

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 30 September 1982

## ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B

**Chairman:**

Mr E. K. Russack

**Members:**

Mr E. S. Ashenden  
 The Hon. Peter Duncan  
 Mr G. F. Keneally  
 Mr J. Mathwin  
 Mr T. M. McRae  
 Mr J. K. G. Oswald  
 Mr W. A. Rodda  
 Mr G. T. Whitten

*The Committee met at 11 a.m.*

**The CHAIRMAN:** The minutes of yesterday's proceedings have been distributed and, if Committee members agree I will sign the minutes as being correct.

There are seven votes and as, at the change of most votes there will be a change of officers, it would be desirable to have about 10 minutes notice before the change so that those officers can come down. Does the Committee wish to come to any arrangement regarding the timing for each vote, or shall we take it as we move along?

**Mr KENEALLY:** The Opposition would find it very difficult to place a time limit on any of the votes. Obviously, we do not know what questions Government members are likely to ask, but we do know that on the first line, anyway, we would certainly be here until after lunch. The only thing that we could say with any degree of certainty is that the fishery lines would probably come on after dinner.

**The CHAIRMAN:** We can give the Chief Secretary an assurance that officers for the fishery lines will not be required until after dinner this evening.

The Committee has agreed to vote to the programme, which has a certain amount of flexibility, but it is at best a sort of direction that we can take. The procedure has been that a member is called and can ask three questions. If that member indicates that one more question will finish that line of questioning, then the Chair will consider it. The questioning will be from left to right and vice versa.

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Police, \$98 291 000

**Witness:**

The Hon. J. W. Olsen, Chief Secretary and Minister of Fisheries.

**Departmental Advisers:**

Mr D. Hunt, Acting Commissioner of Police, Police Department.

Mr D. Hughes, Acting Director, Administration and Finance, Police Department.

Mrs P. Stevens, Ministerial Assistant, Chief Secretary's Office.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I declare the proposed expenditure open for examination. This vote concerns pages 109 and 110 in Parliamentary Paper 9, Estimates of Payments and the yellow book, volume 2, book 13. Are there any questions?

**Mr KENEALLY:** Mr Chairman, on a point of clarification (I am sorry that I did not take this matter up with you

before the vote was called, and I hope that you do not regard it as a question), I asked one of the officers at the table what the votes were because the list that I have before me for Estimates Committee B, page 2, shows no vote for the Fire Brigade. Is that because the Fire Brigade is taken up under 'Chief Secretary, Miscellaneous', and that the funding generally is independent of Parliament?

**The CHAIRMAN:** First, that comment will not be taken as a question. Secondly, the vote for the Fire Brigade is in the vote 'Chief Secretary, Miscellaneous', at page 114 of the Estimates of Payments.

**Mr KENEALLY:** Before asking my questions, I would like to set the stage for the Opposition's questioning of the Police Department's lines. In the process of debating them, we will be critical of the Government, but I stress now, in case there is some misinterpretation, that, if we do criticise the Government, it is not to be regarded as criticism of the Police Department itself. If the Opposition wants to be critical of the police and if the occasion arises during questioning on the police lines and we need to be critical of the police, that criticism will be specific and the Committee and the Minister will be well aware of it.

I make the point that criticism of the Government on its policies and funding of the Police Department is not to be regarded as criticism of the police. I want to set the stage to indicate the origin of the Opposition's attitude towards the Government and its policies about police and crime in South Australia. I refer the Committee and the Minister to the period before the 1979 election when the then Government and its supporters were heavily criticised directly and indirectly in pre-election campaign material about their attitude towards crime in South Australia. The impression that was hoped to be gained from that advertising was that the Labor Party in South Australia—

**Mr OSWALD:** I rise on a point of order, Mr Chairman. I seek to clarify what the honourable member's comments have to do with our consideration of the 1982-83 Budget lines.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I cannot uphold the point of order. It has been the practice that a member can give a statement before asking questions, and the member for Stuart is now doing that.

**Mr KENEALLY:** That is indicative of my point: Government members are so sensitive about this issue because they know that my comments are factual.

*Mr MATHWIN interjecting:*

**Mr KENEALLY:** It is obvious that this is a sensitive issue. I hope that Government members will treat this matter in the same serious manner as the Opposition is trying to treat it. An attempt was made to paint members of the Labor Party as being uncaring in regard to crime in South Australia. We can all remember the stockinged faces and the statements that, 'If you want your wife and daughter to be able to walk free in the street, then you have to vote for the Liberal Party.' The election showed that people voted for the Liberal Party. In the Minister's pre-election policy he stated:

The aim of the Party is to protect the community, to prevent crime, to apprehend offenders and to bring them to justice. To achieve this aim we will ensure an appropriate level of staff resources. We will therefore expand the Police Force by a vigorous recruitment programme of young men and women, all of whom must meet high character, physical and education standards. We will provide for greater mobility. We will also provide resources to improve back-up services and ensure that they are maintained at the highest level. Where necessary, we will legislate to ensure that the police have power to fulfil their functions effectively.

Following a combination of the advertising material that the Minister's Party put to the people before the 1979 election, and as a result of the direct policy statements then put to the people about the police, it was not unreasonable

that the people of South Australia would expect greater resources to be directed towards the Police Department, especially based on the direct promises of the Liberal Party. As a result of those promises, people would have expected a dramatic turndown in the level of serious crime in South Australia.

We can recall not only the advertising but also the repeated attacks in the Parliament prior to 1979 by members of the then Opposition who are now Ministers on the Government benches. They attempted in those attacks to say that a Labor Government was directly responsible for the high level of crime in South Australia. It is clear that the Labor Party, now in Opposition, could have attempted to follow that same sort of political gambit. However, we do not believe that the South Australian community, the Police Department or the Parliament are well served by that sort of law and order politicking that tries to divide the community on an issue so fundamental as the protection of the community in South Australia.

The Opposition (particularly the member for Playford) has called on a number of occasions for a bipartisan attitude towards this serious matter of increasing crime in South Australia. We are particularly concerned that, although the pre-election advertising tried to paint the Party to which I belong as being uncaring and unable to do anything about the level of crime in this State, not one Liberal member of this Parliament, not one member of Cabinet, subsequent to 1979 publicly dissociated himself or herself from that advertising. Unless the Minister or his colleagues are prepared today to make a clear statement that they do not believe that that sort of advertising is relevant or appropriate and that the impression that that advertising sought to imply to the community was correct, Government members and the Minister still stand by the statement that the Labor Party is unable to cope with crime in South Australia and that the Liberal Party is the only Party that can do that.

Those remarks lead me to what I consider to be an important issue. I have had a good look at the Police Commissioner's Report for the year 1980-81. I would like members to note particularly that I am referring to the 1980-81 report, which as with the last two reports, is very comprehensive in the information it provides to the Parliament, for which I thank the Police Commissioner. However, one aspect that concerns me and my colleagues greatly is that in 1982, when we have the responsibility of questioning the Minister and, through him, the Commissioner of Police about certain Budget lines, the definitive information that is available to us is a Police Commissioner's Report giving information up until June 1981. So the figures that we have are already 12 months out of date.

I believe that when committees (and this is a Parliamentary Committee, not any ordinary committee) are inquiring into matters dealing with the police they should have before them information that is relevant to the year to which the Budget lines relate. We should in this case have a report to June 1982 so that the information we have is current. Not only are we concerned that the report is dated 30 June 1981, but also we notice that the report was presented to the Chief Secretary on 12 March 1982, that it was not tabled until 1 July 1982, and that it has not yet been printed. That is a list of what I could, kindly, describe as inadequate practices.

Why is it that until now (the Minister cannot be responsible, I expect, for whether it is printed after it is tabled on 1 June) the information that we have had provided to us is so far out of date, and will the Minister take any action at all (if he is able, but that is by the by) to ensure that more relevant information is presented to Committees for their discussion at Budget Estimates Committee debates?

The CHAIRMAN: Before calling on the honourable Chief Secretary, I point out that the Chair will extend the

same courtesy to the Minister if he cares to make a general statement prior to answering the question.

The Hon. J. W. Olsen: First, I would like to make one or two comments relative to the remarks by the honourable member. I was pleased to note that in the Budget debates the honourable member acknowledged that he was pleased to see figures for the Police Force in the Budget lines of the nature that they were, and that he was pleased to acknowledge that the Government had made a significant contribution—an increase in funding for the South Australian Police Department. Having said that, and having obtained support for our position and acknowledgement of our increase in funding for the Police Department, I want to touch on one or two other items. It ought to be recognised that the Government has endeavoured to assist the department in what I believe is an excellent record in crime prevention and detection.

The honourable member refers to the Police Department report that was tabled as at 30 June 1981 and requests that information be more up to date in future. I can give an assurance that the department is working hard to ensure that the Police Department report for the year ended 30 June 1982 will be available shortly so that there is not the time delay to which the honourable member has referred, and best endeavours have been made in that regard.

We ought to look also at the police population in this State as a ratio. It is interesting to note that, apart from the Northern Territory, South Australia has the best police population ratio of any State in Australia: we have one police officer for every 407 civilians. The honourable member would have to acknowledge, if he has referred to those Police Department reports, that over the period referred to there is an 11.2 per cent reduction in the number of offences recorded, dropping from 144 403 to 128 301.

The published figures show that violent offences decreased by 6.4 per cent in that period, property offences by 14.2 per cent, serious assaults by 3.1 per cent and robbery by 21.5 per cent. The number of murders in the 1980-81 period was the lowest since the 1972-73 period. There has been an increase in the number of rapes, but there are a number of reasons for that, one of which is the emphasis that has been given to the crime of rape to encourage people to come forward and report the offence.

Other reasons include efforts taken by the department to assist in rape prevention and detection and to bring to justice those people involved in such crimes. We have taken a firm stand against crime. Penalties have been substantially increased to provide deterrents, and the police are given support as far as possible in apprehending offenders. It is interesting to note that since 30 June 1978 the active police strength has increased by 362 persons. That information can be obtained from the Auditor-General's Report.

I also indicate the action taken by the Government to alter the intake programme to ensure that the active police strength is maintained over the next 12 months. That has involved the expenditure of large capital funds to take adults into the recruitment system; this means that we will have those people as 'active strength' police officers six months after intake versus the two years that it takes to train a cadet for active police duty. That is a deliberate course undertaken by the Government to ensure that we take into account retirements within the force and maintain an active police presence in this State.

I ought also to draw the Committee's attention to one or two other matters. I acknowledge that the honourable member has referred to the excellent capacity of the Police Force in this State to provide a service within South Australia that is unequalled in Australia. Certainly, that is acknowledged by the public when it has indicated support for the Police Force. The actual clear-up rate is an indication of

the performance of the force itself. In a number of areas this is evident: namely, homicide, rape, other serious assaults and offences against the person. There has been a marked increase in the percentage clear-up of offences committed. That indicates the capacity of the force. Incidentally, armed robbery for the year 1981 showed a 94.4 per cent clear-up rate. That further supports the figures to which I have referred as to the performance of the Police Force.

**Mr KENEALLY:** Two points come out of that reply. First, the Minister did not dissociate himself from the accusations that his Party and his colleagues have made about our attitude towards crime. That is significant. Secondly, I did not at any time say that this Government should be applauded because it has provided greater resources and manpower to the Police Department. I would be foolish to say so, because the evidence which has been presented to us does not support what the Minister has had to say. That is quite clear, from looking at the Police Commissioner's Report for 1981. Unfortunately, we do not have the figures for 1982 to see whether the trend is continuing either in crime or in manpower levels. However, I would suggest, from reading the Auditor-General's Report, that an indication is given that manpower levels have worsened and have not improved as the Minister would lead the Committee to believe. What does the Police Commissioner himself say in his report of 1981 in relation to manpower trends? Under the heading 'Manpower Trends' on page 11, the report states:

The graph appearing as Figure 2 in this report depicts the active police strength at 30 June 1981 and at the same date in each of the nine preceding years. The active strength does not, for the purpose of this illustration, include cadets, public servants, persons on extended leave without pay or absent from duty for any protracted period for other reasons.

In the 10 years since 1 July 1971, the active strength has increased by approximately 56 per cent; an average annual increase of around 5 per cent. This latter statistic is not biased by the choice of a base year as is the prior statistic.

The graph clearly shows that the percentage increase in manpower in recent years, and I refer in particular to the last two years (1970-80 and 1980-81) has been significantly lower than that experienced in earlier years.

As presaged in the introduction to my report for the financial year 1978-79 and again addressed in last year's report, the continued maintenance of the current 'no growth' policy in relation to manpower has serious implications for the future mobility and capacity of the Police Force to be an effective law enforcement agency.

This statement was made by the previous Commissioner of Police, Mr Draper, for whom we all have a great deal of respect. On page 14, Table 3, under 'Trend in radio taskings', the Commissioner states:

It is conceded that capacity to deal with a rising workload commitment may bear no direct correlation with manpower growth. However, if this capacity is not to be severely hampered through lack of adequate human resources, clearly, the continued imposition of unrealistic manpower levels in the area of law enforcement must be viewed with grave concern.

In the Minister's own papers, which he presented to Parliament for consideration, on page 4 of the yellow book under 'Objectives, issues and strategies', the Minister made a number of comments about manpower levels. Under 'Strategies' he states:

Constraints on increases in manpower have led to the need to develop alternative methods to provide efficient and effective policy services to the community.

Here again there is talk about constraints on increase. Under 'Issues' the Minister states:

The demands upon police services have again increased from last year.

Under 'Agency overview' on page 5 of the yellow book the Minister states:

The proposed total expenditure for 1982-83 financial year is \$114 891 000, which represents an increase of \$10 421 000 or 9.98 per cent on the 1981-82 financial year.

So, on the Minister's own figures he clearly states to the Parliament that there has been, in real terms, a reduction of funding within the Police Department. I will come later to the crime rates that the Minister canvassed in his statement to the Committee. Whilst everyone knows that statistics can be used in any way one likes, it is obvious, when the Police Commissioner's Report is studied, that there has been a dramatic difference in crime rates over the past two years from those that occurred previously.

The Minister makes the point that there has been a dramatic decrease in crime, and I will come to that. In the light of the Minister's policy prior to the election, his statement to the Committee today, and the very severe criticisms by the Police Commissioner in 1981 (and I repeat that we do not have the 1982 report), how can the Chief Secretary say that this Government has fulfilled its promise to the people of South Australia and has directed greater resources to the Police Department? The Minister mentioned the Auditor-General's Report and drew our attention to it. I point out that the Auditor-General's Report (page 135) says that the Police Department this year had a total strength of 3 847 which includes all people within the Police Department. Last year there was a total strength of 3 878, so there has been a reduction of 31 personnel within the Police Force.

As the Commissioner says, the increase in the past two years was the lowest for the past 10 years, and this year there has been a decrease in the number of people working in the Police Department. There should be a clarification of those important points.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** What the honourable member does not seem to understand is that, in maintaining an active strength in the Police Force, based on previous practice we had to estimate what the likely retirements, redundancies, etc., would be. The honourable member does not take into account that it takes two years to bring 'on stream' someone to soak up that redundancy and retirement rate.

Initially the cadet training programme took three years and that was reduced to two years. I have already referred to the fact that this year (because there was a shortfall, because there was a retirement rate that could not be predicted, and because of the two year lead-in time for recruits to come on as being active police officers) there was going to be a reduction.

We immediately took corrective action when that matter was brought to my attention by the Commissioner. That corrective action is that we have taken on a number of adult recruits who will take only six months to train, in lieu of two years by the normal cadet intake, so that the active police strength can be maintained and will be maintained at 30 June next. That particular programme has cost, as I understand it, close to \$300 000 and it involves an extra 60 adults coming into the programme.

The figures that the honourable member referred to in the Auditor-General's Report (if he adds that 60 for the corrective action already taken by the Government) will indicate that in fact there will be the maintenance of active police strength in this State at 30 June next.

**Mr KENEALLY:** The Minister, when he directs criticism at me for not being able to, as he puts it, interpret the figures correctly, is directly criticising the previous Commissioner of Police, whom I quoted extensively. The previous Commissioner of Police in his report to Parliament criticised the running down of manpower levels within the Police Department, saying that it had serious implications for crime control in South Australia in the future. That is contrary to what the Minister and his Party have been putting to the people of South Australia. It is also contrary to the figures in terms of resources and funds made available to the department.

The Minister has referred to that. There has been a reduction in real terms in funds made available to the department. None of this is a criticism of the department, which obviously does very well with the resources provided to it, but it could do better, one would expect, if the resources were greater. The Police Commissioner says that the unrealistic manpower levels applied to the Police Force are inhibiting its ability to be effective. Unrealistic manpower levels, as described by the previous Commissioner of Police are quite contrary to the statement made by the Liberal Party prior to the election. The Liberal Party said, 'We will also provide resources to improve back-up services and ensure that they are maintained at the highest level', and said that it would expand the Police Force by vigorous recruitment of young men and women.

The figures, even allowing for the point that the Minister made, and acknowledging that adult recruits come 'on stream' more quickly than do trainees, quoted in the Auditor-General's Report on page 135 under 'Personnel Statistics' indicate that in 1982 there were 20 fewer constables than there were in 1981, although there were 50 additional non-commissioned officers. One would assume that constables would be the active troops. The Auditor-General's Report shows that there has been an increase in the number of non-commissioned officers but a decrease in the number of constables.

It also shows that in 1979 there were 2 206 constables, in 1980 there were 2 211 constables, in 1981 there were 2 194 constables and in 1982 there were 2 174 constables. In terms of trainees, in 1978 there were 478, in 1979 there were 264, in 1980 there were 250, in 1981 there were 207 and in 1982 there were 159. I would like to refer to that matter later. Can the Minister assure Parliament that the resources and manpower that the South Australian Police Force has are sufficient for it to fulfil its important responsibilities?

If that is not the case, the Government stands condemned and should provide those resources as it promised. The Government so readily tried to make popular capital out of this issue, and any over-sensitivity that the Minister believes is being expressed by the Labor Party still continues because Opposition members are the people who were savaged by that vicious campaign. Those facts are correct. The Minister claims that there are 300 or 400 additional officers, according to the figures supplied by the Auditor-General, yet for 1979 to 1982 the total increase is of 57 personnel.

Administrative back-up staff to the active Police Force is essential for its efficient operation. With the importance of support staff and active officers underlined, no-one would be working in the department unless it was necessary, yet this year there has been a reduction of 31 in the total personnel of the force. How does that situation equate with providing greater resources and greater back-up support to facilitate better policing in South Australia?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I draw the honourable member's attention again to the police population ratio in South Australia. Apart from the Northern Territory, South Australia has the highest ratio of any State: we have one police officer for every 407 citizens. Further, we took corrective action months ago to redress any reduction because of retirement and other matters, and we have sought to increase the number of active officers by instituting a programme of adult intake at an added cost of about \$290 000 to bring those people on stream as soon as possible.

It was impossible to predict what the requirements would be. With the two-year lead time to which I have referred, the situation was brought to my attention soon after I became Minister, and the Government agreed to take action to maintain the active strength of the force by bringing 60 extra adults on stream. That indicates clearly the Government's intention to maintain the force and its presence in South Australia.

When looking at the Auditor-General's figures, one needs to examine the totals involved. The honourable member will see that in 1979-80 we had an increase of 73, an increase of three in the following year, and then a reduction in the last year. However, we have tried to maintain the active police strength. One must remember that that is not necessarily the case in a range of other departments and, obviously, the Government has singled out the Police Department to ensure that its strength is maintained at a level that is commensurate with the duties and responsibilities of the force in providing law enforcement to the State.

**Mr MATHWIN:** We have come to expect some attack from the Opposition in regard to matters dealt with by the Chief Secretary. Indeed, the Chief Secretary has been the Labor Party's favourite nit-picking exercise over the number of years that it has been in Opposition. I congratulate the Government on the action that it has taken.

**Mr McRAE:** You do not have much choice!

**Mr MATHWIN:** It is not a matter of choice: the facts are there. As the Opposition knows, the Chief Secretary has said that maximum penalties have been increased since the Government came to office. This has given the courts an opportunity to take advantage of those increased penalties, and whether or not they do so is no business of the Government: it cannot tell the courts how to operate. Whether the Opposition likes it or not, that is the situation. The member for Stuart knows that and, if he was honest, he would say so. The manpower in the force has increased by 362 persons, as the Committee has been told. Funding has also been increased.

As the member for Stuart twice referred to the Auditor-General's Report, perhaps he should refer again to page 133, where, in regard to payments, the Auditor-General states:

Payments by the department from Consolidated Account were \$92 872 000, an increase of \$9 887 000, or 12 per cent over the previous year.

Surely the member for Stuart has the common sense to work that out: there is an increase of \$9 887 000. Also, as members know, the force has been reorganised and the demands made on it have also increased.

Much of the 10 per cent increase in requests for police assistance relates to the increase in the domestic violence area, of which the Opposition would be aware and which involves heavy demands on the force. In my activities on another committee, I recently undertook an investigation during which it was acknowledged throughout Australia that the South Australian Police Force is the best in the Commonwealth. I know that both the member for Stuart and I agree on that point. Can the Minister say how many women are in the force?

*Members interjecting:*

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! Honourable members on my left must accept that members on my right gave them a good hearing when they asked questions, and I ask them to reciprocate.

**Mr MATHWIN:** What is the length of stay of women officers in the force?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I do not have the exact details available, although there are about 140 females in the force. I will supply the honourable member with that information. It is indicated that the entry and departure rates for females are quicker than those for males because of other factors that would be obvious to the honourable member. I will in due course supply figures as to the average period of employment and the number of females in the Police Force.

**Mr MATHWIN:** I agree with the opinion held by many people in this State that certain duties are not appropriate for policewomen.

**Mr KENEALLY:** For instance?

**Mr MATHWIN:** Instances involving armed attackers or terrorism, for instance. Do the policewomen go in the door first? I have seen these things happen, and the last thing I want to see (and I am sure the member for Stuart, who had experience in the military forces, would not want to see it, either) is a woman being pushed in the door first in such cases. I would be surprised if the member for Stuart wanted that to happen.

I have seen policewomen performing patrol and traffic duties, and they are used to advantage in a number of countries in Europe on traffic duties. They do that job well, and I suppose that they are an added attraction for the motorists in some circumstances. I suppose that women police are called on to deal with domestic matters. It would also be essential for them to be used in rape cases where they could perhaps get co-operation from the victim more easily than could a male police officer. What kinds of duties are allocated to policewomen, and are there any duties for which they are considered unsuitable?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I will ask the Acting Commissioner of Police to respond to that question.

**Mr Hunt:** There has been a recent inquiry into the employment of women in the Police Department. As a result of that inquiry, some recommendations have been made and judgments handed down. Following that, a notice of intention was given and an appeal lodged against such notice. I do not know whether it would be proper for me to say any more about that other than that historically, in the early days, women police were employed in a narrow field within the Police Department. They were employed mainly on matters involving social responsibilities concerning women and children.

In recent years the role of women police has been expanded. They were, at one stage, a small, plain clothes group. In recent years their numbers have been expanded and they have been transferred to uniform duties. Women have been gradually introduced into a mixed patrol situation with male officers. They are used increasingly as detectives in the C.I.B., Drug Squad and those sorts of areas. On that basis, I think I can say that over a number of years the role of women in the Police Force generally has been increased to take in all manner of duties.

**Mr MATHWIN:** Page 110 of the Estimates of Payments refers to the Central Fingerprint Bureau in Sydney and to South Australia's portion of the cost of that bureau, namely, \$50 000. Is this bureau involved with international police work for which the headquarters is in New South Wales, and do we contribute to the upkeep of this branch of what is, I suppose, a Commonwealth force?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** This bureau is operated by the New South Wales Police Force. Historically, this State has been a participant and a contributor to this bureau to offset the cost of providing that fingerprint service. As the honourable member indicated, the anticipated cost for that fingerprint bureau in 1982-83 is approximately \$50 000. Perhaps the Acting Commissioner has a further comment to make about this matter.

**Mr Hunt:** I think the member asked whether this was a Federal institution. It is not. It is one of what might be called a series of common police services. It is a central bureau of fingerprints to which all police forces in Australia have access and contribute. I am not sure how funding is split up, but I think it is apportioned on a population basis. The bureau is in danger of falling behind in its maintenance, and moves are being made to upgrade and computerise aspects of its work.

**Mr McRAE:** I have been associated with this Committee, and you, Sir, have been in the Chair, on four occasions. For the fourth time, I express my support of the remarks of my colleague the shadow Minister, the member for Stuart,

regarding the disgust of the Opposition at the tactics used by the present Government in 1979. I again, as my colleague did, challenge the Minister to have the courage to say that he either supported, and still does support, what was said in those disgusting advertisements in 1979 or that he does not.

The logic of that trash does not worry me in the slightest because there is no way on earth that one can associate with any political Party, except a corrupt one (and I believe that both political Parties and the police in this State are not corrupt), the rises and falls in the crime rate. So, the logic of the trash that appeared in the advertisements to which I have referred did not worry me at all. However, let me assure the Minister that as a person who has been on friendly terms with many police officers, of high and low rank, who has lectured to police officers on various occasions, and who is a friend of various police officers, that I felt smeared and hurt when that happened, and I still do. The Opposition wants to know where it stands in this matter. I point out that we could have resorted to the same sorts of gutter tactics as some supporters of the present Government did at that time, but we have carefully refrained from so doing, very much to our credit.

I throw out that challenge as a preliminary to a much more contemporaneous issue which involves the whole question of these yellow books and the information in them. I spent a considerable amount of time on behalf of the Opposition this year trying to work on the Budget papers as a whole, in order to determine the workings of these yellow books. It is becoming alarmingly clear (and I must say that this varies from department to department) that the yellow books can be treated as a non-Budget. In other words, we have not made any single advance apart from the fact that we now have a series of pious comments before us.

I will explain what I mean by those remarks. The lines, as we know, are merely guides, and I am not suggesting that this Government should be restricted any more than should any other Government by the strict dollars and cents that appear in those lines. However, the whole idea of programme and performance budgets is that by looking at the yellow books one should be able to deduce that certain programmes will be in force during the period next ensuing and that one can rely on them.

Two things have become clear in my examination and I would like the Chief Secretary to comment on this. It appears, first, that Treasury officials, and not the Minister's office, compile these books. That appeared in the case of the Health Commission yesterday. I would like the Minister to comment on that. That is very important because certain things appear. I refer, as my colleague did, to page 4, where a strategy is set out. This is all important. It states:

Constraints on increases in manpower have led to the need to develop alternative methods to provide efficient and effective policy services to the industry.

The Minister has just spoken to us almost in Nixonian language. Let me make quite clear that I am not suggesting that the Minister is a Nixon. Far from it, I accept his honesty, but it is the style; in other words, we have here a George Orwell non-say or non-think. If we accept the Minister's word (and I do), it appears that several months ago (I do not know whether before or after the yellow books were produced) that strategy, to use the Nixon word, became inoperative. It just no longer existed, so no matter how long the Opposition sat down with the yellow books very carefully doing its work, the whole thing was absolutely useless. We have found time and time again that the yellow books are an exercise in non-think, self-congratulation and anticipated self-defence.

