a manner which members will understand and, in view of what I have said, I hope they will support my motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the House.)

ALUMINA REFINERY (UPPER SWAN) AGREEMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [5.20 p.m.]: I move—

> That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill has been passed in another place and comes to this Chamber with a message seeking our concurrence with its provisions.

Prior to the signing of the agreement, Parliament was given the opportunity of debating the proposals contained within its clauses.

This is a new approach to the usual ratifying Bill of this nature for the reason that in the past complaints have been made to the effect that the submitting of an agreement to Parliament was merely a formality.

There has been some public controversy as to this industry because the site is not in an established industrial area. Actually the project is based on mining bauxite that is low-grade by world standards and would be unable to withstand the economic strain that would be imposed on it by siting the refinery further north. If it is not permitted to establish on the selected site there is every possibility that the project will be deferred indefinitely.

This could mean the total loss to the State of much of the bauxite the company proposes to mine, as further expansion of the metropolitan area could eventually preclude mining in the area where the company and its joint venture partners have proved their ore.

There will not necessarily be intense suburban development in the area, but more in the nature of farmlands or areas not usually larger than five or 10 acres, where people live in order to enjoy a semi-rural environment.

The simple economics are that this project will involve establishment expenditure of about $190,000,000 and each year will inject about $15,000,000 into the economy of Western Australia. It will create employment opportunity for thousands of people in the construction stage and later will employ more than 700 people directly in mining and treatment of the bauxite, consisting of approximately 150 engaged on mining operations and some 550 at the refinery.

Critics of the project argue against the refinery on aesthetic grounds. Some of the criticism has been ill-informed and based on emotional rather than technical reasoning, I believe.

It is because of such criticism that this Bill has been brought before Parliament so that a decision on the proposed alumina refinery can be made by Parliament in the light of public opinion surrounding the project.

Exploratory drilling has shown that the reserves of ore, on which this project will be based, are considerably in excess of 100,000,000 tons of bauxite, which on present prices is worth over $1,500,000,000. The joint venturers are confident that these reserves are sufficient to sustain an economically viable extraction and refining operation. About 75 per cent. of these reserves are on private land, a much higher proportion than either the Alcoa or the Alwest projects each of which occupies a considerable area of Crown land. By contrast this venture has access to only 28,000 acres of Crown land available for mining and out of that area only about 4,600 acres are expected to be mined.

Members should appreciate that this project is a marginal one, based on lower grades of ore than the Alcoa project and occupying only a fraction of the total Crown land available to the other alumina producers. The low grade of this ore will automatically preclude the direct shipment of any to overseas alumina plants as it would involve the transport of too great a weight of nonaluminum bearing material. A little historic background might be of interest. The project had its beginning in 1965, during the life of the previous Government, when Dr. Bruno Campana, a Swiss consulting geologist, commenced an investigation of bauxite areas in the Darling Range not already assigned to others.

The following year, after he had been granted temporary reserves over the areas of interest, he entered into a partnership with Hancock and Wright to undertake further investigations of the deposits with a view to their development.

The Colonial Sugar Refinery Co. Ltd. joined the venture as a partner in 1968 and subsequently directed its wholly-owned mining subsidiary, Pacminex Pty. Ltd., to prepare a feasibility study for the partners.

As a result of the feasibility study, the initial stage of which was completed in September last year, the partners sought a formal agreement with the State to permit of a mining operation and an alumina refinery. Expenditure by the group on testing the deposits and on the feasibility study has already exceeded $2,000,000.

The joint venture companies now seeking Government approval of their proposals are Metal Miniere Ltd., a company formed to deal with the rights held by Dr. Campana; Hancock Prospecting Pty. Ltd. and Wright Prospecting Pty. Ltd. representing the interests of Mr. Lang Hancock and Mr. Peter Wright; and Pacminex Pty. Ltd. which is the mineral exploration and development subsidiary of the Colonial Sugar Refinery Co. Ltd. The companies anticipate that they will be joined by a number of overseas aluminium companies before fullscale operations are undertaken.

This is considered essential to ensure that production can be sold. This type of customer participation, often referred to as a "captive market," is becoming common in large development projects of this nature.

The companies included a full survey of possible purchasers of alumina in their feasibility studies and are satisfied that sufficient interest has been generated for the formation of a joint venture to undertake production of alumina from the low-grade bauxite held in their reserves.

I emphasise the importance of the Australian participation in ownership of the venture with three Perth companies and Pacminex Pty. Ltd. as a fully-owned subsidiary of the Colonial Sugar Refinery Co. Ltd., which is already an established Western Australian miner through its interest in the Mt. Newman mining venture. It is particularly pleasing to see a large Australian company with adequate resources and technical knowledge with a major interest in a venture such as the one proposed for Upper Swan.

At this stage I shall give a very brief outline of the project; and to enable members to more readily understand the situation I seek your permission, Mr. President, to table copies of the three plans marked "A", "B", and "C" which are to be annexed to the signed agreement. I have them here and I will table them later.

The developers propose to mine bauxite by shallow open-cut methods in the mining area as shown in plan "C" which I will table. This has a total area of roughly 768,000 acres but actual mining will be confined to only about 13,000 acres, or 1.7 per cent. of this total. In addition there will be some mining on about 3,000 acres of privately-owned land adjacent to the mining area. Included in the mining area are 18,100 acres of State forest, but of this only 405 acres will be mined. There are dedicated reserves totalling 26,265 acres but not one acre of those reserves will be mined. There is vacant Crown Land of some 9,344 acres, and it is anticipated that 4,248 acres of this will be mined. All of the balance is privately owned land, in connection with some of which minerals are reserved to the Crown, and in other cases the minerals are the property of the owners.

The proposal is that bauxite will be conveyed by trucks to a central crushing and loading point from which it will be railed to a refinery situated immediately east of the Gnangara pine plantation. The rail transport task will involve a spur line to connect the standard gauge railway in the Avon Valley and a loop line to connect to the 3 ft. 6 in. gauge Midland railway line. A short section of the Midland line will be converted to dual gauge to convey the bauxite to a point just north of the Upper

Swan siding. From this point a further spur line will be constructed into the refinery site.

At the refinery the bauxite will be converted to alumina which will then be railed to a storage point at Kwinana. From this storage the alumina will be conveyed by means of an enclosed conveyor belt system to a wharf for direct loading into ships. At this stage it is expected that the company will construct an addition to the Fremantle Port Authority's bulk loading jetty now used by CSBP Ltd. for its fertiliser works. However, there is provision in the agreement for the construction of a completely new wharf if this is considered to be of greater advantage to the stage.

The company is planning to develop its refinery in units, each capable of producing 400,000 tons of alumina per annum. It is likely that the first two units will be in production within five years of the commencement of the project. The addition of a third unit, bringing total capacity to 1,200,000 tons, will depend on the proving of additional bauxite reserves and the market for alumina; but it is not considered very likely that this degree of expansion will eventuate.

Several problems arise because of the nature of this project. Included in these problems are the effect of mining on the environment, the disposal of the refinery tailings commonly known as "red mud," the emission of gaseous wastes from the refinery boilers and kilns, and the problem of restoring land after it has been mined or used for red mud disposal.

Each of these problems has been given serious consideration and has been the subject of detailed technical study. The agreement I am about to outline in detail has been carefully drafted to take account of each of these hazards and to provide adequate means of control. I shall deal with these control measures at some length at a later stage of my address, but first I would like to outline, step by step, the principal features of the agreement.

The joint venturers will be required to submit proposals before the 30th September, 1972, setting forth details of all aspects of the project. These will be studied by relevant Government departments and, where appropriate, by other statutory authorities before being approved by the Minister.

The joint venturers are not authorised to proceed with construction until their proposals are accepted. In considering these proposals close attention will be given to measures to be adopted to ensure maximum protection of the environment.

Members will be aware that the Government's environmental protection legislation has already been brought to Parliament. Already Dr. O'Brien has carried out some investigations. He has been in touch with the various departments and authorities, whether it be the Public Works Department, the Water Supply Department, the Clean Air Council, the Public Health Department, and so on. However, it is anticipated that he will have a further look at it in the light of legislation now under consideration by Parliament.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I wonder what "He will have another look at it" means.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: The developers are required to complete the first refinery unit and commence operations at a capacity of not less than 300,000 tons per annum by the end of the third year after the approval of their proposals. Further construction must be completed not later than the end of the tenth year to bring capacity up to 800,000 tons. The economics of the project and the expressed intentions of the joint venturers indicate that the higher capacity will be achieved in a much shorter time.

The agreement provides in clause 8 that the joint venturers will be entitled to a mining lease over Crown land within the mining area shown in plan "C" which I will table and over alienated land within the same area where minerals are owned by the Crown.

However, mining will not be permitted on alienated land unless the joint venturers have entered into a written agreement, approved by the Minister, for the adequate restoration of the land.

The lease will be at a rental of $5 a square mile, and will be granted initially for 21 years, with two rights of renewal each of 21 years. The lease rental will be subject to review every seven years and may be escalated subject to the world selling price of aluminium.

The agreement provides that after 63 years the joint venturers may obtain a lease for a further 21 years, subject to new terms and conditions.

The mineral lease will be exempt from labour conditions imposed under the Mining Act. However, there will be no exemption from labour conditions on privately owned land, unless the owner has been advised of the terms and effect of the agreement and has expressly agreed in writing to the noncompliance with labour conditions. This provision is designed to ensure that property owners are not deprived of any royalty revenue to which they may be entitled because of the joint venturers doing nothing about working their property for a number of years.

Careful control of mining activities will be necessary to ensure adequate protection of flora and fauna and satisfactory reafforestation or restoration of land after mining. Members will appreciate the difference in the one case of planting trees and in the latter case of establishing pastures.

Control will also be necessary to eliminate pollution or erosion due to excess water run-off, increased salinity, or other causes. The agreement requires the company to give notice to the Conservator of Forests and to obtain his consent before entering onto any forest land to remove timber and other forest produce. The conservator is empowered to direct the conduct of mining so far as it affects the removal and subsequent replacement of surface soil and vegetation.

The company will be required to stockpile all overburden, and upon completion of mining this will be replaced and spread to the satisfaction of the conservator who may also require deep ripping, contour ploughing, construction of concrete or earth sills, diversion channels, settling ponds, modification of drainage patterns, or other approved methods of soil conservation.

Reafforestation will be under the control of the conservator but will be carried out at the expense of the joint venturers. As an aid to reafforestation, the joint venturers will be required to establish a trial area or series of trial areas for the investigation of reafforestation methods.

In addition to those provisions the joint venturers will be required to pay the conservator a sum of $250 an acre for the area of Crown land upon which the vegetation has been destroyed in the course of mining operations.

Mining in catchment areas will be subject to even more rigid control. Before any such mining is undertaken on a commercial scale it is intended to conduct a series of experiments during which the company will carry out mining operations on a limited scale under close supervision by engineers of the Public Works Department and the Metropolitan Water Board. These experiments are expected to furnish a valuable guide to the effect of mining. quarrying, and clearing operations of all types on the quality of water run-off. The joint venturers will make a direct cash contribution to the cost of this experimental programme in addition to co-operation in field work.

Provision is also made in the agreement for the reinstatement of privately owned land after mining. No mining will be permitted until the joint venturers have produced to the Minister a satisfactory agreement with the owners ensuring that the land will be adequately reinstated to the satisfaction of the Minister and at no cost to the State.

It is expected that the first area to be mined will be in the vicinity of Chittering. A spur line from the existing Millendon-Northam railway will be constructed to serve a central crushing plant. As mining operations move in a northerly direction it will be necessary to extend this spur line. Additional deposits are being evaluated by the company in order to decide upon progressive locations for crushing plants.

The actual mining of the bauxite will be carried out on a very selective basis. It will be an open-cut operation in which care will be taken to exclude from the ore all vegetable matter and all overburden because any fall-off in average ore grades would seriously affect the economics of the alumina refinery.

