

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, November 29, 1973

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the following Bills:

Pyramid Sales,
Reynella Oval (Vesting),
Roseworthy Agricultural College,
Urban Land (Price Control).

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE (Chief Secretary): In order that the conference of the managers on the Workmen's Compensation Act Amendment Bill may proceed, I move:

That the sitting of the Council be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

Motion carried.

[Sitting suspended from 2.21 to 7.45 p.m.]

ROAD TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT BILL
(WEIGHTS)

At 7.45 p.m. the following recommendations of the conference were reported to the Council:

As to amendments Nos. 1 to 3:

That the Legislative Council do not further insist on its amendments.

As to amendment No. 4:

That the Legislative Council do not further insist on its amendment but make the following amendment in lieu thereof:

(7) In considering whether to grant exemptions that are to be effective while the exempted vehicles are carrying loads consisting of primary produce, the board shall subject to the requirements of road safety give due consideration to the need for the transfer of primary produce without undue delay from the point of production to the place at which it is to be stored or processed, or from which it is to be carried further by some other form of transportation.

and that the House of Assembly agree thereto.

Consideration in Committee.

The Hon. T. M. CASEY (Minister of Agriculture): I move:

That the recommendations of the conference be agreed to.

I sincerely believe that the board and the advisory committee, about which we were so concerned, should comprise competent people who have a knowledge of the problems that will arise. After due consideration, it was shown that it would be rather ridiculous to have unsuitable people on the board and on the committee; the members of those bodies would need to be professional people whose decisions would have to be of a professional standard. Consequently, it is recommended that the Council do not further insist on its amendments Nos. 1 to 3. In the case of amendment No. 4, the arguments used by this Council carried much weight in convincing the House of Assembly managers that the primary producers of this State were entitled to some exemptions in certain circumstances. For that reason an amendment has been recommended in lieu of amendment No. 4, and I believe that it will benefit the primary producers of this State.

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: I suggest to honourable members that they support the motion. I somewhat regret that we did not achieve all that some honourable members

required. With all due respect to the Minister of Agriculture, I point out that I do not believe it to be ridiculous for a nominee as suggested by this Chamber to be on the board and on the advisory committee. Since the Minister of Transport was willing to accept all the responsibility, there seemed little else we could do but to place this amount of trust in the Minister to cope with the situation. As regards amendment No. 4, I believe that we have made at least some impression and that we have at least asked the board to give some special consideration not to primary producers but to primary products. I stress that we never intended that there should be a special gain for one section of the community, but we pointed out clearly that it was necessary for primary products to receive special consideration at special times of the season.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I support the motion. I would not be honest if I said that I was completely satisfied with what happened. However, the conference was conducted in the traditional amicable and cordial manner, and new subclause (7) will assist to some degree. It spells out to the board the needs of primary industry which it must consider; to that extent the legislation has been improved. During a conversation the Minister indicated to me and to other honourable members that he was confident that the exemption clause would work and that he expected it to work satisfactorily; it is now strengthened by new subclause (7).

Motion carried.

Later:

The House of Assembly intimated that it had agreed to the recommendations of the conference.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

At 7.48 p.m. the following recommendations of the conference were reported to the Council:

As to amendment No. 1:

That the Legislative Council insist on its amendment but make the following additional amendments:

Clause 4, after paragraph (a) insert:

(b) by striking out from the definition of "injury" in subsection (1) the word "and" immediately following paragraph (a);

(ba) by inserting after the word "disease" in paragraph (b) of the definition of "injury" in subsection (1) the passage "not being a coronary heart disease";

(bb) by inserting in the definition of "injury" in subsection (1) after paragraph (b) the following word and paragraph—

and
(c) the aggravation, acceleration, exacerbation, deterioration or recurrence of any pre-existing coronary heart disease.

and that the House of Assembly agree thereto and make the following consequential amendment:

Insert new clause (4a) as follows:

(4a) Section 9 of the principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after subsection (4) the following subsection:

(4a) In the case of an injury that is an aggravation, acceleration, exacerbation, deterioration or recurrence of any pre-existing coronary heart disease it shall be a defence to a claim for compensation for the employer to prove that the employment did not contribute to the injury.

and that the House of Assembly agree thereto.

As to amendments Nos. 2, 8, 9 and 10:

That the House of Assembly do not further insist on its disagreement to the Legislative Council's amendments.

