

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 3rd September, 1959

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1. *This question was postponed.*

SCRAP METAL

Disposal Overseas by Railway Department

2. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Is the Railway Department in possession of a current license to dispose of scrap metal overseas?
- (2) For what amount of scrap metal does the license provide?
- (3) When does the license expire?
- (4) Is it proposed to use the license by exporting scrap metal?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 2,115 tons.
- (3) Two licenses are involved. One for 1,182 tons expires on the 31st October, 1959. One for 933 tons expires on the 31st December, 1959.
- (4) This is under consideration as part of an overall assessment of local scrap metal needs, both immediate and prospective.

3. *This question was postponed.*

SCHOOL DESKS

Names of Tenderers, and Prices

4. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Were tenders called in the year 1947 or thereabouts for the supply of two batches of school desks totalling approximately 10,000?
- (2) Who was the successful tenderer and at what price?
- (3) What was the name of the second lowest tenderer and the price tendered by him?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Tenders were not called in 1947 for the supply of school desks. Tenders were called in 1948 for the manufacture of 14,000 desks to be supplied over a period of two years.
- (2) State Engineering Works.

Accepted price for each of the nine types is as follows :—

Type D-1	£2	5s.	9d.
2	£2	6s.	3d.
3	£2	13s.	9d.
4	£2	15s.	1d.
5	£2	15s.	7d.
6	£2	16s.	2d.
7	£2	16s.	10d.
S-6	£2	1s.	5d.
S-7	£2	2s.	9d.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

(3) Altona Engineering Company:—

Type D-1	£3	9s.	0d.
2	£3	9s.	0d.
3	£4	1s.	0d.
4	£4	2s.	6d.
5	£4	4s.	0d.
6	£4	5s.	6d.
7	£4	7s.	0d.
S-6	£2	19s.	6d.
S-7	£3	0s.	6d.

RAILWAY QUARTERS*Erection at Milng*

5. Mr. LEWIS asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Railway Department to have extra quarters erected at Milng during this financial year?
- (2) If so, what is the extent of these buildings?
- (3) When will they be commenced?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) No railway building projects are contemplated at Milng. The only item listed for attention is the installation of electric light in the barracks.

- (2) and (3) Answered by No. (1).

WATER SUPPLIES*Work at Wubin, Calingiri, and Milng*

6. Mr. LEWIS asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

What work on water supplies will be carried out during the current financial year at—

- (a) Wubin;
- (b) Calingiri;
- (c) Milng?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) An amount of £10,000 will be expended towards the provision of a water supply at Milng.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES*Numbers in Departments*

7. Mr. ANDREW asked the Premier:

Would he give the number of employees engaged in each of the following departments on the 15th March, 1959, and at the present time:—

- (a) State Electricity Commission;
- (b) Department of Industrial Development;
- (c) Main Roads Department;
- (d) Water Supply Department;
- (e) State Housing Commission;
- (f) Lands Department;
- (g) Forests Department?

Mr. BRAND replied:

	15th March, 1959	Present time
(a)	2,330	2,287
(b)	32	30
(c)	2,642	2,546
(d)	1,132	1,109
(e)	520	491
(f)	524	524
(g)	831	812

SEWERAGE EXTENSIONS*Rivervale and Lathlain Park Areas*

8. Mr. J. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Has he examined the file dealing with the proposal to extend the sewerage main to serve the requirements of the people living in the Rivervale and Lathlain Park areas?
- (2) If he has, can he advise me and through me the people concerned, whether an allocation of loan funds will be made this year to begin this long-overdue sewerage extension?
- (3) If he has not perused the file, will he do so and advise me of the present position regarding this work?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) It has not been possible to provide funds for this work in the current financial year because of heavy expenditure necessary for the enlargement of Shenton Park treatment works and the new ocean outfall. Also, until these works are completed, sewage from a large additional area cannot be treated.
- (3) Answered by Nos. (1) and (2).

Perth Airport

9. Mr. J. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Health:

In view of the increasing development and extension of the Perth Airport in the Belmont district, and the desirability, from a health angle, of connecting the airport with the metropolitan sewerage system, will he make representations to the Commonwealth Minister for Civil Aviation on this proposal to see whether essential funds can be provided for the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Department to carry out this very necessary work?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

Ministerial representation to the Commonwealth Minister for Civil Aviation in this matter is not considered necessary at present. The problems surrounding the disposal

of sewage from incoming aircraft are being closely watched by officers of the State Public Health Department, in association with those of the Department of Civil Aviation. While it is agreed that ultimately it will be desirable to connect the airport directly to the sewer, it is considered that the present arrangements are satisfactory and that public health is safeguarded.

BENTLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Initial and Ultimate Size, etc.

10. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is to be the initial size of the Bentley High School at its opening in February next?
- (2) What is to be the ultimate size of this high school?
- (3) What primary schools will contribute students to this high school?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Watts) replied:

- (1) 290.
- (2) 700 (approximately).
- (3) Riverton, Bentley, Millen, Canning Vale, East Victoria Park (part).

QUEEN'S PARK SCHOOL

Extensions

11A. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it the intention of the department to build an infants' school to be used in conjunction with the present Queen's Park School?
- (2) If not, what extensions are contemplated for this school in the near future?
- (3) When is it anticipated that such extensions will be commenced?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Watts) replied:

- (1) Not at present.
- (2) Two classrooms to be erected.
- (3) Tenders close on the 22nd September, 1959.

CLASSROOMS

Comparison of Numbers Erected in Different Years

12A. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) What was the total number of classrooms built from the beginning of February, 1933, to the end of January, 1953?
- (2) What was the total number built from the beginning of February, 1953, to the end of February, 1959?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Watts) replied:

- (1) Figures are not available for the period 1933 to 1945. For the period February 1946 to February 1953—454 classrooms.
- (2) February 1953 to February 1959—1,156 classrooms.

Record Number Erected

12B. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Education:

In what year was a record number of classrooms built, and what was the number for such year?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Watts) replied:

In 1958, when 235 classrooms were built.

SCHOOL SANITATION

Use of Pan System

13A. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Education:

How many schools are still being served by the sanitary pan system in—

- (a) municipal council areas;
- (b) road district areas?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Watts) replied:

- (a) 5;
- (b) 211.

Availability of Water for Sewerage, etc.

13B. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Education:

What is the number of schools where there is a suitable water supply to enable the sewerage or a septic system to be installed?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Watts) replied:

Approximately 100 schools, but subject to further investigation by the Public Works Department.

HIGH SCHOOLS

Number in State

14. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many State high schools were in existence at the beginning of February, 1953, in—
 - (a) metropolitan area;
 - (b) other parts of the State?
- (2) What were the respective numbers in existence at the end of February, 1959?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Watts) replied:

- (1) 1953—Metropolitan 11, Country 8.
- (2) 1959—Metropolitan 14 (excluding the remnant of Perth Boys'). Country 12.

GALVANISED IRON AND WIRE*Improvement of Quality*

15. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is he aware that numbers of primary producers are concerned about the poor quality of galvanised corrugated iron and fencing wire being supplied by manufacturers?
- (2) Will he take action to endeavour to effect an improvement in quality?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes. Complaints have not been made to my department, but the subject was discussed at the last annual conference of the Country and Democratic League, when it was resolved that the C.S.I.R.O. be asked to investigate possible faults in technique.

POINT SAMSON*Provision of Water Supply*

16. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Works:

With regard to the answer he gave to part (7) of question No. (1) on the notice paper of Wednesday, the 2nd September, in which he stated: "Not unless there is an emergency," will he explain what he considers constitutes an emergency in this case?

Mr. WILD replied:

By "emergency" was meant conditions arising from drought, cyclones, etc., wherein local storages of rain water are at a very low level.

BETTING ROYAL COMMISSION*Cost to the 31st August, 1959*

17. Mr. HEAL asked the Premier:

What has been the cost to the Treasury of the Royal Commission into betting up to the 31st day of August, 1959?

Mr. BRAND replied:

The cost is £2,069 16s. 6d. We are getting good value for our money.

GREENMOUNT RAILWAY LINE*Extension of Passenger Service*

18. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

As the Greenmount railway line is used by the rock quarry in that centre from time to time, is it not possible to run the metropolitan passenger rail service to Greenmount to cater for the residents of Greenmount, Helena Valley, Koongamia, and adjacent areas?

Mr. COURT replied:

The Greenmount railway line was closed for traffic in 1954 by the determination of the Government of the day and its reopening would need a reversal of that decision. Before this is dealt with further, the Railway Commissioner desires, and will be afforded, opportunity to thoroughly investigate the situation.

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLIES*Consumption, Quantity Available, and Evaporation*

19. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What was the total quantity of water drawn from all the metropolitan sources of supply during the 12 months ended the 31st August last?
- (2) What quantity of water is available at the present time from those same sources?
- (3) What is the approximate evaporation consideration in both cases?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Water drawn from all sources of supply during the 12 months ended the 31st August, 1959.

	Million Gallons
Victoria Reservoir	343
Mundaring	1,766
Churchman's Brook	672
Wungong	1,212
Canning Dam	10,134
Serpentine	2,970
Bores	1,476

Total 18,573

- (2) Because of dependence for a large proportion of the metropolitan supplies upon stream flows, artesian bores, and contribution from Mundaring Weir, it is not practical to state at the present time what water will be available for use in the metropolitan area for the coming summer.
- (3) On account of the small quantity involved, evaporation figures are not kept separate for the small storages. Evaporation in both Canning Dam and Mundaring Weir varies considerably according to the amount of water stored and surface area exposed in consequence.

BILLS (2)—FIRST READING

1. State Hotels (Disposal).
Introduced by Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Chief Secretary).
2. Traffic Act Amendment (No. 2).
Introduced by Mr. Graham.

RAILWAYS CLASSIFICATION BOARD ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 1st September.

MR. BRADY (Guildford - Midland) [2.28]: I have perused the proposed amendments submitted by the Minister; and it would appear that the original Act was introduced in 1920, and was known as the Railways Classification Board Act, being No. 38 of that year. Since then, it has been amended three times, the first being in 1935, and being Act No. 33 of that year. At that time, new sections were added after section 22 to deal with the effect to be given to awards and decisions of the board. It was again amended in 1945 by Act No. 20, when the change of name of the W.A. Railway Officers' Union was inserted where necessary in the Act following the change of name of the union and the discontinuance of the handling of tramway affairs by the union.

In 1950, it was further amended by Act No. 4, when provision was made to alter the word, "Commissioner" to "Commission," where necessary in the interpretation. It also provided for additional subsections to section 15. This mainly entailed the addition of subsection (1a), which set out the effect when salaried positions were classified or reclassified. Section 23 was amended by deleting the reference to "Colonial."

To get back to the specific amendments now proposed by the Minister in order to bring the legislation into line with the practice followed for many years, I point out that certain approaches were made by the W.A. Railway Officers' Union to have amendments made to the Act; and the present proposals are no doubt the outcome of those approaches. Under section 15 of the principal Act, the Railways Classification Board has power, under subsection (2), to make an award in regard to certain matters. Under subsection (1) of the same clause, the board has jurisdiction to classify positions; but no power to make such classifications a part of the award.

If, as it appears from the Minister's speech, the proposed amendments purport to give the board that power—that is, power to make an award for the whole of the matters covered by clause 15, including paragraphs (d) and (e) of subsection (1)—then the amendments are quite satisfactory. If, however, the proposed amendments will not give the board that power, then they are quite unnecessary, because the board will be in exactly the same position it is today; that is, it will have power to make an award with respect to certain matters, but no power to make an award in regard to classification.