Another element has entered into the whole exercise this morning, namely, the Minister's statement, 'In future, do not take any notice of the yellow books because they may become inoperative before you have even finished reading them.' The third part of this analysis is whether the decision to increase the manpower was made before or after the printing of the yellow books, and when the yellow books were produced by the Minister's department, if, indeed, they were produced by his department—and I have my doubt that they were. It is a very serious matter and I hope that the Minister is taking this seriously. The Opposition is tearing, and will continue to tear, the flesh from the bone until it gets to the bottom of all this, because we have for the past three years been led to believe that we can take these books seriously. After the events of this year, I have my very grave doubts. You have given me more than a fair go on that, Mr Chairman. I ask the Minister to reply to that.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I am pleased that the honourable member for Playford acknowledges that.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** In relation to the honourable member's first point, let me say that my task here today is to discuss and respond to questions on the 1982-83 Estimates. That is my principal task and the purpose for which these Committees were established. That is what I will do. What happened in 1978, 1979, or any other period is irrelevant to my responsibility at this table today.

Secondly, in relation to the yellow book it seems that one cannot win either way. The Government acted to redress some retirements from the force to maintain its active strength. It is to the Government's commendation that it took that action and was prepared to expend funds to achieve that objective. Because it was not written into the yellow book, the honourable member is now taking issue with that.

That is an unrealistic approach to take. The main thing that ought to be before this Committee (and, I believe, from the Opposition's point of view) is maintenance of strength. That is what we have done. That is action that has been taken and I do not believe that we deserve criticism for that. The honourable member went on to ask what was the date of collation and of printing.

**Mr McRAE:** And the production of the yellow books.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** That is so. He also asked when that lined up with the decision to increase the size of the Police Force. I cannot give the honourable member those specific dates now. I understand that those yellow books were collated a couple of months ago, but I cannot give you the exact date for that. I cannot give the honourable member the details of when they actually went through the Government Printer and the last day on which amendments could have been made to them, but I would be prepared to try to ascertain the dates on which the collation and the printing took place, and I would be pleased to supply those dates to the honourable member in due course.

**Mr McRAE:** The other question was whether the Treasury Department prepared this.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** The basis of the report was prepared by the Police Department—in consultation, of course.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Before calling on the member for Playford again, the Chair considers that the statement made by the member for Playford and the information sought of the Minister concerning the mechanics and the production of these documents should not be pursued any further. However, any relevant information concerning the Minister's portfolio is admissible.

**Mr McRAE:** I bow to your ruling, Sir. I simply repeat what I said: the Opposition will tear the flesh from the bones until it gets to the bottom of this. Having dealt with

a serious fiscal issue, I want to deal now with a very serious police issue that has concerned the whole nation, not just the State. I read to the Committee, the Minister and his advisers the statement made by the Minister of Industrial Affairs in the House of Assembly on 16 September 1982, exactly a fortnight ago. He had been dealing with the revelations of the McCabe-Lafranchi Report and the Costigan Report in relation to organised crime generally. To be fair, I will ask one question relating to unions and then make my third question the general one. That will be within the spirit of your ruling, Sir.

I will deal first with the question of the unions. Obviously, the Costigan Report had a two-fold thrust. First, it related to the activities of the ships painters and dockers in the State of Victoria and in other States and, secondly, it referred to the royal commission into the activities of the Builders Labourers Federation, mainly in the Eastern States but in other States as well. I will read what was said, as it is of critical importance to the community. I will deal first with the unions. The Minister said:

In the same vein, the Government is concerned at reports of violent measures being used by trade union officials as an acceptable means of exercising power and achieving their aims, no matter how dishonourable they may be. The evidence in respect of the Builders Labourers Federation and the ship painters and dockers, as revealed by recent royal commissions, speaks for itself. In volume 2 of the report of the Commissioner appointed to inquire into the activities of the Australian building construction employees and the Builders Labourers Federation, the Commissioner said:

... there have been many instances put before this inquiry of threatening and violent conduct engaged in by officials and members of the Builders Labourers Federation in pursuit of demands made upon employers. These instances appear to demonstrate the existence of a philosophy in the Federation that resort to mob violence as a justifiable weapon in the process of 'softening up' an employer.

The practices adopted by such organisations as the B.L.F. are certainly not typical of industrial associations operating in this country. It can be deduced from the Commissioner's report that in a considerable number of instances those practices are unacceptable to the officials of other unions. In particular, it was said that, 'it is not only wrong, but discrediting to the trade union movement as a whole, to engage in acts of wilful damage, violence and intimidation in support of industrial demands'.

The Minister then stated:

In view of the concern in the community generally about the spread of standover tactics and intimidation, and of the union movement in particular about the effect on the credibility and acceptance of trade unions, it has been decided to take appropriate action against officials of employer associations or trade unions that resort to such tactics as part of industrial relations.

The Minister then goes on to refer to other material that came from the commission. The second point made by the Minister was:

The evidence adduced in the B.L.F. and painters and dockers inquiries suggests that there may be some serious discrepancies between an association's rules and what happens in practice.

In particular the Minister refers to disquietening revelations about the financial affairs of trade unions. In those circumstances the Opposition wishes to make it perfectly clear that it desires that nothing be hidden about either trade unions or employers. I ask the Minister to have the Acting Police Commissioner reply so that the whole community can know what is going on one way or the other. First, are the ship painters and dockers engaged in criminal activities in this State (or any criminal activities for that matter) similar to those in Victoria? Secondly, is the Builders Labourers Federation in this State engaged in criminal activities of the type referred to in the Costigan Report. Is any union in this State, to the knowledge of the police, involved in criminal activities of the type referred to in the Costigan Report? Finally (to pick up the whole of the thrust of what I have said), quite apart from stand-over tactics, are organised crime activities of painters and dockers in South Melbourne



and other places (with which which I have dealt), to the knowledge of the police, engaged in by any union in this State or are the unions involved in violent activities?

**The CHAIRMAN:** Before calling on the Chief Secretary I point out that it is a question of a general nature. I suppose that one could accept the fact that they are questions. If certain incidents did occur it would fall into the responsibility of the Ministers portfolio. With any question asked, the Minister has the right to answer in the way in which he sees fit. The Chair has some doubt whether the question is fully relevant to the matters we are discussing today. However, I will give the opportunity to the Minister to answer.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I note that it is not directly related to any line, which is the purpose of the Budget Estimates Committees.

*Mr McRAE interjecting:*

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** Be that as it may, the honourable member would be fully aware, with his training, that it would be quite wrong for me or the Commissioner to detail, in a public forum, any aspects or any evidence assessed or collated to date along the lines to which he has referred until such time as any investigations have been completed or prosecutions initiated. I hope the honourable member is listening to what I am saying. In relation to the Costigan Report, it has been indicated that, whilst there is some activity in organised crime in this State, it is not to the extent to which other States in Australia have seen, particularly in regard to violent crime.

**Mr McRAE:** Are the unions involved? That is all I want to know.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! As I am sure the member for Playford is aware, if a question is asked the Minister has the right to answer that question as he sees fit. If the member for Playford wishes to then ask another question, he will have the opportunity. I did suggest that, even though three questions were allowed, if an additional question was needed to complete the line of investigation, that opportunity would be granted.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** Mr Costigan did not specifically claim that there was a component of an Australia-wide criminal ring in South Australia but did indicate that there were people in this State and other States who have, at some time, participated in an organisation from which they have derived profit. I refer to the Select Committee Report—and I do hope that the honourable member is listening to what I am trying to detail. It appears that he may not be interested.

**Mr McRAE:** I am listening all right.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! The Chief Secretary has the call.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I want to clearly answer the question in a responsible fashion. I hope that the honourable member will acknowledge that. The select committee that investigated the Casino Bill said that little evidence existed of organised crime in South Australia compared with other States and that perhaps S.P. bookmaking controlled by local people would be the largest component of organised crime in this State. Some evidence has been established of criminal activity in relation to drugs, involving the growing, distribution and selling of illicit drugs. Perhaps the best description is a group of people who have combined in handling these dealings.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** That would be an organisation.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** Organised crime is a group of people collated for the purposes—

**Mr KENEALLY:** You are not suggesting that unions are involved in that, are you?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I have not said that.

*Mr KENEALLY interjecting:*

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! The Chief Secretary is answering the question. The member for Stuart does not need to put words in the Minister's mouth.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** There may be interstate links with illegal bookmaking. As I understand it, the B.C.I. in this State had no positive evidence of that the last time I inquired. I want to say that organised crime is not widespread in South Australia. Both the Commissioner, in previous public comments, and the select committee indicated that there is evidence of it, but in the commonly accepted sense it is not to the degree of such things as the violence, prostitution, etc., that Costigan has revealed as being in evidence in other States of Australia.

**Mr McRAE:** There is no evidence at all, and you know it. Come clean and say it.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr OSWALD:** Let me hear what the Minister has to say, if you do not want to hear it.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I once again ask Committee members who have been heard in silence whether they would refrain from interjections and allow the Chief Secretary to answer the question. When the Chief Secretary has concluded, an opportunity will be given to other members to speak.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I am endeavouring to relate to the Committee the current situation as accurately as I can, on the information that is available to me as the Minister responsible for police services in this State. I am sure that the honourable member will acknowledge that the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence (which, incidentally, has increased its staff numbers) is always alert to organised crime and is investigating that matter. It does not report to me on a daily basis, nor would I require it and nor should I, because the Police Department should not be inhibited in its investigations and in the collation of information.

Costigan produced a number of reports, only one of which has been tabled in the Federal Parliament to my knowledge. I believe that other volumes have not been released, for quite clear reasons. Costigan will be continuing his investigations throughout Australia. He is currently, as I understand it, undertaking inquiries in Queensland. Whether or not Costigan eventually comes to South Australia is a matter for him and that commission to decide in due course.

I suggest that, because South Australia has not figured high on the priority list for investigations to this date, what I have said is valid: that the majority of evidence is in the Eastern States of Australia, and there have been no clearly established links of a positive nature in South Australia. I am pleased that that is the case and I hope that we can maintain that in South Australia. Mr Chairman, I think that that is about as clear and unequivocal a way in which I can answer the honourable member's question. He might talk about unions: I have talked about the community of South Australia, an integral part of which is unions.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The member for Playford will have one more call prior to my going to the other side.

**Mr McRAE:** Let me make this very clear: I am going to remain objective. I could get very angry about this, but I am not going to be fobbed off by the Minister, nor will the Opposition. The fact is that in 1979 his supporters, if not his Party, smeared me, along with other members of the Labor Party. The Minister now sits with the Acting Commissioner of Police and, in answer to a blunt question, he could quite simply say, 'To the best of my knowledge or to the best of the Police Department's knowledge there is no evidence of union activity or involvement in organised crime or violence.' In fact that is the truth. What the Minister is trying to do, I fear, is repeat the performance of 1979,

and, by the damning way he spoke, to smear the trade union movement and the Opposition again.

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr McRAE:** Members might do well to obey the Chair's rulings as I have done.

**Mr MATHWIN:** And ask three questions at a time?

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! The member for Playford has the call.

**Mr McRAE:** There is another undesirable situation being created: trade unions in this State linked to the Labor Party have been loyal to the policy which it set out, of not dividing the community and of supporting the police. In the time I was spokesman in that area and in the time my colleague (Mr Keneally) was spokesman, we have specifically given our total support to the Police Force and have refrained from any of the trash and muck-raking of 1979. With the Acting Commissioner of Police seated alongside the Minister and with that answer going into *Hansard*, there is no doubt in my mind that there will be a very large number of members of trade unions who will say that that was a deliberate smear. I ask the Minister to think very carefully about this. All he has to say is, 'To the best of the department's knowledge, there is no union involvement in organised crime or violence in this State.' If the Minister chooses not to say that, let the consequences be on his head, not on ours. He has that opportunity.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I think that I have answered the question—

**Mr McRAE:** You set out to smear us.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I point out to the honourable member that I have not set out to do any such thing, that in my comments to the Parliament and at this Budget Estimates Committee I have been quite clear and precise as to my area of responsibility and as to how I see things affecting the South Australian Police Force and organised crime. I have been quite clear and concise in my report to this Parliament through this Estimates Committee.

**Mr McRAE:** You could have cleared the unions and you did not.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr MATHWIN:** The honourable member thinks he is in court.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I ask again that members of the Committee listen in silence to the Minister.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I repeat that, in a public forum such as this, I am not about to detail specific evidence that has or has not been collated by the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence. It would be quite wrong and improper for me to do so and I do not intend to do so. I am not prejudiced in connection with any basis for further inquiries that might be proceeded with by the Police Department. I draw the attention of the honourable member to the fact that in Queensland there was an unfortunate fire prior to Mr Costigan going there to make inquiries.

**Mr McRAE:** Now we have come to it.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I said that it was an unfortunate fire.

**Mr McRAE:** You are suggesting that South Australian unions will do the same.

*Members interjecting:*

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! The Chief Secretary has the call.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I repeat: there is no substantive evidence of organised crime of a violent nature in South Australia available to me at this time.

**Mr McRAE:** In relation to unions?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I am talking about the South Australian community and I repeat what I said before:

unions are an integral part of the South Australian community, as is every citizen.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** If the honourable member had been listening—

**Mr McRAE:** You have just wasted half an hour deliberately.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr MATHWIN:** The honourable member hears only what he wants to hear.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

*Mr OSWALD interjecting:*

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** That is about as important as organised crime.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! The member for Elizabeth is out of order, as he is commenting while out of his seat.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** In regard to organised crime, I can only repeat what I have already said, and I do not think there is any necessity to repeat that.

*Members interjecting:*

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! It is not necessary to have a post-mortem over what is said. *Hansard* can be perused later.

**Mr OSWALD:** I refer to page 19 of the yellow document and the heading '1982-83 Specific Targets/Objectives—Significant Initiatives/Improvements/Achievements', which refers to the implementation of a computerised case law index system. What is a computerised case law index system? What are the manpower savings, running costs or operational manpower costs that will be accruing through the implementation of that system?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I will ask the Acting Commissioner to provide details.

**Mr Hunt:** At this stage it is a proposal to facilitate legal research and the prosecutorial services of the department. It is a fairly lengthy business, with the number of cases to which we have been making references, and it is simply a matter of facilitating the work of the prosecutorial staff. It is on a lower priority than some other initiatives, and it is still in the feasibility study stage.

**Mr OSWALD:** On the same page under the heading 'Issues/Trends' the following statement is made:

Although the resultant effect of the traffic infringement notice system has reduced the number of court appearances by members of the public, this reduction is likely to be offset by amendments to the Justices Act providing additional offences which can be determined summarily. Variations to the limit for small claims has resulted in greater involvement by prosecution services in pursuit of claims for the recovery of debts due to this department. The mandatory requirement for unrepresented defendants to be advised to seek legal representation has resulted in more defended actions being experienced and consequently a greater commitment for prosecutors.

The infringement notice system was supposed substantially to cut down on police and court time. Have the Justices Act changes really wiped out any savings that we hoped to achieve with the traffic infringement notice system?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** Yesterday, the Attorney-General specifically indicated to the Committee what savings in the Courts Department were effected by the system. I draw the honourable member's attention to the Attorney-General's response. The new scheme has made some savings in police manpower and resources. It is extremely difficult to quantify that on the basis that an officer who might have an extra hour or two per day for other duties would just proceed to do other taskings in the performance of his duties.

It is somewhat difficult to quantify what that has been. However, that has been rather substantive and as the new system becomes an integral part of our operations and settles down, I am sure the benefits will continue in terms of police being made available for other taskings and, more



particularly, for achieving a higher police presence in the community to act as a deterrent against crime in this State. That has been successful because of steps to which I referred earlier. Some police traffic record staff have been transferred to the warrant section in order to catch up on the backlog of unexecuted prosecutions. I will ask the Acting Commissioner to respond on one other aspect.

**Mr Hunt:** The honourable member referred to a change to the Justices Act. It has placed a greater burden on prosecutors because it has increased the number of offences that can now be classed as minor indictable offences to be heard before a court of summary jurisdiction, such as breaking offences to no more than \$2 000. These are the sorts of offences which are now heard, determined or processed by police prosecutors.

**Mr OSWALD:** Finally, on page 20 under the heading 'Recurrent Expenditure', the expenditure proposed in 1981-82 on the traffic infringement expiation system was \$276 000, the outcome was only \$94 000 and the sum proposed for 1982-83 is only \$52 000. Why was the outcome so much lower than was proposed?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** The system encompasses a number of programmes such as the determination and institution of criminal proceedings, adjudication and institution of those proceedings, the traffic infringement notice expiation system, administrative and clerical support services, general administration, clerical service, financial management service, professional and technical support services, and computer services. There is a component of each one of those encompassed in that, one of which is the traffic infringement notice system.

**Mr KENEALLY:** I refer to the question of manpower and the relevance of the yellow books that we have before us. The Minister in his reply to the member for Playford said there had been an increase in manpower levels in the Police Force and suggested that we ought to be aware of that. I would like to refer to the Minister's own document on page 4 of the yellow booklet headed 'Agency Overview' as well as to the Police Commissioner's report. I will give another quote which I have not used previously and give him back his own figures. At, page 4, under the heading 'Implication for Resources', the booklet states:

The increasing demand placed on police by today's society can be largely met by greater and improved utilisation of current resources and a greater community involvement in crime prevention and detection.

Systems and procedures need to be developed to meet the ever increasing demands on police personnel. Having achieved a maximum utilisation of resources, further improvement of police effectiveness will only be possible with greater budgetary allocation to enable expansion of resources to handle the increasing work load. This is necessary to meet the increasing expectations of the public.

That is the information that the Minister provided to Parliament. At page 14 of his report, the Police Commissioner said the following regarding radio taskings:

When one measures the average annual increase of patrol workload of 12.5 per cent over the 10-year period examined, against the average annual increase of active police personnel of around 5 per cent over the same period, the dangers associated with a zero growth manpower policy, which has restricted the annual growth rate in the last three years, 1978-79, 1979-80, 1980-81 to 0.4 per cent, 1.5 per cent and 0.15 per cent, respectively, can be readily appreciated.

The Commissioner's words were:

... the dangers associated with zero growth manpower policy ... can be readily appreciated.

On page 2 of the yellow book, under the heading 'Organisation Structure and Staffing', and the subheading 'Actual full-time equivalent staffing numbers', is a graph showing that on 30 June 1981, 3 885 persons were employed in the Police Department. On 30 June 1982 the figure was 3 846, and the proposed figure as at 30 June 1983 is 3 780, a

reduction of 66 persons. The number of major non-Public Service Act personnel reduced from 3 427 as at 30 June 1981 to 3 400 as at 30 June 1982, and proposed figure at 30 June 1983 is 3 323. All the figures that the Minister and his department have provided to the Parliament indicate a reduction in the number of active police officers in South Australia, yet he maintains that he has secret information or statistics of which we are not aware and which indicate that there has been an increase in the number of personnel.

The Minister cannot have it both ways. If an increase in resources is directed to the Police Department and there is an increase in the number of police officers employed in the Police Department, let us have evidence to substantiate that. The evidence given to us in the police report, the only report available, and in the statistical information provided by the department (and, one would expect, by Treasury), shows that what the Minister is telling this Committee is incorrect. I would like the Minister to come clean on these figures because they certainly contradict information that he has provided to the Committee. The Minister is either misleading the Committee or treating it with contempt by providing this inaccurate information.

We want to know from the Minister or the Acting Commissioner of Police whether or not the resources directed to the Police Department and the number employed in that department in South Australia are at their maximum. Is the Minister suggesting that additional resources would not provide a more effective policing agency in South Australia? If additional resources would provide a more effective policing agency, why is this Government not providing those additional resources, because that is what it promised quite categorically in 1979?

If one takes the Auditor-General's Report, it becomes obvious that the Minister was not privy to the increase in police personnel about which he has told us because that report, which was tabled in the Parliament this year clearly shows that there has been a reduction of personnel in the Police Department. Are we to believe that the measures that the Police Department uses are so effective that the force can do its work better with less personnel, or are we to believe (as we must believe from reading the information provided to us) that this Government, despite its claims, its boasting and its projecting itself as being the law and order Party (and all those other unsavoury political gimmicks that it goes on with), has reduced the effectiveness of the Police Force in South Australia to do the job with which it is charged?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** There are two sets of figures, and one ought not get them confused. One set of figures gives the overall or average Police Force strength. The other set gives active strength of the Police Force members undertaking police duties. The latter category excludes trainees or cadets, because they are not on active strength or police duties out servicing the community. The active strength of the South Australian Police Force has not fallen. That is partly because we have changed the recruitment policy from three years to two years and partly because we have decided to supplement the intake this year with 60 adults doing a 26-week training programme after which they will be able to be incorporated as members of the active Police Force on active duty in the community. By 30 June 1983 there will have been no reduction in the active strength of the South Australian Police Force. The Government committed an extra \$290 000 to ensure that that did not happen.

The policies that have been adopted in recruitment programmes have enabled this to happen. We should not confuse what we call the 'active strength' of the Police Force with the total package. By 'active', I mean police officers on duty. The total package includes Public Service, clerical staff and

trainees or recruits who are not on active duty and not performing police tasks within the community.

**Mr KENEALLY:** The Minister has not told the Committee whether he and his Government believe that the active police numbers in South Australia are adequate or whether more resources, if directed to that area, would provide a more effective policing agency. I remind the Minister that his Party promised the electorate that the back-up agencies for the active Police Force would be increased. That was a clear policy statement. He now advises us that active Police Force numbers are remaining constant but acknowledges that the back-up numbers for that active force have been reduced. The figures illustrating this clearly exist.

The Minister makes a face, but he has not explained why the total number of people within the Police Force has been reduced, or is proposed to be reduced, by another 66 persons in the 1982-83 financial year. Those are his figures, not mine. If the Minister is disgusted by my comments, let him be disgusted with himself and his officers because I am merely quoting back to him information that he has provided. If that information is inaccurate, let the Minister say so. I do not think it is relevant for him to assume that we are using bad figures. In terms of active police officers I quote to the Minister what his Commissioner said in his report, (which is the only one available to us), as follows:

The active strength does not, for the purposes of this illustration, include cadets, public servants, persons on extended leave without pay or absent from duty for any protracted period for other reasons.

I have already stated those facts to the Committee. It is, in my view, irrelevant for the Minister now to quote back to me information that I provided to him from his own Police Commissioner's Report. Despite that, the Police Commissioner says that there has been a reduction in resources available to the Police Department. He states that the resources available are not keeping up with existing demand. Even allowing for an active Police Force, and, even if we want to discriminate between certain sections of the Police Force, the cold hard facts are that this Government has reduced the number of people who are working in the South Australian Police Force, and that is quite contrary to the Government's pre-election policy.

Will the Minister tell the Committee whether he and his Government believe that the number of active police officers operating in South Australia is at its maximum appropriate level, or whether we would have a more efficient policing agency if more resources and personnel were directed towards the Police Department? I leave this with the Minister: he has been talking about what he calls the 'appropriate clear-up rate' and what a good job the South Australian Police Force does. I am not prepared to disagree that we have a good Police Force. However, I point out that page 40 of the Police Commissioner's Report, referring to clear-up rates for violent crime and property offences, states:

It can be seen that 54 per cent of violent offences and almost 22 per cent of property offences were cleared.

That means that 46 per cent of violent offences and 78 per cent of property offences were not cleared. In view of those statistics, can the Minister still maintain that his Party's promise to the electorate of South Australia has been fulfilled and that there is no reasonable argument that greater resources ought to be directed towards the Police Force so that crime in South Australia can be better addressed.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I repeat that South Australia has the best ratio of population to police of any State in Australia, with the exception of the Northern Territory. There are obvious reasons in relation to the Northern Territory, as I am sure the honourable member would be aware. Therefore, we in South Australia are better placed than any other State

in having active police officers undertaking law and order within our communities.

As soon as it was brought to my attention that, as a result of the lead-in times and replacement because of the recruiting programme involving two years training for cadets, there might have been an aberration in the maintenance of the active strength of the Police Force over the period, corrective action was taken immediately. To do that, we took in 60 adults in lieu of the cadets. They will be able to come on stream earlier and undertake active police duties within the community, maintaining the active strength of the Police Force. The Government was prepared to commit funds to achieve that objective. Those people will start to come on stream as active police officers towards the end of this year. They have been involved in that training programme for some time now.

So, we are better placed than any other State in Australia. We have taken positive and clear, decisive action to maintain active strength and have been prepared to commit funds to obtain that objective. At the completion of this present adult intake, we will revert to the cadet intake, which will be an increased intake, yet to be determined in numbers, under the new training plan that is to be implemented early in 1983.

**Mr KENEALLY:** I take it from the Minister's report that we are currently undermanned in the Police Force, because those 60 personnel who are required, as he says, to bring the active Police Force up to strength are not at the moment on duty. So, we are 60 active police officers down.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** No. The honourable member cannot take that conclusion from my remarks.

**Mr KENEALLY:** Is the Minister allowed to do that, Sir?

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Mathwin):** If the honourable member precedes his question with a question, it is very difficult for the Chair to—

**Mr KENEALLY:**—give me protection.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** The Chair will give any member from any side of the Committee the protection that he needs. As the member for Stuart is objecting to the Minister's answering that part of his interjection, which some might term as 'naughty', I ask the Minister to bear that in mind in future when he is answering a similar question.

**Mr KENEALLY:** I am certain that when I read that ruling tomorrow, Sir, I will know exactly what you have ruled. I was making the point that the Minister has advised the Committee that with the addition of 60 new adult recruits the active strength of the Police Department in South Australia will be up to numbers. I also make the point that he has not yet told the Committee that he and his Government consider that the police strength is appropriate, and the Minister's failure to do so suggests that he does not think so. I also point out that, whatever claims he is making in terms of numbers of the Police Force, if the Minister keeps telling us that it is the best in Australia (and, except for the Northern Territory, it is), that is the situation that he inherited. On page 2 of the covering letter to the Police Commissioner's 1980-81 report, the Commissioner said:

The quality of applicants presenting themselves for employment, both adult and cadet, is a matter of concern and notwithstanding the quantity of people making application the rejection rate, applying only base grade standards, is particularly high. The conclusion to be drawn from this situation is the need for an in-depth research project to analyse police personnel requirements, the people type and qualifications required and the incentives necessary to recruit people who will be able to develop to cover all specialist activities which are now fundamental to a modern police organisation.

One of the most complex problems facing a modern police organisation is the explosion of modern white collar crime,

corporate crime, computer crime, etc. There is obviously a need to provide police officers with those particular skills that allow them to cope with this sort of crime. It is obvious that the community, by and large, is more concerned about someone breaking into their houses or about physical damage being done to the persons themselves than they are about the enormous damage that is done to the community at large by the rip-offs of corporate and computer crimes. Although they are not so obvious in the long term in terms of depossessing people, white collar crime will have the greatest long-term effects.

I do not believe that South Australia is peculiar amongst all countries in the world in that we are not suffering from this form of crime. The Minister may like to ask the Acting Commissioner to give a report to the Committee on what action is being taken in relation to the problems of recruitment and what skills the Police Department is looking for in new recruits. What education has been provided to existing police officers to equip them with the skills necessary to combat what is fast becoming the most serious aspect of crime in our society?

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Mathwin):** Before asking the Chief Secretary to reply, I refer to the concern of the member for Stuart about my over-protection of him in relation to the last question. I point out that it has been the Chair's decision to be flexible in the conduct of the Committee.

*Mr KENEALLY interjecting:*

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** I ask the honourable member not to keep interjecting, as he will get longer answers from me. The Chair tries to be flexible to enable members on both sides of the House to get their explanation over in an endeavour to get a satisfactory explanation from the Minister. That is why I was flexible in the preamble to the question and protected the honourable member from the Minister. The Chair is flexible in this matter.

