

I think this process should continue. We have seen the build-up of industry in the Welshpool and Maddington areas; and a university and other utilities of this nature, which generate a high density, could well be sited somewhere along this railway, which is capable of carrying a tremendous number of people, quickly and efficiently.

A railway is capable of transporting something like 50,000 people an hour; buses something like 15,000 an hour; and there is a much lower carrying capacity for private vehicles. To my mind, the area about which I have been speaking has a tremendous potential for providing a facility like a university, and the powers that be who are charged with the responsibility of choosing a site for a second university should have every regard for the placing of it somewhere along that railway line.

It has been a pleasure to look through the Loan Estimates prior to my coming here to see what progress this Government has made with the items on which it has placed emphasis, in accordance with its stated policy when it was elected to power some nine years ago.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr. Graham (Deputy Leader of the Opposition).

House adjourned at 9.10 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 11th October, 1967

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

WOOD CHIP AND PAPER PULP INDUSTRIES

Development: Tabling of Sample Sheets

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [4.33 p.m.]: In view of the current interest being shown in Japanese negotiations with Western Australian firms for the development of a wood chip export industry as a preliminary to the production of paper pulp in this State, I ask permission to table two samples of paper made in Japan by the Kokusaka Pulp Industry Co. Ltd. in pilot plant tests using equal parts of karri, jarrah, and marri timbers.

One sheet has been left blank and the other shows a sample of offset printing to demonstrate it can be satisfactorily used for printing.

The sample sheets were tabled.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY

Spur Line to Coolgardie

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

Will the Minister inform the House whether a feasibility survey has been made, or is to be made, by the Railways Department of a proposed route for a spur line to Coolgardie from the new standard gauge line?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The honourable member was kind enough to give me some indication of this question. A thorough examination of this proposal was made when the route of the standard gauge line was decided upon. It was resolved that provision of a spur line to Coolgardie could not be justified. Since that time nothing has eventuated which would cause this decision to be reversed.

QUESTIONS (7): ON NOTICE BREAKING AND ENTERING, AND VANDALISM

Incidence in Albany Highway Premises

1. The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS asked the Minister for Justice:

- (1) With reference to my question on Wednesday, the 4th October, 1967, relating to offences to premises in Albany Highway, does the Minister consider the number of offences to be excessive in a period of one year?
- (2) Will he explain precisely what type of regular patrols are made by the Police Department?
- (3) Do such patrols extend through a full 24 hours each day?
- (4) In view of the large number of culprits that have not been apprehended in the period referred to, will urgent consideration be given to increasing the existing precautionary measures, or instituting some other method, in an attempt to protect these premises from further unauthorised entry, and reduce the subsequent losses that are being sustained by businessmen in this area?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Considering that these offences extend over a distance of five miles of the busiest shopping and commercial area in the district, the figure of 118 offences over a year is not excessive.
- (2) and (3) The information will be supplied direct to the honourable member.

- (4) The incidence of breaking and entering offences and vandalism is not regarded as excessive considering the concentration of the business area and the density of the population.

The police services now being provided are considered satisfactory, but if the incidence of crime or the volume of vandalism increases other mobile police units can be directed to the district.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Findings and Report

2. The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE asked the Minister for Local Government:
- (1) Has the Local Government Assessment Committee, appointed last year to inquire into various aspects of local government, completed its findings yet?
 - (2) If so, has the Minister received its report?
 - (3) Will he table such report after he has studied its contents?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes.

I might add that the committee has completed its tour of the majority of the local authorities in Western Australia. The committee has completed some parts of its report, but it is finding some difficulty with the compilation of the statistics involved in other parts and it will be a little time before the report is presented to me.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: Like all aspirants, Mr. President, I appreciate the "Yes."

KALGOORLIE ABATTOIR

Sale to Mr. Iwankiw

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

With reference to the sale of the Kalgoorlie Abattoir to Mr. Iwankiw—

- (a) did the Department of Industrial Development negotiate the sale on behalf of the Department of Agriculture?
- (b) what are the precise terms of the sale?
- (c) (i) was a deposit paid by the purchaser;
- (ii) if so, when was such deposit paid; and
- (iii) what was the amount?
- (d) was an agreement signed by both parties; if so, on what date was it signed?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (a) No.
- (b) Sale of Land, Buildings and other Improvements: An initial deposit of \$1,650, followed by 10 annual instalments of \$1,485; each instalment being due on the 1st July in each year, commencing 1968. Payable to the Minister for Lands. Full details of the conditions of sale were published in the *Government Gazette* of the 7th July, 1967, pages 1768 to 1770 inclusive. Plant, Machinery, etc.: An initial deposit of \$350, followed by 10 annual instalments of \$315; each instalment being due on the 1st July in each year, commencing 1968. Payable to the Department of Agriculture.
- (c) (i) Yes.
- (ii) The 30th June, 1967.
- (iii) \$2,000.
- (d) Separate agreements have been prepared in respect of the sale of land, buildings, etc., and plant, machinery, etc., but these have not yet been signed.

MOTOR VEHICLES

Headlights

4. The Hon. G. E. D. BRAND asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) In well-lighted streets in the metropolitan area, is it absolutely necessary for vehicles to use headlights or is it considered sufficient to use parking lights, thus reducing the glare, particularly on wet roads?
- (2) Will the Police Department give urgent priority to an intensive survey of motor vehicles throughout the State to ensure that headlights are correctly aligned with particular emphasis on ensuring that—
 - (a) "high" beam is correctly wired to ensure that both lights are in fact on "high"; and
 - (b) each headlight is operating on both "high" and "low" beams?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) The Road Traffic Code requires the headlamps of a vehicle to be alight between sunset and sunrise. It is not considered sufficient to use the parking lamps.
- (2) The Police Department is responsible for vehicle inspection only in the metropolitan area and is not in a position to carry out a State-wide survey. Defective headlamps are part of the standard check on vehicle fitness carried out on registration and, additionally, free checks of headlamps

are available at the Bronte Street inspection centre each Wednesday evening.

STATE BATTERIES

Crushings and Gold Recovered

5. The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN asked the Minister for Mines:

For the financial year ended the 30th June, 1967, at the under-mentioned State Batteries—

Kalgoorlie,
Coolgardie,
Marvel Loch,
Norseman,
Ora Banda,

what was—

- (a) the total tonnage of ore crushed; and
- (b) the number of fine ounces of gold?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The total tonnages of ore crushed and gold recovered in the financial year ended the 30th June, 1967, at the following State Batteries were:—

State Battery	Tons Crushed	Estimated Fine oz. Gold Recovered by amalgamation	Fine oz. Gold Recovered by cyaniding	Total Fine oz. Gold
Kalgoorlie	6,292	2,853.6	369	3,222.6
Coolgardie	3,920	1,414.2	510.6	1,924.8
Marvel Loch	1,980.5	848.1	180.6	1,028.7
Norseman	878.25	33.2	84.7	127.9
Ora Banda	2,336	746.7	583.0	1,329.7

The tons crushed at Norseman include 531½ tons of tin ore from which 57½ cwt. of concentrates were recovered, and 7½ tons of schulte ore from which 1,000 lb. of concentrates were recovered.

