

The Hon. G. E. Jeffery: You would then be betting like the Watsons!

The Hon. J. MURRAY: The return from that bet would be £340, which is a large sum of money. That amount then goes on the third horse, and yet only 1d. stamp duty and turnover tax on £1 is collected by the State on the whole transaction. The "big boys" among the book-makers can carry such a bet, but not so the small bookmaker in the country or in the suburbs. Under this regulation the small man is forced to become an agent of one of the big boys in the bookmaking game, because when the first horse wins the small bookmaker is chary of carrying the bet because of his small amount of capital. However, if the second horse wins it is imperative for him to lay the money off. He has to put up real money to lay that bet off, and has to pay stamp duty and turnover tax on it.

The big boys, however—those book-makers who are running the show and who have run it ever since the Act was brought into force and even before that—get away with paying 1d. stamp duty and a turnover tax on £1. That is a shocking state of affairs! If the Government intends to bring in a sliding scale of taxation, it will be well advised to repeal Regulation No. 132 under the Betting Control Act. I support the Bill.

On motion by the Hon. E. M. Davies, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 5.36 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 6th August, 1959

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1. *This question was postponed.*

RELIANCE MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Tabling of Files re Partnership

2. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

Will he lay upon the Table of the House all departmental files dealing with the partnership entered into by the Reliance Manufacturing Company with Edward MacBean & Co. Ltd.?

Mr. BRAND replied:

No. The files involve considerable confidential information which it is considered should not be made public. Disclosure of such information could cause lack of confidence on the part of other industrialists who might now, or in the future, be negotiating with the Government to establish or expand here.

BETTING ROYAL COMMISSION

Proceedings Against Offenders

3. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Attorney-General:

- (1) Is he prepared to state, with absolute certainty, that a person who by writing or speech uses words calculated to bring a Royal Commission or a member thereof into disrepute, can be proceeded against only during the term of any such Royal Commission, and not at any time after it has presented its report?

- (2) If not, will he take steps to have the Bill now before Parliament amended accordingly?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) No. Legal opinions can seldom be given "with absolute certainty". Further, apart from certain enactments (e.g., the Vexatious Proceedings Restriction Act, 1930), any person may "proceed against" another, however unlikely he is to succeed.
- (2) No.

EATON TOWNSITE

Water from Wellington Dam

4. Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Government to service the townsite of Eaton with water piped from Wellington Dam?
- (2) If so, how soon can the residents of Eaton expect a water supply from this source?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Highly improbable. As yet no request has been received for a water supply. In consequence the matter has not been considered by the Government.

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

5. *This question was postponed.*

BRENTWOOD SCHOOL

Construction of Additional Classrooms

6. Mr. O'NEIL asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it proposed to construct two additional classrooms at the Brentwood State School?

- (2) When is it anticipated that this work will
 - (a) commence;
 - (b) be completed?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Tenders will be invited for this work towards the end of August.
- (b) Estimated February, 1960.

PORT HEDLAND

Deep-water Port

7. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for the North-West:

- (1) Have definite approaches been made to the Commonwealth Government for a grant to enable the provision of a deep-water port at Port Hedland?

- (2) If so, what was the nature of the approaches made, and the outcome of same?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Not as a firm and positive proposal, but an indication of the Government's intention has been given. The project is part of what it is hoped will be a composite submission for the Pilbara district. Such a submission cannot be made with any prospect of success unless it is supported by sufficient detail and technical information. This information is being collated. It involves considerable research and analysis.

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

HOUSING COMMISSION HOMES

Type, Rental, and Maintenance Costs

8. Mr. O'CONNOR asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many—
 - (a) brick;
 - (b) timber-framed

houses were built by the State Housing Commission for the period from the 1st July, 1957, to the 30th June, 1958?

- (2) What is the average weekly rental on State Housing homes?
- (3) What are the average maintenance costs per annum on—
 (a) timber-framed homes;
 (b) brick homes?

Mr. Ross HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) Brick	941
Brick veneer	569
Timber-framed	875
Total			2,385

- (2) Average on all rental homes £3 1s. per week.
- (3) Based on contracts let, estimated average maintenance costs are—
 Brick and brick veneer—£18 per annum.

Timber-framed—£25 per annum.
 An investigation is being made of costs over the past 10 years, with a view to obtaining reasonably accurate figures for maintenance per house during that period. In addition to the above, minor day-to-day maintenance items average £3 per house per annum. As administration costs are kept to a minimum to reduce loading in rents, actual costs for the different types of homes are not available.

FERGUSON RIVER BRIDGE

Widening

9. Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is he aware that the narrow bridge over the Ferguson River on the Waterloo-Dardanup Road continues to be a dangerous road hazard and was recently the scene of a nasty accident?
- (2) Will he give an assurance that this structure will be widened this financial year?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) The Main Roads Department has provided funds in the current programme of works for the widening of this bridge.
- (2) The widening will be carried out this financial year.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Weekly Number Receiving Payments

10. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister representing the Minister for Child Welfare:

What was the number of persons in receipt of Child Welfare payments made at Perth and Fremantle on account of unemployment for each week since the 1st June, 1959?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

Period ending:

5/6/59—Perth	674
Fremantle	144
12/6/59—Perth	693
Fremantle	142
19/6/59—Perth	712
Fremantle	154
26/6/59—Perth	735
Fremantle	156
3/7/59—Perth	755
Fremantle	172
10/7/59—Perth	775
Fremantle	175
17/7/59—Perth	797
Fremantle	194
24/7/59—Perth	780
Fremantle	208
31/7/59—Perth	755
Fremantle	204
5/8/59—Perth	533
(three-day period only)	
Fremantle	196
(three-day period only)	

11. This question was postponed.

CIVILIAN LAND SETTLEMENT

Government Policies and Areas Opened for Selection

12. Mr KELLY asked the Premier:

- (1) Does he recall making a statement to the House in October, 1958, that the Hawke Government had no policy on civilian land settlement?
- (2) Would he outline to the House the defined policy of the present Government in regard to a civilian land settlement scheme?
- (3) What steps have been taken to give the generous financial assistance to young farmers which he advocated?
- (4) What new areas of land have been thrown open for selection since his Government took office?
- (5) Has he experienced the "upsurge of interest" he claimed would result if money were diverted from the metropolitan area, and used for the subdivision of country land?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) A civilian land settlement scheme will be considered when the overall financial position of existing primary producers has been clarified.
- (4) Two hundred and seventy-six blocks, totalling 418,908 acres.
- (5) Action has already been initiated by the Government to reorganise the Surveyor-General's Department, with a view to carrying out urgent surveys required in the North-West and country districts.

It is expected the interest referred to by the honourable member will emanate following this reorganisation, which will result in the more expeditious subdivision of country land.

CHASE SYNDICATE

Negotiations and Termination of Lease

13. Mr. KELLY asked the Premier:

- (1) What stage has been reached in the Government negotiations with the Chase Syndicate?
- (2) If finality has not already been reached, will he put into effect the opinion he expressed that the Chase leases at Esperance should be terminated without delay?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Due to the Government's action as stated in my reply to the question on the 2nd July, 1959, by the honourable member, representatives of American Factors Ltd., Hawaii, have inspected the Chase Syndicate land at Esperance and submissions from this company are now awaited.
- (2) The termination of the Chase leases at Esperance is dependent upon the result of negotiations referred to in No. (1).

CIVILIAN LAND SETTLEMENT

Decision of Narrogin Zone of Farmers' Union

14. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Lands:

Does he agree with the unanimous decision of the Narrogin Zone of the Farmers' Union in opposing any civilian land settlement scheme?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

No such decision is known to me.

COLLIE COAL

Tonnage, Cost, etc.

15. Mr. MAY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) What tonnage of—
 - (a) deep-mine coal; and
 - (b) open-cut coal;
 has been supplied to the State Electricity and Railways Commissions by each of the three producing companies from the inception of current contracts to the 30th June, 1959?
- (2) What was the price paid at the inception of current contracts to each company for—
 - (a) deep-mine coal; and
 - (b) open-cut coal?

