Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 17th September, 1969

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

TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY LAWS

Liberalisation: Petition

THE HON. R. F. CLAUGHTON (North Metropolitan) [4.32 p.m.]: I present a petition from the Abortion Law Reform Association of Western Australia. This petition contains 5,016 signatures and bears the certificate of the Clerk as required by Standing Orders. I move—

That the petition be received and read.

Question put and passed.

THE HON. R. F. CLAUGHTON (North Metropolitan) [4.33 p.m.]: The petition reads as follows:—

To—

The Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia.

We, the undersigned citizens of Western Australia, are in favour of liberalisation of the Termination of Pregnancy laws along the lines proposed by Dr. Hislop, and call upon Members of Parliament to introduce the necessary legislation as soon as possible,

AND your Petitioners will ever pray that their humble and earnest petition may be acceded to.

The petition was tabled.

QUESTIONS (13): ON NOTICE

1. SHEEP

Numbers

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE asked the Minister for Mines:

Will the Minister advise the House of the sheep population of the State—

(a) in the pastoral areas; and

(b) in the farming districts;

for the following years—

(i) 1915;

(ii) 1930;

(iii) 1945;

(iv) 1960; and

(v) 1968?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(a) Pastoral Areas (millions)

(i)	1915	2.4
(ii)	1930	4.8
(iii)	1945	2.7
(iv)	1960	3.0
(v)	1968	3.8

(b) Agricultural Areas (millions)

(i)	1915	2.1
(ii)	1930	4.8
(iii)	1945	7.3
(iv)	1960	13.4
(v)	1968	26.4

These figures are supplied by the Government Statistician and in each case are for the year ended the 31st March.

2. WATER SUPPLIES

Research in Cape Le Grande Area

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

(1) Has any research been carried out in the Cape Le Grande area at Esperance in assessing possible underground water supplies?

(2) If so, what is the result of the research?

(3) Does a possible dam site and a suitable area for catchment purposes exist?

(4) Would there be sufficient water supplies available for a water piped scheme to serve the Mallee and Salmon Gums areas?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) A preliminary geological study of the Esperance area embracing Cape Le Grande has been completed.

(2) Certain areas have been recommended for exploratory drilling.

(3) The area is not suitable for large scale development of surface storage.

(4) Investigations have not progressed to the stage where this question can be answered.

3. ARCHITECTS BOARD

Tabling of Minute Book

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS asked the Minister for Mines:

Would the Minister—

(a) obtain and lay on the Table of the House, the minute book containing the record of all proceedings of meetings held since the 1st of January, 1968, by the Architects Board of Western Australia; and

(b) provide the number of members of the board who attended each of the above meetings, and the name of the member in each case?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(a) No.

(b) Since the 1st January, 1968, 30 meetings have been held and the attendances were as follows:—

Mr. A. L. R. Camerer (retired December 1968)—13.
Mr. S. B. Cann—16.
Mr. S. J. Coll (Chairman)—30.
Mr. K. C. Duncan—25.
Mr. A. C. Ednie-Brown—25.
Mr. R. M. Fairbrother—16.
Mr. G. G. Harler (appointed January 1969)—8.
Mr. E. L. McDonald—23.
Mr. M. H. Parry—23.
Mr. D. O. Sands—26.

4. EDUCATION

Carnarvon Primary School

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

(1) Can the Minister explain why the Carnarvon Primary School Parents and Citizens' Association was refused permission to purchase and install for use as a canteen at the school, a 48-foot caravan available at a very moderate price?

(2) If there is an out of date regulation which precludes the use of a caravan for the above purpose, although this type of vehicle is already in use for such purposes as dental treatment, X-ray work, eye clinics, snack food bars, and so on, with the sanction of the Public Health Department, will the Minister amend the legislation without delay?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) and (2) The use of a caravan as a temporary canteen was refused since the need to provide for effluent disposal, power, water and drainage would have necessitated making it a fixture and, as such, it could not be compared with itinerant dental and X-ray vans.

5. NATIVE WELFARE

Movement of Stock Through Mission Areas

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE asked the Minister for Mines:

Will the Minister lay on the Table of the House for one week, up-to-date files which contain all the communications of the past twelve months, to and from the Minister for Native Welfare and both Billiluna Station representatives and Balgo Mission representatives, in connection with the travelling of stock through Balgo Mission areas?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

No, but the honourable member is free to examine for his own information the files in question in the office of the Minister for Native Welfare.

6. WHEAT

Release from Bins

The Hon. J. DOLAN asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) How many farmers have applied for the release of wheat from the bins since wheat became available from this source?

(2) What quantity of wheat has been released up to and including the 12th September, 1969?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) There have been 79 applications for 29,169 bushels up to close of business on the 16th September.

(2) Up to and including the 12th September, 1969, 23,769 bushels were released to 62 applicants.

7. RAILWAYS

Condition of Water Tankers

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

(1) How many of the water-tanker type of rolling stock has the Western Australian Government Railways available?

(2) How many are—

(a) in a serviceable condition for immediate use if necessary; and

(b) situated at railway yards in—

(i) the city; and

(ii) the country?

(3) What is the location of each of the tankers?

(4) What is the aggregate capacity of these tankers?

(5) Would there be enough tankers to cope with water carriage requirements of drought stricken areas?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) Over and above departmental requirements the following vehicles are available at this date:—

Six J type.
One JA type.
Twelve JX type (bitumen tanks which would possibly be suitable for water for stock purposes only).

(2) (a) Each of the tanks is in a serviceable condition.

(b) (i) One J type.
Twelve JX type (bitumen).

(ii) Five J type.
One JA type.

(3) Midland—
One J type.
Twelve JX type (bitumen).
Northam—
Two J type.
Narrogin—
Two J type.
One JA type.
Merredin—
One J type.

(4) Six J type x 1600 gallons = 9,600 gallons.
One JA type = 2,800 gallons.
Twelve JX type (bitumen) x 2,700 gallons = 32,400 gallons.
Total—44,800 gallons.

(5) No.

8. NORTH-WEST

Term of Administrator

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) When does the term of the appointment expire of Mr. H. L. McGuigan, Administrator for the North-West?

(2) Are provisions being made to continue to use in the interests of the State, the services of Mr. McGuigan in some capacity in the north-west?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) and (2) Mr. McGuigan's term of appointment would normally expire mid-October. However, it is expected that his services will be carried on for a short additional period while arrangements are completed in respect of his successor.

Ways in which Mr. McGuigan can be of service to the north following his retirement from the position of Administrator are currently under discussion with Mr. McGuigan and it would be premature to make any further comment at this stage.

It is appropriate to add that on the 18th June, 1969 the Governor in Executive Council approved the appointment of Mr. McGuigan as a Commissioner and Vice-Chairman of the W.A. Coastal Shipping Commission. This is a part time post only.

9. MAIN ROADS

Leonora to Wiluna

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

(1) Has the Main Roads Department taken, within the past six months or so, a count of light and heavy traffic using the road from Parkeston to the north-west, between Leonora and Wiluna, to ascertain the increase or decrease in the number of vehicles using the road?

(2) As many drivers of interstate transports choose to ignore "Road Closed" signs in wet weather, then proceed onwards doing untold damage because it is not an "all weather" road, will the Minister endeavour to secure extra finance to enable this road to be upgraded so that if signs are ignored by drivers, the surface will not be so badly damaged due to lack of run-off of water?

(3) Will the Minister also bear in mind that, in the not too distant future, large transports will be carting melons and citrus products from Mr. J. Parr's property some six miles east of Wiluna to the Kalgoorlie rail head for conveyance to Eastern States markets?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Funds totalling $28,500 have been allocated during the current year for the Leonora-Wiluna section. There has been a general increase in allocations for this road in recent years. The allocation in 1966-67 was $13,500.

The allocations are considered sufficient to have allowed the condition of the road to be kept reasonably abreast of the traffic requirement.

(3) Yes.

10. TOWN PLANNING

Resumptions in Wembley

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

In view of the reply to my question on the 27th August, 1969, relating to proposed resumptions in Grantham Street, Wembley, will the Minister further investigate the matter and provide the following information to the House—

(a) what discussions are at present being proceeded with between the solicitors for the applicant and the Crown Law Department;

(b) what was the date of the most recent correspondence from the applicant's solicitors to—
(i) the Crown Law Department; and
(ii) the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority;

(c) has a reply been forwarded to the applicant's solicitors by either of the bodies referred to in (b) (i) and (ii);

(d) if the reply to (c) is "Yes", what was the date of the replies;

(e) has the applicant received any advice, either personally or through his solicitors, to the effect that his claim for compensation has been rejected;

(f) if so, what were the reasons for such rejection;

(g) has the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority indicated that it is prepared to negotiate or discuss this matter;

(h) if not, why is it that the authority will not discuss the matter; and

(i) is the Minister aware that, in the opinion of two Queens Counsel, this person is entitled to compensation, but although these opinions were made available to the Senior Assistant Crown Solicitor in October, 1968, he was apparently unmoved by them?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

(a) Arising from the most recent letter written to the Crown Law Department, discussion has taken place with the applicant's solicitors on what action should be taken in view of the differing opinions held by the parties.

(b) (i) 23rd July, 1969.

(ii) 18th July, 1968.

(c) In the case of (i) above, no. In the case of (ii) yes, by the Crown Law Department.

(d) 19th September, 1968.

(e) Yes, the solicitors were so advised by the Crown Law Department on the 1st October, 1968.

(f) In the opinion of the Crown Law Department, no compensation was legally payable in the terms of the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act.

(g) Yes, the M.R.P.A. is currently considering advice tendered by the Assistant Crown Solicitor.

(h) Answered by (g).

(i) Two opinions have been made available to the Crown Law Department. The first was based on an incorrect statement of fact that was basic to any determination and therefore could not be regarded as helpful. The second opinion stated that the views expressed were somewhat tentatively advanced and that if the M.R.P.A. was not prepared to pay compensation a court should determine the matter. The Senior Assistant Crown Solicitor considers that determination of the issue by a court to be the proper course of action.

11. NATIVE WELFARE

Settlement of Disputes with Mission Authorities

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE asked the Minister for Mines:

Will the Minister endeavour to obtain a reply from the Government, and in particular from the Minister for Native Welfare, on the serious issues raised by me on the Address-in-Reply debate which had reference to Balgo Mission and Billiluna, in particular—

(a) to advise in connection with the issuance of a permit to travel stock through the mission area without consultation with the mission authorities; and

(b) to regard as very urgent the suggested appointment of an impartial chairman, such as the Surveyor-General, to hear representatives of both interests on the matters in dispute, and make a report?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(a) In accordance with an undertaking given, with the full knowledge and approval of Balgo Mission authorities, when Balwina reserve was extended in 1962 at the request of the mission, the Department of Native Welfare issues permits for the legitimate movement of stock across the reserve. The reserve is neither vested in the mission nor leased to it.

(b) No justification can be seen for taking this matter out of the jurisdiction of the Minister for Native Welfare.

12. HOUSING

Release of Land at Wembley Downs

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON asked the Minister for Mines:

When is it intended to release the land held by the State Housing Commission between Empire Avenue and Ednah Street, Wembley Downs?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

There are no immediate proposals to release this land.

The commission has prepared a subdivision but this has not yet been submitted for Town Planning Department approval.

13. TOWN PLANNING

Regional Road at Churchlands

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON asked the Minister for Town Planning:

(1) Has the route of the regional road passing through the Wembley Downs Public Golf Course, Churchlands, and the Poultry Research Station, been finally delineated?

(2) If so, would the Minister supply a map of the route showing also present subdivisional proposals for the adjoining land?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

(1) and (2) This is not a regional road but a controlled access road in terms of the Metropolitan Region Scheme. As details of its proposed route and width are still being examined no map is yet available.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH AID ROADS LEGISLATION

Departmental Appraisal

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON asked the Minister for Local Government:

In view of the many vague statements that have issued concerning concessions in connection with the Commonwealth aid roads legislation, would the Minister advise whether the Local Government Department has considered all the ramifications of this Act as it is now interpreted and whether this appraisal can be made available to the shires? Would it also be possible for those members interested to be supplied with a copy of such appraisal?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

I am not certain that all the statements made have been vague. A few statements have been made and there has been an attempt at clarification as the matter affects the Commonwealth and the States. I believe the time has arrived, however, when most of the points at issue have been finally clarified, and it is the intention of the Local Government Department to send out a form to all local authorities describing the ramifications of the Act as it applies to both the Commonwealth and the State. Once this is done I will make copies available to those members who might be interested.

WATER BOARDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

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

LAND ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Third Reading

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

That the Bill be now read a third time.

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central) [4.53 p.m.]: It was my intention to speak on this Bill during the second reading debate but, unfortunately, when the Bill came before the House I was not able to take advantage of the opportunity to speak.

I wish to refer briefly to the last clause of the measure which deals with the provision of water on conditional purchase properties. This has been referred to by several members. The full essence of the Minister's speech on this matter is not quite correct. In his second reading speech the Minister said—

> A final amendment makes provision in the Land Act that an adequate water supply be provided before issue of the Crown grant.
>
> There is no such provision in the Land Act at present to make it obligatory for a licensee to provide a water supply.

