

position at present, where the Chairman is a legal practitioner, as is one member of the board. However, I raise the possibility against which we wish to guard, namely, of the board's becoming too overloaded with lawyers. Also, if the legal practitioner who is to be the Deputy Chairman is also a member of the board, does that then provide additional problems with respect to a quorum? I know that the Bill reduces the quorum from four members to three members but, if the Deputy Chairman is already a member of the board, it places greater pressure on the quorum, the point being that, if the Deputy Chairman is not actually on the board, he can take the Chairman's position without affecting the number of other people who are available to make up the quorum. I ask the Minister to give his attention to those two matters.

Also, there is a provision that, where a voluntary surrender of a licence occurs or where a licensee dies before the expiration of his licence, there should be some mechanism for a discretionary refund of part of the licence fee when there is an unexpired period of the licence.

The Minister stated in his second reading explanation that this would occur where it seemed equitable. To whom does it have to seem equitable? In any event, I believe that this is merely regularising a practice that has already developed whereby people in this situation receive an *ex gratia* payment, being the return of a fee for the period that the licence was not of any effect. In the past, there have been no unjust situations in relation to these people, and this Bill merely assists in regularising an already existing practice. With those comments, I support the second reading.

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT (Minister of Consumer Affairs):** I thank the honourable member for his contribution and his support of the Bill. The Leader is correct in saying that this is a tidying-up operation and that the Government is conducting an examination of the legislation. At present, it is intended that this not be formal and that it be a departmental inquiry. Although all aspects will be dealt with, it is directed mainly to the need for something like an indemnity fund, which was introduced by the Liberal Party in 1974 but which was not implemented by the Labor Government, or else some sort of compulsory insurance scheme to do the same sort of thing.

**The Hon. C. J. Sumner:** We were looking at that.

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** Yes, but the Labor Government took a long time to do it. It is intended to avoid the kind of thing that has been happening, with builders going bankrupt or disappearing, and with consumers that the Labor Government always said it supported being left without any adequate security.

**The Hon. C. J. Sumner:** That is not an easy question.

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** It is not. An indemnity fund, such as that provided for in the Bill introduced by the Hon. Mr. Hill in 1974, is quite a good solution to it. It may be that a compulsory insurance scheme, as exists in Victoria and particularly in New South Wales, could be the answer to it. There is no question of the Government's wishing to stack the board with lawyers.

**The Hon. C. J. Sumner:** I didn't suggest that you wanted to do that; I thought that it might have been done inadvertently.

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** We do not want to do so, and it will not happen by inadvertence. I assure the Leader that the Master Builders Association and the Housing Industry Association would strangle us if we did. They have already spoken to us. Regarding a quorum, I do not see that this will impose any undue burden on the Deputy

Chairman if he is a member of the board, anyway. It is necessary that the Chairman of the board be a lawyer.

**The Hon. C. J. Sumner:** My point is that it would place pressure on the quorum.

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** There has been pressure on the quorum.

**The Hon. C. J. Sumner:** But it will cause problems.

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** It has caused problems, but I do not see how this will impose any increasing pressure on the board. That person must be present on the board at the time.

**The Hon. C. J. Sumner:** If the person is not on the board and is appointed from outside, you have more people to make up the quorum. If he is a person who is already on the board, that reduces the number of people available to make up the quorum. That is what I meant by putting greater pressure on the quorum, which has been a problem up to the present time.

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** It is our intention that the Deputy Chairman not be a person who is already on the board, which will relieve that pressure. In relation to the surrender of a licence and what is equitable, the answer is, I think, what is equitable to the board. The Leader suggested that this is simply regularising what has been a practice already; that is the case.

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

#### BOATING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

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

#### ABATTOIRS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

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

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT (Minister of Community Welfare):** I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

It should be read together with the Meat Hygiene Bill, 1980, which is designed to regulate all aspects of the hygiene and inspection of abattoirs within the State.

The principal Act, the Abattoirs Act, 1911-1973, empowers the establishment of local boards to either operate or supervise the operation of abattoirs within areas proclaimed under the Act. At present, only the Port Pirie Abattoirs Board owns and operates an abattoir. All the other abattoirs boards essentially supervise the inspection of meat and fix slaughtering fees.