The whole tenor of the proposed amendments, as stated by the Minister, is to legalise current practice. In the past,

whenever an award was issued, as outlined by the Minister, the existing classification has been accepted, and then appeals have been heard against the existing classification. Any positions raised in classification, as a result of such appeals, are then back-dated to the date of issue of the award. It is presumed that this procedure, which has been in operation for many years, will continue.

Would the Minister indicate now whether that is the intention of the amendment; that the board is to have power to back-date payment of the reclassification to the date of the award?

Mr. Court: That is the intention—to legalise the current practice.

MR. BRADY: I support the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

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

MAIN ROADS ACT (FUNDS APPROPRIATION) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. WILD (Dale—Minister for Works) [2.37] in moving the second reading said: This small amending Bill is one which has to come before the House periodically to validate certain actions that have been taken over a period of years, largely brought about by the action of the Commonwealth Grants Commission on behalf of the non-claimant States.

In the period from 1938 to 1940, the Commonwealth Grants Commission drew attention to the failure of Western Australia to bring its road finances into line with those of the non-claimant States. In the non-claimant States, provision had been made from revenues received from motor taxation as a contribution towards meeting the annual interest and sinking fund payments on loans which had been used on road works. The Commonwealth Grants Commission, in 1941, again examined the failure of Western Australia to make provision for sinking fund and interest payments for loan indebtedness on road works; and in this instance the Grants Commission actually penalised Western Australia by an unfavourable adjustment of £65,000.

In order to eliminate future penalties from the Grants Commission on account of road finances, the State Government, in 1941, passed legislation to transfer funds from the Metropolitan Traffic Fund to Consolidated Revenue, in place of the Main Roads Contribution Trust Account. To replace these funds which had been diverted from the Main Roads Contribution Trust

Account, it was also provided by the legislation that a similar sum should be transferred from the Main Roads Trust Account, which consisted of moneys received from the Commonwealth under the Commonwealth Aid Roads Agreement. In 1950, further legislation was incorporated in the Main Roads (Funds Appropriation) Act of that year, which limited the amount to be transferred to Consolidated Revenue to £70,000 per year.

The foregoing provisions with regard to road finance have been in force now for a period of eighteen years, with the legislation being re-enacted at periods of five years. As the Main Roads (Funds Appropriation) Act, No. 38 of 1955, which authorised the payment of these moneys, expires on the 31st December, 1959, it is necessary that the provisions of the Act should remain in force by passing the Main Roads Act (Funds Appropriation) Act Amendment Act, 1959. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Tonkin, debate adjourned.

NURSES REGISTRATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 1st September.

MR. NULSEN (Eyre) [2.40]: This is a most necessary Bill because of a misunderstanding on the part of the mental nurses when legislation was introduced in 1944. At that time they had two years' grace to make applications for registration; but, apparently through some misunderstanding on the part of the mental nurses, they did not make application; and as a consequence, this Bill has been introduced.

There are about 150 mental nurses not registered, and because they are unregistered they lose the preferences which are given to registered nurses by way of employment in Government hospitals; promotion; and reciprocity extended by other States and other countries. I think the Minister's action in introducing this legislation was quite right because it will give these nurses a better status, and that will lead to more harmonious relations and better work. I am not reflecting on the work done at the mental hospital at Claremont because, as everyone knows, the nurses there have done a very good job; and it is not an easy one.

This Bill will give them an opportunity of applying for registration; and, because of the qualifications they have gained by practical experience—which has been recognised by the Director of Mental Health—they will be placed on the same basis as those who are already registered. If they do not make application for registration by 1960, they will have to sit for

the examinations set by the board. A similar situation applied in 1944. However, I am sure that those who are eligible to be registered will not make the same mistake as was made in 1944, and that the 150 who are at present unregistered will be much more contented.

The new Director of Mental Health is Dr. Moynagh, and I think he is getting on very well with the staff. From what I can learn, his administration is good. Dr. Thompson, his predecessor, laid the foundations for good administration, and he is deserving of commendation for the work he did.

I cannot see any objection to this Bill, because it will create a better understanding between the nurses and the administration. There are many nurses who are not now registered but who have qualifications as good as those of the nurses who are registered; yet, because they are unregistered, they do not receive the same preferences. In addition, once they are registered, they will be able to go to other States and to overseas countries with which we have reciprocity. This will enable them to gain additional experience. As the Bill will be of benefit to the nurses, and to the administration of the mental hospital, it has my full support.

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Health—in reply) [2.45]: I thank the member for Eyre for his support of the Bill. It is a measure which makes provision for certain mental nurses in that they will be advantaged in their profession. These people do a very good job; and anything we can do in this way to enhance their status and grant them reciprocity with the services in other States and other countries, should be done. The Bill will also enable them to be properly qualified so that they may be promoted fairly; and, in my opinion, we would be doing the right thing by passing the legislation. I appreciate the support given by the honourable member.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

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

HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 1st September.

MR. NULSEN (Eyre) [2.50]: This is a Bill to finance the installation of septic tank systems in schools. For quite a long period, the lack of these systems—in country schools particularly—worried the ex-Minister for Education because he was

fully aware of the need for such installations to foster health and hygiene throughout the State; but the stumbling block was the lack of finance. The Hawke Government realised the pressing necessity for the provision of this facility, because health is one of the greatest assets one can have; and it was also aware that the people in the country were entitled to septic tank installations the same as the people in the metropolitan area.

However, to sound a note of caution, I point out that unless a continuous supply of water is assured, many problems will be faced by those who install a septic tank system; and, in fact, the disadvantages could be greater than with the obsolete pan system. Local authorities, under the agreement with the Government, will have power to raise loans for septic installations. That responsibility lies with local government whether it co-operates with the Government or not. However, it will be to the advantage of local authorities to work hand in hand with the Government because they will get their money back.

Mr. Brand: They are only a medium of raising the capital.

Mr. NULSEN: That is so. The capital has to be raised in order to carry out these installations; and, in my opinion, the provision of this more modern system will, in time, pay for itself because the cost of removing nightsoil by the antiquated pan system is very considerable—especially when it is worked out over a number of years.

I feel certain that local governing bodies will accept this legislation and will look upon it as a means of raising the loans in the first place, knowing full well that eventually they will have to be repaid. Existing ratepayers will, perhaps, not enjoy the full advantage of a septic installation, but its benefits will be enjoyed in the future by those who follow them.

I think the Government originally intended to cover about 40 schools, but the position now is that the Minister will be able to provide septic installations in about 20 of them almost immediately.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: At the present time about 20 schools have been surveyed, and costs have been worked out for the septic installations.

Mr. NULSEN: I cannot see how there can be any objection to the Bill. I know that the pan system in schools caused me a great deal of worry because the Health Department was particularly insistent that it should be scrapped. This antiquated system also causes the teachers great embarrassment and extra work, because at times they have to dispose of the nightsoil themselves. There are other specifications and items which are not mentioned in the Bill that will have to be worked out with the Local Government Association, because the local authorities will be responsible for

the installations; and I think that under the law as it stands, municipalities have the power to deal with these matters.

After considering the Bill from all angles, I do not think that anyone could agree that finance should override health, because it is our duty to set an example in the training of our young people to recognise the value of health right from their early childhood. I support the Bill.

MR. W. HEGNEY (Mt. Hawthorn) [2.56]: I cannot see any objection to the measure, but I would like to mention that the previous Government and the one preceding it were faced with many difficulties in regard to the sanitary systems which operate in the schools. I think, too, that the present Government will encounter similar difficulties. The proposal in the Bill was submitted some time ago by the Health Department. I know that discussions transpired between the Director of Education and the Minister for Health on the installation of septic systems in schools wherever possible.

From 1947 to 1953, the Government of the day was faced with a great financial problem in regard to the construction of classrooms, and I think everybody appreciated the Government's difficulty. In 1953, the Labour Government found that this problem would be accentuated in succeeding years; and the Minister for Education who preceded me—that is, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition—found that the demand for the construction of new classrooms was so great that the provision of the septic system in schools where the pan system was in existence had to be waived for the time being; even against the strong recommendations of the Health Department that septic tank installations should be proceeded with as soon as possible.

I had the same experience when I was Minister, and members know that many questions were asked about the installation of septic systems in schools. Invariably, the reply had to be that the construction of new classrooms had first priority and that any finance the Government could lay its hand on had to be spent on that work. Today, I asked questions of the Acting Minister for Education, and the answers have shown—and I know the difficulties that surrounded the construction of new classrooms, and which had to be faced by the previous Government—that from 1953 to 1959, there were 1,156 classrooms built. We all know that many schools were badly in need of additional classrooms. Members are also aware that the provision of playing fields and suitable schoolgrounds had to be left in abeyance.

I asked a question to check up the latest figures, and it was not so long ago that there were 250 schools in which the pan system operated. My figures—and I am speaking from memory—show that, owing

to a lack of water supply, of the 250 schools only 70 to 80 could have had the septic system installed. Some of the local authorities must be commended. They were naturally anxious to ensure that septic systems should be installed on Government properties, including schools, wherever possible. The Bill is one which deserves a trial; and it is hoped that, as a result of its being passed, numbers of local authorities will participate in its provisions.

If the Minister for Health, the Acting Minister for Education, and the ex-Minister for Health care to look at the relevant files, I feel sure they will agree that spasmodically protests are made regarding the prevalence of trachoma. Some people not only assume, but assert, that any disease or malady associated with the eyes of children is directly due to the pan system of sanitation. As far as I know, the files will show that the medical fraternity has not said that that is the case.

We all know that the trouble with respect to the installation of septic systems, wherever applicable, was purely one of finance. That is the trouble which has faced successive Governments. It is unfortunately true that if this Bill passes, and local authorities progressively take advantage of its provisions, the installation of the system will be limited to 40 or 50 schools.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: It will be more than that.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Let us say 70 schools.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: More than that.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Let us say 100 schools; I do not wish to quibble about the number. Today I asked the Minister—

(1) How many schools are still being served by the sanitary pan system in—

(a) municipal council areas;

(b) road district areas?

The answer I received was that there were five such schools in the municipal council areas, and 211 in the road district areas. I also asked—

What is the number of schools regarding which there is a suitable water supply to enable the sewerage or a septic system to be installed?

The answer given by the Minister was—

Approximately 100 schools, but subject to further investigation by the Public Works Department.

As I said a while ago, I was only speaking from memory, and my information was that there were only about 70 or 80 schools in which the modern system of sanitation could be installed. Let us assume there are 100 such schools. This will mean that nearly 120 schools will still be left unsewered. But nobody would use that as an argument to show that no septic system should be installed.

I know the great concern that has been expressed by the administrative side of the Education Department; by the Health Department, naturally; by the local authorities; and by the people in the districts where the septic system cannot be installed. It is a matter of grave concern, and it is one to which I presume the Health Department—which is the appropriate one—will have to continually apply itself with a view to devising some modern system to replace the present outmoded one.

It is hoped that the Bill will be passed; and that the local authorities, wherever practicable, and where circumstances permit, will participate in its provisions. Anyway it will be a start in the right direction. It may also be mentioned that where schools are being built by day labour and the departmental works organisation—which will soon be a thing of the past—or by the tender system, the contract invariably includes the installation of the sewerage system or a septic system if a suitable water supply is available.

DR. HENN (Leederville) [3.5]: I do not propose to take up the time of the House, but I would like to congratulate the Minister for Health, and also commend him for the celerity with which he brought down this measure. It is a great step in the direction of health, as it relates to preventive medicine. This matter was discussed quite a lot before the elections, and it was promised by the Liberal Party. As I said before, the Minister is to be congratulated for his attempt to get this legislation on the statute book.

There are one or two matters I would like to mention. I do not think anybody will contradict me when I say that the prehistoric pan system, which has been in operation in many parts of the State, is a menace to health, particularly the health of children. As everyone knows, during the last war the flies which inhabited the camps of the troops were found to move as far afield as 30 miles from those camps and camp latrines. Flies, of course, are definitely a menace; they move great distances and carry diseases with them.