(3) What was the price paid to each company at the 30th June, 1959, for—

- (a) deep-mine coal; and
- (b) open-cut coal?

(4) What is the average calorific value and ash content of coal supplied to both Commissions from the inception of current contracts to the 30th June, 1959?

Mr. COURT replied:

(1) This information is not available as both deep-mine coal and open-cut coal pass over the same gantry and the subsequent mixture cannot be specifically identified.

Per
Ton.
s. d.

- (2) (a) Amalgamated Collieries of W.A. Ltd. 53 0
Western Collieries Ltd. 52 6
Griffin Coal Mining Company Ltd. 45 0

(b) As in (a).

- (3) (a) Amalgamated Collieries of W.A. Ltd. 54 0
Western Collieries Ltd. 54 3
Griffin Coal Mining Co. Ltd. 45 0
and 44 0

(b) At the 30th June, 1959, Amalgamated Collieries and Western Collieries were not producing open-cut coal.
Griffin Coal Mining Co. Ltd.—
As in (a).

(4) Railways Commission:

Per lb.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Calorific value | 9150 B.T.U. |
| Ash content | 7.85% |
| State Electricity Commission: | |
| Calorific value | 8510 B.T.U. |
| Ash content | 7.3% |

SHIPPING LIAISON OFFICER

Provision in Metropolitan Area

16. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for the North-West:

Does the State Government provide a shipping liaison officer in the metropolitan area for the purpose of co-ordinating the shipment of cargoes?

Mr. COURT replied:

Yes. Mr. G. E. Lewis, Executive Officer, Supply and Shipping. The services of this officer are available to local manufacturers and merchants who request assistance in obtaining shipping space on interstate vessels for urgently required goods and materials and in shipping matters generally.

LUPINOSIS*Cause of Stock Losses*

17. Mr. CRAIG asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Does he consider as serious stock losses caused through lupinosis?
- (2) If so, will he state what steps are being taken to overcome this?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A group of research workers is investigating the problem both at the Animal Health and Nutrition Laboratory and in the field.

18. *This question was postponed.*

NATIVE WELFARE ACT*Amending Legislation*

19. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Government to amend the Native Welfare Act during the current session?
- (2) If so, what amendments are contemplated?
- (3) If not, does he consider the present Act is equitable as far as aborigines are concerned?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) Some amendments are contemplated.
- (2) The matter is still under consideration.
- (3) Answered by No. (1).

BROOME*Provision of Deep-Water Port*

20. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Premier:

- (1) Further to my question of the 7th July, 1959, relative to a deep-water port at Broome, and the plans of his Government to provide facilities for the unloading of heavy cargo for Talgarno, is he yet in a position to give me a concrete answer?
- (2) Will he indicate when a decision will be made on the "important technical and other considerations" referred to?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) If the honourable member refers to handling freight for the Talgarno project, the answer is that the Director of Commonwealth Works and Services does not anticipate any loads which will be too heavy for the Broome jetty. The State Shipping Service is keeping in close touch with Commonwealth Works and Services.
- (2) It is not practical at this stage to indicate when a decision can be reached.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES*Dismissals*

21. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) How many employees who were engaged in connection with building construction or maintenance have been dismissed since the 15th April last?
- (2) What is the estimated additional number to be dismissed between now and date of close-down for Christmas and New Year holidays?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) 246.
- (2) Not known, as this will depend upon the requirements from time to time of the works now under construction departmentally.

MOTOR-VEHICLE LICENSES*Increase in Fees*

22. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Following the report in *The West Australian* of the 26th May last, which stated that, according to the Minister, "The Government was considering increasing the amount of motor-vehicle license fees," can he state whether the Government has made a decision to impose an increase?
- (2) If so, what are the details of the increase?
- (3) If not, when is a decision likely to be made?
- (4) Is he aware that numerous vehicle owners are gravely perturbed over the report referred to in No. (1)?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).
- (3) No further statement is possible at this stage.
- (4) As no action has been taken by the Government, this is rather premature.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES*Number Constituted Under Appropriate Acts*

23. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

What are the respective numbers of—

- (a) municipalities;
- (b) road boards

constituted under appropriate Acts in this State?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (a) 21.
- (b) 126.

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE

Financial Details

24. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Labour:

- (1) What was the total premium income received by the State Government Insurance Office with respect to the following for the years ended the 30th June, 1958, and the 30th June, 1959, respectively:—

General Accident;
Industrial Diseases;
Motor Vehicle;
School Children's Insurance Scheme;
Government Workers' Compensation Fund;
Fire and General;
Marine?

- (2) What amounts were invested by the office, up to the 30th June, 1959, with respect to—

- (a) Housing Loan;
(b) Commonwealth Inscribed Stock;
(c) State Electricity Commission and semi-governmental loans;
(d) local authorities;
(e) private industry?

- (3) What is the value of lands and building held by the office?

- (4) What contributions to revenue in lieu of tax were made by the office for the years ended the 30th June in each of years 1956, 1957, 1958 and 1959?

- (5) How many local authorities are participants in the Local Authorities' Insurance Pool conducted by the office?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

	1958	1959
	£	£
(1) (a)	409,225	466,607
(b)	55,558	56,125
(c)	191,396	238,654
(d)	16,581	17,449
(e)	429,569	557,502
(f)	114,765	153,349
(g)	87,393	103,957
	<u>£1,304,487</u>	<u>£1,593,643</u>

	£
(2) (a)	52,506
(b)	1,514,852
(c)	1,036,372
(d)	226,000
(e)	268,000
	<u>£3,097,730</u>

(3) £572,221.

(4) 1956—£48,838.

1957—£52,448.

1958—£26,508.

1959—Not available.

(5) 134 as at the 30th June, 1959.

FRUIT-FLY

Eradication in Metropolitan Area

25. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is it anticipated that some special action will be taken in the metropolitan area in the near future to get rid of fruit-fly?
- (2) Could a team similar to the Argentine ant team be organised to work over the metropolitan area, to bring the fruit-fly pest under control?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Arrangements have been made to intensify activities to control fruit-fly. A general publicity campaign will be inaugurated and more stringent action will be taken against people who fail to carry out the necessary control measures.
- (2) Fruit-fly would be far more difficult to eradicate than Argentine ants, and the cost of such action would be prohibitive. An eradication campaign would require the destruction of fruit and many of the plants which harbour the pest, in addition to frequent sprayings repeated over a number of years. In South Australia, where only isolated outbreaks have required attention, the cost of eradication has been about £1,500,000.

HOMES FOR NATIVES

Erection on Reserves

26. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) What is the approximate saving to the Native Welfare Department by the recent decision of the Commonwealth Government to pay social services to natives previously ineligible?
- (2) Will the Government ensure that some of the savings will be spent on building homes for natives on native reserves where no homes are existing at present?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) It is not yet practicable to estimate the approximate saving to the Native Welfare Department by the Commonwealth Government's decision to liberalise the payment of social service benefits to natives.

- (2) The Commonwealth Government's officers were given an assurance by the Commissioner of Native Welfare in conference last April that the savings effected by the Commonwealth's decision would be

used mainly for the purpose of providing better accommodation and essential facilities for natives now in need of them.

NATIVES FROM THE NORTH

Doctor's Report on Condition

27. Mr. PERKINS: The member for South Perth asked me a question regarding the condition of the natives east of Kalgoorlie. I promised that I would contact the doctors and officers in that area as soon as possible. This morning I arranged for officers of the department to ring through to Kalgoorlie to Dr. Riseborough, the doctor who made the investigation, and the following seem to be the facts:—

On 16th April last Dr. Riseborough was taken to Cundeelee by our field welfare officer, Mr. C. A. Taylor, for the purpose of meeting the returning Cunningham expedition in case the party brought in natives who needed medical attention; as we know, the expedition failed to contact any natives.

