

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, July 24, 1951.

The SPEAKER (Hon. Sir Robert Nicholls) took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

### ASSENT TO ACTS.

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the Appropriation No. 1 and Supply No. 1 Acts.

### ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL (NORTHFIELD WARDS) ADDITIONS.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the report of the Public Works Standing Committee on Royal Adelaide Hospital (Northfield Wards) additions, together with minutes of evidence.

Ordered to be printed.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION: GRANTS TO HOSPITALS.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I ask leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I regret that in a debate that took place at the last sitting of the House, in reply to an interjection by the honourable member for Stuart, I said that the report I had quoted from regarding grants to hospitals was from the Advisory Committee on Health. I had received information by telephone and assumed that it was that committee that had advised the Chief Secretary on those matters. I now find I was incorrect and that the information should have been that it had come from the Director-General of Health, who is the person who advises the Chief Secretary on the amount of the grants paid to hospitals. I regret that I gave the honourable member incorrect information.

### PRICE CONTROL.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—There has recently been considerable speculation on the question of price control and it has been suggested in the press that the Commonwealth Government might be prepared to resume price control if the States would hand over the necessary power to it. This morning's *Advertiser* contains the following report:—

Four State Governments—N.S.W., Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania—are prepared to delegate price control authority to the Commonwealth, and the Canberra view is that S.A. and W.A. would not stand out if the Federal Government is prepared to assume the responsibility.

Can the Premier say whether the Government has considered the matter? If the Common-

wealth Government is prepared to assume the responsibility will he see that the necessary power is handed to it by South Australia?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I have had no communication from the Prime Minister suggesting that the Commonwealth is willing to undertake price control. He has made one or two statements in the Commonwealth Parliament which rather lead me to a contrary belief. I have had no communication from him suggesting that the Commonwealth would like the State Government to consider the question; consequently, as it has not been raised on an official level, Cabinet has not considered it. This morning I received an invitation from the Prime Minister to attend a conference in Sydney next Monday. To that conference representatives of the six States have been invited, the Prime Minister proposes to attend, with two other Commonwealth Ministers, and a number of outside organizations have been invited to send delegates. I do not know what the outcome will be or what suggestions will be put forward. I do not know whether it will be an exploratory conference, or whether concrete proposals will be placed before it. I assure the honourable member that if a project to curb inflation emerges from the conference or the Commonwealth Government, or from suggestions by members in this House, it will receive the earnest attention of my Government, and that an expeditious decision will be made. On a previous occasion when a Government said it was prepared to hand price control to the Commonwealth it was found when that Government took the proposal to its Parliament that the transference of the power was not approved. I believe that the Tasmanian price legislation has grave omissions in it. I doubt whether that State would transfer power to the Commonwealth Government, notwithstanding that the Tasmanian Government has said it is prepared to introduce the necessary Bill.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—The forthcoming conference to be held at Sydney will deal with Australia's most important problem—inflation. From today's press I gather that the Premiers of the various States and representatives of the trade union movement will attend that conference to air their views. Before the Premier of this State leaves to express the views of South Australia, will an opportunity be given to members of this Parliament to express their views? This problem so transcends any other facing Australia that every member should be

allowed to express himself freely and thereby support the Premier in any attitude he will take to that conference.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Fortunately the conference referred to comes at a time when the Address in Reply debate is before the House and that means that for this week any member with views to express upon the problem of inflation will have the opportunity of doing so. I should appreciate any suggestions that members put forward on this problem which, as the honourable member says, is one of the greatest confronting us. The Address in Reply debate is an open debate upon which members can ventilate their opinions on any matters they desire to bring forward. This conference has been called on questions of great importance, but no agenda has been supplied, so the States do not know the topics for discussion. Further, I do not know whether an agenda will be provided before the conference is held. Under those circumstances it is unlikely that this Government could in any way commit anybody in this State or Parliament until the proposals can be examined more maturely than will be possible at a conference of this kind.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Was the Premier correctly reported in the press as having said at Victor Harbour that he favoured the re-control of prices on luxury goods? If so, whatever happens to the price control structure in the future, will he strongly press at the next Prices Ministers' conference for such re-control to become general throughout Australia?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—When the States took over price control it was desired to relinquish controls as far as possible and the States quickly eliminated from control many luxury lines or commodities not regarded as essential. That is the position today: we have a fairly rigid control over essential lines and a limited control over luxury lines. We have found from experience that people selling luxury lines do not hesitate to pay black market prices for raw materials and pay much higher than award rates for labour. Because their selling prices are not controlled they are placed in a more advantageous position than producers of essential goods. In one way or another that position will be rectified. I have before the State Ministers a considerable list of commodities for re-control and if I can get that list extended I will do so. There are some items that I would not trouble to re-control at the moment; for instance, imported luxury goods. I am certainly in favour of controlling Australian made luxury goods with the object of protecting essential production.