The State Batteries do not get full information on the fine gold content of bullion recovered by amalgamation, so the figure given is estimated from the weight of bullion.

ROADS

Hyden-Norseman: Planning and Commencement

6. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is there any study being carried out by the Main Roads Department, with the view of constructing a road from Hyden to Norseman?
- (2) If so, at what stage has the planning reached?
- (3) When is it anticipated that a road will be constructed which would cope with the agricultural development that could follow the release of land in the area, and the tourist traffic that could be expected?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) The Main Roads Department maintains close liaison with the Lands Department, and, when the land east of Hyden is thrown open for selection, appropriate road access will be provided.

Denham: Sealing

7. The Hon. G. E. D. BRAND asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Will the Minister advise if funds will be made available in the 1968-1969 financial year for sealing the recently-constructed road serving the new Lands Department subdivision in the Denham township?
- (2) If the funds have been made available, when is it anticipated that the work will be commenced and completed?
- (3) If the funds have not been made available, when can it be expected that this important work will be done?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) to (3) Funds totalling \$13,400 were made available to construct roads serving the Lands Department subdivision in Denham townsite.

It is not proposed to make further funds available beyond those provided for the present forming and gravelling standard.

These funds were made available to assist the Shire of Shark Bay and any further work required would be the shire's responsibility.

COUNTRY HIGH SCHOOL HOSTELS AUTHORITY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [4.47 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this amendment, which was introduced in another place by the Minister for Education, is to increase the maximum annual borrowing powers of the Country High School Hostels Authority.

This body was given statutory power, under its establishing legislation in 1960, to borrow up to \$200,000 a year. In the following year, an amending Bill, which was passed, authorised an increase in its borrowing powers to \$400,000 per annum for the years 1962 and 1963, with reversion to \$200,000 thereafter.

The amendment now proposed would increase this amount to \$300,000 of loan money, which the authority would be empowered to raise in any one year. This is in line with the recent decision of the Loan Council relating to borrowing by Government instrumentalities.

The Minister, when introducing this measure in another place, commented that the authority had, since its inception, done a very good job. It has erected eight new hostels, and renovated or replaced parts of two others. The new hostels are

at Bunbury, which will accommodate 96 of both sexes; Carnarvon, accommodating 48; Geraldton, accommodating 72 girls; Katanning, accommodating 48; Merredin, 96; Narrogin, 72; Northam provides accommodation for 72 girls; and the latest one is at Esperance with accommodation for 48 children.

Hostels which have been renovated are situated at Northam, where 100 boys are provided for, and at Albany, which will accommodate 50 boys.

Members may be interested in the fees charged. They range from \$115 a term at Albany, to \$125 at Geraldton and Katanning, with a slightly higher charge of \$140 per term at Carnarvon. Each of these hostels is managed by a local committee composed, generally, of members of the Country Women's Association or a church.

In the overall, the authority's hostels provide accommodation for about 800 students of both sexes. This has assisted materially in making possible higher education for children whose parents are living in the more remote areas of the State.

In 1960, when the Act was passed, the loan raising figure of \$200,000 then provided was considered to be adequate to meet a modest annual programme. Building costs have risen over the succeeding years and, consequently, much less can be accomplished with this amount of money.

I understand a new hostel for boys is urgently required at Geraldton. Those responsible for the two existing boys' hostels at that centre have announced their intention of closing one at the end of this year, and the other at the end of 1968, because of the very poor condition of the buildings. This will leave Geraldton with no hostel accommodation at all for boys. While two dormitories are being replaced at Northam Boys' Hostel this year, there is an urgent need to replace a further two as soon as possible.

Accommodation at the existing hostels at Merredin, Northam, Katanning, and Esperance is much under pressure at present, while at each centre, many more applications are received from students than can possibly be accommodated.

While it is not envisaged that the authority will borrow to the maximum permissible limit each year, it is submitted that it would be desirable to increase the Country High School Hostels Authority's borrowing powers to the figure proposed in the Bill in order that the larger amount of funds will be in sight should the need arise. Members would be aware, I think, that Treasury approval is required for the authority's annual loan programme.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. H. C. Strickland.

FAUNA PROTECTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

In Committee

Resumed from the 10th October. The Deputy Chairman of Committees (The

Hon. F. D. Willmott) in the Chair; The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Fisheries and Fauna) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 4: Section 6 amended—

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Progress was reported after the clause had been partly considered.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: I move an amendment—

Page 2, lines 7 and 8—Delete the passage " "Board" means The Fauna Board of Western Australia" and substitute the passage " "Authority" means The Western Australian Wild Life Authority".

Members will appreciate that this is not a frivolous move on my part. If such were the case I would have quailed when I had proceeded halfway through the number of amendments involved, resulting from this initial one.

My reasons—I believe they are good ones—for proposing the change in name are several. I am very concerned that this body—whether it be a board or an authority—should be launched in the best possible climate and should be able to operate in an atmosphere which is essentially one of sympathy towards the public of Western Australia.

I would like to examine this situation briefly on three counts. Firstly, from the point of view of the present members of the advisory committee which is concerned with fauna protection, it was possibly in the minds of those members, when a name was to be selected for the proposed body, that the first, if not the main essential, was that the name should denote some real executive power. I am inclined to believe that was their thinking, in view of certain experiences in this State and the fact that boards are fairly prevalent.

For that reason they probably considered the word "board" was the proper title which should be given to the body. My reason for suggesting the word "authority" in place of the word "board" is that I do not believe a board, an organisation, or an instrumentality which is charged with the responsibilities outlined in the Bill and in the parent Act could function in exactly the same way as other boards of which we have some experience.

I believe that in the minds of the public generally the term "board" indicates some regulatory, administrative, or inspectorial function. Certainly there are functions such as those contained in the Bill, but the success of the organisation will depend upon the spontaneity, the sympathy, and the co-operation of the general public. I believe the name "authority" is rather more inclined to encourage this point of view than does the name "board."

In referring to this matter the Minister said that as there is a fauna department in Western Australia, it might be a good

reason to have a fauna board. With all due respect to him, that is another reason why it should not be the case. I would not like it to be thought that the authority or board will be considered as an instrumentality of the fauna department. As the Minister said, this is a board in its own right; there is land vested in it; certain specified functions are granted to it under the Act; and in this way it should be considered as separate from any other instrumentality, particularly a Government department. The Minister also made some reference to the use of the word "board" because it dealt with fauna, and he suggested that perhaps this title should be encouraged.

If I might use an analogy, I refer to Bills which have passed through this Parliament in recent times in relation to instrumentalities such as the Fremantle Harbour Board and the Bunbury Harbour Board. Because these titles were not considered to be appropriate to the functions of the bodies concerned, the title "authority" was preferred to "board" or "trust." Using the example again of harbour boards and harbour authorities, as there is a Harbour and Light Department, and a Public Works Department, which are concerned with the Fremantle Harbour and the Bunbury Harbour, might not this be a reason for retaining the title "harbour board"? In fact, the title was changed to "port authority." That is not my reason for suggesting the change in the name of the fauna board, but, in view of the fact that the Minister made the comments I have referred to, the suggested change is not without precedent.