**Mr KENEALLY:** I was going to point out that you were in the fortunate position of not having to deal with the member for Glenelg, to whom I was referring when making my comments.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** Order! I call on the Chief Secretary to answer the question asked by the member for Stuart.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I do not accept the honourable member's statement about manpower levels in the Police Force. One other matter that the honourable member ought to be able to understand is that, with the various cadet courses being completed at different phases during the year, if we take the 12-month period month by month, the graph will fluctuate up and down as 40 cadets come on stream and as some people retire. So, there are fluctuations during the course of the year; that is why we pick the 30 June figure as being the common base on which to establish the active strength. The active strength of the South Australian Police Force has been maintained. I do not know how many times I must say it. In addition—

**Mr KENEALLY:** Do you think it is adequate?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** On a population base ratio we lead the rest of Australia with the number of police officers we have serving the community.

**Mr KENEALLY:** They are all factual statements.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** Statements of fact just happen to be—

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! The member for Stuart has asked his question, and the Minister is answering it. The question is now a matter of repetition. I ask the member for Stuart to take that into account in future questions.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I will heed your comment, Mr Chairman, that the question has been answered before, and that I do not therefore believe that it needs repeating. They

are statements of fact. Try as the honourable member will to distort the facts, he cannot. I will ask the Acting Commissioner whether he would like to comment in relation to specific training programmes within the department that we are undertaking specifically to upgrade certain sections of the Police Force to take account of changing emphasis for crime prevention, detection and subsequent prosecutions, not the least of which is the Crimes Commission, which is one aspect that is currently under consideration between the States and the Commonwealth.

**Mr Hunt:** I would like to address three aspects. First, I refer to initial recruitment. I have no prepared material on that with me today. As a general review, I could recount that, with the growing complexities of police training and the quality of courses that cadets and trainees have undergone in past years, we have had a high fall-out rate. We began to look seriously at the standard of education and recruitment policies that might have been contributing towards that fall-out rate. It was apparent that members could not cope with the gradual build-up in the course content.

So, on that basis, we raised the education standard for entry into the Police Department, and that had an immediate dramatic effect. Since then the education requirement has been lifted and psychological testing has been introduced. The battery of tests to which applicants are subjected has paid off, as we now have one of the lowest turnover rates in staff of any Police Department in Australia. We have a turnover rate of 1.9 per cent, which is the lowest of any Police Force in Australia. Our retention rate and the ability of our police officers and trainees to cope with the course content has shown dividends.

Contemporaneously with that, there has been a build-up in the number of in-service training courses that we now undertake. Previously our courses were either internal promotion courses or courses aimed at increasing vocational knowledge. Over the past 10 years, we have been engaged with educational authorities in creating what is known as the Police Study Certificate, conjoined with another tertiary course known as the Associate Diploma in Justice Administration. I believe that we are the only ones in Australia doing that, and that we are one of the few in the world that have got to this stage.

The overall fact is that we now have something like 452 members (or certainly around 450) either qualified or partially qualified in the range of subjects from the bottom end of the Police Study Certificate up to the Associate Diploma in Justice Administration or Business Administration.

*[Sitting suspended from 1 to 2 p.m.]*

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I advise that the required notices of the discharge and substitution of members has been given as follows: Mr Randall, the member for Henley Beach, will take the place of Mr Ashenden, the member for Todd.

**Mr Hunt:** The third point that I was going to mention is the current initiative concerning crime commissions. Discussions are still going on between police Ministers and police commissioners on a national basis and part of the consideration of any activity to combat organised crime in the future will be the consideration of deployment of persons with appropriate qualifications to combat that sort of crime. I am not able to give any further detail on that because the matter is still being considered.

**Mr RODDA:** This morning the Committee heard about law and order pre-1979 and mention was made of stocking headed people—hoons for want of a better word. After 1979 it is well known that that type of person was unloading whims and atrocities on the women of our society and strong action was taken to put that to rest. In about the middle of last year a high level conference took place and

those in attendance were the Premier, the Attorney-General, the Commissioner of Police and the heads of the women's advisory groups. Rape was causing great concern to the people of this State and city.

**Mr McRAE:** You are not blaming it on the previous Government, are you?

**Mr RODDA:** I am not blaming it on the previous Government, but I am addressing the situation that was evident in our society and was causing great alarm to the women of this city and State. Strong action was taken. The Commissioner changed patrols and a 24-hour watch was put on and that had an immediate effect. That was a positive move to put at rest these rapacious hoons emanating in our society and make the State a better place for women to live in. Undoubtedly, the Minister will refer this question to the Acting Commissioner.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I omitted earlier to say that the reason the Commissioner of Police is not with us today is that he is currently overseas at an Interpol conference and is therefore absent from the country. That is why the Acting Commissioner is with us today.

The honourable member in his question referred to several initiatives that have been taken to upgrade the rape inquiry unit in the Police Department. The staffing of that unit has increased from a proposed number of five in 1981-82 to seven persons presently. In addition, there is a 24-hour manning of that rape inquiry unit. The police internal procedures have been improved, particularly as they relate to line-up procedures. All of these initiatives have been undertaken to try and ease the obvious trauma that victims must go through and to encourage people to come forward so that this insidious crime can be stamped out or curtailed as best we possibly can.

The department, more particularly the Office of Crime Statistics in the Attorney-General's Department, is collating detailed material and information on the characteristics of offenders and victims so that we can better identify the areas where some of these problems regularly occur and in a preventive or deterrent form have this information available to advise people of precautions they can take to minimise risk that they might be placed under with this particular crime. I ask the Acting Commissioner to add a few remarks to mine.

**Mr Hunt:** The procedures in the Police Department generally for handling rape offences have been upgraded. With the 24-hour manning of the Rape Investigation Section all of the people who man or staff that section are subjected to a very intense course on the handling of the offence, the offenders and victims. Women police officers throughout country stations are also instructed in the manner of handling these types of offences. So, there is a more sympathetic approach to the victims of these sorts of crimes.

It is interesting to note that although the number of reported rape offences has steadily increased over a period of time, it is worth qualifying that by saying that there have been changes in the law which now embrace sexual assault on males as an offence of rape, and the introduction of oral and anal rape on other people. That is just by way of qualification: that the scope of the offence of rape has increased, plus the involvement of the training of the police and the Rape Crisis Centre and all that has resulted in a confidence by members of the public in investigations of these sorts and, of course, the number of reported rapes has increased.

**Mr RODDA:** I notice on page 5 of the yellow book under 'Agency Overview' it mentions the purchase of a replacement aircraft. I mention this because we are addressing the question of rape in this State and the aircraft is part and parcel of that. During my time in office of Minister, representations from the Country Women's Association were made express-

ing great concern about this matter. Whilst what the department was doing seemed to have a thrust in the city, people in the country were worried as rapes were occurring there. The Minister made reference a moment ago to people coming forward. There has been great reticence on the part of victims to come forward, but this has been addressed and a great advance has been made with women police and people being available to deal with the victims.

I notice that the new aircraft has been further developed and that a service is available to any part of the State, 24 hours a day, and that specialised people are able to give a service to major country towns or country areas of the State. I see the replacement aircraft as a step towards that. My question relates to the service provided to major towns and country areas by the Rape Crisis Unit.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** It is correct that those specialised services of the department, whether it be the Crime or Rape Inquiry Unit, will as the need arises travel to various country areas. The honourable member referred to the aircraft used for more distant centres to ensure that those communities obtain the best level of service, taking into account their isolation. We decided earlier to replace one of the aircraft to ensure that we are able to supply a service to country people, and we spent about \$260 000 in that area. The final figure in the wash was \$240 000 based on the tender call. It was spent on the aircraft to ensure that the level of service for country people was the best that we could give in relation to the service provided in the metropolitan area.

**Mr KENEALLY:** My questions relate to the level of crime in South Australia. This matter has occupied the time of the Committee, and the record should be put straight. In his report covering 1980-81 the Commissioner of Police made a comment worth repeating. I emphasise to the Chief Secretary and the Acting Commissioner that the discussions in this Committee are affected because we do not have the current figures and we are still talking about figures that are 12 months out of date. If the Chief Secretary has current figures on the types of crime that have been catalogued in the Commissioner's Report, I would appreciate it if he could give them to us. In his letter to the Chief Secretary on 12 March 1982 the Police Commissioner stated:

It is pleasing to report on this occasion that there has been some reduction in the serious crime levels for this year by comparison to 1979-80. While this is encouraging, it should not be accepted with complacency when one considers the current levels with the average annual level of serious crime groups over the past 10 years.

He was saying that the average crime levels of the past two years in almost all crime categories is much higher than any of the last 10 years, that crime levels in South Australia, although there has been a decrease this year of 15 per cent from the peak level of 1980, are still much higher than the average over the past 10 years.

We must acknowledge that, in accordance with the Police Commissioner's Report, crime levels in South Australia are now higher than they have ever been as an average. They peaked in 1980. We do not know what the evidence for 1982 would show—it may be either higher or lower—because this Committee does not have access to that information. There was a peak in 1980 and a slight fall from that peak in 1981. The highest ever level of murders in South Australia occurred in the year ended June 1980, which was under this Government's administration (if I need to make that point). In 1981 it dropped to the lowest level since 1973, but we do not know what the figures are for 1982. However, we know that the types of crimes committed in South Australia over the past 12 months have involved many bizarre murders, and I am sure all members much regret that. The number of rapes and attempted rapes has increased by 26 per cent.

The Acting Commissioner has given some reasons for that but, nevertheless, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of reported rapes in South Australia. The adjustment that the Minister and his colleagues are talking about is that the law made it much easier for women and men to report rapes, but that law was made during the period of the Dunstan Government. It is not something that has happened within the past couple of years, so the increase back in 1976-77 could have resulted in the change in legislation which made it much easier for people to report the crime of rape than it was previously. It had that effect, so the increase in rape subsequent to that, whilst it has an element of easier reporting, could be compared with a time when reporting itself was easier. Therefore, the increase is relevant.

Serious assaults in 1980 peaked, and in 1981 the number was slightly less. We do not know the position in 1982, but 1980 was higher than 1979, which again was higher than 1978. There has been a dramatic drop in the robbery rate per 100 000. Again, that peaked in 1980 and was less in 1981. The 1981 figure is higher than it has ever been before, and the figures go on.

In regard to breaking and entering, the rate per 100 000 peaked in 1980 and fell in 1981, but the 1981 figure is higher than it has ever been before, excluding 1980. Total larceny figures peaked in 1980 and the figures in 1981 are a reduction, but are higher than ever before.

In the case of false pretences, there must have been a real splurge in the years 1972-74, because that crime was more prevalent than that it is now and there has been a reduction in those figures. The figure in regard to motor vehicle thefts has been consistent and peaked in 1970 and gradually fell in 1980-81. Figures for drug offenders are almost twice as high in 1980 as in 1979, and the figure for 1981 is consistent with the 1980 figure. It has been claimed that there has been a reduction in 1981 as against 1980. Nevertheless, in his letter to the Chief Secretary the Commissioner made this relevant comment:

While this is encouraging it should not be accepted with complacency.

There is no value in the Government's saying that things are improving because there has been a reduction in the crime rate in South Australia comparing 1981 with 1980 because, although that is welcome, 1981 is still higher than any other year that is reported in the Commissioner's Report, particularly from 1972 through the following years. There is still a serious incidence of crime in South Australia.

This is the second worse year of serious crime: the worst year ended in 1980. When this Government talks about levels of crime it ought to acknowledge on the facts presented to it (and now to Parliament by the Commissioner of Police) that the year ended 1980, during which this Government was in office for nine months, and 1981, have been the worst years in the recent recorded statistical crime history of South Australia. There is no room for complacency. The Minister ought to acknowledge that we have a serious problem which needs to be addressed and to do that competently we need the proper resources to do so.

In view of the Minister's Party's pre-election statements and in view of the statistics that I have just advanced, is the Minister saying that there is a dramatic improvement in the crime rate in South Australia to such an extent that we should be willing to acknowledge that some reduction in resources is justified?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I have indicated previously to the Committee that, in fact, the last reports tabled indicated that of the total of offences reported there has been a reduction of 11.2 per cent, from 144 041 offences to 128 301. The plain fact is that there was an 11.2 per cent reduction in the total number of offences. I do not have the final

figures up to 30 June this year. All I have available is graph form figures indicating trends during the course of the year. I am advised that the final collation of total number of offences in various categories, their clear-up rates, and so on, has not yet been concluded. So, I am not in possession of figures as at 30 June 1982.

I also indicate that the department is making every effort to try to bring forward the annual report so that it is as close to the end of the year as is possible. Certainly, last year there was quite a lapse between the end of the year and when the report became available. That is being addressed. I think in looking at offences we should also look at clear-up rates, which I think speak volumes for the Police Force in this State. In homicide we have something like a 95.7 per cent clear-up rate, in rape something like 63.9 per cent, and serious assault 67.8 per cent. If one compares that with a previous period, going back, for example, to the early 1970s, the 10-year period to which the honourable member referred earlier, it was 91.4 per cent for homicide, 49.5 per cent for rape and 58.8 per cent for serious assault. So, it can be seen in those areas of serious crime against the person that quite obviously the department, internally, is allocated resources to obtain a higher success rate in cleaning up those offences. The department is to be commended for that result, or performance.

**Mr KENEALLY:** Any effort to assist the Police Force in its task of apprehending criminals and bringing offenders to justice would obviously receive the total support of the Opposition. We acknowledge that the competence of the Police Force in South Australia is always very high, and has probably improved over the past 12 months. We do not argue about that at all. Whatever the Minister says about Police Force competence, by and large, would have Opposition support. It is true, as the Minister says, that certain serious crimes have a relatively high clear-up rate. I do not know whether 61.4 per cent clear-up rate for rape, or 65.7 per cent for serious assault, or 31.7 per cent for robbery are good figures. I am not too sure that I would accept the Minister's comments that they are. I would be interested to hear what his professional officer has to say about that. Other figures are breaking and entering 14.5 per cent clear-up rate; larceny 22.4 per cent; motor vehicle theft 19 per cent; false pretences, fraud, and misappropriation 65 per cent clear-up rate. If the Acting Commissioner tells us that those figures are better than what is achieved elsewhere, that is indeed heartening. But, the total clear-up rate, as I mentioned earlier, was 54 per cent of violent offences and 22 per cent of property offences.

To the lay person, frankly, they seem to be very low figures. A report presented to Parliament quotes those figures. I think that perhaps the Minister or the Acting Commissioner could well advise the Committee and the Parliament of the difficulties the department has in obtaining higher clear-up rates. There may be some information that this Committee ought to have available to it that explains why the clear-up rate, on the face of it, appears to be low. Frankly, the average citizen in South Australia, by and large, believes that, overwhelmingly, crimes are cleared up.

The facts that the Police Department provide to us show that that is not the case. I am not saying that that is a reflection on the Police Department in South Australia. If it is better than any other Police Department, as I suggest it is, we should be pleased about that. But, is the best Police Department in Australia quite good enough in terms of apprehending and having criminals brought to justice, because the clear-up rate still seems, in some cases, very low and in serious cases, fairly low?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** The only way to measure that is to obtain comparisons with interstate Police Force clear-up rates.

**Mr KENEALLY:** If I might, Mr Chairman—

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! The honourable member wishes to make clarification.

**Mr KENEALLY:** For the benefit of the Minister, I have already indicated that I believe clear-up rates in South Australia are likely to be better than the clear-up rates for any other Police Force in Australia. All that shows is that we have the best Police Force in Australia. It does not say that that rate is necessarily satisfactory, either to the Police Department or to the community.

**Mr MATHWIN:** It would never be satisfactory until it is 100 per cent.

**Mr KENEALLY:** That point is well made, but I would be interested to find out how the current clear-up rate is regarded. I suppose one would have to have a base by which to test it. The Minister compared it with other clear-up rates in Australia. There should probably be a less objective test; there should be a subjective test. The average citizen in South Australia who is not as privy to the figures for clearing up criminal acts as is the Police Department would say that those figures are rather low. Could the Minister comment on that?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I heard the further explanation from the honourable member, but one has to establish a bench mark or base on which to make a judgment. The only way one can do that is to compare it with the clear-up rates for other police forces throughout Australia. That is the objective assessment from a statistical point of view, namely, seeing how we compare with other states of Australia. The other view that one could take is to look at procedures and practices currently in force to see whether there cannot be some improvement relating to internal procedures and practices to try to achieve a better percentage clear-up rate. I have no doubt that the new Commissioner is addressing himself to that in making a number of staff adjustments that he has already implemented. Perhaps the Acting Commissioner may wish to add further to that point.

**Mr Hunt:** By way of explanation, the suggestion to get comparisons from other States can, to some extent, be a little clouded. It would need a statistician to really collate it, because of different legislations and different interpretations of what is a robbery or rape as between us and Victoria, for instance. There may be an indication, if you like, but it would never be completely accurate. It may be satisfactory for here. If it is required, we could undertake to get some figures, to be able to do that exercise, for the Committee.

**Mr KENEALLY:** No, I am not particularly fussed about the Police Department having to do that. I think that the point made by the Acting Commissioner is quite valid, that the different legislation would cloud the figures somewhat. I accept that.

I am trying to find out from the Minister, or from the Acting Police Commissioner, whether our clear-up rate in South Australia could be regarded as satisfactory. I think that our clear-up rates are lower than people might expect, although they are probably higher here than what is achieved elsewhere. That is a problem that the community, and I suppose the Police Force, has. That is no reflection on the Police Force. If our people are doing better than people elsewhere in this matter, then that is a plus for them. However in a society of increasing crime rates including increasing violence and white collar crime, that still leaves one with a degree of concern. However, this is a community problem and not just the responsibility of the police. That responsibility rests with many people, including the Parliament.

On page 44 of the Police Commissioner's Report he has listed comparisons of age groups for different categories of crimes. They are shown in the age groups under 18 years,

18 to 24 years, and 25 years and over. It is quite significant that the under 18 age group has committed 34.5 per cent of robberies, 66 per cent of breaking and enterings, 53.3 per cent of larcenies and 56.9 per cent of all motor vehicle thefts. I can recall that last year, or the year before, this subject was canvassed in a question to the Police Commissioner which asked whether or not the economic circumstances this country is experiencing is causing an increase in the number of persons under 18 years of age involved in crimes. Robbery, breaking and entering, larceny and motor vehicle theft are all crimes which, by and large, are associated with deprivation. Therefore, if there are young people without a job and without adequate income then they are more likely to commit crimes of that type.

Does the Police Department, the Government or the Minister have people researching this social question to determine the reasons why young people are participating to a greater degree in these sorts of crimes? Also, does the Government, the Minister's department or the Police Force have any plans to counter this increase in crime in these areas (and I will come to blue light discos and things like that a little later)?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I will first make several comments about the final question. It is true that the only satisfactory clear-up rate is a 100 per cent. That is the objective of every police officer and the Government. It is a figure any Government would want to obtain. I think that there is a community perception that the clear up rate for crime is lower than it is. If one takes homicide, for instance, which has about a 96 per cent clear-up rate, I suggest that the community perception of that rate is that it would be far lower than that 96 per cent. This has been caused by the publicity that occurs from time to time on this subject.

**Mr KENEALLY:** That is the peak clear-up figure—for homicide.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** It is, but it is a crime where, in terms of public perception, the public has a clear understanding, because of media attention paid to it. Turning to the question of under 18-year-olds being unemployed and facing a host of pressures and whether that means that those people are pushed into criminal activity, the graph that the honourable member refers to tends to give an indication of that. Idle time and a number of other factors do produce that end result.

**Mr KENEALLY:** And economic factors.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** A combination of idle time, economic factors, social and peer group pressures in that age group no doubt help to produce those results. There have been a number of initiatives taken in this area one of which the honourable member referred to, the blue light discos which the Police Department has embarked upon and which police officers run in their own time in an attempt to assist with young people.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** Last Saturday night at the Elizabeth Blue Light Disco there were a number of on-duty officers present.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** There may well have been, in those circumstances, on duty officers patrolling the area showing an interest in such things as blue light discos and giving encouragement to their fellow officers giving up their time to running those discos by calling in to give moral encouragement and to see how the disco was working. I have no doubt that is what the situation was. This work is a voluntary commitment by police officers. These discos have had outstanding success and are perhaps helping to fill the involvement gap, particularly for people in the younger age group. I think that the officers who established these projects ought to be commended for what has been achieved. I hope that such things as blue light discos become more common and that with their success they spread to



other areas of the State and to the country from the areas where they presently exist. I will ask the Acting Commissioner of Police to comment further on these matters.

**Mr Hunt:** There are some initiatives being taken by the department at the moment. One of the areas of research by our special project section is the casual factors of crime in the under age group. I am not able to draw any conclusions yet because this is a long job and is still under review. The intention is to be able to identify some of these problem areas and either as a tactical policing exercise, or as a police community exercise, do something positive about them.

The object is initially to identify the fact that an age group is at risk. Under what we might call the heading of 'crime prevention initiative' the blue light discos have been instituted and are seen as a positive objective toward reducing the crime rate in that particular age group. There have been nine blue light discos established and six more are planned. I am afraid that the information I have might be out of date already and that we should perhaps update those figures to 10 and five because of the opening of the Blue Light Disco at Elizabeth the other night which attracted 1 270 young people. In total 8 730 young people have attended these discos on the 14 occasions on which they have been run. The report from the officer in charge of the community affairs section states that to the present time there has not been one untoward incident or suggestion of a problem occurring in the course of catering for the approximately 8 500 patrons who attended the various dances held to date. We are trying to identify, as a crime prevention exercise, the casual factors in some of the younger age group. We will translate that information into tactical policing objectives and, of course, the crime prevention strategy of blue light discos.

**Mr MATHWIN:** What is the present situation of the dog squad? I understand that the duties of the dog squad have been extended somewhat. It now uses dogs in the detection of drugs, and their use is considered to be a deterrent in many cases. It probably would be no news to the Minister, but in a number of countries of Europe, and in the United Kingdom in particular, the forces use dogs in patrolling streets. In some streets in the United Kingdom, and in Liverpool particularly, where there were a number of banks closing at 3 p.m., I saw police on duty, one on each side of the road with his dog. The dog sat down beside the bank and the policeman was there. It seemed to me to be a deterrent to any likely attack or bank robbery. The dogs can be used very efficiently as a deterrent, if nothing else. I would like to see the duties of the dog squad extended as widely as possible. I see on page 12 of the yellow book under 'Dog Squad':

Support service to operational units in searches for escaped offenders and missing persons and location of hidden drugs. Ongoing training programme to maintain efficiency.

That is good as it is in that explanation, but I hope that they could be used far more widely, particularly as a deterrent to bank robberies, than we are using them now, unless it has already been decided by the department that it should take more advantage of the use of the dog squad.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** We are maintaining during the course of this year staff numbers of 12 in the dog squad. The proposed expenditure in the area this year is an increase of \$81 000 over last year's outcome for dog squad operations. The honourable member referred to the general objectives of the squad in searching for escaped offenders. We used the dog squad in the Riverland recently in the search for the escaped prisoner, Smith.

**Mr MATHWIN:** The dog smelt the Yo-Yo biscuits.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I am sure that the scent of Yo-Yo's would have disappeared because the packet of Yo-Yos would not have lasted long, but the dog squad was used in

assisting to locate the escaped prisoner, Smith. It is used in such exercises as open areas searches, tracking, searches of various buildings and drug searches. They are also involved in preventative policing, article searching and stake-outs, to which the honourable member has referred briefly. The dog squad plays an important role in the operations of the force. As a result of that it has been determined by the Commissioner to keep employment levels in that section constant.

**Mr MATHWIN:** While still on animals I will talk about the horse—the mounted police section. I see that the explanation states:

Mounted street patrols—similar activities to those listed on GMPS. Public relation displays at shows and other special events. Special event—crowd control.

And so it goes on. I realise that there is nothing as good as mounted police in the control of crowds. When I was overseas some time ago I saw the mounted police in Boston used to great effect in the parkland areas and the areas that were frequented by many people who were drug users and involved in other types of similar activity. They took charge in the open spaces and the park areas. They chased some people who were in trouble—I think that they were drug people, and so on. They were able to work very effectively in this type of environment. In one incident there were two mounted policemen, though I suppose to use the correct jargon one must say 'police persons'. One was a woman mounted policeman. Maybe I should correct that for the *Hansard* report. She was a lady mounted police person. She was the one who was given the job of dismounting and searching these offenders. She did it very well. I thought that this was a great innovation as far as the police were concerned. They were very effective in that kind of environment.

I wonder whether we in this State are using our police in that kind of action or, if not, whether the Minister would consider having the police operate in that type of situation where it is environmentally better for the police to be able to counteract crime and the suspicion of crime and so on as mounted police rather than on foot or in cars.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** The mounted police have provided a range of services in recent times and expanded their role and function in the community. I believe that they are playing a very valuable role. They are mostly perceived in the ceremonial role, such as John Martins Christmas Pageant, and city marches. They perform a very valuable service. In the last fiscal year there were some 370 patrols by mounted police through the Adelaide greenbelt and the Torrens River area. The Torrens River area has been cited as a high incident area for various offences. It is interesting to note that for the two quarters since the patrols have been going through the Torrens River area there has been a marked decrease of offences in that area. In addition the mounted police are providing, for example, patrols in major shopping centres, particularly for late night shopping. Where the mounted police have been patrolling the carparking areas for late night shopping there has been a marked decrease in the number of petty offences that have been reported. For example, the mounted police participated in the recent operation at Honeymoon, where there were some protesters. The mounted police service provided some security and back-up support to police officers in that environment.

Of course, they also assisted in the search for the escapee Smith in the Riverland. So, the role of the mounted police covers a whole range of services undertaken by the Police Department. It is not only a ceremonial role, although that is important from the public relations viewpoint of the Police Department. However, I stress that they provide a real police detection and prevention role in a whole range of areas where it would be difficult otherwise for the department to provide a service. There are something like 44

persons involved in the mounted cadre section of the department. The Acting Commissioner of Police may like to add a few points.

**Mr Hunt:** The sight of a police officer on a horse creates a very real presence in the mind of people in the areas to which the Chief Secretary has referred, such as the river bank and areas where mobility is required and where police patrols or motor cycles do not have access. It has a deterrent effect in certain areas to have not only the policeman but also the horse upon which he is seated. They lend to the crime prevention role by their visible presence. The very fact that a policeman is on horseback gives him a height advantage in areas such as carparks and so on. The use of the horse is an effective tool in policing these areas.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** The mounted police service operates at all hours and in some of the green belt areas patrols have taken place at night. The operation by the mounted police section is not confined to daylight hours.

**Mr MATHWIN:** My final question relates to minor traffic offences and the use of the police car as a deterrent to people committing minor offences. I have seen a number of police cars around with loud speakers on the roof. How often are those loudspeakers and blue lights used? Some time ago when I was younger (I have more sense now) I committed a minor offence whilst a police car was behind me. Of course, I did not realise it was there. The driver said, over the loudspeaker, 'Will the driver of the car in front pull in his elbow, as he is committing an offence.' I pulled my arm in like a shot. I would sooner have somebody do that than give me an on-the-spot fine. I thought that it was a good idea. I believe that it receives a better reaction and more co-operation from the person committing the minor offence than by giving them a sticker or taking them to court. The reaction is better and the correction, in most circumstances, would be more positive than taking the matter to court. Is the Police Force using this deterrent and, if so, what reaction is it receiving?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** Following the introduction of the TIN system, the number of notices issued, and the type of offences involved, did indicate that there needed to be some fine tuning of the system and that was embarked upon. Directions and procedures were issued by the Commissioner to the department. That is evidenced by the fact that, in the early part of the scheme, about 12 000 notices were issued and that has now settled down to 9 500 per month. That is as a result of the exercise of a little more discretion and bringing in the cautionary aspect to which the honourable member refers. We use discretion and an education programme for drivers to reduce the number of offences committed. That procedure exists within the department and the fine tuning has been positive. Perhaps the Acting Commissioner would like to comment further.