After the ore has been crushed at the central crushing plant it will be railed to the refinery. The process of recovering the alumina from the ore is a relatively simple chemical task, but one which requires the use of a considerable amount of high volume equipment. The joint venturers intend using the Bayer process which is the same as is now in use at the Kwinana refinery of Alcoa Limited and is being installed at that company's new Pinjarra refinery.

Some members may be familiar with the details of the process, but for the benefit of those who are not I will give a brief outline of the steps involved. One purpose in doing so is to counter the impression apparently held by certain sections of the public that it might be intended to use in this refinery a different chemical process likely to produce some mysteriously evil result not encountered in the existing Kwinana plant or the proposed Pinjarra plant. I can assure members that this is not so.

At the refinery the ore will be crushed and then milled with caustic soda as a thin slurry. This milled product is then heated with steam in pressure vessels called digestors where the mixture is kept agitated for some hours under steam pressure at a temperature of 150 degrees centigrade.

The contents of the digestor are then allowed to settle in settling vats, the liquor being filtered and clarified, while the settled residue, known as red mud, is rinsed many times by a counterflow system to recover the caustic soda solution. Finally a slurry of red mud and water still containing about 2 per cent. caustic is pumped to disposal areas. I shall later outline the special safeguards that have been required of the companies in respect of the red mud disposal areas.

The clear solution of liquor filtered off from the settling vats contains the alumina in caustic. This is allowed to cool and is inseminated with fine crystals of alumina which induces massive separation of alumina from the solution.

The alumina is settled off, washed free of caustic soda by a counterwash system, and is finally filtered with the alumina forming as filter cake, which is recovered.

This filter cake, known as tri-hydrate, must be dried and calcinated to expel both free and chemically combined water to make it suitable for export. The product is then aluminium oxide, Al_2O_3, and is 99 per cent. pure with the principal impurities being caustic soda and moisture.

The refinery will be the major construction task associated with the project and it will achieve its ultimate capacity in stages of 400,000 metric tons a year capacity.

On known reserves of ore, it is not planned that the refinery will be expanded past capacity for 800,000 tons of alumina yearly, worth about $50,000,000 per annum. However, to allow the companies latitude in their development plans the agreement will call for capacity of only 300,000 tons a year in the first stage.

The planned capacity of the Swan Valley refinery will make it small in comparison to Alcoa's plant at Kwinana which has expanded to 1,250,000 tons of alumina a year; in other words half as large again as the anticipated output of the proposed refinery.

Yet, during the seven years of existence of the Kwinana plant we have seen convincing evidence of its ability to coexist with the concentration of industrial, rural, and residential activities in the area.

This established refinery has within a mile of its main gate a large number of industrial premises ranging in size from small one-man workshops to large organisations such as the Kwinana power house. A very large number of people are continually employed in this area, but there have been no complaints of any ill-effect. The Naval Base beach shack and caravan area is well within this one-mile radius and it houses up to 750 people in the summer time.

Perhaps the most significant feature of this refinery is the presence within that same one-mile radius of a number of flourishing market gardens and even a commercial plant nursery.

None of these has shown any evidence of ill-effect from gaseous wastes or dust emitted from the refinery.

All this is in marked contrast to the proposed refinery at Upper Swan which is surrounded by a buffer area of its own land 1½ miles wide on its southern side. To reach an area of concentration of population approaching that of the Naval Base area one would have to travel seven miles as the crow flies from the proposed refinery.

The design of the Swan Valley plant will be closely examined by the Government when the joint venturers submit their proposals for the refinery. An essential requirement will be the minimisation of all forms of noxious waste—particularly the emission of gaseous wastes—and the control and disposal of the red mud. Gaseous emissions will have to comply with the requirements of the Clean Air Council, particularly in relation to the chimney height which will have to be in the vicinity of 370 feet to ensure the optimum dispersal of sulphur dioxide if fuel oil is used. The Clean Air Council has advised that noxiou emissions will be negligible under ade quately controlled conditions.

The red mud will be disposed of i settling ponds within the refinery site; series of these ponds will be constructe and lined with impervious material to pre vent any possibility of seepage of causti into the subsoil.

The solids in the red mud precipitat very quickly from the liquid. This enable the liquid, which is a dilute caustic solu tion, to be recirculated through the refin ing process and thereby cuts down th amount of water required for processing All other liquid wastes will be dispose of within the refinery site in a simila manner. No liquid from the plant sit will be allowed to enter the local drainag system. I emphasise this as it has bee claimed that drainage from the refiner will enter Ellen Brook and from ther finish up in the Swan River. I have bee assured that this will not be permitted.

There will be a comprehensive pro gramme arranged in collaboration wit the Public Works Department for th monitoring of ground waters by drillin beneath and adjacent to each individua red mud disposal area. Tests will be take at three-monthly intervals, or mor frequently if the Minister so requires, fo sodium carbonate, sodium hydroxide, an other pollutants. These tests will com mence before each pond comes into us and will continue throughout the life o the pond and so long after it ceases t be used as the Minister may require. I addition, the Public Works Departmen will be conducting its own independen tests of nearby ground waters an streams.

In the event that pollution caused b the red mud is found, the joint venturer will be required to take corrective actio at their own expense to prevent it. Th joint venturers are also required to pursu investigations and examinations, an examine new techniques for the disposa of red mud.

The State has now had seven year of experience in the management of re mud disposal ponds serving the Alco refinery at Kwinana. I am advised tha the control measures adopted there hav proved entirely satisfactory, there bein no discernible change in the quality o ground water.

Apart from the impermeability of th clay lining of the ponds, the consolidatio of the settled red mud has a sealing effec which gives added protection agains leakage. Even in the event of a calamit such as an earthquake, techniques hav been devised for the drainage, excavatio and repair of a settling pond. Adequat spare ponds are to be kept available fo diversion of the disposal system in th event of such an emergency.

Because provision is being made in respect of the circumstances outlined, I do not want the impression conveyed that there is any sort of likelihood of a break or leakage in the settling ponds and that action is therefore being taken to cater for that situation.

It is a reassurance to those who have been led to believe there is a danger to be advised that every precaution has been taken so that there is, as far as man is able to determine, no possibility whatsoever of any damage being done in the way envisaged.

The refinery site, as defined by the agreement, covers a total area of just over 2,600 acres but the joint venturers have options over an additional 1,150 acres and are in the process of acquiring additional land adjoining the site. This area will be sufficient to enable them to maintain extensive buffer zones of natural bushland around the refinery varying from 1½ miles wide on the southern side to three-quarters of a mile wide to the north. The land chosen for the site is at present unproductive, being too poor for viable agricultural development. Preliminary planning of the site indicates that with the exception of the tops of the smokestacks, the refinery will be completely hidden from view of people using the Midland railway or the Great Northern Highway.

One important factor in the choice of the site was its proximity to the R.A.A.F. base at Pearce. The Air Force has a strong interest in the height of any structure close to the approach paths to its runways and has therefore beeen in consultation with the joint venturers and with the State Government. We have been able to ascertain that the expected height of the highest smokestack required in accordance with the Clean Air Act is well below the permitted limit. We have also been able to assure the Air Force that the concentration of gaseous wastes in the atmosphere will be insufficient to constitute a visibility hazard.

On completion of the refining process the alumina, which will then be in the form of a fine, dry, white powder, will be stored at the refinery, and as required for shipment it will be conveyed in totally enclosed railway wagons to a bulk storage area at Kwinana. This will be situated on land at present controlled by the Industrial Land Development Authority.

The agreement provides for the sale or leasing of a suitable site to the joint venturers at a price sufficient to repay the costs of acquisition and development by the authority. The site will be served by a rail siding from the existing standard gauge line.

Buildings on the site will consist of a totally enclosed storage silo for alumina and a small cluster of storage tanks for caustic soda, which will be in liquid form for conveyance to the refinery in special rail tankers. Alumina will be conveyed from the storage to the wharf by a belt conveyor system. Present planning is for this conveyor to be placed underground to eliminate noise and interference with traffic.

There is also the matter of reducing, if not completely eliminating, the possibility of clouds of this fine alumina being taken by the winds and dispersed over people who might be in the locality. There is still, of course, the difficulty with regard to the final operation of loading into the holds of ships.

A new berth in the outer harbour will be necessary for the export of alumina. The current proposal is for an extension of the existing bulk cargo jetty at Kwinana now being used by CSBP Ltd. However, the Government is now giving close attention to the whole complex question of providing and maintaining adequate facilities for the storage and handling of bulk cargoes as affected by this alumina project and other contemplated major developments. An interdepartmental committee will maintain close contact with the joint venturers to ensure their proposals for the wharf, when submitted to the Government, will conform with the overall plan for bulk cargo movement to and from the outer harbour.

The wharf will be built by the joint venturers in accordance with plans and specifications approved by the Minister as part of their proposals. Construction will be supervised by the Fremantle Port Authority. The cost of the wharf is estimated at $1,800,000. A shiploader, capable of loading not less than 3,000 tons of alumina an hour, will be constructed on the wharf, and pipelines for the discharge of liquid caustic soda will be installed.

To enable the Fremantle Port Authority to retain full control, it will lease the wharf from the joint venturers under a long-term agreement which will also give the authority an option to purchase it at a price equal to its cost. In return, the authority will undertake to maintain the wharf and make it available to the joint venturers to the extent necessary to meet their shipping requirements.

Wharfage will be paid by the joint venturers on all inward and outward bulk cargo at the normal rate prescribed under Fremantle Port Authority regulations. At the present time the appropriate rate for alumina would be 40c a ton, and for liquid caustic 30c a ton. The rent of the wharf payable by the authority will be equated to the interest on the capital outlay by the joint venturers, but payment will be related to the tonnage of cargo handled. This will ensure that adequate revenue will at all times be available to the authority to allow it to meet its rent obligation.

Revenue from wharfage will also be sufficient to enable the authority to make annual provision for instalments of the purchase price. By this means it has been calculated that the State will not be faced with any cash outlay for the ultimate purchase of the wharf and will in fact receive, per medium of the Fremantle Port Authority, a fairly substantial amount of revenue after allowing for maintenance expenditure on the wharf.

The provisions of the agreement also enable the authority to retain full control of the wharf subject to the requirements of the joint venturers in accordance with their predetermined shipping programmes. Alumina shipments will not fully utilise the wharf space and it is expected, therefore, that the authority will gain additional benefit from this useful berthing facility. This will give rise to additional revenue for the authority.

As in all large extractive projects of this nature, a major transport task is involved. Transport costs constitute a high proportion of total operating costs and must therefore be kept to the lowest possible rate in order to ensure that the venture operates profitably. The joint venturers have chosen to use rail for their major haulage operations; namely, the movement of bauxitic ore from their crushing plants in the hills to the refinery, the movement of alumina to the port-side storage at Kwinana, and the supply of caustic soda and other requirements to the refinery.

In order to make use of the existing standard gauge line passing through the Avon Valley and connecting with Kwinana, it has been decided to mount the whole operation in standard gauge. This will involve the progressive construction of a new railway leaving the Avon Valley line at about the 29-mile peg and extending to the crushing plant or plants to be established to the north of that point. In addition, a loop line will be constructed just south of the Swan River to connect the Avon Valley line with the 3 ft. 6 in. Midland line which will be converted to dual gauge from Millendon to a point just north of the Upper Swan siding, a distance of about three miles. From there a spur line will be taken into the refinery site. In addition, a siding will be provided at the bulk storage site at Kwinana.

All of this work will be carried out by the Railways Commission at the expense of the joint venturers. In addition, the joint venturers will provide all spurs, sidings, loading and unloading facilities, and other equipment at the crushing plant, refinery, and bulk storage site.

The Railways Commission will maintain the railways, and operate them, using wagons supplied by the joint venturers. Provision is also made in the agreement for the joint venturers to provide locomotives and brake vans and lease them to the Railways Commission if required to do so.

In consideration of their capital contributions to the railway, the joint venturers will be granted a special scale of freights, which is set out in the first schedule to the agreement. The freight rates are calculated on the basis of present day costs and are subject to half-yearly adjustment to conform with movements in wages and basic prices.

