

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 28th October, 1964

CONTENTS

BILLS—	Page
Country Towns Sewerage Act Amendment Bill—	
2r.	1940
Com. ; Report ; 3r.	1940
Local Government Act Amendment Bill (No. 2)—	
Recom.	1940
Further Report	1941
3r.	1941
Morawa-Koolanooka Hills Railway Bill—	
2r.	1944
Com. ; Report ; 3r.	1944
Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act Amendment Bill—	
2r.	1944
Com. ; Report ; 3r.	1948
National Trust of Australia (W.A.) Bill—	
3r.	1939
Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act Amendment Bill—2r.	1965
Parliament House Site Permanent Reserve (A.1162) Act Amendment Bill—	
2r.	1953
Com. ; Report ; 3r.	1953
Poisons Bill—	
Receipt ; 1r.	1944
2r.	1962
Police Act Amendment Bill (No. 2)—	
Receipt ; 1r.	1944
2r.	1964
State Housing Act Amendment Bill—	
2r.	1949
Com. ; Report ; 3r.	1953
Used Car Dealers Bill—Com.	1941
Workers' Compensation Act Amendment Bill—	
Receipt ; 1r.	1944
2r.	1953
LEAVE OF ABSENCE	1939
MOTION—	
Goldmining Industry : Stabilisation and Expansion—Appointment of Parliamentary Committee : Assembly's Resolution	1955

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by The Hon. G. Bennetts, leave of absence for six consecutive sittings granted to The Hon. J. J. Garrigan (South-East) on the ground of ill-health.

NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (W.A.) BILL

Third Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [4.36 p.m.] : I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

I should like to make one or two comments on matters raised during the second reading and Committee stages. I did not have the information available at the time. One point raised was in respect of the title of the trust. I am informed that by agreement among the States it was arranged that our trust should be called the National Trust of Australia followed in brackets by the name of the State. In our case, the abbreviation "W.A." was used mainly to curtail the length of the title for the purposes of the trust's seal and for other matters of convenience. Apparently the title "National Trust of Western Australia" seemed to be a fairly long one, and that is why the title does not include the words "Western Australia."

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: There are only two or three letters more than in the South Australian title.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes; but if my memory serves me correctly, the title of the South Australian Bill is "National Trust of South Australia."

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: That is so.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: But our title is "National Trust of Australia (W.A.)"

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: The New South Wales Bill is titled, "National Trust of Australia (New South Wales)."

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That is right. Had the Leader of the Opposition moved an amendment, which I thought he might have done—

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I do not always move; I simply draw attention to a matter.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That is so. However, that is the explanation. Whether it is an acceptable one, is another matter. Concerning membership of committees, there is no objection to the amendment moved by the honourable Dr. Hislop. I wanted to make quite sure that the verbiage of the amendment was satisfactory, and it is quite acceptable.

An important matter was raised concerning an office of profit under the Crown. At the time, I was inclined to think that perhaps there could be an office of profit under the Crown. I then said that I did not think there would be, because there is no basis for payment. I have now been able to clarify the point. It is possible that a member of Parliament could be a councillor, although it is not required under the Act. Membership of the trust will not constitute an office of profit under the Crown. There is no provision in the Bill for councillors to receive either fees or expenses. In any case, councillors are not appointed by the Governor; they are appointed by the trust. The appointment could not be an office of profit under the Crown because it is not a Crown appointment.

The other point raised—I think it came from the honourable Mr. Wise—was that section 10 of the New South Wales Act should be incorporated in our Bill. It has been pointed out to me that most of this section is already incorporated in clause 11 (1) (c) of our Bill and it is not considered necessary to go any further. I trust that these explanations are satisfactory.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and returned to the Assembly with amendments.

COUNTRY TOWNS SEWERAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed, from the 27th October, on the following motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government):—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

THE HON. J. HEITMAN (Midland) [4.40 p.m.]: I should like to speak briefly to this Bill. Section 4 of the principal Act is repealed and re-enacted. This takes out the provision for a sewerage district within a sewerage area, and gives power to extend sewerage areas and to create new ones, or to abolish other areas.

There is also power provided for in the Bill to exempt land in a sewerage area from rates, or to impose rates on land that has been exempt in the past. There is also provision for people to appeal against rates. In the past the only right of appeal was if valuations were higher than the local authority rating for the district concerned.

Section 49 is repealed and re-enacted, and the amendment in the Bill brings the section more into line with the metropolitan Act regarding values for rating purposes, and unimproved values or net annual values can be adopted. Provision is also made for a sewerage rate to be struck for part of an area, or for the whole of an area, whichever is necessary. Section 72 of the principal Act is also repealed and re-enacted, and the new section gives the Minister power to alter the rate from time to time if the value of an area alters through improvements to a property; or, in the case of demolitions, he can lower the rate.

Most of the other amendments contained in the Bill provide for taking out the word "district" and inserting in lieu the words "sewerage area." Other changes have been necessary to bring the principal Act into line with the Local Government Act, 1960. I do not think any of the alterations have been caused by pressure from local authorities in the country areas,

but have been introduced to bring the Act more into line with the metropolitan sewerage Act. Therefore, I support the Bill.

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.

Third Reading

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Recommittal

Resumed from the 27th October.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon) in the Chair; The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 26: Section 364 repealed and re-enacted—

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Progress was reported on the clause, which had been re-committed for further consideration.

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: I have an amendment on the notice paper, but I understand the Minister may have some remarks which could be useful. I shall defer moving the amendment for the time being.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I have taken the time to investigate the question asked by the honourable Mr. Watson last evening. Actually the situation is covered, and I would refer the honourable member to subclause (4) on page 22, and also to subclause (5) (b). The honourable member was quite satisfied in regard to land upon which there were no buildings.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: Yes.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The honourable member was quite satisfied regarding land which had a building on it in front of the building line. His main concern was with a block where the building was at the back but there was no building on the front portion of it between the old building line and the new street alignment. That is treated in the same way as a vacant block. The land so affected has no building on it at the date the new street alignment is prescribed. So it is in exactly the same position as vacant land.

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: "Land" as used in line 24 seems so general as to cover the whole of the land and not only the land in front.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: In (b) it says "land so affected."

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: I accept the Minister's assurance, and I will not move my amendment.

Clause put and passed.

Further Report

Bill again reported, without further amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Local Government) [4.52 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North—[4.53 p.m.]: Without in any way desiring to cast a slur or any adverse comment on a vote of this Council, or of a Committee of this Council, I would like to say that in my view it will be extremely difficult for justice to be done, because of the manner in which clause 21 of the Bill will have to be interpreted.

It was very obvious last evening that a Committee of this House considered there was much merit in the propositions put forward, but because of subsequent occurrences individuals who held certain contentions finally voted against them. It will be recalled that on three occasions at least the vote was tied; and it is common knowledge, as a result of the opinions expressed, and opinions not expressed but strongly held, that if the inclination of members had been according to their beliefs the voting would have been very different. I will leave the matter there.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time, and transmitted to the Assembly.

USED CAR DEALERS BILL

In Committee, etc.

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon) in the Chair; The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2 put and passed.

Clause 3: Interpretation—

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Since this Bill was introduced it has been discovered that in many areas outside the metropolitan area there are no policemen with the necessary qualifications to inspect vehicles. A lot of this is done by the traffic inspectors in different areas; so it was considered

that the definition of a traffic inspector should be incorporated in the Bill. I move an amendment—

Page 3—Insert after the interpretation "sell" in lines 23 to 28 the following interpretation:—

"traffic inspector" means a traffic inspector appointed under the Traffic Act, 1919, or under any Act enacted in substitution for that Act;.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 4 to 8 put and passed.

Clause 9: Information to be furnished with application—

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: Subclause (2) on page 6 provides that when an applicant for a license is not the owner of the premises, his application shall be accompanied by the consent in writing of the owner to the issue of the license. In my view that imposes an obligation on the lessee of premises which he should not have to bear.

In some cases the owners of these premises might impose unreasonable conditions before granting their consent. Therefore I think the provision is unnecessary. If a person leases a property, the conditions under which he leases it are usually set out in a lease document. In my opinion this provision is going a bit too far and it is something which should be left to the parties concerned and should not be the responsibility of this tribunal.

I move an amendment—

Page 6, lines 27 to 31—Delete subclause (2).

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I am afraid I have not been able to obtain any clarification on this subclause, but I am certain it is intended to apply where a person sends in an application for a license as a used-car dealer for the first time. In such a case he will be required to obtain the owner's consent. Where it is a renewal of application, the owner's consent will not be required as it has already been obtained. I do not think this is a very great hardship, and the provision should remain in the Bill.

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: If you also put on the form, "State your religion"; or, "When did you last get a haircut?" it would do no harm, but what use would it be. I am inclined to agree with the honourable Mr. Heenan.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 10 to 15 put and passed.

Clause 16: Appeals—

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I move an amendment—

Page 10 lines 30 and 31—Delete subclause (3).

When a person applies for a license it is the Commissioner of Police, who decides whether or not that person shall be granted a license. In the event of the Commissioner of Police refusing a license, the applicant then has the right of appeal to a stipendiary magistrate. Subclause (3) of this clause states that the decision of the stipendiary magistrate is to be final.

I do not think it is a good thing to limit the right of appeal. Only last night the Minister for Justice introduced the Suitors' Fund Bill. One of the needs for such a Bill arises from the fact that all of our tribunals are fallible. A person takes a case before a magistrate, who adjudicates on it to the best of his ability, but if he makes a mistake there is all the cost of appealing to a higher court in order to rectify that mistake.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What about the Land Agents Act where a magistrate refuses to give a license? There is no right of appeal there.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: Two wrongs do not make a right.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That is not the only Act in which this applies.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: No, but I think it is wrong in principle. I do not think there would be many cases where an applicant would want to go beyond the decision of a magistrate, but there is always the deserving case where important issues are involved. This is a matter that has been brought to my attention by a couple of lawyers who have been approached by some of the used-car dealers and they agree with me the principle is wrong. If we have allowed this to be in the Land Agents Act, then I think it is time we took a stand on this one.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You go to a superior court on a matter of law, but this is a matter of fact as to whether the person is competent to hold a license.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: Why give an appeal from the Commissioner of Police to a magistrate?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: For obvious reasons.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: Having given the right of appeal to a magistrate, I do not think it is wrong to give a further right of appeal. Whoever appeals will have to pay the costs.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What about all of the traffic charges there are?

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: A person can appeal on them.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: To the Supreme Court on all of them?

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I do not know what the Minister means by all of them, but in the average case one can.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: If you get charged summarily for breaking the speed limit or for parking?

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: Probably not for parking, but for a speeding offence one has the right of appeal. However, this has been brought to my notice and I present it to the Committee for its views.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I have been endeavouring to think of other Acts of Parliament in which there is an appeal to a magistrate against the decision of the Commissioner of Police or a board, and where the magistrate's decision is final. The Minister for Mines mentioned the Land Agents Act. There is also the Western Australian Marine Act, and the Inquiry Agents Licensing Act. I think honourable members will find that in those Acts there is a right of appeal against the decision of the board to a magistrate, whose decision is final. Once one gets before a Supreme Court judge, one appeals on a point of law. However, this applies to a matter of fact, as to whether the individual is suitable or not to hold a license. I think it would be going too far to allow these people to go to the Supreme Court in a matter such as this. In view of the fact that it is an accepted principle in regard to other types of boards, I think it is better left in this Bill.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause used and passed.

Clauses 17 to 21 put and passed.

Clause 22: Inspection of used motor vehicles—

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I am wondering whether the Minister can give us clarity on what is meant by the words "at all reasonable hours" in line 30. Do such reasonable hours mean hours which are the normal hours of trading, or any other hours in the middle of the night or in the early hours of the morning?

Where a vehicle may be in the yard of a used-car dealer and the police are anxious to see it or get a glance at the records associated with the car, they can, under this clause, at hours which are stated to be at all reasonable hours, enter and get the information in respect of the vehicle and do the things they wish to do, such as examine the car, and so on. I am wondering what is strictly meant, in time, by the words "at all reasonable hours."

