

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, September 17, 1970

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m. and read prayers.

ASSENT TO BILLS

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, intimated the Governor's assent to the following Bills:

Australia and New Zealand Banking Group,

Potato Marketing Act Amendment,
Supreme Court Act Amendment (Salaries),
Supreme Court Act Amendment (Valuation),

Wild Dogs Act Amendment.

QUESTIONS

QUESTION EXPLANATIONS

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I seek leave to make a short statement before asking a question of you, Mr. President.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: A report in this morning's press says that the House of Assembly intends to adopt a new procedure in connection with questions asked during Question Time. In your opinion, Mr. President, is it contemplated or necessary that a similar procedure should be adopted in this Council?

The PRESIDENT: The procedure and practice of this place is well known to honourable members. In asking a question an honourable member can obtain leave of the Council to make a statement in explanation of his question. I think I should point out that, in such circumstances, should a member abuse or stray away from the principles set out in Standing Order No. 109, any honourable member can call "Question", after which the member explaining the question has no right to continue further, and must proceed to ask his question. Leave has to be given by the Council, and if there is only one objection that leave is denied. In answer to the honourable member, Standing Order No. 109 states:

In putting any question, no argument, opinion or hypothetical case shall be offered, nor inference or imputation made, nor shall any facts be stated or quotations made except by leave of the Council and so far only as may be necessary to explain such question.

So far as the Chair is concerned, the interpretation is as expressed and implied in the Standing Order, namely, that the leave is for the purpose of explaining a question and not

for expressing an opinion or debating a question; and that applies equally to replies to questions.

SHOPPING HOURS REFERENDUM

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Yesterday I explained to the Council that I had received many telephone calls from people who were confused regarding the referendum to be held next Saturday.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: Get leave.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Mr. President, I seek leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister representing the Minister of Labour and Industry.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Yesterday I explained to the Council that people who had been telephoning me were obviously very confused as a result of many matters in relation to the shopping hours referendum on Saturday next. I asked the Minister to ascertain from the Minister of Labour and Industry whether it was the Government's intention to proceed to legislate to stop Friday night shopping in such areas as Elizabeth, Tea Tree Gully, Reynella and Morphett Vale and all other parts where shops are now open on Friday night if a "No" vote succeeded on Saturday. The Minister kindly agreed to endeavour to obtain a reply today. Has he that reply?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: Yes, I forwarded the question to the Minister of Labour and Industry, who has now supplied the following answer:

The honourable member can be advised that, as stated in the second reading speech of the referendum Bill, it is the intention of the Government to introduce a further Bill after the referendum to give effect to the decision expressed by the people. The honourable member mentioned Friday night shopping. He will understand, of course, that whatever the result of the referendum exempted shops will still be able to trade on Friday evenings.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL: A paragraph in this morning's *Advertiser* stated that similar procedures would be followed in respect of the referendum to the normal State elections, and it urged people to obtain postal votes if necessary. However, I have not seen an announcement about absent voting. Can the Minister of Lands tell me whether absent votes will be available at all polling booths for those who happen to be out of their own district but near a booth in another district?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: This is a question that should have been directed not to

me but to the Minister representing the Attorney-General, who administers the Electoral Department. Although I cannot answer the question specifically, I should think that absent votes would be available.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL: I seek leave to make an explanation prior to asking a supplementary question on this matter.

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL: I think people who are being compelled to vote should at least be told what the conditions are under which they can vote or not vote. If the Minister himself does not know, what chance has the general public of knowing these matters? I do not want a reply to my question this afternoon, but time is running out, and I suggest that the Minister, or the Minister he represents, consider making an announcement in the newspaper telling people exactly what they will be fined for and what they will not be fined for.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: Yes. I will approach the Minister of Labour and Industry and the Attorney-General on this matter.

STOBIE POLES

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Has the Minister of Agriculture, representing the Minister of Works, a reply to my question of September 2 about the taking of safety measures for stobie poles?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: My colleague, the Minister of Works, has supplied me with the following report:

The Electricity Trust is at present examining the various possibilities of the insulation of stobie poles, but it will be some time before the aspects of cost, durability, effectiveness, etc. can be evaluated in order to determine whether any proposal on these lines would be feasible.