I do not know which worries me more: Whether it is the title "Fauna Board of Western Australia" or whether it is the Minister's lack of enthusiasm for the change I have proposed—"The Western Australia Wild Life Authority." However, he has indicated that he is prepared to accept my proposal. Because of the thought which the name I have proposed will engender, I believe it is to be preferred to the name appearing in the Bill.

I would like to make it clear that this amendment sets the pattern for the remainder of those on the notice paper. If the Committee accepts the change of name, it would follow that the other amendments would have to be passed automatically. A great deal has already been said on this subject and I see no reason to prolong the debate any further.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I would like to ask the Minister what the position will be in respect of the Act if we pass this amendment. The word "fauna," with its interpretation, is still contained in the parent Act, and therefore, if we pass this amendment, we will have the two. Will another Bill be necessary?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Although I like the name suggested by Mr. McNeill, I think if we agree to the amendment we

will finish up with the Act in a terrible mess. For instance, the new definition of "director" will refer to the "Director of Fisheries and Fauna," and the definition of "Minister" will mean the "Minister for Fisheries and Fauna." If we are to refer to it as a wildlife authority, I feel that the Minister should be the Minister for fisheries and wildlife; and the director, the director of fisheries and wildlife, and so on; but no appropriate amendments are proposed in this respect.

I do not like the word "board" at all, and I do not think the public does, either. In the eyes of the public it indicates something repressive. The general public are sick and tired of boards.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: They are bored with them.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: That is true. Probably the best suggestion, to keep the amendment in line with the Act, would be to make the name the fauna authority of Western Australia. That would obviate any further amendments to the Act. At present Mr. McNeill is proposing to amend only the Bill, not the Act.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I indicated earlier that I was not altogether happy with the name "the fauna board." However, the only reason that name has been included is because no better name could be suggested. I do not intend to agree with the amendment, but I am not disagreeing with it in any nasty or bitter way any more than has my colleague from Lower West moved it in that atmosphere. However, I do feel that this type of discussion is necessary before we take any step.

I do know that other States use the expression "wildlife authority," but I understand those States have a composite Act to deal with flora and fauna. It could be argued that that should be the situation here. However, for every State that operates successfully under a composite Act, there is another State or country which operates equally successfully under two separate Acts. I do not think we can say which is the better method. If we now adopted this amendment, people could become confused. They could believe that we have a composite Act. Therefore I think this is one reason we ought to reject the amendment.

Mr. Dolan and Mr. Ron Thompson have raised the point concerning the Act. They have suggested that if this amendment were accepted, the reference to "fauna" all the way through the Act would have to be amended. I believe that the Minister is the person who is the authority. Perhaps we could consider this point in terms of political science. The Minister is responsible to Parliament just as the member of Parliament is responsible to the electors. I think the Minister is the properly constituted authority and he ought to remain so, and the board should be under him. I do know that people have some affection for certain boards. The

mere fact that I cannot think of one at the moment does not disprove my statement.

The Hon. R. Thompson: The cemetery board?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I think the degree of affection is governed by the work which the particular board undertakes. I feel there has been a dislike for the actions of certain boards and therefore people feel no more boards should be established. Mr. Watson said, very wisely, that people are bored with boards. However, if we now start using the word "authority" we could easily find ourselves in the same predicament in five years' time.

I remember the time when we used to refer to an elderly man as an old man, but this became not the right thing to say and so later he was called a senior citizen. Now, to make things a bit more difficult, he is referred to as a geriatric. One word seems to be adopted for a period, and then it is changed. It is quite probable that if we used the word "authority" now, we would find it necessary to alter it later on.

I do not think there is sufficient reason to accept this amendment and thus create confusion. The Bill would have to be returned to the Government Printer for the amendment to be made in about 34 different places, and I do not think sufficient reasons have been given to warrant that course.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You would have to alter the parent Act considerably.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I am inclined to agree. If we were to keep our legislation in line with the concept of those States which use the term "wildlife authority" we would need to have a composite Act.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: That is what we should have.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I have just explained that point. Some countries do have a composite Act which works successfully, and others, like ourselves, have two Acts which work equally successfully.

For the reasons I have outlined I intend to vote against the amendment, but I would obviously welcome a better solution of the problem.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I have a suggestion which is a compromise. As has been stated, the Act uses the word "fauna." The mover of the amendment could alter his amendment to read "the Western Australian fauna authority."

The Hon. N. McNEILL: Mr. Dolan and Mr. Ron Thompson suggested that the parent Act might have to be amended. I am not convinced that this would be necessary because my amendment refers to the interpretation. Under the parent Act a committee was charged with

certain responsibilities and was given certain powers. My amendment is merely to provide that instead of a board, which would have certain powers, we should have an authority. Therefore my amendment merely concerns the interpretation.

Quite apart from the dictionary definition the word "fauna" is defined in the parent Act. If my amendment is accepted it will mean that a wildlife authority will be charged with certain responsibilities in respect of fauna. If we accepted Mr. Dolan's suggestion, everywhere the word "fauna" is used in the Bill and Act, we would have to substitute the word "wildlife." I do not think this is necessary. This is the name of an instrumentality which it is proposed shall be set up under the Bill.

I do not know whether I have made myself clear on this matter. I am not convinced there is any necessity whatever to make any further alterations to the Bill itself.

In regard to the Minister's attitude, I am a little sad he is going to vote against my amendment. Nevertheless, I must say that all the arguments he used in respect of the fauna board of Western Australia could quite well have been used in favour of the wildlife authority. Had he been arguing the other way, he could have used the same arguments. In other words, what he said applies whether the amendment in the Bill is accepted or my amendment is accepted.

As I have said previously, I regard my amendment as being of some importance. I believe the name is important. The word "fauna" is a scientific and academic term. It is rather cold and not always understood.

The Hon. E. M. Heenan: It is becoming a familiar word now.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: Yes, I agree it is a familiar word. It is a word which is used, but the meaning is not always clear. The term "wildlife" is far more descriptive and more easily understood by the community at large and this was my reason for using it. Although I appreciate Mr. Lavery's suggestion, I am not at this stage prepared to accept any alteration to my amendment.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I think some of Mr. McNeill's comments are perfectly justified and perhaps if he had been arguing for the other side he would have used the same points. I agree it is an important matter and we ought to be very clear on the issue. I will be quite content to accept whatever the Committee decides but unless the issue is clear-cut I shall call for a division to give me some idea of members' opinions. I think I have put up cogent arguments in support of the proposal in the Bill, but if the Committee decides to accept Mr. McNeill's amendment I will be happy to accept it, too. There are no hard and fast thoughts about the

matter either on my part or on the part of departmental officers. It will not be the end of the world if the title is changed.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: Mr. McNeill has put forward some very pertinent points, but I am not sure that this is the time to make a change in the title of the responsible authority. I would like that to be done at some future time when we can deal with the whole ramifications of the Act. At the moment, as we are dealing with only a portion of the Act, the word "fauna" has been accepted for so long, and the provisions will be somewhat contradictory if Mr. McNeill's amendment is accepted, I think we should leave the position as it is for the time being.