As to amendment No. 12:

That the Legislative Council insist on its amendment but make the following additional amendment thereto:

From proposed new section 63 strike out subsections (b) and (c) and insert:

(b) by way of special rates paid to the workman to compensate for disabilities under which work has been performed, and that the House of Assembly agree thereto.

As to amendments Nos. 5 and 11:

That the Legislative Council insist on its amendments and the House of Assembly do not further insist on its alternative amendments thereto.

That the Legislative Council make the following consequential amendment to the Bill:

Clause 29—Strike out proposed subsection (4a) proposed to be inserted and insert the following proposed subsection in lieu thereof:

(4a) Where a policy of insurance, at the time of issue, indemnified or indemnifies an employer for the full amount of his liability under this Act or the repealed Act, whether that policy of insurance was issued before, on or after the commencement of the Workmen's Compensation Act Amendment Act, 1973, that policy of insurance shall, in respect of any injury sustained during the period of the policy or any renewal thereof and notwithstanding any term, limitation or condition expressed therein, have, and shall be deemed always to have had, effect as if it were a policy of insurance indemnifying that employer for that liability under this Act, as from time to time in force, or as the case may be, under the repealed Act as it was from time to time in force.

and that the House of Assembly agree thereto.

Consideration in Committee.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD (Minister of Health): I move:

That the recommendations of the conference be agreed to. The conference began at 9 a.m. today and did not conclude until 5.30 p.m., which means that it met for a considerable time. I congratulate the managers of both Houses on the way in which they worked. It is a pity that sometimes we do not work as well in the Chamber as we do when conferring, when we get down to the basic issues. All managers were most helpful. They applied themselves diligently, and the Council managers upheld its amendments as best they could. Ultimately the conference came down with certain suggestions, and certain amendments arose from the general discussion that took place.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: I support the motion. It was, as the Minister has said, a very long conference and, in some respects, a most difficult one, and there were protracted discussions on some problems in connection with matters in dispute. I think that the results of the conference, from the point of view of the Council's wishes, are entirely satisfactory in all respects except one: the proposed amendment to amendment No. 12, whereby the Council decided not to insist on its amendment but to make a substantial amendment to it, namely, to make only certain limited deductions from the concept of average weekly earnings. In other words, the major matter that occupied the attention of the conference, namely, that overtime payments should not be taken into reckoning for the purpose of calculating average weekly earnings, could not be sustained.

It was obvious from the beginning that the Government had made a commitment, inasmuch as it had stated in its policy speech that it would introduce a provision to provide for normal pay while a person was on workmen's compensation. The expression "normal pay" could be open to various definitions; nevertheless, it was obvious that the Government was determined that overtime payments would be included in the average weekly earnings. I think it was obvious that the Government had so committed itself to its supporters and the unions that there was no way out.

We tried to point out to the Government, not only at the conference but also when debating the legislation in the Council, that this provision would have grave effects on the State's economic life. We were unable to sustain our

amendment to remove overtime payments from the calculation. The position is that the Government must now face up to all the consequences that must flow as a result of insisting on the original form of the definition. By having this provision in the legislation the Government may be kindling the flame that will destroy the economic viability of this State *vis-a-vis* the Eastern States.

I think we will find that this will be the final straw laid on the camel's back and that there will be very little additional investment by big industry in this State in the future. It may well be that, at the first sign of any recession, the effects of this legislation will indeed be grave to the State's economy. This was, I suppose, a matter of political philosophy or of approaching economic problems from two different sides. I think it is markedly characteristic of the two different approaches of the political Parties to very important economic considerations. Apart from that, in every other respect I think the amendments should be very satisfactory to the Council and I congratulate all members who took part in the conference on the way in which they set about resolving the difficulties. We can be very satisfied with what we have achieved.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I endorse the remarks of the Minister regarding the conference, and I must emphasize the gravity of the statements made by the Hon. Mr. Potter about the future economic strength and growth of secondary industry in South Australia. The proud boast of being a low-cost State that has been sustained (rightly or wrongly) over a great many years must surely cease on the proclamation of this Bill because of the colossal increased costs that will flow to industry in having to meet its obligations in workmen's compensation. It has been said that this could well increase costs to industry and costs of the finished product by between 3 per cent and 4 per cent.

It has been said, too, as the Hon. Mr. Potter said, that it will be a nail in the coffin of future industrial development in South Australia and we collectively, as members of this Council and as legislators, must appreciate the gravity of the problem that has now arisen. Although I must support the motion because of the result of the conference, I do so with regret because of the obvious consequences that will flow from it.