Some road transport will, of course, be necessary. The joint venturers will use heavy haulage vehicles on private roads within the mining areas and they are also to be permitted to use public roads, subject to adequate control, in areas where rail transport cannot be made available. Where any new road is required to be constructed or any existing road upgraded to meet the needs of their operations, the joint venturers will bear the cost. They will also be required to pay the cost of providing adequate protection at any level crossings at which the level of conflict between road vehicles and trains is significantly increased.

The water requirements of the refinery will be considerable and not all of this can be readily supplied from the Metropolitan Water Board's resources. The agreement limits the amount to be supplied by the board to 1,500,000 gallons a day. To make this supply available, the joint venturers are required by the agreement to provide the full cost of the necessary pipeline extension and ancillary works. If the board wishes to install a pipeline larger than that required for the purposes of the project, the money paid under the agreement may be utilised in the construction of the larger scheme. It will be seen, therefore, that people without a public water supply will be able to tap this main if provision is made, as undoubtedly it will be.

To the extent that they require water in excess of 1,500,000 gallons a day, the joint venturers are to be permitted to obtain it from underground sources. It has already been indicated that they can obtain an adequate supplementary supply by boring on their refinery site. The drawing of water from underground sources will be licensed by the State, and in the event that it becomes necessary for water conservation or management purposes to do so, the State is empowered to limit the supply or to take over the control and operation of the supply. In such a case the joint venturers will be entitled to a total supply to meet their reasonable needs up to 3,000,000 gallons a day, but at all times the supply of this additional water will be subject to the availability of water, having regard for the requirements of the growing demands of the Perth metropolitan area. Maximum use will be made of recirculated water at the refinery.

Water requirements at the mine will not be great. There are to be no sluicing or jetting techniques used in mining, the main water requirements being for road maintenance, dust suppression, and domestic use. Local sources of supply are expected to be adequate.

Refining of bauxite into alumina requires considerable quantities of heat, and it is a normal practice of alumina refineries to use the necessary steam to generate electricity prior to its use in the refining process. Accordingly, the agreement provides that the joint venturers may generate their own electricity. However, their plant and installations will be required to comply with the requirements, and conform to the standards of the State Electricity Commission.

This is necessary because the refinery will also require a supply from the commission to meet its requirements during construction and also to act as a standby during starting-up operations or in an emergency. The construction of power lines and the supply of power by the State Electricity Commission will be on the same terms and conditions as the construction and supply by the commission for any other user in the same areas.

Because of the close proximity of the refinery to a major centre of population the joint venturers do not expect any difficulty in recruiting adequate staff. They do not propose to become involved in any major housing undertaking in order to attract workers to the immediate vicinity of the refinery, nor is this considered entirely advisable. It is likely that there will be an adequate number of suitable persons resident within easy travelling distance of the refinery to supply its labour force. If necessary, arrangements will be made for special transport to and from Midland. Some housing may be required at or near the mine, but again this is not expected to reach a significant level.

On the other hand it is inevitable that the establishment of the refinery will create some pressure on social amenities in the immediate vicinity and the State can anticipate the need for some expenditure on schools, hospitals, and other public institutions. To the extent that additional population is attracted towards this area, so the pressure may be reduced in other areas. However, bearing in mind the concentration which will occur, the State has imposed a special royalty estimated to raise a sum of $1,000,000 within the first five years of the operation of the refinery.

The joint venturers are conscious of the need for these types of public facilities and have expressed their willingness to cooperate in making the funds available at the time when the facilities are required. To facilitate this the agreement has been drafted in a manner which permits the joint venturers to make donations totalling $1,000,000 in lieu of the special royalty to which I have referred. I am confident of the full co-operation of the joint venturers in making available the best possible amenities in the locality, because it would be in their own interests to do so.

Apart from this special royalty, a normal royalty will be payable on the basis of all alumina produced at a rate of 26.25c a ton which, after adjustment, is equal to the rates provided in similar alumina refining agreements. Provision is made for the escalation of this royalty in the event of any increase in the price of aluminium on the world market.

A royalty of 50c a ton on special grade refractory bauxite for export is provided in the agreement. However, it is unlikely that there will be any of this grade of bauxite exported from known existing reserves.

Because there is a considerable proportion of the bauxite reserves in areas in which the mineral rights vest in the owner of the land, there is a provision in the agreement that where adequate royalties have been paid to the owner by the joint venturers a refund of the royalty in respect of that bauxite will be made.

In accordance with the pattern established in previous bauxite agreements, the joint venturers are obliged to undertake an investigation into the feasibility of establishing an aluminium smelter in Western Australia. The results of any such investigation must be made available to the State and the State reserves the right to make its own study to determine whether or not smelting in this State is economically feasible. Should it be established that an aluminium smelter is a viable proposition and the joint venturers are not willing to proceed with such an establishment, they may be required to sell alumina at a reasonable price to any other company or organisation which does commence to operate a smelter in this State. This provision is necessary to ensure that if a smelter is established it will not be restricted by the lack of raw materials.

Heavy emphasis has been placed on environmental protection in the proposed agreement. I have already dealt with the specific requirements relating to prevention of air pollution in the outline of the refinery construction, siting, and processes. Also under that heading I dealt with disposal of red mud waste, reinstatement of the disposal areas, and protection from contamination of underground water supplies.

Similarly, in the outline of the mining operations I dealt in detail with the controls imposed on mining operations and the requirements for the reinstatement of land disturbed in the mining operations. However, there are other considerations.

I would like to emphasise that the Government has included in this draft agreement a clause binding the joint venturers to compliance with all environmental protection legislation current in Western Australia. This clause automatically binds the company to compliance with any future legislation that may be passed by the Government or any requirements of State agencies, instrumentalities, local authorities, or statutory bodies.

This is the State's ultimate protection from any possible adverse effects of allowing this project to proceed in the locations proposed. I think it is pertinent for me to point out at this stage that this clause to which the company has already agreed, is far more binding and more wide-ranging in its implications than any imposed on a developer by the previous Government and, indeed, by this Government. It means, in fact, that the Government can in future prevent the company from doing almost anything in any area if what is proposed is likely to affect the environment in any adverse way.

Sitting suspended from 6.06 to 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: There is a general provision in the agreement which prevents the company from mining any public reserves, regardless of the purpose for which they have been established. There are also special provisions in clause 39, providing even more specific protection for the Walyunga National Park and the two special reserves established to protect the habitat of the short-necked tortoise.

Clause 39 states that "The State may, in its discretion, prohibit any mining or ore transporation operations that are likely to threaten the natural state of Walyunga National Park." This provision extends the Government's area of influence and its degree of environmental control beyond the boundaries of the park without the need for additional future legislation should the need arise for restrictive or prohibitive action.

A similarly wide-ranging clause has been framed in the proposed agreement for the protection of the habitat of the short-necked tortoise, which is found within Reserves Nos. 27620 and 27621. The joint venturers will not carry out any operations, erect any structures, or clear or construct any roads within the boundaries of these reserves without the consent of the Minister. Naturally enough, as I stated at the beginning, there will be no mining operations of any sort in these or any other reserves; but there are other types of operations that can also be forbidden.

The wide implications of this part of the proposed agreement are that the joint venturers are required to do everything necessary to ensure that the flora and fauna on these reserves are not deleteriously affected by their operations.

To allow for the implementation of this clause, provision has been made for the joint venturers to sample and test the waters on the reserves to the Minister's satisfaction, and to submit the test results to the Minister. The joint venturers are also required to join with the State in a programme designed to monitor, on a continuing basis, the condition and habitat of the flora and fauna on the reserves. The costs of this study will be shared on a basis to be mutually agreed upon between the Government and the joint venturers.

In view of the environmental controls that have been insisted upon for the proposed refinery, the Government is satisfied that the operations of the refinery will not have any adverse effect on the vineyards in the Upper Swan valley. I have already mentioned the situation at Kwinana where, after seven years of operation, there has been no damage to market gardens or other plant life. The Upper Swan refinery will be well over two miles from the nearest commercial vineyard, yet the Government is assured by its leading experts in these matters that the level of concentration of noxious matter, even at the refinery itself, will be far below what are considered safe limits for all types of vegetation.

The Swan Shire Council, the governing local authority in the area surrounding the proposed refinery site, has gone to a great deal of trouble to inform its members and ratepayers of the facts regarding the establishment of the refinery, and it has accepted the proposal. Much of the support within the shire comes from people who are themselves vignerons.

A lot of the criticism that has been levelled at this project has come from people who are not likely to be directly concerned; yet they are quite entitled to express themselves. I am advised that much of the argument by these people against the project has been emotively based, or has very little foundation in fact, or relevance to this particular project. Those who have taken the trouble to inform themselves adequately of the effects that a properly controlled industrial undertaking such as this proposed refinery has on the environment have more moderate views.

Regarding the overall effects of this proposed refinery on the Upper Swan valley, I would like to draw the attention of members to an article which appeared in the issue of *The Sunday Times* dated the 22nd August, 1971, under the headline "Sad story of a pretty sight—valley vineyards are selling out." This article pointed out that grape prices on the local market are low and that the overseas demand for Western Australian grapes is falling. The return to the grower for muscat grapes in the past season was only $68 a ton—a mere $8 higher than it was 25 years ago.

The article quoted the President of the Swan Valley Viticulturalists' Union (Mr. Norm Taylor) as saying that costs and other prices had risen nearly 50 per cent. in the same time and that the return from grapes had remained almost static.

As most viticulture in the Swan valley is on a small scale, the establishment of an alumina refinery nearby would provide new work opportunity for vignerons who could operate their vineyards on a part-time basis. In this way, the establishment of the alumina refinery on the proposed site could be a valuable source of additional income for vignerons affected by the current cost-price squeeze that their industry is experiencing, and at the same time could result in retaining in production many of the vineyards which otherwise might be deserted because of their unprofitability as a full-time occupation.

The draft agreement contains the usual regulatory and explanatory clauses necessary to safeguard the interests of the parties and to facilitate interpretation and operation of the agreement. There are provisions for the correct zoning of the land used for mining, refining, and bulk storage, and for the resumption of land where this is necessary for the purposes of the agreement.

In line with the Government's wholehearted support of local industry, there is an obligation on the joint venturers to make maximum use of local labour, materials, and services. Other clauses regulate procedure in the event of delays, acts of God, or other unforeseen circumstances, and make provisions in the event of determination of the agreement.

The agreement provides for disputes to be settled by arbitration, and for its provisions to be varied by the mutual consent of the parties. However, the Government has followed the precedent set in the recent agreement with Poseidon Limited and has insisted that any major variation should be referred by the Minister to Parliament, where it may be disallowed by a resolution of either House.

The benefits to the State from a project such as this are significant. They encompass employment, royalties, railways revenue, wharfage, and the construction of a new wharf at a cost of $1,800,000. Direct employment at the mine and the alumina refinery will provide jobs for some 700 men, while hundreds more will be employed in consequential occupations such as the engineering industry, which will be called upon to provide mining equipment and replacements, and in the whole range of community service businesses meeting the normal everyday requirements of the industry and its new workforce.

The initial establishment cost will be around $190,000,000 and a large proportion of this will be spent within Western Australia. Once the refinery reaches a capacity of 800,000 tons per annum, the project will inject about $15,000,000 a year into the economy of the State through wages, royalties, transport charges, and its service and maintenance requirements from local industry. This figure will increase substantially if natural gas is available and is used as a fuel supply in place of imported fuel oil.

At current royalty rates which will be payable by the joint venturers, the direct return to the State will be a minimum of $75,000 a year, rising to over $200,000 a year when alumina production reaches 800,000 tons a year.

Bauxite, alumina, and caustic soda are to be transported by the W.A.G.R. on existing railways, which will be extended as required by the W.A.G.R. at cost to the joint venturers, who will also provide the necessary wagons and, if called upon, lease locomotives and brake vans to the W.A.G.R.

The joint venturers propose using, at the refinery, wheat starch as a flocculant for the separation of the liquor containing the alumina. This process will require about 3,000 tons of wheat starch to provide for an annual output from the refinery of 800,000 tons of alumina.