This is not exactly correct, because the following words are to be found in section 47 (f) (i) of the Land Act:—

> The lessee—
>
> (i) shall provide an adequate water supply within the first two years of the term of the lease, if required by the Minister to do so;

So the Minister can require a lessee to provide an adequate water supply. The Minister also said—

> The Farm Water Supply Advisory Committee considers that the provision of a key water supply by the farmer should be a requisite to the freeholding of Crown land unless specifically excepted under freeholding conditions.

I raise this matter because I believe the definition of a key water supply is a water supply additional to what would be considered adequate on a property.

As members know we have had for some time in this State what is known as the key dam scheme, which is financed through the Rural and Industries Bank. This scheme proposes that the key dams should be additional to the existing water supply to provide for seasons which may not be the best. Properties are provided with

dams, etc., under this scheme, which is really an insurance policy against bad seasons.

If what the Minister has said is referred to later in *Hansard*, the intention and the meaning of an adequate water supply could in future years be taken to mean that the key dam scheme is part and parcel of an adequate water supply. When one wants to look up the intention of a particular section of a Statute one generally refers back to *Hansard;* this gives the intentions and feelings of Parliament at the time. I feel that this aspect could be challenged in the Minister's speech; it could be taken as meaning what an adequate water supply should be.

The question of an adequate water supply was raised by other members and actually it does not really give a clear conception of what the position is. For instance, if, under the present provision in the Act, the Minister were to insist that an adequate water supply be installed on a property, it may be merely an adequate domestic water supply, or it may extend beyond that to supplying a certain amount of water for stock. When one looks at this provision one wonders how far the Minister would go.

I am sure that most Ministers would be reasonable. In the past the situation was that in the case of some properties leased on conditional purchase terms it did not matter whether a dam or a well was put down; the only water that could be obtained was salt water.

The people concerned would be up against it in trying to provide an adequate water supply if there was no decent stock water available within a reasonable distance. It is possible that in such a case the Minister would not insist on an adequate water supply being installed on such a property before a Crown grant issued.

These are some of the things which I feel ought to be mentioned so that when this matter is being considered by Ministers in the future they will be able to refer back to *Hansard* and find the intention of Parliament in regard to the provision of an adequate water supply on a property before a Crown grant can issue. With those few words I support the third reading of the Bill.

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Upper West —Minister for Local Government) [4.58 p.m.]: Actually, when I replied to Mr. Lavery I said that the words incorporated in the Act were incorporated in the very section with which we are now dealing—section 47.

We are not altering the word "adequate"; it is already there. The implication in the Bill is that if a person obtains a piece of land and wants a Crown grant to issue he must, after the passing of this legislation, provide an adequate water supply—this must be adequate to the satisfaction of the Minister. We are not altering the wording; this is already in the Act.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: That refers to the key water and not to an adequate water supply.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Did I say anything about a key water supply?

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: In your speech you refer to the Farm Water Supply Advisory Committee and what it considered.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The key water supply in that context is the water supply on the property. It is not necessary for the person concerned to provide water in every paddock. If he has one key water supply, that would be sufficient. It all depends on the size of the property and whether one key dam would be sufficient.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Where is the interpretation of "key dam"?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: There are several interpretations of the word "key," but I think the honourable member will find that the interpretation in the Bill is the correct one. When I mentioned a key water supply I referred to there being one decent water supply which would compensate for half a dozen small water supplies around the place. This would be sufficient so far as the particular property was concerned and I think that is what the Minister meant to imply.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

ORD RIVER DAM CATCHMENT AREA (STRAYING CATTLE) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Health), and passed.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (Lower West—Minister for Health) [5.1 p.m.]: I move—

> That the Bill be now read a second time.

It will be recalled that in 1967 a new part IIIA was inserted into the Weights and Measures Act to make special provisions in respect of pre-packed articles. The operation of the amending Act, or any part of it, was made subject to proclamation. Section 14 inserted a new section 27C, requiring the packer of articles for sale to mark his name and address on each package or identify it by an approved brand; or, if acting on behalf of another

person, to affix his name or approved brand. There are also other supporting provisions as affecting the Business Names Act.

Up to now, section 14 of the amending Act has not been proclaimed because one State departed from the agreed uniform provisions. Consequently, the other States agreed to withhold legislation or proclamation, whichever applied, until complete uniformity could be achieved.

All States have now agreed to legislate, or, where necessary, to relegislate on a uniform basis requiring the use of only one packer's name and address or approved brand on a package containing an article to which this Act applies.

It is necessary, in order to provide a phasing-out period of 12 months to accommodate the distribution and disposal of existing packaged goods, once again to make these provisions subject to proclamation at some suitable time.

It is now to be provided that the name and address or the approved brand of the person responsible for the packing of the articles be marked on the package where the packer packs the article on his own behalf, or where the article is packed for, or on behalf of, another person.

It is further provided that, even though the article is packed by an employee of another person, the name and address of the employer must be shown. There is an added provision for the use of the name of a corporation or a business name under the Business Names Act, where applicable.

The penalty for an offence against the provisions now before members will take into account the application of reciprocity as between States, for it will be an offence to sell a pre-packed article, which is not marked in accordance with the law of this State or with the corresponding law of another State.

Another restriction will safeguard the identity of the place where the article was packed, as it will be improper for a person to mark his name and address or brand on a package, unless that person can identify the place where the article was packed. This will meet the requirements of firms having more than one packing point in a State, yet making that firm responsible for informing the inspector, when requested, where the article in question had been packed.

As to fluctuations in weight, the States have agreed to provide for the marking of pre-packed articles in the terms of "net weight at standard condition," where such articles are subject to fluctuations in weight, either upwards or downwards, from the packed weight due to variations in climatic conditions after packing.

Only prescribed articles may be marked with "net weight at standard condition" and it will be an offence to mark articles other than those prescribed.

The concept of "net weight at standard condition" will be covered essentially by regulations. These will prescribe the articles which may be marked in this manner as well as the permissible percentage deviation from the marked weight of the articles. For the information of members, I would indicate that items which would be affected by this are wool, silk, cotton, and synthetic fibres, all of which vary in weight under changes in climatic conditions.

There is a provision also for the regulation of the deficiency which may be determined in relation to articles composed of two or more different materials.

The last clause in the Bill is merely a consequential amendment which is necessary as a result of amending the packer's name and address requirements. It will make clear, in the matter of evidence, the provision that the article was packed for the person whose name and address appears on the package and in the State or Territory indicated by the address thereon. It covers also the situation where an article contained in the package is exposed for sale, that, in fact, it was packed for sale by the person who packed it. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs.

EXMOUTH GULF SOLAR SALT INDUSTRY AGREEMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [5.7 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to ratify an agreement dated the 2nd May, 1969, between the State and Exmouth Salt Pty. Ltd. for the production and export of salt from an area south of Onslow on the shores of Exmouth Gulf.

The company has had a temporary reserve under the Mining Act over the area since December, 1965, and has carried out investigations to determine the suitability of the site for the production of solar salt.

Testing of soil conditions has proved that the salt flats are impervious. Net evaporation of the area is in excess of 120 inches per annum, giving every indication that salt of good quality can be produced.

Initially, it is proposed that the salt, after harvesting and washing, be placed in barges and loaded into ships lying at anchor in the sheltered waters of Exmouth Gulf. Later, as export tonnages build up, the company proposes to develop a deep water loading terminal at "Y" Island, which is shown on the plan.

The agreement is conditional on the company satisfying the State that it has entered into satisfactory contracts for the sale of salt and that it has arranged the necessary finance to complete the works.

Originally it was thought it would be possible to introduce this ratifying legislation in the autumn sitting of the first session of the 26th Parliament, 1969, and clause 3 provided for the passage of the Bill prior to the 30th June, 1969, or such later day as the parties may agree upon. Agreement has been reached on the extension of this date to the 31st October, 1969.

The agreement provides that the company will be able to obtain a renewal of the temporary reserve until the 30th June, 1979. The reason for this provision is that the temporary reserve, as originally granted, covered an area of 768 square miles. This area was for study purposes and is considered to be in excess of the company's requirements. It has been agreed that, initially, the company will be granted a lease of only 30,000 acres. This reduced area could be even more than sufficient for the company's planned production of 800,000 tons per annum. The leased area within the temporary reserve area is also shown on the plan.

With the developing salt market in Japan, it may be possible for the company to increase its share of the market in the future, so provision is made in the agreement that further areas, being part of the temporary reserve, up to a maximum of 60,000 acres, may be leased to the company if it satisfies the Government that a market exists for additional production.

The agreement provides that the plant shall be constructed so that it will have a capacity of not less than 500,000 tons of salt per annum, and cost not less than $3,000,000. Construction and establishment of the plant shall be completed not later than the 31st December, 1972.

Royalty payable by the company is the same as that payable by other salt companies—

On the first 500,000 tons in any year—5c per ton.

On the second 500,000 tons in any year—6.25c per ton.

On all tonnages in excess of 1,000,000 tons in any year—7.5c per ton.

The agreement provides that there shall be a review of salt prices every seven years so that an adjustment of rental and royalty payments can be made. The company will be liable to provide any necessary housing for employees.

Clause 22 of the agreement provides for the use of the company's facilities by third parties, subject to the payment of reasonable charges.

This is the sixth agreement the State has had with companies intending to produce and export salt. At the present time three of the companies—Shark Bay Salt Pty. Ltd.; Leslie Salt Co.; and Texada Mines Pty. Ltd.—are exporting.

Dampier Salt Ltd. has commenced construction of its pan system, and Lefroy Salt Pty. Ltd. is proceeding with its planning.

Exmouth Salt Pty. Ltd. originally was a wholly-owned Western Australian company. Because of the amount of capital required, partners were necessary and William Baird Mining Co. of the United Kingdom has taken up a majority shareholding. William Baird Mining Co. is a well-known organisation and we were pleased it joined the local syndicate, which would otherwise have been in some difficulty in arranging the necessary finance for this project.

The final line-up of partners has not yet been officially submitted to, and approved by, the Government, but it is expected it will be a combination of the local syndicate, the English company of William Baird Mining Co., and a Japanese component. All the parties under consideration are acceptable to the Government. I might point out that one of the conditions we have made is that Western Australian ownership must be not less than 20 per cent.

Exports are expected to commence in the latter part of 1970. In 1971, it is planned that over 600,000 tons of salt will be shipped, and from 1972 onwards exports could run at a rate of not less than 800,000 tons per annum.

The project initially will employ fewer than 50 persons and therefore cannot be considered a major employer. However, it is located in an area which has not benefited directly from the great projects that have been undertaken north of the 26th parallel in recent years, which makes it important, as more and more similar developments are needed if our plan to develop and populate the north-west, and make use of its vast resources, is to progress.

Regardless of the comparatively small number of employees in salt production, it is an export industry and it has the great advantage that it uses land previously considered to have no economic value.

Buyers are anxious we should have more than one source of salt because if, for instance, there is a heavy wet season in the Port Hedland area and heavy cyclonic rains fall two or three times during the year, the salt harvesting rate could be retarded considerably. However, it is most unlikely that those same cyclonic conditions would be experienced in all areas—Port Hedland, Dampier and Shark Bay, as well as Texada, Lake Lefroy, and the new one we are discussing, which is to be established at Exmouth.

All the projects now in hand will not come into full production immediately, but on an increasing basis which will be approximately the rate at which the potential market in Japan will develop.

We are still actively negotiating an industry in Western Australia which will process salt in order to give us caustic soda for the alumina industry, which is a very big user of caustic soda. However, our main problem at the moment is to find an outlet for the chlorine, because the industry which produces the caustic soda produces chlorine in approximately the same quantity. The amount of chlorine we use in a year is so small that it does not matter. The problem is getting rid of the chlorine, so we have to find a way to convert it to a transportable material.

Fortunately for us—and this is our greatest hope in the matter—most highly industrialised countries such as Britain, Japan, and European countries want chlorine. We have this problem of having caustic soda in places where it is not wanted and the reverse with chlorine. We are endeavouring to find ways and means of converting the chlorine to chlorinated hydrocarbons.

The other method we are trying to develop is to process the upgraded ilmenite, if we are successful in the industry, into titanium tetrachloride. If we can achieve this, it will be an important breakthrough in the chemical industry because it will give us an industry we have been trying to get for a long time but without success.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I do not like interrupting, but can the Minister advise whether there is much variability in the salt on the three locations?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: On the salt content?

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Yes.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I could not relate it.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: The chemical variation.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I could not relate it, but I will find out the degrees of difference. The Minister for Industrial Development believes we will find ways and means of processing the upgraded ilmenite into titanuim tetrachloride within two years.

The particular industry to which we are referring—the conversion of salt into caustic soda and chlorine and then chlorine into titanium tetrachloride, involves the ordinary conventional type of power of a very cheap kind. In fact, if it is anything more than .6c per kilowatt its use would not be economic for this purpose.