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: My own interpretation is that the reasonable hours would be when the business is open according to the regulations set down by the Factories and Shops Act. I can imagine there might be occasions when the police are hot on the track of a vehicle which has been stolen and abandoned, and perhaps under those circumstances it would be necessary for the police to enter a yard

to examine some vehicle. Under ordinary conditions the police will enter the premises only while they are open for business.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I appreciate the explanation given by the Minister, but it is obvious that the words could be interpreted to cover a very wide ambit. A circumstance which is reasonable in one instance could be unreasonable in another. This is the only clause on which I had communication with anybody from outside. I had a couple of telephone calls and a note in connection with it, and it was suggested to me that the words might be misinterpreted, and it was not reasonable that used-car premises should be opened at the will, and beck and call, of a police officer. I think it unlikely that a dealer would try to hide a seriously damaged vehicle or one which had been stolen. I know there could be other information concerning the history of a vehicle which could be of great importance to the police. I am not prepared to oppose the words but it is obvious that to dealers they might be regarded as unreasonable.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I will mention the matter to the Minister concerned and inform him that this point has been raised. I will ask the Minister to see that his officers make inquiries at reasonable hours, when the businesses are open, unless otherwise necessary.

There are some consequential amendments I wish to move regarding traffic inspectors and third party insurance. I move the following amendments:—

Page 12, line 29—Insert after the section number "22." the subsection designation "(1)".

Page 12, line 30—Insert after the word "Force" the words "or a traffic inspector".

Page 12, line 35—Insert after the word "Force" the words "or the traffic inspector".

Page 12, line 37—Insert after the word "Force" the words "or the traffic inspector".

Amendments put and passed.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The next amendment is to get over a difficulty raised by the honourable Dr. Hislop. This point had not been overlooked when the Bill was being prepared, but it was thought that the matter might be covered by regulations. Following discussions with the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust and the State Government Insurance Office, it has been decided to use a testing plate in the case of a vehicle for which the license has expired.

Where the license has not expired no difficulty would be experienced as regards third party insurance, and it remains only to give comprehensive cover to a member of the Police Force or a traffic inspector, and this will be provided by means of

the officer, whichever one it is, carrying with him a disc to be issued by the S.G.I.O. on payment of the appropriate premium. Honourable members will see, therefore, that all aspects of insurance in respect of these vehicles will be covered. The Commissioner of Police or the local authority concerned will, of course, meet the cost of premiums for the plate or disc. I move an amendment—

Page 12—Insert after subclause (1) in lines 29 to 39 the following new subclause:—

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Act, a person may drive an unlicensed motor vehicle on a road, for the purposes of this section, if a tablet prescribed by, and issued by the Commissioner in accordance with, the regulations is affixed to the vehicle.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I take it from the Minister's statement that the testing plate will cover the insurance of the car in the case of any accident while driven by the testing officer. That does not appear in writing. Is it likely that it will be covered by the regulations? It must appear somewhere otherwise people will be completely ignorant of its presence. If it is to appear in the regulations I will not proceed further.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The matter has been discussed with the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust and also the State Government Insurance Office, and those bodies are satisfied that the testing plate will be sufficient. A premium will be paid by the Commissioner of Police or the local authority concerned.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 23: Vehicles may be declared unfit for sale—

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I have two amendments, both consequential upon the previous amendment, and I move as follows:—

Page 13, line 2—Insert after the word "Force" the words "or traffic inspector".

Page 13, line 20—Insert after the word "Force" the words "or a traffic inspector".

Amendments put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 24: Restriction on sale of unroad-worthy vehicles—

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: As a result of the amendment originally proposed by the honourable Mr. Lavery and now withdrawn, it was considered necessary to make it clear that the vehicle could be sold in the ordinary course once a prohibition sticker

had been removed. The words now proposed to be added make this clear, and I think satisfy the honourable member's query. I move an amendment—

Page 13, line 33—Insert after the word "twenty-three" the passage "until the notice has been removed, as provided in subsection (1) of that section."

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 25 to 27 put and passed.

Clause 28: Proceedings, how brought and heard—

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I move an amendment—

Page 14, line 28—Insert after the word "Force" the words "or a traffic inspector".

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 29 and 30 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Bill reported with amendments.

BILLS (3): RECEIPT AND FIRST READING

1. Workers' Compensation Act Amendment Bill.

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

2. Poisons Bill.

3. Police Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).

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

MORAWA-KOOLANOOKA HILLS RAILWAY BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed, from the 27th October, on the following motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines):—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North—Leader of the Opposition) [5.33 p.m.]: The passing in 1961 and 1962 of Bills dealing with the agreement between the Government and the Western Mining Corporation brought into existence an Act known as the Iron Ore (Tallering Peak) Agreement Act, which has as one of its provisions that at a time to be decided, and within three months of a decision being reached with regard to the sales mentioned in the agreement, a request may be made to give effect to clause 4 of the agreement which deals with the requirements of the company in connection

with the construction of a railway; and that is the point we have reached with the Bill before us.

The measure is very short and explicit, and it is accompanied by the requisite plan of the route of the railway, which will be within the prescribed limits of the permissible deviations. As the Western Mining Corporation has apparently, in agreement with the Japanese, been able to decide a contract for the sale of 5,100,000 tons of iron ore, preparation must be made for delivery of the ore at the port of Geraldton.

I think we are very fortunate that at long last, following the embargo which applied to the export of iron ore not many years ago, we have, in a sense, become unrestricted in regard to the export of iron ore; that is, if we can find a market for such ore it may be mined, delivered at a port, and sold. That is a very happy circumstance.

The Bill will make an important difference in the history of the discovery and sale of iron ore in this State. Our iron ore deposits were at one time thought to be almost negligible—so small that they were necessary to be conserved in the interests of Australia. Now we see there are X thousands of millions of tons, and we do not know how large X is.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: We have a good idea.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: The stage that has been reached is a very important one, and it is very good for the port of Geraldton and the State of Western Australia; and I think we are fortunate that we have a company of such standing and repute, as the one we have, to handle this matter in the initial stages. I support the Bill.

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.

Third Reading

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

MOTOR VEHICLE (THIRD PARTY INSURANCE) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed, from the 27th October, on the following motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government):—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North—Leader of the Opposition) [5.40 p.m.]: I am sure that when notice was given of

the title of this Bill, most anticipations were astray. I feel that almost every person who heard the title thought, "Now there is to be an increase in insurance rates, including another surcharge." But that was not the situation.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: How do you describe this—a pleasant disappointment?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I will be describing the Bill in a moment, and I will describe it as adequately as the Minister would expect me too. Third party insurance rates are dependent upon many factors, and the coverage is shared by many people. One of the purposes of the Bill is to align and adjust the differences in the responsibilities of the approved insurers.

Insurance, generally, is run by organisations which are national and international in their interlocking interests; and it is fortunate that that is so, because apart from life insurance, which is in the main an investment—a form of compulsory saving—in other forms of insurance, including third party insurance, there is a qualified protection of the assets of many people, and the responsibility for that protection is undertaken by groups of people. Those groups are limited and are qualified in their limitations, because a person standing alone could not take the risk in connection with the responsibilities which the insurer must assume in respect of the several liabilities: personal responsibilities; personal loss; and the risk of compensation in the case of accident. Indeed, there are very few small companies that can afford, standing alone, to take these risks, because the losses can be tremendous.

It is often thought that there are very big profits in insurance in spite of the heavy pay-outs that are made at times for various kinds of claims. I feel that most people who insure cars, their lives, or their properties feel on occasions that they are paying money for nothing; that they do not receive an adequate return or recompense for the money they pay for insurance. But they far too frequently overlook the coverage they obtain against the risks involved in the type of insurance in which they engage.

In the case of third party insurance which is not an old type of insurance, while the rates appear to be assessed by the Premium Rates Committee on the basis of responsibility and on the basis of the measure of premiums against likely pay-out, it is a bit early to be increasing interest rate guarantees as the Bill, in one of its provisions, seeks to do.

This measure deals entirely with the accounts of the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust. I wonder what percentage of the population who compulsorily pay with their vehicle registration fees the premiums for third party insurance knows what is in the background and who are accepting the responsibility for recompense in

the event of an accident. Our Act, which deals with motor vehicle third party insurance, is as comprehensive a measure for this purpose as is to be found anywhere in Australia, and the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust consists of five members appointed by the Governor. One shall be the General Manager of the State Government Insurance Office; three shall be nominated by the body known as the Fire and Accident Underwriters' Association of Western Australia; and one shall be the representative of the participating insurers who are not members of the body known as the Fire and Accident Underwriters' Association of Western Australia.

This Bill in its provisions embraces the rights of the participating approved insurers, and in the Act we find—

"Participating approved insurer" means any approved insurer which was on the thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine or which for any period prior to that date had been a participant in the Fund.

In other words, a participating approved insurer is one of a group of people or companies who share with all others associated with the trust the responsibility for its finances. An insurance cover is the same all over the world, whether it is a risk taken against a man's wife having twins, or against a national disaster. There are, with very few exceptions, some companies which are prepared to take the risk according to the premium paid, although the risk is great.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: A banana plantation would be one of the few exceptions.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: A banana plantation, in particular, is a very great hazard and is almost non-insurable, hence the legislation that was passed through this House recently. Also, there is the Broome pearling industry. The boats engaged in that industry are not insurable.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: The crayfishing industry is most hazardous, too.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: So it is that the greater the hazard, the greater the risk taken by these companies, although it does not necessarily mean that the premiums will be greater; and the type of insurance which is the subject of this Bill comes within that category. Therefore, we have the participating approved insurers who share with the State Government Insurance Office the responsibility of financing the trust.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: What percentage does the insurer take? Is it 7 per cent?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: As a general responsibility?

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: Yes.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: No; that is split according to the number of approved insurers involved. Last year honourable members will recall that we included other companies. Companies come in on consideration of application. Not all companies are anxious to assume the responsibility of third party risk, and there are obvious reasons for that.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: They really come in on exhortation.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Yes, they really do.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Some came in because they were afraid of the legislation.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: This legislation provided for insurance in the days when there were losses, and when there were not, necessarily, benefits from the years when there were profits; and different groups were affected. The purpose of the Bill is to set out clearly that, if in any year, certain participants have been affected during that period, those participants shall be the ones to share in the profits or losses. The Bill further provides that profits may be used in the future to cancel out deficits that have been incurred in the past. So the purpose of the first part of the measure is really to clarify the share of the losses and the profits of the trust between new and old participating insurers.

The Premium Rates Committee, since it is mentioned in the Bill in relation to the disaster fund, should be referred to, because on that committee—which is to be found specified in section 31 of the Act—is a new group of people in so far as the trust membership is concerned. That group embraces chartered accountants, a representative of the Royal Automobile Club, a representative from the participating insurers, and so on.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: And one from the Treasury.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: There are six members: an accountant, a representative of the State Government Insurance Office, a representative of the Treasury, and so on. This Premium Rates Committee recommends to the government that increased fees are necessary if they are properly to meet their responsibilities. From this Premium Rates Committee comes a recommendation that there should be established a disaster fund of £100,000 with the proviso that no payment more than £30,000 for any one claim shall be made as a result of the disaster. I would have been pleased to have had from the Minister greater clarity on the purpose of the fund. The Minister was a little scanty with his remarks on the fund when he introduced the Bill.

However, it obviously means that when there is a disaster of some magnitude—it may be a head-on collision between two buses—which affects the lives of many people, the demand upon the fund could be quite out of proportion, and unless a special fund is provided—and that appears to be the purpose of the fund—from moneys set aside from profits, the trust would be unable to meet the calls made upon it. The sum of £100,000 is to be placed in cold storage, as it were, to be available in the event of a disaster. That appears to be the situation according to the provisions of the Bill.

One wonders whether, in this provision, a burden will be imposed upon the funds of the trust, which will, as events very rapidly prove, require rising premiums. If we look at the provision of a new fund, together with the increase in the maximum amount of interest payable to the participating approved insurers—

The Hon. L. A. Logan: No; we are reducing the amount of interest payable.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: The Minister means that the interest rate is being reduced from $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 5 per cent. does he?