The doctor took the opportunity of examining all natives who at the time were resident at the mission. Among them were 40 of the "spinifex" natives from the country north of the Transcontinental line who were taken in to the mission in August, 1958, by the mission superintendent, Mr. Stewart. Upon examination the doctor found five middle-aged and elderly natives suffering from a condition which he described as Charcot joints, commonly known as "flail joints" in which the bone at the end of the joint is missing. The doctor stated this morning it was an odd type of familial limb which has not shrunk, but has not developed. The tissue is mounted on unstable joints, possibly (but not definitely) due to congenital syphilis.

Dr. Riseborough expressed strong indignation that he is said to be baffled by the condition or that the condition is attributable to atomic radiation. My information is that Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Stewart were both present when the doctor examined the natives. The doctor remarked to them, "They are interesting. I would like to see them at some later time." Arrangements are being made for the natives to be brought into Kalgoorlie for X-ray and

other research examination. When the Commissioner of Native Welfare contacted Dr. Henzell (Commissioner of Public Health) he stated emphatically that atomic radiation would not take the form of bone destruction referred. He added, "It just doesn't make sense." He is taking the matter up with Dr. Riseborough but expressed the initial opinion that the condition was either congenital or acquired.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. WATTS (Stirling—Minister for Electricity) [2.35] in moving the second reading said: This is a small Bill to amend the State Electricity Act in reference to the provisions in it which came from the fact that the electricity and gas undertaking of the Perth City Council was taken over in 1948. Many of the employees of the Perth City Council were also taken over; and they had been contributors to the superannuation scheme which had been conducted by the City of Perth under its own Act.

To protect the superannuation rights of those employees, section 29A was added to the State Electricity Commission Act, and it required that, with certain exceptions, the scheme was to be in all respects on the same terms as those under which it existed at the time of the takeover. But it was limited to employees who had been members of the old scheme at the date of the takeover.

Since that time the Perth City Council has altered its own scheme on a couple of occasions, and the arrangement was that the State Electricity Commission should give the benefit to the employees it took over and follow on with the improvements effected by the Perth City Council. Last year a private member's Bill was introduced again improving the Perth City Council's scheme, particularly in relation to the retirement of female employees. The member for West Perth will know all about that.

It is now desired to provide that, without amending the State Electricity Commission Act every time, the Commission may accept these alterations for the benefit of the employees who come under this arrangement, and gazette them—provided they are approved by the Governor—with the proviso that the scheme, as so amended, is not binding on the contributor unless at his option he elects to be bound thereby.

So if a contributor does not feel disposed to take the benefit of the alteration—or he may think it not a benefit—he will have the option of declining. What is desired is to obviate the necessity of having to amend

the Act on any occasion that the Perth City Council makes changes, which it has already done twice. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Heal, debate adjourned.

MUSEUM BILL

Second Reading

MR. WATTS (Stirling—Minister for Education) [2.40] in moving the second reading said: It will be remembered that some years ago the Museum, and Art Gallery, and Public Library were all under the one Board of Trustees. Steps were taken some five years ago, following the creation of the State Library Board, to bring the Public Library under the management and control of the State Library Board. That left the Trustees of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery in the position that they only had to control the Museum and the Art Gallery.

Apparently it has dawned on these gentlemen that the two would be better separated; because, on the 15th April, 1959, the Trustees wrote to the Minister for Education saying that the Board of Trustees recommended that the Government be advised forthwith that the Act be amended to constitute separate trusts for the Museum and the Art Gallery. Consideration having been given to that and a discussion held with the president of the Trustees (Sir Thomas Meagher), it was decided that on all accounts it would be wiser to accept the suggestion; and, accordingly, two Bills, of which this is the first, are coming before the House.

It is provided that the Bill, if it becomes an Act, shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by proclamation. In this particular case, the board to be appointed will have control of the Museum; and it is proposed that, as has been the case with the Trustees hitherto, they shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession with common seal. It is also proposed that they shall consist of five members, including the chairman and vice-chairman, all of whom shall be appointed by the Governor.

Under the existing set-up, there is a maximum of 14 Trustees. There are three vacancies on the Board which have not been filled—one due to the retirement of the Minister for Health; one due to the resignation of Sir Ross McDonald; and one due to the resignation of some other member whose name, for the moment, I forget. So there are only 11 Trustees at the present time. It is considered two boards of five each would be ample to deal with the affairs of the Museum and the Art Gallery.

It is proposed that the trustees shall hold office for a term of four years but be eligible for reappointment. Of the first

trustees appointed, two shall hold office for two years only, and the Governor shall name those two. While there will be some continuity of membership, there will be some possibility of regular change if desired. The Bill contains the usual provisions for the vacating of seats on the board, and there are the usual provisions for the board to have powers of management. There is not a provision for a casting vote for the chairman. It is provided that if at a meeting of the board a majority cannot be obtained, the question shall be resolved in the negative.

There is also a provision, which is most important, that the Governor shall have power to determine as between the Museum and the Art Gallery what part of the premises shall be used by each. Under present circumstances, of course, they are in the same building; and while it is not very difficult to sever the areas which they use—because to a large extent they are widely detached—nevertheless there are portions where some agreement will have to be reached. If that agreement is not reached readily it can be determined in the manner I suggested and will solve the problem for the time being. Obviously, what is wanted—and it is to be hoped that steps can be taken in that direction within a reasonable time—is the erection of new premises for the purpose of the Art Gallery, and the transfer of the existing portion of the main building used by the Art Gallery for the purpose of the Museum.

Research work of the Museum is increasing. This is so with its services to the community—even, I find, to the Customs Department at times. Its services are becoming more and more extensive. Its skilled staff is highly qualified and is working, so far as I can ascertain from a journey I made there, in very cramped and difficult conditions. It must be appreciated, of course, that for the moment there are things that are more essential perhaps than the provision of these buildings, and some little time may have to elapse before that particular problem can be solved.

There are provisions for the appointment of a deputy of a member; the usual provisions for the protection of persons who may be so appointed and who are public servants; and provisions for the board to undertake care and control of the Museum and of land and premises placed under its care; and control of the things that are in the Museum—objects of natural history, etc. It is also entrusted with the responsibility and application of all moneys voted by Parliament for the purpose.

There is power for it to purchase these articles of vertu; to sell certain articles where it thinks proper; and to make a charge for admission when it considers the circumstances warrant. That would be on very rare occasions; but if there were some acquired exhibits which had occasioned the

Museum expense to obtain, it is thought that it might be justified in making a charge for their examination by the public. I am advised that is not an uncommon procedure in Museums elsewhere.

Mr. J. Hegney: How many scientific officers are attached to the Museum?

Mr. WATTS: At present about five. There is Dr. Ride and a gentleman engaged with crayfish. I think there are four or five. The measure follows the usual principles—and indeed very similar principles to those which are contained in the existing statute governing the combined operations of these two bodies.

I do not think there is anything in the conditions to which I have referred that could be regarded as being in any way unusual, or beyond the existing conditions governing, under the present Act, the operations of these two bodies as one. So I think the balance of what I might say would be better said in the Committee stage where any objection—although I can foresee none—to the provisions of the Bill, can be carefully examined. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. W. Hegney, debate adjourned.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE ERADICATION FUND BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [2.55] in moving the second reading said: The serious risk of foot and mouth disease in livestock has been discussed at a number of meetings of the Agricultural Council. In 1957, the council agreed to the draft legislation that was submitted to it.

Mr. Kelly: I cannot hear the Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. NALDER: The idea of the legislation is to set up a fund for the purpose of paying compensation as a result of an outbreak of this disease. The matter had been previously considered; and I think the member for Merredin-Yilgarn knows quite a bit about the legislation. It will be my endeavour to give details of this matter to the House so that members will realise the seriousness of an outbreak of this nature, and what it could cost, not only the State, but the whole of the Commonwealth.