I feel sure the Minister would, at some future time, appreciate the opportunity to discuss the proposal as it would affect the rest of the Act but for the present I think we should accept the Bill as it has been presented to us. After all, flora and fauna have an affinity, although perhaps "wildlife" may be a more clear-cut and more easily understood term to use. However, in all the circumstances I wonder whether at this stage we should go so far as to amend the title so drastically.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: After listening to the Minister I take it his attitude is that he is reasonably easy about the amendment. I am inclined to favour Mr. McNeill's proposal because I think it has merit and the term "wildlife" would have more appeal to and would be more generally understood by the general public. The term "wildlife" rings a bell immediately, and it is far more attractive than the word "fauna."

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: A wildlife show was held recently in the Town Hall.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: That is so. Also, the term "fauna" in the parent Act lends some weight to Mr. McNeill's proposition, inasmuch as it reads—

"fauna" means the vertebrate fauna which is wild by nature and is ordinarily to be found in a condition of natural liberty in the whole or a part or parts of the State . . .

As regards Mr. Dolan's proposition about affecting other sections of the Act, I cannot see that either the Bill or Mr. McNeill's amendment will have any effect on other sections of the Act except those referred to in the Bill. The proposition simply is that the Minister desires the authority to be called a board and Mr. McNeill wishes it to be termed a wildlife authority. I believe the term "wildlife authority" has more appeal and is more appropriate, and for those reasons I intend to support the amendment.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: The term "wildlife" is very easily understood, and one has no doubt as to what it means. However, one point troubles me, and that is that wildlife need not necessarily be animal life; it could be plant life.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: And it could be teenagers, too.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: I would like to hear Mr. McNeill's comments on this point. I agree that the term "wildlife" would be more readily understood by the public but, as I said, it could also include wild flora.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: And human beings, too, when they get to a party.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: I would invite Mr. McNeill's comments on this point.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: I would be glad to comment and, in particular, I appreciated Mr. Strickland's remarks. It is true that the term "wildlife" could cover flora, as Mr. Ferry said—things other than animals. However, it would include fauna, and "fauna" is defined in the parent Act. The term "wildlife" would cover all the items mentioned under the definition "fauna."

If one reads the Bill as a whole, or the parent Act as a whole, one will see that the committee now known as the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee is charged with the responsibility for fauna and also for the control of bushfires—or wild fires, if one likes to use that term—vegetation, trees, shrubs, and the like, within reserves and sanctuaries. It is also responsible for certain public works, roads, etc.

By no stretch of the imagination could one say that those items come within the definition of "fauna," nor would they come within the definition of "wildlife." In other words, we are simply dealing with a name and it is only the provisions contained in the legislation which confer any responsibility on the authority.

As regards Mr. Willesee's comments about my proposal having some effect on the parent Act, I repeat that it is proposed to make no alteration to the Bill other than to the name of the controlling body. My proposal is to make that body the wildlife authority, and the powers, functions, and so on will remain unchanged. All I want to do is substitute the words "Wild Life Authority" for the words "Fauna Board." I hope what I have said answers Mr. Ferry's queries.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I have a completely different view. I consider that legislation of this type is placed before us from time to time so that we can educate the public in relation to wildlife. When parents decide to buy a small kitten or a dog for their children they do so with the object of teaching the children to be kind to animals. I do not think it would be easy to tell young children the strict meaning of "flora" or "fauna"; and in my view the term "wildlife" is much more easily understood by young children. If one were to ask a child of eight or 10 years of age the meaning of "flora" or "fauna" I am sure he would not be able

to answer. However, if we were to ask him the meaning of "wildlife" he would immediately think of the animals he had seen in his picture books and be able to answer the question. The same would apply if one were asked the meaning of "flora." Therefore, I agree with Mr. McNeill's amendment.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: Perhaps we had better be clear on what we are doing. At the moment the definition of "warden" in the Act reads as follows:—

"Warden" means a warden of fauna appointed pursuant to the provisions of this Act . . .

I would now refer members to the next sentence which reads—

- (1) Subject to the direction and control of the Minister, this Act shall be administered by the Chief Warden of Fauna.

Therefore, if we alter the title of the authority we have to alter all the sections which are affected by that title. I think we all agree that the term "wildlife" is a good one—it is very nice, plausible, and suitable—but in these circumstances I do not think it should be used. I think we would need a new Bill to give effect to Mr. McNeill's proposal and such a measure can be introduced in the future.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I thank members for their interest in this matter. It is amazing how simple things can create such a problem. A great deal of time has been spent on this proposition and perhaps a person reading the debate, at some future time, would be inclined to laugh and say, "What a funny thing to waste their time on." However, I think it is important otherwise we would not have spent so much time on it. I believe the arguments put forward by Mr. Willesee are perfectly valid; but by the same token I can see some logic in Dr. Hislop's and Mr. McNeill's arguments. We have all thought about the proposition and, as I have said, all I want to do is to get from members an expression of their opinions on the point. I intend to divide the Committee to get a clear-cut decision.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I said I would throw the term "wildlife" into the ring. I think it is a better term than "fauna." Though I am in Mr. McNeill's corner I do not wish the Bill to be amended and for there to be confusion with the definition of "fauna," particularly if wildlife is not to mean fauna. I just want to be clear on this point.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: I was tempted to let my case rest.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That would be very sound.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: The Minister's interjection is noted. I am still unconvinced as to the possibility of confusion. Mr. Dolan wanted to know whether wildlife would include fauna. As I see it it

would. The Bill does not seek to control anything more than fauna. Mr. Willesee referred to the interpretation of "warden." It so happens that by the Bill the Chief Warden of Fauna will be deputy chairman of the board. Instead of that he could be deputy chairman of the authority. In other words, the Chief Warden of Fauna would become deputy chairman and chief executive officer of the authority.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: We could go on discussing this matter for hours, but as I understand it we have a National Parks Board which is controlled by the Minister for Lands. We have a parallel in the National Parks Board, and it is only a matter of deciding which is the better name.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes—13

Hon. G. E. D. Brand	Hon. F. R. H. Lavery
Hon. J. Dolan	Hon. N. McNeill
Hon. V. J. Ferry	Hon. H. C. Strickland
Hon. J. J. Garrigan	Hon. H. K. Watson
Hon. J. Heitman	Hon. F. J. S. Wise
Hon. J. G. Hislop	Hon. H. R. Robinson
Hon. R. F. Hutchison	(Teller)

Noes—11

Hon. N. E. Baxter	Hon. T. O. Perry
Hon. A. F. Griffith	Hon. R. Thompson
Hon. C. E. Griffiths	Hon. S. T. J. Thompson
Hon. E. M. Heenan	Hon. W. F. Willesee
Hon. L. A. Logan	Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs
Hon. G. C. MacKinnon	(Teller)

Amendment thus passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 5 put and passed.

Clause 6: Section 9A added—

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: As all these amendments are, in effect, doing precisely the same thing—namely, changing the words "Fauna Board," where necessary to "Wild Life Authority;" and altering the word, "Board," to "Authority," where necessary—will it be possible to frame a motion to have this done wherever necessary hereafter in the Bill, rather than to have to go through each individual item?