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Yes. The purpose of the Bill is to reduce the amount of interest payable.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Whether that, in the future, is going to have an effect on rates for third party insurance is questionable. I do not know whether the Minister would care to make a forecast on that. It would afford a great deal of solace to people if they thought the premiums now due and payable are to continue at their present rate for some time. None of us like the principle of the premium. It is a tax quite outside what is usually paid by the insured. I believe it is passed into Consolidated Revenue. At all events, I can see nothing in the Bill to which one could seriously object.

I would like some further comment from the Minister, after other honourable members have spoken to this measure, on the question of the disaster fund. I hope there is sufficient in the fund from the rates now struck to ensure that the surplus will cancel out the deficit and that there is not likely to be an increase in rates.

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Local Government) (5.58 p.m.): I thought some other honourable members may have been interested in the amendments proposed to the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act, and that, whilst they were speaking, I would have had time to study the balance sheet that was laid upon the Table of the House by the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust. Honourable members may recall that about two years ago I

brought an amending Bill to this House to alter the personnel of the Premium Rates Committee. According to the Act at that time its duty was to investigate the position and decide whether the premiums fixed were fair and reasonable. The committee could not make any recommendation on whether the premiums should be increased or reduced.

Therefore, I introduced a measure about two years ago to alter that situation, and also to alter the personnel of the committee. I believe that this amendment to the Act has been of benefit to the trust. The Premium Rates Committee, in view of the improvement in its personnel, after making an investigation, or after a submission has been made to the trust by the Minister, can make recommendations along the lines it has done on the last two or three occasions.

It will also be recalled by honourable members that about 1960 I introduced a measure to increase the amount which approved participating insurers could receive from profits. That amending Bill increased the amount payable from 5 per cent. to 7 per cent.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: It was in 1961.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I realised, after I had made that increase, that it was the wrong thing to do. As a result I spoke to the trust and suggested that it should not attempt at any stage to receive more than 5 per cent., which was the original provision in the Act, and the trust agreed to accede to my request. The trust has now asked that we put back into the Act the provision for 5 per cent. to be payable, instead of providing for payment of 7½ per cent. To my knowledge there has been only one pay-out during the whole time this provision has been operating. That was about two years ago. On all other occasions the trust has managed to scrape along by being assisted with the interest from moneys invested; that is, because the premiums received would never be sufficient to meet the outgoings.

It is an unfortunate position that, because of the increased pay-outs all the time, the trust can only pay out money to the extent of that which it receives; it cannot pay out any more. However, if a disaster occurs in any one year, the members of the trust are actually liable under the Act to make good the losses involved. That is why, early in the piece, even the Royal Automobile Club which conducts quite a large insurance business—resigned from the trust. However, with the passing of this Bill, we may be able to get the club back into the trust.

In the six years from 1958-59 to 1963-64 there has been an estimated deficit of £761,484; but it is always very difficult to estimate, because it takes a long time to finalise the accounts for a year. In this instance it has gone on for six years, since

1958-59, and the figures have not been completed. It is estimated there is still a £90,000 deficit in that year, representing the payments over the total premiums received.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Does the Minister know the highest amount paid for a disaster-type claim?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I think the largest payment was in respect of the Clontarf bus accident. Since that time some individual payments have been rather high. Had the Clontarf bus accident been worse than it was, the position would have been chaotic for the trust. That is why it is proposed to set up a disaster fund, and if a disaster should occur in the future there will be funds available. The Leader of the Opposition raised the point as to whether the establishment of such funds tends to increase the premiums.

The Hon. R. Thompson: There was the case last month when £20,500 was paid out.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I was hoping to have some alterations made to the Act, other than amendments of an accounting nature. We have done a lot of work and undertaken a great deal of research, but at the moment I am not in a position to say that a conclusion has been reached, but we are moving along. All I am trying to do is to ensure that the premiums are kept as low as possible, without depriving an individual of his right to receive compensation.

The Hon. A. L. Loton: The motorist should not have to bear an increased burden.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Only 2 per cent. of the motorists receive any benefit from third party insurance. The other 98 per cent. are, in fact, paying the premiums for the benefit of the 2 per cent. Although requests are constantly made for no-claim bonuses to be given by insurance companies, the proposal would not work, because the premiums would have to be doubled before such bonuses could be given. I sincerely trust that the setting aside of £12,000 a year will not affect the overall position.

Naturally when the trust finishes a year with a deficit it cannot continue operating along the same lines, and it must seek from the Minister an increase in the premiums. When it does, the case is presented to the Premium Rates Committee, which studies all facets of it. I can assure honourable members that since I have been the Minister in charge of this legislation, I have endeavoured to keep the premiums as low as possible.

On one occasion the trust put up a recommendation for an increase in the premiums, but we reduced it by 25 per cent. I do not think that was a very good decision, because it meant that in two years' time the premiums had to be lifted again.

whereas if the increase had been granted the problem would have been overcome for the next few years.

We have to accept the fact that the trust is a business concern, and it can only make payments from the amounts received in premiums. We should not expect the trust to work at a loss. I have a schedule of the charges applicable to this State as compared with the other States, but I left it in my other bag. In respect of motor vehicle third party insurance, Western Australia has the lowest rates of any State. I believe the premium for taxis in New South Wales is about four times greater than that in Western Australia; and in every other category Western Australia has by far the lowest rate.

We are fortunate that the author of the trust was able to convince the insurance companies in Western Australia to set up the organisation as a trust, as a result of which the administration costs have been kept very low; and that is one of the reasons why the premiums are the lowest in Australia. The trust system does not work in any of the other States. In New South Wales the State Government Insurance Office covers the major portion of third party insurance, and its losses over the last few years amounted to about £10,000,000.

The Hon. R. Thompson: The pay out in claims is much heavier in that State.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I admit that. Many people get away from the principle of third party insurance. It was designed to ensure that a person who was injured by a motor vehicle was able to receive some compensation. Before the days of third party insurance many people who were injured in motor accidents could obtain no compensation, although they had a case against the motorists responsible.

Third party insurance provides some safeguard to a person injured in a motor accident. It was never intended to be a form of pension for life to injured persons. At present large sums of money are paid out under third party insurance to an injured party who sometimes does not live long afterwards, and as a result his dependants receive the benefit of compensation. In other cases injured persons have been awarded lump sum payments for the disabilities they sustained, but 12 months after the awards have been made their disabilities have disappeared, but the money paid out could not be taken from them. A scheme in the nature of compensation by way of weekly payments, instead of lump sum payments, would be better for the motorists.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Do you mean weekly payments to the dependants?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: They can also be looked after. A person who is injured in a motor accident and becomes a paraplegic might be awarded £15,000, but he might die two years afterwards. The beneficiary of this person would receive

the advantage. It would be much better for the person concerned if the trust could make weekly payments to him. In this particular case the lump sum payment would not have been a charge against the trust or the motorists.

Those are some of my thoughts on this Bill. I have endeavoured to retain some stability so that premiums will not be increased, because 98 per cent. of the motorists are paying premiums for the benefit of the other 2 per cent. The motorist is entitled to some consideration, but at the same time an injured person should not be denied his just rights.

I have referred to the 5 per cent. profit, to the provision covering insurers joining and leaving the trust, and to the setting up of a disaster fund, which I hope will never be used, but with the increase in the number of vehicles on the road we can never be sure that a disaster will not occur.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Local Government) [7.33 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

THE HON. J. M. THOMSON (South) [7.34 p.m.]: I wish to say a few words on the third reading, but I shall be brief. When a Bill of this nature comes before the House we wonder what it will contain. Sometimes our thoughts on such Bills can be termed wishful thinking. The honourable Mr. Wise, when speaking to the second reading, referred to something which he thought should have been in the Bill but which was not in it. I was pleased to hear the Minister say that consideration would be given to other matters which could be included in a Bill of this nature on another occasion.

What might have been wishful thinking on my part applies to a very important aspect of motor vehicle third party insurance. There could be a case where a wife and husband are involved in a motor vehicle accident, and because of negligence on the part of either the wife or the husband neither one can claim damages. It is amazing to find that in such circumstances a child, if it is in the vehicle at the time of the accident, can claim damages through one parent against the other. From time to time we hear cases where the present situation causes great hardship.

When the Bill was introduced I studied the Act to see if reference were made to such circumstances, but no reference is contained in the Act, because it is accepted as being against the practice of common law. I desired to know what are the authorities under common law on this matter. There is no Statute or common law available. Common law is something which has been accepted through the ages.

I find that there is authority under the law of torts concerning spouse versus spouse. The law of torts came possibly at the time of William the Conqueror and the Norman conquest of England, and was included in the Domesday Book. We could well afford, in 1964-65, to see that the practice under common law as applied in this particular instance should be altered. Something should be included in the Act to cover the circumstance to which I have referred. In view of the circumstances which face all of us today, I trust the Minister will give this aspect close consideration and that an amending Bill will be introduced in the next session. The honourable Mr. Heenan referred to this matter some little time ago.

The Hon. E. M. Heenan: I think you will hear more about it before this session ends.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I am pleased to hear that. Honourable members, and the public generally, realise the importance of such a measure. I support the third reading of the Bill.

THE HON. R. THOMPSON (West) [7.40 p.m.]: The previous speaker has prompted me to say a few words. If my memory serves me correctly, we moved an amendment to a Bill which was before the House either last session or the previous session to include just such a provision, and the House voted against it. I recall vividly that when I was speaking to the amendment I pointed out that if one made an extra payment of 10s. per year for one's insurance with the State Government Insurance Office, one's wife would be covered.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: My wife is covered.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: My wife is covered under that provision. I thought it was only right for me to point out to the House that this was the subject of amending legislation which was defeated.

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Local Government) [7.41 p.m.]: In considering this matter of spouse versus spouse in connection with third party insurance, in my opinion it should first become common law. We have no right to select one section of the community and make a charge on them if we are not prepared to accept the principle under common law. That is why I

have always opposed this. The honourable Mr. Ron Thompson said that if we wished to safeguard our wives, we could take out insurance. Why should we charge everyone increased premiums, which is what we would have to do? The increase would have to be paid by 98 per cent. of people for the benefit of 2 per cent. It could, of course, happen that an accident could occur while a husband and wife were travelling together, and the accident could be caused through the negligence of the husband. His wife could be severely injured and could be awarded £20,000. She could die within two years and the money could go to her husband, who was the cause of the accident through his negligence.

The Hon. J. M. Thomson: A future amendment could cover that possibility.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: We should not accept this principle in one small section of our Act if we are not prepared to accept it under common law. If it is accepted under common law, then it could be dealt with here. If a man throws down a banana skin and his wife slips on it, she cannot claim under common law, although she slipped due to negligence on the part of her husband.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The moral of that is: Don't throw your banana skins around.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Or don't throw them in front of your wife!

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: However, this is a matter to which we could give some consideration, but we cannot consider it without considering all the implications.

Question put and passed.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Assembly.

STATE HOUSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed, from the 27th October, on the following motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Housing):—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North—Leader of the Opposition) [7.45 p.m.]: I am pleased to see that provision has been made in this Bill to increase the maximum loan, and I feel sure that the lifting of the maximum from £2,500, where it appears in various parts of the Act, to make it possible for £3,000 to be made available, is a very important move.

The construction of the Bill is quite interesting. It will be noticed in clause 2 that, by one clause, we are able to amend seven sections of the Act in some particular—a great saving in verbiage and a great saving in paper. We had occasion

last night to discuss a Bill which had one clause covering 6½ pages and amending one section of an Act. The clause in this Bill covers little more than half a page but it amends seven sections of the principal Act. Surely the two clauses I have mentioned could not have been drawn by the same draftsman!

It is a very long road indeed since the initial days of assistance in home building by governments in this State. That is not so very many years ago, but the quantum of advances has increased in a remarkable fashion since the Workers' Homes Act was first introduced. While no new principles have been added to the State Housing Act through the years, a tremendous number of advantages to the borrower have been developed. It is interesting to realise that although all the States of Australia operate under an Act supported by the Commonwealth, which covers the principle of Commonwealth advances to the States, they have sharp differences as States in their domestic legislation.