The wheat starch requirement, when combined with the requirements of other alumina refineries operating or planned in Western Australia, will provide a valuable additional outlet for our wheat producers. The present rate of use of starch in the existing Kwinana refinery is almost four tons of starch per thousand tons of alumina produced. A proportionate usage by the joint venturers will require some 3,000 tons of starch annually. With the introduction of the Pinjarra refinery and this proposed refinery at Upper Swan, the State's wheatgrowers could be faced with a total demand for about 600,000 bushels of wheat to produce the necessary starch. This would represent the yield from roughly 40,000 acres of farmland.

This industry will also generate valuable export income for Australia at a time when declining prices for rural production are seriously affecting our returns from this traditional source. Operating at its planned capacity of 800,000 tons of alumina a year, the project would earn nearly $60,000 a year in export income. This figure will increase if the joint venturers or any other company find it is feasible to undertake a smelting operation.

In the light of the recent vast expansion of our local economy, it is easy to be either *blasé* or cynical about the establishment of one more industry. But we cannot afford to relax our efforts to seek continuous development of the latent wealth of our State and create every possible job opportunity for our expanding population.

In recent years our school leavers have always been placed in jobs fairly readily but with the downturn in agricultural and pastoral activity, coupled with necessary reductions in Government expenditure, the coming year is very much an unknown quantity.

I commend the project, the subject of this agreement, as a very worth-while contribution to our continued industrial progress and one that we cannot afford to miss.

The plans were tabled.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Leader of the Opposition).

BILLS (5): THIRD READING

1. Administration Act Amendment Bill.
   Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the House), and returned to the Assembly with an amendment.
2. Property Law Act Amendment Bill.
   Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the House), and returned to the Assembly with an amendment.
3. Wills Act Amendment Bill.
   Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the House), and returned to the Assembly with an amendment.
4. Adoption of Children Act Amendment Bill.
5. Property Law Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).

   Bills read a third time, on motions by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the House), and transmitted to the Assembly.

LOTTERIES (CONTROL) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Report

Report of Committee adopted.

RURAL RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 5th October.

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [7.49 p.m.]: In the first instance let me thank the several speakers who have contributed to this debate. The contributions they made were varied but most interesting, and I think typical of the depth of the subject.

I have here notes before me which apply in general as near as possible to the facts of what has been said in regard to this piece of legislation. A very general complaint could be said to be that the provisions in this legislation amount to too little and they come too late. The important point is that this Government has come to grips with the problem to the greatest extent time and finance have allowed. The figures quoted from time to time, and sometimes out of context, inculcate their own confusion. For that reason I thought it desirable to procure from the Chairman of Commissioners of the Rural and Industries Bank the latest detail concerning applications—not only in this State but also throughout the Commonwealth.

Mr. Chessell wrote to the Minister for Lands on the 1st October, 1971, and I quote—

> In reply to your Secretary's minute of the 27th instant, I attach a summary of the position with Rural Reconstruction applications for Western Australia as at 24th instant.
>
> It is interesting to note that this State has received 714 of 5294 applications received to date throughout Australia.
>
> We have approved 20.6% of applications (9% by the Commonwealth), 45% have been declined or withdrawn (24% by the Commonwealth) while this State has 34.4% of applications still to be considered (67% being the figure for the Commonwealth). This indicates the State has made an all out effort to put reconstruction into effect. Further, it is planned now to have all outstanding applications processed by the end of the year in preparation for an expected pressure of demand in the first quarter of 1972.
>
> If this object is to be achieved, it is very necessary for the Bill as now presented to be passed as quickly as possible.
>
> The Government is fully aware of the magnitude of the problem of Rural Reconstruction and that this present approach does not provide all the answers. However, there is no doubt that knowledge gained from applications will assist in a later assessment of the problem.
>
> Reconstruction bodies in all States are now seeking a joint meeting and later discussion with the Commonwealth which must be of benefit.
>
> (Sgd.) G. H. CHESSELL,
> Chairman of Commissioners.

I have copies of the figures with me and I would be pleased to have the opportunity to table those statistics. They will be available to any member who is interested in them. I have additional copies for personal availability.

The comments which follow are on points which I have selected from various speeches to the best of my ability as representing those most at issue and I would

like to deal with these points impersonally rather than mention the honuorable members by name.

My understanding of the Bill is that it is limited to four years for first allocation, although things have been said by Federal politicians which suggest if the job is not done under the present agreement, consideration will be given to a further agreement. Concern was expressed about the drift from agriculture in Western Australia. While an indefinite drift is not expected to eventuate, it is mentioned that one of the objects of the scheme is to bring about amalgamation and if the scheme is to be a success there will be fewer farms in Western Australia. Perhaps the company project in the Quairading area gives practical application to this line of thinking. Import of dairy produce figures into Western Australia would be one aspect tending to emphasise the importance of agriculture in this State. It has been suggested substance would be lent to the argument were it developed along lines which compared the cost of imported dairy produce with the cost of diverting resources in Western Australia to that form of production.

The $14,600,000 allocation to Western Australia can hardly be regarded as the answer to everything; nor is it intended to be so. It is nevertheless a reasonably logical split-up of the $100,000,000 allocated for the whole of Australia on what can only be described as an arbitrary basis. In effect the Commonwealth has agreed to start the scheme off at that level and we hope this can be revised at a later date.

The rural reconstruction scheme depends for its success upon an improvement in agricultural prices. If conditions improve there will be no difficulty in using the amount of money that has been made available and more, if further funds become available. Comparative figures for assistance to secondary and primary industries can be quoted, and export earnings compared. Such comparisons are, I suggest, submitted as an appeal to our sense of fair play and emphasise also that primary industry is not the only industry which receives assistance from the Government. A great deal can be quoted along these lines as regards the economic plans adopted. and I suppose past and present Government policies for the development of manufacturing can only be justified over a lengthy period of time.

Many years ago the Commonwealth Government decided to broaden the base of Australian industry and to devote considerable resources to population growth and the development of the manufacturing and tertiary sectors. There was considerable support for this from economists who drew attention to poverty in countries which relied primarily on agriculture.

We need industries both primary and secondary, and for each to succeed and develop we must have and hold the potential to compete with overseas industries. Many factors require to be examined in these matters; for instance, it is difficult to reduce support for an industry such as the wool industry which appears to have a diminishing prospect in world markets; yet it has made such an important contribution to Australia's development that every avenue must be explored to ensure its survival.

Our need of overseas currency is a variable factor depending on the balance of payments position and this in turn depends on a whole gamut of items including services, tourism, capital inflow and outflow, etc. While currency development aims may require high levels of overseas currency from agriculture, the development aims should be seriously questioned if they are leading to a serious inflationary problem. But you would not, Mr. President, desire me in dealing with the specifically rural reconstruction provisions of this measure, to endeavour to expound on the economic structure of the Commonwealth. A suggestion was made when dealing with this Bill that it was a measure designed to get the credit finance institutions off the hook. In this connection I would remark that we usually take over hire-purchase and sundry debts of farmers where an application is approved. The policy in some other States has been to arrange for meetings of creditors to provide for composition of debts. We believe this would slow up proceedings too much here and would have an adverse effect on rural credit. There is also the practical consideration that for every one application which is approved by the authority, there are two applications which are rejected. This, I think, answers the suggestion that financial institutions are getting off the hook.

The statistics which compared the performance in the different States were criticised because they were so far out of date. The rural reconstruction authority has provided up-to-date figures on a number of occasions. When comparing the performance of all States, however, a valid comparison depends on figures as near as possible to the same date, and this has apparently resulted in the figures of some States appearing somewhat out of date. I have already advised the House of the latest figures made available this month.

Doubt has been expressed by the rural economics and marketing section of the Department of Agriculture as to the value of a suggested comprehensive survey to ensure that a similar agricultural depression does not occur in the next 20 or 30 years. In this connection it is pointed out to me that any survey that is done would need to be based on past experience and because of this its findings would have little relevance to the agricultural situation

of the future. This is not to say, however, that policy considerations could not be greatly helped by the market projection studies which have been pioneered in Australia by Professor Gruen of Monash University in Victoria.

Concern has been expressed for the people who will be moving off farms in their efforts to obtain alternative employment. This category of persons is deserving of the greatest sympathy; sympathy which has been expressed in this Chamber as elsewhere. I believe that fortunately relatively few are likely to have to move and I trust this is so and that alternative employment will continue to be available to those affected.

Mr. President, those are the general comments that I have had prepared in response to what I consider to be the questions raised by a variety of speakers.

Mr. Abbey asked for specific replies to questions and I have been able to secure some notes for him so that I may reply. In regard to his comments on abattoirs, considerable problems would arise with his proposals that Midland and Robb Jetty abattoirs should employ double shifts to increase output. One of the major difficulties would be to secure labour with adequate experience. An even more serious difficulty would be met in trying to employ additional meat inspection staff, the current numbers of which are only just coping with inspection demands. The Midland Junction abattoir is operating on a five-day basis and Robb Jetty abattoir on a five-day, plus a Saturday morning, basis.

To introduce a double shift at the Midland Junction abattoir would, in fact, be impossible since the amount of chilling space there would need to be doubled to take the output of the extra shift. At present carcases are required to be held for 12 hours in the chiller before being removed to make room for the next day's kill.

In regard to Mr. Abbey's suggestion on co-operatives the advantages claimed are—

1. Machinery pooling.
2. Labour specialisation and pooling of labour at peak periods.

The gain from either of these would not necessarily be very large and could be achieved to a great extent without combining farms. Bulk buying would be quite unimportant and would be better done on a larger scale without necessarily again combining farms.

I also have a note here in reply to the suggestion made by Mr. Dans that harvesting machines work nearly full time on individual properties. The reasons that farmers buy their own harvesting machines are, firstly, convenience; and, secondly, insurance against loss due to untimely harvesting and cost.

Contractors are already in the harvesting business. They charge from $2 to $3 per acre even with the full use of their machine. A reasonable area of crop—say, 600 acres for a $5,000 header—makes it cheaper for a farmer to own his own machine. Where smaller areas are cropped there is scope for co-operative ownership.

Whilst he was speaking, Mr. McNeill made a request and, by way of interjection I told him I would try to find the answer to the point he raised. He questioned a shortage of money being made available to the scheme. By implication I feel he questioned whether the amount of money at present proposed to be spent was short of what it should be. I have been unable to obtain a reply which is specifically clear to suit myself. I am advised that when the total amount of $100,000,000, as promised by the Commonwealth, is expended, the matter will be re-examined. That is not quite the point that was raised by Mr. McNeill. The question he raised was whether there will be available to Western Australia the amount stated in the Bill.

The Hon. N. McNeill: At the appropriate stage in Committee I will take the opportunity to discuss this further. At the moment, I am quite satisfied with your explanation.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: I would like to take this matter up with the Commonwealth in order to clarify it. It has been raised in public and I think we should pursue it further. I thank members once again for their contribution to the debate on this Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (The Hon. N. E. Baxter) in the Chair; The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the House) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 15 put and passed.

Clause 16: Rural Reconstruction Fund—

The Hon. N. McNEILL: I think this would be the appropriate time to elaborate on the query I made during the second reading debate and which Mr. Willesee was good enough to have examined. As I described the story which emanated along the grapevine, I drew attention to the fact that possibly there was a shortage of funds available within the scheme in Western Australia; which funds were being distributed to those farmers who were applying for assistance.

I went on to say if this were the case and those farmers were not receiving assistance, they could, perhaps, be in that position because of the lack of availability

of funds rather than being unable to pass the test of ineligibility, which is economic viability. That is the point I was endeavouring to make.

There appears to be some necessity for a reassurance on the part of the Government that, in fact, there is no shortage of funds within the scheme as it is operating at present. I stated I was aware that the Government has already applied to the Commonwealth for $7,000,000 for the operation of the scheme, and the fact that only $2,000,000 has in fact been applied so far, would seem to indicate there is no shortage of funds.