**Mr Hunt:** Touching upon the matter that the Chief Secretary has mentioned, there was, in the initial stages, something like a 4.6 per cent withdrawal rate of traffic infringement notices. There has been a greater acceptance by members of the public and some fine tuning undertaken because the withdrawal rate has reduced to about 2.4 per cent. The honourable member referred to police discretion. That can be applied whether or not it relates to a traffic infringement notice or to any other traffic offence. The use of equipment is reserved principally for pageants, parades and other crowd control areas where direct instructions for policing crowds is required. It has dropped off for incidents which the honourable member nominated in conjunction with the general orders we have on the restriction of the use of blue lights, alternating horns and warning devices on police vehicles. With the number of cars using the roadway now, yet another noise coming at motorists may cause more confusion or even an accident. That policy is consistent

with the limitation of the use of blue lights, warning lights and other devices. So, to that extent, the use which the honourable member described is being reduced to occasions of crowd control, pageants and static situations.

**Mr WHITTEN:** I wish to associate myself with the remarks made by our shadow Minister (the member for Stuart) and the member for Playford in stating total support for the Police Force. Any critical remarks made are in opposition to what the present Government has been doing. I also wish to record my disgust at the 1979 campaign with which the Minister was associated. However, that in no way reflects on the Police Force. My association with the Police Force has always been extremely cordial, particularly with those people at Birkenhead—Doug Symons, Jim Sykes and Wally Sampson. I have great regard for them and they have been of great assistance to me in my duties at Port Adelaide.

However, I wish to follow up one question asked by the member for Stuart. I am well aware that the Minister has said that it is repetitive. I am not satisfied and seek the Committee's indulgence to follow through further the position of cadets. I refer to pager 135 of the Auditor-General's Report detailing reductions in trainees from 478 in 1978 to 159 in 1982.

I am well aware that the Minister has said that the reduction has been caused by 60 adult trainees, but I express concern and ask the Minister to comment on this later. When we refer to the lines in Parliamentary Paper No. 9, we see that for cadets the vote this year is \$1 010 000, which is a reduction in round figures of \$270 000 on what was spent last year. Page 4 of the yellow book under 'Issues' states:

The demands upon police services have again increased from last year.

It does not appear to me that there will be any increase in officers responsible for services to the public. If one looks at the amount of money that is to be spent on the Police Force, one finds that it does not compare with the inflationary trend and what the increase in wages would be. Last year \$66 900 in round figures was spent and this year it is intended that \$73 000 be spent, which is a little less than the inflation figure. Can the Minister comment on this?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I want to restate what I said previously. I correct one comment of the honourable member. He said that because of the intake of 60 adults there was a decline. What that intake is designed to do, as a special programme, is maintain the active strength of the force. The fact is that the active strength of the force has been maintained. Due to impending retirements and the problem with the two-year lead-in time of the cadet programme, we went to this one-off programme which would bring 60 adults in, so that within a 26-weeks training period those adults would come on strength as active police officers on duty.

One problem with quoting figures, as the honourable member does in selecting the cadet line from allocations of funds under the Police Force wages, is that it does not take into account increases in other areas. Obviously, if someone is taking on adults who come on to full strength earlier and become active police officers, they then go into the probationary constable category as active police officers, which is covered in the amount voted last year of \$59 000 000 and the amount voted this year of \$67 600 000, which is a rather substantial increase.

In looking at one line one has to look at the flow-over effect as to what these adults coming on to the probationary constable line will do. The cost of that is covered in the increase from \$59 000 000 to \$67 000 000, which is quite substantial.

**Mr WHITTEN:** I now refer to page 7 of the yellow book and seek information regarding the prisoner detention serv-

ices. On page 6 it says that there will be a reduction in staffing for prisoner detention services from the proposed 1981-82 figure of 38, and that the full-time equivalents would be 35 in 1982-83, the same as the outcome in 1981-82. Can the Minister say what those persons would do? Regarding the recurrent expenditure, it appears to me that if the inflation trend was placed on that, instead of \$797 000 being spent, the figure would be around \$821 000.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** The reduction is principally as a result of three fewer personnel through attrition in that section of the police services. However, I point out that the Budget outcome for 1981-82 was \$743 000, and that the proposed amount for 1982-83 is \$797 000, which is a \$54 000 increase. The decrease in salaries and wages for the previous period was due to the three fewer personnel in that section and reduced expenditure on administration of some \$12 000. The original allocation included a uniform allowance, and it formed part of the salaries allocation in 1981-82. The full year cost of salary increases awarded in 1981-82 of \$53 000, plus the \$1 000 allowance for price increases on administration expenses, makes a total of \$54 000, which is the figure to which I referred earlier.

**Mr WHITTEN:** I wish to comment on the last two answers that the Minister gave to the member for Glenelg, when mention was made of blue light discos. That term means something different to persons of my generation from the meaning to persons two and three generations later. Older people in the community have quite a bit of fun when hearing about those blue light discos.

**Mr RANDALL:** So do local members.

**Mr WHITTEN:** I do not intend to answer the member for Henley Beach. I now would like information on rescue services referred to on page 8 of the yellow book. There is a reduction from 72 full-time equivalents proposed in 1981-82, the actual being 59, and that 59 has been maintained this year. Was there and is there to be a reduction in underwater recovery services, sea rescue services, search and rescue services, and other rescue services?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** There has been a reduction in personnel. In the logistics support unit there has been a reduction of two personnel. In the administration area of rescue services there has been a reduction of one. The reallocation of duties for those people as determined by the Police Commissioner has meant that there has been a saving in salaries in that section of the force's operations of \$158 000, with a corresponding reduction in expenditure of \$23 000. That reduction enabled the speed detection section to be brought up to strength following such things as random breath testing and the like.

The figures I have given relate specifically to 1981-82, when there was a decrease from proposed to outcome of \$171 000. In 1982-83, the \$129 000 increase on that benchmark will be the full-year cost of salary increases awarded in 1981-82 of \$114 000, and an allowance for price increases on administration expenses of \$8 000, and a carry-over for equipment purchases of \$7 000.

**Mr WHITTEN:** An additional 13 people were proposed for this year over last year. What was their purpose and why were they required last year if they are not needed this year?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** These alterations took effect during the course of 1981-82. No change is proposed for 1982-83. A reduction in Star Force personnel was from 56 to 46, and there was a reduction of one in administration and two in logistics support. There was a reassignment of duties of those officers as the Commissioner deemed appropriate. One of those functions was to bring the speed detection area up to full strength. That rationalisation of personnel was undertaken by the Commissioner after he determined

the needs of the force, particularly the Star Force, following a review of its work load.

**Mr RODDA:** I refer to pages 17 and 18 under the programme title 'Police community liaison education and information services'. The policy area deals with the protection of people. We have heard much today about the Police Force's task in protecting the people of South Australia. In many ways an informed public can materially help the police. I refer to the success of *News* campaign involving Operation Punchline. In the Australian make-up, dobbing is frowned on. Of course, there is a thin line between dobbing and giving correct information to bring some evildoer to book. In recurrent expenditure about \$987 000 is appropriated against the \$936 000 proposed last year, while about \$913 000 was spent. There is a build-up for a full-time equivalent of 48 people. What is the present and future position in this area?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I will ask the Acting Commissioner to comment on the specific types of programme to which the honourable member refers. However, I would first like to comment in regard to community liaison, the Budget section, which the honourable member has used and which is comprised of 48 personnel. It has been constant between 1981-82 and 1982-83, comprising a band, 38 personnel; community affairs, seven; and public relations, three. Their task is community education and involvement services. Also, I understand that community affairs covers Aboriginal affairs and liaison with ethnic groups in the community. As the honourable member rightly pointed out, there is a \$74 000 increase this year in the allocation of resources to that section of the Police Force operations. I will now ask the Acting Commissioner to detail the types of programmes undertaken by the public relations and community affairs section.

**Mr Hunt:** The unit operating under this description is our Community Affairs and Information Service. It deals with community affairs in regard to public relations: we do not believe in 'hardsell' public relations but in trying to project some knowledge of the force to the community generally through various programmes. If good public relations rubs off those programmes, well and good. Two of the people who are on the committee are much involved in ethnic affairs, not only with Aboriginal groups but also with other groups in the community. In fact, the officer-in-charge is Chairman of the Aboriginal/Police Liaison Committee. It is through such committees that we are able to sound out or open up an avenue for discussion between the various groups in the community who wish to either avail themselves of police services or have police services clarified for them.

Following this, the matter is referred to the policy level of the department and appropriate action is taken, advice is given or visits are made to various centres around the State where trouble spots may be occurring. Where there might be some conflict with various groups and the police, we send officers along who are able to understand the problems and, by talking about the problems, we try to settle them there and then, one way or the other.

This section also promotes the idea of traffic safety from the point of view of not only talking to children in schools but also preparing a number of newspaper articles and information for country radio stations in the form of traffic lectures aimed at road traffic safety. The unit itself is also one of the avenues that we use to promote crime prevention campaigns such as Crime Alert. It was the organising body, and it is currently assisting in various crime prevention campaigns. It is looking at formulating the programme together with the crime prevention unit for the coming year. They undertake not only lecturing to various community groups but also identifying and training various other police

officers in the community to talk to various groups in the area in which they work.

It is better to have an officer from a specialised area who is familiar with a group and with its problems. Also, on the information side we have our media liaison officers. This information service benefits both the Police Department and those people who are much involved in the two-way approach between the two organisations in order to get our message across and to give appropriate publicity wherever it is due, calling on the public to help in solving cases of serious crime (it assists the C.I.B. greatly), and in various other initiatives. There is quite an involvement in the current Operation Counter-punch. We also promote a number of other issues. A similar operation is coming up later in the year in regard to crime prevention initiatives. These are the sorts of people who facilitate that through the community affairs and information service.

**Mr RODDA:** Page 17, which refers to specific targets, and so on, mentions conducting a minimum of two 'speak-up' campaigns, one in the metropolitan area and one in the country, as pilot schemes. What is meant by 'speak-up' campaigns? I envisage it as one's not being afraid to say one's piece.

**Mr Hunt:** One of those initiatives is currently going on. That is 'Operation Counter-punch', which is being run in conjunction with a local newspaper. The other one that is in train at the moment is with a service club, which has, for some time, expressed interest in promoting itself and the cause of crime prevention. We are currently co-ordinating with them some activities for later this year in order to address the public's mind to its responsibility in relation to crime prevention, crime detection and co-operation with the police.

**Mr McRAE:** I have three disparate matters that will complete my line of questioning on the Police Department. I commence with the vexed question of prostitution, and preface my remarks by calling to the Chief Secretary's attention that some time ago now a Parliamentary committee recommended that prostitution should be decriminalised under certain circumstances. I also draw to his attention that because of the split vote in the House of Assembly that motion was lost. That committee was fully aware, from the evidence that it had received from experts everywhere, and those involved in the scene, that there is no way on earth that prostitution can be totally eliminated. What has happened now is, I think, very unfortunate for the police.

The situation is that there are at least two large brothels still openly operating. One is in Pulteney Street. I am not going to glorify these people by giving their names. However, the Assistant Police Commissioner will know about that, as would the member for Victoria and the member for Stuart, who were on the committee. Another is in King William Street, and there are a number of other establishments which we visited during the course of our inquiries and which are still carrying on business. The effect of the police evidence that we received at that time from Superintendent Pat Hurley, (that was then his rank) was that really society, which, of course, means Parliament, being a democracy, had to decide which way to jump. If one wanted to decriminalise prostitution, so be it. That was a judgment of the Parliament. If, on the other hand, one did not want to decriminalise prostitution, then it was absolutely absurd to have a state of law where the police were just left helpless.

The evidence that we collected from Superintendent Hurley and other officers was that establishments, particularly the very large establishments, as we saw on our visits, have such expensive and sophisticated electronic surveillance equipment to check out visiting police officers and generally guard themselves that successful police activity against brothels, particularly the larger organised ones, is quite

impossible. The difficulty is that it creates in the public mind two possible thoughts. One school of thought which I have heard (and I tried to disabuse them of this) was, 'Look, the police are doing nothing about it.' I explained to them that really the police are the victims of the Parliament. That is my own personal view.

But there is a far more insidious view which says that the Government of the day, having voted against the measure in Parliament in order to placate some of the more conservative elements of our society and some of the churches (because not all the churches objected to the measure), is now putting in, by administrative and secret means, the very recommendations that the committee wanted covered by legislation.

So, the crunch has now come, and I, having explained all that, ask the Minister what is the Government's intention. Is it to leave this quite unsatisfactory situation as it is, or does the Government intend to take up the police recommendation, which is on record and well known to the Chairman of the committee, the Minister of Transport, that they be armed with break and enter powers so that they can at least get rid of some of the more prominent examples in the city?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** It is interesting to note that, despite the honourable member's remarks, action is currently pending against the Pulteney Street parlour, and that action is now before the court.

**Mr McRAE:** Mr Acting Chairman, I hope that you will count this not as a question, but as a follow-up question.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Mathwin):** I will certainly do that.

**Mr McRAE:** I think that in all the circumstances the Parliament and the public deserve more of an answer than we just got. That is a total brush off. I have seen the police recommendation, as have the member for Victoria, the member for Stuart and, I would suspect, the Minister himself (I would be staggered if he had not). Of course, the Acting Police Commissioner knows it well. It is stated in the recommendation that, if the brothels are not to be decriminalised, the police should be given power to break and enter, as they need that power in order to carry out their duty.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** I think the honourable member asked for time to explain his question in an effort to get what he would like as a more extended answer.

**Mr McRAE:** Yes.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** I ask him not to—

**Mr McRAE:** I wind up there.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** A number of amendments to the Police Offences Act have been considered by the Government. Hopefully, they will be brought forward in the not too distant future. There was a brief response to the honourable member's question, because he based it principally on the fact that we could not bring any prosecutions against those people. I was indicating to the Committee that the Police Department has evidence and is now proceeding before the courts.

**Mr McRAE:** Obviously, I am certainly not satisfied with the answer, and I doubt that people in the community will be satisfied. I now refer to the next topic, which is white collar crime. I very clearly distinguish white collar crime from organised crime. Organised crime, as I see it, is a parallel state within a state. White collar crime I see in another sense, as the careful and sophisticated organisation of resources by white collar criminals. I am reminded of the question asked by my colleague, the member for Price, when he pointed out that cadet spending, in real terms, is down 30 per cent, which is quite staggering in an era when the Police Force is faced with a real crisis. I am certainly not one of those people who advocates that one hire a pack

of blokes from the university and that the groves of the academy will somehow solve the problem; far from it.

It appears to me that what one has to do is combine the undoubted investigation skills of officers of the Fraud Squad with the skills of lawyers and accountants. I foresee the time when lawyers and accountants will have to be part of a team working as officers of the Police Department. What concerned me was this reduction in the cadet line. I would like the Minister and perhaps later the Acting Police Commissioner to deal with the second problem. It has been this Government's policy systematically to cut back the staffing of Corporate Affairs, which is the essential back-up unit of any Police Force in this area. Without the expertise of this branch, certainly in terms of prosecutions, the police and the community are in real trouble. What seems to have happened is that suddenly (and it is not just us), as a freak side effect of the Costigan Report, mammoth criminal activities of the white collar crime type have been uncovered, many of which exist in Adelaide. There is no doubt about that.

I have heard members of my profession (I am not proud of them and think that they should be struck off the roll) boast of bottom-of-the-harbor schemes and other what I call illegal schemes that they have devised for their somewhat seedy clients. In those circumstances, the Government must face the hard decision of its future strategy. Will the Minister and the Acting Commissioner outline what that strategy will be?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I will answer this question in two ways, and refer first to the proposal put forward by the Federal Government to establish a National Crimes Commission. The States do not agree with that proposal in its entirety, because it lacks clarity. We do not believe that the establishment of a ninth police force in this country will solve this problem. The State representatives are considering (and I think this is fairly clear from the meetings of Police Ministers and Attorneys-General of recent weeks—in fact, there is an almost bipartisan approach) looking at alternatives to a National Crimes Commission, using the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence as a base and upgrading it.

There needs to be more refining of the specific roles and objectives of the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence which we are presently undertaking in consultation with the other States. As part of the A.B.C.I. in each State, there are the Bureaux of Criminal Intelligence, which have specific tasks to undertake, one of which involves white collar crime. In addition, there are special operations from time to time for a specific purpose. When this occurs, people with particular expertise in an area required for that operation are brought into the task force.

Six senior detectives are seconded permanently to the Department of the Corporate Affairs Commission for the purpose of investigating and bringing to prosecution white collar criminals in this State. The task of combating white collar crime which must go further is being addressed by Police Ministers throughout Australia. I believe that a model and an alternative will be established early in November. It will be an alternative to the National Crimes Commission and will undertake in an upgraded manner the tasks to which the honourable member referred in his question. We have in South Australia at the moment a framework. Specific operations and tasks are undertaken, but I envisage that, once this new body is established across Australia (provided that the States and the Commonwealth can reach agreement), we will have a more effective investigatory component in Police Forces.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** In about 1990.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I do not think that it will be 1990, because of the speed with which meetings of Police Ministers have been held. Those Ministers first looked at a National

Crimes Commission in May this year, when, because it was on the agenda, we looked clearly at the objectives. Subsequently, the Prime Minister announced his views about a National Crimes Commission. Police Ministers have met twice since then to define a working paper. Hopefully, by December this year we will be able to announce agreement between the States and Commonwealth on such an instrumentality. If that is so, I hope that it will be operative by 1983, certainly not 1990.

**Mr McRAE:** I am glad that progress is being made, as it is certainly something that must be addressed. I see this as a major problem. I realise that my next question dealing with victims of crime does not fall strictly into this Minister's portfolio, except in once sense. The Minister will recall that I have strong views on the recompense that should be paid to victims of crime. I have continually in this area moved motions which have been defeated.

Quite good analysis appeared in a newspaper a few weeks ago in which the writer put the story in a correct way. He gave the example of a person who was the victim of a bad assault. This person had shown considerable courage in giving evidence at the trial of the person involved, and throughout the whole trial he received tremendous support and back-up from the police and the prosecution branch of the Crown Law Office. The criminal was convicted.

However, the person then found that, when an application was made for criminal injuries compensation, the people he had once looked on as friends had become his enemies, in the sense that the detective who had looked after him, supported him, and given him moral encouragement throughout the ordeal suddenly froze, because he was under Crown Law instructions not to say or do anything that might increase the amount that the court might give this person. In the same fashion, the very same Crown prosecutor who had relied on that person to gain a conviction and so protect the community suddenly became the persecutor and turned on him. That is not putting matters too harshly.

I am not talking about those colleagues whom I mentioned previously when I say that that is something that decent lawyers in this community find occurs time and time again. Will the Chief Secretary give an undertaking that he will have this important matter investigated? I realise that he cannot have the amount of compensation raised, even though that ought to be done. Will he also ensure that the role of the police does not become denigrated because of the use that is being made of them in changing their role once the conviction has been recorded?

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** I can see the member's concern. However, this question should have been put to the Attorney-General, as it comes within his responsibility. However, I am quite pleased to ask the Minister whether he is willing to answer the question.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I am happy to have discussions with the department and the Commissioner in relation to the example to which the honourable member has referred in order to gain greater understanding of the problems that are generated. The honourable member referred to a specific example. I would need in that context to discuss it with the Commissioner, looking at the case in question to see the problems that are generated from such instances.

**Mr McRAE:** I would not want to identify anybody. That is a good example. That is a reasonable example of what happens in a wide range of cases.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I am prepared to look at the situation that develops in that set of circumstances. Perhaps the Acting Commissioner may wish to make some further comment.

**Mr Hunt:** Like the Chief Secretary, I cannot comment on the particular case to which the honourable member referred. I was involved in some earlier discussions on the introduction

of Mr Whitrod's idea of looking after victims of crime. I had some long discussions with him and so did our policy section. The departmental policy of being involved in that is a very positive one, because we recognise the problems experienced by victims of crime. One of our police officers was made available to instruct some volunteer people who were going to help out in this regard. On that basis, the departmental policy is that we are very happy to be involved in looking after victims of crime. I am unaware of any constraints put on individual police officers but, as the Chief Secretary says, we will be pleased to look into that.

**Mr OSWALD:** I refer to page 12 of the yellow book. We have heard some discussion today on the role of horse patrols, but a small entry refers briefly to bicycle patrols. I want to raise a question that concerns a lot of us in Glenelg and, I am sure, other metropolitan areas, and perhaps direct this through the Minister to the Commissioner. I refer to the incidence of day-time household robberies that have occurred in the metropolitan area for some time now. The general feeling of the public is that patrol cars with two constables driving around the suburbs on the main thoroughfares do not act as a deterrent to day-time household burglaries. I see an entry relating to bicycle patrols. Has that area been utilised to try to counter this problem or, if it has not been, is it possible to utilise it? I do not visualise a uniformed constable riding around, but there may be some area here where patrols can be taken off the main roads into some of the suburban streets where the incidence of day-time household burglaries is causing concern to constituents.

**Mr Hunt:** Some five or more years ago an opportunity was seen to reintroduce bicycle patrols. It was considered to be something of a novelty at the time. However, the speed with which some of our men on night shift could move about proved to be very successful. There have been some plain clothes officers on bicycles in a crime prevention capacity, and in some other areas where vehicles are not permitted readily in the metropolitan area some uniformed officers have been riding bicycles. These have been specific projects. It is not a generally rostered duty, but, when people are available and the occasion arises, we bring out the bicycles.

The honourable member mentioned the problem of two police officers in a vehicle not being a deterrent. One of the difficulties that we have with the number of calls that are coming in now is that much more of their time is being taken up in responding to radio taskings rather than their being out on a positive prevention patrol. So, they need the means to be able to respond quickly to calls for assistance.

**Mr OSWALD:** I would like to ask some questions on the air wing. How many aircraft and pilots are involved, and are the pilots members of the Police Force? We heard earlier through a question by the member for Victoria that the aircraft are used for, say, quick reactions in trying to solve a rape or in interviewing rape victims. However, maintaining aircraft is a very expensive exercise at any time. When a whole budget is put together for the air wing, is it a cost effective exercise?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** All the officers involved in the air wing are police officers. Currently, three aircraft are in the police air wing—a 10-seater, and eight-seater and a third aircraft, a Piper Aero Star, operated under lease from Ansett General Aviation. The Acting Commissioner may wish to respond on the cost effectiveness, but it is important that if we are to provide a whole range of adequate police services to the northern parts of South Australia, such as Ernabella, Coober Pedy and Woomera, we have the aircraft to do it. People, despite their isolation, are entitled to have the best level of services which can be provided and which are equivalent to those offered in the metropolitan area.

That can be done principally only with the back-up of special tasking services that are supplied by the special air wing.

**Mr Hunt:** Administration expenses, that is, aircraft costs, including fuel and maintenance of aircraft, were \$305 779; salaries were \$221 000, property rental for housing the staff and other matters associated with the aircraft amounted to \$16 785; and general expenses were \$24 346, the total for all of which was \$568 000. We have had the air wing since 1972, and the feasibility studies that were conducted in those days were long and protracted, examining whether or not it would be a paying proposition. It has turned out to be that way.

In all of the areas in the north where there are many prisoner escorts, and so forth, the time spent and the cost of men being away from their stations for two or three days on protracted train trips, and so forth, is more than the cost of running the aircraft on those things. On the other hand, as the Minister says, some areas of the State would not get the policing and service that were due to them if we were not able to use the aircraft.

The member for Stuart mentioned Woomera. We had an aircraft and two pilots there but found that, although it was strategically based, the aircraft and staff were being under-utilised, which meant that we sometimes had to call an aircraft from Woomera down to Adelaide to conduct a flight somewhere else. We looked at it long and hard and brought the pilots and aircraft back, with the result that we are now able to meet all our commitments. It is a better utilisation of staff and aircraft.

**Mr OSWALD:** During the past two or three years I have written many letters to the Chief Secretary on behalf of one of my constituents who runs the Pop-Eye enterprise on the Torrens River. During that time we talked about the increased patrols, day and night, and also about controls in relation to swimming. One area discussed was the reintroduction of water police. I heard a comment only a few days ago that this could be about to commence. Could the Commissioner or the Minister confirm whether or not the water police are about to be reintroduced to the Torrens and, if so, what will be their role?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I reiterate for the honourable member the fact that patrols exist in the green belt and along the Torrens in the form of mounted police. Since those patrols have been undertaken in the green belt and the Torrens area, there has been a marked decrease in the number of offences reported there. Those patrols take place during the night as well as during the day. They are not restricted to daylight hours. The department is giving consideration to introducing the water police to the Torrens River area. It will come from region B of the Police Force. Perhaps the Commissioner may like to enlarge on the matter.

**Mr Hunt:** It will involve a 16 foot aluminium boat with a small outboard motor. We are proposing, as and when determined by the regional commander, that there will be two officers using the craft at any one time which is to be housed near Jolly's boatshed. I am not sure of the exact location but it will be handy and stored in a secure place. It will be up to the officer in charge of region B as to how it and its members are deployed. I inquired only last week as to how the arrangement was going. It has not been put into service yet because we are training police officers in the handling and safety of boats, especially boats with motors.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** I have been concerned for some time that the laws relating to the control of vehicles by persons under the influence of alcohol or drugs have not been applied uniformly. A couple of years ago I had the opportunity of going to the Royal Yacht Squadron gala day at Outer Harbor. I have never seen so many drunks in charge of yachts in all my life. Everyone seemed to be



heavily under the weather. There were no police within miles, notwithstanding the fact that there were a number of near misses and incidents as people walked about and galled. I suggest to the Minister that it might be appropriate if some police attention was paid to that event and to the situation on the Murray River as I fear that sooner or later some quite serious incident may well occur. Having been given public warning on the record, it is appropriate that the police pay some attention to it.

I refer also to the question of the helicopter and blue light discos referred to earlier. I place on record that I strongly support the establishment of the blue light discos. I am pleased that the police have taken the opportunity of establishing a disco in Elizabeth. I noted last Friday night how successful it was and I congratulate the Police Department and the individual police officers who have been involved with the project.

I do not see the reason why the Police Department seems to shy away from the kudos due to it for this initiative because there is no doubt that, basically, the organisation of it has been undertaken by the police in their capacity as police officers. A great amount of emphasis has been placed on the fact that the police are running it as volunteers. I see no reason for not giving that aspect credit. Let us be frank and honest and accept the fact that a large amount of the organisation has been undertaken and done by police officers while they have been on duty under the auspices of the Police Department. I see some reference to that as one of the objectives of the budgetary allocations that have been made this year.

Are manifests kept for the aircraft generally? In light of the Acting Commissioner's comments that the aircraft are based at Parafield but used mainly in the north of the State, is it possible to have made available for members of the Committee, at a later stage, the manifests of the aircraft for the past 12 months?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** The Acting Commissioner has taken on board the honourable member's comments in relation to the opening of the yacht season later this year. He will also comment further in relation to the sensitive area of blue light discos and the department wanting to ensure that there is no impediment towards the future success of such discos. I will leave it for him to comment. In relation to manifests or log books of the aircraft, I assume that the requirements of the Department of Civil Aviation stipulate that they be kept. We will attempt to ascertain them.

**Mr Hunt:** Aircraft documentation is fully kept and will be made available. As for the organisation of blue light discos, the department officially sponsors them to the extent that it has a co-ordinating officer in the community affairs and information service. One of his jobs is to assist in the co-ordination of crime-prevention campaigns. He ensures that any new group inquiring about or starting up these discos is supplied with copies of formats of policy and general standing orders to ensure some uniformity of approach throughout the whole of the State. Apart from that, each regional area is autonomous.