In order to establish the fund, it is necessary for the Commonwealth and each State to pass legislation. Although the various Acts will not be proclaimed, it is necessary to have them ready in case of an outbreak of the disease. A special committee consisting of Commonwealth and State veterinary officers submitted a form

of draft legislation in connection with the matter, and this has been the basis for the State and the Commonwealth laws. The legislation has already been passed in several States. I understand that in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, the legislation has been passed; and that New South Wales, Western Australia, and the Commonwealth are contemplating passing it at an early date.

To indicate the seriousness of the disease and the necessity to have Commonwealth and State laws, I intend to give members an outline of the nature of the complaint and the problems associated with it. Foot and mouth disease is regarded by veterinary authorities as the most serious of all diseases that can occur among livestock. It is an extremely contagious complaint, and it spreads at such an alarming rate that control measures are a difficult problem.

The symptoms consist of high fever accompanied by formations of blisters in the mouth; in the cleft of the hoof; and around the coronet. The disease often brings about lameness in the animal. Affected animals become emaciated; pregnant animals abort; and dairy cows go dry. Although the mortality rate is not considered to be exceptionally high, especially in adult animals, it can occur to a fairly high degree in unweaned animals; and the loss of production from adult animals is extremely severe.

In Europe, the losses from the disease have amounted to hundreds of millions of pounds; and they are reported to be more serious in Asia and Africa. In Great Britain, where a policy of eradication by slaughter has been adopted, the average cost during the years 1941 to 1951, has been estimated at £220,000 a year. During the recent Mexican outbreak, the United States—acting in its own interests—co-operated in the eradication programme and in so doing expended \$130,000,000. Some 1,000,000 head of cattle either died or were destroyed.

Up to the present time, Australia has been most fortunate; it has been free from this disease. Our good fortune is emphasised when we consider that practically all the livestock countries in the world—with the exception of North America and New Zealand—have been affected. The virus of this disease is able to withstand long periods of refrigeration; and most outbreaks which occur in Great Britain are associated with imported beef from the Argentine.

Foot and mouth disease can also be spread by direct contact between animals; indirectly through the agency of footwear, fodder, straw packing, and bags; and by other means. The disease can also be transmitted by the excreta from diseased animals.

Although strict observance of our quarantine laws lessens the risk of infection through normal channels, the greater inflow of migrants and faster means of communication have created serious risks, as the virus can survive on clothing for several weeks.

Numerous parcels of meat products such as salami, and other types of sausage containing uncooked meat, have been intercepted either in the post or amongst the luggage of migrants. Although every precaution is taken by the disinfection of rural migrants and their effects, and the destruction of meat and other products of animal origin, there is always the possibility of infective material escaping detection; and the risk of foot and mouth disease being introduced into Australia has never been greater.

In order to overcome an outbreak, certain drastic measures would have to be immediately taken. Affected and "in contact" properties would be quarantined; the area cordoned off, and road blocks set up. The entry or departure of any person, animal, or vehicle would be prohibited except under special circumstances. No farm or dairy produce would be allowed to leave the premises; and all cattle, sheep, pigs, and goats would be slaughtered, and the carcasses destroyed by burning or disposed of by deep burial. The premises would be disinfected; and fodder and certain other buildings not readily disinfected would be burnt.

A stand-still order would be imposed in a 25-mile radius; and all stock movements for the previous 30 days would have to be traced. It can be seen, therefore, that a large field staff would be necessary; and the assistance of the local authorities, police, and perhaps military authorities, would be required. Prompt action will be the key to successful eradication; and heavy expenditure will be involved in order to limit the spread of infection and compensate owners.

The necessary powers and financial provisions for dealing with an outbreak on a national basis have been discussed, and a formula agreed upon, whereby the Commonwealth will contribute 50 per cent. of the total cost and the States collectively will contribute the other 50 per cent. in the following proportions:—

	<i>Per Cent.</i>
New South Wales	29
Victoria	18.25
Queensland	20.5
Western Australia	10
South Australia	10
Tasmania	6.25
Northern Territory and Australian Capital Ter- ritory	6

The Bill provides for the establishment of a fund for the eradication of the disease, and compensation for the owners involved. Compensation will be payable for any animal or property which is destroyed, and will include animals certified as having

died from foot and mouth disease subsequent to the property having been quarantined. The fund will also bear the cost of the eradication plan, apart from the salaries or wages normally paid to employees of the State irrespective of any outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

Compensation will be on the basis of the market value of an animal prior to becoming affected or immediately prior to slaughter. In the case of property, compensation will be at its market value at the time of destruction.

Provision is made for winding up the fund; and after meeting all commitments and the sale of stores and equipment, the balance remaining will then be refunded to the various States and the Commonwealth, in the same proportion as the contributions made by them.

Because an outbreak of this terrible disease could have such a disastrous effect on the whole economy, the proposal represents a form of insurance of extreme importance not only to producers, but also to the community in general.

Mr. J. Hegney: Is this legislation to be uniform throughout the Commonwealth?

Mr. NALDER: This Bill is copied mainly from the Victorian Act; but the formula included in it is exactly the same, in principle, as what is in the Acts already passed and those that will be passed. A Bill of this nature should be passed at the earliest opportunity. I express the fervent hope that it will never be necessary in Australia to have the legislation proclaimed; but by having it passed and the machinery ready to meet an outbreak, we will be prepared, should this dread disease ever occur among the livestock of this country. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Kelly, debate adjourned.

ART GALLERY BILL

Second Reading

MR. WATTS (Stirling—Minister for Education) [3.6] in moving the second reading said: This Bill is complementary to the one which I introduced earlier today, and it deals with the board to control the Art Gallery side of the present work of the trustees of the Museum and Art Gallery. Its genesis is in the same letter of April last, to which I referred earlier, when the Trustees requested that separate bodies be set up to control and manage the Museum and the Art Gallery respectively.

I would like, before I pass off this subject altogether today, to pay tribute to the work that has been done by the Trustees, and by their respective staffs, at the Museum and the Art Gallery, under conditions which are not entirely favourable and which I trust, in some respects at

least, will be improved before long. It is perfectly clear to me that the trustees have done a faithful job in the management of these premises and institutions; but it has not been very satisfactory from the point of view of some of them, quite apart from the general problems that they have had to face, and to which I have referred.

Some of these people are, of course, by training or desire, intimately acquainted with the work of art galleries and interested mainly in the work that is involved in an art gallery; as quite distinct from a museum. On the other hand, there are certain of the trustees who could quite safely take the opposite side, and say that their major interest was in the work of the Museum itself. They have succeeded for quite a long time in making these different points of view compatible; and, with the aid of their very competent staff, have made quite a success of it; because, unquestionably, there has been a great improvement in both the Museum and the Art Gallery in recent years.

So here is the Bill to constitute a separate board for the Art Gallery, in precisely the same circumstances as that for the Museum. Five members are to constitute the board, which shall include the chairman and vice-chairman within that number—two of them to be appointed for two years only, and the others for four years, but all to be eligible for re-appointment.

The Bill contains the same provision as the other measure: that if there is an equality of votes at a meeting, the question shall be resolved in the negative; and the same provision in regard to arrangements, if they have to be made, for the use of premises while the building is still occupied by both the Art Gallery and the Museum; each, if necessary and in the final analysis, to be resolved by proclamation of the Governor.

There are, as I said before, the usual business clauses in the Bill—clauses which the setting up of a board of this nature always requires; and which indeed, in the main, are to be found in the parent Act. But there is one provision which is not in the Museum Bill, and to which it might be worth while to make some specific reference; because it is to be made an offence for any person to sell or offer for sale, or expose for sale in the Art Gallery, any work of art which belongs to him and is being exhibited in the Art Gallery.

