**CITRUS INDUSTRY ORGANIZATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1969**

**Legislative Council, 8 October 1969, page 2031**

Second reading

**The Hon. C. R. STORY (Minister of Agriculture):** I move:

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

Honourable members will recall that the Citrus Industry Organization Act Amendment Bill, 1967, was passed by this Council in late 1967 and it effected certain organizational changes in the Citrus Organization Committee of South Australia established under the principal Act. The 1967 amending Act enlarged the Citrus Organization Committee from seven members to eight members and also altered the mode of election of members to the committee. In addition a number of other necessary and desirable amendments were effected to the principal Act.

However, by an oversight the 1967 Act was not brought into force when it should have been. When this was brought to the attention of the present Government the Act was forthwith brought into force with effect from August 14, 1969. It seems, however, that a question may arise as to the legal effect of actions taken by the committee and others on the basis that the 1967 Act was in force during the period in which it was not, in law, in force. This short Bill validates such actions by deeming the 1967 Act to have come into force on the day that it was assented to (that is, November 16, 1967).

The reference in proposed new section 2a (2) (c) to January 25, 1968, is to give a valid and effectual starting point for the eight-member committee. That committee of that number was to have come into operation on a day to be declared by proclamation and in fact no such day was declared by proclamation. The day specified in the Bill was the day on which the new members were appointed by the Governor.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN (Central No. 1): I have had an opportunity of considering the effect of this Bill, so I will not ask for an adjournment of the debate.

The Hon. C. R. Story: You are terribly solicitous about this Bill, but you were not so keen on getting certain measures through last week.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: When things are different they are not the same.

The Hon. C. R. Story: Agreed.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: To oblige the Minister, I will deal with this Bill forthwith. In 1967 amending legislation was passed by this Council to amend section 9 of the principal Act by increasing the number of committee members from seven to eight and by altering the method of electing committee members.m Section 9(la) of the principal Act provides: On and after the prescribed day, the committee shall consist of eight members from time to time appointed under this Act by the Governor

The section then provides for the method of appointment of the eight members. I stress that the section states “on and after the prescribed day”. Somewhere along the line the proclamation of this section was overlooked for a while and it was not proclaimed until later. The committee has. acted in good faith and undoubtedly made decisions prior to the proclamation that was necessary. This Bill validates the committee’s actions in the interim period so that no argument can arise in the future as to whether the committee’s actions were illegal. I support the second reading.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP secured the adjournment of the debate.