FAUNA CONSERVATION

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I seek leave to make a brief statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: In yesterday's newspaper there appeared a report on the illegal export of Australian fauna. When I first entered this Parliament, there was a Bill before this Council called the Fauna Conservation Bill. Some 30-odd amendments were introduced here, most of which were directed to this very matter of illegal trading in Australian fauna. As it is stated in the newspaper report that certain rare birds' eggs were fetching up

to \$10,000 overseas, will the Minister re-examine the Fauna Conservation Act, and especially the penalties, as these eggs are fetching such a large price?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: Yes.

DRIVERS' LICENCES

The Hon. C. M. HILL: There was an announcement in the press yesterday by the Minister of Roads and Transport that drivers' licences were to be increased in cost in this State from \$2 to \$3 and that, as a result, a fund of about \$500,000 a year would be provided. In this morning's press the same release indicated that the money would pay for a programme to alert drivers to safety needs and improve railway crossings. It is the matter of railway crossings to which I specifically refer. Can the Minister representing the Minister of Roads and Transport say whether the railway crossings to be improved by the establishment of this fund will include the 20 most dangerous metropolitan railway crossings that are recommended for grade separation on pages 147 and 148 of the M.A.T.S. Report?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I will convey the honourable member's question to my colleague and bring back an answer as soon as possible.

PASTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE (Minister of Lands) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Pastoral Act, 1936-1969. Read a first time.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It amends the Pastoral Act in two important respects, as well as removing some sections that are now outdated. First, it provides increased protection to pastoral property against damage from mining operations carried out on lands comprised in pastoral leases. Under the present provisions of the Pastoral Act claims may be pegged out or granted anywhere on a pastoral lease except within 200yds. of buildings and water storages. It is considered desirable to increase the protected area and to widen the categories of rural improvements that are to be protected from detriment arising from mining operations. In the past, fences, in particular, have frequently suffered damage as a result of the carelessness of or lack of consideration by mining operators.

The Bill also introduces a new section empowering the Minister of Lands to alter the boundaries of leases where it becomes apparent that the boundary described in the lease does not correspond with the boundary of the land in actual occupation. In many cases, the land physically defined by fences or other means is not accurately represented in the plan comprised in the lease instrument, because inadequate facilities existing when that instrument was drawn up prevented perfect surveys. To avoid confusion it is desirable that machinery should exist for correction of boundaries and registration of any corrections on the original lease at the Lands Titles Office.

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 amends section 7 of the principal Act. That section deals with the constitution of the Pastoral Board and provides that the Governor may appoint an additional member from time to time. The sentence which is to be deleted provides that the Governor may direct that the Public Service Act shall not apply to the additional member. There is provision for this in the Public Service Act itself, so the amendment therefore prevents unnecessary duplication.

Clause 3 repeals section 8 of the principal Act that provided for the continuation in office of those members of the Pastoral Board as it existed at the commencement of the principal Act in 1936. The purpose of this provision is of course now exhausted. Clause 4 repeals section 65 of the principal Act that relates to the appointment of arbitrators to make valuations where there is a disagreement between the Minister and a lessee. This function will now be performed by the Land and Valuation Court, and the section is therefore no longer necessary.

Clause 5 amends section 132 of the principal Act. This is the section that seeks to protect pastoralists from damage resulting from mining operations. The Bill increases the protection of pastoralists in several ways. It includes water holes, water tanks and aeroplane landing strips in the categories of protected improvements and extends the area in which mining operations are not to be conducted to an area comprised within a radius of 440yds. from the protected improvement. It also provides that mining operations shall not take place within 25yds. of any fence. The maximum penalty for contravention of these provisions is fixed at \$500. The Minister of Lands may, however, give permission for the conduct of operations within the prohibited areas in appropriate circumstances.