Australia, in accepting responsibility for advances to those needing homes, accepts a principle very different indeed from many countries of the world. Take the Dominion of Canada as an example. Canada relies on private enterprise to supply the community's need for homes.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: All of the needs?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Yes, all of the needs.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I wish we could rely more on it.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: As Canadian governments have not the responsibility for providing homes, or the assistance necessary to provide homes—and responsibility in this direction becomes a very hot potato at times, because even matters of this kind, on occasion, become political—they are able to avoid any political issues in regard to it. Although profit-taking and profit-making are provided within their laws, Canadians find means, without government assistance, for home building.

Australia, in addition to the fortunate principles and circumstances provided in its State housing laws, has been very fortunate with the companies and firms, such as the Perth Building Society, which have been able to make their contributions to home builders; and I think it can safely be said that there has not been, through such organisations, any exploitation of the public in the lending of money to home builders at unreasonable rates. I feel sure the Minister will be able to assure the House that the raising of the limits, as is proposed in the Bill, will not in any way affect the number of homes to be made available.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I cannot do that.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I feel, too, that it will not materially affect repayment proposals, or the capacity to repay of those who have paid a deposit to ensure a home being built. On the question of deposits, of course, there are wide differences of opinion. We as a party believe the deposit should be the absolute minimum. Indeed, there are States of Australia where little or no deposit is required to obtain a State home; and although, having regard for the value of money today, it may be said that the deposits are quite reasonable, it is very important to young people setting out to build their first home that the amounts available to them for other purposes within the home should not be prejudiced by the amount of deposit needed.

As is well known to all family people, the establishment of a home is a very great responsibility as a project and an enormous responsibility to equip. In the days in which we live, where hire purchase is available for all sorts of necessities, it may sound easy to provide these deposits, but even the smallest deposit adds very greatly in total to the responsibility of young people. It does make a difference, whether the deposit be £50 or £250; and I think there is a strong argument to support the contention that greater success is achieved in regard to home ownership and the certainty of repayment if assistance is given at the initial stage.

I know it can be said that for a person to have a vested interest in a home assures a greater responsibility in his approach to his payments, whether they be monthly or more frequently, because he has an obligation to look after the money he has invested in it. However, I hope that in this well-considered move—as I am sure it was—to raise the amount available, there has been a measure of justice and equity, and that it will not mean a greater burden on the young people or a lesser availability of houses, but that it is designed generally to encourage young people to embark on the responsibility of home ownership.

What we should avoid in all these matters where the State is the landlord, and the medium through which people obtain assistance, is placing the assistance beyond the reach of the average person. We must ensure that the cost of money to the individual is kept to an irreducible minimum. All of us know that the State has a responsibility with loan repayments; that it has a responsibility over long terms which it as a State cannot break; but I would err on the side of generosity to ensure that the burden on the young people of today is made as light and as reasonable as possible in view of their responsibilities. I am glad to see the Bill and I support the second reading.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Housing) [7.55 p.m.]: Naturally I want to thank the honourable Mr. Wise for his support of the Bill. If one refers to the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement Act one will find that the responsibility of the State is to provide housing for families in the low or moderate income group. The commission advised me, not long after the present Government came into office, that in its opinion the deposit of £50 had in many cases proved to be unsatisfactory, because there was an attitude on the part of some purchasers that if they wanted to get out of their obligations they would simply let their rent get three months in arrears and then they would walk out of their houses and in that way recover the £50 deposit.

So it was decided to increase the deposit to £100 to try to relieve the commission of this sort of thing happening too frequently.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Would you have any idea how frequently that would happen?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I could not relate it to the honourable member from memory but it did happen to quite an extent. In applying the £100 minimum deposit the commission did not fix it as an arbitrary sum. The commission lets people into houses on a much lower deposit than that, if the occasion warrants it. So while the deposit is fixed at £100, and over the last few years that has proved to be eminently satisfactory in most cases—

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: But while £100 would not deter those who were not interested in their responsibilities, it makes a lot of difference to those who are in a different category.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: In fact it does not; because the plain situation is that there are four mediums through which a person can gain assistance from the State. There is the War Services Homes Act, which provides for a minimum deposit of 10 per cent.; there is the Commonwealth-State rental homes scheme, under which a tenant can move into a house for nothing—and when I say “nothing” I mean in respect of the payment of a satisfactory deposit and two weeks’ rent—there is the State Housing Act, which is the wholly purchase side of the commission’s building programme; and there is the assistance rendered by building societies, which was mentioned by the honourable Mr. Wise.

Therefore a person who has not sufficient money for the deposit on a war service home, or who is not eligible for one, and who cannot find £100, or such lesser deposit as is required under the State Housing Act, can in fact get a house under the Commonwealth-State rental scheme without any obligation to purchase it. But after he has occupied it for some time he

is able to purchase it if he desires to do so, and the equity he earned while paying rent is counted as part of his deposit and payment off the principle.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: That is right.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I would say, without any fear of contradiction, that there is nothing or nobody in the State more generous in its dealings with the people than the State Housing Commission.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: And yet you have a lot of disappointments.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes, we do. I think the sort of people who disappoint the commission would disappoint it in any case.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: No matter what deposit?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: No matter what deposit; but there is a great sense of security for a person to be told, “You have some stake in this home by paying £100 deposit.” But I repeat: We do not say to a person, “Because you cannot pay £100 you are not going to get your house.” That is not the attitude of the commission.

The purpose of raising the limit under this Act is, first of all, to give a greater equity to the person who now, on his own land, can get only £2,500; to enable people to cope with the rise in building costs that have taken place; and also to provide the opportunity for the intending purchaser to get a house of better quality.

The honourable Mr. Wise said he would like to be assured that this Bill will not mean a lesser number of houses being built. In fact, I do not think it will mean a lesser number of houses, because fortunately the amount of loan funds that the Government has given to housing has been on the increase for some years, and it is to be hoped the position will continue that way. The demand now by comparison with the immediate post-war years is infinitely improved, and I do not regard Western Australia at present as having a great housing need. It certainly has a demand, and I hope the demand will always be a healthy one, because as long as we have a healthy demand for building, and a healthy call for houses, together with a healthy building industry, it will be all to the good; because the building industry is one of the best economic barometers one can find in any country.

In recent times the commission has been able to improve the internal fittings of houses, generally. Most State houses are now fitted with hot water systems, stainless steel sinks, and numerous other appointments. More money has gone into this sort of thing to provide a better quality house. If honourable members would care to have a look at some of the recent Housing Commission areas like Nollamara they would find that a very good class of suburb is being established as a result of

our putting a few extra pounds of expenditure into these houses, and thus being able to offer tenants something better for their money.

In respect of the rent factor, if one spends a little more money, naturally enough one expects the tenant will have more to repay. There must be some increase in rent allowed. But there again the amount of rent that the State Housing Commission charges to its tenants is the absolute minimum. I support the idea wholeheartedly that the people should not have to pay too much by way of interest on housing. The policy of the Government in this regard, and of the Housing Loan Guarantee Act, is to guarantee moneys at a rate of interest not exceeding 6½ per cent. This is cheaper than some and it is a reasonable rate of interest. The Government has not been prepared to guarantee amounts of money for housing under the Housing Loan Guarantee Act in excess of 6½ per cent. for the very reason that this is regarded as a reasonable figure upon which money can be borrowed.

Building-society-wise we have been very successful in encouraging quite a considerable amount of money into this State for the building of houses. It will be appreciated that in this enormous country of ours the commission has its responsibilities from Wyndham in the north to Esperance in the south. I would be delighted to make every opportunity available to those with funds to invest, if they would like to build us more Commonwealth rental houses in our north-west towns, and for that matter in any of our towns. It is regrettable that this is considered to be one of the responsibilities of the State Government and is left to the government to look after.

As the honourable Mr. Strickland and the honourable Mr. Wise would know, enormous amounts of money have had to be expended in the north to provide housing for working people in those areas; and housing there is very expensive by comparison with other parts.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: You have not been put to any housing expense at Yampi.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: No; no government has been put to housing expense at Yampi.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Not even for police officers.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It is good to know there are such law-abiding citizens at Yampi.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: The company builds its own homes.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That is so, and the objective of the Government with the development of the mining sites at Yampi is that the company will in fact build its own houses. But this is a different sort of investment from the one I am talking about in some of these other places.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Are you building at Exmouth?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: No, not at present.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Will you be?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I would like notice of that question; because the honourable member knows as well as I do of the difficulties that confront me as Minister for Housing in respect of that particular place. I would now like to answer the honourable Mrs. Hutchison.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: There is still a shortage of rental homes.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes, there is some shortage of rental homes. By using the word shortage one implies that there is a demand for rental homes. One of the biggest problems facing the commission is that it has to provide housing in the country. I am constantly told as I go through the country areas that if there were houses here, there, and everywhere they would be occupied.

I have been told that if such houses were available, vacant and ready for some person to move in, the local garage proprietor, or the local storekeeper, or somebody else could get an employee. But of course these people would like the commission to take the trouble to provide that sort of accommodation. This is not reasonable, because if we reach the stage where there are houses in country towns lying vacant and waiting for tenants to move into them, the buoyancy I talked about would not exist.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I have known of banks demanding State homes for their employees.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I have known other organisations to ask—incidentally they can only ask, they cannot demand—for housing accommodation to be provided. In the last four or five years the Housing Commission has built in 80 or 90 towns in Western Australia where it did not formerly operate; but it is still not possible to build houses ahead of demand to any great extent, and wait for tenants to move into the houses, because the demand in the country is generally a very healthy one.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: There will be a greater demand for homes with the immigration scheme.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Of course there will, and the more migrants we can encourage to come here, the more jobs we can provide; and the more accommodation that is available, the more buoyant will be our economy. The upward move of these figures in relation to the Act will be improved. I do not think it will make any substantial difference to the number of homes in the State that will be available; but it is quite correct to say that the amount of money that can now be spent on a particular home is a little more

than it was before; but in respect of that fact I think the tenant or the purchaser will get quality for the money he spends.

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.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Housing), and passed.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE SITE PERMANENT RESERVE (A[†]1162) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed, from the 27th October, on the following motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines):—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

THE HON. H. C. STRICKLAND (North) [8.12 p.m.]: This is an extremely small Bill that has been presented to Parliament on four occasions. On the first occasion, in 1951, it was necessary to introduce a Bill to authorise the construction of the Main Roads Department offices facing Malcolm Street. At that time the government of the day proposed to give the building a life of 21 years; but on receipt of the Bill this House amended the period to 10 years, on the assumption that 10 years would be long enough for any government to erect the necessary office accommodation and enable the transfer of such offices from the Main Roads Department building, and also, incidentally, from the Public Works Department building in the Old Barracks.

The 10-year period however was not agreed to and after Parliament had been prorogued and called together again, this House reduced the 10-year period to five years with a view to speeding up the construction of the new government offices. At the end of the five-year period in 1956, the legislation was extended for a further three years, at the end of which period, in 1959, it was further extended for five years.

Now we find that today we are asked to extend the legislation for a further three years. We will certainly agree to the extension, because it is impossible to have the offices demolished and the departments transferred. It is quite a coincidence however that the original Bill should have provided for 21 years, because when we agree to this measure the period will be 16 years which will go to show that the people who planned the original legislation were not very far out in their calculations.

It is going to take at least 16 years; and I would not be surprised if in another three years' time Parliament will again be requested to extend the period to enable the government offices to be completed. While we all have ideas at various times that by restricting the periods first proposed we are going to speed up some work, we find the result is not so and it is necessary for us to continue extending the period with continuance Bills. There is no objection to the amendment contained in the Bill and I support the second reading.

THE HON. A. L. LOTON (South) [8.16 p.m.]: In order to make the record more complete, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that when this legislation was originally introduced work had proceeded on the site and the President of the day Sir Harold Seddon, who was Chairman of the Joint House Committee, drew the attention of the then government to the fact that work had proceeded without the sanction of Parliament.