This Bill, therefore, is designed to enable the Port Pirie Abattoirs Board to continue to operate the Port Pirie Abattoir and to remove from the principal Act all provisions that do not relate to the establishment and operation of abattoirs by abattoirs boards but relate to hygiene or the inspection of meat. I seek leave to have the explanation of the clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

#### Explanation of Clauses

Clause 1 is formal. Under this clause the principal Act, as amended by this measure, is to be referred to as the "Local Public Abattoirs Act". Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the measure. Clause 3 amends section 2 of the principal Act which sets out the headings to the Parts of the principal Act. Clause 4 amends section 3 of the

principal Act by deleting all definitions that do not relate to the establishment and operation of an abattoir by an abattoirs board. Clause 5 enacts a new section that provides for the disposition of the property of abattoirs boards that would be dissolved by virtue of the proposed repeal of Part IVA of the principal Act. All the remaining clauses of the Bill effect amendments or repeals that remove references or provisions that do not relate to the establishment of abattoirs boards or the establishment and operation of abattoirs by abattoirs boards.

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON** secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL

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

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT (Minister of Community Welfare):** I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

This short Bill should be read together with the Meat Hygiene Bill, 1980, which provides for the establishment of a licensing and inspection system for all abattoirs and slaughterhouses established within the State. Under this Bill all those provisions of the principal Act that presently relate to the hygiene and sanitation of abattoirs and slaughterhouses will be repealed and instead those matters will be regulated under the meat hygiene measure. I seek leave to have the explanation of the clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

#### Explanation of Clauses

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 provides that the measure is to come into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation. Clause 3 amends section 87 of the principal Act which regulates the construction and maintenance of cesspools by removing the reference in that section to slaughterhouses. Clause 4 repeals section 101 of the principal Act which regulates the keeping of swine or dogs at slaughterhouses. Clause 5 repeals sections 103 to 109 of the principal Act. These sections deal with the inspection of animals for slaughter and diseased animals. Clause 6 amends section 147 of the principal Act by removing those provisions empowering the making of regulations with respect to slaughtering and slaughterhouses. All these matters are to be dealt with under the Act presaged by the Meat Hygiene Bill, 1980.

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON** secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

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

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT (Minister of Community Welfare):** I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

This short Bill deals with matters consequential to enactment of the Meat Hygiene Bill, 1980. That Bill provides for the establishment of a licensing and inspection system for all abattoirs and slaughterhouses within the State. Accordingly, this Bill provides for the repeal of all those provisions of the Local Government Act, 1934-1979, which regulate the hygiene or provide for the licensing of abattoirs or slaughterhouses. I seek leave

to have the explanation of the clauses of the Bill inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

#### Explanation of Clauses

The clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 provides that the measure is to come into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation. Clause 3 amends the arrangement section of the principal Act by deleting the heading relating to slaughterhouses. Clause 4 repeals Part XXVII of the principal Act which relates to the licensing of slaughterhouses. Clause 5 amends section 667 of the principal Act by removing powers to make by-laws relating to slaughterhouses.

Clause 6 provides for the repeal of sections 871w, 871wa, 871wb, 871x and 871xa of the Local Government Act, 1934-1979, which regulate the operation of abattoirs at Whyalla. Clause 7 amends section 877 of the principal Act by removing powers of inspection by council inspectors in respect of the health and cleanliness of slaughterhouses, butcher shops and shambles. All these matters will be covered by the provisions of the proposed Meat Hygiene Act, 1980, or by the Health Act.

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON** secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MEAT CORPORATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

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

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT (Minister of Community Welfare):** I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

It deals with matters consequential to the enactment of the Meat Hygiene Bill 1980, which provides for the establishment of a licensing and inspection system for all abattoirs and slaughterhouses within the State. This Bill, therefore, removes from the principal Act, the South Australian Meat Corporation Act, 1936-1977, all the provisions that relate to meat hygiene and the inspection and licensing of abattoirs while leaving essentially untouched the provisions that provide for the establishment and operation of the corporation's abattoirs. The Bill also removes all controls under the principal Act on the entry of meat into the metropolitan area. I seek leave to have the explanation of the clauses of the Bill inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

#### Explanation of Clauses

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 provides that the measure is to come into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation. Clause 3 amends section 2 of the principal Act which sets out the arrangement of the Act by removing the reference to Part VII—Alteration of the Metropolitan Abattoirs Area which is to be repealed. Clause 4 amends the definition section, section 3 of the principal Act, by removing all definitions that do not relate to the establishment or operation of the corporation's abattoirs. All the remaining clauses effect amendments or repeals that remove references or provisions that do not relate to the establishment or operation of the corporation's abattoirs.