

financing institutions, and the amount of low-interest money adjusted should the authority deem it necessary to do so.

In addition to making advances to achieve a mix of funds for the purpose of reducing the interest rate overall, the authority will be able to make direct loans of low-interest funds where it is proven that an approved farmer needs special support for such period as is deemed necessary to bring his overall position to the stage where he can cope with ordinary repayment or mix of funds repayment obligations.

The Bill limits assistance to a farmer who intends to use the dwelling house, the subject of his application, as a home for himself and his dependants. The applicant must be the holder of the fee simple of the land or the lessee under a conditional purchase or pastoral appraisal under the Land Act.

The farmer must also be a person whose sole or principal activity is the carrying on of farming operations on his land.

It is believed that the new ideas to be introduced will cover not only farmers who are operating in the new lands areas but also those in the older established areas where there are many dwellings requiring upgrading or replacement.

The scheme as evolved and indicated is solely for the purpose of enabling a farmer to obtain housing finance to provide accommodation for himself and his dependants.

The Government is aware of the further need to assist farmers in the provision of housing for farm employees, but considers that the provision of housing for the farmer himself, particularly those in the new lands areas, is of prime and prior importance.

It is the Government's intention to re-examine the situation at a future date when consideration will be given to the housing of farm employees.

The legislation being introduced is innovative, imaginative, and unique amongst all legislation currently on the Statute books of the Commonwealth and the other States. It is the result of a considerable amount of discussion and research, and given the financial support it deserves will do much to ensure that a section of the community, previously denied access to home loan finance, will in future enjoy this privilege.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr B. T. Burke.

## EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### *Second Reading*

MR GRAYDEN (South Perth—Minister for Labour and Industry) [11.38 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This very small item of proposed legislation has been introduced with one single purpose in mind—to protect the rights of teachers previously employed by the Western Australian Pre-School Board, and who have recently become employed by the Education Department.

A number of the pre-school teachers who lately transferred to the Education Department through the incorporation of their centres were members of a superannuation scheme operated by the board in conjunction with the AMP Society. As it now stands the Education Act does not empower the Minister for Education to enter into arrangements with the trustees of this superannuation scheme on behalf of teachers employed by the department. At present these teachers will be obliged to withdraw from the fund, and in so doing will suffer disabilities which may be quite severe in some cases.

This Bill seeks to have special provision included in the principal Act to empower the Minister, with the approval of the Treasurer, to participate in the Pre-School Board superannuation scheme and to make such contributions as may be necessary to ensure the adequate protection of transferring teachers' rights.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Bryce.

*House adjourned at 11.39 p.m.*

## Legislative Council

Thursday, the 6th May, 1976

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. A. F. Griffith) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

#### ELECTORAL

#### *Inequality of Votes*

The Hon. LYLIA ELLIOTT, to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that union elections currently embody the one-vote-one-value principle, so that a unionist in the Kimberley, for example, has a vote equal in value to that of a unionist in Perth?
- (2) Does the Government intend to ensure in any legislation concerning union elections that each unionist in the Kimberley will get 15 votes to each one vote of a Perth unionist?
- (3) If not, and to be consistent, will the Minister give an undertaking on behalf of the Government to amend the Electoral Districts Act

to remove the inequalities now existing in that Act which give some electors votes 15 times more valuable than those exercised by others?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (1) to (3) In view of the nature of the question, and as it affects other portfolios in addition to mine, I ask that it be placed on notice.

## QUESTIONS (9): ON NOTICE

### 1. SEWERAGE

#### *Wembley Downs*

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

Would the Minister advise when it is planned to provide sewerage into the area bounded by Hale Road, Weaponess Road and Bourne-mouth Crescent, Wembley Downs?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

This area is included in sewerage reticulation area Wembley 4D, which is currently under construction and completion is anticipated in November.

### 2. ROAD TRANSPORT

#### *Loads: Safety Regulations*

The Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Why is it, under the National Association of Australian State Road Authorities, and in the amendments to Vehicle Limits for Road Safety and Road Protection of January, 1975, Western Australian truck owners have been placed at a disadvantage over all other States in respect of—

(a) Single Axle Maximum Gross Load (tonnes);

(b) Tandem Axles Maximum Gross Load (tonnes)—

(i) Single Tyres;

(ii) Single and Dual Tyres;

(iii) Dual Tyres;

(c) Maximum Gross Load (tonnes) as expressed on Table 111 of that amendment?

- (2) What arguments are used in this State to prevent our axle load limits and maximum gross tonnes being increased to the South Australian tolerance within the National Association of Australian State Road Authorities as expressed in the amendment to the Vehicle Limits for Road Safety and Road Protection?