Work then ceased until such time as Parliament agreed that the building be proceeded with. I wanted to put the record straight to that degree, because I was here at the time.

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.

Third Reading

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

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [8.20 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Minister for Labour, when introducing this measure in another place, stated that in an endeavour to provide a measure which would meet the wishes of all concerned, the views of three groups had been studied when giving consideration to workers' compensation legislation. These groups comprise the employers, the employees, and the public generally, taking into consideration the effect of legislation of this nature on the economy of the State. I shall endeavour to outline the principal changes to the Workers' Compensation Act which are sought through the presentation of this Bill.

This Bill embraces in the main three major headings: A "journey" clause; increases of various forms of compensation payments; and introduction of the recommendations of the committee which inquired last year into pneumoconiosis. Workers in all Australian States are, while travelling to and from work, covered to some degree by workers' compensation, and it has now been decided to bring Western Australia into line. The degree of coverage given varies considerably from State to State, from restricted coverage in South Australia to much wider coverage in New South Wales.

In considering legislation necessary to give reasonable coverage it is desirable to be mindful firstly as to how the worker might best be covered by insurance while he is travelling to and from work; and, secondly, how best to avoid throwing the responsibility for the worker's safety on to the employer should the worker, while travelling, break his journey in order to do something not connected with his employment.

Regard had to be paid to the fact that should an employee be injured while travelling to or from work, he still had the right of action in law against the person responsible for the accident. Many might be reluctant to take advantage of such rights lest they lose their rights under workers' compensation, though these are already protected under the existing Act.

Should a worker take legal action and fail to obtain damages, receiving less than he would have obtained under workers' compensation, although receiving damages in full but being unable to collect them, he will still be covered by workers' compensation and able to claim through workers' compensation such sum as is required to bring his assessed compensation up to the amount as laid down in the Act. It is submitted that these are very fair provisions. Every effort has been made to protect all interested groups.

A second important aspect with which this Bill deals is compensation payments. In giving careful consideration to this matter, the figures of all other States of the Commonwealth were studied closely, there being considerable variations in workers' compensation payments between the States. An endeavour has been made to provide for balanced compensation payments in Western Australia. Though not as high as in some States, they are above the average for all States.

The new figures, which, if this Bill is passed, will become operative, are as follows:—

For death—

With dependants—£3,500, plus £100 per dependant child.

Without dependants—£150.

For total permanent incapacity—£3,500.

It is intended to raise the present payment for medical expenses to £250 and for hospital expenses to £425 for the benefit of an injured worker. These increased payments necessitate recalculation of the amounts of compensation at present set out in the second schedule to the Act to bring those payments into line with the new scale for total incapacity, which has already been mentioned. These higher payments will have the effect of increasing the premiums for workers' compensation, the impact of which, it is considered, will come within the capacity of industry to contain.

The third aspect upon which I desire to comment is that dealing with the rights of workers stricken with pneumoconiosis. The committee set up to consider this matter made a thorough investigation of the whole subject. The appropriate amendments in this Bill seek to implement seven of the nine recommendations made in the report submitted to the Government.

The main provisions are as follows: The retrospectivity clause is being abolished. It will no doubt be recalled that under the present Act, where a worker wishes to claim compensation for any of the diseases listed in the third schedule, it is necessary for him to prove that the disease was caused by the occupation in which he had been engaged during the previous three years. In the case of pneumoconiosis, this limiting period will no longer apply. Furthermore, respiratory diseases other than silicosis, but which occur in conjunction with silicosis, will be treated as being silicosis.

In the case of a worker suffering from both tuberculosis and either silicosis or asbestosis, he will be considered to be totally incapacitated until either the tuberculosis ceases to be active or until he returns to work, whichever is the sooner. Upon the passing of this amendment, it will be necessary for an amendment to be made to the Mine Workers' Relief Act, which at the moment covers this type of incapacity.

It is intended to set up a medical board to consider the condition of a worker claiming he is suffering from pneumoconiosis. The board will consist of the Mines Medical Officer for the time being at Kalgoorlie; the Physician of Occupational Health or his deputy; and a chest physician nominated by the Commissioner of Public Health.

The third schedule will be amended in accordance with the recommendations of the committee by deletion of the word "silicosis" and other similar terms and to give "pneumoconiosis" a much wider meaning within the terms of the Act; and also to give a wider scope to the type of industry in which this disease shall be considered to occur.

It has been submitted in support of this measure that it will give to workers a greatly increased feeling of security, not only because benefits have been increased—and therefore the danger of their being faced with medical bills which they cannot pay will now be abolished—but also because their dependants, should the worker be so unfortunate as to be killed, will now be better provided for.

Workers will in future be relieved of responsibility for medical and hospital costs for an injury they may receive when travelling to and from work, provided they are travelling directly to and from work. Additionally, people engaged in mining operations and similar work will be given a greater sense of security from the benefits outlined.

Debate adjourned until Wednesday, the 4th November, on motion by The Hon. R. Thompson.

GOLDMINING INDUSTRY: STABILISATION AND EXPANSION

Appointment of Parliamentary Committee: Assembly's Resolution

Debate resumed, from the 27th October, on motion by The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon to concur in the Assembly's resolution as follows:—

That in view of the refusal of the International Monetary Fund at its meeting in Tokyo last week, to agree to any increase in the world price of gold, and bearing in mind the tremendous importance of the gold mining industry to Western Australia and the difficulties which the industry is facing due to rising costs of production, an all-Party Parliamentary committee be appointed with the object of examining and exploring means by which the industry in Western Australia can be assured of stabilisation and expansion in the future.

The committee shall consist of two members nominated by the Premier and one member nominated by the Leader of the Opposition from the Legislative Assembly; and that the resolution be transmitted to the Legislative Council for its concurrence, and the Legislative Council be requested to appoint a similar number of members to the committee, making a total of six members.

THE HON. R. H. C. STUBBS (South-East) [8.28 p.m.]: I might surprise honourable members by quoting from the Bible, but gold is the first metal to be mentioned in the Bible. Gold has long been considered the king of metals; and the following is to be found in Genesis 2:11 and 12—

That is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; and the gold of that land is good.

It may be said of gold that man has blessed and cursed it; defied and abhorred it; and since his early history has eagerly sought it throughout the world.

With your permission, Mr. President, before I commence my own remarks, I would like to answer some of the comments made by the honourable Mr. MacKinnon. For a man who is not engaged in the mining industry I think the honourable Mr. MacKinnon has a good grip of his subject. I think he did remarkably well. He said that people found the subject of gold intriguing. In addition, he said—

Gold fever has led men over the centuries to do all sorts of strange and wonderful things. I think gold fever is responsible in no small measure for much of the development of Western Australia.

I heartily agree that as a result of the boom in goldmining in the early days, railways and water supplies were developed; and, of course, the land adjacent to the railways was taken up to supply food and various other things. In addition, branch lines were extended; and that was the birth of our farming and grazing industry. Besides that gold has brought £500,000,000 into Western Australia since the beginning. It is interesting to note that in the same period gold brought £2,500,000,000 into South Africa.

I was very interested in another point raised by the honourable Mr. MacKinnon. He said the subsidy was £570,000, and the taxation received by the Commonwealth was £617,000. I was interested to hear that, because of the limited information I was able to obtain. I estimate that £750,000 has been received by the Commonwealth in taxation from the people working in the industry and in other spheres which are dependent on the industry.

The honourable Mr. MacKinnon touched on the mechanisation of the mines at Mt. Charlotte and Hannan's Reward. I am sure the House would be interested to know that internal combustion engines are not allowed underground except under certain conditions, and it was only in the last 12 months that this was published in the *Government Gazette*. The reason no diesel engines are allowed underground is because of the fumes. Miners working in enclosed spaces must breathe the purest of air, and we know how much carbon monoxide is prevalent in the air when diesel engines are operating.

If a company wants to install a diesel engine machine—and such a machine can only be installed in certain mines under certain sets of conditions—the company must get permission from the State Mining Engineer who stipulates the conditions which must be complied with. The machine involved is examined and tested and has to comply with the Mines Regulation Act. The regulations stipulate

that the undiluted exhaust gas produced by a diesel engine underground shall contain not more than 0.25 per cent. by volume of carbon monoxide which is one part in 400, or 0.20 per cent. of oxides of nitrogen, which is one part in 500. The deleterious exhaust diesel fumes are removed by a washing process on the machine. The quantity of air that must dilute this exhaust gas is laid down. It must be 5,000 cubic feet a minute, the idea being that this diluted mixture should not exceed—

- (a) 0.25 per cent. by volume of carbon dioxide;
- (b) 0.01 per cent. by volume of carbon monoxide;
- (c) 0.0025 per cent. by volume of oxides of nitrogen.

As I said before, at no time can the volume of air be less than 5,000 cubic feet and the oxygen must be not less than 20 per cent. However, when we take into consideration the fact that the air contains 20.94 per cent. by volume of oxygen, this leaves an allowance of only a .94 drop in the oxygen content of the mine air.

The reason I mention all this is because I interjected when the honourable Mr. MacKinnon was speaking to the effect that only certain types of machines are allowed underground. I thought he would welcome the information I have just given him.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Very informative.

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: More aid is needed for the goldmining industry. Labor Party members welcome the prospect of an all-party committee to go to Canberra to place before the Treasurer a case for a rise in the subsidy of gold and the development allowance. I would like to place the position in its right order. Members of the Labor Party decided, at a caucus meeting in Kalgoorlie, to move a similar motion; namely, that an all-party committee be appointed to go to Canberra for the reasons I have already stated. We also thought we might be able to obtain an increase in the price of gold. We were not very hopeful but thought it was our duty to submit some proposition in order that every avenue might be explored. I would like to quote the following small extract from an article which appeared in *The West Australian*:—

Kalgoorlie, Sun.—The Parliamentary Labor Party will move for the establishment of an all-party committee to investigate all aspects of the goldmining industry and to approach the Commonwealth Government for substantial assistance.

The committee would co-operate with all others directly associated with the industry, including prospectors, miners, unions and employers.

There is quite a lot more to the article but the point I am making is that the Labor Party had that in mind, and I wanted to explain the situation. We awaited Mr. Holt's reply, and then the motion was introduced in another place and the honourable member who introduced it, on the 23rd September, quoted a cable from Tokyo dated the 9th September. We received the official result on Thursday, the 1st October, in answer to some questions.

However, that does not disturb us greatly—the fact that someone stole our thunder or purloined our ideas—because we think the greatest compliment is that of imitation. The important thing to all goldfields people and members is the goldmining industry itself. That is of paramount importance, and side issues do not worry us.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That was probably in the mind of the honourable member who moved the motion in another place.

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: I did not say it was not. I specifically said "all goldfields members," and I presume he is a goldfields member, because he comes from the Murchison.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: He certainly is.

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: We were concerned at our caucus meeting, as are all goldfields honourable members, at the state of the goldmining industry. We are concerned on behalf of the industry, the goldfields people, and the business community on the goldfields; and we are also concerned for the economy of Western Australia and Australia. A recession in the goldfields industry would have repercussions all over Western Australia. The everyday wants of the people on the goldfields come from the metropolitan area and other parts of Australia. Those on the goldfields and in the mines use a lot of the products of oil companies. The industry is a large user of chemical supplies and explosives, and other equipment, and all these commodities come from all over Australia. Therefore, as I have said, a recession in the goldmining industry would be felt all over Australia.

The goldmining industry is ailing. The cost of producing fine ounces of gold is just about equal now to the price received for the product, and this price has been the same for 30 years; namely, £15 12s. 6d. per fine ounce. Mr. Commissioner Schnaars in his recent judgment in the goldmining award said—and this is significant—

Overall costs per ton have increased notwithstanding economies.

I can assure honourable members that all economies have been watched in the gold-mining industry. He also said—

Profits for the six major companies have decreased by £180,000. Share prices have fallen.

I can assure honourable members that that is a very useful barometer. Continuing—

The industry has not shared in any growth in the economy.

We all know what marvellous growth has been experienced since the end of the war. He said—

There should be no doubt that the goldmining industry is not at the same level as it has been in previous years or in 1963.