The member for Mt. Hawthorn mentioned trachoma. As far as I can remember, without having studied the question, I do not think trachoma was ever considered to be a fly-borne disease; though I understand there has been some research done recently, and an announcement made that the trachoma virus has been isolated. That could well mean that trachoma comes within the category of fly-borne diseases. There are, however, many other diseases carried by flies, and these are always a menace.

The member for Eyre mentioned that because of the shortage of water it may be difficult to install the septic system in schools, but I would say that every pan

system that is eradicated from our schools is a step in the right direction. It is possible that the water difficulty could eventually be overcome; and we all hope that finally the pan system will be completely done away with, as it certainly should be. Once more, I commend the Minister for the celerity with which he has brought down this legislation. I support the Bill.

MR. W. A. MANNING (Narrogin) [3.9]: I would briefly like to support the Bill, because its provisions are most important to the country schools which are at present using the pan system. The member for Mt. Hawthorn said that its effect must be limited, because it could apply only to those schools where there was an adequate water supply. I point out that the limitation he places on it must be gradually reduced. We hope that many of the schools which at present have not an adequate water supply will gradually be connected to the reticulated supply, so that ultimately all the schools can be so connected. That may not, of course, be quite possible.

I represent the Glenorchy school which was featured in the Press a year or two ago, and which is in a unique position. It is situated in a rural area and not in a town-site. The children of the town go out to the country to attend that school. As the school is not in a townsite, there is very little opportunity to connect a reticulated water supply to it.

In this instance, as in others, the parents and citizens' association was prepared to sink a dam and provide a 10,000-gallon water tank so that the school might have a septic system. That illustrates the importance which country people place on septic systems.

No doubt the proposal contained in the Bill will be acceptable to the road boards. Where it is necessary for something extra to be done to have a water supply available, I feel that every effort will be made by the people concerned—as was done so successfully in the case of the Glenorchy school over the last two or three years.

If this Bill becomes an Act I hope that steps will be taken to enable country schools to be provided with the necessary water supplies. It is decidedly a step in the right direction when the local population co-operates in providing the means for a more healthy method of disposing of night soil. Let us do away with the practice of boys who attend country schools having to empty the pans. It is time that we departed from that antiquated method. I commend the Minister for introducing the Bill, and I heartily support the second reading.

MR. I. W. MANNING (Harvey) [3.12]: I, too, support the Bill because of its considerable importance to my electorate, and because of the considerable agitation which we made for the installation of septic systems in the schools in my territory. I

commend the Minister for the early introduction of the measure, which will enable local authorities, with the backing of the Government, to undertake the necessary work.

As was mentioned earlier, the pan system presents a real problem to the health of schoolchildren. The school at Yarloop deserves to be the first one to be provided with a septic system.

Mr. May: Is there a shortage of water?

Mr. I. W. MANNING: There is no shortage of water there. Because of the present set-up; because of the agitation coming from the parents and citizens' association at Yarloop; and because of the part played by the Yarloop school in the recent election—I saw some of the comments in the newspapers on this matter—the school there deserves to be the first to be fitted with a septic system under this scheme. I have pleasure in supporting the Bill, and I hope there will be no opposition to it.

MR. O'NEIL (Canning) [3.14]: I support the Bill; and in doing so, I want to comment on two personal experiences relating to this subject. Some years ago I was the headmaster of the school at Roebourne. As a result of the effect of eye complaints, colloquially called by two names—"sore eyes" and "bung eyes"—there was a great deal of absenteeism at the school.

I contacted the Health Department and I was given a supply of insecticide. Prior to the children marching into school each day I religiously sprayed them. I did this also during the recess and at odd times throughout the day. At that time the pan system was in operation at the school. I kept a check of the absenteeism resulting from eye complaints.

The following year the school was fortunate enough to be fitted with a septic system. That system was also installed in the township at the direction of the local authority. A further check made by me revealed that absenteeism decreased considerably. When the pan system was in operation the absenteeism rate was 105 per cent., which indicates that many children were absent on two occasions from the same complaint; but after the installation of the septic system the rate of absenteeism dropped to 25 per cent. This indicates clearly that the antiquated pan system had a definite effect on the health of the children.

My second personal experience in this matter concerns the removal of the pans. As the headmaster of a country school, I had on many occasions to perform the unenviable task of removing the pans. There was some compensation in one respect. At times it is very difficult for headmasters of schools to obtain equipment from the Education Department. The school was not supplied with a wheelbarrow; and when I pointed out to the

department how far I had to carry the pan to dispose of the night soil, a wheelbarrow was quickly supplied.

With those remarks I congratulate the Government on the speed with which it has introduced the Bill. I support the second reading and wish the venture every success.

MR. J. HEGNEY (Middle Swan) [3.16]: I intend to support the second reading of the Bill; and I was very interested to hear the remarks of various members who have spoken. I agree that when schools which at present have the pan system, are connected with a water supply and provided with a septic system, the health of the children will be improved considerably.

The unpleasant task referred to by the previous speaker, who was a schoolteacher, will no longer exist when septic systems are installed. The member for Leederville, who is a doctor, referred to the diseases carried by flies. Although septic systems will be installed in many country schools as early as possible, the children will still be affected when they return home after school and use the pan system. From the health angle, this is a very wide problem.

The member for Canning referred to his difficulty in obtaining a wheelbarrow. Over the years it has been my experience in politics, irrespective of the Government which has been in office, that it is very difficult to get equipment from the Education Department, or any other Government department.

I might point out that it was a Labor Government which, prior to the war, diverted loan funds to establish the metropolitan sewerage system. That was the Government which provided us with the modern up-to-date system. Up to that time, funds were diverted to agricultural purposes; but in the years when the agricultural industry was in the doldrums and the price of wheat was low, a start was made by the Government to establish a sewerage system in the metropolitan area. This undertaking, firstly, provided an up-to-date system; and, secondly, provided work for the unemployed of the day.

Mr. Brand: What year was that?

Mr. J. HEGNEY: Prior to the war and at the beginning of the war. I do not think the Premier can dispute those facts.

Mr. Brand: I was not disputing them. I asked when that was.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I made considerable representation for the installation of a septic system at the Bayswater State School, which is in my electorate. It was the second school in this State to be provided with one. This matter is one of finance, and the point is that the Treasurer is not providing the finance from the loan funds for this purpose. He is depending on the local authorities to make the funds available.

Mr. Bovell: He has evolved a system whereby the finance can be borrowed.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I am making a statement which the Minister cannot refute. This money is not being provided from loan funds which the State has raised for set purposes. The local authorities are depending on the authority of the Treasurer to raise loans in their own areas or on the loan market of the State. An arrangement has been made between the Medical Department and some of the local authorities to provide funds for the purpose of septic sewerage systems.

Mr. I. W. Manning: Is there anything wrong with that?

Mr. J. HEGNEY: No. We should connect as many schools as possible where water is available. Water is the great difficulty in this country; and it certainly will be this year, so far as the rainfall up to date is concerned! From the health angle, we are all anxious to minimise the effect of flies which congregate around a pan system. The member for Leederville gave us an instance, where a check was made during wartime conditions, of how far a fly had flown from the location of the test.

We all realise the effect flies have on health. Unfortunately, our country areas are very far-flung; and this is well known to the Minister for Agriculture, who goes about the country every day. It will be many years before we see the septic system in all country areas; but the proposition contained in the Bill is deserving of support, and is certainly a step in the right direction. If the ratepayers co-operate with their local authority to make money available for this scheme, the ratepayers will benefit. Ratepayers often complain that loan raisings are unnecessary for the activities of local authorities. However, if the Minister can reach agreement with the local authorities concerned, I have no doubt that they will be able to install septic systems where water is available. I support the second reading.

MR. OWEN (Darling Range) [3.23]: I support this measure. I think it will go a long way towards improving the conditions in many of our schools—particularly those in country areas. It is true that the loan funds necessary to commence the installation of a septic system will be raised through the local governing body of the district. Most local governments have no difficulty in getting loans, but many are reluctant to raise loans because the loan rate is rather objectionable to their ratepayers.

In an instance such as this, where the State authorities take over the payment for loans, local governing bodies would have no compunction in raising a loan, where approved, for these facilities. In my own area, there are many schools which have

been serviced with a septic system, but there are still many relying on the old pan system. In one place in particular, the parents and citizens' association has been endeavouring for a number of years to get the department to install septic sewerage in the school; but shortage of loan funds has prevented this from being accomplished.

Unfortunately, there is not a sufficient water supply scheme at this school. However, in anticipation of this measure, the parents and citizens' association, with the help of a contractor in the district, has undertaken—with the permission of the Education Department—to put down its own bore so that water will be available to service a septic system. That position will possibly apply in many other parts if people are given sufficient encouragement.

It seems that to expect the Government, first of all, to make the water supply available, and on top of that provide the septic system, is asking too much. In this particular instance the local people are putting in the water scheme, and it is to be hoped they will be among the few this year who will be supplied with a septic system. I am sorry the Minister for Works is not present, but I would like to press home to him the need for many of our country districts to be served with a reticulated scheme.

Mr. Brand: He is well aware of that.

Mr. OWEN: He should be; it has been pointed out to him many times. It is most important that schools should be equipped with septic sewerage systems. I do not think it is much good the teachers trying to teach health and personal hygiene to the children when an inadequate pan system is in vogue. Once a septic system is installed it will serve as a wonderful example to the parents of the children. The children attending a school equipped with a septic sewerage scheme would undoubtedly tell their parents of its advantages; and I feel sure the parents, in a short time, would go to whatever trouble was necessary to install septic sewerage systems in their homes. This is a step in the right direction.

MR. BRADY (Guildford-Midland) [3.28]: I am not going to move for the adjournment of the debate. I had an unfortunate experience last night which I do not want to have a second time.

Mr. W. A. Manning: Have a go!

Mr. BRADY: I think the Minister for Health should be congratulated on bringing down this Bill, as it will do much good. However, I hope the Minister for Health and the Government have not brought it down simply for political ends. If they have done so, they will do a lot of harm.

Mr. Roberts: That would be the last thing this Government would think of.

Mr. BRADY: Last year, I went through the Goldfields with the previous member for Murchison, and we visited a mining town which was pressing the department as hard as it could for a septic tank at the school. If the school at this town had been given a septic tank, it would have had a system and the rest of the town would have been without one.

Mr. Brand: I can think of no better institution than a school to have it.

Mr. BRADY: If the Premier had more knowledge of the State, he might not be so sure about that.

Mr. Brand: I will listen, but I doubt whether I will learn much.

Mr. BRADY: A study of anatomy discloses that human beings can build up a resistance in regard to certain diseases; and, in certain cases, children can build up resistance by coming into regular contact with disease. If this contact becomes irregular, it could have a serious effect on their health. That fact has been established in many countries, and that is why in some countries people do not suffer from some of the diseases from which we suffer here.

Now that the Government has made a move in this matter, I hope it will go further and see that septic systems are installed in towns where such systems have been made available to schools, because of the likely effect on the health of children. For three or four hours daily, these children attend a school equipped with a septic tank system, and then return home to a pan system.

The other point I wish to stress upon the Minister for Health is that, apart from the sewerage tank system, there are other systems to deal with crude sewerage. If there is not sufficient water available for the provision of sewerage or a septic tank system, the Minister for Health might consider the adoption of one of the other systems, of which there are about four or five. In that way, the possibility of the spread of disease by flies would be lessened. We should heed the advice we have received in this Chamber in regard to the spread of disease by flies. If they are causing the spread of disease, we need to consider more than the installation of septic systems where the water is available. We should go further and see that schools and towns, without sufficient water, adopt one of the other systems.