The Victorian Commissioner at one stage made a suggestion that the Police Department officially sponsor it and that it be manned by paid personnel. In Victoria the members themselves rejected the idea because they felt it was their bit to be doing and it was generally felt that the success of the scheme would fall down completely if it were to be just another paid job. The idea was to get people with enough public spirit in them to go along and do it on a voluntary basis. We followed that line here and discussed the matter with the Police Association. We are on all fours with that approach.

I take the honourable member's point that there might have been one or two on-duty police officers there. I doubt

whether they would have been rostered for that particular duty or have been there for a long time. They may have called in out of curiosity, as it was the first disco in their particular area. To answer the question, the voluntariness of the police officers is one of the key factors in the success of the blue light discos.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** I appreciate that. I did not want that to obscure completely the fact that the Police Department itself had taken some role in the matter. I would like to ask the Minister questions in relation to the drug squad. How many members are now in that squad? How many personnel in the squad now were in the squad 12 months ago? In particular, why have there been such significant changes in the personnel?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** There have been a number of initiatives taken in the drug squad area to ensure that people with justification or otherwise cannot reflect upon persons in the squad. That protects the personnel in the squad and gives a reassurance to the community generally that these procedures give them a clear view that aspersions cannot be cast on members of the squad, as was the case on one or two occasions last year when there was no substance in allegations placed at that time. The tenure of service of members of the squad is now set at three years. Only in special circumstances, and then with the Commissioner's approval, can three years be exceeded. That policy has resulted in the transfer of five members from the drug squad.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** In what area?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** In the past six months. If the honourable member wants a specific time frame, I will endeavour to get those dates for him. Those initiatives have been undertaken in approximately the past six months. Members selected for posting to the Drug Squad are invited, on a voluntary basis, to complete a confidential financial asset status report. Such reports are sealed and held in a safe and are not perused without permission from the member concerned unless the Commissioner is of the opinion that an inspection will materially assist in an investigation where the financial position of the member is a relevant matter.

Forms have been designed and are in use whereby confidential particulars relating to the identity of an informer, the frequency of details of contact, the value of information given and amounts of money paid, etc., are documented in a formalised manner. A nominated officer now has the responsibility for the supervision of each drug raid from the planning stage to execution. The planning of each raid is properly documented to ensure that personnel are deployed in specific areas of responsibility. The deployment of support personnel is also taken into consideration, for example, recorder, photographer, etc.

Recent amendments to General Orders provides for the recording of all exhibits seized in the member's notebook and that entry is signed by another member and the person from whom the property was received. In addition, an interim receipt is to be issued at the time the property is received and at the first opportunity the official General Property Book receipt is forwarded. The authority of the Assistant Commissioner of Crime is now necessary to withdraw a drug charge for other than legal reasons. Auditing of completed drug squad prosecution files has been formalised on a regular basis. There are also to be random independent auditing procedures established within that section.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** I am absolutely delighted to hear of those guidelines. Whoever was responsible for preparing them should be congratulated. I suspect that that has arisen out of the events of last year. Whatever the case may be, I congratulate whoever prepared those guidelines because, I believe, that if those guidelines are pursued and

followed vigorously they will not only lead to a reduction in any misdemeanours conducted by members of the Drug Squad, but will also lead to a situation where it will virtually be impossible for criminals and others to make allegations, substantiated or otherwise, against the Police Force. I congratulate the Commissioner and the Minister (if he was responsible for that in any way) on introducing those guidelines. I would still like to know how many members there are presently in the Drug Squad. How many members were there 12 months ago? How many members that were in the squad 12 months ago have now left the squad, and how many of those have left the Police Force?

**The CHAIRMAN:** I remind the Minister that if that information is not available, it can be taken on notice and supplied later to the honourable member.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** There are currently 24 members in the Drug Squad. I cannot recall each of the questions. Those questions require specific detail and we will supply that information in due course.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I did not take that question as an additional question as it was a question in clarification.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** I note the fact that there are significantly fewer cadets than there were previously. I do not think that the Minister commented satisfactorily on that when he was answering questions from the member for Playford. I would like to ask the Minister why that is, because I think that there has been a general consensus in this Parliament that possibly the fundamental reason why we say *ad infinitum* that we believe we have the best Police Force in Australia has largely been because our Police Force has been the best trained Police Force in the nation, as a result of the activities at Fort Largs. It now seems that more police officers are coming into the Police Force as adults, rather than through the cadet system.

That concerns me. It is extremely desirable that the activities at Fort Largs continue and, if anything, be upgraded rather than downgraded. The figures in the Budget seem to indicate that there are fewer cadets, although more police personnel. That indicates that there are more persons being admitted to the Police Force as adults, and fewer as cadets. Can the Minister comment on that?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I said earlier that the current adult intake is to ensure that the active strength of the Police Force is maintained. It will not impinge upon the normal cadet recruitment training programme which will be run in conjunction with the current adult intake. The adult intake is supplementing the current cadet recruitment programme of cadets going through the system. Once this one-off 60 adult intake is trained and in the structure of the force, we will be bringing the cadet recruitment programme back to what would be considered its normal level.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** I have a supplementary question. I refer the Minister to page 135 of the Auditor-General's Report. He can see on the table at the top of the page under 'Staff Employed' a column which indicates that in 1978 there were 478 trainees (I presume that means cadets), in 1979 there were 264 trainees, in 1980 there were 250 trainees, in 1981 there were 207 trainees and in 1982 there were 159 trainees.

Trainees may not be equivalent to cadets, but I would have thought that the terms were interchangeable. If that is the case then there has been a severe wastage in cadet numbers. With the Police Force in excess of 3 000 officers, I would have thought that we needed a training programme, given that it is a two-year period, and one would need more than 160 cadets to keep up the numbers of such a force.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** We are running an intensive course over 26 weeks for the 60 adults to be out as active police officers to maintain active strength in the short term. We have taken positive and decisive action to address a

problem which was indicated from the retirement levels in the force that by 30 June 1983 we would have a reduction in active strength.

We were not willing to see this happen and we took action to have this intensified course. In doing so, it has meant in having an intensive course that there has been some reduction in the number of cadets for obvious reasons. Once we get this special adult intake through the system and operating as active police officers, I expect that there will be some maintenance of the cadet recruit training programme so that, through that two-year cycle, we will be able to take account of future retirements. It is difficult with a two-year lead-in programme when officers can retire or resign from the force with one month's notice. We cannot plan that. We can average it, but we do not know exactly how many officers will retire or resign at short notice. If there is a two-year lead-in programme to take it up, one can see the problem generated in maintaining active police strength, and that is why we have gone to the trouble of maintaining the specific programme. There cannot be much doubt that the overall effect of this programme will be to maintain active strength to 30 June next year. The two courses (adult and cadet) require separate instructional staff, which is obviously more costly and creates some administrative difficulties.

In clarifying the question about trainees in the reduction from 478 to 159, and how that has had no effect on the overall active strength, I can indicate that the 478 cadets were involved in a three-year training programme. The programme was then changed to a two-year programme, and we will be now looking at a one-year programme. The 478 is a three-year component of trainees, and we are reducing it from a three-year component to a two-year component. There has been some confusion about the figures. That explains why it appears that there has been a marked reduction in the intake in the force. That is not the case. We are talking about a set of figures comprising three years and attempting to compare that with figures over two years.

**Mr KENEALLY:** Are you downgrading the course at Fort Largs?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** No, it is not a downgrading of Fort Largs at all. In giving that answer I was attempting to clarify the concern of some members when comparing 478 with 250 or 202 and the marked difference, and whether the force was on the slide in terms of intake, because we are not comparing a like comparison base: we were comparing a three-year programme with a two-year programme.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** Does the 159 trainees mentioned in the Auditor-General's Report include the 60 adult trainees?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** No, I believe that it would not involve the 60 adults in the intake.

**The CHAIRMAN:** At the outset it was suggested that the Chief Secretary's vote would be completed by the dinner adjournment. There are another three votes in that portfolio.

**Mr RANDALL:** My question relates to blue light discos. There is concurrence on both sides of the Committee about their great success. I say that, having spent an evening of great enjoyment at one.

My other question relates to the air wing section, to which the member for Morphett referred. I have had brought to my attention some concern that the department is using its services to provide a means of transport for bodies of deceased persons to the Coroner, and that those bodies are being transported in plastic bags. Some concern has been expressed that they are propped up, naked, in the back seat of the plane in clear plastic bags. I do not know whether the Minister knows anything about that, but I would like him to investigate it and provide an answer.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I am advised that one of the aircraft has a trunk in it, in which it is normal to put bodies of deceased persons to bring them back for a range of needs. As for them being propped up in clear plastic bags in a seat, I am unaware of that, and I will investigate it.

**Mr RANDALL:** Some concern has been expressed about that matter. I think that the Chief Secretary needs to look at the method of transport. Not only are we transporting bodies, apparently in this way, but when they are removed from hospital, say at Ernabella or wherever, they are removed in this form. People question this method in relation to dignity.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Before the honourable member continues, did the Chief Secretary wish to say anything further?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I agree with the last remarks of the honourable member. If that is the case, then it is undesirable. We will look at that matter to ensure that no distress is caused by a set of circumstances such as that, but I have no knowledge at all of that occurring.

**Mr RANDALL:** As the Minister is well aware from my involvement in the Select Committee into the Fire Brigade, we looked at emergency services in this State. I believe that the Government needs an overall policy on the delivery of emergency services. I also believe that the Police Department plays a significant role in the co-ordination of emergency services. In my own electorate, there seems to be some reluctance for volunteers to get involved in the State Emergency Service. What progress is being made in that area? How are we achieving what I would hope is a Government policy of encouraging volunteers to provide back-up emergency services which are so necessary at times of State disasters?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** In relation to State Emergency Services, it is intended to increase those employment levels, particularly in administration, from four to five. Regional offices of S.E.S. remain the same. There will be an increase from seven to eight during the course of this year in S.E.S. personnel. The increase of \$16 000 for this particular year over the outcome of last year is a result of full year salary costs for those persons and allowances for increases in administrative expenses of some \$4 000. The S.E.S. has a role to play in the total emergency services within the State.

Funds are made available to support S.E.S. operations within the State. Quite significant demands are made. Under S.E.S. State funding, the allocation is provided by the department. I have referred to salaries and wages, and operating expenses. Subsidies are made to local government bodies to a maximum of \$2 500 in relation to purchases of equipment by councils and operating expenses on S.E.S. units. Other Commonwealth funding is available for specific purposes. The department would be encouraging the maintenance of good S.E.S. structure in this State because it is part of an integrated emergency service operation. That is evidenced by the fact that there is an increase in administrative personnel to try to encourage and develop that.

**Mr RANDALL:** My last question relates to local government. I believe that the Government should encourage local government to become more involved in that area, to provide extra funding support, and so on. What input does local government have in relation to overall planning for State Emergency Services? Is local government expected to play an increasing role in providing or encouraging financial support for State Emergency Services? I wonder what role local government plays in an administrative or hierarchical sense with respect to input and policy guidance. Is there a consultative committee which advises the Minister about State Emergency Services? Is local government represented on that committee? Does all the advice the Minister gets regarding State Emergency Services come purely from the Police Department?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** The Police Commissioner is the responsible authority for the oversight and administration of S.E.S. operations. The Minister receives advice from the Commissioner in relation to those matters to which the honourable member referred. I am quite sure that the Commissioner would consult with and seek advice from various groups, not the least of which is local government in the community, as to what policy guidelines ought to be operative, principally the liaison between the department and local government. Those administrative functions of S.E.S. lie with the Director of S.E.S. operations.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** I raise a matter of some interest, the mounted squad, of which I have been critical for some years. As a result I have suffered criticism from members of the South Australian Equestrian Division who have told me that if the police mounted squad was to be disbanded they fear that that would have a grave impact on their activities at shows and various other functions. My criticism, basically, is that every member of this Committee knows that, if a proposal was put to the Parliament now that we should spend around \$1 000 000 of public funds per year on setting up a police mounted squad, not one member would support that establishment. The only reason why the mounted squad continues is an historical one.

The mounted squad is already established and, as an established fact, is continued. At a cost of \$1 000 000 for 30 officers we could be getting much better value than we are getting from the mounted squad at present. I have no doubt that my constituents would prefer to see those 30 officers dispersed throughout the State undertaking normal police functions.

**Mr MATHWIN:** They can do, as mounted police.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** The fact of the matter is quite different from that, as we established last year. Will the Minister say why it is that there are less details about the mounted police squad available in the programme papers this year than there were last year? Details were given last year of how many officers were in the mounted squad. I compliment the former Minister, who made that information available. However, this Minister seems to be hiding that information for some reason, so I will give him an opportunity to make it available to the Committee. Will the Minister say how much is being spent on the mounted squad this year, as it appears only in the 'Special Police Services' part of the programme papers? How many officers are involved in the mounted squad? And what has been the cost of operating the Echunga establishment during the past 12 months.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I am disappointed that the honourable member was not able to sit through all of the proceedings today because if he had been able to find time to do so he might have been aware of the facts I am about to give him. I do not mind repeating them to the Committee because I think that the mounted cadre section is an excellent section of the Police Force and performs an important and vital role. The mounted police service has undertaken about 370 operations during the past fiscal year. They have included regular daily patrols through metropolitan Adelaide, the green belt area and the Torrens River area. Those patrols have not been confined to daylight hours but are undertaken on a 24-hour-a-day basis.

The number of offences has declined since these patrols have been undertaken in the green belt and Torrens River areas. I hasten to add that those patrols have not been established to harass any particular group but are just a general policing operation to protect all citizens of the community equally, I can assure the honourable member. There are 44 members of the mounted cadre section at a salary cost of \$875 823. Administrative expenses for that section amounted to \$51 373 including \$23 923 for fodder. I am

pleased to say that one of the mounted squad is a female member of the force who will be joining these patrols. In addition to those 370 operations to which I referred, the mounted section has also undertaken patrols in the car parks of shopping centres during late night shopping. It has been interesting to note the decline in petty offences such as the theft of hub cabs and aerials at the shopping centres whilst these patrols have been operating.

In addition, the squad was involved in operation Honeymoon, which was the basis of a demonstration at the Honeymoon site. It provided a valuable police service on that occasion. The squad also participated in the search for the escapee Smith. In addition, Crime Alert programmes are undertaken by the mounted police service. An ancillary part of their work is public relations, the emphasis being placed on operational involvement. That is evidenced by the statistics to which I refer. The squad performs a valuable public relations duty. The number of horses being stabled has been reduced during the past 12 months from over 70 to 64. There are six persons employed at Echunga: a farm-hand, one weekly-paid person, three cooks employed on a casual basis, and a constable who resides on the property. The overall number of the mounted cadre section has been reduced by two during this period. Close scrutiny is made to ensure that this force has an operational as well as a ceremonial police function and I think they have served that purpose well.

There are a number of other uses for the area at Echunga. The reserve is utilised for horse training, agistment, dog training, weapons training and the provision of classrooms and dormitory-type accommodation for in-service training purposes. The personnel at Echunga service not only the mounted cadre section but also a whole range of other police functions and in-service training groups.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** How many other Police Forces in Australia have a mounted section, particularly ones which breed their own stock?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I am aware that Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland have mounted sections in their forces. I am unaware of what happens in other States, but I would be surprised if they did not have a mounted section.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** Turning to the availability of police officers for routine duties, I received a complaint from the Elizabeth Vale Primary School Council, which expressed what I believe to be a general concern felt in the community about the availability of the Police Force for what are, in a sense, routine and regular police duties. I appreciate that it is impossible to have effective policing to the level we all want simply because to do that we would need to have half the community in the Police Force and the other half would probably be in gaol. I mean this within the constraints of the Budget. The paragraph of concern in this letter (and this is not a complaint against the police generally) relates to vandalism at the school. The letter states:

The last incident brought 'break ins' on the nights of both Saturday September 18 and Sunday 19, removal of almost all fluorescent tubes of external security lights of both schools, and subsequent smashing of these all over the school grounds including the oval, spray painted graffiti damage of large areas of walls of school buildings, damage to wooden exterior cladding of weatherboard buildings and defacement of buildings with sticky material unidentified but extremely difficult to remove. The cost of repairs and removal of defacement must be considerable. The caretaker is spending all his time in cleaning up after vandals instead of getting on with his regular school jobs. In addition, there is evidence that several fires have been lit. We are very concerned at the danger to children of broken glass. It is practically impossible to remove all fragments of shattered fluorescent tubes from the oval grass.

This vandalism is happening in the early hours of Sunday and Monday mornings. We need better police patrol of our school

premises at these times. We are extremely concerned at the eventual result of this vandalism for our school if we do not get much better surveillance to curb it.

Something must be done about this situation.

We need urgent help. Yours sincerely,

Mr GLEN PAULL  
CHAIRMAN OF SCHOOL COUNCIL

I have raised this matter because that plea from the Elizabeth Vale Primary School raises a specific request for assistance that those people feel has not been available readily to them. It is also a request for policing at particular times of the week. I read that letter to put the context to what I want to ask the Minister. I suspect that the Elizabeth Vale Primary School has been receiving what the Commissioner and I might consider to be adequate policing in that mobile patrols would have been visiting that school regularly as a result of complaints. The real difficulty is that an area such as that in which the Elizabeth Vale Primary School is situated is basically a residential area. After 10 p.m. one can hear a vehicle coming from a considerable distance, so the result is, I suspect, that vandals can get into the schoolyards, can be doing damage, can hear the approach of any vehicles from a considerable distance and are able to take evasive action. What is really necessary in these sorts of situations is a different type of policing, one which might be less convenient but which might well be more successful. I suspect that we need police officers to position themselves in schools such as this over a period in an endeavour to catch the vandals. One of the problems is that children in some of these areas play in these schoolyards, ride their bikes around etc. Where there is a serious problem emerging, such as in this case, two things ought to happen. One is that it ought to be made very clear to youngsters in the area that they are not to play in the schoolgrounds after school. Secondly, police officers at the appropriate times (in this case, in the early hours of Sunday and Monday mornings) ought to be stationed in the area in an endeavour to entrap the vandals concerned. Will the Minister be prepared to consider that sort of alternative policing rather than simply the mobile patrol type of approach which is the norm at present?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** We will consider the specific point that the honourable member raised, but we have to keep in mind that the police have special policing objectives and operations from time to time—tasks where they identify a need associated with different mischiefs that are being undertaken in the community. The one to which the honourable member refers is a specific case. We will be prepared to look at that, but it ought not to be overlooked that the department undertakes specific tasks and policing objectives to counter misdemeanours in a number of areas.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** Finally, I would like to ask about the new procedures for complaints against the police. From time to time people, including some Ministers, have attempted to smear me by saying that I am opposed to the Police Force. It is on record in this debate and in other debates that I do not see the police generally in anything but the highest regard. I believe that the police, as this Parliament does, reflect by and large the community at large. You get good people; you get bad people. The only thing you can do to try and guard against that is to have the screening procedures that the Police Department uses, generally, to try to ensure that the best persons are admitted to the Police Force. Even then, you can make mistakes, inevitably.

Nonetheless, I still believe that there is a small group within our Police Force who are not only acting unlawfully from time to time but also acting in a manner that brings discredit on the rest of the Police Force. I know that my friends in the Police Force are concerned about this sort of thing. I am anxious to know more details about the proposals

that the Minister has for setting up a complaints section to receive complaints against the Police Force. From my point of view, for some time while the inquiry into the Police Force was being undertaken I, at least, felt some confidence in being able to refer complaints to officers who were involved in receiving complaints. I would be anxious to hear who the complaints officers are now, and whether the new complaints system has been set up. It is important that the community should know not only that there is an office somewhere in town where their complaints can be received, but also that a particular person can be identified as the person to whom one can refer, because that gives people greater confidence than if one simply refers to an anonymous office.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** As was indicated in the Governor's Speech and as I have indicated on a number of occasions, we intend to introduce legislation to inject an independent element into complaints against the Police Force. I hope that I will be in a position to introduce that legislation to the Parliament within the next three or four weeks. The legislation will detail a number of procedures and areas of responsibility. I really do not want to take it any further than that at this stage.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** What are the arrangements now for making complaints against police behaviour?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** The Deputy Commissioner has overall control of the whole inspectorate in handling any complaints against police officers. The Acting Commissioner of Personnel is in charge of the management of complaints: there is a chief superintendent in charge of the team which comprises the inspectorate that undertakes the investigation.

The Commissioner has made some modifications, although not major ones because it was the Government's intention to introduce new legislation and incorporate an independent element. I hope to be in a position to bring it into the House within a month.

**Mr RANDALL:** My question relates to a recent decision made by Judge Layton in regard to sex discrimination within the force. It has been put to me that cadets must participate in training exercises. These training exercises involve overnight camping, and apparently women will no longer be provided with separate tents but will have to share tents with their male colleagues on camping exercises. Is this fact, or will the Minister investigate the suggestion that women police cadets will no longer be occupying separate tents but will have to share tents with male trainees during overnight camping exercises?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** At Fort Largs separate dormitory accommodation is provided for male and female cadets. I see no reason why, when they go camping, there should not be separate tents for male and female cadets. Separate accommodation is provided at Echunga. I cannot indicate specifically whether or not there have been any incidents of sharing of tents on exercises. We will have the matter investigated. I believe it to be highly unlikely that that will be the situation in view of the fact that the formalities are complied with both at the academy and at Echunga.

**Mr KENEALLY:** The Minister and the Acting Commissioner will be pleased to know that this will be the last question from the Opposition on this line. I make the comment that out of today's questioning two vital pieces of information have arisen for the Parliament and the people of South Australia to note. I refer, first, to the new guidelines for the Drug Squad activities in South Australia. I join with my colleague the member for Elizabeth in congratulating the Police Force on what will be the most important set of guidelines in a Police Force in Australia in this important area. We all know that drugs is one area of crime in which the temptations are enormous because of the great quantities of money involved. I join with my colleague in congratulating

the Police Force which vindicates to some degree actions taken by the Opposition earlier last year.

Secondly, I wish to re-inforce the Opposition's viewpoint that either the information that has been provided by the Minister and his department is wrong or there has been a definite decrease in resources provided to the Police Force in South Australia. We regret that very much if that is the case. The Minister will not acknowledge it, and I do not expect him to do so, as he is supporting his Government. However, the information provided is clear. We are not stupid. We can read, and it is there in black and white.

My last question deals with the accommodation that is provided to the Police Force in Angas Street. Is the accommodation adequate? I would like a report on the regionalisation programme of the Police Department in Adelaide, particularly for Holden Hill, Port Adelaide and the Southern Districts. Will the Minister or the Acting Commissioner say when regionalisation will be completed and what stage it has reached?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I will not comment on the honourable member's speech. When answering questions earlier in the day, I dealt adequately with his comments and dispensed with his claims. In relation to accommodation in Angas Street, we are attempting to bring the various administrative sections of the force, now located in two or three office blocks in Adelaide, to a central location. We are looking at alternative office accommodation. Inquiries have not reached completion at this stage and there is some way to go but the matter is being addressed by the department and the Government.

In regard to regionalisation, the Committee would be aware that the Government has let a contract for a new metropolitan police headquarters to be built at Holden Hill. The estimated completion cost of that project is \$6 100 000 of which \$2 050 000 is expected to be expended during the 1982-83 financial year. The anticipated completion date will be March 1984. The successful tenderer was Hansen and Yuncken. The first stage provides for the relocation of existing and temporary Demac buildings on site, the demolition of the residence and the construction of the new police building. In my office I have a plan for the redevelopment of the Port Adelaide area.

The question of redevelopment at Port Adelaide is being addressed but, at this stage, I cannot provide a time frame within which it will be completed. Further discussions are being undertaken in relation to the Port Adelaide site. These discussions as to the site have delayed further planning for redevelopment. It is fair to say that, in the long term, a plan exists for the redevelopment of facilities at Port Adelaide, but I cannot give details to members at this stage.

**Mr KENEALLY:** Will it be the next one in line to Holden Hill or will it be the southern districts?

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! The Minister has been asked a question. I ask other members to refrain from interjecting until the Minister has answered. If members have further questions, they will have the call.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** There is a real need in the Darlington and southern metropolitan areas of Adelaide, it has been noted by the Government. We will address the problem of the provision of buildings for the efficient provision of police services in the southern areas of Adelaide. As I have indicated, we are addressing the problem in the north-eastern area of Adelaide. The other regions such as the southern area and Port Adelaide are two other aspects of it. I cannot detail to the Committee at this stage which project will be undertaken first. It will depend on a whole range of matters such as costs, availability of sites, needs as the Commissioner sees them, and establishing a priority in that regard.

**The CHAIRMAN:** There being no further questions, I declare the examination of the vote completed.

Auditor-General's, \$2 165 000

**Chairman:**

Mr E. K. Russack

**Members:**

Mr E. S. Ashenden  
The Hon. Peter Duncan  
Mr G. F. Keneally  
Mr J. Mathwin  
Mr T. M. McRae  
Mr J. K. G. Oswald  
Mr W. A. Rodda  
Mr G. T. Whitten

**Witness:**

The Hon. J. W. Olsen, Chief Secretary and Minister of Fisheries.

**Departmental Advisers:**

Mr E. G. Tattersall, Auditor-General, Auditor-General's Department.

Mr P. E. Kildea, Administrative Officer, Auditor-General's Department.

Mrs P. Stevens, Ministerial Assistant, Chief Secretary's Office.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I declare the proposed expenditure open for examination. This vote is contained on page 110 in Parliamentary Paper 9, Estimates of Payments.

**Mr KENEALLY:** On page 110 of the yellow book numerous references are made to systems-based auditing methods. This is referred to under 'Issues/Trends', '1981-82 Specific Targets/Objectives', and '1982-83 Specific Targets/Objectives'. For several years the emphasis has been placed on implementing systems-based auditing methods in appropriate agencies. What has been achieved in the use of this technique? Can a listing be supplied for 1981-82 showing where wastage of public funds has been identified and reported to the head of the respective Government department or statutory authority?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** The honourable member has asked for specific detail which will have to be provided in due course. In relation to systems-based auditing, I ask the Auditor-General whether he will respond to that.

**Mr Tattersall:** The systems-based auditing method has been progressively introduced into the auditing system over the past two or three years. We are now in our third year. This method is referred to in my report this year. The object of systems-based auditing is, first, to define and plan the audit and establish the objectives of the agency being audited, and then, in a logical way, to document and flow chart the systems within the department or agency to permit the auditor, once the documentation is complete, to test the main controls in the system and satisfy himself that those controls are working properly. If they are, that reduces the amount of substantive checking and auditing that he must do. We are now about 60 per cent of the way through documenting the major systems that we audit.

**Mr KENEALLY:** Can the Auditor-General or the Minister take that question on notice and provide a reply later?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** Yes.

**Mr KENEALLY:** Currently, there are four members on the Public Accounts Committee, and the Minister is a former member, so he will be *au fait* with the question. Amendments to the Audit Act (No. 20 of 1982) assented to on 18 March 1982 provide for the Auditor-General to make investigations

into the efficiency of Government departments and statutory authorities. I understand that the implementation of this legislation will not be proclaimed until resources can be made available. The P.A.C., on page 35 of its annual report for 1981, said:

The P.A.C. believes that efficiency audits should be obligatory rather than discretionary, and that the Act should be notified to ensure this. More regular and comprehensive efficiency audits would ensure more frequent independent scrutiny of departmental effectiveness. The P.A.C. believes this is urgently required. It also believes that the findings should be promptly reported to the Parliament.

At present there a number of groups involved in various aspects of effectiveness assessment, including the Public Service Board, the Auditor-General and departmental internal audit groups. Through co-ordination of their efforts and use of their expert knowledge, it should be possible to introduce efficiency auditing without the need for additional staff in the Auditor-General's Department.

