

licence to ply for hire and consequently his business because of some action of his which breaks the law. That is the intent of this bill. You will notice that there has been no amendment which removes the value from licences. In this regard, I intend that licence values will be retained and, in this way, I will be honouring the spirit of the amendment made to the act some years ago.

In conclusion, I would like to mention briefly the content of the regulations. A number of matters will be covered by the regulations, none of which are inconsistent with the stated intentions. The matters covered are: a requirement for licensees to keep records of drivers and hours driven; a requirement that taxis be available for hire and be driven by the owner for a minimum period in each week and year - the period here is 5 days and 40 hours per week for 46 weeks of each year; and a requirement for number plates to be affixed and kept affixed to the vehicle unless the registrar approves of their transfers to another vehicle. The regulations also contain the pro forma of the standard leasing agreement. I commend the bill.

Debate adjourned.

MOTOR VEHICLES BILL (Serial 169)

Bill presented and read a first time.

Mr STEELE (Transport and Works): I move that the bill be now read a second time.

This bill, and one with identical provisions to amend the Traffic Act, simply excludes small-powered cycles from the requirements of the act for motor vehicles to be registered and insured and a driver rider licence issued. These small units are basically little different from ordinary bicycles and are capable of only marginally greater speeds under ideal circumstances than bicycles. It appears unreasonable that these machines should be subject to the same conditions of registration etc as are ordinary motor cycles. I commend the bill.

Debate adjourned.

ABSCONDING DEBTORS BILL (Serial 149)

Bill presented and read a first time.

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister): I move that the bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this bill is to introduce comprehensive new legislation dealing with persons who seek to abscond from the Northern Territory to defeat their creditors or who seek to transfer property out of the Territory for the same purpose. The present law in this regard is somewhat obscure. There was an old South Australian act which was repealed by the Supreme Court Ordinance Repeal Ordinance but that ordinance has a provision that states the repeal will not affect the continued operation of any principle or rule of law, established jurisdiction or rule of practice or procedure. There is, in addition a part in the Local Courts Ordinance dealing specifically with absconding debtors but the extent of the jurisdiction of the local court under that part is not clear. The matter was considered at some length by the Northern Territory Law Review Committee which recommended the repeal of the relevant part of the Local Courts