Frequently, when pictures—particularly by local artists, I understand—have been displayed within the Art Gallery, requests have been received that those pictures should be offered for sale, by public auction or otherwise. The trustees have set their face against that practice, I am advised, and have refused to give such permission; but they have specifically asked that some statutory provision be

made, so that they may be fortified in refusing—and, in fact, probably in the end will not be asked for such permission—because they are of the opinion that, as is indeed the case elsewhere, sales of works of art of that nature should not take place within the precincts of a public Art Gallery.

There are other places, even in the City of Perth, where pictures can be hung for sale; and which are frequented by persons who are willing and anxious to buy pictures. Therefore, provision to that effect has been inserted in this Bill, at the request of the trustees. I think that, once again, I can say that the balance of the Bill can well be dealt with in Committee. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. W. Hegney, debate adjourned.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE SITE PERMANENT RESERVE (A†1162) ACT AMEND- MENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. WILD (Dale—Minister for Works) [3.16] in moving the second reading said: This is only a small measure. Similar Bills have been before the House on two previous occasions and this one has the same object; namely, to validate Parliament House reserve No. A†1162 for a further three years. Those members who were in the House in 1950 will recall when the building which occupies this reserve was erected. It was built, through force of circumstances, to house the Main Road Department, the Architectural Division, the Town Planner's office, and other offices. This was brought about by an increase in the population of Western Australia and the resultant increase in the number of officers called upon to service those departments.

It was considered by the Government of the day that proper accommodation ought to be provided for those Government employees who were working under trying conditions; and, in its wisdom, it caused to be erected the building which can be seen at the rear of Parliament House. A few months later it became necessary for this Parliament to validate the action of the Government. There was a considerable degree of controversy over the action of the Government at that time; because, if I remember rightly, the House Committee of Parliament objected because it had been presented with the fait accompli.

However, Parliament eventually approved of the Bill, but restricted the period of the tenure to five years. At that time it was also thought that it may

have been possible to erect another building to replace the one built in 1950. But time moved on; and my predecessor, in 1956, through force of circumstances, brought down another Bill to grant a further extension of this tenure of three years. So I find myself today in exactly the same position as he was then, except that I think it is now possible for me to say that this may be the last occasion when Parliament will be asked to pass a Bill of this nature.

As members know, in two or three months' time the Narrows Bridge will be opened; and officers of the Main Roads Department, who are keeping a close check on the dispersal of traffic travelling from south to north, are not yet in a position to make a firm decision on whether, in a few months' time, it will be urgently necessary to build the access road across to George Street.

If that does eventuate, then part of the building with which this Bill deals will have to go; and if such a step is taken, proper planning will be necessary by the Government to provide some alternative accommodation. However, as I said earlier, this is merely a measure to obtain the permission of Parliament to occupy that site for a further three years. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Graham, debate adjourned.

FILLED MILK BILL

Second Reading.

MR. NALDER (Katanning — Minister for Agriculture) [3.20] in moving the second reading said: This Bill, like the one I introduced a few moments ago, has been brought down following a decision reached by the Agricultural Council last October, at which my predecessor was present. That conference decided that all States and the Commonwealth Government should introduce legislation to govern filled milk, because it was considered that the manufacture and sale of that product was a threat to the dairying industry.

Mr. Graham: So what? Motorcars were a threat to the horse industry. Television is a threat to the motion picture industry, and so on.

Mr. NALDER: If the member for East Perth would care to spend a little time, he could probably find other goods that are manufactured which are threats to other industries. However, in this particular instance emphasis is placed on the dairying industry; and as I proceed with the introduction of this Bill, figures will be produced to show that the dairying industry is important not only to this State but to the whole of the Commonwealth. Therefore, it

is our duty, as members representing the people of Australia, to watch closely any developments which constitute a threat to any industry, and to meet that threat by introducing legislation to cover the industry concerned.

Mr. W. Hegney: Will this Bill affect the members of the electorate of Mt. Hawthorn?

Mr. NALDER: If the honourable member will listen, he will find, during the discussion on this Bill, that the problem he is worrying about will not arise. However, he will have an opportunity to express his view at a later stage; and if he advances a sound argument, I am sure the House, in its wisdom, will give it every consideration.

While the action of the Commonwealth Government will take care of any imports, it is necessary for each State to pass legislation to prohibit the manufacture and sale of filled milk; and that is the purpose of this Bill. Filled milk is wholemilk from which the butterfat has been removed and subsequently replaced by a vegetable fat. Alternatively, it can be made from non-fat milk solids either of liquid or powder origin and vegetable fats with or without added vitamins.

Coconut oil is generally used; but other vegetable fats, such as cotton seed oil, maize oil, and palm oil may be utilised; and sometimes specially treated whale oil is an ingredient. Filled milk may be produced in several forms—evaporated, sweetened, condensed, powdered, or as a liquid for consumption in the same manner as whole fresh milk. It sells much cheaper than whole fresh milk and has found a ready market in Asian countries.

Mr. Graham: The unemployed would like it if it is cheaper.

Mr. NALDER: I am informed that it is generally used where dairy cattle are not kept, and therefore it is difficult for people in those countries to purchase fresh milk.

Mr. Hawke: Could the Minister give us any comparison between the health values of wholemilk and filled milk?

Mr. J. Hegney: What is its nutritional value?

Mr. NALDER: I cannot give that information to the Leader of the Opposition now. But it will be possible to get details in that regard, and I will be happy to supply the information at a later stage. The grave threat to our dairying industry can be readily appreciated, and this resulted in the unanimous decision by all States to prohibit by legislation, its manufacture and sale.

Mr. Evans: Is it manufactured and sold now?

Mr. NALDER: No, not in any State of the Commonwealth. Figures compiled by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in Canberra show that there are 111,000

persons employed on dairy farms, plus a substantial number of individuals employed either directly or indirectly in the production or distribution of dairy products. The gross value of milk produced for all purposes in Australia for 1956-57 was £163,000,000, of which the Western Australian proportion was a little over £6,000,000.

Other States have already passed similar legislation to deal with this question as they have on the subject-matter dealt with by the previous Bill. Those States are Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, and Queensland. I understand from the representative of Tasmania that the Minister for Agriculture in that State—whom I met at the last meeting of the Agricultural Council a few days ago—said that a Bill would be introduced immediately the Tasmanian Parliament met in a few weeks' time.

The Bill makes provision for the Minister, by a notice published in the *Government Gazette*, to exempt certain products; but before doing so, he shall consider the report and recommendation of an advisory committee. The reason for such exemption is that it is not intended to prohibit the manufacture and sale of existing health foods and beverages or bona fide invalids' or infants' dietary foods that are specially prepared for that purpose. The advisory committee will consider each of those products, and then report and recommend to the Minister. This committee will consist of five persons representing the Department of Agriculture (which representative shall be the chairman); the Milk Board; the British Medical Association; the manufacturers of processed milk; and the dairy farmers.

The committee will be appointed by the Minister, and the term of office will be three years. The Bill prohibits the manufacture and sale of filled milk and provides a penalty of £200 for a breach in the first instance, and £300 for a second or subsequent offence.

Mr. Graham: That's a bit vicious, isn't it?

Mr. NALDER: The honourable member apparently considers the penalty a bit vicious. Anyone who embarked on the manufacture of filled milk would probably have to be engaged in it in a fairly big way. The cost of machinery, and the cost of importing the vegetable fats would have to be incurred, because at present Western Australia does not manufacture a very big quantity of vegetable fats.

Mr. Graham: You have exactly the same penalty for the little fellow who just sells the product.

Mr. NALDER: It has to be manufactured before it can be sold. It cannot be imported, because the Commonwealth Government has the first say. It would have to be manufactured before it could be sold; so the possibility of the small man receiving the same penalty would not come into the picture.