The P.A.C. is concerned at the low priority given to extending efficiency auditing, particularly as there are many examples of the benefits from auditors doing efficiency audits. Amendments to the Audit Act to formalise procedures have been drafted for some time but no indication of when the Bill will be introduced has been given.

As the extension of the responsibilities of the Auditor-General was a Liberal Party election promise in 1979, and as the Chief Secretary was a member of the P.A.C. when it made these statements, his comments on the repeated delays in implementing efficiency auditing would be appreciated.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** The Government considers that efficiency audits ought to be implemented and that they should have reasonable priority. As soon as funds, which are estimated initially to be about \$150 000 and which will make four offices, become available, we will embark on the programme of implementing efficiency audits within the Government services. That is dependent on the allocation of those funds. I have made representations to obtain the appropriate amount of funding.

**Mr KENEALLY:** I am pleased that the Minister has assured the Committee that he has made representations to Treasury for the \$150 000 that he claims is necessary to have the efficiency auditing programmes under way. It seems to me that the Minister should be able to set priorities. Obviously, within the funding that the Minister currently has, efficiency auditing does not figure as high as other programmes. I will not argue about that, because the Minister would argue that other programmes are very vital.

I was hoping that the Minister would be more specific and tell the Committee whether it would take place in the forthcoming year. If the Minister is hazy about when it will occur, it may take place in 1982, 1983 or 1990. Would the Minister be more specific? Are we likely to see the system effected within the forthcoming financial year?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** The honourable member has acknowledged that it was part of our 1979 election platform, and the Government has an excellent record of matching its election promises with performance of action taken. Even the member for Stuart, with the degree of cynicism that he sometimes applies in this forum, would acknowledge that that promise was put into legislative form. That obviously shows the Government's good intentions in relation to efficiency auditing. The honourable member made some comment about the Minister's rearranging priorities, redirecting functions of the Audit Office to take account of the \$150 000, that is, to place efficiency audits in above existing programmes. The functions of the Audit Office are clear and historical. They have detailed functions to perform. Efficiency auditing is an extension or another arm to auditing in the Public Service.

It is an important facet, and the Government places much emphasis on good financial management within the Public Service. The Government's approach to good financial man-



agement has meant considerable savings to the South Australian taxpayer and, when one compares that with the Eastern States, particularly, and the Budgets and taxes that have been levied in New South Wales and Victoria in the case of massive deficits because of lack of accountability, it can be clearly seen that South Australian taxpayers are at a significant advantage because of our management policies in that regard.

I give that preamble merely to emphasise to the honourable member that efficiency audits are yet another arm and an extension of auditing and good management within the Public Service. I assure him that I have made representations to Treasury not to downgrade, reduce or cancel an existing audit function but, rather, to obtain extra funds so that we can get an extension of the audit programmes in this State that will enhance the management and accountability of the Public Service in the expenditure of funds. I intend to obtain at the earliest possible opportunity the extra funds from Treasury to enable efficiency audits to commence.

**Mr OSWALD:** I refer to page 105 of the yellow book and the heading 'Corporate/Management Objectives'. One objective is to ensure the most efficient use of audit resources. Another is to contribute to the development of effective financial and management accounting procedures. Can the Auditor-General enlarge on what is being done to achieve these objectives?

**Mr Tattersall:** We try to achieve the most efficient use of audit resources, in several ways: first, by introducing new modern audit techniques (systems-based auditing is one of them) and by better planning of our audits. We control our audits through a computerised system on which we put the budgeted hours for each audit. The big audit is broken down into cost centres against which we record the hours spent on the audit. We receive reports fortnightly on the hours spent against the budgeted hours, and the variations are questioned. So, the budget and time analysis system gives us a fortnightly control over the audits.

The organisational structure of the Audit Department was rearranged during the last financial year to reduce the number of levels within the audit to give us a better chain of command in our audit sections, and the last positions will be finally taken up on Monday. Also, we embark on staff development programmes, and we are paying particular attention at present to developing auditors in the computer area and auditing computer systems. We achieve this by putting each auditor through a formal course, which is run for us by an outside consulting firm. We have embarked on a programme of putting auditors through the A.D.P. section with specialists for periods up to six months, which gives them 'hands-on' experience in the auditing of computer systems. I am reminded by my administrative officer that we run in-house courses on auditing techniques and general staff development.

The second object is to contribute to the effective management of accounting procedures. From time to time my officers are appointed to committees to help in the development of effective financial management. That can be illustrated by committees that the Treasury has established in the p.p.b. field and in its own accounts system. On some committees requiring specialist input, auditors are appointed as members of committees, or they can be used as consultants to committees. A recent appointment was to a committee that was formed to assess the problems associated with the introduction of the Treasury accounting system and the budgeting system in the departments themselves. It is a committee of users. I have a staff member on that committee to help identify the problems of departments and agencies when they must convert to new systems. Of course, the other contribution in the development of efficient financial

and management accounting procedures is the secondment of an officer to the Public Accounts Committee.

**Mr McRAE:** I would like to ask the Auditor a question relating to that portion of his report at page 334 under the heading 'Health Activities'. Whilst I realise that the primary task of the Auditor has already been set out earlier in the book, what disturbs me about this agency is the very large sum of money which passes through its hands. I think that it totals in excess of \$500 000 000. When one characterises the agency as being on such a scale, then on examination one finds that the estimates of expenditure as are disclosed, for instance, by the yellow book, and I am not sure that the Auditor has had the opportunity to peruse what we refer to as the programme estimates, that is the health portfolio—

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** The only book we have here is that applicable to my portfolio, and that is the Chief Secretary. We have not got the Minister of Health's area responsibility in front of us.

**Mr McRAE:** I will produce the yellow book, volume 2.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Mathwin):** Order! I ask the honourable member if he would link his remarks with the portfolio which we are now questioning, that is the Auditor-General, within the Department of the Chief Secretary, because he is presently drawing our attention to health activities and remarks by the Auditor-General.

**Mr McRAE:** Yes, indeed. Perhaps I will continue with my broad explanation.

*Mr KENEALLY interjecting:*

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** I do not want to have a separate conversation with the member for Stuart. I would like him to give the member for Playford the opportunity to ask his questions of the particular Minister who is in charge of this line at present.

**Mr McRAE:** As I understand the situation, the Auditor, whilst normally part of the Chief Secretary's entourage, is in fact responsible to the Parliament and conducts the audit of all Government departments. So, it is highly artificial to say that one could only question the Auditor on, for instance, his audit of the Chief Secretary's budget. It seems to me that that would be very artificial.

**Mr ASHENDEN:** I rise on a point of order. Does this line of questioning that I anticipate from the honourable member mean that any line of the entire Budget relating to any Minister is, therefore, open for questioning purely and simply because the Auditor is here? His report appears to be being used at the moment as a vehicle to raise questions in lines which have already been covered on other days.

**Mr McRAE:** Perhaps if I could explain in quite simple language. I am not attempting that at all. What I am seeking is not the sort of detail which one would seek from a particular Minister, but a broad overview. I want to ask, if I am permitted by the Chair, a question of the Auditor which will draw his attention to his 1981-82 observations or review, and then draw his attention to what the agency proposes for the forthcoming year, and to certain of its features.

So as to permit you to rule, Mr Chairman, if I was permitted, for instance, to hand to the Auditor the yellow book, volume 2, book 11, pages 6 and 7, I would be asking him a number of questions, but the key question would inevitably lead up to this: I would be putting to him, 'Are you satisfied, on behalf of the community of South Australia, that the methodology proposed on those pages is suitable for the expenditure of such a large sum of money?' Then the questioning would continue, 'Are you happy or unhappy? Do you wish to make any observations, for that matter, on the way in which the agency can apparently—'

**Mr ASHENDEN:** I must ask for a ruling on my point of order. I reiterate that the questioning I hear coming from

the other side at the moment pertains to the Minister of Health's portfolio. I ask for a ruling.

**Mr McRAE:** I have not finished my explanation.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** If the honourable member does not confine his remarks to the Chief Secretary's portfolio I cannot allow the question to proceed. We are at the moment debating the line of the Chief Secretary and so, therefore, it would be only right for the honourable member to ask questions on those lines that are applicable to the Auditor-General in relation to the Chief Secretary's portfolio.

**Mr McRAE:** With due respect, I have to dissent from your ruling, Mr Acting Chairman. Do I have to do that in writing?

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** Yes. Is the honourable member for Playford aware that if he takes that action it would mean that this Committee would have to be adjourned until the next day of sitting, which is next Tuesday? That is on this vote only.

**Mr McRAE:** I will have to consult with my colleague. I do not think we would want to precipitate such an event.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** I explain to the honourable member that, if it is his intention to question in relation to the Auditor-General's Report anything that appertains to or is a responsibility of the Chief Secretary, that is quite in order. If he wants to give some examples in the preamble, that is also in order. But, I would tell him that he cannot ask questions in relation to the Department of Health, Agriculture, or any other matter. We are presently questioning the Chief Secretary. The honourable member must relate his questions to that portfolio.

**Mr McRAE:** The Opposition has decided not to proceed with our respectful dissent from the Chair's ruling, because that would cause inconvenience to many people. But, with all due respect, I think we have hit upon a matter which will simply have to be investigated, because here we have a situation where the Auditor-General, one of the most important and senior public servants of the State, comes here and we are limited to questioning him about the Chief Secretary's line. Quite frankly, that is ludicrous, because within a total expenditure of something like \$2 000 000 000 we have \$100 000 000 in the Chief Secretary's line. That means we are excluded from questioning on lines like health, which produce \$500 000 000, about which he reports. I cannot dissent from your ruling in these circumstances, Sir, but I place on record the comment that something will have to be done about this situation.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** The honourable member is allowed to make remarks and observations in relation to the Auditor-General's Report. However, he cannot question the Minister about matters pertaining to portfolios other than his own. If the honourable member wishes to make remarks about the Auditor-General's Report and the different portfolios mentioned in it he can, but the questioning through this Minister must relate to matters within his portfolio.

**Mr McRAE:** I will not proceed with my respectful dissent. It seems that this is now the critical issue that has arisen during the whole of this year's Estimates Committee hearings, because this means that we are excluded from questioning one of the most important people in the whole of the financial structure of the State on all but about one-twentieth or less of the whole of the Budget allocation.

**Mr ASHENDEN:** Does that mean that the honourable member believes that when the Attorney-General is here we should be able to ask him questions relating to legal matters pertaining to all portfolios, because I see that it is not just this portfolio that may face this difficulty?

**Mr McRAE:** The honourable member will have to direct that question through the Chair.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** It would be quite all right for the honourable member to ask whether the Auditor-General is satisfied about a particular matter.

**Mr McRAE:** I will try to frame my questions that way and see what response is elicited. Is the Auditor-General able to advise this Committee whether he is satisfied with the budgetary activities of the South Australian Health Commission and, if so, is he satisfied with the standards currently operating within that department?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** The Auditor-General is employed under the Audit Act and has a specific responsibility under an Act of Parliament to report to the Parliament on such matters as those to which the honourable member has referred by way of the Auditor-General's Report. That is the Auditor-General's function and he, without fear or favour, reports to the Parliament any difficulties he perceives in the management and functioning of any Government department. That is done totally independently of any Minister. That is done on purpose so that he can report to the Parliament fairly. If the Auditor-General was not satisfied with the operations of the South Australian Health Commission he has a responsibility under the Audit Act to report that fact directly to the Parliament through the Auditor-General's Report. He is here today as a departmental head responsible for the money allocated to the Auditor-General's Department in this State. He is here to answer questions about that particular area. That does not infringe on his rights to report to Parliament on any portfolio or on any expenditure of funds in this State where he believes there have been any short-falls. Does the Auditor-General wish to add anything further to what I have just said?

**Mr McRAE:** I think that that is fair enough.

**Mr Tattersall:** I agree with the comments made by the Chief Secretary. I do not see my role here as being one of coming before an Estimates Committee to answer questions about the agencies I audit. I see myself as appearing here as head of the Audit Department to answer questions about my Budget for the 1982-83 year.

**Mr McRAE:** With respect, Mr Chairman, we will proceed on the narrow ruling. I refer the Auditor-General to page 335 of his report where, in the first paragraph, when dealing specifically with the Health Commission, he noted the following:

The utilisation of resources available in meeting changes from revised classification, eligibility and fees charged for patient services limited the progress by management in overcoming problems identified. Notwithstanding, during the year a number of computerised systems were introduced to upgrade the quality of financial and management information. Specific matters raised with hospitals which still require attention included—

internal control procedures over computerised input data and reconciliation with outputs and associated financial ledger controls were insufficient to ensure the integrity of operations and financial results;

procedures for billing non-inpatients for services provided and all patients for pharmacy charges could not be relied upon to ensure all charges were raised; and—

**Mr ASHENDEN:** I must raise a point of order. Although the honourable member has indicated he would stay within the narrow bounds mentioned, he has already stepped outside those bounds. My point of order is that the Auditor-General is here, as the Minister pointed out so clearly, as the head of a department and to assist by answering questions pertaining to his specific Budget line. He is not here to be asked questions of the type the honourable member is asking. I ask for your ruling on this matter, Mr Acting Chairman.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** I do not uphold the point of order. I think the member for Playford is questioning the manner in which the Auditor-General's Report is set out and is asking for general information. I ask the member for Playford to keep within the bounds indicated by the Auditor-General.

**Mr McRAE:** I hope I am. The last sentence of that paragraph states:

the lack of timely reviews of outstanding debtors and inadequacy of effective follow-up procedures to ensure the receipt of all fees due and payable.

From the Auditor's investigation, what has that inefficiency cost the State?

**Mr ASHENDEN:** I am sorry. I must raise the point of order again. I cannot see that that question in any way pertains to the lines that this Committee is now considering. That is a question specifically relating to the Health budget and to comments made upon it by the Auditor-General.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** Could I just make a brief comment that might clarify one point at least? The Auditor-General's Report was tabled in Parliament only 10 to 14 days ago. Where there are inadequacies, such as that referred to at page 355, they have been referred to the Government agency in particular for response in detail to the Auditor. The honourable member has asked specifically for the Auditor to quantify what it is. Without a response from the South Australian Health Commission it would be impossible for him to quantify that to this Committee today. It would be a question that should have been addressed to the Minister of Health yesterday for her, having had the inadequacy drawn to her attention as the responsible Minister, to quantify what her investigations have shown. However, no member of this Committee can expect the Auditor to respond to this Committee here today on information that is not available. It is contrary to the ruling.

**Mr McRAE:** Perhaps I can help by saying that I will not pursue the matter. It is something that has to be dealt with by the Standing Orders Committees and the various other procedures we have. It appears to be the first time that this has been raised. I am surprised that it has not come up before. In circumstances like these, the responsible thing to do is for me not to press the question. It is unfortunate, but I will not press any more questions at all and I simply will take the matter up with the presiding officer.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** We should look at the practical side. If we are going to have questions of that nature in each portfolio area we would have to bring the whole audit staff down here. Obviously, the Auditor-General cannot answer questions of a specific nature such as that. We would have to have the other 85 auditors who specialise in a particular section of Government service. That is quite impractical for Estimates Committees.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Mathwin):** The situation is that the Chief Secretary is responsible for the performance of the Auditor-General. The questions have to be framed in that manner.

**Mr McRAE:** In the circumstances, the most responsible thing for the Opposition to do is to raise the matter with the presiding officer, and the parties can discuss it.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** There being no further questions, I declare the examination of the vote 'Auditor-General, \$2 165 000' completed.

*[Sitting suspended from 5.58 to 7.30 p.m.]*

Correctional Services, \$17 754 000

**Chairman:**

Mr E. K. Russack

**Members:**

Mr E. S. Ashenden  
The Hon. Peter Duncan  
Mr G. F. Keneally  
Mr J. Mathwin

Mr T. M. McRae  
Mr J. K. G. Oswald  
Mr W. A. Rodda  
Mr G. T. Whitten

**Witness:**

The Hon. J. W. Olsen, Chief Secretary and Minister of Fisheries.

**Departmental Advisers:**

Mr J. Dawes, Senior Executive Director, Department of Correctional Services.

Mr R. Henry, Administrative Officer, Department of Correctional Services.

Mr R. Seaman, Accounting Officer, Department of Correctional Services.

Mrs P. Stevens, Ministerial Assistant, Chief Secretary's Office.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I declare the proposed expenditure open for examination and indicate that the vote is shown in the Parliamentary Paper on pages 111 to 113.

**Mr KENEALLY:** What are the Government's plans to rehabilitate or improve the prison system in South Australia? We would all agree, with some notable exceptions (Port Augusta being one) that our prison system is antiquated. It is not the fault of this Government but rather the fault of a number of Governments over a number of years. I do not want to enter any dispute with any member about where the blame or credit lies.

However, I am prepared to say that it is only during the terms of office of the current Chief Secretary, and his predecessors the member for Victoria and Mr Don Simmons that prisons in South Australia have received the prominence they ought to have received. Plans have been put in train and will hopefully be effected to help improve our prisons. We have, quite clearly, an unacceptable situation at the Adelaide Gaol. We have Yatala, which is a maximum security prison and houses also minimum and medium security prisoners. I believe it is overcrowded and something needs to be done about it. We have a real problem in regard to the remand centre. Whilst we would urge the Government to build a remand centre, I do not agree (and very few of my colleagues would agree) that the location that has been selected by the Government is appropriate. I believe it is grossly inappropriate. That does not change the view that the remand centre is needed urgently and is the fulcrum upon which the improvement of the prison system rests.

I wish to take up with the Minister also the matter of community work orders. Does the Minister have an opener for this line? Can he advise the Committee of plans and costs to be expended in the forthcoming 12 months to put these plans into effect?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** The honourable member has referred to some of the difficulties within institutions, that is, the condition of some buildings in which we house inmates in this State, not the least of which is Yatala, which houses minimum, medium and maximum security inmates. I do not believe that is good. The Government has undertaken a series of measures to give alternatives for housing inmates, one of which is the recent purchase of the former Army Ordnance Depot at Gladstone and Laura. I would hope that that institution will be developed in the near future to house minimum security inmates. I look to the short term to achieve that objective. If it is possible it will allow us a little more tolerance at Yatala in terms of housing medium and maximum security inmates.

The aim in segregating inmates is to remove some of the tension within the institution arising from some of the long-term inmates applying pressure by different means to the short term or minimum security inmates. I leave aside the argument as to the site of the remand centre. We are wanting

to build that remand centre because it is important that remandees be kept separate from sentenced prisoners. That undesirable situation currently applies at Adelaide Gaol. I believe the building of a remand centre, wherever it is, is important so that we can segregate remandees from sentenced inmates. The honourable member will be aware that we built a new remand wing at Port Augusta Gaol. I understand that the building programme is ahead of schedule and will hold something like 37 remandees. It will be open at the earliest opportunity.

It is fair to note that small institutions located about the countryside make handling of inmates easier than trying to house, in a large institution, inmates of varying categories, namely, minimum, medium and maximum security.

We have upgraded the education block at the Cadell Training Centre at a cost of \$83 000. We have built a new officers mess at Yatala at a cost of \$345 000. The honourable member will be aware that we are sewerage cells at Yatala. That work has been under way for some time; it was commenced in February this year and is expected to be completed in January 1986. The total cost will be \$3 500 000. Members will acknowledge the difficulty in providing that service when working in an institution. That is one reason why it has been staged over a period. The installation of the T.V. monitoring and security equipment at Yatala and Adelaide Gaols was done at a cost close to \$1 000 000.

I am almost reluctant to say that, since the installation of that equipment, there has been not one escape from either one of those two institutions. We have established a full-time Dog Squad for drug detection within the institutions. We have also established a radio communication system at Yatala and Adelaide Gaols at a cost of \$261 000. Other security measures have also been undertaken: for example, the upgrading of security fencing in exercise yards, 24-hour manning of towers, the installation of metal detectors and a general clean-up of grounds. We will also be introducing cell cards on each cell for prisoners' property which they would like to maintain within their cell.

A number of other measures are currently under consideration. Our intent is to make the institution secure; that is a responsibility we have to the community at large. However, in detaining people, we should ensure that their detention is of a humane standard. Initiatives were undertaken by my predecessor, not the least of which was the Touche Ross Report, which highlighted the need to upgrade the management structure of the Department of Correctional Services.

The Government has undertaken a number of initiatives in that regard, not the least of which is the appointment of the new Executive Director. I believe that this State has been very fortunate to get someone of his standard to accept that position in South Australia. I say that without fear of contradiction.

The Government will create 31 management positions during a five year programme. Several years ago the most senior person in the Department of Correctional Services was on an EO1 level and some 650 persons were in the department. Obviously, that indicates a need for a management structure and for control of the department to take into account modern day detention. I think that we are moving towards that end as expeditiously as anyone could expect.

The department has already employed approximately 40 extra staff, the majority of those being correctional officers. That is significant at a time when there have been staff ceilings across the board. Community service orders have also been introduced and this gives an alternative sentencing option to the courts.

**Mr McRAE:** And a good one.

**The Hon. J.W. Olsen:** It is a good one, and I hope that the courts use it as much as they can because I have seen

the benefits of community service orders first hand in Victoria. I have no doubt that they have a very real and purposeful application in South Australia. I believe that community service orders have important rehabilitative aspects to them in terms of the personal pride of people in a set of circumstances such as that.

That is the general overview of the very positive and decisive actions that have been taken, but it will take more time to refine. The department has come a long way over the past couple of years. That is not to suggest that we do not have further to go, but we are in a very thorough, methodical manner proceeding through the whole range of procedures and administrative detail applicable to the department, to inject a human aspect into detention, whilst complying with what, I believed are the requirements of the community: security of those in detention.

**Mr KENEALLY:** I agree with the Minister that one of the most important decisions that the Government has made is the appointment of the Executive Director. The Opposition is looking forward to his influence on correctional services in South Australia. He comes with a very good reputation, which is well earned.

I will deal with community service orders and periodic detention later. I am very concerned about the Yatala Labour Prison and the number of prisoners that we continue to keep there. There have been plans to build a new maximum security prison, and I note the Minister's desire to establish another minimum security institution in the north of the State. I agree that smaller institutions spread throughout the State can provide a better rehabilitative service, along with the security that the Minister's department is required to maintain.

The Minister mentioned that \$3 500 000 is being spent at the Yatala Labour Prison for the sewerage of all cells. That suggests that the Government is intent on continuing to use all the cells at Yatala. I believe that, in view of the serious consideration being given to establishing other institutions, there is no need to sewer all cells. On the other hand, I believe that if the forward planning is such that, whilst we are deciding whether or not to build new institutions, prisoners are required to live in primitive conditions, in those circumstances I would endorse the decision of the Government to sewer all the cells, whether or not they are all eventually to be used.

Can the Minister say whether it is intended to use all the cells at the Yatala Labour Prison, whether or not other institutions are established? Is it planned to establish other institutions and sewer the Yatala cells anyway, so that when those cells are no longer required they are still there seweraged, but not used?

**The Hon. J.W. Olsen:** Three cells become two cells because of the requirement that the middle cell be used for plumbing purposes.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** It is starting to sound like an *en suite*: one could say it is a motel.

**The Hon. J.W. Olsen:** Those who view any of our institutions in this State as home-away-from-home or hotel-motel accommodation have never been in one of the institutions to see the living conditions. What we have done is put our money where our mouth is, so to speak, and the number of cell units will decline at Yatala because a centre cell will be used for plumbing to service the cells on either side. So, there will be a one third reduction in the number of cells available at Yatala after the sewerage programme is complete.

We are currently reassessing the need for a maximum security institution of its own. There may well be a need for a wing at Yatala to be developed into a maximum security area; that can be done more cheaply than building another entire institution. That will depend upon being able

to open another minimum security institution which, I hope, we are able to achieve in the short term at the former Army Ordnance Depot and that will relieve some pressure within Yatala, so that we can develop and contain within that structure a maximum security area.

**Mr KENEALLY:** Will there be a problem when the minimum security prisoners are moved out of Yatala? We must bear in mind the introduction of community service order schemes and other schemes to keep people out of prison who should not be in prison, and let us not forget the magnificent prison industries complex built at Yatala. Will other prison industry complexes have to be built, and will the one we are now using be under-utilised?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I do not believe that that will be the case at all. I think the new industries complex at Yatala is an excellent facility, and I shall be pleased if we can get that operating soon and get people out of the huts at the back of the prison, because they are not the best facilities for industries work. It should be recognised that a whole range of the industries undertaken at Yatala serve a valuable service to the public. I refer to the refurbishing of school desks which can then be re-used in schools. Members know how desks can become vandalised and, by recycling them in this way, we can provide a valuable service to the Education Department, as well as providing a work commitment for inmates which constructively occupies their time during the day and teaches them skills which they did not have before and which they can possibly utilise when they leave the institution. The revenue from the industries area at Yatala from the trades shop was \$120 315.

**Mr MATHWIN:** I refer the Chief Secretary to page 83 of the yellow book, to the heading 'Issues', and the following comment:

Commencement of the Off-Track prisoner statistics system to improve the management of departmental services.

What is this system? Is it a trade name of a system or is there some other explanation? I am aware of the importance of keeping statistics on people with problems with the law who are in prison. I am also aware of the importance of correct statistics being kept so that one knows the type of treatment offered, whether a prisoner responds or not and whether one can offer alternative accommodation and the like. Whatever the programme offered, it is important that accurate statistics are maintained. Will the new system keep records of all persons? Will the system keep a record of the recidivist rate of inmates? Has the Minister any further figures on recidivism?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I will ask the Executive Director to respond to those questions.

**Mr Dawes:** The Off-Track prisoner statistic system is essentially an offender-based tracking system which will enable the department, on the basis of a computerised system, to give an indication of who is in the system at any time. Currently, we can tell the number of people in the system, but we cannot say in what categories are the people who make up the total population on a daily basis, other than by a manual count.

The offender-based tracking system will be able to provide information on the categories of people in the system at a given time, whether we are receiving fewer prisoners per year, and whether they are staying longer. We may be able to say that persons convicted of more serious crimes are coming into the system and that people convicted of lesser crimes are being diverted by other dispositions of the court. The system will give us that capacity which we do not have at the moment, except manually, by taking the population in the system today and doing a count and looking at each person alongside the warrant which has placed him in the system. The second aspect of the system is that it will be

added to, and become part of, a justice information system being developed in the State at present.

**Mr MATHWIN:** I refer to page 96 of the yellow book dealing with community work or service orders, an area in which I am interested and an area in which the previous Government was interested. It is to its credit that this Government has continued with that work. I am sure that all members believe that, if it is at all possible to keep people out of institutions and prevent their becoming institutionalised, such steps should be taken and those people involved should be duly encouraged. Similarly, if people fail to take reasonable advantage of the opportunities offered to them and they prove themselves unfit for such rehabilitation, I believe, for the protection of the community, such offenders should be housed in an institution. At page 96 the following statement is made:

Planning for the establishment of community service orders in two metropolitan district offices was completed. The use of volunteers in all suitable areas in the department was increased. An interim report evaluating the pilot project into case load management was made. Staff were appointed with the amendments to the Offenders Probation Act and the Prisons Act through staff development programmes.

