position at present, where the Chairman is a legal practitioner, is as 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 legal work. It is my understanding that the legal practitioner who is to be the Deputy Chairman is also a member of the board, does that then provide additional protection? I do not accept that the absence of the board reduces the quorum from four members to three members but, if the Deputy Chairman is also 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 make the position of Chairman critical. Perhaps we are overlooking the situation of the number of other people who are available to make up the quorum.

I submit to the Minister to give his attention to those two matters.

Also, there is a provision that, where a voluntary association does not have a license under that Act to operate before the expiration of his license, there should be some mechanism for a discretionary refund of part of the license fee when there is an unequipped period of the license.

The Minister stated in his second reading explanation that this would occur where it occurred to whom it does have to be seen equitable? In any event, I believe that this is merely regularising a practice that has already developed whereby people in this situation receive an extra refund 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 the support of the Bill. The Minister is correct in saying that this is a tidying-up operation and that the Government is conducting an examination of the permit system. It is intended that this act be formal and that it be a departmental inquiry. Although all associations of dairy and meat are 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 compulsory insurance scheme to do the same sort of thing.

The Hon. J. C. SUMMER: We were looking at that.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: Yes, but the Labor Government is not in a position to do it. We want to avoid the kind of thing that has been happening, with builders going bankrupt or bankrupting, and with companies that the Labor Government always said it supported being left without any adequate security.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: It is not. An indemnity fund, such as that provided for in the Bill introduced by the former Government 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. J. C. BURDETT: It is not an easy question.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: We do not want to do so, and it will not happen by inadvertence. I assure the Leader that this Bill will not be introduced and the Housing Industry Association would struggle as we did. They have already spoken to us. Regarding a questionnaire, 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 be a lawyer.

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

The Hon. J. C. SUMMER: There has been pressure on the quorum. The Hon. J. C. SUMMER: 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. SUMMER: 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 and is appointed to a committee, I see no problem to make up the quorum. That is what I mean by putting greater pressure on the quorum, which has been a problem up to this time.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: It is our intention that the Deputy Chairman be a lawyer 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.

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

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: A number of the Act by deleting all definitions that do not relate to the 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. Clause 6 is directed by virtue of the proposed repeal of Part IVA of the principal Act. All the remaining amendments of the Act by deletion of references or provisions that do not relate to the establishment of abattoirs boards or the establishment and conditions of licences.

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, 1981, which provides for the establishment of a licensing and inspection system for all abattoirs and slaughtering establishments 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 slaughtering establishments will be repealed and instead those matters will be regulated under the most hygiene measure. I seek leave to have the explanation of the clauses inserted in Hansard without my reading it.

Leaves 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 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 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. Clause 6 is directed by virtue of the proposed repeal of Part IVA of the principal Act. All the remaining amendments of the Act by deletion of references or provisions that do not relate to the establishment of abattoirs boards or the establishment and conditions of licences.

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.

This Bill deals with matters consequential to the enactment of the Meat Hygiene Bill 1981, which provides for the establishment of a licensing and inspection system for all abattoirs and slaughtering establishments within the State. Therefore, removes from the principal Act, the South Australian Meat Corporation Act, 1936-1977, all the provisions that relate to the hygiene and inspected of abattoirs and slaughtering establishments. This Bill also removes all controls under the principal Act on the entry of meat into interstate trade. It is intended to have the explanation of the clauses of the Bill inserted in Hansard without my reading it.

Leaves 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 headings to the parts of the principal Act. Clause 4 amends section 2 of the principal Act by deleting all definitions that do not relate to the 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. Clause 6 is directed by virtue of the proposed repeal of Part IVA of the principal Act. All the remaining amendments of the Act by deletion of references or provisions that do not relate to the establishment of abattoirs boards or the establishment and conditions of licences.

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