Clause 6 introduces new section 137a to deal with the problem of correction of boundaries. New subsection (1) provides for alteration of boundaries as shown in leases to correspond with the boundaries of the land in actual physical occupation. New subsection (2) provides that the Minister may lodge memoranda of alterations to boundaries at the Lands Titles Office, and new subsection (3) directs the Registrar-General to note the alteration in the Register Book and as on any relevant registered instruments. Under new subsection (4) the Minister is empowered to make an adjustment to rental if the boundary alteration is such as to make an adjustment desirable.

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

LOTTERY AND GAMING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Read a third time and passed.

PUBLIC FINANCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Read a third time and passed.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Read a third time and passed.

PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 16. Page 1381.)

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE (Northern): The very substantial increase in the funds available to the Government this year has enabled increased provisions to be made in most of the fields in which I am interested. Whether the extra \$13,000,000 over and above what was expected is a tactical victory for the South Australian Government is not of great interest to me: it is the result that matters. I am pleased that some projects in my electoral district are to receive increased finance in the coming year. In connection with irrigation and reclamation of swamp lands, the provision to speed up work on the Cadell and Cooltong channels is most necessary. Although they will not entirely correct the problems encountered, they will undoubtedly enable speedier progress to be made.

The provision of facilities for containerization and roll-on-roll-off traffic has been lagging behind, but at least money has been allocated this year to finance dredging and other work

that will bring us closer to the standard of facilities in other States. The Hon. Mr. Story made the very fair comment that the provision for fishing havens and foreshore improvements was far from sufficient to put our fishing industry on a viable basis.

The Hon. T. M. Casey: The previous Government underspent last year.

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: I have tried not to mention Parties. It must be remembered that the previous Government inherited a deficit of over \$8,000,000.

The Hon. T. M. Casey: You still did not spend all the money allocated for fishing on the Loan Estimates last year.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: Maybe that fact led to the present Government having a credit this financial year. I hope that all this year's provision will be spent and that even more money will be found to speed up the improvements that are needed to fishing facilities. Abalone fishermen at present have to carry small boats on trailers and to use four-wheel drive vehicles to get over sandhills to reach points on the coastline where abalone can best be obtained. These points on the coastline are distant from facilities for berthing bigger boats. Such transport problems apply to some other fishermen, too.

As a result of the abalone fishermen travelling to such points on the coastline, they can work areas that otherwise could not be touched. I hope that more money will be spent on fishing facilities, particularly along the West Coast; if it is, the fishing industry will have a brighter future.

About half of what is really necessary has been provided for country waterworks. Through speeches I have made and questions I have asked, I have shown my vital interest in the Lock-Kimba main. The provision of \$575,000 for work on this main will keep the programme pretty well up to schedule. About 17 miles of the proposed 58½ miles of main has been laid, and excavation work is up to two miles ahead of the part of the main that has been actually laid. All in all, considering that the terrain traversed so far has been extremely hard and impenetrable, I believe that the project is about up to schedule.

It has always astounded me that a scheme like this, which is not a costly one (it was about \$2,000,000 on the first estimate, and now as a result of rising costs the estimate is \$2,867,000), could not have been facilitated

much further than has been the case. I think that plans for a pipeline were made as far back as 1928. It has been hammered by people who live along the proposed route and occupy that very productive rural area which is affected and who have spent millions of dollars in trying to provide water by natural means.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: You got the results; you can claim the credit.

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: Well, it is one of those things that I would like to see finished before I finish my Parliamentary career.

The Hon. M. B. Dawkins: You've got a long time yet.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: When do you next come up for re-election?

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: With the inroads being made on the Legislative Council, there are some obstacles that I might have to overcome. I am not satisfied (I do not believe the Government should be, either) with the progress of this project, considering that the Government has spent up to \$250,000 in some years carting water for Kimba. I can never credit the economics of the slow progress that has been made with this pipeline. It is scheduled to be completed in 1973, and the amount proposed to be spent this year will, I hope, put the scheme somewhere near the half-way mark. It is suggested that perhaps the digging will be less difficult and that faster progress can be made this coming year. Of course, it has been going on for two years now, and if it is to be completed in 1973 we should be at least near the half-way mark this year.