Because of the story that has come to my ears I felt it necessary to make this query to get some reassurance. I was questioning whether there was a total shortage of funds. I think I indicated throughout my speech that there is a total shortage of funds and that $100,000,000 will not be sufficient for the purpose of reconstruction, but the specific question I raised is quite separate from that general one. I hope I have made that clear to Mr. Willesee.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: It would appear to me that I must pursue the question as to whether the Western Australian allocation is the same as we believe it to be. If I can get an assurance on this point, instead of delaying the passage of the Bill I will write to the honourable member as soon as I can get some clarification to my satisfaction.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 17 to 29 put and passed.

Schedule—

The Hon. N. McNEILL: Under the schedule and its provisions I would like to raise the point about the proposed funds which are made available for the purpose of debt reconstruction fund build-up, and for rehabilitation. Already in the debate reference has been made to the fact that there is considerable difference between the amount of money applied for and that which was subsequently applied for.

It was stated that one amount was for reconstruction as against the other which was to be for farm build-up. I will endeavour to specify the portion of the agreement that refers to this aspect. It appears in clause 6 on page 20 of the Bill, and reads as follows:—

> . . . the financial assistance provided by the Commonwealth under this agreement shall be allocated between the forms of assistance under the Scheme as the State considers appropriate but with the general objective that one-half of the financial assistance made available over the period of four years as hereinafter provided will be applied to farm build-up.

There have been numerous references to the fact that there is a considerable difference between the amount which was actually being applied for and that which has subsequently been applied for, and what steps the Government has taken, and is taking, to ensure that the Commonwealth agreement will be more realistic when applied to the present situation. In other words, I would not like to see this agreement being applied so rigidly in the future that it would in any way restrict the amount of money that is to be made available for debt reconstruction.

In his reply to the second reading debate the Leader of the House indicated that one of the purposes of the scheme is to apply money for the amalgamation of properties and yet the authority is finding, by experience, that very little of the money is in fact being used for that purpose. The major portion of the money is being used for debt reconstruction. As I said in my second reading speech, debt reconstruction is the major need and I should not like to think that any restriction would be placed on this amount of money simply because there is some inequality in the terms specified in the agreement.

I feel the Leader of the House may not be in a position to answer the question completely. I believe some indications along these lines have been given in another place. I simply wish to emphasise that some review of this aspect of the agreement needs to be made. I believe the Commonwealth would agree to approaches along these lines and I wish to place on record that these approaches should be made for this purpose.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: Among the specific points I asked the Leader of the House to investigate was one which indicated that I thought the reconstruction of farms should be carried out, in some cases, among groups of farmers who could form themselves into companies, not co-operatives. I did not use that word at all.

Paragraph (d) on page 26 refers to companies, but I would think it means existing farming companies which are usually family companies. However, the case I quoted was of a group of Quairading farmers who have joined together to form an operative company and it is in fact operating a group of farms. This type of company should receive real consideration because, despite the advice of the Minister, considerable economy can be achieved. Undoubtedly one very large auto-header could harvest five farms instead of five separate headers being used. This type of saving could be made. Some provision may need to be made for these companies.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: I feel a genuine mistake might have been made. Mr. Abbey referred to an operative company, but a reply was given in regard to a co-operative company.

With regard to his remarks, I consider they are right to the point, but I do not think that we can consider the group companies have been ruled out as being ineligible. That, however, is my interpretation and not the Government's. The honourable member has put his case very well and I believe these people are eligible under the schedule.

The Hon. C. R. Abbey: Will you make further inquiries?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: Yes. With regard to the remarks of Mr. McNeill on the subject of debt reconstruction bias, if I might use that word, the operative words in clause 6 on page 20 are—

> Subject to the provisions expressly made by this agreement, the financial assistance provided by the Commonwealth under this agreement shall be allocated between the forms of assistance under the Scheme as the State considers appropriate.

Mr. McNeill's point is that at this stage the industry is not getting sufficient on one side, but his remarks will be noted. A leniency does exist within the administration of this legislation to do the very thing the honourable member wants.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: I thank the Minister for his comments. My concern arises from the possible weighting which could be given to the words following those read by Mr. Willesee. By the same token the views expressed by the Minister are quite appropriate and I am satisfied to let the matter rest.

I would like to raise one further point which could be the subject of discussion at the review to which the Minister referred and for which the Bill makes provision. I am concerned about those applicants who are rejected because of the nonviability of their properties. Considerable mention has been made of the situation in which these people may find themselves as a result of the pretty final advice, after an expert examination of their affairs, that their properties are just not viable and their applications are therefore rejected.

Under part IV which deals with the operation of the scheme, I would like an opportunity to be afforded for a review of the position of those whose applications have been rejected. I would like the scheme to be extended in some way to cater for those people thus greatly improving it. Ways and means could be devised under which they could be greatly assisted to enable them to remain on their farms. In this way they could very likely eventually become viable.

Quite frankly I believe that a great many people whose properties are at the moment viable have, at some time during their lifetime, been completely and absolutely nonviable. They have become viable only because they have persisted during the trying times.

I am not in a position to say just how the scheme could be extended to give assistance to those who have been rejected but these are the people who must receive assistance. Those who are to receive help will have more than a second chance of getting back on their feet, but the ones for whom I express the greatest concern are those who are virtually doomed from the point of view of receiving any financial assistance.

This is a matter which could well be the subject of discussion and review when such meetings are arranged, because in my opinion we should not be considering only reconstruction.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: One can only agree with the remarks of the honourable member. In defence of those administering the scheme, I will say they must have a starting point, and they have a limited amount of money for expenditure. I would like to believe that those people who are not classed as viable at the moment will have their case reviewed. I should imagine this would occur when those who originally received help reach the stage where their properties are viable, and then other applicants could be considered under the scheme. I believe that the most viable entity is the individual himself.

Schedule put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

DAYLIGHT SAVING BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 16th September.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [8.26 p.m.]: First let me say that the Chief Secretary went to a considerable deal of trouble to explain the Bill to us and to advance information concerning what had occurred in the past. He also suggested theories as to what might take place in the future under this Bill.

He told us that this legislation would repeal the 1946 Act which, incidentally, is still on the Statute book, and he indicated that it would permit daylight saving to take place between certain dates in the year. The Chief Secretary also said that the 1946 Act was introduced and effective over a distance of 35 miles from the G.P.O. Perth; and he also indicated that that legislation was not acted upon.

The Chief Secretary supplied me with some information, for which I thank him, which indicates that the reason Western Australia did not act on the 1946 legislation was that it was not necessary for it to be proclaimed.

It was assented to on the 13th November, 1946, but section 3 provided that the Governor could, by proclamation, declare that from and after a time and date to be specified in the proclamation, and until such other time and date as the Governor did, by the same or subsequent proclamation, so declare daylight saving necessary —and so on. In fact, no proclamation was issued by the Governor because the crisis for which the Act was introduced had passed.

I understand that the crisis at the time was brought about by a lack of electricity —which seems to ring a bell. The Chief Secretary told us that the first time Western Australia experienced daylight saving was in 1917 when the clocks throughout Australia were advanced an hour during the summertime as a wartime measure designed to conserve coal and to facilitate the more effective use of manpower. Again, from January to March 1942 and from September 1942 to March 1943 the Commonwealth introduced a similar change as a wartime measure, but the Chief Secretary told us that Western Australia did not participate during the 1942 to 1943 period.

I have taken the trouble to find out why we did not participate. The reason is that on the 31st August, 1943, the Legislative Council, pursuant to notice given by The Hon. C. B. Williams moved—

> That, in the opinion of this House, daylight saving should not, in future, be applied to Western Australia; and that this resolution be forwarded to the Legislative Assembly for its concurrence.

The Legislative Assembly on the 7th September, through a motion moved by Mr. Triat in that House concurred with the message that had been sent by the Legislative Council. That was the reason Western Australia did not participate in daylight saving in 1943-44.

It is of passing interest to comment that the 1946 Act, a copy of which I have in my hand, was introduced into the Legislative Assembly on the 19th November, 1946. As a result of a suspension of Standing Orders the Bill went through all its stages in the one sitting and came to the Legislative Council on the 20th November, 1946. Again, as a result of the suspension of Standing Orders it went through all stages in the one day of sitting. If members examine the Daylight Saving Bill of 1946, which is No. 16 of that year, it will be observed that the Bill was assented to on the 13th November, 1946, which, in fact, was seven days before it was introduced into this Chamber and six days before it was introduced into the Legislative Assembly. I suppose not many mistakes are made in this sort of thing, but this mistake has gone unnoticed until now when we find ourselves considering the present legislation. I was going to say that obviously it is a misprint, but instead I shall say obviously something has gone wrong, because no Act can be assented to seven days before it is introduced into Parliament.

As I have said, the Minister in the course of his remarks outlined in some detail the reasons for and against the introduction of daylight saving. He told us the prime reason for the introduction of this measure is that the major States, particularly New South Wales and Victoria, do in fact intend to introduce daylight saving and Western Australia should therefore follow suit. The Minister also said he felt a great deal of emotion has crept into the opposition generated against daylight saving. Whilst I do not intend to cavil at the expression used by the Minister, I do not think there is any emotion attached to the introduction of daylight saving. As a matter of fact I think there is a public disinterest in the subject. When I say "public disinterest" I mean the general public.

On the contrary, as the Minister has indicated to us, people in business of one form or another are vitally concerned with the introduction of daylight saving. The Minister gave us the benefit of some of the information he has in this regard. He told us many letters have been received in favour of daylight saving and also that a number of organisations have indicated their opposition to it. The Minister in his final remarks indicated to us that he thought the advantages in relation to keeping the same time difference between the Eastern States and Western Australia far outweighed the disadvantages of the introduction of the legislation.

I do not remain convinced this is necessarily the case. I do admit it is indeed a difficult decision to make. I agree with the Minister who said that in legislation of this nature it is not possible to please everybody and that it will displease some sections of the community. We have the task of making a decision in this House—in the same way as we do on all pieces of legislation—as to what we think is good for Western Australia, bearing in mind the problem before us at any time.

I have made some inquiries of my own during the time which has elapsed since the introduction of the legislation. To a very large extent the Minister's remarks, both in favour and against daylight saving, have been substantiated by the inquiries I have made.

For instance, I communicated with the Stock Exchange and found a considerable percentage of business transacted by member firms on behalf of local investors is, in fact, transacted through agents on Eastern States stock exchanges. In relation to the Sydney exchange I have ascertained there are a number of markets and the various markets open at various times. There is not a great space of time between the opening of each market. I

shall speak in eastern standard time when I say that the bond market opens at 9.50 a.m. and closes at 3.00 p.m.; active industrials open at 10.00 a.m. and close at 3.00 p.m.; inactive industrials open at 10.10 a.m., and close at 3.00 p.m.; the mining and oil market opens at 10.15 a.m., and closes at 3.00 p.m.; the fixed interest market opens at 10.30 a.m. and closes at 3.30 p.m.; it has a period in the afternoon which again closes at 3.00 p.m.

The important factor in these times is the closing time of approximately 3.00 p.m. Sydney time which is 1.00 p.m. Perth time. In order to maintain some semblance of time relationship the Stock Exchange in Perth opens at 8.30 a.m. Its customers are most interested in the active industrials market and the mining and oil market in Sydney.

There is another market about which investors speak as does the Stock Exchange; namely, the short-term money market. I am told that in the short-term money market something like $700,000,000 a day is available for investment and Western Australia's share in wintertime and summertime ranges between $50,000,000 in the winter to $75,000,000 to $80,000,000 in summer.

Representations have been made to me of the various difficulties that would be associated with the Stock Exchange and some of the banks not being able to take advantage of this situation. This includes building societies, the Rural and Industries Bank, mining companies, etc. which must get themselves set on the Eastern States market because, although there is a short-term money market in Western Australia, it is not of sufficient significance to absorb the money that may be available on the short-term market in Western Australia itself. It has been expressed to me that all Western Australian businesses interested in the money market are vitally concerned with the east-west time differential. It is said that two hours difference is disadvantageous enough and businesses would be affected to an even greater degree if the period were extended to three hours.