The number of projects, and the nature and diversity of the areas involved, provide a suitable balance and should ensure that we obtain our fair share of the world's markets. It is interesting to note that we did not think the Lake Lefroy project would have a chance of getting off the ground, but it was welcomed by the Japanese because it was in an entirely different climatic zone from all the others. This was a matter of security of supply as far as they were concerned, although it will probably cost slightly more than the other salt.

Roads are the company's responsibility. This has been made very clear, and, before housing is permitted, the company must get local authority approval. The company is responsible entirely for its own housing.

I should add that this particular project has been well researched because a French firm, internationally acknowledged, was engaged to undertake the studies and the firm satisfied all the parties concerned, both past and present, that this is a suitable area for salt production.

I think that for all time the bitterns will be poured back into the sea, because it is most unlikely that this area will ever have the amount of cheap power necessary to convert the bitterns into chemicals in a marketable form.

The Department of Fisheries and Fauna has been a party to the actual selection of the area to be leased within the reserve area, and it is satisfied that the project will have no detrimental effect on either ordinary fishing or the breeding grounds of the prawns.

It is our objective in the Port Hedland project and the Dampier one to process the bitterns eventually, but this is not likely at Exmouth. The day may come when it is economic to transport the bitterns to other places, but there is no prospect in the foreseeable future of bitterns being processed at Exmouth.

I seek your permission Mr. President to table a copy of the plan showing temporary reserve 3558H together with the leased area. I commend the Bill.

The plan was tabled.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. F. J. S. Wise.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 4)

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 16th September.

THE HON. J. HEITMAN (Upper West) [5.20 p.m.]: I support this Bill. From time to time it is necessary to improve the Local Government Act and to bring it up to date with the thinking of today instead, perhaps, of the thinking of six or seven years ago.

I would like to point out that clause 3 will exempt a councillor from disqualification if he has received compensation or

supplied material on the same basis as non-councillors. I consider this is a step in the right direction. I remember one occasion when a councillor put a house up for auction in a town. The reserve price was not reached and the shire council decided to buy the house from the shire councillor. I warned him at the time that perhaps he could be overstepping the mark in that he had a pecuniary interest in the house and he could be up for disqualification.

However, he had given his word to the shire that he would sell and went on with the deal, only to find out that he was disqualified. Despite the fact that he stood again, the thought was in the minds of most of the people in the district that he had been disqualified for something that he should not have done and, although he had been a councillor for 14 years, he was not returned. Under this clause, of course, a man could sell his house to a council and he would not be disqualified.

Clause 4 of the Bill brings in preferential voting in electing a president or vice-president. I am not always keen on preferential voting, because it can have the opposite effect to what one thinks it might have. The only good thing about preferential voting is that, at least, the voting rights of everyone who has cast a vote are taken into the final decision. However, it can happen that people who do not know how to use preferential voting could put in the man whom they least expected would go in. Like many others, where there are only three people in a ballot, I am a little keen to see the first-past-the-post system. Here again, this does disqualify some of the voters from having their vote exercised in the final decision.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Would you like that to apply to State elections?

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: In my position it would be all right. Clause 6 is concerned with the onus in respect of the identification of offenders who drive vehicles on reserves and who use vehicles to contravene the provisions of the municipal by-laws. I consider this is quite a good provision. I know that in many country towns young boys get into side streets where they cut in and out between newly planted ornamental trees. On many occasions they have created quite a deal of havoc through their overexuberant driving. Making the owner of the vehicle responsible for identifying the driver would, perhaps, cut out a great deal of vandalism which is caused by young motorcar drivers today.

Clause 7 will give the council better control over intersections where fences and hedges cause blind corners for traffic. On many occasions I consider that accidents could have been prevented if better visibility had been provided for at intersections and corners. When I was in Geraldton recently I noticed that one garage, which had provided parking right on the corner of its lot in Durlacher Street and Eleanor Street, had had to shift the parking area back. I think this is fair, because it affords a driver much better visibility. If local authorities are able to do this kind of thing when hedges and other obstructions are involved, it will make for better visibility; and it will certainly be a good thing in trying to prevent accidents.

Clause 12 will sort out the confusion which exists between section 313 of the Local Government Act and section 301 of the Traffic Act. Both these sections refer to the same problem of traffic signs. For the sake of uniformity, I consider it is better to have this matter placed entirely under the control of the Traffic Act. I am a great believer in uniformity where traffic control is concerned. I think that road signs which are put up should, wherever possible, be uniform. I remember that when the 35-mile per hour speed limit became effective, every town one went to had a different type of sign erected. One did not know if the town was advertising the age of the barmaid in the town or what it stood for. When uniform signs are erected everyone knows what they stand for and people are better able to obey them.

Clauses 14, 15, and 16 refer to uniform building by-laws in relation to permits for demolition of buildings and they enable new by-laws to be brought in and proceeded with. I wish to make only one comment in this regard. Perhaps it might be a good thing to allow councils to make by-laws, but on many occasions I consider some councils have too many by-laws. It does not make for smoother running in any district if a local authority suddenly becomes by-law conscious and makes too many. At all times a local government authority should keep a strict watch on this matter and make sure its by-laws are as uniform as possible.

Clauses 19 to 23 are designed to give some relief for urban farmlands in respect of rates and to give the right of appeal in respect of valuations. Up to the present I have often felt that urban farmlands are badly hit with rates and the other taxes which are put on them. I was very pleased to hear the Minister for Mines say, when speaking to the Address-in-Reply, that the Government is looking at a new method of allocating land, noxious weed, and vermin tax rates. When these new regulations come into effect, a minimum tax will be payable on smaller properties which are adjacent to the metropolitan area. Also, the fact that new rates will be possible for farming land in urban areas will be of

great benefit to the people concerned, and I feel sure this is a step in the right direction. I support the Bill.

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan) [5.29 p.m.]: I support the Bill, but I wish to draw attention to clause 6, which proposes to amend section 234 of the Local Government Act. Section 234 states—

> In this section—
>
> "property" means property vested in or under the care, control, or management of a municipality.

This is generally taken to include reserves and other forms of property which are under the control of the local authority. Subsection (2) of section 234 states that the council may make by-laws relating to that property generally for the preservation of the property, the management of it, and the control of it. The proposed amendment which is set out in paragraph (c) of clause 6 states—

> By clause 6 it is proposed to amend subsection (2) of section 234 of the Act by adding a paragraph as follows:—
>
> (c) providing—
>
> (i) that the owner, as defined by the by-laws, of a vehicle shall, if required by a member of the Police Force or an officer of the council, inform the member or officer as to the identity and address of the driver or person in charge of the vehicle at the time when an offence, of which the use, parking or standing of a vehicle is an element, is alleged to have been committed by the driver or person in charge of the vehicle against a by-law made under this section;
>
> (ii) that where the driver or person in charge of a vehicle is alleged to have committed such an offence against a by-law made under this section, and the owner of the vehicle at the time the offence was alleged to have been committed, fails, when required so to do, within seven days of the commission of the alleged offence, to inform a member of the Police Force or an officer of the council as to the identity and address of the person who was the driver or person in charge of the vehicle at that time, the owner shall be deemed to be the person who committed that offence and shall then be liable to the penalty prescribed in respect thereof, unless the member of the Police Force or the clerk of the council is satisfied from information furnished by the owner, that the owner could not reasonably have been aware of the identity of the driver or person in charge, or that the vehicle was stolen or being unlawfully used at the time the offence was alleged to have been committed;

If a member of the Police Force or an officer of the council is not informed then the owner shall be deemed to be the driver and the person who committed the offence, and proceedings may be taken against the owner for the recovery of the penalty prescribed.

Finally, in the last part of proposed paragraph (c), the driver or person in charge of a vehicle, as distinct from the owner, shall, upon being required by a member of the Police Force or an officer of the council who alleges that the driver or person in charge of the vehicle has committed an offence, furnish his full name and address. There are one or two other points involved also.

Generally speaking, summarising these provisions, the clause proposes that section 234 will be amended by giving the local authority power to make by-laws to require an owner to divulge who was the driver or person in charge of the vehicle, and to require the driver or person in charge of a vehicle to give his name and address.

I do not quarrel with these provisions, but I draw attention to the fact that here we are categorising some substantive offences; that is, the owner of a vehicle failing to divulge the description of the person who was the driver, or the person in charge of the vehicle, and the substantive offence of the driver of the vehicle failing to give his name and address.

I do not know that the by-laws will go much further than is provided for and set out in this proposed paragraph, because by-laws cannot really state much more than is stated in the authority for the by-laws; that is, the section I have quoted. However, presumably it is proposed that by-laws will be framed to set out, in great detail, all these offences that are proposed.

The last portion of the proposed new paragraph is, to my mind, already included in a section of the Local Government Act. I refer to section 669 which reads—

> (1) A person holding office as member, an officer, or other person employed by the council, or a member of the Police Force of the State, who finds a person committing, or who on reasonable grounds suspects a person of having committed a breach of the

provisions of this Act, may demand from the person his name and place of abode.

(2) A person who refuses to state his name and place of abode, or who states a false name or place of abode, on demand being so made, commits an offence.

(3) A person who gives or is suspected of giving a false name or place of abode to the person making the demand may without other warrant than this Act be apprehended by the person making the demand and taken before a justice to be dealt with according to law.

In other words, that section already gives the power which we are now proposing to insert in the Act by the fourth portion of proposed paragraph (o) in clause 6. In order to make a comparison, subparagraph (iv) of proposed paragraph (o) in clause 6, reads as follows:—

that the driver or person in charge of a vehicle shall, upon being required by a member of the Police Force or an officer of the council who alleges that the driver or person has committed an offence against this Act of the kind referred to in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, furnish the member or officer of the council, as the case may be, with his full name and address;

That is not, in any way, substantially different from section 669, so why should it be necessary to give a local authority power to make by-laws to create that offence when it is already created by the Act?

I feel that section 669 has been overlooked. It would not be a sufficient answer to what I have said to say that that section refers only to an offence against the Act, whereas the proposed new paragraph refers to an offence against the by-laws, because the definition of "Act" in the Act includes by-laws. I therefore draw the Minister's attention to that, and I would be grateful if he could give consideration to the question of whether it is necessary to have this portion of the clause included.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: I took it straight out of section 221, which was put in the Act two years ago. It is the exact wording.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: I see. I do, nevertheless, draw the Minister's attention to the question of whether it is necessary to have the provision in the Bill in view of section 669, as the Minister would agree it is much stronger to have the provision as a section in the Act than as an offence under the by-laws.

There is one further point which I consider is quite important; that is, the question of the problem of identification of a person who is described as an officer of the council. We must bear in mind that the definition of "office" in the Act includes certain non-elective personnel, but not the general employees of the council. The proposed provisions I have been discussing will enable an officer of the council to question the owner of a vehicle, a driver, or a person in charge of a vehicle, and to ask for certain information. It is a fairly well known fact that owners of vehicles are not always good-tempered fellows.

The Hon. J. Dolan: Nor are officers of a council.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: As a matter of prudence I think it is desirable to provide that some form of authority should be stipulated which can be furnished by an officer of the council to substantiate his position. If no formal authority is provided, the officer of the council is in a singular position. He is in the position of having to do much the same sort of thing as a traffic inspector under the Traffic Act regulations, or as a police constable, or as a plain-clothes member of the Police Force, in asking questions of a private vehicle owner, or a person who happens to be in charge of a vehicle at the time. Yet he will have nothing to prove his authority.

The Traffic Act regulations provide that traffic inspectors must wear badges, and a picture of the badge actually appears in a traffic regulation for all to see, so that one can recognise a traffic inspector by his badge. It is a symbol of his authority and his entitlement to ask questions.

The Hon. J. Dolan: Is there not a difference between a person who is personating a policeman and who approaches someone for information, and is thus liable to be charged, and a council employee who approaches a person to say, "I am a member of a council," or something of that nature? Surely there would be no penalty for that.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: I would not like to answer that question without notice, but I would imagine that personating a council employee would be an offence, but I could not tell the honourable member in what circumstances it would be. I may be wrong, but I believe personating an officer of a council is an offence under the Local Government Act. However, for a plain-clothes constable to apprehend the driver of a vehicle, the Commissioner of Police takes the precaution, on his behalf, to issue a certificate which the plain-clothes constable can produce. This certificate is in the form of an identification card. It identifies him as a member of the Police Force.

The Hon. J. Dolan: A plain-clothes constable may not be carrying his identification with him when he sees an offence being committed. That happened a few weeks ago.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: That is perfectly true and, under the Act, or the regulations, he is required to carry it on his person, but the Commissioner of Police issues it and expresses the wish that a plain-clothes constable will carry it and produce it on demand. I think that if the Police Force had its way it would see that the certificate of identification was issued to all personnel—even to uniformed personnel—and that there was some reasonable way of ensuring it was available at all times.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: That is why we have that last portion of the paragraph included in the clause; that is, so that these officers can be identified.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: Yes; but it is provided that by-laws can be framed for the appointment of officers to police the by-laws, and I hope such a provision will be incorporated in them for the identification of the officers. It would be quite simple to include such a provision and I think it would answer the question I have raised.

