

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, July 20, 1966.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. L. H. Densley) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m. and read prayers.

QUESTIONS

TEA TREE GULLY HOSPITAL.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: Has the Chief Secretary a reply to a question I asked yesterday about land for a hospital at Tea Tree Gully?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: As I indicated yesterday, I knew that negotiations had been going on, and I now have further information. The District Council of Tea Tree Gully has agreed to add the land in question (about 10½ acres) to the area being developed as public recreation grounds and to hold it as a public park. When purchased by the council in 1963, the price of the land was \$31,650. The council met one-third, and the Government two-thirds (\$21,100) by a subsidy from the Chief Secretary's Department. The full amount of the subsidy has now been refunded to the Chief Secretary's Department—\$5,275 by the district council and \$15,825 from the public parks appropriation under the Minister of Local Government.

STOCKWELL MAIN.

The Hon. L. R. HART: Has the Minister of Transport a reply to my question of June 30 relating to the Stockwell water supply?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: Yes. My colleague the Minister of Works reports that Cabinet approved an expenditure of \$8,000,000 on the Swan Reach to Stockwell pipeline on May 9, 1966, and planning for the construction of this pipeline was commenced immediately. Tenders were called for the pipes required for the first section of the pipeline and a contract has been placed with Humes Limited for these pipes. A start will be made on the erection of the camp to be used as a headquarters for this project at Sedan during August of this year. The first pipes are expected to be delivered early in 1967 and a start will be made on the mainlaying as soon as these pipes are available.

LAKE BUTLER.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I ask leave to make a statement prior to directing a question to the Minister representing the Minister of Works.

Leave granted.

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The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: On February 14, 1966, a request was forwarded from the District Council of Robe to the South Australian Harbors Board for consideration to be given to dredging part of Lake Butler to provide an area for pleasure boats. On June 21 the Harbors Board replied that equipment was operating in Robe that could do the work, the cost of which was between \$7,000 and \$10,000. I believe this matter is still being considered by the board. However, the plant operating at Robe will shortly be leaving and, if it leaves before this work is done, there will be considerable delay before the plant is available again. Will the Minister representing the Minister of Works take up this matter with his colleague to see whether this work can be completed before this plant leaves Robe?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I will take up this matter with my colleague and bring back a reply for the honourable member as soon as possible.

LAND AGGREGATIONS.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Chief Secretary.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: On June 29 I asked a question of the Minister of Local Government, representing the Minister of Lands, with reference to the limitation in the Crown Lands Act of £12,000, in section 225, which limits the sale of leasehold and Crown lands. I brought up this matter because of the very big increase in the quinquennial land tax assessment, which has a bearing on this amount. My question at that stage was: would the Government consider raising this amount in proportion to the increase in the assessment? The answer I received on July 5 from the Minister was:

The Land Board is currently making a comprehensive investigation of the effects upon section 225 (2) of the Crown Lands Act of the increase in unimproved values. When the report of the Land Board is received, my colleague, the Minister of Lands, will consider it and report to Cabinet on any amendment to the Crown Lands Act that may be considered desirable.

This has become an urgent matter because many leasehold properties in this State will become virtually unsaleable because of the sharp rise in the quinquennial assessment. This can be further aggravated if any land concerned is involved in a deceased estate. In view of the urgency of this matter, can the Chief Secretary say whether the Government is prepared to alter this figure in proportion to the

rise in assessment, and can he give any indication of an early introduction of a Bill to do this?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: This matter refers to policy, but because of the nature of the honourable member's explanation I do not desire to have the question placed on notice. I think it could be better dealt with by my referring it to my colleague, the Minister of Lands. I will draw his attention to it and ask him to obtain a report and bring back a reply as soon as possible.

SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Health.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: Recently the Whyalla City Commission sought the views of the Australian Medical Association (and also, I understand, the views of the Chief Secretary) concerning doctors being financed by that city commission through the university on the condition that, having successfully completed the necessary course, they be bonded to the Whyalla City Commission for a period of years thereafter. A press report, alleged to have been made by the President of the A.M.A., stated that it would not be for the A.M.A. to decide such things but that it would be a matter of Government policy. Will the Minister of Health indicate whether it is the intention of the Government to allow the Whyalla City Commission to proceed with this proposed plan?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I am unable to answer the question immediately. To be frank, this is the first I have heard of it. However, I will examine the subject, ascertain if any docket in my office concerns it, and then see what can be done. I will then give the honourable member a reply. Let me say at once that if anybody is prepared to open the way for a doctor to go to the country and practise, provided that the doctor is prepared to stay in the country and become a general practitioner, such a plan will have my personal support.

APPRENTICES TRADE SCHOOLS.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Labour and Industry.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: I notice that figures issued by the Apprentices Trade Schools for the year ended December 31, 1965, disclose that, whereas in the year ended December 31, 1964, 12 per cent of the students were in the

fourth and fifth grades (and the Minister will know that these are the non-compulsory years, except in the case of the printing industry) in 1965 the percentage had dropped drastically to eight per cent. We know that the Government set up a new Apprentices Commission last year and from time to time professes to be concerned about education. However, will the Minister say what steps have been taken to correct this rather alarming trend?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I cannot advance any reason why this may have happened, but the Apprenticeship Commission was set up not last year, but in the last financial year. The commission has been operating for only a few months. As I am interested in the figures brought forward and in the reason why that position may have occurred, I shall obtain a report and let the honourable member have a reply.

GAS.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Chief Secretary, in the absence of the Minister of Mines.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: We heard yesterday with interest the statement by the Minister of Mines that he was aware that he could obtain capital from overseas sources at an interest rate of less than 14 per cent. Can the Chief Secretary say whether the Government proposes to develop the pipeline from Gidgealpa and other gas sources in this State with such foreign capital and, if it does, how this policy aligns with the statement made by Mr. Whitlam in regard to pipelines?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The matter is obviously one of policy and, as no policy has been defined, I ask the honourable member to place his question on notice.

GAUGE STANDARDIZATION.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: Good progress has been made with the standardization of the Broken Hill railway. Can the Minister of Transport say whether it is planned to bring the standard gauge line through to Adelaide, or to continue to have a break of gauge at some station *en route*?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: The matter of the standardization of the route to connect with the line from Port Pirie to Broken Hill is under consideration and the Commonwealth Railways Commissioner has been asked by the Commonwealth Government to have a survey made of the route for the connection to Adelaide. He is to report to the Commonwealth

upon the feasibility of the matter and the most appropriate connections that can be made. This report has not yet been submitted. Of course, the programme is associated with agreement between the Commonwealth and the State and, until this report is in the hands of the Commonwealth Government, we are unable to discuss further the actual route and the timetable for the work. When I was in Canberra last week, I approached the Commonwealth Minister and requested that we have a conference at an early date regarding the Cockburn to Broken Hill section of the standardization project and all associated matters. No doubt, when this conference is held, the connection between Adelaide and the standardization route will be discussed. I have suggested to the Commonwealth Minister that this conference take place in the first or second week of September and am awaiting his reply regarding whether this time is suitable. These matters will then be considered.

CAMBRAI AND SEDAN WATER SUPPLY.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Minister representing the Minister of Works.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Last session I asked a question about an adequate water supply to the Murray Plains, to Sedan and Cambrai in particular. I asked the Minister whether he would include this in the reference to the Public Works Committee on the Swan Reach to Stockwell main, and he said he did not intend to do that but that, if the committee found in favour of the scheme, he would consider putting some plans into operation so that a piped water scheme to those areas might be possible. In view of the question asked by and the reply given to the Hon. Mr. Hart earlier today, will the Minister say whether plans are in hand and whether further consideration can be given to providing an adequate water supply for Sedan and Cambrai?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I shall be pleased to convey the honourable member's question to my colleague and bring back a reply as soon as it is available.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Chief Secretary.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Yesterday, in reply to a question asked by the Hon. Mr. Dawkins on unemployment, the Chief Secretary said several things of interest to this Chamber.