- (3) What load tolerances percentages over and above the figures so expressed in the referred to document are allowed by the Weights and Measures (Police Traffic Department) in each of the States mentioned?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

The information requested by the Hon. member is not readily available. It will take some little time to collate and I will forward it to him as soon as possible.

### 3. LICENSING COURT

#### *Appointment of Chairman*

The Hon. D. K. DANS, to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) During 1976, how often and on what dates did the Minister have talks with representatives of the Australian Hotels Association in relation to the Liquor Act and Licensing Court?
- (2) During the same period, and relating to the same subject matter, how often and on what dates did he have discussions with other interested parties?
- (3) Regarding the appointment of Mr R. W. Nowland—
- (a) has it been made;
- (b) is it for seven years;
- (c) has Parliament been consulted, and has it agreed to any term in excess of three years;
- (d) if not, is it not an affront to Parliament to make other than a three year appointment at this stage?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (1) Three times, with Australian Hotels Association, representing Hotels, Taverns and Restaurants on 2nd March, 4th March, 30th April.

- (2) Chairman of the Licensing Court on 22nd January, 27th April, and one further occasion prior to the April meeting (date not recorded). Wholesale Wine and Spirit Merchants Association of W.A. on 18th March.

Cabaret Owners Association of W.A. on 9th April.

- (3) (a) No.  
(b) See (a).  
(c) See (a).  
(d) See (a).

#### 4. COUNTRY HIGH SCHOOL HOSTELS

##### *Additional Accommodation: Finance*

The Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Minister for Education:

Arising from a letter sent to all parents who may be considering sending their senior school children to Northam High School in the 1977 year, or years subsequent, in which it was stated, and I quote—"It is, incidentally, understood that the Hostels Authority does not contemplate providing accommodation in the country areas, additional to that already existing."—could the House be informed—

- (a) if that statement is correct;
- (b) what funds has the Hostel Authority expended over the last three-year period including funds available in the current year;
- (c) where have those finances been spent;
- (d) what is the Authority's country programme for the next three years; and
- (e) how does the Authority determine its priorities?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (a) The statement is not strictly correct. Because there are currently over 300 vacancies in Country High School Hostels, the Hostels Authority has no immediate plans to increase hostel accommodation. However, should the number of vacancies decrease substantially, the Authority would consider building additional accommodation once there is an established need.

(b) \$1 677 985.	
	\$
(c) Albany .....	401 775
Bunbury .....	74 932
Carnarvon .....	3 120
Esperance .....	36 257
Geraldton .....	7 349
Katanning .....	1 291
Merredin .....	219 402
Narrogin .....	491 851
Northam .....	71 271
Pt. Hedland .....	6 252
Moora .....	364 485
	<hr/>
	\$1 677 985

- (d) Next year it is planned to upgrade staff accommodation and student facilities at a number of hostels. Thereafter the programme is flexible with provision made for additional accommodation

should there be a proven demand after existing vacancies are filled.

- (e) The main function of the Hostels Authority is to provide hostel accommodation when there is an established need for this type of boarding facility. In the present circumstances priority is being given to upgrading existing hostels.

#### 5. STATE ENERGY COMMISSION

##### *Accounts: Receiving Agencies*

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

Would the Minister advise the reason the Commonwealth Bank is not included among the receiving banks for State Energy Commission payments?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

Both the Commonwealth Banking Corporation and the National Bank of Australasia were invited to participate in the "Pay-at-Bank" scheme but declined.

#### 6. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

##### *Rural Areas: Cost*

The Hon. J. C. Tozer for the Hon. T. O. PERRY, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

In rural areas, what is—

- (a) the price of power per unit for household use; and
- (b) the price of power for industrial use?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

In rural areas supplied from the interconnected system—

- (a) Fixed charge at the rate of \$2.04 per quarter plus all metered units at 3.83 cents per unit.
- (b) First 50 per month, 8.44 cents per unit.  
Next 950 per month, 5.41 cents per unit.  
Next 4 000 per month, 5.13 cents per unit.  
Next 45 000 per month, 4.01 cents per unit.  
Next 450 000 per month, 3.44 cents per unit.  
All over 500 000 per month, 2.88 cents per unit.  
For three shift industry, when approved, all units over 1 000 000 per month, 2.46 cents per unit.  
Minimum charge \$2.04 per quarter.

All the charges for metered consumption are identical with those in the metropolitan area in accordance with the Government's already achieved policy promise.

7.

### TOURISM

#### *York Police Station*

The Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Is he aware of the precarious situation of the original Troopers' Cottage, cell and exercise yard, at the rear of the existing police station in Avon Terrace, York?
- (2) Does he agree that in the interests of Western Australian history and York as a notable historic town, the police complex in Avon Terrace plays a most important part?
- (3) Would he prevail upon the Department of Works to have the walls of the Troopers' Cottage braced so that the building be preserved as part of the historic and tourist attraction of York?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) Yes, I agree there is a need for essential maintenance to the northern wall of the Troopers' Cottage, cell and exercise yard.
- (2) The historic importance of the structures is acknowledged.
- (3) The Public Works Department, in conjunction with the Shire of York, is taking action to ensure the safety of the building.