Other clauses in the Bill relate to the appointment of inspectors and the necessary powers for legislation of this nature. This measure is of paramount importance and has the full support of the dairying industry. The fact that it has the support of all the Ministers for Agriculture in Australia, and the support of the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry indicates that it is necessary for this State to pass the legislation. I submit the Bill for the consideration of this House. As I promised the Leader of the Opposition, I shall seek the information which he desires; and I shall do likewise for any other member.

Mr. W. Hegney: Can you explain any reason for the action being taken by all the States?

Mr. NALDER: If I did not make the point clear previously, I now state that the real necessity for introducing this Bill is to take care of the important industry of dairying.

Mr. Graham: It is blocking new ideas.

Mr. NALDER: The Bill makes provision to cover various aspects of the industry; and whether a person or company should be able to commence producing a commodity such as filled milk, which we consider is not required, is another matter.

Mr. Graham: Who considers?

Mr. NALDER: We have all the detailed commodities required in producing filled milk. The member for Mt. Hawthorn knows that. The member for Collic mentioned last night the importance of improving the agricultural industry in Australia, and in particular in this State; he had at the back of his mind the dairying industry. That being the case, this House cannot put up any argument against the provisions in the Bill. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Kelly, debate adjourned.

POLICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. PERKINS (Roe—Minister for Police) [3.35] in moving the second reading said: This Bill deals with two separate parts of the Police Act, 1892-1958; namely, Parts VI and VIA. In regard to section VI, the matter of the passing of valueless cheques has for some time been a source of concern to the Police Department. At present it appears that any cheques returned "no account" can be dealt with, and in most cases the offenders are charged with false pretences. If anything up to the value of £500 is obtained by means of a false pretence, it carries a penalty of up to three years' imprisonment. If the value of the property is over £500, the maximum penalty is increased to seven years.

These offences are indictable offences under section 409 of the Criminal Code. If the value of the property does not exceed £50 and the offender elects to be dealt with summarily or, no matter what the value of the property, if the offender pleads guilty and the justices consider they can adequately punish the offender, they can deal with that summarily also. In either of these cases the maximum penalty is a fine of £50 or six months' imprisonment. It is, of course, unusual for the courts to impose the maximum penalties.

The concern of the Police Department has arisen from another type of valueless cheque, and that is the cheque which is returned marked "insufficient funds." This type of offence, it is stated, has been on the increase because of the ease with which cheque accounts can be opened and cheque books obtained; and it has caused the Police Department concern for some time, because prosecutions are difficult to bring as it is impossible to prove any intention to defraud.

The purpose of this amendment is to deal with cases where a person opens an account at a bank with a small sum of money and then proceeds deliberately to draw cheques far exceeding the amount deposited. The Bill, if agreed to, would provide that any person who obtained any chattel, money, or valuable security by passing a cheque within a period of 60 days from and commencing on the day of the opening of the bank account on which the cheque is drawn, which cheque is not paid on presentation, shall, unless he proves—

(a) that he had reasonable grounds for believing that that cheque would be paid on presentation;

(b) that he had no intent to defraud—
be liable on summary conviction to a fine of £50 or to imprisonment for a term of six months notwithstanding that there may have been some funds to the credit of the account on which the cheque was drawn at the time it was passed.

As a precaution, however, the Bill provides that no prosecution shall be commenced under the new section without the written consent of the Commissioner of Police. This would ensure that the highest possible investigation is made before any prosecution is commenced.

Regarding the period of 60 days, it is considered that in practice most of the hardened practitioners in this type of racket operate quickly and cannot afford to wait for any considerable time before operating after the date of opening a bank account. In addition, I would say that the period of 60 days minimises the danger of a *bona fide* operator on a bank account being penalised.

There is a certain amount of difficulty in regard to this Bill in that there is a measure of onus of proof on the defendant; but this has been minimised to the smallest extent necessary to prevent the legislation, if agreed to, being entirely ineffective.

As it is felt necessary to include a reference to valuable security, it will be essential for sufficient definition of the "valuable security" to be included as an interpretation in section 2 of the principal Act; hence the proposed amendment to that section.

I now pass to section VIA which deals with drugs. At present, section 94A of the Police Act confers no power to revoke proclamations under the section, and therefore additional drugs would need to be proclaimed separately.

Inquiries show that most of the drugs brought under control are so dealt with at the instance of the World Health Organisation through the Commonwealth Government, one of its members. The drugs are mostly synthetics, and new drugs of this type are being created fairly rapidly.

The organisation seeks to prevent addiction, and of necessity seeks the control of many drugs which, it is suspected, may have addictive properties, before a sufficient time has elapsed to properly evaluate the effect of such drugs. Subsequent experience may show that certain of the controlled drugs have no invidious characteristics and should therefore be decontrolled.

As section 94A of the Act now stands, once a proclamation is made under this section it cannot be revoked, amended, or varied. This is undesirable, and I feel that it should be amended to permit revocation, amendment, or variation. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Brady, debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 p.m. to 4.3 p.m.

JUSTICES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. WATTS (Stirling—Attorney-General) [4.5] in moving the second reading said: The major purpose of this measure is to even up the provisions which now exist in regard to imprisonment for default in payment of fines and penalties. At present, under the Traffic Act, by virtue of an amendment passed in 1957, the penalty for default in payment is one day for every £1. For all other offences which come within the scope of the Justices Act it is, as it has been for many years, three days for every £1. As a consequence, if a person is fined £5 for not licensing his motorcar; and he cannot, or does not, pay it and is arrested, he is imprisoned for five days. If he is fined £5 for failing to license his dog, in similar circumstances, he is imprisoned for 15 days.

Mr. Hawke: Quite right.

Mr. Brand: You shouldn't have a dog in the first place.

Mr. WATTS: The suggestion is that the penalty should be reduced to one day for every £1 all round. The three days, of course, came about at a time when penalties were much lower than they are today. If one was fined £1, it was fairly heavy; but now, if a fine is less than £5, it is extraordinary. Therefore, there is justification for the amendment in that regard, too. As a matter of fact, my worthy predecessor made this recommendation about a year ago, but it was not proceeded with at that time.

The Bill proposes in the schedule to repeal the section of the Traffic Act which was inserted in 1957 limiting the imprisonment by way of default under the Traffic Act to one day for every £1, and to bring back, as it always was, the whole of the procedure under the Justices Act.

There are two minor machinery amendments in this Bill. They are to clear up the question that, when a warrant is issued, the cost of the warrant can lawfully be included in calculating the penalty by way of imprisonment in default.

Mr. Nulsen: Does this Bill amend two Acts?

Mr. WATTS: No. It amends the Justices Act, and repeals section 69A of the Traffic Act. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Evans, debate adjourned.

JUDGES' SALARIES AND PENSIONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. WATTS (Stirling—Attorney-General [4.11] in moving the second reading said: This Bill proposes to adjust the salaries of the judges of the Supreme Court. It proposes to increase the salary of the Chief Justice to £5,250; the salary of the Senior Puisne Judge to £4,750; and that of the other judges to £4,600. The £150 being paid extra to the Senior Puisne Judge follows the precedent that has already been established of paying that judge an extra £150 a year. The Bill also provides for basic wage adjustments which have been paid for some years.

In New South Wales the Chief Justice receives £6,200; and the judges, £5,250. In Victoria, the Chief receives £6,550; and the judges, £5,800. In Queensland, the Chief receives £5,300; and the judges, £4,900. In South Australia, the Chief receives £5,750; and the judges, £5,000; and in Tasmania; the figures are £4,500 and £4,000 respectively. Therefore, the figures that we propose are actually higher only than those of Tasmania, and lower than all the other States—although very close to those of Queensland.

The work of the judges is undoubtedly increasing. It is highly desirable that they should be assured of financial independence; and the amounts included in this Bill are considered to be the lowest amounts that could be properly provided for at present.

Mr. Jamieson: Is the Government taking into consideration the appointment of a further justice?