Among other things, he said that nobody liked to see an increase in unemployment figures and that certainly the Government did not. I think it is recognized that over a period of 12 months this State has gone from the position of having the lowest (or near enough to the lowest) unemployment figures to the position of having, according to yesterday's paper, the highest percentage of unemployment. Will the Chief Secretary say whether the Government recognizes that the deterioration in the unemployment position in this State is related to the financial policy of the present Government?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The answer is definitely "No". Unfortunately, the economy of Australia is not as good as it could be, and the drought, particularly in New South Wales and Queensland, and partially in South Australia, has had a dampening effect on it. The loss of confidence by the population of Australia has also had a dampening effect. Nobody wants to be pleased about the situation in other States, but if they had been more fortunate the motor industry, which is a large industry in this State, would have been much more buoyant and the economy would have kept going. Much has been said about unemployment in the housing industry, but the facts are not as has been stated. Just as many carpenters are now employed in building houses as have ever been employed, but, because steel is often used instead of timber in big buildings, fewer carpenters are used on these buildings.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Have these people gone to other States?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: No. The difficulty exists in other States just the same as it does here. There has been a transformation in the building industry that has meant that not so many tradesmen are being used. However, we are hoping that with the signs of better times and possibly better weather, and with a regaining of confidence, the position will improve. It is unfortunate that the drought in New South Wales and Queensland appears to be no better than in the last two years, and we are hoping that the Commonwealth Government, from which we must get our money, will make money available in various ways in the next Budget to give the spending public more confidence, and that things will be much better than they have been. If the drought in the whole of Australia improves, more machines will be purchased, motor car sales will improve, and our economy will thereby be improved quickly. It is rather pleasant for me to hear members opposite express concern about unemployment because,

if our positions were reversed, they would be saying that it was not their fault. The financial policy of this Government has nothing to do with the increase in unemployment in this State.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT REGULATIONS.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER (Central No. 2):
I move:

That the regulations under the Food and Drugs Act, 1908-1962, in respect of labelling of milk containers with date, made on February 3, 1966, and laid on the Table of this Council on February 8, 1966, be disallowed.

I remind honourable members that these regulations were before the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation earlier this year and that the committee reported to this Council and another place that it was of the opinion that they should be disallowed on the ground that they trespassed upon rights already enjoyed by law. In one particular respect, that reason for the committee's decision is important. These regulations are made under the Food and Drugs Act on the recommendation of an advisory committee, which acts under the provisions of the Act. They are made in pursuance of powers given to the committee under the Act to deal with the labelling of goods. This label (if one can use that expression) is the top on the milk bottle. It is this label that the regulations seek to require to be embossed or marked with the date of the month on which the contents were placed in the container. For instance, if the milk were bottled today it would have the number of today's date, which is 20, on it.

These regulations require the bottlers of milk in this State to place on the caps of milk containers the date of bottling. Within the metropolitan area of Adelaide there exists, of course, an authority set up under the Metropolitan Milk Supply Act. Under that Act certain regulations have been made that have been in force in this State since 1959. Those regulations made by the appropriate authority have instituted a system of a code, which appears on all bottle tops. It is not a very difficult code to follow, although there are four different kinds, each bottler having a different code but each code being fairly simple. This code indicates to any person familiar with it and to any inspector under the Metropolitan Milk Supply Act the date upon which the particular container was filled.

My point at the outset is that under that Act the authority has the full powers of

policing the supply and distribution of milk within the metropolitan area of Adelaide, and all matters associated with the production of milk—its delivery to the factory, bottling and sealing. No part of these activities is affected by the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act. All these things are policed under the provisions of the Metropolitan Milk Supply Act and they have their own regulations dealing with the matter of the particular code used in bottling the milk. Here is an example of a regulation being made by an entirely different body (which has no say whatsoever in the production, delivering, bottling and sealing of milk, because that is the statutory function of another body) attempting to use a portion of its regulation-making powers to cut across and nullify an existing regulation under another Act. This is a real example of trespassing upon rights previously enjoyed by law, and in fact enjoyed by law by another body.

