**FRUIT FLY (COMPENSATION) BILL 1968**

**Legislative Council, 20 August 1968, Page 682**

Second Reading

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now be read a second time.

First, I should like to thank honourable members for allowing me to take the rather unusual step of asking that this Bill be allowed to pass through its remaining stages without delay. I assure honourable members that this will not be my regular practice, but much compensation is involved under the provisions of this Bill and many people are affected.Naturally, we want to pay out this compensation as soon as possible, so I thank honourable members for their co-operation. This Bill is in similar form to the Bills passed in previous years, its object being to enable the payment of compensation for losses arising from the campaign for eradication of fruit fly.

A proclamation relating to the fruit fly out­break at Port Augusta was made in December last year under the Vine, Fruit and Vegetable Protection Act and, as honourable members know, the practice has been for compensation to be given for losses. arising by reason of any act of officers of the Agriculture Department within a proclaimed area.

Clause 2 accordingly provides for such compensation and compensation for loss aris­ing from the prohibition of removal of fruit from land in a proclaimed area. Clause 3 fixes the time limit for lodging claims at August 31. This date, fixed as a closing date for claims last year, proved satisfactory. It is expccted that about 200 claims (one commer­cial) will be made, and the cost of compensa­tion is estimated at about $3,000.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE (Central No. 1): I support the Bill and I do not desire to delay its passage. I want to commend the Agriculture Department for its work in con­trolling fruit fly throughout South Australia since, 1 think, 1947, when the first legislation on this matter was passed. Very few com­plaints have been made about actions by departmental .officers during this period. I myself experienced' the effects of fruit fly in Western Australia in the early 1930’s, when most people there abandoned the idea of growing fruit in their backyards because of the severe infestation. Because of the extent to which South Australians have co­operated with the Agriculture Department by promptly reporting infestations, the depart­ment has always been able to take immediate action. This is what the department desires to do. I realise that it sometimes seems that people, in reporting infestations, are acting to their own disadvantage, but such reports result from their unselfish attitude and their desire lo promote the welfare of the whole of South Australia.

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The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE (Central No. 1): I support the Bill and I do not desire to delay its passage. I want to commend the Agriculture Department for its work in controlling fruit fly throughout South Australia since, I think, 1947, when the first legislation on this matter was passed. Very few complaints have been made about actions by departmental officers during this period. I myself experienced the effects of fruit fly in Western Australia in the early 1930s, when most people there abandoned the idea of growing fruit in their backyards because of the severe infestation. Because of the extent to which South Australians have cooperated with the Agriculture Department by promptly reporting infestations, the department has always been able to take immediate action. This is what the department desires to do. I realise that it sometimes seems that people, in reporting infestations, are acting to their own disadvantage, but such reports result from their unselfish attitude and their desire to promote the welfare of the whole of South Australia.

The only complaint I have heard relates to delay that occurs in payment of compensation. I realise that it is impossible to reduce this delay to any degree in present circumstances but I do ask the Minister to consider this matter and see whether it is necessary to wait for Parliament to sit and pass legislation before compensation can be paid. I know of a commercial operator who has had to wait for compensation, and this must upset his business affairs. Consequently, I hope the Minister will see whether it is possible to introduce legislation that would eliminate this delay.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clause 1 passed.

Clause 2 “Compensation.”

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Minister of Agriculture): I will take up the point raised by the Hon. Mr. Kneebone. We desire to pay compensation as soon as we are able, but this is not always possible. We must set a closing date for claims to be made so that we ensure that all compensation claims have reached the department.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: Is this done by an advertisement?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Yes.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: What was the closing date?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: August 31. We must wait for a reasonable time to ensure that all claims have reached the department, which desires to pay compensation as early as possible. I sincerely hope that it will be unnecessary for me to worry about this matter next year.

The Hon. A. F. Kneebone: We all hope that.

Clause passed.

Clause 3 and title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.