He also said—

More serious figures are expected for 1964.

I think he summed up the state of the industry in Kalgoorlie, and when I say Kalgoorlie, I mean the goldfields generally, including Mt. Magnet, Norseman, and the twin cities of Kalgoorlie and Boulder. Despite mechanisation of mines and a peak of efficiency underground and on the surface, the industry is rocking. The situation has been apparent for some considerable time and the honourable members from the goldfields, the goldfields business community, and the residents generally, are very concerned about it.

The cost structure, of course, is the cause. The industry could be rejuvenated by more generous subsidies and a greater and more just development allowance being made available. The development subsidy is not working as expected.

After the recent International Monetary Fund meeting in Tokyo the former British Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Maudling) when asked about the likelihood of a price rise in gold said—

Not in any foreseeable circumstances I can think of.

That, in effect, I would say, has put the lid on it as far as an increase in the price of gold is concerned because it means the only way it can be achieved is by a greatly increased subsidy in the price and also in the development allowance.

Honourable members may recall that 12 months ago I expressed in a speech a great deal of concern about the condition of the goldmining industry, and, with your permission, Mr. President, I would like to read the following extract from that speech which appears on page 575 of *Hansard* of the 27th August, 1963:—

As a member of a province in which there are gold mines, it is fitting I should speak of the goldmining industry. It is a frightful shame to see towns going down such as Wiluna,

Big Bell, and, more recently, Coolgardie, Bullfinch, and Southern Cross. People have to pull up their roots and move, and that is not nice. In the case of Bullfinch and Southern Cross it will not be so bad because they have agriculture to help them along. Coolgardie is not in the same situation because there is nothing else there.

I often wonder whether our goldmining industry could not do much better if it had a shot in the arm from the Commonwealth Government. I know there are all sorts of schemes to help the mining industry but with the resources available to the State Governments they cannot do enough to help the industry along. I had in mind that if the goldmining industry could get a subsidy of £5 an ounce it would put new vigour in the industry. That would not be a lot of money, because the dairymen have been subsidised at the rate of £13,500,000, and that has saved the industry. I agree with it. The Commonwealth Government is giving to farmers a subsidy on super at the rate of £3 a ton. Again I agree. However I fail to see why a decent subsidy cannot be provided for the goldmining industry to promote prospecting.

I believe the International Monetary Fund is to meet soon, and I hope pressure will be brought to bear on that body; but I say that more in sadness than in any other way, because I am afraid that America will not agree to the price of gold going up.

The industry has done very well. The mine managements and the men are efficient and that is the explanation why the goldmining industry has lasted so long. It would be an excellent investment in Australia if the price of gold were put up internally. I know the world price will not go up. In my opinion if the world price were the right one it would be 70 dollars, because the price of gold has not increased for many years, except for a few pence, but costs in the goldmining industry have risen.

I have repeated those remarks to refresh the memory of honourable members; because 12 months ago I was concerned about the state of the industry.

It is alarming to know that gold production in 1963 was at its lowest ebb for 10 years, and that the loss of production was due to the closure of some of our large producers of gold. The fact that there has been no upward change in the price of gold for the last 18 months or two years finally caused those mines to close down. It is not very pleasant to read that in 1963 the returns were the lowest since 1952.

In 1952, 727,468 fine ounces of gold were produced, and then production rose each year. Now it is dropping. In 1963 it was down to 802,589 fine ounces, and it is still going down.

The Great Western Consolidated mine at Bullfinch closed down. Bullfinch was a modern town with a swimming pool and other amenities, and now it is finished. There are only about 100 people in the town at present. Bayley's Reward at Coolgardie has finished; and so have the Eclipse Gold mine at Mt. Magnet, the Paris Gold mine at Wigiemoolla, and of course, the Sons of Gwalia mine at Gwalia.

It is interesting to note that Australian gold production is going down, yet in Africa it has been rising each year.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Some parts of Africa—such as Ghana—are pretty backward; they did not have the early development that we had.

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: I am talking about South Africa. In 1957 that country produced 17,031,000 fine ounces. In 1961 the production had increased to 22,942,000 fine ounces. That was an increase of 5,911,000 fine ounces in a short time. Australia in 1957 produced 1,084,000 fine ounces and the figure dropped in 1961 to 1,076,000 fine ounces. The world production in 1957 was 39,500,000 fine ounces and it increased in 1961 to 47,700,000 fine ounces. So the world production is growing and the South African production is increasing, but the Australian production is dropping. That state of affairs hits Western Australia very hard, because, of the gold produced in Australia, 78.4 per cent. comes from Western Australia; 7.9 per cent. from the Northern Territory; 6.6 per cent. from Queensland; and 3.5 per cent. from Tasmania.

The Western Australian goldmines are the ones with the falling tonnage, and this feature reflects on the State's economy. The tonnage fell by 229,467 tons to 2,765,176 tons, and the gold recovered declined by 57,721 fine ounces to 802,589 fine ounces. The return in money fell by £901,891 to a total of £12,540,453 in 1963 against £13,442,344 in 1962.

Looking at the world output of gold, it is interesting to note that during the depression gold was badly wanted by countries all over the world, and in the period 1930-1940, gold production more than doubled. To give some idea of the position, 100 years ago only 2,000,000 fine ounces of gold were produced annually, and four years ago 45,000,000 fine ounces were produced. This is the interesting part: After the depression of 1928-29, the price of gold rose and the mines got going, and in 1930 some 20,000,000 fine ounces of gold were produced, and over a 10-year period that figure was built up to 42,500,000 fine ounces of gold annually.

That speaks for itself, in my opinion, because during the depression the international position was that all payments were made in gold. Gold was demanded, and no international settlements could be made without gold, so gold was sought after.

In 1960, four years ago, the world figure was increased by nearly 3,000,000 ounces. So the International Monetary Fund, since it got going, has reflected on the price of gold, because it bolsters up the international scene by exchanges. There is a set-up whereby countries contribute so much—and, incidentally, they demand contributions in gold and lend each other money to bolster up their internal trade.

Another interesting figure is that on the Golden Mile—I mention this because I want to make a comparison later—82,540,000 tons of ore have been mined for a return of 35,110,000 fine ounces of gold which, in effect, is equal to 1,075 tons of gold worth £266,550,000.

The goldmining industry is the largest employer of labour in Western Australia, and if the mines received a more generous subsidy and development allowance the industry would remain the largest employer of labour for many years; and what a wonderful thing for decentralisation that would be. The goldmining industry has played an important part in the nation's development, and now in turn it needs help—help that is sufficient and not too late.

The gold production represented 59 per cent. of all minerals mined in Western Australia in 1963, but the tonnage of ore treated was only 65 per cent. of the record tonnage of 1940, or 56 per cent. of the gold output of 1940.

In Kalgoorlie there are 3,900 men employed in the industry and they produce 550,000 fine ounces of gold annually. In Norseman 391 men produce 102,702 fine ounces annually. At Mt. Magnet 255 men produce 78,196 fine ounces each year. The shutting down of Coolgardie and Leonora represents a real blow to decentralisation. Before Coolgardie shut down there were 1,000 people and 380 houses in the town. Those people have now virtually forsaken the town and a number of the houses have been sold. The people of Leonora, numbering 1,750, have practically all left the town, and of the 388 houses most have been shifted. Another disturbing feature is that according to the latest figures available the employment during the last month dropped from 4,900, shown in the 1963 report of the Chamber of Mines, to 4,500.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Is that for the whole of the goldmining industry in the State?

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: Yes. I estimate there are about 35,000 people depending on the industry, directly and indirectly,

because many people such as suppliers, business people, and others, are dependent on it. What a tragedy if the industry fades into obscurity!

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The goldmining industry, of course, is still short of labour.

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: I know; but if the price of gold went up it would have the same effect on the industry as the depression did; namely, people would flock to the goldfields.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Is that one of the reasons for the reduction in manpower?

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: I do not think so. There are only three major goldmining centres now: Kalgoorlie-Boulder; Norseman; and Mt. Magnet. I was in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Norseman about three weeks ago and I spoke to people in both centres. I asked how things were and the information I was given at Kalgoorlie-Boulder was that there were 300 houses for sale; and I was told in Norseman that there were 30 houses for sale and that the people were decidedly uneasy. They do not want to enter into any great commitments, and, of course, they are uncertain of their future.

To give an idea of the solidarity of some of the towns now, Boulder has 1,690 houses with a population of 5,750, and the local government revenue is £140,000, approximately. In the Kalgoorlie Town Council area there are 2,814 dwellings, a population of 9,700, and a local government revenue of £270,000. In the Kalgoorlie Shire Council there are 2,124 dwellings, a population of 7,300 and a local government revenue of £111,000. In Norseman there are 756 dwellings, a population of 3,000 and a local government revenue of £60,000. In Mt. Magnet there are 323 dwellings, a population of 1,150 and a local government revenue of £23,000.

It would be a frightful thing for the industry if it faded into obscurity and these towns ceased to exist. With our goldmines threatened with extinction, it is imperative that the Federal Government subsidise the industry much more generously—not too little or too late. There is no industry that has suffered more in the post-war period than the goldmining industry. It was short of manpower after the war and was slow in building up, and a lot of money had to be spent on capital investment for power plants, machines, and so on. The industry economised in every possible way and the men co-operated wonderfully well, but now the end of the road—or close to it—has been reached.

The Commonwealth Government, when all the facts are considered and conveyed to it by the committee suggested in the motion, should be more generous in its

subsidy. If the closing of the goldmines is desired, I can think of no quicker way of achieving it than by retaining the present price of gold; because the mines will just have to close as the costs have risen. It is only the subsidy and the development allowance that have allowed the mines to continue. In some countries more than just subsidies are made available to permit the mines to carry on.

It is interesting to read how the primary producers are subsidised. I am not protesting against subsidies for primary production; I agree with them because I do not think we can get along without subsidies, but by comparison I do not think the goldmining industry is being treated generously. There is a phosphate fertiliser bounty, and in 1963-64 that bounty amounted to £9,403,000. It is estimated that the expenditure in 1964-65 will be £11,250,000. There is also an increase in revenue estimated at £1,800,000. Then there is the subsidy on petrol.

I obtained this information from the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics and it is shown in the figures given that the Treasury proposes to pay a bounty of £3,000,000 during 1964-65 to stabilise the price of petrol in the country.

There are, of course, bounties paid on the production of pyrites with which I agree, because the town in which I live is vitally dependent on the pyrites industry. In making comparisons, the dairying industry receives £13,500,000; the tractor industry receives £1,292,000, but the goldmining industry receives only £550,000. So I think the goldmining industry is not being treated as generously as it should be; but it is to be hoped that that situation will be rectified in the future.

The Commonwealth Government has also made available a great deal of money for the search for oil. That expenditure is essential for our economy, just as it is essential for our economy to have international balance payments. In comparing the subsidies and bounties payable by the Commonwealth Government in relation to oil search, in 1960-61 the Commonwealth paid out £1,399,000, but to the gold producers of Western Australia it contributed only £698,242. In 1961-62 the figures were £2,543,000 and £585,306 respectively. In 1962-63, the figures were £5,000,000 and £621,573.

In the Commonwealth year book for 1962 I find that, in addition to the taxation concessions enjoyed by the oil companies, they do not pay any tax. I admit the goldmining companies do not pay tax either, but in 1961 the Petroleum Search Subsidy Act was amended to allow the payment of £2,700,000 in subsidies to the oil companies. During 1962 the Commonwealth subsidy was £2,965,400. In addition, the Bureau of Mineral Resources spent over £1,000,000 on geological and geo-

physical surveys. With the goldmining industry threatened with extinction the payment of subsidies to the oil industry by the Commonwealth Government is out of all proportion to the assistance that is granted to the goldmining industry.

The Commonwealth Government development allowance has not been the assistance hoped for, or what we expected it would be. The companies have had difficulty in arriving at figures; in assessing the capital of the companies, which makes quite a bit of difference. As a result, the companies have difficulty qualifying for assistance. They have to find the money for the development before claiming assistance, and, financially, that is an added burden. Anyone who knows anything about mines knows that development is their lifeblood. The end of the mine is in sight as soon as the development stops. It is therefore imperative that this allowance be more generous.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: Also the allowance to the smaller mines.