I mention that because it is an unusual situation and may indicate to honourable members that there is some conflict of opinion and interest in this matter. The evidence taken by the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation indicates that this is so because, although the advisory committee under the Food and Drugs Act has brought forward this regulation and has supported it in evidence before that committee, the people concerned (the Metropolitan Milk Board, which is the authority involved under the Metropolitan Milk Supply Act and regulations, the Wholesale Milk Buyers and Distributors Association, and the Master Retail Milk Vendors Association) all indicated to our committee that they were opposed to the provisions of these regulations.

Although the members of the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation were unanimous in their decision to recommend the disallowance of these regulations, the members of the committee felt there might be some differences of opinion on whether the dating of milk bottle tops was a good or bad thing to introduce. The whole purpose of the regulations is to ensure that milk in bottles and other similar containers be labelled with the number of the day of the month on which the milk was placed in the container. The proposal was circulated to various local authorities and some trade organizations and was supported by the Elizabeth Branch of the Australian Labor Party, the Housewives Association and the National Council of Women. Apparently, the proposal has been under consideration for a considerable time, and it is interesting to note

that the requirement that the date be placed on bottles exists only in Queensland and Tasmania; it does not apply in New South Wales, Victoria, or Western Australia or (up till now, of course) South Australia.

To some extent, this may boil down to a contest not only between two authorities but also, in a broader sense, between the interests of consumers, on the one hand, and the interests of the bottlers and deliverers of milk, the trade interest, on the other hand. It was actually admitted on both sides of the argument that the day of bottling bore no relation whatever to the quality of the milk in the bottle, particularly if that milk (as it is required to be by the provisions of the Metropolitan Milk Supply Act) was properly stored. That is significant and shows how well our Metropolitan Milk Supply Act has been administered in past years.

The witnesses who appeared before the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation said that the number of complaints about receiving stale milk were infinitesimal. I think this was implied also by the people appearing under the Food and Drugs Act. The committee that proposed these regulations made it perfectly clear that it was satisfied that no health hazard was involved in the absence of an indication of the date on the bottle: in other words, this is not a question in any way related to the quality of the milk, and no health hazard is involved in this matter. It is suggested that in the interests of the consumers they should be able to tell when a particular bottle of milk was actually bottled. I think that the effect of the evidence given on behalf of the committee under the Food and Drugs Act could be summarized as follows: the consumer or purchaser of the milk going to a shop to buy a bottle of milk should be able to see at a glance when that milk had been bottled; therefore, that would militate against a person being given a comparatively stale bottle of milk from the back of the shopkeeper's refrigerator.

That is one aspect; another is that the housewife, when going to the home refrigerator, would be able to know which bottle to use first if the date was stamped on the container. The suggestion that the average housewife of today accumulates a stack of bottles of milk in her refrigerator for almost a week, or perhaps more than a week, is almost fantastic. I doubt whether any good housewife would have in her refrigerator any bottles of milk that had been there for longer than two days at the most.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: I must be a poor housekeeper; when batching I have had a

bottle of milk that has been there for a week, but there seemed to be nothing wrong with it.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: I agree, and this was admitted by both sides. It is agreed that milk these days can be kept for a considerable period without becoming tainted or affected. However, there seems to be some suggestion of a psychological concern and that, in fact, the consumer should know or be let into the secret behind the present coding system. It has been alleged that because such a coding system exists the consumer considers there must be a trick in it somewhere, and that he or she is being deprived of information concerning the date of bottling. That is the crux of the matter.