It is further commented that the department is operating community work service orders from Noarlunga and Norwood. What is the progress in those areas? What type of support is the Minister obtaining from volunteers? How have local service clubs responded to this scheme? Obviously, one must ascertain the response of community groups when undertaking such a new scheme. Is the Minister encompassing a wider area in seeking volunteers for this scheme rather than relying on service clubs? What progress is being made and what support is he getting from the community generally?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** As of yesterday, I think, 17 persons were on community service order work. The best advice that I have received to date is that one such community service order has been completed. Various offences and types of work are involved. One female offender convicted of false pretences was awarded 40 hours. She has been doing general typing and clerical work for a voluntary welfare agency in the southern suburbs. As another example, a male who was driving whilst disqualified from holding a drivers licence was awarded 100 hours. He is undertaking general gardening duties for a church youth camp, also in the southern suburbs. A female convicted of shoplifting was awarded 120 hours. She is sewing clothing for sale and making up food parcels for a church charity shop in a southern area.

I think it is fair to say that all offenders under this scheme have responded well to the strict supervision and performance expectations set by the department. They have worked an average of eight hours each week. Community response, to which the honourable member referred, has been nothing short of excellent. I have been most encouraged by the response of volunteers who are prepared to support the department and the programme.

Of the 44 community organisations that we personally contacted initially, 26 proposals have been received for work to be performed by offenders. The response by those organisations for which work is now being performed has been very positive. The State Community Service Advisory Committee has met something like three or four times so far, and all the 26 proposals put to it have been endorsed, and we will establish district offices shortly.

I reiterate, in support of the honourable member, that community service work or community service orders play a very valuable and important role for those people who have committed minor offences. They can give a positive contribution back to society after transgression, rather than being placed in an institution, bearing in mind that, of

course, sexual-related, major or violent offences do not qualify for the scheme at all. We are talking about those committing minor offences, such as shoplifting, driving under the influence or driving whilst disqualified.

I would really like to see the courts make greater use of the community service scheme. But, I guess that with the success that we are currently having with this operation there will be a greater awareness of those benefits and a greater willingness to place people in this type of community service work.

**Mr MATHWIN:** I would now like to ask a question related to improving conditions for people in prison. I refer to some of the remarks made by the member for Stuart earlier when he spoke about the remand centre. If ever there was a need for a building other than Adelaide Gaol in which to house people, there is a need now to build a remand centre in this State.

**Mr McRAE:** That is not denied.

**Mr MATHWIN:** The conditions in Adelaide Gaol are rather shocking to anyone who has ever had the chance to see them.

**Mr McRAE:** Of course, we agree.

**Mr MATHWIN:** I am glad that honourable members opposite agree. But, in relation to the situation at Yatala, the Government is providing toilets in blocks where there was a great need. Irrespective of whose fault it is that those conditions exist, they have gone on for a number of years. It is shocking for anyone to see the state of those cells. In fact, it is unbelievable to see them the first time.

I believe that the situation will be greatly eased by the Government providing toilets at a very high cost, well on the way towards \$4 000 000. Also, this will lessen the accommodation area, as the Minister explained, by making three cells into two cells, thereby reducing accommodation available for people needing maximum security. This is to the credit of the Government, the Minister, and the Minister who preceded him.

**Mr McRAE:** The one before him, let us be fair.

**Mr MATHWIN:** It was the previous Minister and the present Minister in this Government who were responsible for providing toilets at Yatala Gaol. Let there be no doubt about that. I happen to be on the Public Works Committee, as is the member for Price. It is all very well for the honourable member to argue. His Government was going to provide sani-toilets in the cells. We will not get into that argument. We know how well they can be wrapped around one's neck, like the buckets.

**Mr McRAE:** I have never experienced that.

**Mr MATHWIN:** No, because you do not happen to be a warder at the gaol.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I think that the honourable member for Glenelg has made his point. Would he please continue?

**Mr MATHWIN:** I ask the Minister how the work on the sanitation area and the provision of toilets in the cells at Yatala is progressing. When is it expected that that part of the project will be completed?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** The project is right on target. The building programme is running in line with that, as planned. As I mentioned earlier, work started in February this year. It will take about 3½ years to complete all the cell block accommodation, as we are doing one block at a time because of the need to maintain security; that is part of the reason why it is taking that time.

**Mr MATHWIN:** And because of the type of building, too?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** Yes. We are working with a very old building. Work is currently proceeding in F wing in B division, and it will progress to other areas of the institution. It is a pity, in many respects, that that programme was not undertaken some time ago when I understand that, although

there was a proposal to do it, it was not proceeded with. The honourable member referred to a number of other aspects of the operations of the institution. In the past month we have established a Correctional Services Advisory Council, the members of which are drawn from a range of occupations based on experience.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** Such as Liberal candidates.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I am sure Mr Ray Kidney, Director of OARS would not like to be given that label, nor would Mrs Irene Smith, a school teacher, or Mr Weir, B.A., retired Commonwealth Parliamentary Librarian. I think that casting a reflection like that across the Committee is unjustified. That committee is in a very good position and has a broad cross section of expertise to enable it to provide a very valuable resource bank for me and advice for the Minister of the day on those measures that ought to be undertaken.

The establishment of this committee was one of Justice Mitchell's recommendations in the Criminal Law and Penal Methods Reform Committee's First Report. It has taken some time for any Government to bring that recommendation to fruition, and I am pleased that this Government has done that. One of the things that I suggest it might examine (of course, the scope of work that the committee examines will be for it to determine) is the United Nations minimum standards that ought to be applied to institutions. I think that a valuable service will be given by this committee.

A whole range of other initiatives have been undertaken, one of which is to start this Saturday. I refer to the facility of contact visits, which I think is an important step forward. Admittedly, the inmates involved will have to undergo a strip search at the completion of a contact visit, but I think that that is important to this whole aspect of removing the tension within institutions and some of the frustrations or exasperation built up in individuals who have been deprived of their freedom. We want to remove the punishment from the family. The person who has transgressed has been deprived of his freedom (and rightly so, if he has transgressed, because there is no excuse for that, and I make no apology for secure detainment of such people). However, it is the children and other members of a family who will benefit from contact visits, and that is an important step forward in improving the management of institutions in this State.

**Mr McRAE:** With your indulgence, Sir, and with the indulgence of the Committee, I propose to make a short statement, ask three inter-related questions and leave the matter at that.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The honourable member may do so provided that the statement is not too lengthy.

**Mr McRAE:** It will not be. First, I support the statement made by the member for Stuart. There is no doubt that it is a disgrace to the State that over so many periods of Government (and involving Governments of different complexions) we have been left with a prison system which is plainly, at this late stage, being hauled into something like twentieth century standards and which is only now being invaded (that is probably the correct word) by people who have some degree of humanity and understanding of what is going on.

Secondly, I want to put on record that, although the Minister believes that anything done before 1979 is past history unless for him it suddenly becomes relevant, and the Hon. D. W. Simmons did, in fact, put in train many of the things that the Minister is now carrying out. That is not to take away credit that the Minister can rightly claim for having gained from his Cabinet the money that he has gained from that, and I give him every credit for that. My having said those two introductory things, the Minister would well know that, over a period of years, and specifically the last three years, I have continually made certain proposals to the Government. I was delighted, if I understood the



Minister correctly, to hear that one of my suggestions might have been taken up. One of the things that has always concerned me is the area of medium protection. We all know that an institution such as Cadell can and does work well. We all know that a maximum security prison, by its very nature, is fraught with problems and will continue to be fraught with problems, whatever the Government of the day, whatever the administration and whatever the philosophy. It is that midway ground that is interesting.

I have proposed in many a speech (the honourable member for Victoria, as the then Minister, will remember this), something like an Army barracks system, where there is a Cadell-type system, but slightly tougher and with fairly tight control—

**Mr MATHWIN:** And discipline.

**Mr McRAE:** Yes, my word. If that was to be introduced, with the clear understanding that if a person defaulted he would return to the severity of maximum security, it would be beneficial to everyone and very cost efficient. If I have understood the Minister correctly (and I would like to hear from him and his officers on this point later), the army barracks centre to which he has referred does contain components of this idea. If that is the case (and this is not because of egotism but simply because it will help so many people), I am thrilled indeed, because I think that there has been a tremendous need for this system.

I have raised the next matter with both Administrations. I make quite clear that I wrote a very stern letter to the appropriate Ministers in my own Administration stretching back over many years, in the same way that I have written to Ministers of this Administration, concerning periodic detention. There can be no doubt in my mind, as a lawyer who has practised for 20 years or so and as an ordinary citizen (or just as a matter of common sense, if one likes) that, if one takes one-off or second-off offences (I refer to the classic second offence for driving under the influence, where a gaol sentence is mandatory), the most appalling price is paid by this type of offender when compared to someone who assaults his neighbour.

It is often said in jest about South Australia (being a loyal South Australian, I do not take it in jest, and I refuse to laugh), that it is better to punch one's next door neighbour in the face than to break the licensing laws or the Lottery and Gaming Act, because if one punches one's next door neighbour in the face, one will get a bond. However, if one breaks the other laws they will come down on one like a ton of bricks. I return to my typical case of a person charged a second time with the second driving under the influence. For that person, the consequences are absolutely horrific, as he gets a minimum sentence of one month in prison. That means that the person involved loses his job. Immediately that happens, his family is in an appalling position. They are then thrown on to Commonwealth social security. However, in the gap before they receive that social security relief, the State community welfare system must pick up the tab. There is always an underlying problem with the offender because he is not, strictly speaking, a criminal offender. I do not excuse that person's behaviour for one moment, but he is not, normally speaking, a criminal, but rather a person who is reckless or thoughtless and who has not calculated just how much damage he can do on the road. However, the end result is that, because of that one month's imprisonment, he ends up with a family who hates him, an embittered wife and possibly a broken marriage, and the State ends up with a bill. The Commonwealth also ends up with a bill, and no-one is better off.

The person involved spends his one month. Invariably, he is the model prisoner. As soon as he has dried out, that person causes no-one any problems, but at the end of the time not one thing has been gained. So, periodic detention,

to me, is one of the most important things. One should compare that with people who attempt to murder other people and are then given suspended sentences. One wonders why sometimes the laws of South Australia are held in jest by our next-door neighbours. That is the second point.

The third point is the question of the Womens Rehabilitation Centre, which, I understand, is now working very well. May I say all credit to the staff at all these institutions, because what a thankless job they have. Will the Minister tell the committee how many people are now in detention and how many have been detained in recent years? If that information cannot be supplied now, there is no hassle. I am interested to know what the current situation is.

Basically, the three points that I am making (and I treat those as my three questions, and bow out) are as follows: First, have I understood the Minister correctly that, in dealing with the Army barracks idea to which he and I have referred, we are both dealing with the same thing? Secondly, does he agree with my philosophy as to periodic detention, and does he intend to do something about it? Thirdly, can he give me the figures on the Womens Rehabilitation Centre.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** First, if we get the Army Ordnance Depot at Gladstone operative, it will create the opportunity for us to apply more flexibility at Yatala. The honourable member will realise that in the minimum security area at Yatala there is dormitory-style accommodation.

**Mr McRAE:** It is a barrack.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** Yes, but we will not get hung up on the semantics of whether it is a barrack or a dormitory. We are talking of one and the same thing. To provide us the flexibility to take up that option, we must have the alternative accommodation available for those currently housed there, that is, the minimum security people. The purchase for \$750 000 of this site between Gladstone and Laura in the Mid North will, give us the flexibility to undertake programmes such as that to which the honourable member has referred. So, we are working to the same objective.

In relation to the question about periodic detention, we have opted in the first instance for community service orders. I hope that the honourable member will acknowledge at least that we cannot undertake a whole range of things at once. We opted for the community service order in the first instance, and to get that scheme up and running successfully and for the community to accept it. I hope that it has a great degree of success as a sentencing option by the courts. We can only encourage in that area.

**Mr McRAE:** I am doing my best.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** Periodic detention has some drawbacks, one of which is the expense, because we need buildings and staff. We are working with weekend penalty rates. The other thing is that persons are being taken away from their families, whereas under community service orders they still make—

*Mr McRAE interjecting:*

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** The two are not necessarily alternatives.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** Not necessarily. The Government has not ruled out periodic detention. It is an option that is still available to us, and it will be considered in due course. It would be wrong for me to say that periodic detention will be implemented in the next 12 months, because I do not envisage that being the case. It will take the course of this year for community service orders to show their true worth. Then we will take the next step after that. I hope that the honourable member can see that we are working in the right direction. I am sure that the direction that the honourable member would like to see the institutions taking is that which we are taking at the moment in order to attain that objective.

The population of the institutions at the end of August was approximately 850, of which 20 were women. During the period 1981-82 the graph that I have shows a slight decline in the number of people detained in the institutions.

**Mr McRAE:** Can the Director say whether 20 would be a fair average over the past year?

**Mr Dawes:** The number has been as high as 34 and as low as 16. The average is somewhere near 20.

**Mr OSWALD:** I refer to pages 94 and 95 of the yellow book. I see in the bottom table under 'Recurrent Expenditure', a reference to medical and dental services, \$117 000. On the next page under 'Education Services' the figure is \$2 000. I am not sure what makes up that \$117 000, medical and dental services, but I would be interested to hear the background to it. My first question relates to the education of inmates. I follow through the educational services before us, with the proposed expenditure of \$2 000, and listing no full-time equivalents, and ask what is the ongoing education programme for inmates? Perhaps that \$2 000 does not refer to that, but it seems odd that we spent \$117 000 on the bodily health and \$2 000 on the education of prisoners.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** First, in relation to the medical and dental services, we have clear guidelines that indicate that we will undertake any medical or dental services for problems that occur within the institutions. However, we draw the line at providing a whole range of medical and dental services which people normally would have undertaken but which they have not, of their own volition, had done as members of the community—that is, using the service for a complete overhaul of medical and dental services while they are there.

In relation to education services, something like \$64 000 has been allocated and paid by the Department of Further Education for aids. In addition, the department provides one principal—two base grade teachers and teaching staff on a sessional basis for specific programmes for the institutions. The figures do not show in our lines because they are now covered by the Department of Further Education and the Education Department in providing educational services within the institutions. We place much importance on providing educational aids and support staff to people detained.

In fact, some inmates assist teachers with the programme within institutions. Whilst it is not indicated, if one draws a comparison between the two, we should take out of D.F.E. and Education Department an allocation of funds, which would put the whole thing into context. We also spent \$83 000 on an education block building at Cadell Training Centre.

**Mr OSWALD:** I refer to pages 88 and 89 of the yellow book. The table at the bottom of page 89 shows recurrent expenditure for 1982-83 for 'Prisoner Admission and Preparation' at an amount of \$1 185 000 to be spread over 35 full-time equivalents. The figure given for 'Prisoner Maintenance and Sustenance' is \$2 964 000 spread over 92 full-time equivalents. Upon calculation, I find that in the first case it averages out at \$33 857 per full-time equivalent and the second averages out to \$32 217 for each full-time equivalent. If the average cost of each programme is over \$30 000 per full-time equivalent (and we assume that each one will average about \$20 000 in salary) it means that other costs are involved in those figures. Will the Minister or his departmental officers indicate what is included in those proposed figures over and above an increment in salaries.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** The request from the honourable member will require some work to break down the figures and supply detail. We will be pleased to do that in due course.

**Mr OSWALD:** My final question relates to the 'Prison Industries Operation'. I am looking for advice on depart-

mental policy. I will use figures to illustrate my question. I refer to page 113 of the Estimates of Payments which give figures for trade shop materials and production expenses to the amount of \$314 500. When we go to page 86 of the yellow book we find, for prison industries operations, a proposed expenditure of \$2 117 000. The receipts for the operation total only \$255 000 and those receipts, are far less than the cost of materials being used in the workshops. My question relates to policy. Is it the aim of the department to try at least to recoup the cost of materials used in the operation of the workshops or is it the policy to recoup as much as possible and write off the balance to the rehabilitation programme carried out in prisons?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** It is a deliberate policy of the Government to ensure that products coming out of the institution are not placed on the open market or to the disadvantage of private enterprise, thereby placing people's jobs in jeopardy. So, deliberately, we are very cautious about where products made in the institutions are made available. That is principally why we work within Government services so that we do not threaten anybody's livelihood by competing unfairly with private enterprise through having a labour content all but provided on a free basis—inexpensive is the best way to describe it. We will be introducing a new costing system in the department which will involve cross charging. That is being undertaken in conjunction with officers of the Public Service Board.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** I have not found anything that the Minister has said tonight to be particularly objectionable. The department is now at last going generally in the right direction although I would certainly have a few arguments over some of the details. I may be supporting a lost cause but I still believe that the policy of building up Yatala Labour Prison in any way is a wrong policy. It was a wrong policy when supported by our Government and it is still a wrong policy. As I said before, and do not tire of saying, we in South Australia could close down Yatala, sell off the land for housing and use the money thereby received to build a very fine new institution. Hopefully, it would not be like Katingal but rather a small maximum security prison and, more importantly, to use the remainder of the money received to build a couple of small medium security prisons in Adelaide or near-country areas.

I have mentioned that before and simply mention it again because the first thing one hears in South Australia (or anywhere) when talking about prison reform is that it is unpopular and, 'Where is the money coming from?' It is an opportunity we have in South Australia which is unique and does not present itself elsewhere. I believe the spending of large amounts of money, such as about \$7 000 000 on the industries complex proposal which, I am well aware, was initiated or planned under our Government (I am not claiming kudos but mention it because I do not believe it was the correct policy then and I do not believe it is now) and the further spending of \$3 000 000 for toilets is a sad event. I believe that not because I think that toilets should not be provided in cell blocks but because I believe that spending large sums of money on Yatala is a wrong policy.

**Mr MATHWIN:** Where would you put the new one?

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** A small maximum security prison on that site—my colleague suggests that Glenelg would be a good site, particularly on the Glenelg oval. My mathematics may not be perfect but it appears that we are installing \$10 000 toilets at Yatala Labour Prison which is an expensive exercise. I am pleased to hear the Minister's comment today and recently on the news about the initiatives that he and his department are attempting to take at Gladstone. They are worthwhile and I congratulate him. It is something which the Government has undertaken and cer-

tainly the incoming Labor Government will endorse and support it.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** In about two decades time.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** I refer now to the Port Augusta prison. I understand that the remand section has already been completed.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** Not quite.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** Well, I understand that it is basically completed but because of some internal dispute it has not been commissioned. It was facetiously suggested to me that they were holding up the commissioning of the Port Augusta Remand Centre so that it could join the international parade in November. However, I understand that that is not the case and I would like to know when that remand centre will be commissioned.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** The Port Augusta Remand Centre is nearly completed. The reason why it has not been opened is that we do not have the locks for the doors as yet. The locks are on their way from overseas and that is the only impediment to opening the centre. It will be commissioned as soon as possible. We are looking at the alternative of putting locks in in the interim, to be replaced by the locks that will arrive from overseas. We were pleased that the building programme was ahead of schedule in relation to the remand wing; it was not due for completion until February next year. It will be opened at the earliest opportunity as soon as the cells can be secured. I am sure the honourable member would acknowledge that that is somewhat important in an institution of that nature.

If the centre happens to be opened in the second week of November, with a whole host of enormous initiatives that this Government has been able to bring to fruition after three years of dedicated hard work on behalf of the citizens of South Australia, then I am sure it will be yet another example for people to take on board whenever they go to the polls to return this Government, so it can continue with the very experienced team it has, and undertake a whole range of negotiations to make life in South Australia better for all citizens.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** Regarding the community service order scheme which is mentioned as operating at Noarlunga and Norwood presently, I understand that there has been some difficulty in relation to it because the legislation has been introduced State-wide and the schemes are only available in Norwood and Noarlunga. If a magistrate chooses to exercise that power at say Port Augusta, Mount Gambier or another far flung part of the State, this Government's administrative bungling will come to the fore and we will see a chaotic situation. I understand already that the department opposed the exercise of this power in the Childrens Court on one occasion and the magistrate or judge there, notwithstanding the opposition of the department, decided to exercise that power. Can the Minister comment on that?

While on the question of the community service order schemes, I make the point that while I supported the introduction of the scheme and do not in any way oppose it, I am not one of those people who believe that it is a panacea that many people claim it to be, simply because the courts are likely to use the scheme for minor matters where they would normally have applied a fine and where the person concerned is sufficiently impecunious to be in the situation where courts would have difficulty in imposing a fine. It is in no way an alternative to imprisonment, as it is applied by the courts. I am not saying theoretically that it cannot be imposed as an alternative to imprisonment, but as it is imposed by the courts it is simply being imposed as an alternative to a fine. I object to that aspect of community service orders which places a greater imposition on the poor than it does on people who are well to do and can afford

to pay fines. I raise that as it is a matter of concern to me and my Party.

It has already been mentioned tonight that periodic detention is another type of alternative sentence which might be introduced. Periodic detention is not necessarily only weekend detention and I am sure the Director is well aware of that. It can be permanent accommodation, but allowing people to go out to work and the like. I urge the Minister to consider that type of periodic detention, rather than necessarily the weekend arrangements. If a person is incarcerated for all but his working hours, then one is putting the institution to fairly effective use.

That certainly is a real alternative for many people to imprisonment. For that reason I believe that it should be introduced into the Statute Books of South Australia at an early time. I will be interested to hear the Minister's comments. I appreciate that he says we cannot expect anything in the next 12 months, but this is not a matter which comes between the Parties. I know that preliminary work has been undertaken in relation to introducing the community service order scheme, but I think a decision in principle could be made at an early date with a view to planning the introduction of these types of periodic detention orders at a relevantly early time.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** The community service order scheme operates, as the honourable member said, out of the Noarlunga and Norwood offices. That does not mean to say that it operates strictly within the Noarlunga or Norwood offices area of probation control in this State. In fact, if one looks at the area that those two offices cover it is a very large part of the eastern and southern suburbs of Adelaide. It is certainly the intention of the Government to give that option to other areas of the State as soon as possible; that means committing funds and staff to undertake it.

The Department of Correctional Services over the past three years has been able to secure from the Government quite a significant expenditure of funds. Despite the fact that the honourable member made reference to the fact that spending money in institutions is unpopular and is not vote catching, the Government has been prepared to accept what I consider to be the responsible course and has been prepared to commit funds to this area. I am pleased that my colleagues in Cabinet and my predecessor's Cabinet colleagues were prepared to back the various applications for new programmes.

The Government cannot introduce a whole range of new programmes at one time. I think we have made great ground but there is more ground to be made and it is the intention of the Government, as has been proven in its track record over the past three years, that it will continue that work during the next three years. Of course, the new Correctional Services Act gives the capacity for temporary leave and that can be used for work release purposes if and when circumstances dictate.

Obviously, we will look at those cases as and when they arise. Community service orders are a sentencing option of the court, and it is at the court's discretion to either fine a defendant or apply a community service work order. Far be it from me to reflect on the judgment of the court in the cases before it. In this year we expect the total expenditure of about \$224 000 to get the community service order scheme running. That, combined with a whole range of other areas in which we have committed funds in the correctional services area, is indicative of the Government's good intent.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** I refer to prisoners' wages, such as they are, because there has not been an increase in prisoners' wages for a considerable time, and I am aware that canteen prices have increased in line with price increases in the community at large. I understand that this is starting

to become an issue of some tension within prisoner ranks. Prisoners' buying power has been reduced significantly in the past 12 months and this issue, if not carefully watched, could lead to disharmony and disruption of the prison system. What proposals has the Minister to increase prisoners' wages and, if not to introduce an increase in real terms (which I believe is necessary), to at least ensure that prisoners' wages are increased in line with the cost of prison living?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** New rates of pay have been struck for inmates of institutions, and that adjustment took account of the c.p.i. influence last year. That influence on base rate pay would be minimal, and last year it was 10c. Rates vary dependent upon the type of work performed from \$1.20 to \$1.70 a day, and adjustment on that base rate for c.p.i. has been made this year. In addition, we will be supplying an expanded range of goods available for purchase by inmates in the canteen. The rate of pay was reviewed in December last, and I am advised that it is to be reviewed every December in accordance with c.p.i. increases for that year.

*The Hon. PETER DUNCAN interjecting:*

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** No, but the rate will be adjusted in December next year in accordance with the September quarter c.p.i. movement for this year.

**Mr RODDA:** It is excellent news to hear that the Minister has been able to negotiate the purchase of the Gladstone Army ordnance area. Has the Minister anything to report about Gladstone prison, because although some of the infrastructure is solid other areas are unkempt. Has the Minister plans for that historic structure?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** As the honourable member is aware, it was some time ago when options were originally looked at and, with encouragement from the local member, the old Gladstone Gaol was looked at as an option for reopening (it should never have been closed). We looked at opening it but the cost nominated by the Public Buildings Department to refurbish and reopen the gaol was prohibitive, and that option was not proceeded with.

Shortly thereafter the Army ordnance depot became available and was purchased from the Commonwealth Government. One scheme that we have in mind is that, if we transfer minimum security inmates to that area, perhaps as part of their work commitment, we will bus them the few miles from the ordnance depot to the old gaol to undertake renovations of sections of the gaol for tourist purposes. It seems to me that that could provide an invaluable asset in future years for tourists wanting to view such an institution while at the same time providing a work commitment for inmates. Other schemes include goat farming in the hills encompassed by the ordnance area. We are working on that proposal and I hope to get agreement to its being undertaken.

**Mr WHITTEN:** First, I want to say how pleased I am that the Chief Secretary and his new Executive Director have not proceeded with the disastrous proposed super maximum security prison at Yatala. The Executive Director's influence on the Minister was great, and I did not want to see in South Australia a situation like that at Katingal, which was built but never occupied, or like the situation at Goulburn or Jika Jika. The money to be spent on that project can be better spent on projects other than a maximum security prison.

I am interested in the community service scheme and a little disappointed that it is operating only at Noarlunga and Norwood. In regard to the Correctional Services Advisory Council, can the Minister advise me of the council's functions, its membership, when it was established, when were the members appointed, and what fee is paid to them?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** The Correctional Service Advisory Council was set up several weeks ago. Its composition is the Chairman, Mr Phil Rice, Q.C.; Mrs Robyn Rickards,

B.A. (Hons), currently employed as a developmental officer, Crippled Children's Association; Mr Kevin Duggan, Q.C.; Mr Ray Kidney, Director, OARS; Mrs Irene Smith, J.P., a school teacher; and Mr H. Weir, B.A., retired Commonwealth Parliamentary Librarian, and member of Australian Crime Prevention Council.

**Mr WHITTEN:** How many members are there?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** The council has six members, and the Permanent Head, Mr John Dawes, will be an *ex officio* member of that committee. The council will provide independent advice to the Minister on a range of matters relating to correctional services. It will encompass probation and parole for the department as well. All members of the council will be remunerated at rates set by the Public Service Board. The Chairman will receive \$55 per half day meeting. The other members will receive \$45 per half day meeting. We have budgeted this year some \$6 000 to cover the operation of the council. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday 13 October.

**Mr WHITTEN:** Is the Mrs Robyn Rickards on that council the same person as the Liberal candidate for Port Adelaide?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** There is a Mrs Robyn Rickards on the council, but as to whether she is the Liberal Party candidate for Port Adelaide, I am afraid I cannot answer.

**Mr RODDA:** Escape rates in South Australia were mentioned by the member for Elizabeth rather frivolously a moment ago. Can the Chief Secretary tell us what the escape rates are in South Australia?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** Despite the intense media publicity that seems to be attracted by escapes (and I presume we get that intense interest by the media because we have so few escapes in South Australia) when one happens it is quite a significant event. New South Wales had 148 escapes last year. It could become quite monotonous there. No doubt the media do not report it on the basis that it is par for the course—three a week. In South Australia last year, in one form or another, I think that eight persons left custody who ought not to have done so. I sought figures from the Executive Director after a prisoner escaped from custody, because I was interested to know how we fared compared with our interstate counterparts. If one strikes a formula, it is generally accepted, when calculating escape rates, that one takes into account two factors: first, the number of inmates escaping per general population. It would be quite wrong, with a population base like that of New South Wales, to compare that with a different statistical base. Even taking that into account, comparing like with like, we have a rate of 1 per cent—the lowest rate in Australia. Victoria has 2.2, Queensland 2.9, New South Wales 4.1, and Western Australia 5.8. I think that the public ought to be aware of the fact that we lead Australia.