As I have said, drivers of motor vehicles are not always people who have even tempers, and in the Press recently I read that some drivers are in various psychological states when they drive a vehicle. Therefore I can well imagine the hazards that some officers of councils may face when they approach drivers of vehicles.

I recall, very distinctly, a case which happened many years ago. It occurred in the early 30's in the Perth Police Court. The case involved a solicitor who, after the event, practised for many years in Kalgoorlie. This solicitor happened to be driving along Mounts Bay Road one evening in the company of a fair young lady and he was apprehended by a policeman on a motorcycle who was not wearing the regulation uniform. I understand he was wearing a leather jacket and perhaps even a leather cap, but in the dark this solicitor could not recognise the colour of his trousers. After the policeman had apprehended this particular driver, he suggested he should get out of the car. The driver did so and a scuffle ensued and the policeman ended up in the Royal Perth Hospital with a broken jaw. The driver was charged in the Police Court with assault, but was acquitted on the ground that he was not sufficiently aware that the person on the motorcycle was a policeman, and that that person had not identified himself in any way, and hence the driver had no way of being certain he was being approached by someone with authority.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: I did not know that a solicitor was taught to fight as well as to solicit.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: This solicitor came from New South Wales, and I believe there is a different course in that State. In any event, it is thoroughly desirable in the public interest, and in the interests of the officers of the councils concerned, that the by-laws should provide that such officers shall carry a form of identification. It would be a simple enough task to do this.

These officers are required under the Local Government Act to identify themselves for certain purposes. For instance, under section 661 where officers enter privately-owned premises they must be authorised in writing by the shire clerk or town clerk to do so. This applies not only to the officers but also to the servants and workmen of the local authority. These people must be authorised in writing by the shire clerk or the town clerk before they can enter into privately-owned premises. It would seem to be a simple enough matter to provide some satisfactory identification in the cases mentioned in the clauses.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. N. E. Baxter.

CHILD WELFARE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 16th September.

THE HON. J. M. THOMSON (South) [5.46 p.m.]: From what we read, observe, and hear in matters relating to child welfare, it is quite obvious that the provisions in the Bill before us are timely and, indeed, appropriate. In particular, I would refer to the provision in clause 3 which seeks to amend section 4 of the Act. This relates to the ill-treatment of children and to drugs. This amendment sets out the definitions of "drug" and "neglected child."

I listened with interest to the Minister's comments on the clause dealing with the ill-treatment of young children. As he pointed out, the concern of the child is paramount and of the utmost importance. The action of the type of parent who ill-treats a child, in the manner in which the ill-treatment has been described, is something about which we should be concerned.

I think a more humanitarian approach in dealing with these cases will help to safeguard the welfare of the child; and the enlistment of the co-operation of the parents in the child's future care is most

desirable. The Minister went on to say that in the interests of the child and the parents, perhaps the parents need psychiatric treatment. That is something with which we all agree; and it is most essential that such examination or treatment should be pursued. I would like the Minister to tell us, when replying to this debate, or at some other stage of the Bill, what treatment, other than psychiatric treatment, is envisaged will be applied to the parents.

As this Bill is before us, no doubt some members will be interested in an article which appeared in *The West Australian* under the heading, "Action on child cruelty urged." This article was written by Kenneth Joachim, in London. He referred to the fact that the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children was stressing the necessity for doctors to be compelled to report instances in which children have been injured. The article states—

> "The society has become increasingly concerned about the battered child syndrome," the report says.

The Minister referred to this aspect in his speech. Further on the following appears:—

> Of the battered children studied, 56 per cent. were a year old or younger. Records showed that a number had received medical treatment for injury before the incident which brought them into the study sample.
>
> Seventy-three per cent. of the injuries to the children were serious—a category including all head injuries, fractures, burns and internal injuries.

As one reads the article, it is all the more amazing to learn the age group of the parents concerned. The article states—

> The adults concerned were in most cases between 20 and 30 years old, married, with a small family.

This poses the question as to what has caused this psychological attitude of the parents. It is very important that the intention of the legislation before us will ensure that, whilst the interest and the welfare of the child are safeguarded and maintained, the welfare of the parents is also inquired into.

Another matter to which I wish to refer concerns a large number of our young people; that is, the increasing illegal use of drugs. The realisation of a wasted life, of distress, and of sorrow that accompanies this state of affairs was well portrayed in an article which appeared in the Press a few weeks ago. It dealt with a mother's experience of her son who at the tender age of 15 or 16 years had become a drug addict. The article is headed, "How could I have saved my son?" I daresay this problem confronts parents who have teenage children of either sex, who are concerned with their welfare, and who have some knowledge that their children are addicted to drugs, as a result of their association with hippie types. The article states—

> These are the terrible questions asked by a Sydney mother whose son (17) died from an overdose of drugs in a "hippie pad" at Waverley in the weekend.

Further on the following appears:—

> "He was just like a vegetable—he had no interest in life yet there was so much to live for."
>
> Mrs. Ellwell blames her son's friends for his involvement in the drug world. They were the ones, she said, who first gave him the taste.

The article also points out—

> "Stephen was a bright, intelligent boy once. He loved life and had a wonderful sense of humour—his death is such a waste."

Because of his addiction to drugs he died of an overdose at the tender age of 17 years.

Matters such as these are of concern to us all, and to cope with the problem is, indeed, difficult. I suppose that as we close one door another will open to make drugs available. It is of the utmost importance that we continue to look for ways and means to overcome the problem, which is one that confronts the young people and their parents.

I am in full accord with the other clauses in the Bill. I think the granting of authority to the Minister to appoint an acting director in the absence of the Director of Child Welfare is most desirable. I also think that the provision which enables the director to attend hearings at a children's court where offenders under the age of 18 years appear is most desirable. It is in the best interests of these young people to enable the director to see what can be done so far as the Child Welfare Act is concerned.

I have no adverse comment to make on the provisions which seek to amend sections 29, 34A, 34B, and 35, except to say that the meting out of punishment to these young people is of concern to us all. We are appalled to see from time to time the acts of violence and the assaults which are perpetrated by young boys and girls of 14 to 16 years of age. I recall the instance in which an off-duty constable went to the aid of a person who was being assaulted by a group of young people. When the offender was brought before the court he was fined only $10, but his accomplice was fined $100 for the assault charge.

The question of remedial punishment is something to which the courts can give more thought. On the question of penalties, even imprisonment does not seem to worry some of these people. The fact that

the leisure time of the offenders has to be spent in doing things from which they will ultimately benefit, will be more fitting as a punishment for the offences they have committed.

The other matter which I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister relates to clause 5 which seeks to amend section 29. Under this provision any child apprehended and charged can be held at his home, at the home of a reputable person, at the home of a police officer, or at the local lockup or gaol. I know of instances in country towns where the police officers were very loth to place some of these young offenders in cells because of the undesirable conditions, and because they could be in close proximity to adult offenders. The accommodation in the older lockup cells is of a poor standard. This is not as a result of any fault on the part of the police officer in charge, but because of the age of the establishment and the type of persons who previously occupied the cells.

I think the situation is well covered within the metropolitan area, but the point I wish to make is that it is incumbent upon the Government to give consideration to the provision of suitable accommodation at police stations in the country in which these young people can be held. It is certainly not good that they should be locked up in a cell.

The officers with whom I have discussed the situation have expressed their deep concern at the conditions under which these children must be held. The environment is most distressing. I will leave the situation there. I know that what I am suggesting involves expenditure, but if such expenditure will benefit the community generally, and will ultimately reflect beneficially on those who will unfortunately be held at these stations from time to time, it will be in a good cause.

The Bill contains many provisions of merit, and I commend the Minister for his concern, particularly for the welfare of the children, and the problem of drug addiction. I believe nothing but good can result from a Bill of this nature, and it therefore has my support. It will no doubt receive the blessing of the House in due course.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. V. J. Ferry.

ARCHITECTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

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

BILLS (4): RETURNED

1. Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill.
2. Legal Contribution Trust Act Amendment Bill.
3. Fisheries Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).
4. Methodist Church (W.A.) Property Trust Incorporation Bill.

Bills returned from the Assembly without amendment.

Sitting suspended from 6.6 to 7.30 p.m.

WOOD CHIPPING INDUSTRY AGREEMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 11th September.

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [7.30 p.m.]: The purpose of the Bill before us is to ratify an agreement known as the Wood Chips Agreement. In some respects the measure before us is similar to other Bills we have discussed, which have confirmed agreements already entered into by the Government with the companies concerned, inasmuch as raw materials will be processed in other countries overseas.

I do feel there are some differences in this agreement from those contained in the ordinary iron ore agreements and the satellite agreements which have followed. I refer to the fact that the agreement presently before us covers an industry in the south-west of the State; and that part of the State has not been sharing in the development and the population increase that has been experienced in other parts of the State. Census returns would indicate that to be so.

Perhaps the basic advantages contained in agreements of this nature lie in the fact that the theory of decentralisation is so definitely and so certainly capable of implementation. It will be found that some 200 people will be employed at the site of the industry near Manjimup, and another 30-odd people will be employed at the port site at Bunbury.

Those people will be employed in the initial period of the agreement, but it would be obvious that a population movement of this nature must create many other advantages in the forms of business opportunities, amenities for the people, and a further population increase.

Another unusual feature of the agreement is that the material which is involved is considered to be secondary, in forestry terms. By being able to use marri timber we enter a field which has, up to now, been uneconomical and, therefore, has not received any great degree of consideration.

The quantity of timber used will increase to 500,000 tons per annum in three years. That, in itself, is a significant figure but when one examines the map which was laid on the Table of the House and studies the area of forest involved,

one will realise that 500,000 tons is a small quantity when compared with the ultimate figure envisaged in the agreement.

The Minister stated that 30 extra people will be employed at the Port of Bunbury, and to comply with the terms of the agreement there will be an expenditure of $20,000,000 to develop a deep-water port. On examining the agreement I feel that the company has got off rather well with regard to the amount of expenditure to which it is committed. However, there is provision in the agreement for a second partner to share in that expenditure, and when one realises that the industry could go on in perpetuity then the total expenditure figure is not a very significant one.

The anticipated life of the industry in the present site is in the vicinity of 50 years; shall we say, 40 years to 50 years. This particular field of forestry has not been developed in the past and the Forests Department will assist with the development of the industry, and will do its best to conserve the forest and ensure a continuity of supply of the required type of timber. If the economics of supply and demand can be met the industry will be a continuing one, rather than a wasting one, as is the case with most of the industries dealt with in the mining agreements.

The long-term plan to establish a pulp mill will mean the consumption of something like 600,000 tons of timber per annum. Obviously, a much greater area of the south-west will be involved if the pulp industry is established. I hope that will be the case.

There are two or three features which impress me with regard to the agreement. Firstly, although we are ratifying an agreement at this stage, the company which is the party with the Government to the agreement is not yet in a position to state that it has obtained a contract to sell. I sincerely hope that some firm proposal in this regard will emerge very soon.

The second feature which impressed me was that the Government is not committed to housing the workers; that is to be a company responsibility. Naturally, one must applaud any provision in an agreement such as this whereby the State is absolved from the heavy responsibility of providing housing.

There is provision in the agreement for an adjustment of the company's assets in the event of the company becoming, not defunct, but going out of business. The value of the assets will be proportionate to the number of years the company operates. I am a little at a loss to understand this provision because one would not assume that the company would enter into an agreement with any doubts whatsoever about its capacity to fulfil its contract. Indeed, the probability is that the company will carry on for much longer than is envisaged in the initial agreement.

However, if the company were in a position where it could not carry on, I feel it would be in the same position as any other company which was facing bankruptcy; and if some other business firm decided to come into the field, it should be able to take up the assets under the ordinary terms of business. I do not think another company should be able to come in and take up the assets on a *pro rata* basis. For example, a company could be going out of business because it did not have up-to-date machinery. The incoming company may have sufficient capital to purchase new plant at considerable cost, and it would have no use for the other machinery, and no comprehension at all of its value.

In the first instance let me say I hope this situation does not arise; and, secondly, I do not understand why the provision is written into the agreement because it seems to me it is not in keeping with the general terms of business.

I find one point in the agreement rather disconcerting. It is to be found at page 32, in clause 27, of the agreement. If this Bill is passed—as it will be—with the approval and goodwill of Parliament, a large portion of the State which has not had the best of luck recently will benefit. However, clause 27 of the agreement states—

> The parties hereto may from time to time by mutual agreement in writing add to vary or cancel all or any of the provisions of the Agreement or any lease license easement or right granted or demised hereunder or pursuant hereto for the purpose of more efficiently or satisfactorily implementing or facilitating any of the objects of this Agreement.