As I said earlier, a good deal of evidence was taken from Metropolitan Milk Board witnesses as well as from the other associations I have mentioned. They made some fairly cogent points, points which the committee considered, on balance, justified the recommended disallowance of these regulations. From the psychological aspect, these witnesses said that placing a date on the bottle actually misleads the public, who tend to associate the date with milk quality. It is interesting to note that, prior to August, 1959, a purely voluntary system of dating milk containers existed, and honourable members may recollect that in those days a cardboard wad was generally used for covering the top of the bottle. Under that voluntary system the container was dated with the day on which the milk was delivered to the home. Under such a system, a bottle of milk received this morning would have "Wednesday the 20th" stamped on it.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill: Did it have that, or just the day of the week?

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: I think the honourable member is correct, as I believe it had only the day of the week on it, "Wednesday". It has been gradually admitted, however, that the milk concerned would have been not today's milk but yesterday's. In effect, under that system, the day of the week was advanced by one day. It is true that under the proposed system, if it operated today, the consumer would have milk delivered which would show yesterday's date on the bottle. In other words, it would not be the same as the purely voluntary system but would show the correct date of bottling. Witnesses who appeared before the committee pointed out that there is a tendency for competition to exist between people who vend milk at

homes in the morning and shops or delicatessens. It appears that, in the effort to be one jump ahead of the vendor who delivers to the home, under the old system the shops ordered only a small supply of milk in the morning but after midday would seek a further supply with a date stamped on the bottle which was one day later. In other words, reverting to the 1959 system, they would be able to buy after midday today milk which had the day "Thursday" stamped on it, and under this system they would be able to buy milk which had not yesterday's date on it but today's.

The Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin: By "this system" does the honourable member mean the regulation?

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: It is a regulation that is proposed now, whereas the other was a voluntary system.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: Wouldn't the same apply to those people who could "crack the code"? Wouldn't they know what milk they were getting?

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: We had the position where owners of shops would say to customers, "We can get you fresher milk than you can get at your home this morning" when, in fact, it would all come from the one vat. That produced so many complaints to the board that the voluntary system was abandoned and the coding system introduced. The latter system has worked satisfactorily because the code, although it may not be known to the purchaser, even though it could easily be "cracked" by him (to use the expression of the honourable member), was known to all the inspectors and it was easy for them to carry out their job. They were able to inspect a delicatessen's refrigerator and say, "That milk was delivered two or three days ago; you have kept it back and now you have advanced it to the front of the refrigerator." That is their job, and I think it is indicative that their job has been well done because complaints have been infinitesimal since the introduction of the coding system.

As an interesting side comment, it may be noted that at present 88 per cent of milk sold is bottled milk. Some people, 12 per cent, still exercise their right to take milk in billycans. Of course, no code or date can be placed on milk collected in this way.

It was further urged before the committee that to duplicate the board's provision for a code would add to the distributor's costs, because he would be required to replace the existing dies that were installed in 1959, only

a few years ago. It was estimated that it would cost at least \$60 to replace each die. Of course, the die would have to be changed every day. Perhaps that is not a great expense but it would be an additional cost to a bottler already working on a small margin. The code is only a dot. I presume it can be fixed with one die and that it is moved.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Will this increase the cost of milk to the householder?

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: It may not but it certainly increases the cost to the bottler and may increase the cost to the vendor if it provokes complaint by the public that they are getting stale milk bearing the date of the previous day, because the vendor would suffer by the return to the storeroom of a large quantity of milk.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: Is there any limitation on the storekeeper now as to how long he can keep his milk?

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: Only the restrictions that apply regarding health. In other words, if he sells stale milk, he can be prosecuted, but it must first be discovered that the milk is stale and that it has been kept unduly long.

The Hon. G. J. Gilfillan: Spot checks are being done all the time.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: There must be some time laid down. Does the milk deteriorate after three or four days?