Mr. I. W. Manning: Most country centres are doing that.

Mr. BRADY: I am pleased to hear that, and I hope the Minister will encourage such a practice in towns as well as at schools.

One final matter which I wish to discuss was raised during question time today, when the member for Middle Swan asked the Minister for Works a question regarding the provision of a sewerage system for

the Perth Airport. I believe it is more important that this airport should be sewered than many of the country schools, because there are people from overseas coming to Western Australia from areas where there are diseases which are not prevalent here. It is quite probable that these travellers will bring the germs with them to the Perth Airport, where the flies will help to spread the diseases.

The Minister for Health should consider that aspect and impress upon the Commonwealth authorities the necessity for allocating certain moneys to sewer the airport at the earliest possible opportunity. Not only do thousands of adults pass through the airport every year, but also a large percentage of children. It is time something was done to prevent a possible spread of disease because of an inadequate sewerage system at the airport.

That is all I desire to say on this measure. I do not want to criticise the Minister for introducing this Bill. I think he has done the right thing. But let him keep in mind that it may be worsening the position in regard to the spread of disease if the towns, as well as the schools, are not adequately sewered.

MR. TONKIN (Melville) [3.34]: As an ex-teacher, and an ex-Minister for Education, I feel it is appropriate I should say a few words in connection with this measure. It is noteworthy for at least one reason, this being that a number of rank-and-file members supporting the Government have been brought to their feet. I was beginning to think they had lost the power of speech. This Bill has demonstrated that that is not so, but that they have been under very tight discipline and instructions as to which measures they may discuss.

Mr. Brand: Not all political Parties are alike.

Mr. TONKIN: It is as well that we should know that, because it explains quite a lot. It has been quite good to hear some of those rank-and-file members taking advantage of this freedom to prove that they are here for a purpose other than just blindly to follow the Government like dumb, driven cattle.

This Bill, of itself, will not ensure the furnishing of a single school with a septic system. True, it provides the facility under which such systems may be provided—but at somebody else's expense. It is a prime example of passing the buck.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: How do you work that out?

Mr. Roberts: Not ultimately.

Mr. TONKIN: How do I work that out? If the Chief Secretary will be a little patient, I will show him. To start with, it ensures that the present Government need not pay a single bob.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: To start with!

Mr. I. W. Manning: At least we are going to get sewerage at our schools, which is something you would not give us.

Mr. TONKIN: However, it is as well for us to realise the position. All this enthusiasm which has been displayed has been refreshing, but not quite justified. It is like saying to the little boy at home, "You can go to the pictures," but not giving him any money with which to go. The only object of this Bill is to provide the machinery for someone else to find the money to equip the schools.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: That sounds a pretty good scheme anyway.

Mr. TONKIN: And not at the expense of this Government. It could mean that the Government which will follow this one—

Mr. Brand: In 15 years! Yes, continue.

Mr. TONKIN: That is a prime example of wishful thinking. The Government to follow this one, or succeeding Governments—which might not contain a single member of this Government—will have to pay the bill which this Government is incurring.

Mr. Nalder: And they would be very happy to do so.

Mr. Roberts: Irrespective of political colour.

Mr. Brand: We will change that responsibility to the one you left us.

Mr. TONKIN: It does not compare with the responsibilities which the McLarty-Watts Government left us. If the Premier would like me to deal with some of those bills we had to pay in England, I would be pleased to do so.

Mr. Brand: £226,000.

Mr. TONKIN: I have no intention of doing so, but will deal with them later on. Of that the Premier can be assured.

Mr. Brand: That was seven years ago. Let us go on with the future. That is what was wrong with—

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Brand:—your Government. It would never look ahead.

Mr. TONKIN: If the Premier—

The SPEAKER: Order! I would ask the honourable member to address the Chair.

Mr. TONKIN: I was about to say, when the Premier so rudely interrupted me—

Mr. Brand: I am sorry!

Mr. TONKIN:—that this measure is simply providing the machinery by which somebody else can pay the bill. The local authorities will use loan funds. Although the Minister said in his second reading speech that there were local authorities which had surplus loan funds, I have not heard of that myself. I have found that

local authorities never have sufficient loan funds to enable them to achieve all they desire. Therefore, it means that for this purpose they will have to use a proportion of already inadequate loan funds.

As a result, they must either deny some service to their ratepayers, which otherwise they would be capable of providing, or else raise additional loans and increase the loan rate. Therefore, by carrying out its object in regard to this matter—which is a very laudable one—the Government is imposing an additional burden upon ratepayers in certain localities.

Mr. Brand: They do not have to do this.

Mr. TONKIN: If they don't the schools do not get the service.

Mr. Brand: And would be in the same position as they have been in for the last six years.

Mr. TONKIN: Therefore, it comes back to what I said previously.

Mr. I. W. Manning: The ratepayers are happy about this one.

Mr. TONKIN: All the credit I am prepared to give to the Government for this measure—

Mr. Brand: Don't be stinting!

Mr. TONKIN: —and I will give it no more and no less than that to which it is entitled—is that it is a bright idea which may result in the provision of a few septic systems. And it will not provide anywhere near the amount necessary to meet full requirements. I suggest that it will create an unfair position, because there might be adjoining local authorities, one of which would take advantage of the scheme and put in the septic system; while the other, which had not the funds or was not prepared to take the necessary action, would leave its school without a septic system. For the Government has given no indication that it can find funds for this purpose.

Scheme or no scheme, we must accept the fact that there will remain in Western Australia a large number of schools which can never be sewered until we find a solution to the problem of creating potable water from the salt water in the ground. I can think of a number of schools which could be serviced when we can do that. I taught at schools where adequate water supplies could not be provided to enable a septic system to function. I call to mind places such as Edjudina, where it was difficult to get adequate supplies of drinking water for the children at the school; and at times they had to bring their drinking water from home because the facilities at the school did not provide sufficient for their use. How on earth could we ever equip a school such as that with a septic system?

Mr. W. A. Manning: You do not want drinking water for a septic system.

Mr. TONKIN: No; but we want comparatively fresh water. What the honourable member says does not alter the force of my argument that, despite this legislation, there is still a large number of schools in Western Australia which it will be impossible to equip with septic systems.

Mr. Craig: But why stop them installing septic systems?

Mr. TONKIN: Who suggests that they should be stopped?

Mr. Craig: You are suggesting it.

Mr. TONKIN: I am not. I am pointing out what the situation is. If the honourable member's understanding is so poor that he cannot appreciate the case I am putting forward, I cannot help it. What I am saying is true: that this Bill, of itself, does not ensure the installation of a single septic system in Western Australia. All it does is to provide the *modus operandi* by which certain local authorities may, if they see fit, provide septic systems at the expense of some future Government—but not this one. Those are the plain facts. I am prepared to give the Government credit for a bright idea; but that is all.

Mr. Brand: Thank you.

Mr. TONKIN: I give it that credit, and that much only, because the bright idea costs the Government precisely nothing.

Mr. Brand: The children are giving us thanks for a septic system.

Mr. TONKIN: This costs the Government precisely nothing; and if the Government is getting thanks, it is getting more than it deserves. What a wonderful thing it is to do something at somebody else's expense!

Mr. Roberts: You would like to be able to do it, on a lot of occasions.

Mr. TONKIN: There is no limit to this type of thing; no limit at all. You can say to the local authorities, "Go ahead and provide community halls. We will give you the power to provide them—"

Mr. Brand: But we will not do that.

Mr. TONKIN: "—and the Government in 15 years' time can pay for them. If you want a kindergarten, we will enable you to build it and provide that the Government in 15 years' time shall pay for it."

Mr. Brand: It is all a matter of priority.

Mr. TONKIN: It is the same thing precisely. All the Government has done here is to provide some machinery which will enable somebody else to pay the bill. I repeat that I give the Government credit and applaud it for the idea which makes this possible; and if it results in the provision of only one septic tank, it will have been justified. But do not let us run riot with enthusiasm and say that a marvellous job has been accomplished; because this costs the Government nothing.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.5 p.m.

Mr. MAY (Collie) [4.5]: There is not much I wish to say in connection with this matter, and I give the Minister full marks for what he is trying to achieve in the way of septic tanks for schools. Much has been said this afternoon as regards the health of children and how it is affected by the use of the pan system, and the difference the installation of septic systems will make.

But I believe there are other considerations which must be given to this matter, and I only hope that the Minister for Education will take note of my remarks this afternoon. I have a letter from the Collie High School Parents & Citizens' Association which reads as follows:—

The conditions of the girls' toilets at the Collie High School are causing the members of this association some concern. Some 430 girls from both primary and high schools are provided with eight toilets. It is felt that this is well below standard health requirements and it is respectfully requested that you have the matter rectified.

I am speaking to this measure this afternoon for the especial purpose of bringing this particular matter before the notice of the Minister; because it is silly to install septic systems unless the accommodation provided for the students is sufficient. It is impossible for eight toilets to accommodate 430 girls; and I can only hope that when the Public Health Department is dealing with this matter some consideration will be given to the number of children in a school, and the number of toilets required to accommodate them.

Why inspectors who visit schools regularly should allow this sort of thing to continue, I simply cannot understand. Probably it is because of the expense involved; but, if we are to consider expense before the convenience and health of children going to school, I believe we are on the wrong track.

I trust that the Minister will give some thought to the matters I have brought forward while speaking to this Bill, so that some serious consideration can be given to the situation I have described as existing at the Collie High School. After some years of argument, we eventually obtained a satisfactory septic system at the school. It will now be obsolete because the school has been connected with the sewerage system, which is now being installed. However, it is useless to install either a sewerage or a septic system unless there is a sufficient number of toilet pedestals in proportion to the total number of children attending the school. I hope, therefore, that the Minister will take note of what I have said.

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Premier) [4.11]: On the question of raising finance for this project, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said that he believed local government was always short of loan money. In fact, local government as such in this State did not fully take advantage of the Loan Council approval for loan raisings last year; and we have, I think, £4,000,000 approved for this year's loan raising.

In regard to the problem now before us of raising sufficient capital to provide for the installation of septic tanks in schools, I should imagine that country road boards or municipalities will be only too pleased to be the medium and the channel by which local finance becomes available to the Government. That, in fact, is the position because we undertake to repay it.

It is certainly a commitment for the future; but that is nothing new. As a Government we are at present paying yearly instalments on the Medical School, an undertaking entered into by the previous Government. That is only one example, but I could go on citing others *ad infinitum*. The House must not overlook the fact that the Government will save something like £20,000 yearly by not having to service the pan systems in the schools. That amount will be something towards servicing the loan that local government will raise.

In many cases it will only be a small amount: in the vicinity of £800 or £900 and up to £1,500, according to the size of the school. I can well understand the reluctance of those opposite to give any real credit to the Government for this plan. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, finally, that it would service only one school. But the fact remains that it will be possible to install immediately septic tank systems in dozens of schools which, hitherto, because of the lack of money and nothing else, did not have such a service.

This was a bright idea on the part of the Government; and even although I am the Leader of it, I think, in all humility, the Government should be given full credit for the project because it represents a real effort to maintain the health of the people.

The argument advanced by the ex-Minister for Police (the member for Midland-Guildford)—that the whole town should be sewered—does not carry any weight whatsoever. If there is any building or institution that should have first priority for the installation of a septic system in any country town or city, surely it should be the school!

As for the reference made to the reluctance of members on this side of the House to speak on measures that have been introduced, I do not think there have been many that required a great deal of debate. They were adequately dealt with by those occupying the front bench; and, in that, we take our lead from the previous Government.