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: I am coming to the smaller mines. I am fully aware of the conditions under which they are operating. If the subsidy were more generous it would permit a greater quantity of low-grade ore to be mined and would eliminate selective mining which means that the eyes are picked out of the mine, and the lower-grade ore is left behind. With present-day filling methods it virtually means that that low-grade ore is lost forever and that should not be. While ore is present in the mine it should be mined, unless it is of a ridiculously low value. However, if it can be mined it should be taken out, because once filling takes place there would not be another chance of removing it from the mine.

If the Commonwealth Government decides to grant a higher subsidy I do not think this would offend the International Monetary Fund. I would like to say that the information I have is correct and it has been difficult to obtain, but I can say that a certain amount of internal subsidy is paid in other countries, which helps the mining companies considerably. If this assistance were not granted the industry would go flat. I know that a subsidy is paid in Canada, which is the second highest producer in the world. South Africa also has some arrangements for the payment of subsidy and that country is the highest gold-producing country in the world. If the Commonwealth Government followed the example of those two countries I do not think it would offend the International Monetary Fund.

The Commonwealth Government could lend assistance to the goldmining industry in many ways. For example, it could increase the development allowance. Also, assistance is granted to prospectors and that amount could be increased. If that

were done the industry would undoubtedly be rejuvenated and everyone engaged in the industry would be quite happy for some time to come. The Government should approach this goldmining question more realistically. I do not think it realises fully the parlous state of the industry. In *The West Australian* of the 22nd October, I read an article in which Mr. Holt, the Commonwealth Treasurer, was reported as saying that he believed the fundamental position in the industry was not financial depression, but decreasing ore resources. The text of the newspaper report in this regard, is as follows:—

The information supplied to him suggested that the fundamental position in the industry was not financial depression but decreasing ore resources.

Anybody who knows anything about the goldfields would have great difficulty in agreeing with that statement. I think the members of the committee, whoever they are, would not have any great difficulty in opposing those words.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Would he mean a decrease in the value of the ore deposits?

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: No, he said tonnages of ore; he did not mention cost. When one speaks of ore, one means gold-bearing ore carrying payable gold. If one refers to low-grade ore it means that one cannot mine it, or it is not profitable to mine it. The committee, after taking evidence, should weigh all the facts and it will be able to convince the Treasurer that assistance is needed. However, whoever go to Canberra will be wearing the State's colours and doing their best for the goldmining industry. I know the sympathy which everyone in this House has for the goldmining industry.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I hope this committee does not go to Canberra on its own. One of the things Mr. Elvey said to me was that he hoped the Chamber of Mines would be left unfettered in its negotiations with the government.

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: I did not mention the Chamber of Mines.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: No. I said that I hoped the committee would not go to Canberra on its own.

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: What I hope is that it weighs all the evidence and acts on it.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: And confers with the Chamber of Mines on what it resolves.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: And the State Government.

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: Yes. Australia has a national duty to assist the industry to improve the production of

gold; a duty to stop the recession which is taking place in the industry; and a duty to do something as an example of putting into effect its policy of decentralisation. The time has arrived when we should be more vocal and more vigorous in our efforts to stop any recession in the gold-mining industry. I therefore hope that both the State and Commonwealth governments will do all they can to arrest any movement in this direction. The difficult situation created by the fixed price of gold should not stand in the path of finding ways and means to obtain real assistance for the industry.

I now intend to make a few comments on prospecting. I believe the Bureau of Mineral Resources could help the industry by stimulating prospecting. It could assist by granting subsidies, and by making available technical assistance and all the latest methods to those who practise new methods of prospecting; and they will still have to co-operate with the old-time prospectors who, all in all, still discover new finds. The bureau could also assist the companies, particularly in respect of milling treatment, with a view to obtaining 100 per cent. extraction of gold from the ore.

As another factor, I hope drilling will be continued in the various mining areas to discover any repetition of ore bodies. Anyone who has made a study of geology knows that ore bodies repeat themselves at depth, and the only way to prospect for ore bodies at greater depths is to drill. Of course, one cannot depend entirely on drilling, but it does give an indication of new ore bodies, and after the drilling has been carried out other methods of prospecting can be used. Perhaps the Bureau of Mineral Resources could assist by granting more technical assistance.

South Africa is very advanced in regard to its methods of imparting technical know-how and its officers spend a great deal of time and a large amount of money on technical research. Perhaps we could follow the example of South Africa in this State with the aid of the Bureau of Mineral Resources. Some authorities believe that gold will not resume its dominant role in international economics. Others are equally convinced that it will again be the standard monetary system as it has been in the past. I believe gold cannot be done without. It is the backbone of all finance. Despite the arguments advanced by various economists, gold is still urgently needed to assist the balance of international finance.

I have here a small pamphlet which is entitled, *International Liquidity and Gold*. It is the subject of an address by Dr. T. E. Donges, Minister of Finance of the Republic of South Africa, which he gave before the Board of Governors of the

Association of Stock Exchange Firms in Salt Lake City, Utah, on the 23rd September, 1963. In this address, he said—

When I was invited to address this distinguished gathering of bankers and financiers in this beautiful city, I accepted with alacrity for two reasons.

First, President Kennedy himself has said: "We shall be discussing possible improvement (ie., in the international monetary system) with our friends abroad; and our minds will be open to their initiatives."

Unfortunately, nothing happened about that.

There are other interesting parts of this address, but I do not want to bore honourable members by reading all of them. I will continue by pointing out that six Common Market countries in Europe have taken out of the financial market as much gold as they can get and they are very powerful now. They have become powerful by increasing their gold reserves during the years 1959-62 by several billion dollars. In his address, Dr. T. E. Donges, had this to say—

I believe that insufficient attention has been paid to the necessity for an adequate gold component in international reserves. This component must be sufficiently large to ensure that confidence in their foreign exchange component is maintained even in times of financial stress.

Dr. Donges also deals with other matters in his address, one interesting feature being the myth of Russia. Some people say that if the price of gold were increased Russia would flood the market with gold. I am not inclined to agree with that statement, because Russia is continually looking for credits. If she had the gold she would use it, but I do not think she has. Russia paid out 400 tons of gold to buy her wheat requirements, because she could not get foreign credits.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: She must have some gold to be able to do that.

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: Of course she has. Some people seem to think that Russia would flood the world market with gold and devalue the dollar, but I do not think she has that much gold. We can only read and study about these things to the best of our ability.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: It was stated over the air last night that Russia is the second biggest gold producer in the world.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Your guess is as good as anybody's.

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: I could quote a lot of figures which appear in the report of the Chamber of Mines, but I shall not do so as honourable members have copies of it. In the accounts of the

Bank of France a surplus of £33,450,000 in the balance of overseas payments appears. In recent years half of the world's gold has been held at Fort Knox, yet in 1960 the American gold reserves decreased, while the credits of other countries increased.

I have before me a reference to the International Monetary Fund which originated out of the Bretton Woods agreement, the context of which is included in the *Dictionary of Politics*. The interesting feature is that the U.S.A. has to be considered before any increase in the price of gold can be effected. Even if the International Monetary Fund members were sympathetic, a rise in the price of gold could not be accomplished by a stroke of the pen. A straightforward rise in the price of gold or the devaluation of the dollar requires an Act of the U.S.A. Congress and the approval of the President; or if he vetoes the measure, the approval of two-thirds of both Houses has to be obtained.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You think that the U.S.A. has to be consulted?

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: Yes. The publication to which I have just referred gives the names of all the directors of the International Monetary Fund, and their voting power is based on the strength of their holding; and the U.S.A. has the biggest holding and therefore the biggest say.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That is the big 10 to which you referred.

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: Yes. Queensland, Tasmania, and the Northern Territory are interested in this matter, and they should be requested to put their shoulders to the wheel to assist in convincing the Federal Government of the need to give greater assistance to the goldmining industry.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: All the gold producers of Australia have met the Federal Government.

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: Yes. There is an old saying that the wheel which squeaks loudest is the one which receives the most oil. If we all squeaked loud at one time we might get somewhere. I might have surprised honourable members when I started by quoting from the Bible, and I shall amaze them again by concluding with the words which appear in the Revelations of St. John 3: 11, which are very appropriate—

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire that thou mayest be rich.

I hope this delegation will be successful and that something worth while will be done for the mining industry.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. G. Bennetts.

POISONS BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Local Government) [9.18 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

In introducing this Bill, it will be of general interest if I make some comment upon the progression of the legislative action which has been taken over the years in respect of the sale of poisons and the establishment and maintenance of pharmaceutical practices in this State.

I shall be brief in my remarks, nevertheless, and I think they are of passing interest, having a direct bearing on the group of Bills related to this one, which have been passed in another place and sent here with a request seeking our concurrence.

Briefly, then, the progression of this legislative action had its starting point in the year 1879, with the passing of an Act to regulate the sale of poisons. That Act carried a schedule listing 15 categories of substances deemed to be poisons. Today, the comparative list contained in the fifth schedule of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act refers to 40 poisonous substances and is supported by an explanatory note which makes reference to no less than 115 categories.

The 1879 Act, which provided for registration by the resident or police magistrate of persons retailing poisons, permitted the sale of poisons only to a person known to the seller or to a stranger introduced by some person known to him. That provision itself contains, it is suggested, the essence of the community demand at that time for some legislative action for the control of the sale of poisonous substances.

Fifteen years later—in 1894 to be precise—an Act was passed to establish a pharmaceutical society in Western Australia and to repeal the Poisons Sale Act of 1879; and the sale of poisons has been from that time forward controlled by the provisions contained in the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, which, with subsequent amendments, exists at the present time as the Pharmacy and Poisons Act Compilation Act of 1910. So it will be seen that initially poisons were controlled under separate legislation from 1879 to 1894, and for the past 70 years under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act administered by the Pharmaceutical Council.

The Pharmaceutical Council has carried out its duties in a highly efficient and ethical manner, bearing in mind particularly that the legislation was enacted in times when poisons were few in number. It is now proposed, through a practical realisation of the problems of today, calling for control by a body composed of wider skills and experience, to remove the

control of poisons from the Pharmacy and Poisons Act through the passing of a separate measure vested under the control of the Public Health Department, which will carry the administrative responsibility with policy being formulated by a widely representative advisory committee established under clause 8 of this Bill.

As may be adduced from my earlier remarks, there is today a vast array of poisons essential to industry, agriculture and the home. It is desirable at this stage, I suggest, that I indicate to honourable members the wide field of representation proposed in the persons comprising the new committee.

Two members, the Commissioner of Public Health and the Government Analyst, are appointed *ex officio*. The other ten members will be:—

A pharmacologist nominated by the Senate of the University.

A medical practitioner specialising in occupational health nominated by the Minister.

Two medical practitioners nominated by the Australian Medical Association.

An officer of the Department of Agriculture nominated by the Minister for Agriculture.

Two nominees of the Chamber of Manufactures, one of whom will represent wholesalers.

A veterinary surgeon.

A nominee of the Pharmaceutical Council.

A nominee of the Pharmaceutical Service Guild.

It will be appreciated, then, that the advisory committee will comprise expert representatives of all major interests concerned with the nature, marketing and usage of poisons. The members of the committee and their deputies, other than those who are officers in the Public Service, will be entitled to prescribed remuneration and allowances in respect of meetings attended and functions of office required of them.

The commissioner or the medical officer nominated by him shall be chairman and, if both chairman and his deputy are absent from a meeting, the members present shall elect one of their number to take the chair. Each member, including the chairman, will be entitled to one vote only on the determination of any question, and in the event of an equality of votes the question shall be determined in the negative.

The functions of the committee will be to advise the Minister and the commissioner on any matter or thing with regard to the manufacture, distribution, sale, supply, possession, etc., of any poison or hazardous substance. The committee will be obliged to make recommendations with respect to the maintenance of the schedules and the regulations.

