**PHYLLOXERA ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1969**

**Legislative Council, 13 February 1969, page 3590**

Second reading

**The Hon. C. R. STORY (Minister of Agriculture)** introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Phylloxera Act, 1963-1966. Read a first time.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I move:

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

This short Bill makes two amendments to the Phylloxera Act that have been recommended by the Phylloxera Board. The first amendment is made by clause 2 of the Bill, which re-enacts the definition of “disease” in section 5 of the Act. The new definition is scientifically more correct than the existing definition. The second amendment is made by clause 3, which amends section 38a of the principal Act to extend the board’s powers in relation to research. The principal purpose of the Phylloxera Act is to safeguard the viticultural industry against invasion by the root-feeding insect, viteus vitifoliae (Fitch).

In places where this pest exists, protection of vines is dependent on the use of disease resistant root stocks and, in order to be fully prepared for the possibility of an outbreak of the disease, it is essential that there should be in this State a reserve of root stock vine varieties that have been tested under South Australian conditions. Research into root stocks in 1948 was thwarted by the discovery of virus disease in introduced vines. It became obvious therefore that an assessment of virus infection is a prior requirement to root stock investigations and that a local virus screening service is required in South Australia to test necessary introductions of root stocks. Associated with this scheme is the improvement of grape varieties, which are called scions to differentiate them from root stock varieties. Improvement can be achieved either by selection of better performing clones from plantings within the State (vine selection) or by introducing new varieties, or clones of varieties, from other regions.

In order to avoid the risk of introducing pests and diseases, all vine introductions, both of root stock and scion varieties, must be made by a State authority. It is considered that the Phylloxera Board, acting in conjunction with the Agriculture Department, is the most appropriate authority to carry out this function. Under section 38a of the principal Act, the board is already given power to “conduct research into disease and problems connected with disease”. However, there has been some doubt whether at present the board’s powers extend to vine selection and incidental matters. Clause 3 brings all these functions within the board’s activities.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD secured the adjournment of the debate.