I am at a loss to understand why that clause should be included in the agreement.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It is included in all agreement Bills.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: I am still at a loss as to its purpose. I do not want to take anything from the Minister concerned with this Bill, but Parliament is sitting in deliberation upon the agreement, even though it has been signed prior to its being submitted to Parliament.

However, if it is necessary to have parliamentary approval before the agreement can take effect, surely it is reasonable that any alteration to the agreement which becomes necessary should also be submitted to Parliament. It seems to me—this may be taking an extreme view—that the whole of this exercise is a waste of time. A Minister could act irresponsibly, but only once; he would not be a Minister for long

after he had acted irresponsibly. Nevertheless, the damage would be done and it could be done forever more because, with regard to this agreement—and taking into account the reforestation side of it—it is quite likely that there will be an indefinite continuity of supply of marri timber to the extent of 100,000 tons per annum.

Therefore it is important that Parliament should retain control of this very important industry. It is not a wasting industry; it is far different from an industry such as mining where iron ore or gold is taken out of the ground. This industry is one which will continue for a long period of time, so long as the economics are such that the wood chips can be sold profitably.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Read the last two lines of the clause, from the word "purpose."

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: All right. It reads—

> . . . for the purpose of more efficiently or satisfactorily implementing or facilitating any of the objects of this Agreement.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That is right.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: It is a matter of opinion.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It is a matter of fact.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: It is a matter of opinion, not for the Minister for Mines or for myself, but for the Minister concerned with this agreement.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What you are suggesting is that the agreement could be varied to a certain extent. Isn't that it?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: I am suggesting that the agreement could be materially altered.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It could not. It is facilitating the objects of the agreement, and those objects are stated in the agreement.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: The clause says that the parties may by mutual agreement in writing add to, vary, or cancel all or any of the provisions.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You have to read further.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: I have already read the clause. However, I will start again. Clause 27 reads—

> The parties hereto may from time to time by mutual agreement in writing add to vary or cancel all or any of the provisions of the Agreement or any lease license easement or right granted or demised hereunder or pursuant hereto for the purpose of more efficiently or satisfactorily implementing or facilitating any of the objects of this Agreement.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Don't you think the last six words count?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: No, I do not think they count in essence when we look at the preceding words.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Cut it out!

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: I will not cut it out! However, I draw attention to this provision. Of course, my concern will not be noted; but there may come a day when we will regret writing this very loose clause into the agreement. What harm is there in bringing any variation back to Parliament? If there was any good in the alteration there would be nothing to fear; it would get the same approval the Bill is getting tonight. I cannot see any reason for this clause. Why not say if there is to be any alteration to the agreement it will be brought before Parliament and Parliament will ratify it as it is doing with this Bill tonight?

I support the Bill; the agreement is a good one which will do a lot for Western Australia. However, I regret that it includes the variation clause.

THE HON. V. J. FERRY (South-West) [7.53 p.m.]: This measure, which when passed by Parliament will be known as the Wood Chipping Industry Agreement Act, 1969, is a most important one. I regard the Bill—whatever its fate—as one of the most momentous measures so far as the south-west of this State is concerned; and I use the expression, "whatever its fate" advisedly. In support of my remarks I propose to give four reasons.

The first is that should the Bill not be agreed to, I believe Parliament would be doing a great disservice to the south-west.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: It will be agreed to.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: The effect of the legislation is to create a unique opportunity for the timber industry to expand into an area of production which in the past has been only a dream of the future. The second reason is that the Bill will ratify an agreement to give force and legality to negotiations for the establishment of an entirely new concept of timber usage in Western Australia. Thirdly, should a wood chipping industry be successfully established, it will increase the timber usage in this State by at least one-third. The fourth point is that the legislation sets the guidelines for the establishment of a further phase of timber usage—this time the commodity being wood pulp.

Having said that, I wish to make a few comments regarding the firm which has been granted the license to establish this new industry. The license has been granted to the W.A. Chip & Pulp Co. Pty. Ltd., in association with Bunning Timber Holdings Ltd. I realise—as I am sure most members do—that the W.A. Chip & Pulp Co. Pty. Ltd. is a recently formed

company which was set up to establish this industry with the backing of the Bunnings group.

The name of Bunning goes back a long way in the industrial field in this State. I understand that Bunnings first commenced in the timber industry as long ago as 1886. More recently—I believe it was about the year 1952—the firm widened its scope and created Bunning Timber Holdings Ltd. From there we have the association of the company in the further field of the wood chipping industry.

As I said, the Bunning name has been associated with the timber industry over a long period of time, and the company enjoys a high reputation, which it guards jealously, as being most efficient timber millers. It has a fine reputation as an employer of labour. The relationship between management and employees is, I believe, on an excellent footing. I know a number of the top executives in the company and I know a good number of its employees in the timber industry in the south-west. The management is first rate —and when I speak of management I refer to all stratas of management, down to the various timber mills, the foremen, and the sectional managers. Indeed, the company seems to have the knack of getting the best out of its employees because of the happy relationship it has with them.

This group of timber millers has a reputation of being able to compete very successfully against other local competitors on the home market and, indeed, it can compete against Eastern States competitors. Furthermore, the company can win substantial contracts from overseas countries as it has done on more than one occasion. So it is with this background that the firm enters into this era of timber usage in this State.

While it may be recognised that the successful establishment of a local wood chipping industry is not assured at this moment, we can nevertheless be confident that the company granted the license under this Bill will apply itself diligently to the task. Perhaps I can be excused for using the expression "not assured at this moment" because negotiations are not out of the wood at present.

We know of the establishment in more recent times of this type of industry in the States of New South Wales and Tasmania. It is my opinion that Western Australia could also have benefited a little earlier from this type of industry had not the concern of the Commonwealth Government caused it to intervene in its desire to ensure that there be a fair price and a reasonable return from wood chips.

However, that is now history, and we are faced with the situation of being asked to ratify an agreement in the form of a Bill in the knowledge that the company being granted a license is still in the process of negotiating a viable contract with overseas paper pulp interests. I believe the negotiations will be successful, but I ought to add that this is no easy exercise.

When comparing what has been established in New South Wales and Tasmania with what is proposed in this Bill, it is interesting to point out that the Eastern States industries have been established on a cost-of-production basis rather than on what is known as B.D.U.—bone dry unit —at f.o.b. rates. I make the point for the record.

Personally I favour the arrangement provided for under the terms of the Bill. I believe it is a more realistic way of approaching the problems of the industry in order to get it established. It is known that leading up to the granting of the license to the successful company, the State Government, having firstly called for applications from those who might be interested in the establishment of a wood chipping industry in this State, narrowed the field down to two applicants who, as we know, were Hawker Siddeley Building Supplies and the Bunnings group.

Hawker Siddeley Building Supplies proposed to enter into the establishment of a wood chipping industry in its own right, with no partner. I understand it proposed to have a commercial agreement with Sumitomo, a Japanese trading company, and the Sanyo Pulp Company, also in Japan; while the Bunnings group proposed to have a joint venture with Toyomenka, a trading company in Japan, and the Kokasuka pulp and paper making company, which is also from that country.

Further to that, and in view of the state of flux in the negotiations at the present time, I understand the W.A. Chip & Pulp Co. and Bunnings are now widening their field of negotiation in Japan and, indeed, they are making representations to and having discussions with several milling interests in that country.

This Bill will allow the usage of the natural resources of the south-west of the State. We sometimes refer to the good fortune of the more recent developments in the north-west of the State as a result of the mining that is taking place, and it is a well-known fact that developmental works can only be availed of through the natural resources of any area. It is fortuitous that the north-west is so richly endowed with the various minerals, and in particular with huge quantities of iron ore. It is well to remember that these natural resources should be exploited where they stand.

Similarly in days gone by, and indeed at this time, the gold industry of Western Australia benefited from mining at the source of the raw material. We are now asked to ratify an agreement to allow us to unlock some further benefits from the

natural resources of the south-west of the State, and the commodity here is timber—in particular, hardwood timber.

As Mr. Willesee pointed out, we are very fortunate in having a hardwood timber which hitherto has had very little commercial use. I refer, of course, to marri, or what is more commonly known as red gum. It is interesting to note that this timber has particular qualities which make it suitable for the wood chipping industry. Marri is of particular interest because it shows little decay or fibre breakdown, even in the heart of the tree. This will enable the species to be chipped as a whole tree operation, thus avoiding the costly segregation of the faulty portions. In this respect marri is almost unique among the hardwoods of Australia available for this purpose.

In addition, the timber fibre is what is generally referred to as short fibre which, I understand, is greatly sought after by paper manufacturers around the world who wish to manufacture a very high class and high quality paper.

It is interesting to compare how various companies, for the benefit of this State, become established by the use of capital. I suggest that the south-west of the State has benefited for some 140 years from overseas capital. It has benefited over this very long time by comparison with the relatively short time that such capital has assisted the north-west.

Accordingly, I say quite unashamedly that the south-west has received great benefits over the previous many years from overseas capital. As we all know, this country had very little capital when the Europeans first settled here. It is from overseas sources that the south-west has benefited—it has benefited from the European style of civilisation over a period of some 140 years.

I think it is only right that the north-west should take its share in this development wherever that is possible. I am not jealous of that at all; I believe it has helped the south-west of the State tremendously in so many ways, though I will not go into that aspect now.

It is, however, interesting to hear comments—and this is still being said by some people, although not quite so often now—that at times we are prone to sell our birthright; that we are using natural materials which should be left to lie in the ground for the use of posterity.

I suggest that the usage of timber does not constitute the giving away of a birthright; in fact, I will endeavour to show that the proposals in this Bill will ensure that the deal is successful and that the industry will continue in perpetuity.

I feel that not only do the activities of the mining industry and the timber industry come into the category of industries which use raw materials, but this also applies in the field of agriculture and the usage of land. Land is a natural resource and we have used this over the length and breadth of the State in so many different ways, both in the field of agriculture and as a natural resource for the benefit of our people.

In speaking of the south-west it is well to remember, particularly at this time, that this corner of the State has a relatively assured rainfall. Even though at the moment we have a serious drought situation prevailing over such a wide area, the south-west of the State is generally experiencing a good year. It is admitted that some water supplies are much lower than they normally are; that feed is possibly lower than it normally is and that some areas have received 15 inches below their normal rainfall; but notwithstanding all that the south-west is still capable of producing not only agricultural products but also trees.

So it is well to remember that we are endeavouring further to take advantage of our natural resources and we should encourage every possible avenue to ensure that success comes our way.

I would like briefly to refer to a facet which I feel needs to be answered. To my knowledge this matter has not been raised during the debate in this House, but it has been mentioned by members of the public in the south-west. I refer to the decision of the present Government almost 10 years ago to sell the State Building Supplies. As we all know, this was done following an election.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Did you say "sell" or "give away"?

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: We all know that the successful purchaser on that occasion was Hawker Siddeley Building Supplies, a very well-known, well-established, and highly reputable company of world standing. It has tremendous resources both in know-how and in capital.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: It knows how to buy a cheap property.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: I understand the company I have mentioned has the backing of overseas capital—mostly from Great Britain—yet we have people who say that the Government's action was not a good thing.

There is little doubt that Western Australia has had the benefit of overseas capital for a very long time. This will certainly continue. It is only fitting that we should take stock of the situation and encourage more Australian participation in the development of our industries. This is the right thing to do. I suggest, however, that we should not knock the type of firm to which I have just referred.

There was a tremendous uproar in the south-west, particularly, when the State Building Supplies were taken over by Hawker Siddeley Building Supplies. Today, when the negotiations in relation to the very measure we are debating are going through some difficult times, and some little delay has been caused through no fault of anybody in the State, to my knowledge—some delay in signing a viable contract—it is said by the people who knocked the sale to Hawker Siddeley Building Supplies 10 years ago, that this company should have been granted the license under the Bill before us.

I have reminded a number of people who have mentioned this to me that this seems to be something of a paradox—that 10 years ago, and even less, they were at variance with this company saying, I believe, quite outspokenly, some very rash things in respect of its activities. Yet today, because of some delay in obtaining a viable contract under the agreement, the same people are saying that the Government has given the contract to the wrong company; that it has been given to the local company when it should have gone to an overseas company.

We cannot have our cake and eat it, too. I believe this attitude is completely unfair, and it does not deserve any further attention from me tonight.

The Bill before us is very involved, and I have had a great deal of pleasure in trying to understand it. I have come to realise that the wood chipping industry is a marginal one—the margin of profit is terribly small—and I believe the conditions laid down in the agreement contained in the Bill are very fair on the whole. They are very fair to the company concerned and to the people of the State.

The State Forests Department will benefit from royalties paid on timber which will be used in the wood chipping industry. These royalties will be something new; something which has not previously been paid to the Forests Department. Here the State is benefiting.

I do not for one moment suggest that the royalties will be all clear profit to the Forests Department; far from it. The Forests Department has expended a tremendous sum of money on research and cataloguing the timber resources of this State to the degree where this Bill can now be presented to Parliament. I believe the department will be responsible for the expenditure of further tremendous sums of money in the future. However, I am sure the officers of the Forests Department welcome the challenge because the usage of hitherto waste timber, which will be used in the wood chipping process, will permit of greater efficiency in forestry methods and better tree farming production.