Motion carried.

Later:

The House of Assembly intimated that it had agreed to the recommendations of the conference.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS

The PRESIDENT laid on the table the following reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence:

Brighton-Christie Downs Railway (Duplication and Extension South of Beach Road).

Mines Department Building, Glenside,
Uley South Underground Water Basin.

QUESTIONS

MONARTO

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: Has the Chief Secretary a reply to my recent questions about Monarto?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: The Hon. Mr. Cameron asked two questions, and the answers are as follows:

1. Yes.

2. It is part of their planning assignment for Monarto. The planning consultants will evaluate the alternatives of retention or modification of these facilities. An appropriate urban design approach making use of the natural and physical characteristics of the site, especially the

characteristics of a main, could result in this facility being incorporated in its present position as a major visual element in the design of the new city.

PETRO-CHEMICAL PLANT

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: Has the Chief Secretary a reply to a question I asked some considerable time ago regarding the problem of pollution in the petro-chemical plant at Redcliffs?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: The question was asked on October 24, and the reply is as follows:

Although there are similar complexes to the one proposed for Redcliffs in other parts of the world, there are none employing exactly the same collection of processes and manufacturing exactly the same combination of chemicals. There are, therefore, variations in the type and quantities of wastes produced because of differences in the basic objectives between plants as well as enormous variations depending on the type of equipment chosen for a plant, particularly in relation to the treatment of discharges and wastes. Comparable data of wastes from overseas plants is therefore not readily available; however, estimates of the main discharges from the proposed complex are as follows:

Discharge to land: Filling to land will mainly consist of impurities associated with the salt supply. These would be about 220 tonnes a day of mixed calcium carbonates, magnesium hydroxides, calcium sulphates and some silicates.

Liquid discharges: With the proposals presently being considered, there will be three main liquid discharges (cooling water, waste brine, and waste water) the quantity of which is very dependent on the type of plant used. Typical figures for quantity of cooling water could be 60 000 m³ an hour, with a temperature rise of 6° to 8° Celsius. In respect of Redcliffs, such a temperature rise would be an absolute maximum. The cooling water will have been treated with chlorine to inhibit marine and algal growths, and may contain some free chlorine at discharge. Any discharge of cooling water into the gulf will be subject to stringent controls imposed by the environmental authorities.

About 45 m³ an hour of waste brine would be discharged from the chlorine cell feed, and this would contain some organic matter which would involve a biological oxygen demand. Waste waters would be collected from many points in the process. There would be about 110 m³ an hour of liquids containing oil, ethylene dichloride, sulphites; sulphates, carbonates, and various organic compounds. There could also be some heavy metals such as copper and titanium present at levels below 1 milligram a litre. These waste waters will be treated to remove oil and then detained in a bio-oxidation lagoon for about 20 days before discharge. The assessment of the adequacy of all proposals is proceeding, and, if they are believed inadequate, further treatment will be required before permission is given to discharge.

Gaseous discharges: There will be some small gaseous discharge, mainly nitrogen, from scrubbing towers, but the main flue gas discharge from the furnaces and the power plant would be about 2 800 000 cub. ft. (782 400 m³) an hour (at normal pressure) of a mixture of nitrogen, carbon dioxide and water vapour. Many other waste chemicals can be disposed of by recycling them in the processes involved. It should be stressed again that the quantities given are typical, but could vary enormously for the reasons already referred to. In relation to the proposed Redcliffs project, it must be pointed out that the technology employed will be of the most advanced type, particularly in regard to effluent treatment, and that the State Government is insisting on rigorous environmental controls.

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: Has the Chief Secretary a reply to my question of October 31 about the petro-chemical plant at Redcliffs?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: A causeway of the kind suggested by the honourable member would seem to be impracticable for several reasons, the most important probably being that (i) it could destroy the prawn fishing industry because the spawning grounds of this crustacean would be cut off from the gulf, and the whiting fishing

industry would also suffer; and (ii) it would prevent access of vessels by sea to Port Augusta and the Port Augusta power station. The estimated fresh water requirements for the complex will be from 4 000 000 gallons (18.18 Ml) to 10 000 000 gallons (45.46 Ml) a day. A preliminary study of the gulf waters has been carried out by the Fisheries Department and the petro-chemical consortium. Further studies of the gulf waters over the complete variations of conditions will be carried out. The consortium has undertaken to test the impact of the proposed effluents on the marine environment, and the plant will be designed in such a way as to create a minimum disturbance to the ecology of the gulf.