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: Under modern conditions of bottling and pasteurizing milk, it will remain fresh for a considerable time but no-one can say for how long exactly, because that depends on temperature conditions, such as whether it is 110 degrees in the shade or whether it is mild. Certainly, the present system gives cause for much satisfaction as far as the State is concerned. I think I have summed the matter up. It is alleged that the new regulation may increase the wholesale and, ultimately, the retail price of milk. Such an increase is to be avoided and I consider that the arguments advanced by the Food and Drugs Advisory Committee that the householder should know the date of bottling is not of such great importance when all the factors are considered. As I have said, I think that, on the balance of the argument, the vendors and bottlers of milk win the day with me and I am sure they have won the day as far as the other members of the committee are concerned. Accordingly, this matter is brought forward in the Council. I realize that there may be differences of opinion among honourable members but the matter is

important and I hope that other members will speak in the debate.

The Hon. JESSIE COOPER (Central No. 2): I rise to oppose this motion. The milk processors may have convinced the members of the Subordinate Legislation Committee but they have not convinced me if the reasons given so far are all they can give. I consider that the health of the community should be paramount over the wishes of any one food industry. What on earth is the use of spending millions of dollars on hospitals and preventive medical services if we permit various practices to spring up that are not necessarily designed to look after the consumer at all? Why do the milk processors make such a determined and continuing stand against dating their milk bottles? Why is it so important to them that this practice should be discontinued? Do they wish to return to the practice of marking bottles in code? If so, will they make the code public, or do they wish to be able to do what they like?

The Food Technology Association of South Australia was asked for its views on this matter by the South Australian Food and Drugs Advisory Committee and that association informed Mr. McCarthy (and he has the letter on file) that it could see no reason why the milk processing industry should not put dates on milk bottles. This decision was made after very serious examination by food and technological experts, and should not be disregarded. The argument advanced that the only reason for retaining the practice of dating milk bottles would be to allow the housewife to know which milk bottle of her mythical multitude of milk bottles should be opened is fantastic and completely unrealistic. Housewives, unlike Governments, do not budget for deficits and do not over-order continually. Even the Hon. Mr. Potter saw the absurdity of this argument and, as for the Hon. Mr. Shard, I doubt whether his wife would buy bottles by the week. We do not know what the Hon. Mr. Shard does when he is batching.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: I said, "When I am batching I must be a bad housewife."

The Hon. JESSIE COOPER: However, the shopkeepers do have the problem of gauging the exact number of milk bottles they should order. The dating of bottles is, therefore, in their own interests as well as in the interests of their customers. Honourable members must be aware of the changes likely to be made in milk processing since the discovery of means of keeping milk and milk products fresh for weeks or even months. We would be buying stale milk made

fresh by preservatives, in the same way as we continually buy stale mince with additives. We all know how disgusting and unpalatable cream has become over the last few years since the addition of so much preservative has been allowed. I for one believe that the provision of fresh pure foods is most necessary to maintain the good health of the community and, therefore, I shall always be opposed to motions such as this.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN (Northern): I second the motion. As a member of the Subordinate Legislation Committee, I support the disallowance of this regulation and point out to the honourable member who has just spoken that the committee took much evidence on this matter and also that it is well aware of the importance of guarding the health of the community. I consider that few people appreciate the steps that are taken to protect the consumer in the matter of milk supplies. The Central Board of Health and the various local boards of health go to much trouble to ensure that the milk delivered is fit for human consumption. Spot checks of samples are made by health inspectors. These can be taken from milk vendors' vehicles.

The PRESIDENT: As the time is 3.15 p.m., I must ask the honourable member to resume his seat.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Chief Secretary) moved:

That Orders of the Day Government Business 1 and 2 be postponed and taken into consideration after consideration of this matter and Notices of Motion have been disposed of.

Motion carried.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr. Gilfillan.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: These various boards of health take every precaution to ensure that the health of the community is protected. The quality of milk is not gauged on the various points put forward in argument against the disallowance of this regulation. Spot checks are taken to ensure that milk is perfectly suitable for human consumption.

The Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin: Why have a code if this regulation is necessary?