I know that these remarks have nothing to do with the Bill before us, Mr. Speaker; but in view of your tolerance I thought that you might allow me to point out that the back benches will support any worthy cause that is brought before this House for consideration, and will certainly contribute to the debate on it. I have great pleasure in supporting the Bill, because it will be the means of providing a modern service to country schools and will assist in safeguarding the health of the people.

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Health—in reply) (4.16): I thank those members who have contributed to the debate. It is certainly gratifying to find that so many members have shown such a keen interest in this measure. It was obvious, too, that several members on the opposite side of the House were prepared to treat the Bill on its merits; whilst others, I am afraid, felt that they had to oppose it merely because it was a measure the Government had brought down. Apparently they considered they had to pour cold water on the scheme one way or another.

Nevertheless, I am grateful for the discussion that has ensued because some sound suggestions were made, and the hope was expressed that this initial scheme would be the forerunner of a greater one to incorporate modern septic systems into fields much wider than that contemplated by this legislation. It is true that the full implementation of this proposal will meet with many difficulties. It is also true that only a proportion of the total number of schools will be serviced within the next one to two years. I would hope, however, that within that period the number of schools that will be serviced will be around the 100 mark.

That is our immediate target because approximately that number of schools have the necessary facilities in existence for septic installations to be made. Before the remaining 120 or 130 schools can be serviced, there are many difficulties which they present that will have to be solved. I am fully aware of the problems that have been pointed out to me. In fact, I think the whole House is aware of them; but I think, too, that all members sincerely hope they will be overcome. This is an essential health move; and although all the schools cannot be serviced in the immediate future, the important point is that a definite start is being made.

Mr. Nulsen: You have had no opposition from this side of the House.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I certainly did not have any from the honourable member; and in the real sense of opposition to the measure, there was none from any member. But there was an attempt made to cry down the task that was being attempted by the Government.

Mr. W. Hegney: Do you expect to be able to get any loan funds from the ordinary loan fund raisings for this purpose?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: That is not contemplated at present. The bright idea, as referred to by the member for Melville, is that we are endeavouring to get money that is so difficult to obtain. That is, money for capital works from a source that does not affect the Government's loan programme. At least that part of the scheme was commended by the member for Melville. The Premier pointed out that the Public Health Department has to spend a great deal of money servicing the existing pan systems. The sum is not as great as that mentioned by the Premier, but it is not far from it.

There was some confusion earlier about the number of schools that will be serviced; but I have already explained the position in regard to that. I will repeat that it is hoped that 100 schools will be dealt with in the immediate future; but in regard to the remaining 130, some new schemes will have to be evolved, and investigations are now being made with that end in view, with the object of finding facilities to cope with the special difficulties. I think the Premier covered the question of finance quite adequately. When the ex-Minister for Education said that the scheme deserved a trial, I think he could have been a little more generous. The scheme deserves far more than a trial; it deserves all the support it can possibly get.

Mr. W. Hegney: It rests with the local authorities.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: The response from the local authorities so far has been excellent.

Mr. W. Hegney: If the trial shows it is worth while, it will expand.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: This scheme was available to the previous Government, and it had the opportunity of implementing it in the manner that we contemplate. The member for Guildford-Midland said he hoped that this was not a political move. The move is essentially in the interests of public health. To put it quite frankly, the move is not a completely new one. A part of the idea was available in the past, but it was not implemented at that time.

As I mentioned earlier, the proposal is a start—and a very good start—with what will be a very important health reform. We will do our best to pursue this health reform to its most beneficial conclusion. At first the member for Melville appeared to introduce a somewhat jarring and discordant note; but as he proceeded with his speech, I felt his concluding notes were almost melodious if not mellifluous. The member for Melville, however,—as did the member for Guildford-Midland—used the strange and almost bizarre reasoning that if this facility were not

provided for all schools; that if it were not provided for the entire community, it would be unfair to make a start which would prove an advantage to only some.

Personally, I cannot see the strength of that argument; and I feel that that sort of remark is best left unsaid. That concludes my reference to points that were raised; but I daresay I have not covered them all. I do, however, appreciate the interest taken in the measure.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) in the Chair; Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Minister for Health) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1 put and passed.

Clause 2—Section 100 amended:

Dr. HENN: I am sorry the member for Guildford-Midland is not in his seat, because he could correct me if I am wrong. I understood the honourable member to say it was a pity to do away with the pan system because that would do away with flies, and flies were a source of immunisation. I know the honourable member used the word immunisation. I take it he meant active immunisation rather than passive immunisation.

Mr. Jamieson: I think you have changed his words.

Dr. HENN: I would point out, however, that immunisation by flies is not the best method of immunisation. There are plenty of other methods. I thought I might correct the member for Guildford-Midland on that point.

Clause put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

LAND AGENTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 27th August.

MR. NULSEN (Eyre) [4.28]: This is an Act to which many amendments have been introduced in an endeavour to keep up with some of the land agents. For years we have tried to catch up with them, but they have always been able to wriggle out. I hope this Bill will cope with those who do not keep their trust accounts solvent. That is the reason for the measure. When I was a Minister, and prior to my leaving the Crown Law Department, I discussed this matter thoroughly with the officers concerned, and we had a complete understanding of it. I would point out that it had been the intention of my Party, had we been returned as a Government, to bring down a similar measure to that which we are now considering.

I commend the Government for bringing down this Bill. It is a protective measure, and it seeks to protect the clients

and creditors of land agents. The vast majority of land agents are reputable citizens, but a few seem to be confused in their dealings, through lack of honesty, or incompetence. Before licences are granted to land agents, they are examined strictly by the supervisory committee, and they should be fairly competent in land transactions.

Some safeguard should be provided in the legislation to prevent fraud on the part of land agents. On occasions, people disposing of or purchasing properties have been defrauded by their agents. Such actions cause suffering on the part of the clients, especially the elderly clients who, in some cases, are deprived of their life's savings. Many amendments have been made to the Act with a view to preventing land agents from misusing their trust accounts. The Bill seeks to give greater security to the clients and creditors of land agents.

Where the supervisory committee suspects there are reasonable grounds for believing a land agent is misusing his trust account, that committee can make application to a judge to freeze the trust account. It can be an *ex parte* application and can be made without notifying the land agent concerned. That is important in order to prevent the agent from continuing to misuse his trust account. If the agent knows he is involved in an offence of this type, he will continue misusing the account, because he knows that the penalty will be no greater.

It is contended that agents are required to take out a bond, but the bond is only for an amount of £2,000. The trust accounts of many land agents run into thousands of pounds—up to £50,000 or more. The bond provides some protection, but not a great deal.

Land agents are aware of their obligations under the parent Act, because section 8 describes their obligations very clearly. If they do not observe the provision in that section they know they are punishable under the law. This is what section 8 of the Act states—

(1) All moneys received by a land agent in respect of any land transaction, or in respect of rents or interest on mortgages collected by him, shall be applied as follows:—

(a) In payment of such of the expenses, commission, and other charges of or incidental to the land transaction or collection, as are payable by the persons on whose behalf the moneys are received.

(b) In payment of the balance to the person legally entitled or authorised to receive the same; and until payment such balance shall be paid into a bank to a general or separate trust account.

(2) For every breach of this section:
Penalty: Fifty pounds.

(3) Moneys so paid into any such trust account shall not be available for payment of the debt of any other creditor of the land agent, or be liable to be attached or taken in execution under the order or process of any Court at the instance of any such creditor.

It is essential that a land agent should be prevented from continuing to misuse his trust account, because the amount involved can be very considerable.

The supervisory committee has power under the Bill to apply to a judge by evidence on affidavit for an order to restrain the land agent from dealing with his trust account. If the judge is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing there is a deficiency in the trust account, he can make such an order.

The provision in clause 2 of the Bill goes further; if sufficient reasons are adduced, the judge can freeze any other account in the name of the agent, in addition to the trust account. The Bill is a move in the right direction. It seeks to safeguard the savings of people—especially of elderly folk—which have been invested in a house or property.

Under the Bankruptcy Act, which is Commonwealth legislation, the Official Receiver is not permitted to interfere with the trust account of a land agent. If a land agent is made bankrupt, his creditors and clients may not get a fair deal. The provisions in the Bill will give a judge full jurisdiction to freeze the trust account and to make an order for the distribution of the funds therein.

The Bill provides a safeguard to the land agents as well as to their clients. If an agent has made a slight mistake in his trust account he will be fairly treated. He has power to make an application to the judge. If the application is successful, the judge can rescind any order which has been made.

The supervisory committee is responsible for auditing the trust accounts of land agents. That committee wants more power so that the interests of the clients and creditors of land agents can be more adequately safeguarded. Land agents will have nothing to fear from this measure, because they are also given protection. Reputable land agents should welcome this Bill, which seeks to increase their prestige. I commend the Bill to the House and support the second reading.

MR. O'CONNOR (North Perth) [4.40]: I am pleased to be able to agree, to a great extent, with the remarks of the member for Eyre. I think the amendment contained in this Bill is essential. We recently had an incident where a certain estate agent had a deficiency in a trust account of some £10,000; and it is necessary to protect the public against this type of land agent. However, I do feel there are several points which are worthy of mention.

In this State we have a Land Agents' Advisory Board which has the power to approve or reject any application by a person to become a land agent. It is possible for an undesirable agent to get through this board, and we must have some protection against that sort of thing. I suggest it would be possible to operate here along similar lines to those in the Eastern States where, if a person wishes to become a land agent, he has to serve a probationary period. I believe that period is two years. I do not know whether such a length of time is necessary; but anyone desiring to become a land agent should serve a probationary period of, say, 12 months.

We have had an instance here where a person applied to the Land Agents' Advisory Board for an estate agent's license; and when that person was asked what a mortgage was, he did not know. Anyone applying for a license should have had some experience and know exactly what is meant by a trust account, and that sort of thing. We have no restrictions at all as to who can sign on behalf of an agent in regard to a trust account. Often it is the office girl, a clerk, or anyone the agent wishes who signs the cheques for a trust account. In addition, there is no limitation on the amount he can sign for.

As we know, the bond in this State is £2,000. In the case of land agents in a small way, I feel that is ample; but I find there are some agents in this State who have up to £100,000 during the month in their trust account. The sum of £2,000 would not go far in that case. Some scheme should be worked out where an agent's bond is related to the percentage of the average amount he has each month in his trust account.

These accounts are required to be audited only once annually. Over a period of 12 months, a lot could go wrong with a trust account containing an amount of £100,000. I consider that an audit should be taken more than once during that period. The Bill is a good one. It contains a provision that where a judge considers there are reasonable grounds for believing there is a deficiency in a trust account of any land agent, he may have the account restrained. I think that is necessary. Also, on page 5 of the Bill, provision is made for the Treasurer to cause the moneys to be paid into a separate account to be kept at the Treasury; and where there is a deficiency, the moneys may be apportioned among claimants in proportion to their proved claims.

I agree with the Bill but hope that the points I have raised will receive further consideration.

MR. W. A. MANNING (Narrogin) [4.45]: I commend the Bill to the House. However, there is one point I would like to raise, and that is in connection with the registration of land agents. If we refer to the

Land Agents Act we find that a land agent is one who sells for reward of some sort in respect of a land transaction. A land transaction is defined as follows:—

A sale, exchange or other disposal, and a purchase, exchange or other acquisition—except by auction, of land and estates and interests in land—

and so on. The words I particularly wish to refer to are "except by auction." By this Bill, we are safeguarding clients of land agents by various means; yet no protection is given against an auctioneer, who does not have to guarantee a fidelity bond.