There is one further point I would like to add in this respect. I wish to pay a sincere tribute to the officers of the Forests Department. The department has on its staff some very efficient officers, from the top echelon down to the men in the field. I am of the opinion that these men are assisting the State of Western Australia in no small measure.

In referring to the timber which will be processed by the chipping method there is a further very pleasing feature. In addition to the milling of marri timber the company will also be able to use timber waste from existing sawmills. Undoubtedly it will not be able to use all the timber waste from existing sawmills because we have to bear in mind that the success of any venture depends upon the quality of the product manufactured, and not all mill waste is of sufficiently good quality to enable it to be used in the chipping process. Nevertheless, a great deal of the present waste from jarrah and karri, which goes over the end of the chute and into the fire at different mill sites, will be selected and diverted for chipping purposes.

This is an additional advantage to the milling interests because it is the great break-through. For many years the timber industry in this State has been seeking a method to take advantage of mill waste. Previously the use of mill waste has been uneconomic but the proposal to use certain mill waste for chipping is indeed a great break-through.

When introducing the Bill the Minister laid on the Table of the House a map of the area from which the timber will be taken, and I would mention here that the main stands of quality marri are within a 20-mile radius, approximately, of the town of Manjimup. This area has been selected for a very good reason. As I understand it, it is within this area that the highest quality marri stands are growing and, as I said a moment ago, it is so important that we should market a quality product, particularly at this stage where we are battling to get a viable sales contract. It would be of no help to start milling inferior timber when there is so much competition, particularly from our Eastern States brothers and sisters. So it is necessary that the initial milling should be concentrated in the Manjimup area.

If this is successful, as we all believe and hope it will be, in the light of experience within the industry, and in the light of what can be done as a result of the technological know-how of those engaged in paper-making in Japan, I would hope that some way will be found to use timber of a lower quality. Probably a lower price would be paid for it, but that is only reasonable. First of all we must endeavour to establish an industry, and establish it with a quality product; then, at a later stage, we can bring in a lower quality of raw material for processing.

This brings me to the point that not only will the Manjimup district benefit, but the benefits from this industry will also flow out over the whole of the south-west and

will be felt by a number of other areas. In this regard I would mention the town of Collie. I am sure the people of Collie would welcome a share in this type of processing industry, and that town is only one that would possibly benefit from the establishment of the industry.

The selection of marri trees for processing is an interesting one. It has been said to me by some well-meaning people that the chipping industry will devastate the forests and denude them to such an extent that people are becoming frightened. These people did not say that in any jocular fashion; they were deadly serious. However, I would point out to the House that this will not be so because all the marri timber will not be taken and felled on a face; the timber will be selected in the same, or in a similar manner to the selection of jarrah and karri, which is taken from our forests for commercial purposes. So we have this better management of forests and, through the Forests Department, this will allow us to carry on with silviculture and replanting with appropriate species.

It is so important that we should be able to do this so that the industry can go on in perpetuity. There are many species which are under consideration for the reforestation programme, and I know the Forests Department has the matter well in mind not only as regards the regeneration with hardwoods but softwood plantings, too, so that there will be a blend of both hard and softwoods over the whole range of the timber industry.

In a direct way this new industry will affect a number of people. Mr. Willesee referred to something over 200 in the Manjimup district and some 30 people in the Bunbury area. This is relatively correct, but I would suggest that in the event of the establishment of this industry supplementary industries in the south-west will benefit also. Here I would mention, particularly, the heavy transport industry, engineering works, commercial firms, and so on. This in turn will mean improved services, improved medical facilities, and expanded hospital facilities. I believe the Manjimup Hospital is termed a subregional hospital and at the moment its further expansion is under consideration. I understand, too, that on Saturday next I will have the pleasure of witnessing the Minister for Health opening two residential homes for nurses which have just been completed.

This is the sort of progress that is being made and it will increase with the added population. In addition, the already fine facilities at the Manjimup Senior High School will be further extended and, by way of a contrast, the district will shortly benefit from the establishment of a second hotel. This will please a number of people because up to the present time there has been only one hotel in the town.

Speaking of Manjimup, the chipping area will be established some six miles south of the town at a place called Diamond. Digressing here a little, I believe the name "Diamond" originated many years ago when surveys were being conducted in the area. A mark in the shape of a diamond was put on a very large tree and it was named Diamond Tree. Indeed, the area is known as Diamond Tree, but the word "Tree" has been deleted and it is referred to in the legislation as "Diamond."

The town and district of Manjimup has had a chequered career over the years since it was established just after the turn of the century. In my view it is a very sound district, but the industries there have had many ups and downs. The most recent disaster that befell the area was not many years ago—in 1960 or 1961—when the tobacco industry collapsed. This industry alone was worth over $1,000,000 per annum to the town, and in the best year I think the income was something in the order of $1,300,000.

This industry was lost virtually overnight but, to the area's credit, through the resilience of the people there and as a result of the benefits of a variety of other rural industries in the district, such as timber, particularly, and fruit, vegetable growing, potatoes, dairying, beef cattle, fat lambs, wool, and so on, it has continued to prosper. Indeed, I believe that the establishment of a chipping industry will not create a boom town but it will consolidate what is already there and, to my mind, this is much better.

The district will benefit from this security, and it will go on and on. I am sure this will please those far-sighted people who, many years ago, decided that the area should be opened up. I know personally many people who went into that district as group settlers when they were quite young and many of them are now of advanced years. Although they have not benefited financially to any extent through their lifetime in the district they are inwardly thrilled at the prospect of the district that they helped to pioneer going on to greater things.

In my view the agreement which is in the Bill is most comprehensive. Mr. Willesee touched on the variation clause. I looked very closely at it and I can sympathise with the thought that if an agreement of this nature has to be varied the variations should be brought back to Parliament for ratification. However, when I analysed the effect that this might have on what could be delicate negotiations at any particular stage I came down on the side that it would be better to have a variation clause as set out in the Bill to give the industry a greater chance to succeed. Therefore, I support the clause.

Under the measure the successful firm is obliged to provide sufficient housing to meet the needs of its employees, and this is a good provision.

It is very good business so far as the State is concerned that the company which is charged with the responsibility of establishing this industry should have a responsibility in this field. Nevertheless, I do not want it thought that the State Housing Commission is neglecting the area.

As I have mentioned, supplementary industries will benefit from this main industry. Because of growth in the supplementary field of industries there will be a need for housing for the growing population.

Only recently I believe the State Housing Commission called tenders for 10 new homes to be constructed in Manjimup. This will cost something in the order of $90,000. I believe that the requirements of construction are that the houses are to be of timber and asbestos, to have three bedrooms, and have hot water systems. A very interesting feature of these homes is that there will be no brick fireplaces, although they are built in a timber area. This is quite a departure from what has previously been the case. However, from my knowledge of the area, this is a step forward.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: What sort of fireplaces will they have?

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: I imagine they will have heating by either oil, Kleenheat gas, or something of that nature. Probably the majority will be oil-fired heating units, which seem to be very popular in the district.

It is rather strange that firewood is not so readily available in Manjimup these days. In fact, firewood is quite a costly item. I believe it is a step in the right direction that the new homes will be provided with amenities which do not require solid fuel.

The Hon. J. Heitman: What is the price of a residential block?

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: Residential blocks in the town are readily available to private builders. Last year a large subdivision of excellent building blocks was put on the market. My understanding is that most of these blocks have already been sold. I think I am right in saying—although I would not wish to be quoted—that the prices ranged from $1,600 down to $800. These blocks are in a subdivisional area. Many other blocks around the town are available for residential purposes and there has been quite a deal of activity in the private sector of home building in the area. There is a balance in Manjimup of the private sector building homes in association with the activities of the State Housing Commission. To the best of my knowledge I would say there are approximately 250 homes in the town under the control of the State Housing Commission. I have just mentioned that tenders are being called for the construction of a further 10 and this will increase the number of State Housing Commission homes there to about 260.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: Are they rental homes?

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: They are rental and purchase homes.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: That is a lot of homes.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: It is a good town. There are many provisions in the Bill, and one or two, I believe, are quite important for the successful establishment and continuance of this industry. One provision is concerned with the commodity of water. In the terms of the Bill, the company may wish to establish its own water supply independent of the existing Manjimup supply. I believe the Public Works Department is of the opinion that this can satisfactorily be done on Lefroy Brook, if the company wishes. In addition, over the last two years, in particular, a tremendous amount of work has been done in the Manjimup area, and more particularly in those parts which are referred to as the Warren and Lefroy areas of the district. It is in these areas that over 30 potential dam sites have been examined by the water supply section of the Public Works Department with a view to augmenting the existing supplies, if and when necessary. That is not all, because further investigations are proceeding.

Having said that, I have no fear whatsoever of the district's ability to supply sufficient water—whatever the need may be—over the years ahead. If the need for water is there, I believe Manjimup has the physical capacity to harness it, and this will be done.

I wish now to refer to the definitions section in the Bill, and particularly to the definition of "Minister." The definition reads—

> "Minister" means the Minister in the Government of the said State for the time being responsible (under whatsoever title) for the administration of the ratifying Act and pending the passing of that Act means the Minister for the time being designated in a notice from the State to the Company and the Guarantor and includes the successors in office of the Minister;

I have no quarrel whatsoever with that. The point I wish to make in referring to the definition of "Minister" is that the Wood Chipping Industry Agreement Bill is a classic example of how so many Ministers come into negotiations to launch a proposition successfully.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: That is not an unusual definition.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: Indeed, it is not unusual. However, by way of illustration, I would like to record that many Ministers have come into the negotiations for this agreement. I will not necessarily mention them in any order, but the Ministers include the Premier, the Minister for Industrial Development, the Minister for Lands and Forests, the Minister for Works and Water Supplies, the Minister for Local Government, the Minister for Railways, the Minister for Housing and Labour, the Minister for Health, and the Minister for Mines. I realise other Ministers could have entered into the negotiations.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: You left one out.

The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs: What about the Minister for Police?

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: All Ministers play their part, but the Ministers I have mentioned are perhaps more directly responsible for the provisions of the Bill. This is quite a good exercise to illustrate how a Bill of this nature comes before the House under the influence of so many Ministers, although I realise only one Minister is directly responsible for the measure.

The transport of processed chips from Diamond to the Port of Bunbury will be undertaken by the Western Australian Government Railways. The company is obliged to supply a certain amount of rolling stock and to attend to the needs of rail tracks within its milling site, and at the Bunbury harbour.

Earlier on I took a look at the alternatives that might be possible with regard to the transport of the chips from Diamond to Bunbury. Included in my examination of the area was the investigation of an idea of possibly making a new connection between Diamond and Boyup Brook, coming down the Preston Valley, because the gradients there are much more gradual. However, from discussions, I realise this is not feasible at the moment, but the possibility in the future of upgrading the section of line from Manjimup or Diamond to Bunbury, via a broad gauge track, is not entirely ruled out. This is being kept under consideration. For the time being, to get the industry off the ground and established, it is considered that the existing track can be satisfactorily upgraded by metal ballasting, re-railing, the provision of centralised traffic control signalling, and this sort of thing. The cost of the upgrading will be borne by the Western Australian Government Railways.

Admittedly, all this work is not being undertaken entirely for the benefit of the chipping industry, because all the users of the rail track from Diamond to Bunbury will benefit. Nevertheless, this upgrading work will cost the Railways Department $2,320,000, and this work is under way. As I have said, this will help all industries in the south-west, and not only the chipping industry.

So far as freight rates are concerned, I have examined these to the best of my ability and as set out in the Bill I believe they are fair and reasonable. Without undue emphasis at this point of time, because negotiations are still in a state of flux, I wish to make the point that I feel the Government has a little room to manoeuvre in this respect if the industry needs some little extra assistance at some stage. This is where the variation clause can play a part. I believe there is room within the terms of that clause for some adjustment in the company's favour, if this is thought desirable.

In respect of harbour development at Bunbury, the company is expected to, and indeed shall, contribute $2,900,000. I believe this is a wonderful thing, because there will be a first-class regional harbour in the south-west.

However, when looking at the prospects of this industry, I interested myself for some little time on alternative harbour facilities. I have looked at several places. One harbour which I feel could be deserving of added usage is the harbour at Busselton. However, I am afraid that Busselton is at a complete disadvantage in this regard. Busselton has a very long jetty which is a major tourist attraction for that town.

The Hon. J. Dolan: It is a bit of a menace to navigation, too.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: It could be, but it juts out into a very wide and open bay, which is subject to some very rough weather conditions at times, particularly from the north-west. The existing maximum depth where ships can tie up at the Busselton jetty is 26 feet. However, one has to allow a safety margin of two feet for rise and fall of tides at certain times of the year. Consequently, this gives a maximum safe summer draught of 24 feet for shipping.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Not forgetting any surge that might be there.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: That is true. Consequently, this is very restrictive, when we consider the depth of 36 feet which we are looking for, and which we will get, through the deepening of the new harbour at Bunbury. As a result, it is out of the question to consider Busselton for this exercise.