I think the Hon. Mr. Geddes made a very good point yesterday when talking about hospitalization and the sum proposed to be spent on the major hospitals in the Northern District. The honourable member referred particularly to the Whyalla Hospital. The Chief Secretary has said that there are no plans at present to expand the facilities at that hospital. It is most necessary that fresh consideration be given to this matter, because the hospital is serving a rapidly expanding local population, and the drain on its specialists by the outlying areas makes it most necessary for the hospital to be expanded. The facilities supplied are excellent, but they are inadequate to cope with all the contingencies.

The Port Augusta Hospital serves a large outback area as well as the local community, and it was most necessary that this

hospital be rebuilt, as the existing hospital was the most out of date of the large hospitals in this State. Its total estimated cost is \$3,625,000, of which \$154,000 was spent last year, and the allocation this year of \$700,000 will put it well on the way to completion. However, the amounts provided fall far below what should be spent on hospitals within that area.

I have mentioned especially the hospitals at Whyalla and Port Augusta, the completion of which should be carried out with all haste. These hospitals serve a vast area, and the specialist treatment that is necessary at those centres is vital. As we know, the Port Augusta area serves the Royal Flying Doctor base, and the people in outlying areas are entitled to the same chance of obtaining life-giving medical assistance as is anyone else in the State.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I could not agree with you more.

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: I am pleased to hear the Chief Secretary say that. I know his views on this, and I know that if it were left to him entirely these facilities would receive greater attention than they do at present.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Do you think his Ministerial colleagues deny him the necessary funds?

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: Of course, he is not the Treasurer. I do not think they push him around to any great extent, but they have never given him the cheque book. The Mines Department appears to be spending less this year than last year. Although it is possible that money is being channelled into different areas, it is with some concern that I note that this very vital portion of our economy is not receiving at least the same sum as last year. South Australia seems to be lagging behind not only in discoveries but also in research and exploration by the Government. Since South Australia has certain other disabilities, it would be nice if we could speed up our search for minerals. I believe that there are minerals in South Australia, and the only way we will find them is to step up our search programme.

When I rose I said that there was very little I could say that would not be repetition of previous speeches. I have no desire to repeat what has already been said or to steal the thunder of those very good speakers who have preceded me. Therefore, I will conclude by saying that I have pleasure in supporting the Bill.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Chief Secretary): I take this opportunity to thank honourable members who have taken part in this debate and, at the same time, to thank the Leader for his willingness to facilitate the passing of this Bill today, because it is necessary to get it passed quickly in order to assist the affairs of the State. I do not intend to reply to every question that was asked. Although I have not given the speeches the thorough consideration that possibly I should have done, I have considered several questions asked by the Leader and I have replies to them. If any honourable member wishes to have a reply to any specific question that I have not dealt with, he can ask it of the appropriate Minister next week.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: That is fair enough.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The Leader raised several matters. The first was as follows:

I emphasize that, although this is the result of a significant change in the Commonwealth's approach to State finances, practically no publicity has been given to this fact. If the Chief Secretary replies later, I should like some more details of this interest-free sum.

The \$27,000,000 referred to is not an interest-free loan but is a straightout grant from the Commonwealth. It is not repayable. The grant does, however, by virtue of an amendment to the Public Finance Act, become part of the funds available for the Loan Programme. The Leader's second point was as follows:

As I pointed out, there has been an 11 per cent or a 12 per cent increase in the Loan funds available to the Government after taking into account sufficient to cover accumulated deficits and the holding in reserve of \$4,000,000 for any future deficit. Spending on hospitals in South Australia shows no improvement, while the overall figures for the Loan Estimates show an increase of 11 per cent. This means that expenditure on hospitals in South Australia this year will decline in relation to the overall increases in funds available.