Mr. Guthrie: He is licensed under the Auctioneers Act.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: Yes; a land agent can be licensed, but he has to guarantee a fidelity bond, in order that trust funds shall be secure. An auctioneer is not required to do so. I am not reflecting on the auctioneers, and I do not reflect on the land agents; but this Bill is designed to protect the public. If protection is necessary against one who is licensed as a land agent, it seems to me equally necessary that protection should be provided against one who is licensed as an auctioneer. He is permitted to sell land; and I understand that even if he does not knock down the land at the auction, he is enabled to negotiate with a prospective purchaser after the time of the auction. I am not sure of the time. I have endeavoured to find out, but have been unable to do so.

Mr. Nulsen: An auctioneer would not hold trust funds.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: Why not? He is able to sell land. Surely he will receive a deposit.

Mr. Nulsen: An auctioneer does not come within the scope of this Bill.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: An auctioneer must receive a deposit, and surely it should be necessary for him to put up a fidelity bond just as the land agent has to. I may be wrong; but so far as I can see, there is no difference between the sale of land by a land agent and the sale of land by an auctioneer. Therefore, a fidelity bond should be required in both cases.

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture—in reply) [4.48]: On behalf of the Attorney-General, I wish to thank members for their contribution to this debate. Consideration will be given to the points raised when the Bill is in Committee. I will give an undertaking that if amendments are desirable, that can be done in Committee.

Mr. W. Hegney: A very reasonable approach.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

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

TOURIST BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 1st September.

MR. OLDFIELD (Mt. Lawley) [4.53]: In supporting this Bill, I would like to say at the outset that I am a little disappointed in regard to the personnel which constitutes this committee to promote the interests of tourism. I feel it is possibly a mistake to have so many departmental chiefs or civil servants on it. Just because an individual happens to be a good civil engineer or some other highly qualified civil servant, it does not mean to say that he would be a good person to have on this committee. I feel that the Premier would have been better advised to select a panel of people who knew something about tourism; in other words, those who would be able to sell tourism and create a magnet to attract the attention of tourists. If we desire to have the people come here, we need either to have some natural attraction; or else to create one. We must have something! If nature does not provide it, man must do so.

We read of natural attractions in certain places. For instance, there is the Grand Canyon in Arizona; and there are the cliff faces, and lookouts such as that at Echo Point at Katoomba in the Blue Mountains. We also have man-made attractions such as the historical Sphinx and the pyramids; and the religious churches and buildings at Jerusalem, and throughout the Middle East; and the cathedrals scattered throughout Europe and the United Kingdom. Such things are of interest to people and act as a magnet. They go to see places or buildings which are either historical, religious, or beautiful.

Mr. Graham: You can attract them also by forms of entertainment. I am thinking of the Casino at Monte Carlo.

Mr. OLDFIELD: That raises the question of which comes first: the chicken or the hen?

Mr. Wild: I can answer that.

Mr. OLDFIELD: Yes; possibly the Minister for Works could give us the answer. It is true that in a city such as Paris, night-life entertainment is quite a tourist attraction. However, it was not the original draw but is something that has developed to entertain the people who have come to see other sights. In Paris, for instance, they would have gone to see the Eiffel Tower or the Arc de Triomphe. In other cities, it might be a beautiful harbour, or something of that nature. We, in Western Australia, have our climate, and our wildflowers for at least six weeks of the year. However, they in themselves are not a sufficient attraction.

If we did reach the stage where we had a magnet to draw the people, they would, unfortunately, depart with a bad impression of Western Australia, particularly in regard to accommodation. The standard of accommodation in Western Australia is far below that which exists even in the

Eastern States, where there are many hotels with a moderate tariff at which good bed and breakfast accommodation is available for about 50s. That, however, would provide a person with a private shower or bath and toilet.

In these days of drip-dry shirts and underwear, private bathrooms are essential, especially when one considers the large number of men who travel. It is quite possible for them to wash out their shirts the night before, hang them in the bathroom or shower recess, and be able to wear them the next day. Unfortunately, however, we in Western Australia do not possess that type of accommodation. Certainly there are a few modern hotels which provide it. One of these is the Charles Hotel.

In regard to these hotels, the Licensing Court is the instrumentality which should be charged with the responsibility and should be forced to carry out that responsibility—of seeing that type of accommodation is provided which will encourage tourists to speak highly of Western Australia when they return to their own town. The impression a person may gain of a river, climate, or flowers, and timber, is very often overshadowed by the inconvenience of shoddy accommodation—or, in some cases, primitive accommodation. Their impression of a place is coloured by whether or not they have comfortable accommodation, and good service and food. One satisfied tourist is much better than thousands of pounds spent on brochures and colourful advertisements distributed throughout Australia and other countries.

In connection with this accommodation, the Licensing Court is not taking a responsible stand. Quite recently the Boomerang Hotel was opened at Bentley. There was a great fuss made of that opening, to which Cabinet Ministers and members of the Licensing Court were invited. The hotel was supposed to have several dining-rooms—including one for late dinners—a ballroom, and all the other modern amenities.

But did that transpire? No. It is only a glorified saloon. The hotel was built and licensed for no other purpose than to sell beer. The Licensing Court granted the lease on the understanding that a modern hotel was to be built. There is the minimum number of bedrooms—ten, I think—and they do not even include a wash basin. If a guest wants a glass of water or desires to clean his teeth, he has to go to the bathroom to do so. There are not even hand basins in the bedrooms.

The Licensing Court should insist that no license be granted to a hotel unless private toilets and shower recesses are provided for every bedroom. There are two or three tourist hotels being built in this State at a cost of £120,000 or more; but I doubt whether they are going to provide private toilets and shower recesses for the bedrooms. I do not think the Licensing Court cares at all about that, because it does not insist on such amenities being provided. It is possible that, in these

new hotels, half the bedrooms may be so equipped; but I am sure that unless the court makes the provision of toilets and shower recesses mandatory before a license is granted, we will not get very far with our endeavours to attract tourists to this State.

How many members of this Chamber have been approached by people from overseas or other States, with a request to arrange accommodation for them during their stay in Western Australia? Each time that question is posed, one finds the greatest difficulty in deciding where to put such people up. There are, in Perth, one or two old-fashioned, conservative hotels which cater for tourists, or claim to do so; but they do not provide modern facilities. The service available is the best that can be provided at present; but it cannot be brought up to modern standards without the expenditure of many thousands of pounds.

One of our leading city hotels, with a high tariff, is simply a rabbit warren of narrow passages and poky bedrooms; and when one moves along the corridors at night the creaking of the floorboards wakes up everyone in the place. Some of the older hotels in Sydney have been compelled—not by the court, but in order to meet competition—to spend many thousands of pounds on modernisation, and the installation of shower recesses, toilets, and so on. It is dreadful to see hotels being built at a cost in excess of £120,000, without the necessary facilities, when, for the sake of possibly an extra £10,000 expenditure on the 10 or 12 bedrooms involved, all modern amenities could be provided.

At present all these so-called modern hotels want to provide is a nice dining-room, with facilities for parties whenever a special license is available. I feel that that is where the Licensing Court should take its full responsibility under the Act, and insist that the accommodation and facilities be brought up to decent modern standards. I think we all agree that there is not a single hotel in this State which could be regarded as a real tourist hotel providing decent service and accommodation for tourists in the truest sense.

A tourist hotel should have a nice outlook and be handy to the city; and close to first-class transport. There are plenty of spots around Perth that would be ideal sites for a tourist hotel. One of the finest such sites, at the gateway of the city, is at present occupied by one of the shabbiest hotels one can see. I refer to the hotel at the western end of the Causeway. It has had a face lift by means of a coat of the most horrible-looking paint imaginable. In fact, I would say that the paint manufacturer made a mistake and, not knowing what to do with what he had produced, sold it cheaply to this hotel, which then slapped it on the outside walls.

However, this hotel has an unobstructed view of the Darling Ranges, and of the river—from Perth water through the narrows down to Crawley—as well as of King's

Park. I suggest that is an ideal site for a tourist hotel. The present structure should be pulled down and a modern six or eight-storey hotel built there, provided with lifts and every modern facility and attraction to give people service.

It is probably unfair to expect private enterprise to enter upon the building of a hotel of the kind envisaged, without being assured of the patronage of a sufficient number of tourists. But once again it is a matter of which comes first. Are we to provide accommodation for tourists who may never come here; or bring tourists here under such conditions that they will never return to this State because there is no decent hotel accommodation available?

I suggest that the Government should proceed with its policy and sell the State hotels. Once they are sold, the money derived from the sale could well be spent in building a semi-luxury hotel, or one providing accommodation graded from the luxurious down to the more moderately priced type of accommodation. Such a hotel could be built in a position like that to which I have referred; and once it became a payable proposition and could stand on its own feet, the Government would be honour bound to sell it to a private company formed for the purpose. The money from that sale could be used to pioneer another such hotel—perhaps in some country district. We could continue in that way to provide suitable accommodation for tourists. I am convinced that we will never be able to put tourists in a happy frame of mind until we can provide accommodation equal in standard to that to which they are accustomed in other parts of the world. I support the Bill.

MR. W. HEGNEY (Mt. Hawthorn) [5.8]: I do not propose to oppose the measure; although, having examined it, I find in it nothing of a substantial character. I will not take members on a verbal tour of other parts of the world, or explain the beauties of other countries, because that has already been done by way of comparison; and by way of illustration of what might attract tourists. I agree that it is necessary for favourable publicity to be given to the attractions of this State—and not only in Western Australia but also in the other States—with a view to attracting visitors to Western Australia, either for their holidays or as permanent residents.

If that can be accomplished, it will help to develop the State and will let people in other parts of the world know what Western Australia has to offer. It must be borne in mind, when we are comparing one State with another, that the circumstances in the various States are entirely different. Western Australia, for example, has a population of just over 700,000; while that of the Commonwealth as a whole is over 10,000,000. We have less than 10 per cent. of the population of the

Commonwealth, yet the area of Western Australia is just over 1,000,000 square miles, which is one third of the area of the Commonwealth.

There are in this State places of unsurpassed grandeur, which are further from the seat of Government in Western Australia than Canberra is. As a matter of fact, it is further from here to Wyndham than it is to Adelaide; or further than it is from here by air to Canberra or Melbourne. In order to foster among people elsewhere a knowledge of what Western Australia can offer, we must indulge in publicity of a desirable type.

Some members have said that we have this and we have that; and that this beach is nearly as good as the beach somewhere else. The other night, the member for Warren made reference to the fact that the south-western portion of the State is the garden of Australia; and I am satisfied, without going into a mass of detail, that that is so. In my view there is nothing to surpass it anywhere. There are beauty spots in the South-West in the electorates represented by the member for Vasse, the member for Bunbury, and the member for Warren, which are really wonderful.

Mr. Rowberry: What about the Speaker's electorate?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I am coming to him. I will mention him especially because his electorate is a very important one and a very old one. There are places like Donnybrook and Bridgetown where, for many months of the year, the scenery is everything that could be desired, particularly around Bridgetown. As one goes through the hills near Perth at present, to the Canning Weir, or to part of the jarrah forests on a trip from Dwellingup through Chaddora and down through Bodington and Williams, one sees some beautiful scenery. There are other lovely trips such as from the 34-mile peg to Jarrahdale, and back to Perth; and down to Brookton via Karragullen, and back through well-established towns like Beverley and York; or to Northam and across to Toodyay and back to Perth via the old and well-known Red Hill road. There is beautiful scenery to be seen on any of those trips; and, in the right season, I would say that one could see nothing more beautiful.

Wildflowers have been mentioned as an attraction. It is unfortunate that, due to various causes, such as the use of the bulldozer, the firestick, and other forms of destruction, some of our beautiful wildflowers which used to grow in profusion around the hills and within an area of 40 miles of Perth, are almost a thing of the past.