RAILWAY TRUCKS

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: On behalf of the Hon. Mr. Hill, I ask the Minister of Health whether he has a reply to the honourable member's question about railway trucks?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: The honourable member may recall that in September, 1969, some broad gauge waggons were fitted with reflectorized material on each side of the vehicle where the waggon's serial number, load-carrying capacity, and tare weight are shown. The waggons originally fitted included two that were capable of being bogie exchanged and, therefore, able to run on any system between Brisbane and Perth. The South Australian system received strong objections from the other State and Commonwealth railway systems and, as a result, the material was removed and two additional waggons of South Australia's broad gauge fleet, working on intra-system services only, were fitted with the reflective material during March, 1970.

The objections raised by other systems centred largely on the fact that a hazardous situation could be created by the use of the two vehicles referred to, which could lead road users to conclude that all railway vehicles had been so treated, which in fact was not the case. Additionally, it was felt by the other systems that the use of these waggons with others not fitted with reflective material could result in legal complications of liability in the event of an accident. Considerable difficulty was also foreseen by the other systems with regard to the problem of keeping the reflective material clean and in an effective condition.

Apart from one vehicle, the remaining five vehicles that were treated with the reflective material have all been inspected within the last six months and two of the vehicles were viewed under night conditions in April, 1972—that it, after 2½ years service, when, although the material was dirty, quite good reflectivity was obtained under car headlights. After the washing of the plates, the material showed up more brilliantly under car headlights. In June of this year, another vehicle was viewed at night, and the six waggons are all continuing in service on the broad gauge system. From these tests it can be said that the reflective material has satisfactorily withstood four years of service without replacement, although the makers guarantee only a four-year life. Although the plates do become extremely dirty, the reflectivity has been restored to satisfactory levels after cleaning.

In September, 1972, it was decided to place reflective material on 51 hopper-type waggons in use on the Port Lincoln narrow gauge division. All of these waggons have been so treated, and a current programme for providing an additional 17 such waggons will mean that shortly 68 vehicles will be treated with the reflective material and in service on the Port Lincoln division. The Minister of Transport has stated that it is significant that

to the best of his knowledge no comment has been received concerning the reflective material being used on these vehicles. On the basis of experiments so far, it could be said that wider use of the reflective plates is desirable. However, as mentioned before, the co-operation of all States will be necessary before they can be fitted to waggons capable of being run on other systems throughout Australia. With this in mind, my colleague proposes to list the matter for discussion at the next meeting of the Australian Transport Advisory Council?

FOOTBALL CLUB PREMISES

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: On behalf of the Hon. Mr. Hill, I ask the Minister of Health whether he has a reply to the honourable member's question about football club premises.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: Following the granting of approval for a loan to construct facilities at Unley Oval, ratepayers of the Corporation of the City of Unley approached my colleague alleging that, although they had lodged a petition praying that the council conduct a poll of ratepayers, such petition had been ruled invalid because it did not fulfil the requirements of the Local Government Act. As the Minister and I believe it is the duty of the town and district clerks to inform ratepayers of the manner in which they can exercise their democratic right, approval for the loan was withdrawn pending the result of an investigation that is to be made by officers of the Minister's department.

HOUSING TRUST

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: On behalf of the Hon. Mr. Hill, I ask the Chief Secretary whether he has a reply to the honourable member's question about the Housing Trust.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: Most houses built by the trust for rental are of the double unit or attached type, which was specifically designed as rental accommodation. It has never been the policy of the trust to dispose of these, and this policy is generally known to be understood by the trust tenants. The decision to build up a substantial stock of purely rental accommodation has proved to be of real value to South Australia. Housing Trust tenants now number 28.5 a thousand of population, compared with 14 and 11 in the case of the New South Wales and Victorian Housing Commissions, respectively. The possession of these tenancies gives the trust an opportunity to assist many social cases in its older houses as well as providing a good standard of accommodation for those in the lower income bracket.

The demand for rental housing in this State still remains at a high level, and the trust relies extensively on vacancies from its existing houses to assist in meeting this need. Since July 1, 1973, 3 700 families have applied for rental housing, and the trust has been able to place 1 632 families in rental houses. Of these, probably 1 340 moved into existing dwellings that had become vacant. As honourable members are probably well aware, the waiting time for rental accommodation is most considerable but, had the trust sold off these earlier houses, the waiting time would be even longer.