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: Exactly. The code is there for the information of inspectors, and this may help inspectors in selecting the bottles they wish to test, but generally milk is considered to be unfit for human consumption if the bacterial content is above a certain level. As the Hon. Mr. Potter has said, the Metropolitan Milk Board is the authority that is charged with supervising the distribution of all milk within the proclaimed metropolitan area. Some of the

organizations that he said supported this regulation did not appear before the committee, and I believe they were probably unaware of the full implications of administering this regulation. The people concerned with the practical distribution and retailing of milk were able to give detailed information on the problems involved.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Did anyone speak on behalf of the householder?

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: No. Although it was said that householder organizations favoured the regulation, they did not send any representative to give evidence before the committee.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: Were they invited?

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: They had the same right as anyone else and they knew that the regulation was before the committee. I do not know whether a personal invitation was given to them, but it is not usually given to people: they are informed that regulations are before the committee and it is then up to them to decide whether to give evidence. We know they were aware that the matter was before the committee, as it was mentioned in the press.

The Hon. F. J. Potter: I think the advisory committee said all that could be said.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: Yes. After weighing all the problems, the committee considered on the evidence that any minor benefits that may be gained (and these appeared to be more theoretical than practical) would be far outweighed by the difficulties involved and the handicap resulting to the distributing and retailing trade in the metropolitan area.

The Hon. C. M. HILL (Central No. 2): It seems to me from the debate so far that there is not very much in the balance one way or the other, as the arguments put forward by both sides have been very sound. As the cost of milk to the householder in the metropolitan area will not be increased by this regulation and it will provide a further safeguard in that the householder will be assured of obtaining fresh milk, it seems to me that there is a strong argument in favour of the regulation.

The opinions of the women's organizations mentioned and of the public have, I think, been fairly strong on this matter recently. It is not so much a question of a householder checking bottle tops in a refrigerator as a question of checking them at the gate when the milk is delivered.

The Hon. F. J. Potter: The milkman cannot do anything else under the present set-up.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: He delivers milk in bottles that have coded caps, and he is subject to inspections. I know many milkmen, and they are reputable businessmen, but the risk of the householders receiving milk that is not fresh is less if the date rather than a code marking appears on the bottle top. Although I do not suggest that people are given milk that is not fresh, the regulation will ensure that they get fresh milk.

I suppose all the milk received in the metropolitan area comes from an area within a radius of 60 miles of the city. With modern transport and bulk milk pick-ups, people in the metropolitan area are entitled to be assured that they are obtaining fresh and unadulterated milk. The city is in the centre of a primary-producing State, and I think the regulation will provide an assurance to the householder that the milk is fresh.

If the position remains as it is, there may be a tendency for preservatives to be added to milk, and this would not be a good thing. We should be able to obtain fresh milk, and this regulation will ensure that we do. It will not cost the householder any more. I think it fair to say that householders instigated this proposal some time ago, but it is a pity they did not give evidence before the committee. However, this indicates that the committee heard only one side of the issue.

The Hon. F. J. Potter: We heard the other side; we heard about the instigation of these regulations.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: That is true; I agree with that. Nevertheless, the general public and associations within the general public that have favoured this change did not present their views and, therefore, their views were not heard directly.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: Let us examine that. The general public does not know about these regulations and what its rights are. I have come across many cases of that.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. F. J. Potter: They do not read the *Government Gazette*.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Mr. Hill.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Their rights are well known to them. If they buy milk at a delicatessen with the date stamp on the bottles, their rights will be known to them then. I do not know whether the rights of the public are involved. The public is concerned about being assured that it will get fresh milk.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: I was not arguing about that; I was arguing about the right to come before the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C. M. HILL: The associations mentioned, and particularly the National Council of Women, represent great numbers of the public and, although they had the right to come before the committee, for one reason or another they did not. However, weighing the points made so far, I support the proposal to date the bottle tops.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD secured the adjournment of the debate.

