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ACT AMENDMENT

Y (Minister of Agr.

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available for appointment. The effect of that
amendment was that, when the Governor was
normally apprised of this situation, he would
be empowered to appoint six members from
the House of Assembly and one member from
the Legislative Council.

However, when the question arose of
extending the life of the committee past
December of this year, it was apparent that
the situation would need examination. Under
the previous system of extending the life of
the committee by merely extending the terms
of office of the members in office, there
would be no way of altering the composition
of the committee back to its representation of
five House of Assembly and two Legislative
Council members until a member from the
House of Assembly vacated his office, since
in the terms of the Act there is no provision
for such a member being required to vacate
his office to restore normal representation.
As the position now stands, there is a repre-
sentation of six Assembly members and one
Legislative Council member when the need
for that type of representation is long past.

Accordingly, in this Bill it is proposed
that (a) the life of the committee will be
extended for four years, that is, until Decem-
ber 31, 1973, any further extensions after
that time being within the province of future
Parliaments; (b) on December 31 of this year
all members in office will go out of office and
future members will be appointed for a two-
year term; and (c) whenever the Governor
is required to make an appointment to the
committee, an opportunity will be provided
for appropriate representation to be made by
the President of the Legislative Council in the
light of the composition of the parties in that
Chamber, which should ensure that after such
appointments the representation by Houses of
Parliament reflects the current situation.

I now consider the Bill in some detail.
Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 sets out a
formal expiry date for the measure. Clause
3 sets out in detail the mode of advising the
Governor of the availability of members of
the Legislative Council for appointment and
directs the exercise of the Governor's powers
of appointment in this regard.

Clause 4 provides for the vacation of offices
of members, for appointments for two-year
terms thereafter, and for the terms of mem-
bers appointed to fill casual vacancies.
Clauses 5 to 8 effect certain amendments
consequent on the adoption of a system of
decimal currency. Clause 9 provides that the
power to recommend acquisition of land in the

South-East may be exercised for the duration
of the life of the Act. Clauses 10 and 11
effect decimal currency amendments.

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

DOG FENCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second reading.

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Minister of Agri-
culture): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its object is to increase the subsidy payable
by the Government to the Dog Fence Board.
Section 31 of the principal Act provided for a
\$1 for \$1 subsidy for all rates levied by the
board up to a maximum of 20c a square mile
of ratable land. The proposed amendment
will remove this limitation and provide that
the subsidy payable will be in respect of all
rates levied, without limitation.

Owing to increasing costs, the Dog Fence
Board is finding difficulty in meeting its com-
mitments and in fact is showing a deficit on
its operations, and if the proposed amendment
is agreed to it will have the effect of restoring
the position to what it was before 1953, when
the limitation of the amount of the Govern-
ment's subsidy was provided for by way of a
proviso to section 31 of the principal Act
as it then stood. This proposed amendment
is provided for at clause 7. The remaining
clauses are formal or make appropriate amend-
ments consequential on the introduction of the
system of decimal currency.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN secured the
adjournment of the debate.

GAS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second reading.

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Minister of Agri-
culture): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its most urgent and main purpose is to make
some amendments to the Gas Act so as to
make provision to facilitate the reticulation of
natural gas to consumers in the metropolitan
area. The opportunity is also taken to make
some other necessary and desirable amend-
ments to the principal Act that I will explain
as I deal with the clauses of the Bill.

Clause 2 inserts the definition of "gas sup-
plier" in section 5 of the principal Act in its
proper alphabetical place. It also strikes out
the definitions of "President" and "standard
price", which have been obsolete since the
Prices Commissioner became the price-fixing
authority for gas. Clause 3 makes a formal
amendment to section 7 of the principal Act.