METROPOLITAN AND EXPORT ABATTOIRS ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1964

House of Assembly, 29 September 1964, page 1106

Second reading

**The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Agriculture**) moved:

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution: That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Act, 1936- 1962, and for other purposes.

Motion carried.

Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House. Bill introduced and. read a first time.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I move:

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

Its object is to enable arrangements to be made with the Commonwealth for the transfer to the Commonwealth of meat inspectors employed by the Abattoirs Board and by the State Agriculture Department, such officers to continue to perform on behalf of the board and of the State respectively meat inspection functions under the State Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Act.

The necessity for the legislation arises from the fact that in connection with the export of meat from Australia, particularly to the United States of America, it is desirable that all inspections of meat for export should be made by officers of and directly under the control of the Commonwealth Government, which, of course, represents the whole of Australia in international affairs. Accordingly, the Commonwealth Government is proposing to enact legislation that will enable it to take over the present State and Abattoirs Board inspectors, who would thus become members of the Commonwealth Public Service and as such perform their functions in accordance with Commonwealth law. In particular, they would act as inspectors of meat for export purposes. However, as is obvious, not all South Australian meat is exported out of the country and it will still be necessary for meat inspections required for domestic purposes under the State Act to be carried out. The Commonwealth legislation and this Bill will enable arrangements to be made between the board and the Commonwealth for the taking over of the board’s inspectors and the performance by those inspectors of inspections on behalf of the board, the board paying to the Commonwealth an agreed contribution towards their remuneration in accordance with the amount of work done on the board’s behalf. Clause 4 so provides. Clause 3 makes a necessary amendment to the interpretation section of the principal Act by extending the definition of “inspectors” to include Commonwealth inspectors.

Clause 5 makes similar provisions in relation to meat inspectors in the employ of the Agriculture Department, the only difference being that the necessary arrangements in this connection will be between State and Commonwealth Governments since these officers are not employees of the Abattoirs Board. The Bill merely authorizes the necessary arrangements to be made, and discussions are now proceeding as to the terms and conditions of those arrangements. As I have said, the Commonwealth intends to enact complementary legislation on the subject.

Mr. JENNINGS secured the adjournment of the debate.