Just in passing, I mention that I realise it would cost something in the order of $700,000 to increase the depth of the Busselton berthing facilities from 24 to 28 feet. This is the maximum depth to which

the berth at the jetty could be increased without affecting the stability of the jetty itself.

As a compensating factor, I believe that in the long term Busselton is lucky that this outlet is not available to the chipping industry. I say this quite sincerely, although I know many Busselton people may not agree with me. I believe Busselton is richly endowed as a tourist mecca. It has magnificent beaches which are very safe for children and which are some 20 to 30 miles in length. These will not be contaminated to any extent by industry.

We have the situation close to the metropolitan area where a number of our beaches are contaminated through the influence of industrial development. Consequently, I believe Busselton will benefit in the long term by not being a heavy industry outlet.

Of course, one of the advantages of developing the new harbour at Bunbury is that other industries will also benefit. It will also benefit other areas of the south-west. I refer particularly to current negotiations with Alcoa. Also, I have no doubt that Collie will benefit if we can satisfactorily establish new outlets and new contracts for Collie coal. If there is a good harbour by world standards at Bunbury, within easy reach of the coalfields, surely this will assist the people of Collie in their predicament.

Not only that, but the State Government is endeavouring to establish a fruit and vegetable canning factory at Manjimup. If the bringing in of sugar and tinplate, and the export of the finished product, can be effected through Bunbury rather than bringing it all the way to Fremantle or Kwinana, surely this will help the area once again. Consequently, the effect continues to roll.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: Do you think it will have an adverse effect on the potato-growing industry at Manjimup?

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: It will have a beneficial effect on the potato-growing industry at Manjimup.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: These chips, I mean.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: We could try to chip them up, and I suggest Mr. Clive Griffiths could go down and cook them for us!

Finally, I want to mention the possibility of the company that is granted a license under this agreement not being able to proceed. I realise there is ample provision in the terms of the agreement for a third party to be introduced with a view to carrying on. I realise, too, that should this occur, the company holding the license at the moment deserves to be given some consideration, as I believe it is protected to some extent under the provisions of the agreement. It will have carried out a great deal of pioneering work to establish the industry which introduces a completely new concept of timber usage and it is only right the company should be compensated to some extent if misfortune dictates it is unable to proceed.

It is now my very great pleasure to support the Bill, as I am sure the House would expect me to do.

The Hon. J. Dolan: We had an inkling.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: The Bill further demonstrates the Government's determination to serve all sections of the community, not only in the north-west or in the metropolitan area, but also in the south-west, in the south-east, or wherever people may be.

As a member of this Parliament who has the privilege of representing probably the largest timber-producing area in this State, I am extremely happy to support the measure.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [8.47 p.m.]: Naturally, I am very pleased at the support the Bill and the accompanying agreement have been given by both Mr. Willesee and Mr. Ferry. In his examination of the various clauses of the Bill Mr. Ferry went to great lengths, which I think should be expected of him since he represents that portion of the State in which this industry will be operating, and to speak on a Bill of this nature is of particular interest to him.

It is not my intention to examine, in any further detail, either of the speeches that have been made, except to point to one or two matters that have been the subject of some criticism. Here, of course, I must direct my remarks particularly to Mr. Willesee. I do not think it is inappropriate to say that at the moment the farming community in the State is passing through an extremely difficult time. It will be agreed, I am sure, that had it not been for the Government's efforts in bringing agreements of this nature to Parliament over the past 10 or 12 years, in a concentrated endeavour to establish secondary industry, in order to create a balanced economy in Western Australia, the farming community and the people of the State generally would feel to a greater extent the effects of the disabilities that are being suffered by the people in the farming districts.

I venture to suggest that a large percentage of the general community will not suffer to any great extent, but, of course, the farming community undoubtedly will. Other sections of the community will not suffer in the same way because, fortunately, in 1969, we are in the position of having a fairly balanced economy in both primary and secondary industry.

As to the agreement which accompanies this Bill, it is true the company is not yet in business, and that there is a doubt

whether the company will actually enter into business. However, we hope it will, and we will give it all the encouragement we can. In my second reading speech I outlined the difficulties that have been met by the company to date. The only similar commercial proposition in Australia that is under way at the moment to handle wood chips is in Tasmania and, in a minute or two, when I deal with the variation clause to which Mr. Willesee referred, I will make some mention of that agreement.

To negotiate the agreement fully, the company still has a long way to go in its dealings with the purchasers, who will be the Japanese. Such negotiations will have to be finalised before this industry gets off the ground. The industry is part of a whole complex that will benefit the State generally and, in particular, the south-west portion. Mr. Willesee said that the company is not committed to provide housing for its employees. It is known that in all these industry agreements—many of them entered into with mining companies—the Government has been responsible—

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I said that, but I am not being critical of it.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I know that; I am merely driving the points home. The basis of this agreement is that the Government, on the one hand, is affording the opportunity to establish the industry, and the company, on the other, is providing the wherewithal for the implementation of the agreement. In this instance the cost is to be shared. In accordance with the agreement the company will share some of the costs and other people will also share some of the costs. Mr. Willesee questioned me as to reimbursement to the company in the event of its going out of business. It is not to be envisaged that the State will make any compensation to the company by way of reimbursement if the company defaults or goes out of business, but if a third person is allowed to take over the industry, surely it is only reasonable that the company referred to in this agreement should receive some reimbursement.

In particular, in replying to the point raised by Mr. Willesee that the machinery may be outdated or obsolete, and there may be something new to be brought forward, or that the old machinery may not have any value, as I said in my second reading speech, the value will be assessed on a basis that has regard for the use of the machinery as a going concern. I think we can leave that point there.

Mr. Willesee finds clause 27 on page 32 of the Bill disconcerting. This is the variation clause. In every one of the agreements I have had the privilege to introduce in this House, a variation clause has been included. There must be such a clause in all these agreements. However, I do not want members to gain the idea, from what Mr. Willesee said, that the agreement can be so altered that it can take on a totally different complexion, because that is not so.

I will not bore the House by reading the clause again. I will merely read the last two lines which are as follows:—

> . . . for the purpose of more efficiently or satisfactorily implementing or facilitating—

These are the points of emphasis—

> —any of the objects of this Agreement.

Members should not read only three lines to me and leave out the rest. The clause has to be read in its full context.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I read the whole of the clause.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I know. I do not believe the Leader of the Opposition misunderstood it. I think he understands it fully, but it is important to know that the agreement can be varied in order to facilitate, or more efficiently and satisfactorily implement, the objects of the agreement. What are the objects of the agreement?

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I do not think there is any quarrel with that principle. The only argument now and previously centres around the question of whether the Parliament should be advised.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Every time I produce an agreement of this nature to this House for ratification, the same argument is brought forward—"The Government is doing something behind our backs. It is going away in a little corner to make arrangements with the company about which we know nothing."

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Where did you get all this?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I got it from the imagination of the Leader of the Opposition.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: That is wrong.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Of course it is wrong. Members know that every time there is any substantial alteration to any one of these agreements they have been returned to the Parliament. Any alteration that has been made to the original agreements entered into with the iron ore companies has been produced to the Parliament for further ratification.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Why have the clause? That is what we want to know.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: For the same reason that this clause appeared in the agreement between the Government of the day and Esperance Plains (Australia) Pty. Ltd. That was not an agreement that we wrote, but one that was written by the Labor Party.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: You love playing politics, don't you?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: This is not playing politics, Mr. Lavery! What nonsense the honourable member speaks!

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Sometimes I wonder if you are as good a member as I thought you were.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: If the honourable member is beginning to wonder, I am pleased. The variation clause in the agreement entered into with Esperance Plains (Australia) Pty. Ltd. was—

> Any obligation or right under the provisions of or any plan referred to in this Agreement may from time to time be cancelled added to varied or substituted by agreement in writing between the parties so long as such cancellation addition variation or substitution shall not constitute a material or substantial alteration of the obligations or rights of either party under this agreement.

Basically, what is the difference between that and the variation clause in the agreement under this Bill?

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: The wording of the clause in the agreement you have just read is far better than in your own agreement.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I would not expect the Leader of the Opposition to say anything else.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Be honest about it yourself.

The A. F. GRIFFITH: I am honest about it.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: In any case, I do not think either of the clauses is right.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I would point out that the other agreement was not presented to Parliament for ratification.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I was not here when that agreement was brought to Parliament.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It was never brought here.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Neither was I; I came here on my own two legs.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not think we had better go into that. This agreement with Esperance Plains (Australia) Pty. Ltd. was not ratified by Parliament and, in fact there was no necessity to have the agreement contained in this Bill ratified by Parliament. As a reminder of what I said, the following are some remarks I made during my speech on the second reading:—

> There is good reason for this agreement being ratified. Most of it could be arranged within the terms of existing Statutes but there are some aspects in regard to which some Statutes had to be modified.

So we have brought the agreement to Parliament and if any substantial alteration is made to the agreement subsequently, I feel sure it will be returned to Parliament for further ratification.

In regard to the point raised by Mr. Ferry that the Minister in this agreement means the Minister in the Government of the State for the time being responsible, who is the Minister referred to in this agreement?

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: It would be yourself.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: No; the Minister referred to in this agreement is the Minister for Lands in the State of Western Australia, and the person acting in that capacity from time to time. So the sitution is no different. I know there are some people who hope that in 18 months' time—I was about to say that some people hope I will be sitting on the other side of the House and not be here—

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: You have many more friends than that. Do not be so disappointing.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I hope I will have 51 per cent. of my electors as friends at the next election.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Will you connect these remarks with the material in the Bill?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I shall, because I have not the same dismal approach to this agreement as has the honourable member. He said he might not be here. It may well be that there is a change in responsibility in the Ministry, either of this Government or of another Government. Under this agreement the obligations of the new Minister will be no different from the obligations of the present Minister in this Government.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I am wondering why you are making so much of this.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I think the Minister has a chip on his shoulder.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am trying once and for all to see whether I can get the message across to the Leader of the Opposition of the need for the variation clause in this agreement. It is the same as the clause that was inserted by the Government which he supported, when the agreement to which I have made reference was made.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I hate to see the Minister getting stirred up.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am not stirred up. When the Tasmanian Government negotiated its agreement with the company which is producing wood chips in that State—and this is only second-hand information—the variation clause was completely wide open. It was left entirely

in the hands of the Minister. However, if I pursue that line the honourable member will think I have a chip on my shoulder.

We hope that the agreement before us will go forward. It is not yet a foregone conclusion that the W.A. Chip & Pulp Co. Pty. Ltd. and Bunning Timber Holdings Ltd. will get the contract, but we sincerely hope that they do. If they do, then the establishment of this industry in the south-west will assist and will be of great benefit not only to the south-west, but to all other parts of the State as well. I thank Mr. Willesee for his support of the Bill, with the qualification I made about the variation clause. I hope I have got the message across.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I hope you will insert a better variation clause in any new agreement.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I hope that the next time I stand up to introduce a Bill containing an agreement Mr. Willesee will be satisfied with the explanation I give. I commend the measure to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

METROPOLITAN MARKET ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 11th September.

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Upper West—Minister for Local Government) [9.6 p.m.]: During the course of the second reading debate Mr. Willesee raised one or two issues. Firstly, he referred to the necessity for the Bill; then he referred to the exemption provision, and mentioned the fact that there is no definition of the word "owner."

The need for the Bill is that there has been some legal doubt about the right of inspectors at the markets to control traffic. According to our legal advisers it is necessary to have such control.

In regard to the aspect of unauthorised parking, Mr. Willesee said that he had not seen this take place. I assure him that it does take place. Quite often unauthorised persons, who have nothing to do with the markets, park their cars, lock them up, and go away. The only way the inspectors can catch these people is to wait for them to return to serve notice on them. These inspectors have used a certain amount of bluff. No good purpose would be served by having the inspectors wait around to serve notices.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: You mean people who have nothing to do with the markets park their vehicles there?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes. The reason for the exemption is that certain by-laws have been laid down as to the length of time in which growers and buyers may park their vehicles in the markets. It cannot be predicted how long they will be loading or unloading produce. That is why it is necessary for inspectors to permit them to remain longer than they should.

In regard to the owner of a vehicle, I have taken this matter up with the Parliamentary Draftsman. There is an amendment on the notice paper, and apparently what Mr. Willesee said has some merit.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (The Hon. J. M. Thomson) in the Chair; The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 3 put and passed.

New clause 2—

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I move—

Page 2—Insert after clause 1 the following new clause to stand as clause 2:—

S. 1A added.

2. The principal Act is amended by inserting after section 1 a section as follows—

Definition.

1A. In this Act unless the contrary intention appears—

"owner" in relation to a vehicle means the person who is the holder of the requisite vehicle license under the Traffic Act, 1919, in respect of the vehicle, or, if the vehicle is not licensed under that Act, the person who owns the vehicle or is entitled to the possession of the vehicle.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: I merely want to thank the Minister for his capacity to vary the provisions of this Bill. I hope the Leader of the House will take note that it is possible to vary anything, if one has the goodwill of the Minister.