Mr. WATTS: Consideration is being given to it. I find that my predecessor in office gave this matter some consideration, and suggested that the South Australian salaries might form the basis of an amendment to the law. That was in June of last year. As I have said, the figures I have used are a little below those for South Australia, and the Bill provides that the salaries are to be retrospective to the 1st January last. In doing this, we think we are carrying out the intention of the previous Government, which desired the matter to be held over until this session; and noted, when the figures were decided on, that they should be made retrospective to approximately the beginning of 1959. We have advised the judges that no further review will be made for a minimum of two years from the end of last month.

The last clause in the Bill covers Sir John Dwyer's position. He was informed that if the judges' salaries were increased by Parliament before February next, the same increase would be allowed him in his retiring allowance and proportionate pension. Those are the provisions of the Bill, and I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Hawke, debate adjourned.

TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. PERKINS (Roe—Minister for Transport) [4.20] in moving the second reading said: The main provision of this Bill is to give greater protection to the many young people who ride motorcycles and motor-scooters and to drivers of vehicles engaged in motor-racing, speed exhibitions, or reliability trials.

The Government, in conjunction with the National Safety Council, has for some considerable time been endeavouring to ensure that safety helmets, offered to the public for sale, comply with certain specifications which make the helmet effective in giving the wearer greater protection in the event of an accident. The Bill, if approved, will enable the Government to make regulations to ensure that no helmet is sold unless it complies with the British-Australian standard specifications.

Although some requests have been made to make the wearing of a safety helmet compulsory, this is not proposed at present. The Government, however, is concerned at the great number of fatalities caused by head injuries, and is giving every encouragement to all drivers and pillion riders to wear these helmets, which it is claimed increase the accident survival rate by 70 per cent.

It will be recalled that two recent fatalities at the Claremont Speedway were attributable to faulty or insecure safety belts; and in this connection the proposed legislation will enable regulations to be made which will ensure that racing vehicles are properly equipped, and that the equipment is in good condition.

Under the Traffic Act the maximum "overall width" of a vehicle should not exceed 8ft. Legally this width includes mechanical signalling devices and external mirrors, which it is considered should not be included. The Bill aims to exclude these devices so that the permissible 8ft. of vehicles can be fully utilised.

The traffic regulations permit drivers of passenger vehicles to remove persons where their conduct is disorderly, or when a passenger is under the influence of intoxicating liquor. The Act makes no specific provision to empower drivers and conductors to remove persons, and it is deemed advisable that such authority should be in the statute.

It has been the practice of most licensing authorities to permit agricultural implements to be towed on public roads when passing from one property to another. Whilst being towed, these implements come under the category of a trailer. Under the Traffic Act the definition of a trailer makes no provision for an agricultural implement; and in order to exempt these vehicles from the normal licensing requirements of a trailer—such as the provision of lights and brakes—it is desirable to include in the Act a description of what constitutes an agricultural implement.

The Bill also contains several clauses which, whilst not affecting existing legislation in any way, simply tidy up references to sections and subsections in the present Act. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Hawke, debate adjourned.

INDUSTRY (ADVANCES) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Treasurer) [4.25] in moving the second reading said: This is only a short measure, and honourable members are no doubt aware of the circumstances which gave rise to this amendment. Early in 1958 a local company,

Canterbury Court Pty. Ltd., approached the previous Government for financial assistance in regard to the erection of a multi-storeyed car park over Canterbury Court. Cabinet agreed in April, 1958, to assist this project by way of a guarantee to an assurance company—the Prudential Assurance Co. Ltd.—the amount of the guarantee being £250,000.

However, the assurance company later refused to accept a guarantee under the Industry (Advances) Act, 1947, in its present form, on the grounds that, in the company's opinion, doubt existed as to whether the project was an "industry" as defined for the purposes of the Act; and that it was therefore not possible to issue an appropriate certificate under section 4 of the Act. The company maintained its attitude although contrary advice was given by the Crown Law Department and other legal authorities.

In the meantime, Canterbury Court Pty. Ltd. had signed a contract for the erection of the building with H. A. Doust & Co., and the work had proceeded. As a matter of fact, before final arrangements could be made for any payment under the guarantee, I think the contractor had involved himself to an amount of £40,000 or £50,000.

A Bill introduced in the last session of Parliament in 1958, designed to cover this and similar transactions was defeated in another place, and an amendment covering Canterbury Court only was not proceeded with. I would remind members that in this House an amendment was put forward, which was not acceptable to the then Government, designed to give approval for this particular project, but to exclude general provisions. As a result of the difficulties arising out of what I and others believe to be an action of good faith on the part of the Government, arrangements have been made to overcome the difficulty.

In the meantime, arrangements have been made with another institution, the Commonwealth Bank, to provide temporary accommodation up to £240,000, supported by a guarantee under the Industry (Advances) Act to the Canterbury Court Co. pending the passing of this Bill. In fact, the lending institution—the Commonwealth Bank—made that temporary accommodation available on the understanding that this amendment would be passed as soon as possible to permit of early repayment of the temporary advance. The then Premier, finding the position to be a difficult one—indeed, an embarrassing one—got in touch with me and the leader of the Country Party. We were then in Opposition, and we advised him that we were prepared to support an amendment covering this particular project, provided the Labour Party in Government would support the Bill, which was sent to us in draft form, and which is now before us.

Subject to its solicitor being satisfied with the form of documents, the assurance company for its part has agreed to accept the guarantee under the Act immediately after the passing of the Bill in its present form. When the resulting guaranteed advance is made available by the assurance company, arrangements will be made to clear the temporary accommodation. As I said, the Bill, in its present form, was accepted by Party Leaders in March of last year; and accordingly I commend it to members of this House. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Hawke, debate adjourned.

FIRE BRIGADES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Chief Secretary) [4.32] in moving the second reading said: There is nothing new in this Bill. For some time the Fire Brigades Board has desired certain amendments to its Act. On three separate occasions the former Government introduced Bills which, in the main, contained the substance of the Board's desires. However, included in those three Bills was a clause which provided that a permanent fireman, representing the union, be included as a member of the Board. The three Bills were not proceeded with when this provision was deleted from them in another place. The present measure is virtually the same as those introduced on the three other occasions, but it does not contain the clause to which I have just referred.

In order that the purposes of the Bill may be clearly understood, I feel a brief summary of its provisions might be pertinent at this point. The Bill firstly provides that the Board can meet requests from local authorities in regard to establishing two or more fire districts in the territory of one local authority, and that it may cancel the redundant fire districts. Secondly, the Bill provides for a right of appeal in election disputes; that is, in the election of members of the Board. The third provision in the Bill states that the remuneration of Board members may be raised to a figure not exceeding in total £1,300.

Mr. Graham: I think that is the vital clause for the Board.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I think it might be dealt with in the Committee stage. The next provision states that the Board may, under the Act itself—not by regulation as in the past—direct the installation of fire-prevention apparatus and appliances. The fifth provision seeks the removal of the rate of interest, which is set at 6½ per cent. in the Act. The final provision in the Bill gives the Board power to charge brigade attendance fees for fires on uninsured properties.

The first provision redrafts section 5 of the Act. The Crown Law Department agrees with the Fire Brigades Board that that section is virtually impractical, and that it prevents the Board from meeting certain legitimate requests that might at times be received from local governing authorities with regard to fire prevention. Clause 2 in the Bill preserves all the features of section 5 in the original Act, but it adds two items. These are, firstly, that the Board may establish two or more fire districts, and subsequently alter same in the territory of a local authority. It appears at present that if the Board were to receive a request, say, from Brunswick Junction, that a volunteer fire brigade be set up there, it could not grant the request, because the Act specifies that there may be only one fire district to the one local governing authority's area.

The provision in the Bill will alter that, and enable the Fire Brigades Board to meet the request of local governing authorities which desire two or more brigades to be set up in their districts. The second provision which is added to this redrafted section, is that the Board may now cancel redundant fire districts. For example, the Board has no power to cancel the fire district of Wiluna, which is now virtually a ghost town, and no longer requires a volunteer fire brigade. A scrutiny of this particular clause of the Bill will reveal the further redrafted provisions already incorporated in section 5 of the original Act.