It was at this point I asked a practical question. I have already told members what the Stock Exchange now does and I asked what it would be obliged to do if Western Australia did not dance to the tune which is undoubtedly being played for us by the bigger States of Australia. Bearing in mind the present two-hour deficiency, the answer given to me was that the Stock Exchange people already arrive at their offices by eight in the morning, and to allow for a reasonable balance of time between east and west they open the Perth market at 8.30 a.m. In the event of the daylight saving legislation not being passed in Western Australia they will have to open at 7.30 a.m. This is one section of the community, and its customers, who will be disadvantaged by such a move. So, too, will some of the banks; I understand the Rural and Industries Bank will be particularly affected. In respect of other trading banks in Perth it is my belief that their instructions come from head offices in the Eastern States and I do not think it would make a great deal of difference.

I shall leave that scene for a moment. Probably I have not said everything the people who wrote to me would like me to say, but I have picked out what I consider to be the essential parts of the argument.

I come to another section of the community which is certainly very interested in business as is the investing public of Western Australia. I see their side of the story. Perhaps I can be forgiven for quoting some of the facts that have emerged as a result of the investigations undertaken by bodies who have represented themselves to me. One such body says—

> The introduction of daylight saving in Western Australia would have a serious effect on many important areas of the community, and the Government would be responsible for loss of earnings by many industries and other misfortunes which would befall private citizens.
>
> At the stroke of a pen it would suddenly be dark at the beginning of the day at a time when it is usually light, and light at the end of the day when it is usually dark.

I question the credibility of that remark, because of the daylight hours in our State. Let us take the period from November to March. In January the sun rises at 5.25 a.m.; in February at 5.54 a.m.; and in March at 6.16 a.m. In January we have 14 hours 13 minutes of daylight; in February 13 hours 39 minutes; and in March 12 hours 48 minutes, although March is out of consideration so far as daylight saving is concerned anyway. Therefore, in good spirit I question the statement that by a stroke of the pen we are suddenly in darkness when we should be in light, and *vice versa*. It goes on to say—

> This would disturb the pattern of living, upset the rhythm of farming life, change television habits with extremely detrimental effects on the lives and thoughts of children, and disrupt sections of the entertainment industry.

Here I am more inclined to think there is a good deal of truth in a statement of that nature.

On one occasion I heard Mr. Claughton speaking to another Bill—I think it was the Bill dealing with the censorship of films.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: You must be careful you are not making irrelevant statements.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I will try not to follow the honourable member's example. Mr. Claughton told us on that occasion—and his statements were quite relevant to the subject—that the type of television programme we were shown left a good deal to be desired. While daylight saving might endeavour to change the clock it certainly cannot change the sun and consequently mothers and their families will be led into television-watching habits they do not wish to endure—and this refers particularly to the children who will object, because they will be sent to bed earlier. The report continues—

> Opposition to the introduction of daylight saving has already been voiced by such diverse organisations as the Farmers' Union of W.A., the Poultry Farmers' Association, the Motion Picture Exhibitors' Association of W.A., The W.A. Housewives' Association, the Women's Service Guild and the Country Women's Association.

This statement indicates to me that we should live by the sun and not by the clock. The information I have continues and states that farmers will find difficulty in adjusting their herds to the new times; that the wheat farmers cannot start their harvesting in the morning until the sun is up and the crop is stiff enough for harvesting.

Whilst I do not doubt that I think the farmer who is harvesting is not worried about the clock; he is more concerned about the sun and what sort of day it is likely to be for his harvesting. The farmers will be robbed of valuable working hours which are governed by the climate and not by the clock.

I believe this statement was made by Mr. Sullivan the Secretary of the Farmers' Union. The report continues—

> Another area governed by the sun rather than the clock, and which would be affected by daylight saving, is the weather forecasting service run by the Commonwealth.
>
> Weather observations around the world are made at 9 a.m. regardless of temporary clock adjustments.
>
> With daylight saving, these observations would be made at 10 a.m. Reports from country centres are made by postal officers and other people, and there is no guarantee that they will be able to stop their normal jobs and make readings which they usually do at the beginning of the working day.

In the matter of credits the banks and the stock exchange tell me that the banks give no guarantee that in the event of our going onto daylight saving they will get their mail at a convenient time for purposes of investment. The matter is not as easy as the Government seems to think it is. I might point out the report states that drive-in theatres will be severely affected.

I must say that this is one area of investment with which I have a considerable amount of sympathy. Cinema operators will find they cannot start screening at 8 p.m. because it is still light. They must needs wait until 9 p.m. which means the show will not be finished until midnight.

The arguments are advanced that many patrons regularly take young children with them in the rear of their vehicles to keep their families together, and also with a view to saving baby-sitting expenses. It is suggested that the live theatre would also be affected. One generally goes to the hard-top theatres during the hours of darkness—when the lights are turned out. One is not given to walking down the street in the daylight hours waiting for the theatre to start—which, of course, would be at 9 p.m. instead of 8 p.m. if the clocks were advanced.

This State has by far the greatest number of drive-in theatres in Australia per head of population. Do you know, Mr. President, that in Western Australia there is one drive-in theatre to 12,500 people? In New South Wales there is one drive-in theatre to 265,000 people; while in Victoria the ratio is one drive-in to 77,000 people; and in South Australia the ratio is 34,000 to one drive-in. Queensland has a ratio of 99,000 people to one drive-in theatre.

We find that in Western Australia there are 82 drive-in theatres in the country areas; in New South Wales there are 25, in Victoria 54, in South Australia 35, and in Queensland there are 30 drive-in theatres in the country areas.

In addition to the entertainment factor —and I think we have been through the evolution, have we not, from hard-top theatres to open-air theatres and then to drive-in theatres—the impact that television has made on the drive-in theatres and the hard-top theatres has resulted in many of the hard-top theatres closing, and other businesses taking over the premises that were used for this purpose. We still find, however, that the cinema operators give a great deal of pleasure to the people in our State apart from which they provide a considerable amount of employment in the State.

In the event of daylight saving being introduced into Western Australia it is foreshadowed that the attendance in these theatres—based on what is happening in Tasmania—will drop by about 35 per cent. to 40 per cent. below what the attendance is today. To say the least that would be a pretty heavy slug to those people who have many millions of dollars of capital invested in entertainments of this nature.

I think there will be a great many other people affected if the clock time is changed. I can think of those people who in the normal course of events leave for work

early in the day. For instance the building tradesmen would find it necessary to leave for work much earlier than would the white-collar workers who work from 8.30 a.m. onwards.

These people depend largely on the distances they must travel; and if there is any point to the argument, that they will be leaving home in the dark I think the building tradesmen would be more likely to be affected than any other section of the community.

On the domestic side I am sure the housewives of Western Australia with young families will feel that the Parliament of Western Australia is imposing on them an additional hour of the day in heat rather than in light.

Whilst some people might feel that if we have daylight saving we will have more time for entertainment—and that was one of the themes used in the Minister's speech and whilst it might be true—that there would be more time to go to the beach and pubs, and more time to do a number of things but a good many of these would be done in the heat of the day rather than when the day is starting to cool down.

Those who now leave for home at 5 p.m. would start to leave for home at 4 p.m. when, to say the least, things would not be nearly as tolerable as they would be later in the day. I doubt whether the housewives and the mothers in our community would thank us very much for imposing this situation on them without first asking them their opinion.

A number of mothers to whom I have spoken have told me they do not want this daylight saving imposed on them. I agree we cannot say that in any of the theatres mentioned by the Minister where daylight saving has been tried the position is in any way comparable with 1971. It is not. But be that as it may, it does not seem to me that in my lifetime at least can I recall any experience of daylight saving being practiced. In 1943-1944 this Parliament passed a resolution in defiance of what the Commonwealth Government was endeavouring to impose on this State. We did not want it.

Now, however, we find ourselves obediently coming in behind what New South Wales, Victoria, and a couple of the other States, propose to do without being given the very important premise of why they are going to do it.

The Minister has told us that we are going to introduce daylight saving because it is necessary for us to follow the other States rather than suffer the disabilities that would flow if we did not in fact advance our c'ocks.

Accordingly, as an individual and as Leader of the Opposition I must accept responsibility on behalf of my party and express a view on this matter. Whilst I am conscious of the fact that we will be imposing certain difficulties on a number of people I feel the disadvantages of daylight saving are certainly not outweighed by the advantages. To my mind there is no proof that this is so. On the contrary it is merely a statement of thought to the effect that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

In his remarks the Minister said the legislation would be introduced on a trial basis and if it were found to be successful it would be necessary to introduce a further Bill next year to provide for daylight saving in 1972-73.

From the Minister's remarks I understood that we would watch the experience of 1971-72 and then decide what we would do in 1972-73. Having given a great deal of consideration to this matter I think the reverse should be the case—that in the best interests of the people concerned we should see whether they will be disadvantaged, and the extent of their disadvantage. The matter will be in their hands; and they can then tell us just how they were inconvenienced by the fact that the Government of Western Australia did not follow the example set by the Eastern States.

Having done this we can then give consideration in 1972-73—as we will have to do in any case—to the problem at large. Rather than the disadvantages being outweighed by the advantages, I think the contrary is the case.

I must say that I find myself in a difficult position. I indicated that I did not intend to support the introduction of daylight saving into Western Australia. I have given my reasons for this and I have made them as valid as I possibly can.

Accordingly if I simply call "No" when the Bill is to be read a second time, and if there are sufficient members who will follow my call and vote the Bill out, we would then be left with the Daylight Saving Act of 1946.

It is conceivable—although I doubt whether the Government would do this—that a proclamation could be issued under the 1946 Act which still remains in force, and that daylight saving would be given effect to in the metropolitan area over a radius of 35 miles.

Having expressed that view I do not think we should place the Government in an embarrassing position and subject it to pressures which might be brought to bear with the possibility of people saying that to suit our particular purpose we are proclaiming the 1946 Act which, in fact, will give us daylight saving in the metropolitan area within a radius of 35 miles from the G.P.O.

I say this because whilst it might suit some people in the metropolitan area—and the largest concentration of people is in fact in the metropolitan area—it surely must follow that the largest number of people who would be adversely affected would be those affected by the nature of the action to which I have referred, if the Government were to take that step. I repeat, I do not think it would.

However, to ensure that we provide a clear indication that the Parliament of Western Australia does not favour daylight saving, I think the best thing to do is to vote for the second reading of the Bill, because clause 2 states that—

> The Daylight Saving Act, 1946, is hereby repealed.

So if we simply defeat this Bill that clause would not become operative. When we get into Committee I think it will be necessary to amend clause 1—the short title. Perhaps it could be amended to read, "This Act may be cited as the Daylight Saving Repeal Act, 1971" or something like that.

If we did that we would also have to consider the long title because at the moment it reads as follows—

> AN ACT to promote the earlier use of daylight in certain periods, to repeal the Daylight Saving Act, 1946, and for incidental and other purposes.

This could become quite an exercise. I will vote against the remaining clauses—clauses 3, 4, 5, and 6—because they are the operative clauses which propose to introduce daylight saving in Western Australia. Having said that, and having made my position clear, I propose to resume my seat on the clear understanding that although I will vote for the second reading I do not support the principle of the Bill.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Before you sit down, would you tell me how much you are going to leave in the Bill?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: As much as I would have liked to leave in the Transport Commission Act Amendment Bill last night.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: You passed that Bill. Thank you very much.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I have already explained it to the Minister, but if he really wants me to—

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Start again?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: No, I will merely vote against the Bill. I am merely trying to help the Chief Secretary.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I like the way you do it.

The Hon. J. Dolan: He is laughing.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Mr. Stubbs is always laughing.

The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs: Well, I have a good audience.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: After those quite improper interjections, I would like to make it clear that that is my attitude to the Bill. I propose to vote for the second reading and move to make the necessary adjustments in Committee. However, I will have to ask the Minister to be kind enough to co-operate in this matter. I could ask the private members' draftsman to draft the amendments, but I think it would be much better if the Government draftsman were to do so. I understand a considerable number of members will speak in this debate and I do not know the opinions of some of them. I would warn the Minister that when the Bill goes into Committee I may have a little more to say.