AIR POLLUTION

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: Has the Minister of Health a reply to my question about the Department of Public Health's pollution vehicles in Adelaide?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: The Public Health Department has not measured ambient lead from the mobile caravan at present being used to measure air

contaminants at various locations in Adelaide and suburban areas; however, lead-in-air measurements have been taken at various times by the department using other equipment, and a programme is currently operating using a high volume sampler, situated at West Terrace, whereby a 24-hour sample is taken every six days. This is the method of operation laid down by the United States Environmental Protection Agency; by using similar methods, it will be possible to compare results. So far, lead-in-air results in this programme have been 3.1, 3.3 and 2.7 micrograms a cubic metre. No standard is set by either the United States or the World Health Organization for ambient lead concentrations, but these levels are many times lower than the minimum that would pose any threat to health on continuous exposure.

Previous lead measurements by the Public Health Department were of short duration (two hours) but were taken at a number of sites. The results were:

Site	Lead-Micrograms a cubic metre	Vehicle Count
Beulah Road, Norwood	1.8	1 201
Unley Road	2.9	2 616
West Terrace	8.1	3 950
George Street, Thebarton	2.0	2 477
Rundle Street (Walsh Building)	7.2	2 206
King William Street	3.6	2 024
Rundle Street Savings Bank	5.4	4 291

These concentrations would be reduced greatly if sampling was continuous, since off-peak and night-time concentrations would be very low. It can be seen that the measured lead varies with traffic flow and the position of the measuring device. Lead-in-air reduces rapidly as the distance from the kerbside increases.

LAND PRICES

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: On behalf of the Hon. Mr. Hill, I ask whether the Chief Secretary has a reply to the honourable member's recent question about land prices.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: The trust advertised land for sale at Hillbank in May, 1973, in order to make land available to the private sector at a reasonable price. To this end, the Valuer-General's Department supplied a formal valuation of \$4 500 an acre (0.4 ha), at which figure the land was offered for sale.

CRIMINAL LAW (SEXUAL OFFENCES) AMENDMENT BILL

Third reading.

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON (Midland) moved:
That this Bill be now read a third time.

The Council divided on the third reading:

Ayes (8)—The Hons. D. H. L. Banfield, M. B. Cameron, B. A. Chatterton (teller), C. W. Creedon, A. F. Kneebone, F. J. Potter, A. J. Shard, and V. G. Springett.

Noes (7)—The Hons. J. C. Burdett, Jessie Cooper, M. B. Dawkins, R. C. DeGaris (teller), G. J. Gilfillan, Sir Arthur Rymill, and A. M. Whyte.

Pair—Aye—Hon. C. M. Hill. No—Hon. R. A. Geddes.

The PRESIDENT: I remind honourable members that Act No. 52 of 1973, which I reported having been proclaimed in the *Government Gazette* of November 22, 1973 (that is, the Constitution and Electoral Acts Amendment Act, 1973) provides at section 12 *inter alia*:

(3) Where a question arises with respect to the passing of the second or third reading of any Bill and in relation to that question the President, or person chosen as aforesaid, has not exercised his casting vote, the President, or person chosen as aforesaid, may indicate his concurrence or

non-concurrence in the passing of the second or third reading of that Bill.

Accordingly, I intend to exercise the power conferred on me by that section and now indicate to the Council that I do not concur in the passing of the third reading of this Bill. The numbers are now equal on both sides, and the Bill must therefore be allowed to lapse.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM BILL

The House of Assembly intimated that it had disagreed to the Legislative Council's alternative amendment.

Consideration in Committee.

The Hon. T. M. CASEY (Minister of Agriculture): I move:

That the Legislative Council do not insist on its alternative amendment.

Previously in Committee an amendment was moved to strike out "Minister" and insert "regulations". I asked the Committee on that occasion not to insist on its amendment, because the matters that would be referred to the board by the Minister would be of such a nature that it would be paltry in many cases that they be done by regulations. I have spoken to the Minister about this matter, and he is adamant that he will not accept the amendment in any circumstances. Although I appreciate the attitude that these matters should come before Parliament in the form of regulations, I ask the Committee not to insist on the amendment.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS (Leader of the Opposition): I regret that another place has taken such an attitude, because it could produce the same situation at the museum as we argued yesterday in relation to the Lottery and Gaming Act: it could result in Parliament having no knowledge of what the Museum Board was doing. The Hon. Mrs. Cooper's amendment is a valid one. The board has acted for a long time and has done an excellent job. In every other educational institution the move nowadays is towards autonomy, whereas in the case of the museum we are confronted with a Bill which is a means by which the Executive can assume virtual control over the board.