Proposed Loan expenditure on hospitals is sufficient to meet current works. As the honourable member knows, expenditure on capital works for hospitals can vary substantially from year to year, depending on the progress of major works. There are at least five major projects currently under consideration, which will considerably increase expenditure on hospitals at a later stage. The programme is almost identical to the one prepared by the previous Government in its Loan programme. While it may appear, because of the fluid state of our finances this year,

that not enough money is to be spent this year on hospitals, we shall barely have enough next year and the following year to deal with the flow-on.

It must be remembered that there was a change of Government in May and my department and I had only about three weeks to settle in under the new Government before we were thrown into the fray with money Bills, the Loan Estimates and the Budget to deal with; so we had to build on the foundations laid by the previous Government; they had to be used. I should be pleased to know how we could have done otherwise. The former programme has been continued, and I challenge any honourable member to point out any promises that have not been honoured. While there may be no new buildings for hospitals and charitable organizations, it must be recognized that there was little or no forward planning in that direction.

The Hon. T. M. Casey: By the previous Government.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Yes. There are many projects concerned in this field, including the Whyalla Hospital. I have been astonished at and frightened by the costs of future capital works for these institutions. My departmental officers and I have done much work in that direction, and we have a plan in mind. I do not want to develop it any further for the moment, so please do not question me on it because, if honourable members do question me, I am afraid they will get no answers. My officers and I are prepared to take the matter back to Cabinet to see what we can do. Future priorities for hospitals and like institutions, large and small, must be established. What has worried me recently is that sooner or later somebody must decide on the order of priorities in view of the moneys available. Unless something is done, I am afraid that the cost of hospitals and medical services will soon put them beyond the reach of the ordinary citizen.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: You say that no forward planning had been done previously?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Not a great deal.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: There was quite a lot.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I beg to differ. It is fair to say that Modbury Hospital and Port Augusta Hospital were planned, but can the Leader name any other?

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: What about Flinders University?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: That has been there for three years or more. I do not want to get into an argument on this or misconstrue the position. They were planned, but nothing further was planned, except perhaps a few small hospitals in the country.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: What does the Government plan next after Flinders University?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Nothing was planned for the Children's Hospital, Minda Home, the Home for Incurables, or the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital. There was no definite plan for a community hospital in the metropolitan area.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: You are talking rubbish. Campbelltown is one.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: No, I am not. No decision has been made on that.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: Yes it has.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I cannot find it. We have to decide whether we can go on and pay for these things. Let us not quarrel about that.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: What about Ashford?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Ashford has gone on, and Burnside was continued. They were on the board when I was in office previously. Another matter raised by the Leader was as follows:

Tied in with this comment and closely associated with it is the need to develop rehabilitation services and provide sufficient accommodation to cater for these needs. It is obvious to me that considerable effort is needed in capital expenditure to provide adequately for the needs of the ageing and the geriatric and rehabilitation services.

The honourable member mentioned nursing home beds and geriatric accommodation. I assure him that the Government is well aware that the problem of the aged and chronically sick is both real and urgent. Plans to rebuild the Northfield Wards of the Royal Adelaide Hospital are in hand and negotiations are proceeding for the establishment of combined hospital nursing home complexes. Commonwealth legislation provides \$465,000 on a \$1 for \$1 basis for the construction of nursing home accommodation. The Government will take full advantage of this. Rehabilitation services through domiciliary care and the development of these services based on local hospitals are well in hand.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: Good forward planning.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Yes; that was one. Pilot schemes for the Queen Elizabeth and Port Lincoln Hospitals have been forwarded to the Commonwealth Government for approval. This is another field of care about which I am worried on behalf of the community, because I do not think we have even scratched the surface of this problem yet. I do not want to mention the names of the organizations, because of the increase in salary costs for both nurses and domestic staff, but the deficit this year for both those organizations is frightening; it is large. What can be done to solve the problem I do not know at the moment, but I assure the Leader and honourable members that we shall do everything in our power to find a solution. I hope that possibly the Commonwealth Government grants of \$2 and \$5 in various forms can be made available to help these people keep their organizations going because, if they become bankrupt and have to close their doors, what will happen in this State? I could not even hazard a guess. It would be disastrous, because these organizations are looking after many aged people and, in most cases, they have done an excellent job. Somehow or other it is the Government's responsibility to see that these organizations are kept going and that the care of the aged is not interrupted.