#### COAL SUPPLIES.

Mr. PATTINSON—Will the Premier let the House know the coal position in this State, particularly in reference to coal supplies from New South Wales? I noticed a report in the press that the ship *Kooralya* loaded with coal for South Australia has been delayed at Newcastle. What effect will that delay have on the South Australian coal position?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The present position with regard to coal generally in this State is most difficult. This morning we had another crisis and I have received advice from the chairman of the Coal Committee of the steps he had to take to try to avert stoppages. His notes are somewhat disjointed, but I feel they will answer the honourable member's question and set out fully the present position. The notes, which are addressed to me, read as follows:—

Unfortunately for Osborne, the Joint Coal Board has sent us barely one week's supply in the *Dornoch* containing 7,901 tons, of which only 1,276 tons is large coal, all required for the Gas Company. The *Dornoch* is due to arrive on Thursday. The *River Burnett* which arrives on Tuesday night is loaded with 7,962 tons, of which 4,000 tons is large coal. The *Kooralya* which was loaded last Friday at Newcastle for the Commonwealth Railways, Port Augusta, unfortunately is still at Newcastle without crew. Commonwealth Railways coal stocks expire on Thursday morning. I have arranged with the S.A. Railways to supply the Commonwealth Railways for the maintenance of the Leigh Creek coal traffic and livestock with sufficient coal starting from Wednesday until Monday next. For the Alice Springs traffic I have asked the Broken Hill Pty. Co., Whyalla, to supply 60 tons a day to maintain this traffic. The East-West passenger and perishable trains will be maintained by oil-burning locomotives, but ordinary freight traffic will cease on Thursday. I have spoken to the Joint Coal Board and asked that they provide a fast ship consisting mainly of large coal to reach Adelaide on Monday next, but no answer has yet been received although they are negotiating with the A.S.O. Our next ship at Port Adelaide is the *Amicus* which commenced loading at Newcastle today and will not sail until Friday, thus arriving at Osborne about Wednesday next the 1st August. You realize as I do that the continuity of Leigh Creek coal supplies to Adelaide is essential for employment and maintenance of services. The Joint Coal Board had listed the *Kooliga* to load this week for the Gulf ports but we learn from the Associated Steamship Owners that the *Kooliga* is still held up in Melbourne with crew trouble and it is very unlikely that she will reach Newcastle in time to load this week. In regard to Port Lincoln we asked Scott Fell, the owners, in your name to agree to sending the *Echunga* to Port Lincoln for two days' discharge there, but we also learned that she will not arrive at Newcastle at the

best until the end of this week and in consequence she cannot load and get away until somewhere around the 1st August. This means that Port Lincoln will also be out of coal before further replenishment of stocks and can only run passenger services with their rail cars.

In every branch of this State's activities at present we are living from hand to mouth and are only maintaining services by the expedient of borrowing amounts from one service, itself in danger of breaking down, to prop up another. As soon as possible I will get in touch with the Joint Coal Board to try to arrive at a more satisfactory arrangement with regard to the general position.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Is there any possibility of obtaining more supplies of coal from overseas and, if so, how much? I know that the question of the Leigh Creek-Brachina railway is now before a Royal Commission, but has the construction of that portion of the Leigh Creek-Port Augusta railway been started? If so, what progress has been made?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The State Government has entered into a large contract for the supply of coal from South Africa, but owing to a shortage of coal there—I think through industrial trouble at the mines—an embargo has been placed upon exports. The Prime Minister has taken up this question on the highest level in an endeavour to get some relief, but whether the embargo will be lifted I cannot yet say. Negotiations are proceeding. This week we accepted an offer and placed an order in India for 150,000 tons. It is easy to lodge orders, but much more difficult to arrange for shipment and delivery and placing the order does not automatically mean that we can expect any immediate relief from that source. As regards the Leigh Creek-Brachina rail line, the Commonwealth Railways Commissioner has been abroad for the purpose of speeding up supplies of materials and arranging contracts. I believe that the work has already begun, but I cannot say what progress has been made. The Commonwealth Railways Commissioner is most anxious to fulfil his part of the agreement and have the line in operation by the end of 1953, when the Port Augusta power station will begin to function.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I understand that supplies which have been arranged from South Africa are subject to a Commonwealth Government subsidy. Will a subsidy be paid on the importation of the 150,000 tons from India, and if so, how much a ton?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The term "subsidy" is not quite the correct one. The State

Government has entered into an agreement with the Commonwealth Government under which the Commonwealth Government will provide coal from Africa or India at the same price as Newcastle coal; in other words, the Commonwealth bears the increased cost over the Newcastle price.