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Upper West) [9.04 p.m.]: When introducing this measure the Minister said he was presenting an unbiased opinion. After reading some of his remarks, I would say that is a matter of opinion. I do not mind whether the Minister says I am biased because I am definitely very much biased against daylight saving, as proposed in this measure. Any legislation which benefits a few at the expense and inconvenience of the majority is, in my humble opinion, not good legislation. That is exactly what this legislation endeavours to do: to legislate for a few at the expense and inconvenience of the majority.

The Minister did not tell us who asked for this measure. I certainly have not received any requests to support it although I have received many requests not to support it. I think that may well be said of a majority of members of this House. I believe all members received the screed from which Mr. Griffith quoted, and there is no need for me to repeat it. It sums up the situation reasonably well.

The main reason for the introduction of this measure was mentioned on the first page of the Minister's notes and it is, of course, that the other States in Australia have decided to follow suit with Tasmania and introduce daylight saving on a permanent basis. I do not think that is a sufficient reason for this State to follow suit. One can travel around the world, and one puts one's watch forward two hours as one travels from place to place. The international time differential does not seem to upset world transactions, and they are just as important as interstate transactions.

Tasmania may be in a category of its own, because it is situated in a different latitude. Possibly daylight saving suits that State, but it certainly does not suit a State such as Western Australia which has more daylight than any other State.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: A very enlightened State.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Perhaps daylight saving may be of some advantage to one or two areas in this State as a result

of the proximity to the border and the latitudes in which they are situated. I refer to the North Kimberley area. But this is not a difficult problem to overcome. We had the example of Broken Hill in New South Wales which operates on South Australian time. If it is so essential for the northern part of our State to operate on a different time, I can see no reason for it not working on Northern Territory time and leaving the southern part of the State as it is. If a place like Broken Hill in New South Wales can operate on South Australian time surely our northern areas can operate on Northern Territory time. I do not begrudge that to the areas.

As I have already mentioned, when a person travels around the world he is faced with a different time wherever he goes, and whenever one travels in a plane, one has to advance one's watch two hours when one lands. For example, consider America. A person can travel from the west coast through the central area and on to the east coast, and he has to change his watch three times. There is a time differential of three hours between the west coast and the east coast, but Americans do not have daylight saving. They have the same kind of stock exchange transactions, security transactions, and all the other transactions we have in Australia; but they get away without daylight saving. Perhaps their transactions are far greater than ours in numerical terms and in terms of the volume of money concerned.

To my mind the amount of transactions which take place between Western Australia and the Eastern States is no reason for the introduction of daylight saving. Our communications system of today is a pretty good one and it does not debar people from operating, even if the other States are one hour ahead. If the executives of the firms which are involved in these transactions wish to have daylight saving, let them come into the office an hour earlier rather than inconvenience thousands and thousands of people by this method. Surely that is the right way to do it.

The Minister raised the question of who would reap the benefit of daylight saving. If we read his second reading speech we find that he probably provided the answer when he said—

> In its present state of growth, Western Australia cannot afford to be placed at a disadvantage in its dealings with other capital cities. This is especially so in the financial field—the short-term money market, banking, the stock exchange, and legal dealings—

I have already spoken about that. Those transactions will not be inconvenienced to a great extent if the executives of the firms make use of the communication facilities which are available and which are far greater and better than they were when daylight saving was tried once before. Let us consider the understatement of the year made by the Minister.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I thought you were going to make it.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: This statement was made by the Minister during his second reading speech, and it is the understatement of the year—

> The difference of one hour in clock time will not make much difference to rural life . . . Children will adjust quickly to an earlier rising time. They will not lose any sleeping time, because they will be retiring at the normal bed-time by the clock and rising at the normal clock time.

The Hon. J. Heitman: I bet he didn't when he was that age.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I do not know whether the Minister had a family when daylight saving was in vogue previously, but I had a young family and I can still recall the problems involved in trying to get the children to bed at the normal clock time.

The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs: My children were disciplined.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I am glad to hear the Minister say that, because there were thousands of children who were not. It is impossible to make young children go to bed at the clock time under daylight saving conditions. Therefore, to me that statement is not correct. The Minister also said daylight saving will not make very much difference to rural industries, and he referred to the dairy farmer. However, if this proposal is passed on a certain date the dairy farmer will have to commence milking his cows one hour earlier. In the space of one day he will have to go forward exactly one hour, and at the end of four months he will have to go back one hour.

Does the Minister mean to say this will not interfere with the mechanisms—or the machinations, or whatever one likes to call them—of the cows?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Is that what you call them?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Possibly Mr. Stubbs has never milked a cow, but I have and I have had enough experience to know that if a dairy farmer starts to milk one hour earlier he is in for a lot of trouble. Yet the Minister said this will not affect the dairy farmer. At the moment he is milking his cows between 4.00 and 4.30 p.m. and if this Bill is passed he will have to milk them between 3.00 and 3.30 p.m. when the temperature is at its highest. All these things will affect the dairy farmer and will affect him considerably. They will upset not only him, but also the whole of the

area because no matter what sporting event or other function is being held he will have to knock off to commence milking his cows.

It is no good saying the dairy farmer does not have to alter his time of milking. That is not so because if this Bill becomes law people working under industrial awards will be affected. Therefore transport facilities will operate an hour earlier, whole milk operators will operate an hour earlier, and the butterfat operators will operate an hour earlier.

The dairy farmer will have to fit in with the award hours of work, and he will be forced to bring forward his milking time by one hour. Let us consider the time at which dairy farmers will have to get up in four months of every year. They will have to rise by yet an hour earlier, and a heavy burden will be placed on them.

I now turn to the effect on the housewife, and Mr. Griffith has to some extent mentioned this aspect. In many housing settlements in the metropolitan area we see many houswives getting up before dawn at the present time; because they have to get their husbands off to work by 7.00 or 7.20 a.m. If daylight saving is adopted they will have to get up an hour earlier for four months of the year. We should have more consideration for such people.

Not long ago, on many occasions I used to get up very early in the morning to catch a bus or plane to Geraldton, and under daylight saving I would have had to get up an hour earlier. I do not think we should ask housewives and similar people to get up an hour earlier for four months of the year.

It has been said that one of the benefits of daylight saving is that more people will be able to go to the beach in the summer. I would point out that people will work an hour earlier, and consequently they will knock off an hour earlier. However, some of them will go to their clubs or hotels, and only a very small percentage will go to the beach; but the housewife will be left home to look after the children. She cannot go anywhere, and there is no advantage to her. She will have another hour of drudgery.

Let us consider the effect on school children. Some of them at the present time leave home at 6.45 a.m. to catch buses to school, and have to travel up to 40 miles. With the introduction of daylight saving they will have to leave home an hour earlier, and then after school they will have to travel home in the hottest part of the day and in very hot school buses. I do not think this shows consideration to the school.

The introduction of daylight saving will inconvenience a large number of people for the benefit of a few who might want to communicate with the Eastern States in connection with a business transaction. It is not necessary for me to go on in this vein much longer. Mr. Griffith has thrown something into the ring in his contribution to the debate. For my part, I am prepared to vote against the second reading; and if the vote against the second reading is strong I do not think the Government will be game enough to introduce the 1946 legislation once again, particularly when it realises the large number of people who will be inconvenienced.

I have asked the question: Who has asked for daylight saving? I suggest nobody has. I fail to see why any Government should put into effect a measure which will be detrimental even to its own supporters, and certainly to many Western Australians.

I have not mentioned other industries that will be affected, because Mr. Griffith has mentioned some such as the drive-in theatres. I am certain that in the course of this debate some members will enumerate other industries. I would rather vote this measure out than play around with the proposal. There is no need for the Government to reintroduce the 1946 legislation, and perhaps the Minister might tell us something about this in his reply. In his own way he has tried to give an unbiased opinion.

The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs: I have put forward both sides of the case.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The Minister certainly emphasised one or two points in favour of the Bill. I repeat that I am biased, and I do not mind admitting it. On that basis I am certain that those who sit on the benches alongside me will also vote against the measure.

THE HON. W. R. WITHERS (North) [9.21 p.m.]: I have taken note of the comments made by previous speakers in the debate, and I must congratulate them on presenting the problems that affect their provinces. However, I would like to point out that their comments in relation to daylight saving do not apply to all parts of the North Province; they only apply to very small parts of the province, and to the greater part of the province they do not apply. In this respect I refer to the Kimberley region. It is generally known that the employees of Government departments in the Kimberley region have taken unto themselves to apply daylight saving. They now start work as early as 7.00 a.m.; and they would start earlier if they could, but they realise if they did they would be too much out of step with the rest of the community. Of course, the rest of the community is governed by western standard time.

When the Standard Times Act of 1895 was proclaimed it was considered that the meridian, 120 degrees east of Greenwich—which was a pretty fair meridian—should be the basis for the Standard Times Act.

However, the legislators considered the southern sector of the State only. Later on I will point out the differences between sunrise, sunset, and the hours of daylight within this State.

To go back to the Kimberley, at present the school children start their schooling at 7.45 a.m. It should be borne in mind that in some months the sun rises at 4.45 a.m.; so by the time the children start at 7.45 a.m. the sun has been up for two or three hours, and they experience temperatures of up to 115 degrees in the pre-wet period—from round about October to December—and in the post-wet period—from February to March. By the time the children have been one or two hours in the classrooms the temperature has risen to over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. The cost of power being so high, they cannot afford air conditioning, so the conditions become very trying for the children.

To a great degree businesses in the area will be affected. Tourism is now being developed in the north, as it is in the southern parts of the State and in Australia. Up north it will become a major industry, and I am referring mainly to the Kimberley region. When the Ord River dam is completed there will be between 500 and 800 square miles of water to which tourists will flock. What will happen when tourists move into the Kimberley from the Eastern States? If we assume that the Eastern States do adopt daylight saving and Western Australia does not, then there will be a 2½-hours difference in time between the border of South Australia, Western Australia, and the Northern Territory.

I refer members to a statement I made in a previous debate. I said that if daylight saving was adopted by the other States and not in Western Australia, we would find people travelling from the eastern edge of the Ord River irrigation scheme, which just intrudes into the Northern Territory, to the administrative centre of that scheme by car—and the distance is only 22 miles—will arrive 2 hours and 10 minutes before they left. Under these circumstances travellers from the Eastern States would get into the area and find difficulty in cashing cheques if they stopped over at the nearest town at Timber Creek. They would leave Timber Creek just after daylight and travel to the closest Western Australian town, Kununurra. They would find all the shops closed, and they would not be able to obtain petrol. They would have to wait hours before they could book into the hotel.

They would then realise the difference in time; and they would have to wait for the banks to open at 10.00 a.m. western standard time. When they get to the bank they find they have only two hours of trading with the Eastern States banks. These people could have travelled from the Northern Territory and taken about 20 minutes to get into Western Australia; but they would be horrified if this State had not adopted daylight saving. In those circumstances the tourist industry would be affected, and instead of the tourists stopping over in the first towns they reach in the Kimberley they would be inclined to travel through; and thus the State would not reap the benefit from the money which they might spend.

I feel the Kimberley should be in line with central standard time, but the Standard Times Act did not allow for this because at the time the area did not have the population.

Although I am representing all the electors of my province, it is too large an area for the introduction of block legislation of this type. Block legislation should not be introduced in a State as large as Western Australia.

Our State ranges over 16 degrees of longitude and 21 degrees of latitude. That gives an approximate distance of 2,160 nautical miles in depth, and 960 nautical miles in width. We find that the North Province covers 15 degrees of longitude and 10 degrees of latitude. In this respect a problem exists in my province. Some people on the western edge of the province would be inconvenienced by daylight saving; but I also realise that the people in the east would be inconvenienced if we did not adopt daylight saving.