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (The Hon. F. D. Willmott): The only time we can do this is with the amendment dealing with the word "Board," which occurs several times. I will have to put the amendment in line 22, page 4, on its own, and then put the amendment in connection with "Board," in line 23, page 4, as this deals with a different subject. We can then go back and deal with the word "Board" in the one motion.

The clause was amended, on motions by The Hon. N. McNeill, as follows:—

Page 3, line 33—Delete the word "Board" and substitute the word "Authority".

Page 4, lines 4 and 5—Delete the words "Fauna Board of Western Australia" and substitute the words "Western Australian Wild Life Authority".

Page 4, line 15—Delete the words "Fauna Board of Western Australia"

and substitute the words "Western Australian Wild Life Authority".

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 7: Section 10 amended—

The clause was amended, on motions by The Hon. N. McNeill, as follows:—

Page 4, line 17—Delete the passage "word, "committe"" and substitute the passage "words, "a committee"".

Page 4, line 19—Delete the word "Board" and substitute the words "an Authority".

Pages 4, 5, and 6—Delete the word "Board" where appearing in lines 22, 26, 28, 34, and 38 of page 4; in lines 28, 32, 35, 38, and 41 of page 5 and in lines 8, 10, 12, 16, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 34, and 37 of page 6 and substitute the word "Authority" in each case.

Page 4, line 23—Delete the words "Fauna Board of Western Australia" and substitute the words "Western Australian Wild Life Authority".

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: I asked the Minister during the second reading to ensure that the persons appointed to this authority were practical men and also that some should represent country authorities. The Minister said that Professor Main was a very practical man. I agree with the Minister that he is a practical man with a wide experience in his work. However, if it is possible, we should have more than one practical man on this authority; and I suggest someone who has had practical experience of this work in the country be appointed as a member. This would give the authority a wider scope in its thinking, especially as it will have to consider more than just wildlife. It will have to consider whether or not certain wildlife is vermin. As I have said before, the present committee has had the assistance of the Agriculture Protection Board.

I would ask the Minister how he intends to select the three persons who will not be officers within the meaning of the Public Service Act. Will he pick them out, or will he get some authority to recommend practical men?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: The present chairman of the committee is Mr. A. J. Fraser, who is Director of Fisheries and Fauna. Talking about fisheries, it might be interesting for members to know that Mr. Fraser retires at the end of this year. I understand it was Mr. Wise who went to Sydney almost 30 years ago to secure the services of Mr. Fraser in order that he might take charge of a very small department of fisheries and game, as I think it was called then. In addition to Mr. Fraser, the other members of the committee are Mr. Harris (Conservator of Forests), Mr.

Tomlinson (Chief Vermin Control Officer), Dr. Ride (Director, W.A. Museum), Dr. Serventy (C.S.I.R.O.), and Mr. A. Robinson, a farmer at Coolup.

It is proposed that the four executive officers appointed to the new authority will be Mr. Fraser (Director of Fisheries and Fauna), Mr. Shugg (Chief Warden of Fauna), Mr. Tomlinson (Chief Vermin Control Officer)—the authority will still have the advice of the Agriculture Protection Board—and Mr. Harris (Conservator of Forests).

The six appointed members will probably consist of Professor Main, Dr. Serventy, either Dr. Ride or Mr. G. M. Storr of the Museum, Mr. A. Robinson, a botanist, and a member from either local government, the pastoralists' association, or the bird society. It is suggested that that is how the 10 members will be made up. Many members automatically select themselves by virtue of their qualifications.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: I thank the Minister for his advice. It would appear that the authority will consist of professional men, with perhaps the exception of one member. I suggest to the Minister that Mr. Les Watts of Pingelly could be appointed a member of the authority. He is a member of the Country Shire Councils' Association executive and he has been a keen supporter of the committee in the past. He is easy to get along with and is a practical type of man. In conjunction with the others, he would make a suitable member.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I will make a note of the honourable member's suggestion.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 8: Section 11 amended—

The Hon. N. McNEILL: I move an amendment—

Page 7, line 6—Delete the word "Board" and substitute the word "Authority".

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 9: Section 12 amended—

The Hon. N. McNEILL: I move an amendment—

Page 7, line 9—Delete the word "Board" and substitute the word "Authority".

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 10: Section 12A added—

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Yesterday Mr. Lavery asked me about access to the nice beach at Two People Bay. Consideration has already been given to this matter and every effort will be made to ensure that people picnicking or on holidays will have access to the beach while, at the same time, still retaining the area for the noisy scrub bird.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I would like to thank the Minister for this information, because the people in Albany are concerned about the matter.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: I move an amendment—

Page 7—Delete the word "Board" where appearing twice in line 14, and in lines 29 and 32 and substitute the word "Authority" in each case.

Amendments put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 11 put and passed.

Clause 12: Section 12C added—

The clause was amended, on motions by The Hon. N. McNeill, as follows:—

Page 8—Delete the word "Board" where appearing in lines 28, 29, and 32 and substitute the word "Authority" in each case.

Page 9, line 26—Delete the word "Board" and substitute the word "Authority".

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: I would draw the attention of the Minister to proposed new subsection (2). Some of the areas involved under this legislation will be very big and a genuine person could offend without knowing he was doing so, while another person could offend quite deliberately. I previously raised the question of the penalty and the Minister, in his second reading speech, gave an assurance that the penalty actually inflicted would be at the discretion of a magistrate. I feel the clause should read, "Penalty: Up to One hundred dollars" as I feel that as at present worded, a fine of \$100 will be inflicted no matter what the misdemeanour.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I am advised that this is drafting practice and in actual fact it will mean there will be a penalty of up to a maximum of \$100. The position is covered by the Interpretation Act. It is necessary to include the words "A person is not relieved of any liability" because although a sign may be erected a person further up the road may not see it.

At times it is not desirable to erect signs. In one reserve where it is necessary to read ground temperatures, there is an expensive piece of equipment in the bushes and a sign would attract attention to it.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 13: Section 12D added—

The clause was amended, on motions by The Hon. N. McNeill, as follows:—

Page 9—Delete the word "Board" where appearing in lines 29 and 35 and substitute the word "Authority" in each case.

Page 10—Delete the word "Board" where appearing in lines 26, 31, and 39 and substitute the word "Authority" in each case.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 14: Section 12E added—

The Hon. N. McNEILL: I move an amendment—

Page 11—Delete the word "Board" where appearing in lines 4 and 10 and substitute the word "Authority" in each case.

Amendments put and passed.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: Proposed new subsection (2) reads as follows:—

(2) Where the sanctuary comprises land of a kind firstly described in the interpretation "sanctuary" in section six of this Act, the consent of the occupier of the land and if the occupier is not the owner of the land, the consent also of the owner of the land, to grant the permit shall first be obtained.

It seems to me that a sanctuary is Crown land and I am wondering where the occupier comes in.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: As I understand it, the whole of the clause has to be read in conjunction with section 6 of the Act. A reserve might not be used entirely by the person who owns it, and if it is desired to let portion of it to somebody else, the permission of the original occupier is required.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 15 and 16 put and passed.