I do not want to devote much time to that aspect; I am mentioning these things to show that we have something to sell. I am not mentioning our beaches, which are unsurpassed and something of which we can be proud. But one of the problems

is an adequate and effective way of putting our attractions over so that people in other countries will be tempted to see the beauties of Western Australia and spend some time—and, of course, money—in this State.

I agree to a certain extent with what the member for Mt. Lawley said in regard to accommodation. In some cases it is necessary that more substantial accommodation be provided to enable our tourists to be properly accommodated while they are in the State. That brings me to the ostensible purpose of this Bill. By it, the Premier proposes to set up an authority or board; and I am surprised that this authority is loaded so strongly in favour of Government employees. If there is any authority or board which would lend itself to some other form of representation it would be one dealing with tourist affairs.

If one examines the constitution of the proposed authority it will be seen that it will have a total of eight members. The Premier, who is also Treasurer, has indicated that he will personally administer what he considers this important portfolio, and he is the Minister for Tourists. He or his nominee will be chairman. The Minister for Works will appoint a nominee, and the Minister administering the Main Roads Act will appoint a nominee. But almost invariably the Minister for Works and the Minister in charge of the Main Roads Department are one and the same person. The Minister for Lands will also appoint a nominee.

If it is necessary to have representatives from these departments on the board, why should not the Minister for Railways have a representative? I suppose it could be said that the Minister for Railways could be represented by one of the two mentioned in the last paragraph of the constitution of the proposed board. But if the Minister administering the Main Roads Act is entitled to nominate a person connected with that department, is it not logical that the Railway Department should have a representative on the authority? Surely there are other departments which could have similar claims!

In my view it is absolutely unnecessary for the Minister controlling the Main Roads Department to have a nominee on the board. Surely the Treasurer, or the chairman, who would in any case be representing the Treasury on this authority, could communicate with the Commissioner of Main Roads to point out that a certain road should be developed to cater for tourist traffic!

I can see no other reason why the Main Roads Department should require a nominee except to cover that aspect. The same applies to the nominee of the Minister for Works. I agree that there is some justification for a representative of the Minister for Lands being on the authority, but I cannot see any reason for a nominee from the Main Roads Department.

I believe that the authority should consist of the Minister for Tourists, or his nominee, who would be from the Treasury; another Treasury representative; three representatives from the three departments to which I previously referred; and two persons interested in tourist affairs. The authority as it is proposed to be constituted by the Bill will achieve very little. This authority should be an advisory committee set up by the Minister in charge of tourists; and it could easily, either through the Treasury representative, or the Ministers' representatives, contact the various Government departments, as well as the Chamber of Manufactures, the chambers of commerce throughout the State, and the various tourist agencies. A body such as that would be far more effective than the tourist authority suggested by the legislation.

What will this authority do? If members closely examine the Bill they will see—and here I am open to correction by the Minister in charge—that all the things which will be done under the Bill can be done by the Government or the Minister now.

There is also the machinery clause, which is usual in such measures, providing for the administration of this legislation. One of the functions of the authority is that it shall report to the Minister in regard to tourist affairs. As I have found out before today that such provisions are necessary, I do not disagree with the following proviso:—

Subject to the Minister, the Authority has the control and direction of the State Government Department known as the Tourist Bureau.

According to the Bill, the Government will have to find all the money to administer the functions of this tourist authority; and therefore the Minister, as the Government representative, should have the say as to how the fund shall be spent. I have no quarrel with that.

However, what is wrong with the existing set-up? We have a Director of the Tourist Bureau in office now; and as far as I know, he is an extremely competent officer of the Public Service, and has acquired a wide experience of tourist affairs. If he and the Minister were to confer, I am sure they would be able to agree on the formation of an advisory body to assist the Minister in the handling of tourist affairs. If this were done, I am certain we could achieve much more than by appointing this proposed statutory authority.

In regard to the employees who shall be appointed, the officers of the Tourist Bureau are members of the Public Service. According to the Bill, there is no need to change them other than to transfer them from the jurisdiction of the Director of the Tourist Bureau to this authority; because the future officers of the authority will be members of the Public Service, and any new appointees employed by that authority will be governed by the Public

Service Act. The Bill provides that the Minister shall authorise the fund to be handled by the authority; and the Minister is entitled to do that. Every year, on the Estimates, a vote is passed for the development of the tourist trade.

According to the Bill, the funds received will be from loan funds and moneys appropriated by Parliament. That is the current procedure. The Treasurer will be empowered to determine the contributions to be made to interest and sinking fund in regard to the amounts of money the authority will receive from the Government. That is another clause which is purely a machinery provision. The Bill states that the Minister can appoint sub-committees. That is done in any organisation. Under the Bill we propose to appoint an authority with a personnel of eight; and it is then proposed that various matters shall be farmed out to other people who are to report back to the authority which, in turn, shall report back to the Minister.

At various times, the members of the Government have been very critical about any increase in the number of boards or authorities. For the orderly conduct of an industry or the orderly marketing of a product, it is sometimes necessary for a board to be constituted to regulate conditions—where regulations are required—so that those engaged in the industry shall be protected. However, I cannot agree that it is necessary, in a State like Western Australia, to set up an authority consisting of eight persons, six of whom are to represent socialistic institutions. To do that would be completely inconsistent with what has been done in the past by those opposite. In effect, there are going to be six Government representatives appointed to this authority.

It would be more advisable for the Minister and the Director of the Tourist Bureau—and nothing has been said against the ability of that officer—to enter into negotiations to appoint a small advisory committee.

Mr. Roberts: How many would you suggest should be appointed to an advisory committee?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I do not want to monopolise all the time of the House, so I will leave that for the Minister and the Director—in consultation with the interjector—to work out. I would not object to two or three. As a guide, I point out that two or three accomplish more than a whole retinue of members. There are many members on this side of the House who would at least agree that the personnel of this authority could be greatly improved.

Before the Bill reaches Committee, I hope the Minister in charge of it will consider an amendment to provide that the authority shall be more representative of the community and that the number of Government representatives to

be appointed to it will be reduced. I suggest the appointment of an advisory committee, but if the Government intends to proceed with the constitution of a statutory authority, I will not quibble over it; but I think that its personnel should be altered.

MR. J. HEGNEY (Middle Swan) [5.28]: Having read the Bill and listened to the various speakers who have spoken to it, I cannot see that much can be gained by appointing another statutory authority. I think it would be more advisable if the Government took steps to build up the Tourist Bureau. With the amount of money that is made available to it, that bureau does a first-class job. The bureau has been most punctilious and thorough when I have had to arrange any tours through it; it has covered every detail.

If the Tourist Bureau were built up, and more trained personnel were appointed to it, it could carry out the task of attracting a greater number of tourists to this State much more efficiently, I am sure, than this proposed statutory authority. It is agreed that our aim is to encourage more tourists to Western Australia. I think that those hundreds of people who have come to this State for the purpose of attending conferences on various subjects, and who have been impressed with what they have seen around the metropolitan area, and with some of our beauty spots in the country, will return to this State as tourists, because I am sure they have appreciated the courtesy and hospitality which has been extended to them whilst they have been here.

Side by side with that, would be the question of accommodation. I feel it is essential that accommodation should be classified, because not everybody who visits Australia would want to stay at the Adelphi Hotel or at the Esplanade Hotel. Many of these people would wish to stay at places where the tariff is not quite as high; and it would be important, therefore, to classify the accommodation available according to a standard, so that people, when they come here and seek information at the Tourist Bureau, can be informed where they might secure the type of accommodation most suitable to them.

In recent years I have had the opportunity of entertaining people who have come here from the Eastern States and from Tasmania. They have moved around the metropolitan area and have been surprised at what they have seen. They appreciated not a little the Western Australian way of life; the free and easy life that we lead here as compared with that led by the people in the larger cities of Melbourne and Sydney.

That of course brings me back to the Tourist Bureau. It is imperative to filter more money into that bureau to enable it to develop its system more efficiently. We could also appoint more trained personnel to the Tourist Bureau. The policy of the Minister with regard to the Tourist Bureau

should be to make as much money as possible available having regard to the activities of that body; and he would, of course, also see that the administrative side of it was carrying out the functions for which it was constituted. If those points were considered, I am certain that the bureau would do a very good job indeed.

A few months ago the Treasurer and his colleague, the Minister for Railways, visited the Eastern States and made inquiries in Melbourne and Sydney about renting suitable premises for tourist publicity. They found, however, that it would be a very costly proposition to rent premises for the purposes of establishing representatives of the Western Australian Tourist Bureau in those States. The purpose of this, of course, was to permit an abundance of information to be made available to inquirers in those States. The intention would be to classify that information to enable prospective tourists when deciding where to spend their holidays, to take advantage of it. It would be all to the good if that could be done.

The Minister found, however, that that would cost a considerable sum of money, because, apart altogether from the establishment of these authorities over East to encourage tourists to come here in increasing numbers, we would also have to employ trained personnel and set them up in the main cities of Australia. That would be imperative. We have much to offer in Western Australia. The Minister for Lands is not in his seat at the moment, but he kept making reference to our wildflowers. We all appreciate the magnificence of our wildflowers while they are in bloom; but we also know that once Spring has gone they wither and decay.

There are, however, other features in Western Australia that are most attractive and worthy of consideration. For two months I travelled throughout Europe by motorcar. I saw most of the rivers in Europe, including the Seine, the Tiber, and the Rhine, quite apart from some of the others. I travelled through the Mediterranean district by car, and I visited Cannes, Nice, and similar watering places, including San Sebastian and others along the border of the Mediterranean coast and the shores of the Bay of Biscay; but I can say quite truthfully that I never saw any beaches to compare with the white beaches of Australia.

I think we all know what very fine beaches New South Wales has, but I feel that the white sands of Western Australia are incomparable. The question of accommodation at our beaches would, of course, again arise. As pointed out by the member for Mt. Hawthorn, we have only a population of 700,000 people, and the accommodation at our beaches is not built up as it is at Manly, Bondi, and similar watering places in New South Wales where, of course, it is necessary to cope with a far greater number of people.

On this question of accommodation, we all know that a few months ago we were informed of a hotel that was to be built in the electorate of South Perth. It was to cost £1,000,000, and every room was to have its own bathroom, and so on. The person who was going to build that hotel must have thought the people of Western Australia were a lot of suckers, because he certainly tried to put this over us. It fitted in with the propaganda of the day, and accordingly he got away with it for a time. Fortunately, however, we caught up with him, and he was obliged to leave the country.

The member for Mt. Lawley felt that the Ozone Hotel could be built up into a modern establishment to meet the needs of the people who may come here from the other parts of the world. I doubt very much whether the location of the Ozone Hotel would be suitable. For the most part people like a little quietness after their meanderings around the countryside; and most tourists are people of middle age. When they return in the evening to the place where they are staying they look for a quiet place to rest; and consequently I do not think the Ozone Hotel would be suitable.

I would now like to refer to the authority of eight which the Minister proposes to set up. To my mind it is ill-balanced. In this State we have the Automobile Club, which is an organisation that makes a great contribution towards the tourist activities in this State. That organisation has all the information relating to the various tours in this State, and it is able to give all available information about the hotels.

During my tour of Europe, I had some contact with the Royal Automobile Club in England. Although I was not a member of that body in this State, I was given every assistance while I was in London. I asked the R.A.C. for particulars of the tour through England, Scotland, Ireland, and the Continent—which included France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria, Italy, and returning into France—and all the necessary information was given to me.

If a tourist wishes to go in a certain direction, or wishes to obtain information as to the short cuts between one centre and another, that club will supply the information. It serves a great public need, and is of invaluable assistance not only to visitors from Australia but also those from other countries. In the Bill before us, the R.A.C. has been overlooked in the representation on the proposed authority.