New clause put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Bill reported with an amendment.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 10th September.

THE HON. R. F. CLAUGHTON (North Metropolitan) [9.12 p.m.]: In speaking to this Bill to amend the Western Australian Institute of Technology Act, 1966-1968, it is pertinent to pay a tribute to the late Dr. T. L. Robertson who was largely responsible for the inception of the institute. For many years Dr. Robertson was Director-General of Education in this State, and although I am not familiar with many of the activities with which he was associated I do know that in recent times he was also connected with the Australian Council of Educational Research. He was highly respected on a national level as well. It is as a result of his work that the institute has been established on such sound lines.

In the early stages there were some difficulties, and some uncertainties on the part of the staff as to their standing, but these matters have all been ironed out; and the institute is running very smoothly.

The Bill contains two provisions. The first seeks to alter slightly the constitution of the council and the second allows for the setting up of a statutory authority by the institute for the purpose of investing its reserve funds in housing for its staff.

In the initial stages the interim council included a representative of the University of Western Australia, and I believe at that time he was quite helpful in suggesting the lines which should be followed.

The thought at the time was that as the institute was also a tertiary educational body there was need for fairly close liaison with the University to ensure that the interests of the two institutions did not clash, and that there was co-operation between them.

However, once the council of the institute was fully operative the University found it was not really essential for it to have a representative on the council, particularly as the Tertiary Education Commission had been set up. The commission allows the various tertiary educational bodies to work together so that their interests do not clash.

If we examine the makeup of the Council of the Institute of Technology, we see that it comprises six persons appointed by the Governor; a representative of the University of Western Australia—up to now—the Director-General of Education; the Director of Technical Education; a person representing the Treasury Department; a person appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute—that is, the Director of the Institute—two persons from the academic staff of the institute; a person appointed under section 11 of the Act, who is to be the chairman of the council; and two persons to be co-opted by the council.

The amendment in the Bill provides that the person who would have been a representative of the University will now be a third person to be co-opted. In his second reading speech the Minister indicated that this would enable the council to make use of other people who may be able to assist the work of the institute. I think this is a reasonable step to take.

I might say that it came as no surprise to me that the University no longer wished to be represented on the council. This information was conveyed to me some time last year when it was felt that no good purpose was being served by such representation. If we consider the growth of tertiary education in this State, and the fact that there is to be a second University established and, perhaps, even another tertiary institution on the pattern of the Institute of Technology, there seems little point in having a representative of the University on the Council of the Institute of Technology.

It would seem more reasonable for this co-operation to be exercised through the Tertiary Education Commission. There has been some difficulty in distinguishing between the functions of the University and the Institute of Technology. The Institute of Technology is a tertiary education institution and it awards associateships and diplomas. They will be regarded as being on the same level, or having the same standing, as degrees gained at the University; the difference is in name only.

I feel that there will continue to be some doubt as to the relative values of the certificates awarded by the two institutions. The Institute of Technology deals more with the practical aspects, and is perhaps more closely tied to vocation than the University. I do not see how this distinction can be readily maintained. The thought has been expressed elsewhere that the Institute of Technology, as a tertiary education facility, is likely to grow more in the way of a University. It is also difficult to see the University remaining simply as an academic and research institution; it would need to maintain contact with the community, otherwise it would become an ivory tower. However, that is somewhat of a digression.

The Institute of Technology has become a dispersed and diverse body and now embraces the Kalgoorlie School of Mines, the Muresk Agricultural College, and the Schools of Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy. There is provision in the Bill to co-opt representatives from branches such as those I have mentioned, so we see the council has the ability to grow if it feels it needs to do so.

It is interesting to consider from what field the third co-opted member may be chosen. In the Jackson committee report it was recommended that a further

teachers' training college should be established on the Bentley site. The Government has not seen fit to do this, but to establish the college on land at Mt. Lawley. However, Dr. Williams supports the idea of establishing the college at Bentley on the ground that the development of teaching must take in more material aids; in other words, the technology of teaching, and that sort of development could be better associated with the institute.

It is a feasible idea, I think, that there should be a teacher education school at the institute perhaps specialising in this branch of teaching. So a third co-opted member could be obtained from the teaching profession. Of course, this is only conjecture.

From the list I read out there are 18 members on the council at the moment. That figure compares with 22 members on the Senate of the University. It could be asked whether that number is sufficient, or whether there are too many members. Some idea as to whether it is a sufficient number may be gathered from a comparison of the number of students attending the two institutions. The Institute of Technology had an increase of about 1,500 students this year, making a total of about 4,300. The figure for the University to the 30th June, this year, was 7,168. That means there is something under 3,000 difference between the two bodies. However, the growth rate of the institute is much higher, and it is expected that its numbers will increase, eventually, to about 15,000 students.

It is expected that the institute will overtake the University early in 1970. The optimum number for the University is thought to be 10,000. We can see that with 18 members on the council, there are not too many. A total of 22 is not felt to be too great a number at the University, considering the number of committees on which the members have to serve.

I have foreshadowed an amendment to this Bill to include representation from the Student Guild. I might point out that the only other amendment to the legislation so far has been to set up the Student Guild at the institute. I will go further into that matter when the amendment is moved.

The amendment in the Bill referring to housing is more important. I think it is recognised that it is necessary for the institute to have available to it the best possible staff. The best staff cannot be obtained with understandard housing.

The staff superannuation fund will be used for this purpose and we have already seen this type of development provided for under an Act passed last year. I should imagine that the homes will be constructed in the country areas for staff teaching at the country branches as there is probably sufficient housing for the other staff around the city. With those few words, I support the Bill.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [9.30 p.m.]: I thank Mr. Claughton for his support of the Bill. He has foreshadowed an amendment to clause 2, which is on the notice paper. I feel sure that you, Mr. President, would wish me to speak on that when the honourable member moves his amendment in Committee. So I will leave my remarks to the appropriate time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery) in the Chair; The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1 put and passed.

Clause 2: Amendment to section 9—

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: I move an amendment—

> Page 2—Insert after paragraph (b) the following new paragraph to stand as paragraph (c):—
>
> (c) by adding after paragraph (i) the following paragraph—
>
> (j) two persons being the President and the Immediate Past President of the Student Guild.

The amendment is designed to provide for student representation on the council of the institute. Members will recall that in the last session a representative of the Guild of Undergraduates at the University was appointed to the senate of that institution, and during my investigations to ascertain whether the amendment was feasible, I spoke to the President of the Guild of Undergraduates who considered the amendment would be worth while. She felt that it would be of great assistance to her also to have the previous President of the Guild of Undergraduates appointed as a representative on the senate. Therefore, this amendment was designed to achieve continuity.

Speaking in support of student involvement and the management of the institute, Dr. Williams is reported in the Press of the 24th February, 1969, as having said—

> Speaking to the academic staff before the beginning of the year, Dr. Williams said that a major concern for this year would be the encouragement of student involvement in the administration of the institute.
>
> Much of its procedure and policies must become more open to comment and consideration by the students because they were vitally concerned.

I also spoke to Dr. Williams and he intimated to me that there should be student representation on the council of the institute. He said he had intended to try to have a Bill introduced next year to achieve this purpose, but as we have a Bill before the Chamber at the moment there seems little point in waiting until then.

I also spoke to the President of the Student Guild who was enthusiastic about the idea, and he considered that the president and the immediate past president would be the best persons to act as representatives. It is important to bear in mind that the Student Guild has been operating for only a short while and therefore it has no immediate past president at the moment to fill that position; so, in effect, for the time being, only one representative of the Student Guild could be appointed. There is little more I can add in support of the amendment.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I have noted that Mr. Claughton discussed this matter with Dr. Williams who thought there would be advantage in considering student representation next year. This fits in with the thoughts of the Minister. The Government is not unaware of the importance of student representation on the institute council but it is simply dealing with priorities in order.

The council proposes to consider the question next year and has cogent reasons for deferring it until then. The present council is an interim one only and is operating under an interim constitution. The guild council that is normally elected will not come into operation until 1970.

A corollary of this is that the institute council believes that the matter of student representation is one for discussion between itself and a fully representative and permanent guild council before any action is initiated. It is considered that it is more immediately important for students and representatives on committees to be concerned with matters directly affecting them, and this is being arranged progressively.

The point should also be made that the interim guild came into existence only at the beginning of this year and therefore its senior officers are fully occupied with the task of laying a permanent foundation on which to build its future activities. It is not considered wise to load them with the additional burden of council representation this year. Priority must be given to getting the guild itself firmly established. This task is, in itself, making heavy demands on officers of the guild.

The council of the institute has undertaken to examine the whole question in 1970, and to submit its recommendations to the Minister for Education. Apparently those remarks fit in with the very thoughts voiced by Dr. Williams to Mr. Claughton and therefore I am obliged to oppose the amendment for the reasons I have given. As pointed out, the matter will be raised again next year when recommendations, on which a decision can be reached, will be made to the Minister.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: What the Minister has said is quite true. I did not want to be in the position of making a statement for Dr. Williams. I merely quoted from a Press cutting a report of what he said. The president of the guild does not feel that he would be overburdened. He is keen to gain this privilege for the students, and as Dr. Williams could obtain student co-operation I do not think there is any better way to achieve this than by granting them representation on the council so that they can have a say in regard to what goes on at the institute and on how arrangements shall be made. Nothing would be lost by agreeing to the amendment, but a great deal could be gained.

I am informed that it is intended to bring a provision of this nature before Parliament next year, so this amendment will facilitate matters. If this arrangement is unsuitable a further amendment can still be made next year. In the meantime, if the Committee agrees to the amendment, the students will play their part in the administration of the institute and feel they have a real place in it. I do not think that Parliament has anything to lose by accepting the amendment, because it will not be detrimental to the students or the institute. I therefore ask the Committee to accept the amendment.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: This is not a question of the students being detrimentally affected. It is simply that, in the first year of the institute's formation, it was considered it would be wiser if the matter was considered later as the undertaking has been given that recommendations in regard to student representation will be placed before the Government in 1970. I do not propose to say anything further because the honourable member and I will only be reiterating our separate points of view.

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

Ayes—6	
Hon. R. F. Claughton	Hon. W. F. Willesee
Hon. J. Dolan	Hon. F. J. S. Wise
Hon. R. F. Hutchison	Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs
	(Teller)

Noes—14	
Hon. C. R. Abbey	Hon. J. G. Hislop
Hon. N. E. Baxter	Hon. L. A. Logan
Hon. G. W. Berry	Hon. I. G. Medcalf
Hon. G. E. D. Brand	Hon. S. T. J. Thompson
Hon. V. J. Ferry	Hon. J. M. Thomson
Hon. A. F. Griffith	Hon. F. R. White
Hon. Clive Griffiths	Hon. J. Heitman
	(Teller)

Pair	
Aye	No
Hon. J. J. Garrigan	Hon. N. McNeill

Amendment thus negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 3 and 4 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [9.47 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 3 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday).

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 9.48 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 17th September, 1969

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

QUESTIONS (35): ON NOTICE

1. MITCHELL FREEWAY FENCE

Link Mesh Wings

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Works:

(1) What was the cost of supplying and installing the link mesh wings which have been attached to the fence on the western wall of Mitchell Freeway in front of Parliament House reserve?

(2) What is the number of these "wings"?

(3) What is their purpose?

(4) For how long are they and the fence intended to remain?

(5) If to be removed, where would the wings then be used?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) $1,350.

(2) 60.

(3) To prevent children using the concrete gutter behind the retaining wall as a footpath.

(4) Until Parliament House grounds are redeveloped and landscaped.

(5) The department would have no further use for the wings. They would be sold through Government Stores.

2. HOSPITALS

Beverley

Mr. McIVER asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

(1) When was the new hospital at Beverley opened?

(2) What was its total cost?

(3) How many patients can be accommodated?

(4) How many patients are in the hospital at the present time?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) The 18th April, 1969.

(2) Building $449,000.

(3) 17 patients.

(4) 12 patients and 2 new-born babies.

3. *This question was postponed.*

4. HEALTH

Aged People: Financial Aid

Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

(1) Has his Government notified the Commonwealth Government of its acceptance of the offer the latter made approximately six months ago of financial aid for the care of aged people?

(2) What total of matching funds would he be obliged to provide this financial year?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

(1) This offer is still under consideration and discussions have recently been held with the Commonwealth to clarify a number of details of the proposals.

(2) It is not possible to say how much the State would be required to find in matching grants this financial year. The scheme relates to four areas of care for the aged, of which an annual matching grant is available in two. No limit is specified in the third and support for a five-year programme of expenditure is proposed in the fourth. Also in two areas, Commonwealth funds would be available to support expenditure by local government authorities in addition to expenditure incurred by the State.

The Leader of the Opposition is referred to the reply given by the Minister representing the Minister for Health to question 30 on the 19th August, 1969, for further details of the proposals.