8.

### EDUCATION

#### *Schools Commission Funds*

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Education:

For either of the calendar years 1975 and 1976, or the financial years 1974/1975 and 1975/1976, what funds have been allocated to this State by the Schools Commission for teaching aids and equipment?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

The Schools Commission does not make a specific grant for these purposes.

In Departmental schools in 1975, \$3 353 649 was spent on teaching aids and equipment from the various grants for recurrent expenditure provided by the Schools Commission. For 1976 the comparable sum will be \$1 692 500.

9.

### SEWERAGE

#### *City of Stirling: Planning*

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

Would the Minister table the proposed forward planning for the next five years of the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department for sewerage work for localities within the City of Stirling?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

Options for new sewerage reticulation areas throughout the metropolitan area have been extended for the next three years and include areas within the City of Stirling. However, the realisation of such plans will depend on the funds allocated annually. The proposed programme will, of course, be submitted annually for approval of Parliament.

### BILLS (10): RECEIPT AND FIRST READING

1. Land Tax Bill.
2. Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act Amendment Bill.
3. Metropolitan Region Improvement Tax Act Amendment Bill.
4. Jetties Act Amendment Bill.
5. Western Australian Marine Act Amendment Bill.

Bills received from the Assembly; and, on motions by the Hon. N. McNeill (Minister for Justice), read a first time.

6. Employment Agents Bill.
7. Industrial Arbitration Act Amendment Bill.
8. Weights and Measures Act Amendment Bill.
9. Public and Bank Holidays Act Amendment Bill.

Bills received from the Assembly; and, on motions by the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Education), read a first time.

10. Land Tax Assessment Bill.

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. N. McNeill (Minister for Justice), read a first time.

### BILLS (2): THIRD READING

1. Occupational Therapists Act Amendment Bill.
2. Perth Medical Centre Act Amendment Bill.

Bills read a third time, on motions by the Hon. N. E. Baxter (Minister for Health), and transmitted to the Assembly.

# SUPREME COURT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

## Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 6th April.

**THE HON. D. K. DANS** (South Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [2.58 p.m.]: We on this side of the House agree with the Bill in principle and detail. It is merely a machinery measure, and we hope it has a speedy passage through the Chamber.

The Hon. N. McNeill: Thank you.

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.

# BUSINESS NAMES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

## Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 31st March.

**THE HON. D. K. DANS** (South Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [3.00 p.m.]: The Opposition agrees with this Bill in principle and in detail. I would, however, like to make a suggestion to the Minister and say that when he is moving the second reading of Bills of this nature it would be far better if he could give us more background in his second reading notes, instead of merely telling us that a certain course of action is being taken because this is what has been done in other States. It would be a far greater help if we could be given more background, particularly with Bills of this kind.

The Hon. N. McNeill: Could you give me some idea of the background you have in mind? We referred to the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General.

The Hon. D. K. DANS: That is one aspect, but I could let the Minister know privately what I have in mind.

I have already said that we support the Bill and I do not wish to delay its passage through the House.

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.

House adjourned at 3.04 p.m.

# Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 6th May, 1976

The **SPEAKER** (Mr Hutchinson) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### Postponement

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Hutchinson): For the information of members I advise that questions will be taken at an appropriate time after the afternoon tea suspension.

## STATE HOUSING ACT

*Disallowance of Regulation 24A: Petition*

**MR B. T. BURKE** (Balga) [2.17 p.m.]: I have a petition signed by 867 residents of Western Australia which reads as follows—

To—The Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled:

We, the undersigned residents in the State of Western Australia do hereby with pray that Her Majesty's Government of Western Australia will not support the continuance of Regulation 24A of the Housing Act Regulations published in the *Government Gazette* No. 82 on the 12th December 1975 and as further amended by publication in the *Government Gazette* No. 6 on the 30th January 1976 and which contains the words—

"24A. An owner, mortgagor or lessee of any land, house or building that is subject to a mortgage, contract or sale or lease pursuant to the Act shall pay to the Commission a management fee of \$60 per annum by instalments of \$5.00 per month which are respectively due and payable on the first day of each month commencing on and as from the 1st February 1976".

Your petitioners view the imposition of this "so called" management fee as an immoral charge of which kind there is no parallel, known to us, imposed by any Housing Act law of any other State in Australia.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

The petition conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, and I have certified accordingly.

**THE SPEAKER**: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

*The petition was tabled (see paper No. 212).*