KAPUNDA BY-LAW: WRAPPING OF BREAD.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER (Central No. 2): I move:

That By-law No. 20 of the District Council of Kapunda, in respect of wrapping of bread, made on March 23, 1965, and laid on the table of this Council on February 8, 1966, be disallowed.

This motion will occupy less time than the last one. This by-law came before the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation. It is a by-law to apply within the area of the District Council of Kapunda. It states that all bread sold retail must be wrapped in new and clean paper in such a manner that it is wholly enclosed and no paper with any printing thereon shall be used. No person shall convey bread from any shop unless such bread is completely wrapped or enclosed in a container in accordance with the provisions of this by-law.

The members of the committee realized that the members of the District Council of Kapunda were genuinely trying to look after the health of the persons purchasing bread in that district, although they seem to have gone to some inordinate lengths. Even in the metropolitan area the most we get when we buy a loaf of bread is a piece of tissue paper wrapped around the centre of it with a piece of sticky tape to hold it together. This by-law states that the bread has to be "wholly enclosed"; a person would not dare take it out of a shop unless it was. The committee was not particularly concerned about that rather strange anomaly but it was concerned about the fact that that paper had to have no printing on it whatsoever, which would exclude the possibility of being able to buy or sell the pre-packed loaves of bread sealed in greaseproof paper, upon which appear the name of the baker and words indicating whether the bread

is vitamin-enriched, is "Provita", is sliced, or whatever the case may be.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Or starch-reduced.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: Yes. It is obvious that this by-law went too far. I am sure the District Council of Kapunda will take the first opportunity to bring down another by-law that will perhaps not be so all-embracing as this one is.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN (Northern) seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

TATIARA BY-LAW: ZONING.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER (Central No. 2): I move:

That By-law No. 26 of the District Council of Tatiara, in respect of zoning, made on April 12, 1965, and laid on the table of this Council on February 8, 1966, be disallowed.

This motion is moved actually at the request of the District Council of Tatiara, which realizes that there are some deficiencies in the by-law. The council is, in fact, at the moment engaged in completely redrafting it. A new by-law will eventually come before that council. Accordingly, the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation was happy to comply with the express wish of the council to have this by-law disallowed.

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Midland) seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

POLICE REGULATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Chief Secretary) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Police Regulation Act, 1952-1963, as amended. Read a first time.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Section 11 (3) of the Police Regulation Act provides that appointments to any rank in the detective police or any rank above senior constable shall be subject to the approval of the Chief Secretary. Grades within the detective police have been abolished for some time and their seniority is similar to the seniority of other members of the force. Accordingly, the reference to the detective police is being removed from the principal Act. Provision has recently been made by amendments to the regulations for two grades of senior constable—senior constables who have qualified by examination for promotion to the rank of sergeant, third grade, and those who have not. Accordingly, the new rank of senior constable, first

grade, has been provided for. The present Bill will provide that promotion to any rank above senior constable, first grade, is to be subject to the Chief Secretary's approval. Both amendments are merely machinery amendments and are made by clause 3 of the Bill.

The Hon. C. R. STORY secured the adjournment of the debate.

AMENDING FINANCIAL AGREEMENT BILL.

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Chief Secretary) moved:

That Standing Orders be so far suspended as to enable him to move that the Bill be now read a second time forthwith.

The PRESIDENT: I think the number of members in the Chamber is a little too low to enable that to be done.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: We have 10 members in the Chamber.

The PRESIDENT: That is not a majority of members.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL: We have eleven including yourself, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT: Yes. I will put the motion.

Motion carried.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It is a short Bill, the sole purpose of which is to ratify and approve of the necessary amendments to the Financial Agreement between the Commonwealth and States following upon the introduction of decimal currency in February last. The agreement has been executed by the Prime Minister and the Premiers of all the States and requires formal approval and ratification by Parliament. It will be seen that the amendments relate solely to the substitution of decimal currency equivalents for amounts in the old currency in relevant parts of the principal agreement as amended from time to time.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.41 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, July 26, at 2.15 p.m.