Clause 17: Section 17 amended—

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: Clause 17 repeals and re-enacts paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section 17 of the Act. Paragraph (b) of the clause deletes the word "or," but in my opinion the word has already been deleted.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I think the honourable member is probably right but I will leave it to the Deputy Chairman to interpret whether the word "or" is actually part of paragraph (e).

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (The Hon. F. D. Willmott): In my opinion the word "or" is not part of paragraph (e) but is a tie-up between the two paragraphs.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 18 to 21 put and passed.

Clause 22: Section 17E added—

The Hon. N. McNEILL: I move an amendment—

Page 16, line 22—Delete the word "Board" and substitute the word "Authority".

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 23 to 25 put and passed.

Clause 26: Section 28 amended—

The Hon. N. McNEILL: In the process of moving this amendment I would like to convey my appreciation to the members of the Committee for their forbearance. I would also like to thank members for their support of the amendments which I have moved, and for the suggestions which

were made with regard to the possible name for the authority. I do appreciate the interest and support shown. I move an amendment—

Page 18, line 7—Delete the word "Board" and substitute the word "Authority".

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Bill reported with amendments.

Sitting suspended from 6.12 to 7.30 p.m.

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Assembly with amendments.

CHILD WELFARE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 3rd October.

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [7.33 p.m.]: This legislation was given quite an amount of publicity prior to its introduction to this Chamber in that it was dealt with in the Governor's Speech at the opening of Parliament, wherein the following words, under the heading "Child Welfare," appeared:—

Amending legislation will be introduced to facilitate the care and treatment of neglected and delinquent children and in particular to arrange for the care of wards living in other States.

A new reception facility for deprived children as well as a secure reformatory for the rehabilitation of the most difficult delinquent girls will shortly be built.

That was quite an interesting comment upon foreshadowed legislation for the current session of Parliament. However, in *The West Australian* of that morning, under the headline, "Big Change in Child Welfare Foreshadowed," the following article appeared:—

Child Welfare Minister Logan yesterday foreshadowed what he described as a far-reaching amendment to the Child Welfare Act.

In a written report adopted by the annual State conference of the Country Party he said the amendment would be proposed this year.

Mr. Logan, who was not present, reported that he proposed to delete a section of the act dating back to 1907 which provided for the Governor to approve certain people and societies to care for destitute and neglected children.

Children's courts were then empowered under the act to commit children directly to these people and societies approved as suitable on condition that they did not receive financial support from the State.

Though the Treasury might support such an arrangement, Mr. Logan said, it embodied a concept of child care which had long been discarded in practice.

The Governor had not accredited any people or societies in this way for many years.

"ANACHRONISM"

Mr. Logan said this part of the act was an anachronism which occasionally embarrassed the department when country children's courts used its provisions.

It should be removed so that the department would have the responsibility of deciding where to place a child to the best advantage.

Mr. Logan said further amendments would extend the department's responsibilities to include the licensing and supervision of child-minding centres.

The number of such centres was increasing because more young married women were working.

Mr. Logan said money was now available to provide a special reformatory for seriously delinquent girls. Building would start soon on a site at Bentley next to Longmore.

Till now, the Convent of the Good Shepherd had provided the only rehabilitative institution for these girls.

LITTLE BENEFIT

For some time the department and the convent had realised that a few of these girls had such involved or dramatic symptoms that they received little benefit in the convent and prevented others from benefiting.

Mr. Logan said the new reformatory and specially-designed cottages for young deprived children to be built at Point Heathcote would cost about \$750,000.

He forecast that the department would soon need a maximum security reformatory for the worst boys and girls who now could be put only in Fremantle prison.

Though this institution would be designed to protect the public, it must also attempt the social rehabilitation of the inmates.

The department was concerned at the rapidly increasing number of native and part-native boys and girls coming into its care.

That was a very complete forecast of the Bill which is now before the House.

I have no quarrel with the length of the article and the complete information which was given to us through the medium of the Press. I realise that the age of chivalry is passing, but I do not know to what extent it has passed. I do feel the Country Party conference was somewhat privileged to receive such intimate and detailed information, which in turn, could be released to the Press right on the eve of the opening of Parliament, when the information was supplied to Parliament through the Governor's Speech. If this sort of thing is to happen in the future, let us hope that members of the Opposition will receive copies of the report also and will be able to begin their deliberations on important issues at the same time as members of another party.

With regard to the Bill itself, I must say that it was presented in a most detailed form. It is very logical and easy to follow on a clause by clause study, so much so that, in general, I would have no occasion to do anything except agree with the principles that are enumerated in it.

The question of child minding centres being licensed and controlled is something which I think is essential. Leaving children at centres is a practice which is growing within our community, and the responsibility of seeing that the children are kept in the best possible way is an essential feature which devolves upon some department through the medium of Government. This legislation introduces the area of responsibility in this matter.

The reasons for the development of child minding centres are varied. The increase in the number of mothers who are working has been given as a reason, and also recreation facilities are being provided for the children whilst the mothers are away attending to other matters. They can leave their children in order to undertake essential shopping for the home or for a variety of other reasons. The benefits must be very obvious if one applies one's thoughts to New Australians, in particular, because often they do not have available relatives to look after the children and have not made a number of friends who would look after the children for them at appropriate times. In such circumstances, child minding centres become essential and the conduct and the control of them is an important issue in our society.

When one considers the basis of the problem and also has in mind the extent to which it will increase, naturally the most appropriate department upon which to place this responsibility is the Child Welfare Department.

When I was studying the Bill in conjunction with the remarks made by the Minister when he introduced it to the Chamber, I was very surprised to learn that wards of the department who travel

interstate pass out of the control of the department immediately they go beyond a given line of jurisdiction. It is obvious that over the years this must have been a very easy way out for some of the wards. It is interesting that this problem is being tackled on an Australia-wide basis and the advice of the Minister that the other States are passing similar legislation is all to the good. The advantages are obvious, not so much for controlling the ward who is a problem but from the point of view of assisting those who desire advice. Many benefits will accrue from such a system. It could be said that this will become a transfer system which will be advantageous to the parties concerned.

The third factor which appealed to me is that the department is given the right to assist people who need help and advice. There must be very many of these people throughout the community. I consider that many people do not know of the great assistance that can be given to them by application to this department. It has a capacity to help in many ways and to help many types of people. In general, it is perhaps unfortunate that the wide experience of the officers who are available in the department is not more generally known.

The definition of "neglected child" is being widened, merely to cover people who at present, are outside the ambit of the Act and who morally have the right to call upon the department for help.

The present definition of a neglected child is somewhat restrictive when it is based on the mental, moral, and physical disability of a child, but the Bill now seeks to provide that in those circumstances, when the welfare of a child is in jeopardy, he can be classed as a neglected child and the help and advice of the department obtained. The point made by the Minister is that this is a preventive form of assistance which can be given to people at any stage of their lives, and particularly to those who, in their early years, have experienced difficulty and have weakened after being subjected to temptation. I think it is fair to say that throughout the lifetime of such people this weakness does not occur continuously, but the point is they would never have succumbed to temptation in the first place had they been able to obtain the assistance of officers of the department.