**Mr McRAE:** It is rather a dubious fashion.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I do not think it is a dubious fashion. We can point out that our institutions are more secure than those in any other mainland State in Australia. We have spent \$1 000 000 to secure our institutions. Expenditure of funds by this Government to secure the institutions is working successfully.

**Mr KENEALLY:** The Minister mentioned earlier the electronic metal detectors that have been introduced into the Yatala prison. I was at Yatala last week and was let in to see some persons, but I do not recall having the metal detectors placed on me.

**Mr WHITTEN:** You walked through them.

**Mr KENEALLY:** Is it automatic? Is it not like the Penridge system?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** If someone as well known as the member for Stuart was visiting the institution, he would

still be required to walk through the walkway that contained the metal detector.

**Mr MATHWIN:** Obviously, he was clean.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** Obviously, they did not have to go to a body search.

**Mr KENEALLY:** I am disappointed. Obviously, the metal detector is there and one is not aware of it, which is an added advantage. I raise the matter of a shelter for visitors who attend at Yatala. I have had a number of complaints from families who say they have had to wait outside Yatala when it is raining or very hot. I wonder what the Government is doing to overcome that very real problem. Many of those people visiting prison inmates are elderly, sick or infirm, and ought not be required to stand in the open for as long as some say they do. Could the Minister give a report on that?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I agree with the honourable member's comment that facilities for visitors to the institution were not satisfactory. We took action to improve them. We have introduced a visit-by-appointment system whereby people pre-arrange a time. They make an appointment to visit the institution. That has a number of advantages. First, it gives notice at the institution that the inmate will be required for the visit. He can be on hand. Secondly, it can control the number of people moving in and out of the institution at one time. Thirdly, it does not require people to wait for some extended periods outside the gate whilst people are in the institution for their visit. I understand that during the course of the day everyone might take 2 p.m. as the most opportune time to visit the institution, which creates enormous problems. That led to people standing outside in the sun or in wet weather; obviously not many would have done that this year, but that is a side effect.

As well as introducing the appointments system, we have also constructed a steel frame at Yatala which has been covered with, as I understand it, a suitable type of canvas which shelters approximately 20 visitors. That is situated close to the main entrance against the main wall, and will give some protection to these people who have not perhaps made an appointment for visiting the institution. We have addressed the problem.

**Mr KENEALLY:** Can the Minister give an up-to-date report to the Committee as to the action taken against those prison officers who were adversely commented on in the prisons royal commission so that we can be brought up-to-date on that? I am not absolutely certain of my facts here so, if I am wrong, the Minister can point that out. It is to do with the prisoner Reid, who recently hanged himself at Yatala. As I understand it, and I do not have the press report here now, the Coroner commented adversely on the lack of availability of proper psychiatric treatment within the institution. Additionally, I understand that one of the reasons that the prisoner became depressed is alleged at least to be the treatment he received when he hugged his niece when she came to visit him, after which he was put in solitary confinement. Could the Minister advise the Committee whether that is correct or not?

With the system that now exists with contact visits, that sort of occurrence is not likely to happen again. I am pleased that the system of contact visits is being introduced. Will the Minister report on those prison officers adversely commented on by the Clarkson royal commission, and report also on the comments made by the Coroner, Mr Ahern, about the lack of suitable psychiatric treatment in prisons? Is it correct that Mr Reid was confined to solitary confinement because he was so rash as to hug his niece as she came to visit him? I know that is contrary to regulations, but surely it is not an offence requiring solitary confinement.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I cannot say whether former inmate Reid was confined to solitary confinement, but I will get that information for the honourable member. There was a report in a newspaper about the psychiatric needs of people in institutions. Parts of that report are inaccurate. There are psychiatric services available to inmates and, as I understand, they were made available to a number of people, including the person you are talking about, who I think was not a Mr Reid but a Mr Ryan.

**Mr KENEALLY:** It was an Irishman. I thought it was Reid but it must have been Ryan.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** Psychiatric services are available to persons in institutions, and I do not think it is fair to say that they are not. A number of initiatives have been undertaken in this matter. For instance, a number of groups have been established by Dr O'Brien, Director, Northfield Security Hospital, to cater for the needs of inmates complaining of psychiatric illness. An outpatient clinic is offered every Tuesday morning by Dr O'Brien or Dr Kalnins, the psychiatrists in the security hospital. A follow-up group has been established to meet every month to enable psychiatric follow-up on ex-inmates to monitor their progress after discharge from an institution.

Further to that, follow-up groups for persons suffering from behavioural disturbances are provided on a fortnightly basis where inmates who are suffering from some behavioural disturbances are treated on a day-patient basis in order to provide some control on that disturbed behaviour. I think that explanation gives an indication that there are a number of programmes that have been implemented that should fulfil any need in that area within institutions.

*Mr KENEALLY interjecting:*

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** That matter is currently being considered by the Director in consultation with the Crown Solicitor. I think it would be inappropriate for me to take this matter any further.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Are there any further questions? There being no further questions, I declare the examination of the vote 'Correctional Services \$17 754 000' completed.

Chief Secretary, Miscellaneous, \$4 066 000

**Chairman:**

Mr E. K. Russack

**Members:**

Mr E. S. Ashenden  
The Hon. Peter Duncan  
Mr G. F. Keneally  
Mr J. Mathwin  
Mr T. M. McRae  
Mr J. K. G. Oswald  
Mr W. A. Rodda  
Mr G. T. Whitten

**Witness:**

The Hon. J. W. Olsen, Chief Secretary and Minister of Fisheries.

**Departmental Advisers:**

Mr R. Lucas, Administrative Officer, Chief Secretary's Office.

Mr A. W. Bruce, Chief Officer, South Australian Metropolitan Fire Services.

Mr B. K. Treagus, Manager, Finance and Administration, South Australian Metropolitan Fire Services.

Mr B. McNeil, Assistant Accountant, South Australian Metropolitan Fire Services.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I declare the proposed vote open for examination.

**Mr KENEALLY:** Will the Minister say how well equipped we are in South Australia to fight fires in multi-storey buildings in Adelaide? Has the fire brigade details of existing multi-storey buildings and has it input into the planning of new multi-storey buildings? Does the fire brigade have a plan of all multi-storey buildings in Adelaide? Do we have adequate equipment to fight fires occurring on the top storeys of our larger buildings?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** In recent days the Chief Officer and I have discussed (and he has sent me a minute about this) evacuation procedures for high-rise buildings in the metropolitan area. This matter is being addressed by groups from various Government departments which are considering this matter to ascertain whether or not there is a major problem here and, if there is, how it ought to be addressed in future. Members will be aware that we have undertaken significant expenditure on a capital works programme that we have established. We are in the first year of a five-year plan. The first stage of that plan involves the building of a new fire headquarters at a cost of about \$70 000 000. In conjunction with that, there has been a detailed plan laid down for the purchase of equipment over five years to ensure that the service has the most modern and efficient equipment available so that it can undertake tasks assigned to it in a thorough manner. In addition, we have undertaken some initiatives in relation to manning levels within the service.

*Mr KENEALLY interjecting:*

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** At the moment, manning levels at the fire service. It may not be for long. We have been considering that and, in addition, addressing some questions raised in the Cox report, for example, as to location of fire stations in the metropolitan area, and wanting to address the problem of call-out times. It is one thing to recommend closure of a station, but that can be embarked on only if there is an adequate response time from a centralised station. The Chief Officer is embarking on a detailed programme; and a working party looking at call-out times and response times. No decisions will be made in relation to relocations of fire stations in the metropolitan area until that working party's report has been completed.

**Mr RODDA:** I have only one question, relating to the report of the Select Committee that looked into the fire service, of which I had the privilege of being Chairman. One of the ongoing recommendations that we made addressed the question of the funding of the Fire Brigade. Will the Minister inform the Committee whether any discussion or action has been taken on that recommendation?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** Yes, recently, I announced the establishment of a committee to review the funding of the metropolitan fire service in this State. There are inequalities in the existing system. The contribution, for example, of some country communities is disproportionate to the level of service that they receive. There are those who do not insure at all and thereby do not contribute at all to the cost of insurance because that insurance company levy is not applied to them to fund the service.

The committee has met once. I anticipate that it will take six to 12 months to complete its report. It is a mammoth task to try to iron out the inequalities that now exist. It may well be that the committee, after considering a whole range of matters, will opt for the status quo as the best available alternative. I do not know. I have indicated to the committee that it should have very broad terms of reference and that it should not be inhibited in any way from looking at any option that it wants to raise in making recommendations to me.

Mr Treagus, the Administration Finance Officer of the S.A.M.F.S., is a member of that committee. We have drawn people from various walks of life. The Chairman is a chartered accountant, and the Local Government Association and the Insurance Council of Australia have representatives on it. I hope that the committee will be able to bring forward a number of recommendations to iron out the inequalities. Some concern has been expressed by local government authorities regarding the approximate 25 per cent increase in their 12½ per cent component of funding the fire service, which has been brought about principally by wage rises during the past year. The Committee will address that and a number of other factors with which local government has been concerned.

**Mr OSWALD:** I held over this question which refers to prisons until the Miscellaneous line was being dealt with. I ask the Minister to take the question on notice and for the departmental officers to give me a reply later. It is under the line, 'Public Institutions, Chaplaincy service'. I notice on page 92 of the yellow book, under 'Chaplaincy service', that provision is made for one full-time chaplain to be supplied by the churches Joint Committee on Chaplaincy, yet on page 87, under the line 'Chaplains, various' there is a provision of \$65 000. It reads as though that \$65 000 is the provision of one chaplain for the chaplaincy service. I would like that matter cleared up for me at some time in the future, perhaps in writing.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I will give further details to the honourable member. By arrangement, the amount of chaplaincy was set in 1977 at \$50 000, for a three-year period. No increase was given in 1980-81, but in 1981-82, because of financial constraints, the grant was maintained at that level. The cost of maintaining a chaplaincy has increased greatly, and an increase of \$15 000 has been given. That is considered justified in view of increased salary costs, travel allowances, rental allowances, etc.

**Mr McRAE:** Also, they do an awfully good job.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I do not think that there is any doubt that they do. That is obviously why the Government has been prepared to increase rather substantially the amount applicable to chaplaincy services. I assure the honourable member that it would not cover the cost of providing the service.

**Mr OSWALD:** I would like to take up the point made by the honourable member opposite. I am not attempting to criticise the chaplaincy service. I am, purely as an accountant, looking at the entry for only one chaplain and equating it to a certain amount of money. I ask for detailed information as to how that \$65 000 is made up. It is not my intention to criticise the provision of chaplaincy service.

I refer also to the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service. At page 78A of the Programme Estimates an entry under 'Issues/Trends' states that the present fire alarm monitoring system should be replaced, yet a further entry under the heading '1982-83 Specific Targets/Objectives' states that it is intended to continue to upgrade the metropolitan automatic fire alarm system. Why is it intended to upgrade the fire alarm system if it is considered that it should be replaced?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I shall ask the Chief Officer to respond to that question.

**Mr Bruce:** The upgrading referred to is that of replacing the existing system. Over the next three years virtually the entire fire alarm system for metropolitan Adelaide and country districts covered by the S.A.M.F.S. will be completely replaced with a new system.

**Mr OSWALD:** I refer to the provision of motor vehicles, as outlined on page 79 of the Programme Estimates, which indicates that three motor vehicles are located at the headquarters complex. I assume that one is for the Chief Officer and that one is for the Deputy Chief. To whom is the third



vehicle allocated? I also note that 28 vehicles are provided for professional and technical support staff. I note from the right-hand column that workshops staff comprise those providing electrical and mechanical equipment, as well as metal workers, painters and carpenters, etc. It appears that seven cars are allocated for 28 people who are mainly employed as office workers. Is there an explanation for the number of vehicles provided, which seems rather high?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I ask the Chief Officer to respond to that question.

**Mr Bruce:** The three motor vehicles located at headquarters are for use by the Chief Officer, the Deputy Chief Officer and the Manager, Finance and Administration. The seven vehicles to which the honourable member referred are provided for the workers who, to a large extent, must be mobile; they must provide servicing for some 20 metropolitan stations and as many for country stations. Further, in many instances they are on call for immediate turnout for urgent, as well as routine, repair of motor vehicles and fire alarm equipment.

**Mr OSWALD:** Those vehicles must be available 24 hours a day for use by those officers?

**Mr Bruce:** A large proportion is.

**The CHAIRMAN:** There being no further questions, I declare the examination of the quote completed.

I advise members of the Committee that it is necessary to adopt a report to the House towards the end of today's proceedings. That report will advise the House of the items of proposed expenditure which this Committee has examined and will also contain any resolutions the Committee has passed. A draft report will be circulated in a moment or two, and I will seek a motion for its adoption a few minutes before 10 p.m. this evening. Any disagreement with the report should be raised with the Chair prior to 10 p.m. as the Committee must adjourn at that time.

Fisheries, \$2 638 000

**Chairman:**

Mr E. K. Russack

**Members:**

Mr E. S. Ashenden  
The Hon. Peter Duncan  
Mr G. F. Keneally  
Mr T. M. McRae  
Mr J. Mathwin  
Mr J. K. G. Oswald  
Mr W. A. Rodda  
Mr G. T. Whitten

**Witness:**

The Hon. J. W. Olsen, Chief Secretary and Minister of Fisheries.

**Departmental Advisers:**

Mr R. Stevens, Director of Fisheries, Department of Fisheries.

Mr R. Green, Chief Administrative Officer, Department of Fisheries.

Mr D. Huxley, Accountant, Department of Fisheries.

Mrs P. Stevens, Ministerial Assistant, Chief Secretary's Office.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I declare the proposed expenditure open for examination. The items can be found on page 116 of the Estimate of Payments.

**Mr KENEALLY:** The Minister announced, in a recent press release, that two new patrol vessels had been purchased

for the upper gulf region. The figure in the Budget paper indicates that only the engine was purchased in 1981-82 and it is intended to purchase the boats in 1982-83. What type of boat is being purchased and what is the cost of each vessel?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** Four vessels were purchased, one is to be located at Port Pirie, and one at Minlaton. They are more than an engine. They comprise a range of equipment that we have purchased from Queensland and have Volvo Penta motors, fully equipped. The reason the money was not fully expended in the last financial year is that the date of delivery went over into this financial year. There has been a carry forward of funds from the last financial year in the capital works programme to this year to cover the cost of those units. The total cost of those four units was \$232 000.

**Mr KENEALLY:** I refer to general scale fishing licences. A number of fishermen have complained about a big delay in the issue of licences for 1982-83. The licences are due to be renewed on 1 July. Up to a few weeks ago some had still not been issued. How many licences have not been issued, and how many were still outstanding on 1 September 1982? What are the reasons for this administrative failure, and what steps does the Minister intend to take to see that the administration of the Licensing Board is improved?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** This is the first occasion on which the matter of delay has been drawn to my attention. I have not heard, and not one fisherman has brought that matter to my attention. I have some constituents who are scale fishermen, and I am sure that they would have mentioned the matter without much delay, if that was the case. I am certainly unaware of those circumstances and I ask the Director to comment.

**Mr Stevens:** In response to the point raised, we did get the renewal notices out to fishermen prior to 30 June 1982; in fact, well before then. We asked all scale fishermen (classes A and B licence holders) to return their original licence to the department for endorsement for the 1982-83 season. We asked them to return them by 31 August 1982. There have been no complaints, as far as I am aware, directed to the licensing staff regarding the late issue of licences. The department has followed up some 25 to 30 outstanding licences not returned by 31 August. I am not aware of the complaint, but I am happy to look into the matter.

**Mr KENEALLY:** People may complain to members of Parliament without complaining to the department. What response has there been to the new policy of scale licence transfers? My Party is concerned about this policy. Is it true that a number of scale fishing licences are held by people who are somewhat on in years and are therefore not using the licence to its fullest extent? When transferred, will they be sold to younger or more active people who will put a greater effort into the resource?

The net effect of this could be a greater effort put into scale fishing. It has been suggested to me that line scale licences will be transferred one for one, but that net licences will be transferred on the basis that you will have to quit two licences to create a new one.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** I understand that some 16 licences have been transferred under the new programme, and as a result of that six net permits have been handed in. The Government was very much aware of the fact that a large number of these people with licences and net permits who had not put a lot of effort into the industry would have perhaps sold to a younger person and that effort would have increased, and for that reason we will not allow the net entitlement to be transferred with that licence transfer. Therefore, there will be a reduction in overall effort in the industry.

The only alternative includes families, and we felt that where there was a family fishing unit and children—where there was an estate or a father wanted to pass his licence on to his son—in that instance they were entitled to transfer the net entitlement with the licence. I do not believe in that instance that there will be an increase in effort, because obviously the son or other members of the family would have been a fishing unit, and that net permit or entitlement would have been used; and so in protection of the family fishing unit, which is what we have attempted to do in allowing the net permit to be transferred, I do not believe that there will be an increase in effort.

Conversely, in other areas of transfer, net entitlement drops off. You cannot transfer your net entitlement under the licence transfer system. That will mean, I believe, maintenance of the *status quo*; that is, there will not be an increase in effort. In fact, I think there should be a reduction in effort for the protection of stocks.

**Mr KENEALLY:** In relation to abalone fishery, one of the first actions of the Minister's Government was to convert permits to saleable authorities. Until recently, these authorities were being sold at about \$150 000 or more, and I understand (I cannot be sure on this) that the Abalone Divers Association carried a motion recently seeking to prevent advertisements placed in newspapers from showing the sale price. Many new abalone divers have not the funds to pay \$150 000 cash, and have bought their authority using considerable vendor finance. In other words the original diver who got his permit for nothing from the State Government is able to obtain profits from his own participation in the fishery and then further profits from the new entrant's participation in the fishery. The price of the authorities related to the returns from the fishery, so prices for abalone of good premiums on authority are inflated in a highly speculative fashion. Now abalone prices are dropping, and many new entrants are finding that all their profits are being creamed off by the previous owner. I ask the Minister whether he is pleased with the development of his Party's policy for this fishery, and is he concerned about the economic viability of working abalone divers? Does he intend to intervene in any way, or does he intend to let the market place send many of these fishermen to the wall?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** Like all sections of primary industry, the abalone industry is not isolated from market fluctuations, and at present the market price for abalone is low. That may be causing some concern to those who have paid what I understand was the average price last year of \$112 000 for an abalone permit or licence.

That is a commercial decision that people have to make. I make no apology for the fact that my Government believes in private enterprise and in the capacity for people to be able to buy into or out of a particular business enterprise. In so doing people have to make judgments as to the viability of the industry and should take into account the fluctuations likely to occur in those areas of primary production.

I repeat, the abalone industry, as with all primary production industries, is not isolated from, on some occasions, quite severe market fluctuations. In fact, this year the Government delayed the opening of the abalone season for one month to give the market some respite and, hopefully, to return more viable prices to those employed in the industry.

**Mr KENEALLY:** I point out to the Minister that a real free market situation (which his Party believes in and for which he makes no apology for supporting) does not take into account restricted entry. In a real free market situation there would be open entry. So, in saying that this is a private enterprise philosophy—and I do not want to argue about it, as it is irrelevant and not my question—

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! The member for Stuart has made a comment and the Minister would like to reply. I will not penalise the honourable member and count it as a question.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** Quite deliberately, we do not have open entry fisheries in this State. I hope that the honourable member acknowledges that in those States of Australia with open entry fisheries, such as in Queensland, that the fishing industry has all but totally collapsed. One can buy boats in Queensland for a bob a dozen because of the open entry policies.

The Government deliberately established clear management guidelines and policies for the protection of the industry to ensure that over the next 10 years there is still a prawn, scale and rock lobster fishing industry. There are some inequalities in any restricted entry market place. I acknowledge that. But, the alternative is far worse than having quite clear management guidelines and restricted entry.

**Mr KENEALLY:** I am an enthusiastic supporter of what the Minister has said. Good socialist control of a number of authorities is better than the total free enterprise system which has brought disaster to the Queensland industry. We are at one. The Minister would be disappointed if I did not comment on the prawn industry. One particular aspect of that industry which has had media coverage lately is the question of the management of the prawn fishery in Investigator Strait and St Vincent Gulf. The previous Minister of Fisheries (Hon. W.A. Rodda) issued a joint press release with the Federal Minister announcing that the fishery in the Strait would be closed for at least two years. The Opposition believes that this was a sensible proposal in view of the economic and biological collapse of the fishery. However, that proposal was opposed by Kangaroo Island fishermen and particularly by the processor, Nigel Buick.

The Minister of Agriculture (the member for Alexandra representing Kangaroo Island) managed to have the decision reversed through the farcical operations of a special Cabinet subcommittee. The matter was left alone by the Government as being 'too hot', until the present Minister announced at the A.F.I.C. annual general meeting that he would resolve the problem in a few weeks.

The management plan has now been released and, frankly, it has become the laughing stock of the St Vincent Gulf prawn fishery. It does nothing to resolve the basic questions of the closure of the breeding grounds at the eastern end of the Strait or the synchronisation of the closures. In all these discussions on the St Vincent Gulf and Investigator Strait prawn fishery, fishermen are frustrated by the State/Commonwealth merry-go-round where each Minister disowns responsibility for the fishery and blames his colleague. Mr Nixon has said to the fishermen that he will act on the advice of the State Minister of Fisheries. He is either telling the truth or he is not and the Minister can advise the Committee of that. If he is telling the truth, why has the State Minister walked away from what is a very severe problem.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** Investigator Strait is in Commonwealth waters and, because it is in Commonwealth waters, I make it quite clear that the Commonwealth is the instrumentality which, first, has the responsibility to rationalise and establish a management plan for that area. I did make a comment at the AFIC general meeting that I hoped the management plan would soon be implemented. I am pleased to see that the Commonwealth has implemented a management plan for that fishery. It has been asked as to what the State Government's attitude was to that plan. Let me clarify one point, particularly with the eastern end of Investigator Strait.

The State supported proposals, which were outlined in the original management plan as established by the Com-

monwealth, including the closure of an area on the eastern end of Investigator Strait. The Commonwealth distributed the plan. It is its area of responsibility. We commented that we supported the original proposal. I was advised that the Commonwealth held the view that it would be necessary to gain a more reliable data basis through research surveys before any definite decision could be taken on the permanent closure of the eastern end of Investigator Strait. However, while still of the view that the eastern end of Investigator Strait should be closed, the State acknowledges the Commonwealth's view or right that it wants to obtain a more reliable base prior to closure of the eastern end of Investigator Strait. It is clear and simple

**Mr OSWALD:** My question relates to pages 132 and 134 of the yellow book, and I refer to staffing levels in various positions. The first question is in relation to page 132 and policy development. Why do we need three people to develop policies? On page 134, under 'Fish Reproduction Research', \$100 000 is voted. If we look at the section above it, which gives the component and activity, it looks as though it is a very labour intensive activity. Two persons are involved in that research. Can we justify that, bearing in mind that it works out at at \$50 000 for each full-time equivalent?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** First, an officer of the department is working full-time on the development of the regulations which are to come into effect under the new Fisheries Act, which is a mammoth task. There is another officer available, designated by the Director, to develop policy, not the least of which is Commonwealth-State relations, particularly pertaining to the management of fisheries. Fish do not tend to turn corners when they come to a Commonwealth-State border drawn on a map. In addition, the third component full-time is made up of the Senior Economist and Assistant Director to the department and the Director himself in development of certain policy matters applicable to Fisheries management in South Australia.

**Mr OSWALD:** Referring again to page 134 and fish reproduction research, we have two officers for a vote of \$100 000. It is a very labour intensive area.

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** We wish to ensure that fish stocks continue to improve. It would be more appropriate to obtain a detailed report for the honourable member in due course.

**Mr KENEALLY:** In the Minister's speech to the A.G.M. of AFIC he boasted of good prawn catches in St Vincent Gulf, but what the Minister seemed unaware of was the alarming increase in effort following the relaxation of gear regulation. It is now estimated that the effective effort capacity of vessels in the gulf is 200 per cent to 250 per cent higher, so increased catches are not surprising. The fact that they have risen so little is a cause for great concern. Is the Minister aware that the St Vincent Gulf prawn fishery may be on the brink of an over-fishing collapse? If he is, does he intend to take any action?

**The Hon. J. W. Olsen:** An acknowledgement of a number of matters raised by the honourable member is the fact that the fees established for the Gulf St Vincent prawn fishery have taken into account some of those factors to which he referred. It is interesting that the total catch in 1981-82 will be at least 416 tonnes, or about 28 per cent higher than in 1980-81. Trawling time was 12 800 hours in 1981-82, compared with 14 200 hours in 1980-81. There is a 1 400 hour reduction in the number of trawling hours, a reduction of about 9.5 per cent, and the overall catch rate was 32 per cent higher than in the previous year. I am sure that the department would want to ensure that no fishery in this State gets to the brink of collapse.

The management strategy in the Gulf St Vincent fishery would be greatly enhanced by the addition of regular research surveys as we do in Spencer Gulf, in order to optimise the return from the fishery. When one looks at the Spencer Gulf prawn fishery and the way that we have been able to fine-tune management policies and opening and closing of seasons, taking account of moon closures and the like, in the Spencer Gulf fishery we are able to get the maximum return for reduced costs to assist the viability of the industry. If we were able to undertake the same research programmes in Gulf St Vincent, I am sure we could fine-tune it to the same extent as Spencer Gulf, and I encourage that situation to come to fruition. Also, it gives us a better data base from which to be making management decisions for the fishery. It is important that we have that accurate data base.

**Mr KENEALLY:** In regard to St Vincent Gulf fishery and the problem of synchronising the closures between the St Vincent Gulf fishery and the Investigator Strait fishery, I understand that the Investigator Strait fishery closure is of a more limited nature and that when the St Vincent Gulf prawn fishermen are unable to be active the Investigator Strait prawn fishermen are active and, when they leave Port Adelaide for the Investigator Strait prawn fishery, what proof has the department that, on their way to the prawn fishery, they do not do a bit of spot trawling? There are no other prawn fishermen to keep an eye on them if they want to be pirates.

This is not taken into account in the management plan, and it does not seem reasonable that every time a fisherman goes out an inspector is sent down behind him. Has the Minister taken an account of this possibility? If seasons are not synchronised there will be the possibility that Investigator Strait prawn fishermen can pirate (I do not say they will). Is the Minister aware of this situation? If he is, does he intend to do anything about it?

**The Hon. J.W. Olsen:** If the honourable member had read the management plan distributed by the Commonwealth, he would be aware that it indicates that it is desirable to establish a common management plan between the two fisheries to overcome the problem referred to. In addition, we have arranged for helicopter patrols that are not confined to daylight hours but also operate at night. Therefore, we are trying to police these waters to the greatest extent possible to ensure that people abide by the management plan. The Director reminds me that the successful operators remaining in Investigator Strait are Kangaroo Island fishermen who will be operating from there.

**The CHAIRMAN:** There being no further questions, I declare the examination of the vote completed.

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Works and Services—Department of Fisheries,  
\$1 000 000—Examination declared completed.

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Minister of Fisheries, Miscellaneous, \$98 000—Examination declared completed.

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**Mr OSWALD:** I move:

That the draft report, as circulated, be the report of the Committee.

Motion carried.

**The CHAIRMAN:** That completes the Committee's deliberations.

At 9.58 p.m. the Committee concluded.