Regarding the Port Augusta laundry, about which the Leader queried the amount that has been allocated, I agree with what he said, namely, that a portion of the local laundry could be used for staff needs because laundry services are not provided at Port Augusta. This work is being carried out at Port Pirie and will continue to be done there. The provision of \$280,000 for work on the new Port Augusta gaol is sufficient for this year's costs. The Leader knows that a plan exists for the future development of prison services, and Port Lincoln gaol is part of that plan. Funds will be provided when the work is due to proceed; this also applies to pre-release hostels. When I was Chief Secretary in the last Labor Government a programme was prepared for the rebuilding or enlarging of the State's gaols. I assure the Leader and other honourable members that that same programme is being followed and that forward planning has not been interrupted.

The only part of the programme that I was not in favour of was the plan for the rehabilitation of the Adelaide gaol. However, I have inspected the gaol, and work there is con-

tinuing, so that even if my point of view was accepted by cabinet, the work could not be stopped. Not a great deal of money has been spent on improvements for the gaol's inmates and for the easier working of its warders. If at some time in the future my point of view is sustained and the Adelaide gaol is relocated—

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: Don't do that.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The money that has been spent on work there will not have been wasted, because we may have got the value out of it if what I have suggested is done. It may never be done, but that is the only part of the Prisons Department's forward planning with which I disagree. Planning is proceeding in accordance with the schedule that was in existence when the Leader was Chief Secretary.

The money spent at Port Augusta is sufficient for the work that can be done in this financial year. I hope that the work there will be hastened in the next financial year and completed on time. I think the one point on which the Leader and I agree is that if any place needs attention or rebuilding, it is the Port Augusta gaol. I thank honourable members for the attention they have given to the Bill. However, if I have not answered any honourable member's specific question, if he lets me have it in the form of another question I shall endeavour to obtain a reply.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION BILL

Read a third time and passed.

PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 16. Page 1387.)

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN (Northern): When the original Prohibition of Discrimination Bill was introduced in 1966 it received much attention from both Houses of Parliament. During the last Parliament an amending Bill, somewhat similar to the Bill now before the Council, was introduced. Because I know the circumstances that prompted the introduction of this Bill, I question the motives behind its introduction. The Hon. Mr. Whyte covered this matter very well. I have a very high regard for his opinion on this matter because he is probably better qualified than any other member in either House to speak on this

subject. He has had a lifetime of personal experience of the Aboriginal population of this State.

Those honourable members who have tried to find out the full details of the incident in 1969 at a Port Augusta hotel know very well that it was deliberately provoked in an attempt to create a disturbance. However, it was found that under the 1966 Act the hotel had not refused service. This Bill ensures that any group of people that wishes to create an incident will have the person running a hotel or boarding house at a grave disadvantage. We are dealing with a very human problem, and the introduction of this Bill must necessarily drive an even deeper wedge between the Aboriginal people and the rest of the population. I can see that, should this Bill become law, we shall have a repetition of the incident not only in Port Augusta but probably in many parts of the State, particularly in these days of demonstrations and unrest. Groups of people will deliberately set out to embarrass the proprietor of a hotel or boarding house and try to create an incident that could lead to prosecution.

The Hon. Mr. Whyte's suggestion that a conciliation commission (similar to that in England) be set up would be a more positive approach to the problem and would lead to better relations between Aborigines and the rest of the community. I can well appreciate the feelings of Aborigines who sometimes think they experience discrimination on the grounds of race and colour. However, I doubt whether this Bill is a practical solution to the problem. I hope that before it is passed the Hon. Mr. Whyte will be able to frame an amendment that will help to put his suggestion into practical effect. As much as I dislike the motives behind the introduction of this Bill I believe that, if people insist on putting the Ministers into office who have this viewpoint, ultimately they must reap the consequences. I therefore do not intend to oppose the Bill.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.22 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, September 22, at 2.15 p.m.