The temporary management of a child by the department not only assists the child but also benefits the parents. For parents to be able to make a request to the department to take suitable action to control a child is something that is well within the ambit of the preventive assistance rendered by the department to prevent child delinquency. A parent would have many and varied reasons why he would not like to part with a child for a

long or indefinite period, but there are many circumstances which would warrant a child, in his own interests, and in the interests of the remaining members of his family, being separated from his family for a short period. To be disciplined by persons other than his parents could prove to be of incalculable benefit, not only to the child but also to his parents.

Having studied this provision, and having regard for the fact that most of these problems are brought about by a shortage of money, I hope it will be possible, following the remarks made by the Minister when introducing the Bill, that within his jurisdiction as Minister he will see fit to permit the department to accept this responsibility temporarily, regardless of whether the parents of the child can, at the time, afford the indebtedness that may accrue. This is a concession which I do not think would be abused, but the principle is such that if a child can be prevented from getting into trouble initially it could save his getting into further and worse trouble at some later stage of his life. Therefore the action of the department in assisting the child, without payment, could well warrant the expenditure involved.

It is almost inconceivable to think that during the early development of the State, around the turn of the century, children were parted from their parents who were lured to the goldfields by the prospect of finding gold. As a result their children were left in the metropolis and placed under the control of other persons, apparently on the excuse that they were neglected. Such practices are not followed today and this is something to be applauded. It is therefore pleasing to learn that the applicable section is to be deleted from the Act and will never be seen again. The word "incorrigible" is to be deleted from the Act, and without endeavouring to quote any dictionary meaning for this word, the very sound of it implies something unpleasant and repulsive. Therefore any step that is taken to rid the Act of this word should be applauded also.

The proposed terminology to be substituted is more in keeping with the activities of the department, which is kindly disposed to the true welfare of an individual. The work of the department over so many years in handling many individuals of varied personalities must at times have involved the performance of unpleasant duties and brought about many unpleasant repercussions. There is no doubt that the work of the Child Welfare Department in this State is to be applauded, and I reiterate my previous statement that many more people could be assisted by the department under the provisions of the Act if the public at large had a wider knowledge of the advantages that can be made available to them should they be prepared, in the first instance, to seek help from the department.

THE HON. R. F. HUTCHISON (North-East Metropolitan) [7.54 p.m.]: I have read the Bill carefully and one of its features which pleases me is that many terms in the Act are to be altered. There is no doubt that some of the terms used in the existing Statute are very harsh and I am glad to learn that the Bill proposes to delete them. The deletion is all the more necessary when it is remembered that such terms are applied to children, because it is impossible for them to take any part in the drafting of legislation. I therefore take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister on the amendments that are proposed by this Bill.

Nevertheless I maintain that the Act could still stand a great deal more investigation in various ways. Today society is suffering from all kinds of stresses and strains and it is often the children who suffer the repercussions. I know of many families, especially those where it is necessary for the mother to go to work, who permit their children to roam the streets at night. In other instances, of course, children go out on to the street without the knowledge of their parents and as a result get into mischief and fall foul of the law. In our present-day society this tendency is most disturbing, and I am therefore glad to learn that the Minister intends to place child minding centres under the jurisdiction of the Child Welfare Department.

At this point I wish to express my objection to the quarters that are provided at the children's protection homes. More money should be made available to provide better accommodation in these homes. It must come as a tremendous shock to any child who is taken from a decent home to be placed in such surroundings, because the quarters provided in the children's protection homes are bare and inhospitable.

There are many excellent provisions in the Child Welfare Act, but in my opinion the increased number of child delinquents has been caused by poor housing. There is no doubt that the dearth of housing has given the Child Welfare Department a great deal of extra work. Because of crowded or unsuitable homes, many children are forced on to the streets. In such homes there is nothing to hold their attention or to keep them occupied. As I have said, when a child starts to roam the streets at night he often gets into mischief and strays from the straight and narrow path.

I blame the Government for the increase in child delinquency, because the lack of suitable accommodation is the cause of many children being neglected and not being raised in a proper manner. I know that this is true, because in my work with many of these institutions I gain experience of many cases of child delinquents who have been raised in a poor environment. If many families at present living in crowded accommodation could obtain decent houses they would be

able to control their children because the atmosphere in the home would be greatly improved. These days mothers are forced to obtain employment in an endeavour to obtain extra money with which to pay a deposit on a home.

Any country or State that is worth its name should ensure that its population is supplied with sufficient and adequate housing. Conditions relating to the building of homes are entirely different today from what they were in the early days of the State's development. When I was a small child and was living on the goldfields with my family, the breadwinner was able to build a small home to accommodate his wife and children, but that cannot be done today. It costs thousands of dollars these days to erect even a small house.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: Was there not a housing shortage when your party was in Government?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Yes, the Labor Government inherited it, and it is apparent that it will inherit another housing shortage when it regains office. The last Labor Government had the best housing Minister this State has ever seen in the person of Mr. Graham. He was responsible for removing people from Allawah Grove and placing them in decent accommodation, thus honouring a promise made by a previous Government. Tradesmen had been brought from England on the promise that they would be given decent housing when they arrived in this State, but when they came here they were placed in huts at Allawah Grove.

I was the one who saw the certificates which they held, and which had been issued in England with a Government stamp indicating that a house would be provided to tradesmen when they arrived in Australia. I stood on the platform when I was canvassing, promising the provision of better housing. So the interjection of the honourable member opposite is a very poor one.

I am concerned with the large number of children who appear before the courts these days. I give the Minister full credit for the humane treatment that has been extended to them, and for taking out of the legislation some of the objectionable phraseology that has been used. Harsh language should not be associated with the treatment of children, but I should point out that the taking out of the harsh words does not improve the situation, because today many people are suffering as many others did before the last Labor Government took office. At the present time we find people being turned out of their homes, and I was shocked to read about a family in which there was a five-months-old baby, the mother of which was an asthmatic, being turned out of their home. One reads of these instances occurring in other countries, but one does not expect them to exist in Western Australia.

The Child Welfare Act will gain some advantage from the passing of this Bill, because the measure does not contain harsh, criminal phraseology. For that alone I support the Bill. Circumstances have altered, and the Minister and his department are up against it as a result of the shortage of housing. Today we find many mothers have to go out to work. In my view it is essential that the mother remain at home if the family is to be a happy one. All the child minding centres and all the child welfare Act will not take the place of a good mother in the home. That is where society expects the mother to be, or at least that was the position until the last war. This seems to be another legacy we have inherited from the last war, and the same will occur again with the war in Vietnam. I am against the Vietnam war, and all wars.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: If you go on like that you will start another war!

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: The deletion of harsh language from the legislation will not alleviate the suffering in the community. I hope the Minister will be able to do more than he has done for the community, and will become the means through which people will be provided with reasonable housing accommodation to enable them to bring up their children in a happy atmosphere. I daresay the Minister himself has experienced happy times in his home life.

Today, many children are sent by their parents out on to the streets, and they are not permitted to be noisy in the home. The stresses keep building up, and they make it difficult for the welfare of the children to be catered for properly. In a State like Western Australia, which has adequate space and building materials, there seems to be an insufficient number of homes to accommodate the people. For that the Government should be censured.