This measure provides for a new classification of poisons and other substances. These are clearly defined in clause 20 and listed in eight schedules supporting this Bill. The revised grouping of the poisons and hazardous substances conforms closely to the recommendations of the uniform poisons schedules committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Most other States have introduced similar legislation. The main departure in this Bill is the clear separation of hazardous substances from poisons. It is understood that other States are interested in our approach, which it is thought could lead to uniformity on the basis of the proposals in this Bill.

The prohibitions on the sale, supply, or use of any poison contained in clause 22 are similar to those contained in the Health Act in connection with harmful medicinal preparations. Though such provisions seldom need to be exercised, there are circumstances probably which come to the minds of honourable members in this connection, one in particular of recent note being the banning of thalidomide.

The overall effect of the clauses dealing with the licensing of persons to manufacture or sell poisons is similar to existing provisions under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act with an extension of licensing to manufacturing. This is because control and licensing of narcotics manufacture is to be deleted from the Police Act and will, in future, be dealt with under the poisons legislation. So this Bill is supported by a complementary amendment to the Police Act.

There are general provisions in division 3 of the Bill, which deals with two aspects of poison control, one prescribing conditions for retail and wholesale dealing in poisons. The poisons to which these provisions directly relate will be specified in regulations in line with regulations now in force.

The other aspect is completely new. It deals with precautions which will apply in future to the introduction of new drugs. Its purpose is to avoid a repetition of the thalidomide episode which shocked the world. The proposal is based on a scheme devised by the Commonwealth and State health authorities and now requires the force of statutory law.

Before any new drug will be permitted to be sold or used, the manufacturer or distributor will be required to apply for it to be placed on one of the schedules. Full information on the composition and characteristics of such new product will be required. The applicant will be obliged to demonstrate that it has been amply tested to ascertain if it is safe to use for the purpose intended.

The Commonwealth will be involved through the Commonwealth Drug Evaluation Committee. This expert body will have the services of scientific laboratories, which will assist the States in testing and evaluating new drugs.

The provisions in this Bill contained in clauses 41 to 45, dealing with the manufacture and supply of narcotic drugs, will not lessen the powers of the Police to control illegal trafficking in narcotics. They will, however, relate the authorised manufacture and legitimate supply of narcotics to the comprehensive system of poisons control proposed in this measure.

A number of precautions aimed at the prevention of accidental poisoning are specified in clauses 46 to 51. For instance, containers similar to those used for poisons must not be used for the sale of food or beverages. There are safeguards against the sale of poisons by hawkers, or from automatic machines.

The supplementary provisions contained in clauses 52 to 64 authorise, amongst other things, the entering of premises by appropriate officers for the search and seizure of poisons under warrant granted by a magistrate.

The advisory council will, as previously mentioned, be the body exercising, as one of its functions, vigilance over the regulations. It may be anticipated that the regulations when promulgated will follow closely those now in force under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, while relating necessarily to the wider field encompassed by the provisions in this measure.

As earlier foreshadowed in my introductory remarks, the Government, by removing the control of poisonous substances from the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, will so denude that Act as to render it a practical necessity at this point of time to introduce a new pharmacy Act which is the third of the group of four Bills comprising this type of legislative reform. The fourth will be an amendment to the Friendly Societies Act in association with the Pharmacy Bill.

Perhaps, Mr. President, it would be appropriate for me to sum up my remarks along this train of thought by saying that, whereas—to use the phraseology of the time—it was expedient in 1879 for the safety of the public that retailing, dispensing and compounding of poisons should be subject to regulation and restraint, it is even more so desirable in the year 1964 to provide the Public Health Department with a comprehensive piece of legislation such as this Bill purports to be, for the establishment of an advisory committee to regulate and control the possession, the sale and the use of poisons, drugs and other substances, many of which when dispensed under expert medical guidance

and care constitute health and life preserving drugs being produced by modern research laboratories.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: This seems to be a very big Bill.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I heard an interjection that this appeared to be a very big Bill. Honourable members will find that the last 26 pages of the Bill are devoted to schedules, and if they want a lesson in the English language or the English vocabulary, I suggest they look at the names in those schedules. If they can pronounce them, they are better men than I am. I suggest that honourable members look at page 55.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Could you pronounce the 11th word on page 55?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: There are 31 letters in it. The abbreviation is CDEC. They are real tongue-twisters. I could not even attempt to pronounce them. However, it is interesting to read them and know that there are these different types of poisons and substances being produced today. If placed in the wrong hands they could be dangerous indeed. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, until Tuesday, the 3rd November, on motion by The Hon. J. G. Hislop.

POLICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Second Reading

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Local Government) [9.32 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is the second of the group of four Bills introduced by the Minister for Health in another place and dealing with the regulation and control of poisons and other substances, which is at present inter-related with the Pharmacy and Poisons Act.

Part VIA of the Police Act applies to the control of certain narcotic drugs defined in section 94A and in the third schedule to the Act are listed allied preparations to which that part of the Act does not apply. Each time there has been a change, fresh proclamations have been prepared.

The main purpose of clause 3 of the Bill is to provide that in future all narcotics listed in the eighth schedule to the Poisons Act will be subject to police authority when dealing with illegal possession or supply of these drugs. Any changes to the eighth schedule of the Poisons Act will automatically apply to the Police Act.

Several of the small amendments to section 94A are consequential, as is the alteration to section 94B proposed by clause 4 of the Bill.

Clause 5 re-enacts section 94C in amended form. All licenses to sell or manufacture narcotics will be dealt with under the Poisons Act. Previous references to these matters in section 94C of the Police Act have therefore been omitted.

The amendment in clause 6 deletes redundant wording and adjusts references to the date of the Act.

As indicated, this Bill relates to the Poisons Bill already introduced and is commended to honourable members.

Debate adjourned, until Tuesday, the 3rd November, on motion by The Hon. J. G. Hislop.

NATIVES (CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed, from the 14th October, on the following motion by The Hon. H. C. Strickland:—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [9.34 p.m.]: I have delayed speaking to this measure, as the honourable Mr. Strickland is aware. For the past week or so I have purposely placed his Bill at the bottom of the notice paper because I have been anticipating that the Minister for Native Welfare in another place would produce a Bill, and that it would eventually arrive here. However, the Bill has not arrived so far. Therefore I think I should say something in connection with the honourable member's Bill, otherwise he might think it is not my intention to reply.

It will be appreciated that in view of the Bill foreshadowed by the Minister for Native Welfare there would be some advantages gained in comparing the Minister's Bill with that introduced by the honourable member. However, I am not in a position to do that.

There is a fundamental objection to the measure now before us in that it does not provide the means whereby a photograph of the certificate-holder can be obtained and affixed to the certificate. I am told that the Minister and the department regard this as being an important matter; that before a certificate can be issued a photograph must be supplied. This necessitates some communication between the native and the Natives (Citizenship Rights) Board or the department.

In forwarding his photograph the native can, at the same time, readily provide the board with all the information necessary for the issue of a certificate, thus relieving the department of the necessity for using valuable work hours in keeping an otherwise unnecessary record system.

I appreciate that the honourable member has foreshadowed an amendment to the Bill which will make unnecessary the affixing of a photograph on the certificate. This amendment has not yet appeared on the notice paper and therefore no particulars of it are available.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: I foreshadowed that I would move an amendment to make it unnecessary.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That is so. However, the amendment has not yet appeared on the notice paper, and I do not know whether the honourable member intends to have it placed there.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: It is not necessary.

The Hon. R. Hutchison: Why is it so necessary to have a photograph?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The honourable member could not have been listening. I said that it is necessary for the administration of the department and for the assistance of the native. I am not in a position to argue the point, because, frankly, I do not know. However, this is what I have been told by the department.

The Hon. R. Hutchison: There are too many restrictions in those departments.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The certificate would lose much of its weight without some satisfactory means of identification. There is little doubt that such a certificate would in many cases be used illegally by other than the certificate holder.

There is also the personal aspect. It is known for a fact that there are natives who do not wish to be issued with a certificate of citizenship.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: What about putting a photograph on drivers' licenses?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: In some cases that might not be a bad thing; but that is purely a personal observation. It is a matter of principle. Some natives do not require or desire to be issued with this certificate, and it is a matter of principle with those persons. If the measure is implemented, we will be forced to issue them with a certificate against their wishes.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Rubbish!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I think the honourable member will appreciate that I am somewhat at a disadvantage, because you, Sir, would not permit me to foreshadow the arrival of a Bill from another place, or to mention what is in that Bill. It would be a breach of Standing Orders.

I find myself in a difficult position. With the permission of the honourable member, I would first like to see what sort of reception the Bill foreshadowed in another place gets, and if and when it arrives here consideration could be given to the merits of both Bills. In the meantime, I will have further discussion with the Minister for

Native Welfare in another place in this respect. I do not like leaving private members' Bills at the bottom of the notice paper, but it seems logical to me that I should explain the situation and seek the indulgence of the honourable member.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. F. J. S. Wise (Leader of the Opposition).

House adjourned at 9.42 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 28th October, 1964

CONTENTS

	Page
BILLS—	
Country Towns Sewerage Act Amendment Bill—Returned	1996
Death Penalty Abolition Bill—	
2r.	1996
Defeated	2023
Iron Ore (Hammersley Range) Agreement Act Amendment Bill—	
Intro.; 1r.	1968
Morawa-Koolanooka Hills Railway Bill—Returned	1996
Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act Amendment Bill—	
Receipt; 1r.	1996
National Trust of Australia (W.A.) Bill—Returned	1996
Parliament House Site Permanent Reserve (A 1162) Act Amendment Bill—Returned	1996
Pharmacy Bill—	
2r.	1976
Com.	1984
Poisons Bill—3r.	1976
Police Act Amendment Bill (No. 2)—3r.	1976
State Housing Act Amendment Bill—Returned	1996
Workers' Compensation Act Amendment Bill—3r.	1972
IRON ORE AGREEMENTS—	
Tabling of Maps	1966
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—	
Builders' Registration Act: Number of Builders Registered	1970
Dredge at South Perth: Length of Operations and Minimisation of Noise	1968
Education—Children at Hazelmere: Schooling	1969
Land Reservations: Authority Responsible for Decisions	1967
Liquor Consumed by Teenagers—	
Availability from Drive-in Bottle Services	1970
Reduction of Supply by Motor Vehicle Identification	1970
Relationship to Motor Accidents and Hooliganism	1970

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—continued

Long Service Leave Payments: Availability from Bankrupt Employers	1970
Mental Hospital at Guildford: Opening Date, Number of Inmates, and Staff	1969
Mounts Bay Road: Deviation around Brewery—Area of Swan River Reclamation Required	1969
Prisoners in Fremantle Gaol: Total Number, Natives, and Maintenance Cost	1969
Railways—	
Railways Department—	
British Migrants Recruited—	
Branches Involved	1971
Number	1971
Resignations and Dismissals	1971
Employees: Appointment of Men over 45	1969
Standard Gauge Railway Blasting Operations: Claims for Damage to Property	1967
Sheltered Workshops for Handicapped People: Building Grants to Organisations	1971
Timber—	
Mallet: Acres Reserved in State Forest	1967
Wandoo: Reservation of Land and Plans for Regeneration	1968
Totalisator Agency Board—Race Meetings at Kalgoorlie: Broadcasting—	
Cost of Sponsoring	1968
Dissatisfaction of Goldfields T.A.B. Patrons	1968
Melbourne Cup Coverage	1968
Sponsorship by T.A.B.	1968
6KG Broadcasts on Important Week-day Meetings	1968
Traffic—	
Left-hand-drive Vehicles: Regulations Governing Use	1971
Pedestrian Island for Hurlingham Hill: Siting	1968
Water Supply Problems at Dalwallinu: Appointment of Investigating Committee	1969
QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE—	
Parliamentarians' Salaries—Federal Increases: Effect on Local Members	1972

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

IRON ORE (HAMERSLEY RANGE) AGREEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Court (Minister for Industrial Development), and read a first time.

IRON ORE AGREEMENTS

Tabling of Maps

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Industrial Development) [4.33 p.m.]: I have here a map which shows the location of the mining areas in connection with the Mount Newman agreement, which was