The question is: Where do we go from here? I must look at the State in fairness to all the people, and I must agree with the statements made by previous speakers in the debate. It has been pointed out that the motion picture industry might lose 35 to 40 per cent. of its business, and should that happen it would have a very serious effect. I also agree that school children in the southern sector of the State will be seriously inconvenienced.

However, I must look after the people I represent, and it is up to other members to present the facts on behalf of their constituents.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: That is why I mentioned the Kimberley, expressly.

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: I appreciate that. It has been mentioned that some people will be inconvenienced in the metropolitan area by this proposed legislation. However, others will receive an advantage. I realise that some businesses will have an advantage, particularly the finance houses when dealing with short-term finance, as was mentioned by Mr. Clive Griffiths.

Some school children will receive some advantage, although those who have to travel long distances to school will be at a disadvantage. The youthful and young at heart will be advantaged because they will have an extra hour of daylight for swimming or golfing, or for indulging in whatever form of relaxation they may like.

To sum up, I would say this legislation should not have been brought forward in its present form because of the size of our State. I could refer to distances and areas all night and the figures would not mean very much. However, I think I can explain the situation rather clearly by pointing out the difference in the hours of daylight on the same day in different parts of the State. I have with me a table showing the hours between sunrise and sunset for the whole of the year.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I thought you might sing it to us.

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: Not tonight. I will quote some figures from the table which I have so that members will appreciate what is occurring in this State. On the 30th July, the sun rises in Perth at 7.08 a.m., and on the same day in the East Kimberley it rises at 5.47 a.m. On the same day the sun sets in Perth at 5.30 p.m., and in the East Kimberley it sets at 5.14 p.m. The hours of daylight on the same day, in the same State, are 10 hours and 30 minutes for Perth and 11 hours and 27 minutes for East Kimberley. So there is a difference between sunrise and sunset of 57 minutes.

I will now refer to the hours of daylight on the 13th December and because of nature the situation is reversed. On the 13th December the sun rises in Perth at 5.12 a.m., and it sets at 7.26 p.m. In the East Kimberley the sun rises at 4.55 a.m. and sets at 5.56 p.m. During the wintertime the hours of daylight in the East Kimberley are approximately one hour longer than the hours of daylight in Perth. In the summertime the hours of daylight in Perth are one hour and 13 minutes longer than the hours of daylight in the East Kimberley.

So it can be seen that we really should not be considering legislation to cover the whole of the State. I can appreciate why the whole of the State has been included. The Standard Time Act of 1895 covers the whole of the State so it is natural to assume that future legislation should carry on and apply to the whole of the State, and not to just parts of it.

Because of the reasons I have put forward, and considering the comments made by the two previous speakers, I can see only one way out of this. I have already said that I must support daylight saving, which I do for my area in the Kimberley. However, I feel that we can overcome the problem by amending the Bill which is now before us. I will arrange to place some amendments on the notice paper, and I hope that when the amendments are put to the members of the Committee they will receive support.

THE HON. J. HEITMAN (Upper West) (9.35 p.m.): Like many other speakers I intend to speak against the Daylight Saving Bill. The Minister, when he introduced the Bill, tried to be as clear as possible, but there were one or two matters which I did not like. It seemed to me that the Minister sacrificed the farming community in favour of the business community of Perth. I am sure he does not realise the inconvenience which will be caused to people living in the country.

I will refer to the dairying industry, as did Mr. Logan. I do not know how many cows he milked, but I do know that if cows are used to being milked at 4.00 a.m., and one gets up at 3.00 a.m. to do the same job on the following morning, the cows would not like to get out of bed as early as that. Cows like to stretch, and do quite a few other jobs before being milked. If one has to milk 50 or 60 cows I think one might be late for breakfast.

When the Minister introduced the Bill he said that daylight saving was first used in 1917, and the Leader of the House said that he enjoyed it. I think the Leader of the House would have been very young at that time and he would have enjoyed almost anything. However, I doubt very much that his mother enjoyed daylight saving but he did not tell us about that side of it. I quite realise that people dealing in finance require that extra hour each day. However, those people could get up an hour earlier and let the other people sleep in.

During 1943 or 1944 both Houses of Parliament decided they did not want daylight saving. It was mentioned that we were, more or less, under military control at that time and there was no need for Western Australia to have daylight saving.

From the farming angle, the wheat bins would open at 6.30 a.m. instead of 7.30 a.m. and the farmers would certainly be able to get their first load into the bin very early. However, they would then have to wait until the day was warm enough to start harvesting. Either that, or go to the extra expense of providing additional storage so that they could cart two or three loads into the bins during the morning before harvesting. However, I do not think the farming community has the finance to provide extra storage facilities so that they can cart their wheat in the early mornings and harvest late into the evening. This is more than what the Minister should expect from the farming community. The problem associated with children going to school has already been mentioned. Children would need to get out of bed an hour earlier. Many children already catch a bus at 7.00 a.m. and now they will have to catch a bus at 6.00 a.m. The same children will leave school at 2.30 p.m. during the hottest part of the day to return home.

On their return to their home, and having travelled during the hottest part of the day, they will be a little more bad tempered than usual. I do not think that is fair on the mothers. The Minister should

give some consideration to the children who have to travel long distances to school and who will have to travel home during the heat of the day.

I have received many letters from people living in the country who are dead against daylight saving. Also, many women in the metropolitan area have complained to me that they do not know where they will find the extra time to entertain their children during the extra hour in the afternoon. It would be too hot for the children to play sport at 2.30 p.m. in the heat of the day. The period between 2.30 p.m. and sundown would be too long for the children to be able to entertain themselves.

The only people I have heard speak in favour of daylight saving have been one or two officials high up in the banking fraternity, and one or two people from the stock exchange. I honestly feel that those people could get out of bed an hour earlier in the morning and let everyone else relax. I will not support the Bill and I will vote against it.

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central) [9.41 p.m.]: My remarks will be brief because I agree with most of what has been said in opposition to the Bill now before us. I agree with the Minister that if daylight saving is not introduced in Western Australia there will be a three-hour variation on the share market and the money market. This fact was also referred to by Mr. Clive Griffiths. Mr. Logan referred to the difference in time which exists in the United States of America. He referred to a difference of three hours, but actually the difference is four hours. However, the Americans cope with that difference, and I think they do it fairly well.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: I think the difference is only three hours.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: According to Mr. White, who has carried out some research on this matter, the difference is four hours.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: I was recently talking to an American and he said the difference was only three hours.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Even if the difference is only three hours—and I think Mr. White disputes that view—the Stock Exchange and the money market can cope with it. Even if our operators had to attend at the stock exchange an hour earlier they would not be any worse off than they are at the present time.

The Minister referred to the dairying industry, and having been a dairy farmer myself for some 15 years, and having had to milk a large number of cows not only with machines, but by hand, I can assure the Minister that a cow can be a very hot animal in the summertime. A cow might be comfortable and warm to work next to in the winter time, but it can be particularly uncomfortable in the summer time.

It is very difficult to change the habits of the cows by one hour, and the higher temperature associated with the earlier milking will make conditions more difficult for the people who have to do the milking.

Some children who live in the country have to catch a bus at 7.00 a.m. and travel 80 miles to school. Those children will have to catch a bus an hour earlier which will mean that the mother will have to get out of bed an hour earlier. The children will return home an hour earlier during the hottest part of the day, and a lot of them will have to travel on dusty roads.

Another problem will arise when it is time to put the children to bed. The result will be that the mother will have a much longer day and a much more strenuous day during the heat of the summer than would be the case if the present hours were retained. Those people living in the country should be considered. Women living in the country usually have to travel long distances for their shopping or their pleasure. They already face so many disadvantages that we should not be adding more disadvantages. The women in the country who have children will have their day increased by one hour every school day of the week.

These are a few of the reasons why I do not support this measure. I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that we should clean this Bill up properly by consenting to the repeal of the 1946 Act and altering the title, and if in 25 years' time someone wants to introduce daylight saving again, let the Government of the day deal with it. I cannot support this measure.

THE HON. C. R. ABBEY (West) [9.46 p.m.]: I should think that by now the Minister has realised how unpopular this measure is. I go along with the suggestions made by the Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Withers—that we should vote for the second reading and amend the Bill. I will certainly be prepared to follow that course.

All the expressions of opinion I have received have been against the Bill. I have not received one expression of opinion in favour of it. Those who favour the Bill would, no doubt, have taken steps to advise me accordingly if they had realised how unpopular the Bill would be. I have some sympathy for those whose businesses will be seriously affected by a time lag between Western Australia and the Eastern States, but my sympathy is not sufficient to weigh my opinion in favour of daylight saving. Far greater inconveniences will be caused to the majority of people, and I am therefore opposed to the Bill in general.

THE HON. V. J. FERRY (South-West) [9.47 p.m.]: I would like to contribute one or two points to the debate. Firstly, may I say I have not been approached by anyone who is in favour of daylight saving. However, I have been approached by a considerable number of people who are against daylight saving.

When he introduced the measure the Minister stated that, if this Bill were passed, daylight saving would be introduced for a specified trial period of one summer in order to see how daylight saving suited Western Australia in relation to the Eastern States of Australia and whether we could fit in with their altered times.

I would like to suggest that we have a trial period in reverse by leaving our time at standard time in order to see what the areas of difference and difficulty might be when clocks in the Eastern States are advanced one hour, rather than inconveniencing the majority of Western Australians throughout the length and breadth of the State by advancing our clocks one hour according to the provisions contained in the Bill under discussion. I believe that is a better way to conduct a trial period.

I agree with Mr. Withers that the Kimberley area of this State has a special problem in respect of time. I hope the opportunity will be given to Mr. Withers to suggest amendments to the Bill in due course, if he so desires, so that we can consider them in Committee. I do not think there is any harm in proceeding with the Bill to that stage in order to discuss the merits or otherwise of his proposals.

It should be remembered that in this State the time meridian based on 120 degrees east of Greenwich is somewhere in the vicinity of Southern Cross, running north and south, which means that on Western standard time those who live on the western seaboard—in Perth, Geraldton, and Carnarvon, for instance—already enjoy 22 minutes of daylight saving. The Western seaboard of this State therefore has permanent, built-in daylight saving of 22 minutes. It works the opposite way east of Southern Cross, but the majority of the population in Western Australia lives west of that line. I suggest there is no merit in putting our clocks forward one hour to give us one hour 22 minutes of daylight saving in this area of the State.

To summarise, I believe there is merit in examining the situation in the Kimberley area and in proceeding with the Bill to the Committee stage, when we can consider the amendments suggested by Mr. Withers. I also believe we should conduct our experiment in reverse by maintaining Western standard time in the coming summer, following which we can have second thoughts in the light of our experience.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. J. Dolan (Minister for Police).

House adjourned at 9.52 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 6th October, 1971

The SPEAKER (Mr. Toms) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (32): ON NOTICE

1. STATE SHIPS

Derby Jetty: Berthing

Mr. RIDGE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

(1) Will the State ships *Wambiri* and *Beroona* be able to "sit on the bottom" beside the Derby jetty?

(2) (a) If "Yes" is there any likelihood that the considerably larger vessels will distort the "wallow" which has been created by the K- and D-class ships?

(b) Would an enlarged "wallow" adversely affect use of the port by ships other than *Wambiri* and *Beroona?*

(3) (a) Will the recently acquired ships be able to gain access to the Derby jetty on neap tides;

(b) if not, for how many days each month will access be hindered, and with what result?

Mr. MAY replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) (a) Yes, slightly.

(b) No.

(3) (a) Yes, except on approximately three or four occasions in a year.

(b) See previous answer, and in any case berthing would only be inconvenienced at the outside for 24 hours.

2. KIMBERLEY CATTLE STATIONS

Subsidy Watering Points Committee

Mr. RIDGE, to the Minister for Works:

(1) Has the Kimberley cattle stations subsidy watering points committee been disbanded?

(2) (a) If so, when and for what reason;

(b) if not, who are the present members of the committee?

(3) As at 30th June this year, how many subsidy applications were before the committee?