I support the Bill, and I cannot see that any of its provisions require alteration. One of the most progressive moves in this State to help the womenfolk was the establishment of the women's court. I was one of those who took a strong hand in this connection. Previously the women had to attend the court at Roe Street, and many of them with babies in their arms had to stand among drunks, waiting for their cases to be heard. Those were dreadful times. We have progressed since those days, and I hope this Bill will be the means of further progress.

I ask the Minister to take note of what I have said in regard to the children who at the present time are suffering. There has not been a time in the history of Western Australia when the children have had to take it so much on the chin, as they are now doing—to use a sporting expression. They seem to be reaping the sins of their fathers. I support the measure.

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Upper West—Minister for Child Welfare) [8.6 p.m.]: I thank Mr. Willesee and Mrs. Hutchison for the kindly remarks they made. I must apologise to Mr. Willesee for missing the first part of his speech, but I believe I have been able to catch up with what he said. He was referring to the information I made available to the Country Party conference. This information was published in the Press subsequently. If I have been remiss then I apologise. I realise that whatever I said to conference was taken up immediately by the Press and published.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: The Press seems to be more friendly towards you.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: At least I get publicity, and for that I am not complaining. I can assure Mrs. Hutchison that I am not proud of the situation which exists at the Mt. Lawley home. For a long time I have been trying to overcome the problem, but in whatever direction I have moved I have run into hitches. I think I am just reaching the stage where I can inform her that a start will be made on the cottage homes in the Melville district. The last problem has been solved, and those cottages should be started very shortly. The commencement of that project will not have the effect of closing down the Mt. Lawley home, because a greater number has to be catered for. At least the commencement of the cottages will enable the inmates at the Mt. Lawley institution to be provided with more decent conditions.

The improvements and renovations have had to be carried out, because the Public Health Department has reduced the number of inmates from 74—and some of them were sleeping on mattresses—to a maximum of about 45. When the renovations are completed the Mt. Lawley home will provide better conditions. I admit that the department allowed the accommodation to slump, because it expected to move the home to some other centre, but that did not eventuate.

In regard to the provision of homes I can assure Mrs. Hutchison that as Minister for Town Planning I am doing all I can to ensure that sufficient building land is made available for the people, but that is only one of the problems associated with housing. There are many other aspects of housing with which I do not intend to deal at this stage.

I thank Mr. Willesee for the remarks he made in regard to the presentation of the Bill. Sometimes one does not include in one's speech as much as one should when introducing a Bill, because members are able to pick up the threads quite easily. But I think on balance it is better to give a full and clear explanation in the first place so that there will be no argument as to what is intended.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Experience is a great teacher, and you have had nine years in which to wake up.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: There are occasions when by not saying too much one is better off. I should point out that all the problem children do not come from slum areas. In years gone by when we referred to a delinquent child we associated him with the slums, but that is not the position today because some of our worst delinquents come from families living in first-class residential areas. Many of the children involved in motorcar thefts come from such areas, so we cannot blame the slums or the housing shortage for their delinquency. It is a combination of the present-day stresses which is creating the problem.

I am certain that many families do not appreciate the fact that they are living in a different world. Over the last few years we have seen the introduction of television, the 10 p.m. closing of hotels, the introduction of different types of entertainment, the availability of motorcars, etc. Many parents forget that their children today live in a pattern different from the pattern of bygone years.

The Hon. R. Thompson: In a world of drive-in bottle departments.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes, and of drive-in theatres. On one occasion I asked a deputation of drive-in theatre operators as to the people who patronised these theatres. I suggested that the patronage might consist largely of young couples wanting to cuddle together in motorcars, and they told me that was quite right. Probably those same couples go to the drive-in bottle departments before they go to the drive-in theatres. Unfortunately, problems arising from these activities fall on the department.

I hope that some parents will avail themselves of the opportunities provided under the provisions of the Bill. Where they cannot care for a child adequately they should approach the department to see whether or not something can be done for them. One instance concerns a girl I know very well. The parents could not handle her, and they sent her to a private institution to be cared for. She was sent there for six months, but because she realised the value of her stay at the institution she elected to remain for a further six months. Today she is happily engaged, and has turned out to be a good citizen. This could happen in other cases if steps are taken at the right time. I therefore hope that more people will avail themselves of the opportunities provided by the department.

Finance is one of the problems facing the department—not only finance for direct assistance, but also finance for the

engagement of staff. At present the staff is working at a much greater tempo than it should. The number of wards which the staff has to care for is greater than it should be, but until such time as the financial difficulty can be overcome many of the staff will have to perform their duties out of the goodness of their hearts. The scheme for the training of honorary officers in their own time is proceeding satisfactorily, and their assistance takes some of the load off the permanent staff. We hope that we can gradually increase the honorary staff.

The Hon. R. Thompson: How many have you?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I would not like to hazard a guess offhand. The scheme is operating very satisfactorily. With a change in the set-up of the Child Welfare Department officers, and of the probationary officers, by placing them on a better footing, their value to the community will be enhanced. To some extent we are decentralising. At present we have an office at Fremantle, and one at Victoria Park from which the probationary officers operate. This cuts down the travelling time. People can reach those offices more easily than they can reach the Perth office.

The Hon. R. Thompson: There are some good officers in Fremantle, and their services are very much appreciated.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Efforts are being made to increase the staff in the country. At present there are six officers operating in the country districts of this State. This number is quite inadequate. In this respect we are again limited by the lack of finance, and we can only engage the staff in accordance with the finance available. It is hoped to increase the number. We hope to increase the country staff from six to 10, and to divide the State into more suitable areas, possibly placing two officers rather than one in an area so that the two can work together.

However, once again I thank Mr. Willesee and Mrs. Hutchison for their kind remarks about the Bill and the department.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

POISONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 5th October.

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [8.20 p.m.]: This Bill is very brief both in content and in its application. It has three operative clauses, two of which contain amendments to sections 20 and 21,

and the third provides for an additional section, 21A.

Although it is the Poisons Act with which we are dealing, strangely enough the Bill mainly concerns the regulations with regard to paints and any poisons which may be incorporated in them. In future this matter will come within the control exercised under the Health Act. The reason for this is obvious. If the fumes from paint, after its application to a building, are inhaled by someone and detrimentally affect the health of that person, the matter should be dealt with under the Health Act rather than the Poisons Act.

Therefore the Bill removes any doubtful issues and allows the situation to be dealt with by regulations under the Health Act. The Bill also contains an amendment so that exemptions from the poisons regulations can be granted wherever effective controls are imposed under other State legislation.

All in all the Bill appears to do exactly what it proposes, as outlined by the Minister. This is one of those machinery Bills which are presented to us from time to time in order that regulations may be made to cover the day to day operations of the community. This is necessary, otherwise some provisions can possibly be hidden not in the wrong Act, but in the wrong place in an Act.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [8.24 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 17th October.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 8.25 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 11th October, 1967

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

QUESTIONS (14): ON NOTICE

RAILWAYS

Midland Workshops: Apprentices

1. Mr. **BRADY** asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) How many apprentices are at the Government Railways Workshops Midland?