The second provision of which I spoke dealt with Board elections and the right of appeal in election disputes. This provision makes a right of appeal to a magistrate in the case of a dispute arising out of the election of Board members, where there arises any irregularity in the election, or where there is an alleged irregularity or a dispute as to the validity of the election. I think this is a necessary amendment and it has been desired by the Board over a number of years.

The next important provision deals with the remuneration of Board members, and it has been suggested by the member for East Perth that this is the crux of the whole Bill. That may be so. I would like to point out, however, that the provision sets aside a total amount of £1,300 to be divided between the members of the Board, and apportioned as approved by the Minister.

I think it pertinent to inform the House at this stage that the 1942 Act provided that £550 be divided between 10 Board members. In 1949 an amendment altered the figure to £850 to be divided among the 10 Board members. The Bill introduced in 1956 by the former Government provided for a sum of £1,250 to be divided between the 10 Board members, and the present Bill makes available £1,300.

Mr. Graham: In fairness, I think you should have added that the proposed payment in the Bills of the previous Government was conditional on there being a workers' representative on the Board.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I do not think that we on this side of the House could agree to that proposition.

Mr. Graham: You are consistently anti-workers.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: This is a point which, of course, can be thrashed out in Committee; though I must deny the allegation which the honourable member has made. I think it is most unfair—

Mr. Graham: It is a bull's-eye.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: —because our policy is designed broadly to better the conditions of the workers. I have already pointed out that if this Bill is passed, £1,300 will be apportioned to the Board members and the Chairman in a manner to be approved by the Minister.

The next provision concerns fire-prevention apparatus and appliances. The existing regulation which caters for the installation of this apparatus and these appliances has been found in the past by a magistrate to be void for uncertainty. In short, it means that the Act does not specify any due form of powers of the Board in regard to the installation of the aforesaid apparatus and appliances. The Bill rewrites the powers to give satisfaction and to enable the powers to stem direct from the Act and not from regulation, as has applied in the past.

Section 25 of the original Act quotes the powers and duties of the Board, but the implementation of these powers, which are carried out by regulation, has been found to be void for uncertainty, and therefore the Fire Brigades Board has not been able to ensure that certain public buildings should be equipped in a manner which it felt was best suited for fire protection. It was felt that because of the wide powers that are given to the Board in regard to this, it would be better, in rewriting the powers, to obviate the weakness I referred to a moment ago, and make them stem from the Act and not from the regulations.

Another provision amends section 46 of the Act. At present the interest rate on debenture loans must not exceed 6½ per cent.; and it would appear that, under the circumstances, this is redundant. There is no necessity for it to be in the Act at all. Its abolition would remove the likelihood of the Board being prevented from raising necessary loans should interest rates exceed the rates set down in the Act. Although it is not a frightfully important provision, there is a desire on the Board's part that it be removed.

Mr. Graham: You would not worry if this clause were deleted from the Bill?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I would prefer it to remain in the Bill. In addition, in the borrowing field the Board is grouped with local governing authorities; and legislation concerning those bodies is silent in respect of any ceiling rate of interest, and all borrowings by the Board are subject to the approval of the Governor. This provides any safeguard that may be felt to be necessary. I think I have more or less answered the member for East Perth. Treasury supervision, Cabinet supervision, or Executive Council supervision, together with a general observance of the Loan Council's rate of interest on the Board's borrowings, makes the ceiling rate of 6½ per cent. unnecessary.

Mr. Graham: The point I was getting at is this: The effect of there being a limitation now is not impeding the Fire Brigades Board?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: It might.

Mr. Graham: We will deal with the problem when we reach it.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I should imagine the member for East Perth would be the last one to say that if there is any bar to removing anything that is undesirable, or if there is any redundancy, action should not be taken; because, in the past, he has been only too eager to take forward action to do the right thing.

Mr. Graham: I am not unmindful that the Board comprises a lot of representatives of insurance companies who are lenders of money.

Mr. Bovell: There is only one such representative.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: There is an observance of Loan Council interest rates. The honourable member would put a further check upon people who are already checked in two different ways. He is like a man who plays chess foolishly. He has unnecessarily checked a certain chessman three times, when there was necessity for only one check.

Mr. May: Do you play draughts?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I hope the member for East Perth will not take a small attitude in regard to this amendment. Another provision in the Bill has to do with charges by brigades for attending fires. The provision to which I refer amends section 65 of the Act. It puts into the Act a power that was already thought to be in it. In brief, it provides that the Board may charge fees for brigades attending fires which may occur on uninsured property. The need for this provision arises because, in recovery proceedings taken in 1953 against the owner

of uninsured vacant land on which a grass fire occurred, it was successfully contended by the defendant that such property on which the fire occurred was uninsurable. Therefore, the defendant was not liable under the Act.

Mr. Graham: Before you pass that point, what is the procedure where a property is insured?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: The brigade may charge fees. There is power for that in the Act.

Mr. Graham: Would it be against the insurance company?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: It would be against the owner or occupier through his premium.

Mr. Graham: Why differentiate between insurable and non-insurable properties?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I cannot see the point of the honourable member.

Mr. Graham: Why differentiate between insured and uninsured properties? You just said that the owner or occupier is financially responsible.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I tried to point out that in a certain case which took place the board was unsuccessful in its endeavour to recover fees from a certain owner because he successfully contended that the property where the fire occurred was uninsurable. For the benefit of honourable members I will read section 65, subsection (1) of the Act—

Where a fire occurs within a district in uninsured premises, or uninsured property, whether situate in premises or elsewhere, the owner of such uninsured premises or property shall be liable to pay to the Board for the attendance at the fire of any brigade under the control of the Board, an amount to be determined by the Board but not exceeding the fees and charges mentioned in the Third Schedule to this Act. For the purposes of this section the term "uninsured" means not insured with a contributory insurance company.

Mr. Graham: Would you read the section that applies to insured properties?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: There is provision for insured properties, but the power is required for those which are uninsurable. The board should be able to recover fees for uninsurable properties. However, that power is not in the Act, but it is contained in the amendment to which I am referring at the present time. It clarifies the position, and will make an owner or occupier of uninsured premises or property, whether insurable or not, liable to the Board's charges.

Mr. Nulsen: If it is not insured?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Yes. If it is uninsurable, it will not be insured.

Mr. Hawke: That makes it uninsurable.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Perhaps if I proceed a little further, the Leader of the Opposition may more clearly understand the type of property to which I refer.

Mr. Hawke: I prefer to discuss it in Committee.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: The revenue the Board would obtain from this provision would be very small, and it is primarily enacted as a fire prevention measure. It is also intended to clarify the intention of the 1942 Act. It is hoped—I believe it should be a very strong hope—that this amendment will encourage owners and occupiers to keep their blocks free from inflammable rubbish and grass.

There are some rather enlightening figures which members may like to know, which could indicate—not necessarily so—the need for this provision. In 1953 there were 803 calls to grass and rubbish fires; and in 1958, there were 1,249 calls. These are fires which could be prevented by owners or occupiers if they cleared inflammable rubbish or grass from their blocks so as to obviate danger to life and property. It is felt that this provision may go a long way towards preventing fires. I have explained the six provisions in the Bill; and, as I said at the outset, they are similar to provisions contained in Bills which were introduced by the previous Government. I commend the measure to the House and move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Moir, debate adjourned.

BILLS (7)—MESSAGES

Appropriation

Messages from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the following Bills:—

1. Museum.
2. Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication Fund.
3. Art Gallery.
4. Filled Milk.
5. Industry (Advances) Act Amendment.

Messages from the Lieut.-Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the following Bills:—

6. State Electricity Commission Act Amendment.
7. Fire Brigades.

House adjourned at 5.1 p.m.