All that the Hon. Mrs. Cooper's amendment does is to allow the board to perform all the functions as laid down in the Act. It should not be dictated to by the Minister. We attempted to reach a compromise by saying, "Yes; the Minister can, by regulation, detail the functions that the board has to undertake over and above those laid down in the Bill." Surely that is a reasonable approach. If we do not stick to our amendment, everything else done in the Bill will be of little value. That is the crux of the situation. I refer to a similar happening yesterday with the Lottery and Gaming Act. All we are asking is that Parliament be informed of what is going on and what functions the Museum Board is to be told to carry out by the Executive. It is a reasonable request and I ask that the Council insist on its amendment.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: It was only yesterday that the Hon. Mr. Whyte spoke movingly and sincerely on the Community Welfare Act Amendment Bill dealing with the transfer of the control of Aborigines from South Australia to the Commonwealth. I am told that the Aboriginal artefacts in the museum in Adelaide are some of the finest in the world. With a capricious Minister or a capricious Government, what would there be to stop either from handing over the important Aboriginal artefacts to the control of the national museum in Canberra? Because of the trend towards centralism and because of the Commonwealth's wish to look after the Aborigines, regardless of the fine work that this State has done in that respect, I can visualize that happening. Therefore, I agree

with the Hon. Mr. DeGaris that this Council should not agree to the motion.

The Hon. JESSIE COOPER: I support what the Hon. Mr. DeGaris has said. The Council's amendment is not as I had originally planned, but it is reasonable. The Hon. Mr. DeGaris has shown resilience in his attitude to the Bill. The Government's refusal to accept the amendment has shown its inflexibility and stubbornness. I cannot see why the amendment we made last night should not be acceptable to the Government. I deplore this inflexible attitude of the Government.

The Committee divided on the motion:

Ayes (7)—The Hons. D. H. L. Banfield, M. B. Cameron, T. M. Casey (teller), B. A. Chatterton, C. W. Creedon, A. F. Kneebone, and A. J. Shard.

Noes (9)—The Hons. J. C. Burdett, Jessie Cooper, M. B. Dawkins, R. C. DeGaris (teller), R. A. Geddes, G. J. Gilfillan, Sir Arthur Rymill, V. G. Springett, and A. M. Whyte.

Majority of 2 for the Noes.

Motion thus negated.

ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE (Chief Secretary): I move:

That the Council at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, February 19, 1974, at 2.15 p.m.

Although this is not the end of the session, I do not want to let the occasion pass without saying how much I appreciate the way in which honourable members have worked during this part of the session, particularly during the last two or three weeks when we have been at top pressure. I think anyone could have been excused for getting a little uptight (to use a common expression) as a result of the work load, but that has not happened. Most honourable members have kept their sense of humour and, as a result of the co-operation of every honourable member, we have been able to get through our work without having one of the marathon night sittings that we used to have. I thank you, Mr. President, for your help to me, and I thank all the officers who have worked so well during this part of the session. It only remains for me to say that I wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year. I hope that during the short break we will have until February 19, 1974, everyone will enjoy good health, and I hope that all honourable members come back refreshed.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS (Leader of the Opposition): I support the motion and I endorse the Chief Secretary's remarks. I extend my congratulations to him, the Leader of the Government in the Council, on the way in which he has handled that role. On behalf of all members of the Opposition I extend the season's greetings to all honourable members and to the staff of Parliament.

The PRESIDENT: Although this is not the prorogation, I should like to add one comment. I wish to pay a tribute to the Chief Secretary and his Ministers. During this very busy part of the session we have considered 95 Bills and about 150 messages. The Chief Secretary, in his role as Leader of the Government in the Council, has conducted himself excellently, and I congratulate him. It has been a busy session for all honourable members, particularly the Hon. Mr. DeGaris. The standard of debate and the behaviour of all honourable members have been excellent. I wish to associate myself with the expressions of good wishes for the Christmas period and with the tribute paid to the staff.

Motion carried.

At 9.17 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, February 19, 1974, at 2.15 p.m.