Mr. Brand: It has not been overlooked.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I cannot see any reference to it in the Bill.

Mr. Brand: You said the Royal Automobile Club had been overlooked. I say it has not.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I can only deal with the Bill as it appears before us. There is no mention of the R.A.C. in the constitution of the proposed authority.

Mr. Brand: It provides for outside organisations.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I can mention another organisation which has no representation.

Mr. Brand: You could go on mentioning other representation *ad infinitum*. You could mention the Moslem League!

Mr. J. HEGNEY: Will the honourable member give me that right?

Mr. Brand: You can do that if you want to.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I refer to the Tourist Bureau, which is an important body in this State. This is the chief organisation which supplies all the required information to tourists. It books the tours not only for this State, but for other parts of the Commonwealth. It arranges air or rail travel. But it appears that that body is not to be represented.

Mr. Brand: It would be part of the authority.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: That is not stated in the Bill, although the Main Roads Department, the road boards, and the municipalities are mentioned. If the Tourist Bureau were to receive the amount of money which the Premier intends to make available to the proposed authority, I am sure that the bureau would do a good job for the State. With its limited resources, it is rendering a great service to the State at present.

The Premier stated that he was anxious to attract tourists from the Eastern States during the winter months. Today tourists from Victoria go to Queensland for their winter holidays. They take advantage of the warm climate in Queensland during winter, and they flock there in great numbers. We cannot get those tourists to visit Western Australia unless we set up tourist agencies in Victoria and New South Wales; but that would be very costly.

Reference was made to the improvement of beaches in this State. *The West Australian* is a great advocate in this regard. It has advocated that more money should be channelled into the improvement of the beaches. They require much building up on the foreshore; they require many more amenities to be established to serve, not only the needs of tourists, but those of the people in this State.

The ex-member for Wembley Beaches moved a motion in this House for the establishment of a beach trust. I heard many members, who today support the Bill before us, oppose that motion vigorously. The honourable member did a good job by attempting to obtain funds from the Government of the day for the improvement of our beaches and for the provision of amenities thereon. In that direction he made a great contribution.

The success of attracting tourists to this State is determined by their reception when they arrive here. The people of this State do their best to help the tourists to get around and see every possible attraction.

Our slogan should be: "Come and see for yourself." In the past, tourists to the State have been well treated by the people.

Last year I had the opportunity to visit Tasmania. Whilst I am a great protagonist of Western Australia and I sing the attractions of Perth on the Swan River, I have to confess that when I saw Hobart on the Derwent, I had to sing the grandeurs of Tasmania. The difference between Hobart and Perth is that our climate is much warmer.

Apart from that, Tasmanians have a wonderful State with an excellent climate. Tasmania is only 2½ to 3 hours by air from Melbourne, and that State receives a tremendous amount of tourist trade from all parts of Australia. We will have to encourage people to come here to see everything we have to offer.

The point I now refer to is one about which several members have expressed an opinion: They have criticised the present liquor trading hours in Western Australia in respect of hotels. I cannot agree with them that this is a deterrent to tourists coming to Western Australia. The fact that liquor cannot be obtained in hotels after 9 o'clock is not a deterrent to people coming to Western Australia. That suggestion has no merit.

Most of the people who come to Western Australia would not be drinkers, although they would stay at hotels because those establishments provide the best accommodation. However, the people staying there need not necessarily be drinkers. Therefore, I do not think there was much merit in the proposal to extend hours of sale for liquor in order to encourage people here.

If anything is done in connection with liquor, I suggest its strength be reduced rather than that the hours for its sale be extended. We should encourage our people to be temperate in all things. In regard to accommodation, there is a great need for the establishment of hostels. There is a hostel in Adelaide—the Grosvenor Hotel, opposite the railway station—which does not retail liquor. It is a very fine place at which to stay, and the accommodation is excellent. I am of the opinion that if we inaugurated a series of hostels we would cater for a large section of people. If the proposition submitted by the member for Mt. Lawley had been in relation to the establishment of a first-rate hostel, I think it would have contained a great deal of merit.

Much criticism has been levelled against this Parliament over the years in connection with the number of boards and authorities it has created. I can see no reason why there should be a duplication of two authorities; and, for that reason, I do not propose to support the Bill.

On motion by Mr. Roberts, debate adjourned.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. PERKINS (Roe—Minister for Transport) [5.55] in moving the second reading said: This Bill is short and is intended to deal with certain matters which are regarded as being of a somewhat urgent nature, leaving the great mass of amendments to be dealt with in the Local Government Bill which it is hoped will be introduced next year.

The first amendment is an alteration to section 39 of the principal Act which will relax the restrictions at present bearing heavily upon members of councils who are also either businessmen or members of clubs and other associations which have dealings with the council.

It is proposed that instead of a businessman being exempted only for verbal contracts, in future he will also be exempted in respect of written contracts for the sale of goods to the council; and an additional cover has been given to him in cases where, although he himself is not a contractor, he has dealings as a sub-contractor with some other person who has a contract with the council.

It has been found difficult for businessmen to act as members of councils without jeopardising their positions, and it is generally conceded that this amendment is desirable. Some doubts have been expressed as to the wisdom of giving an exemption in the case of a sub-contractor, but I consider that it is desirable that this cover should be given to a sub-contractor if it can also be given to a councillor who is himself a contractor.

The provision relating to clubs and associations will allow members of councils to remain members despite the fact that they may be also members of clubs which enter into contractual relations with the council either in relation to the use of the council's land or any other matter.

Provision has also been made to remove any possibility of disqualification which might occur because a member of a council has become a bush fire officer under the Bush Fires Act and has been insured against risks attaching to that public spirited work.

Another amendment is to provide that once a company has nominated a person to represent it on the Electoral Roll of the municipality that nomination is to stand until either the company nominates some other person in his stead or the Town Clerk is satisfied that the person concerned no longer is entitled to represent the company.

Another amendment has been made in relation to by-laws so that a council may in future have the power to make a by-law under which it could order the owner or occupier of land within the district to remove from it rubbish, refuse, or other material which it considers likely to affect

adversely the value of the property or the health, convenience, or comfort of the inhabitants. Cases have occurred where old wrecked motorcar bodies and other similar junk have been simply dumped on vacant blocks, sometimes without the consent of the owner, and sometimes with his consent; and at present there is no power to compel the cleaning up of this piece of land. Such a by-law-making power will enable the council to pass a by-law and to enforce it.

A further amendment in relation to by-laws is to give the council the power to regulate the establishing, operation, and maintenance of motels. With the growth of the tourist trade, and the hope that this industry will reach greater proportions in this State, it is desired to ensure that motels are properly controlled. The fact that one such establishment has been licensed under the Licensing Act; and the fact that there is some degree of control under the Health Act, as well as under the Town Planning Act, make it imperative that there should be a clear cut power for a local authority to make by-laws on the subject, and therefore this is provided in the Bill.

A further amendment which follows on the by-law-making power for the control of motels is an amendment to section 338 which gives express power to regulate the construction of buildings to be used as motels; whilst a further amendment provides for regulating the construction of television masts and antennae whether or not these are attached to buildings.

With the long distances in this State, it appears quite evident that there will be television receiving masts much higher than in the other States; and, therefore, some power of control is needed. Inquiries have already been made into the control of television masts in the other States; and once this power is incorporated in the Bill, it is hoped that either a general by-law will be made on the subject or, alternatively, that a model by-law will be made for the guidance of local authorities.

It must be remembered that any by-laws made by a council must be approved by the Governor and must also be laid before both Houses of Parliament where they may be disallowed or amended if they are considered to be unduly restrictive.

Another amendment is to section 380 where it is proposed that the present power to grant exemption from rating by order of the Governor may be extended to cover a portion only of the land; and furthermore that the power to grant an exemption may be revoked at any time. At present only the whole of the piece of land may be exempted, and the exemption is irrevocable.

A further amendment is to give express power to a council to borrow for kindergartens, community centres, and certain similar amenities. Councils have power to expend their money on these matters at present, but no express power to borrow, the consent of the Governor being required

in each case. It is considered desirable that the consent of the Governor should be made unnecessary. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Hawke, debate adjourned.

ROAD DISTRICTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. PERKINS (Roe—Minister for Transport) [6.1] in moving the second reading said: This measure, like the Municipal Corporations Act Amendment Bill, is regarded as more or less in the nature of stopgap legislation to overcome certain complications which have become manifest. The Act itself requires amendment in other ways, but not so urgently; and, therefore, these less important amendments will be covered in the Local Government Bill.

The first amendment to the Act is to section 24, and it will relax the restrictions on members who have dealings with the road board either as contractors or suppliers of goods in the ordinary course of business; or as members of clubs or associations; or as bush fire control officers. The comments already made in connection with the Municipal Corporations Act cover the same ground in this Act.

A second amendment is concerned with the representation of companies on the electoral roll of a road board; and exactly the same provisions are suggested in this measure as are included in the Municipal Corporations Act Amendment Bill. The comments already made on that Bill apply also to this. The next amendment is to section 67 of the principal Act which sets out the fees payable to returning officers, deputy returning officers, poll clerks, etc. The provisions in the Act at present are so small, in view of the change in the value of money, that it is difficult to obtain the services of poll clerks and returning officers.

It is proposed to provide the fees in a schedule which has been set out as the fifth schedule. The schedule may be amended from time to time as becomes necessary if money changes its value any further. It will be noted that certain officers are to be covered at an hourly rate, these being officers who may be required only to work during polling hours; i.e., from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and who, if required to work after this time will be paid at an hourly rate just the same; whereas the returning officer or his deputy will be paid a fixed fee, there being a sliding scale in regard to the work of the returning officer.

The next amendment is to section 157 of the Act. At present this limits certain provisions relative to subdivisions to townships, but there is some doubt as to whether even this is correct. It is considered that the same conditions should apply to all

subdivided areas whether they are in proclaimed townships or not; and, therefore, it is intended to delete the provisions of subsection (3) of section 157 of the principal Act so that there can be no doubt of this.

An amendment is also made to section 201 to give to road boards further by-law-making powers. The first of these powers is to require an owner or occupier of land to remove rubbish or other material from the land where it is considered that its presence has an adverse effect. The provision is the same as that suggested under the Municipal Corporations Act, and the same comments would apply.

Power is also given to make a by-law governing the construction of verandahs over streets, and requiring the removal of verandahs on posts or pillars so that preference can in future be given to the cantilever type. This power already exists in the Municipal Corporations Act, and it is considered right and proper that road boards should have the same powers. Provisions have also been made for the right to make by-laws governing motels. This provision is the same as that suggested for the Municipal Corporations Act, and the same comments apply.

A further amendment is to section 218 of the principal Act dealing with the right to exempt land from rating. The provision is the same as is suggested for the Municipal Corporations Act, and the same comments apply.

Another amendment is suggested in relation to section 329. At present the Act requires a road board either to publish the annual statements in a newspaper at a cost of £2 10s., or to have them printed and circulated to ratepayers. It is impossible at present to have the statements published at the cost set down in the Act; and the cost of printing and circulating is considerable. It is, therefore, proposed in the amendment that the board shall be required only to make available to ratepayers or creditors who demand it, a copy of the certified statement either just before the annual meeting of ratepayers, at that meeting, or afterwards. A board could therefore either have printed, or prepared on a duplicator, sufficient copies to meet the normal requirements; and everybody should then be satisfied.

A further amendment in relation to by-law-making powers, is incorporated in the second schedule of the principal Act. This deals with the construction of buildings for motels, and the construction of television masts and antennae. The provisions are the same as those suggested for the Municipal Corporations Act, and the same things apply. The final amendment in the Bill is to the fifth schedule, already referred to, in which are set out the fees to be paid to returning officers, etc. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Hawke, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 6.8 p.m.