Mr. O'Halloran—That would not be a subsidy!

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Not exactly. Another feature is that we are entitled each week—by the rules under which we are supposed to be playing—to a quota of 7.96 per cent of New South Wales production, the quantity which is supposed to be allocated to South Australia. If the coal is imported from Africa or India it immediately affects the quantity received from New South Wales, with the result that coal which would normally come to us is diverted to the steel industry.

Mr. O'Halloran—Is a *pro rata* quantity diverted?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—No, not quite. The imported coal is added to the Australian production in order to determine the quota. Assuming that 900,000 tons were produced in Australia and 100,000 tons imported, we would get a quota of 7.96 per cent on the basis of 1,000,000 tons. We receive an advantage of 7.96 per cent of the quantity of imported coal in addition to our normal supplies. Each shipment varies in cost according to freight rates and terms of loading. In actual practice, South Australia pays the same price as if it received the coal from New South Wales.

#### APPOINTMENT OF AGENT-GENERAL IN LONDON.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Recently I have heard discussion about filling the position of Agent-General for South Australia in London, which office has, unfortunately, become vacant because of the death of Sir Charles McCann. It was indicated that a Minister of the Crown would be recommended, and even your name, Mr. Speaker, has been mentioned for such an appointment. Can the Premier say what consideration has been given to filling the position?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—No decision has yet been made. I have not heard the suggestions that a Cabinet Minister or the Speaker would be selected. I say, unqualifiedly, that there is no truth in them.

#### PROSECUTIONS UNDER MARKETING OF EGGS ACT.

Mr. DUNKS—Has the Minister of Agriculture an answer to the question regarding

prosecutions, particularly of storekeepers, under the Marketing of Eggs Act which I asked on the opening day of the session?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—I have received a report from the chairman of the S.A. Egg Board, which reads:—

In reply to the attached question I have to advise that the section of the Act under which some storekeepers have been prosecuted by the S.A. Egg Board was section 21, paragraph (2) which reads:—

“On or after the appointed day a producer shall not sell or deliver any eggs to any person other than the board and a person other than the board shall not purchase or take delivery of any eggs from a producer.”

#### FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE.

Mr. RICHES—Can the Premier tell me the actual position as regards the Flying Doctor Service? When the matter was discussed on the opening day he promised that an investigation would be made by the committee which, he understood, conducted previous negotiations. Can he give me an assurance that an investigation will be made by the Director-General of Medical Services or some other competent authority?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes. I know that the Chief Secretary has given personal attention to the matter since the debate. I understand he has approached the Rev. Mr. Jones, who I believe is in charge of the matter, and that he has obtained certain information for him. A report will be prepared and as soon as it is ready I shall be happy to discuss the matter with the honourable member.

#### HOUSING TRUST HOMES FOR PORT PIRIE.

Mr. DAVIS—In last Saturday's *Mail* the Premier is alleged to have said that he had purchased 1,500 houses from overseas and was bringing out migrants to erect them. Is it the intention of the Government to erect any of these houses in country districts? If so, has any consideration been given to Port Pirie?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—If the honourable member will ask that question again on, say, Thursday, I may have more information than I can give now. Where imported houses have been purchased with on-site labour it has been necessary for us to group the houses because we have imported the labour to erect them. On the other hand, I know a large number of houses are not being imported with on-site labour provided, and in those instances it is possible for us to spread them; and in those instances they are a most useful means of decentralizing housing in the country.

#### ENTEROTOXAEMIA SERUM.

Mr. HEASLIP—If enterotoxaemia serum were always available graziers could save many diseased sheep. The serum is supplied by the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, but it is not possible to store it very long and therefore it cannot be ordered far ahead. At present there is a lag of from a month to six weeks between ordering and supplying. In the meantime, if flocks are attacked, there are many fatalities. Can the Minister of Agriculture ascertain whether the serum could be made available more readily to graziers?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—The shortage of this serum has not been brought under my notice and I was not aware that supplies had broken down, but I will take up the matter and bring down a reply.

#### DRAINAGE OF DISMAL SWAMP.

Mr. FLETCHER—Can the Minister of Works state the position as regards the drainage of water from Dismal Swamp to the Glenelg River, Victoria? I understand that some agreement has been entered into between South Australia and Victoria on this matter.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The constructional part of the work comes under the Engineer-in-Chief, but the board which controls the matter is under the Lands Department. I have not seen anything bearing on the matter directly, and my colleague, the Minister of Lands, has not heard anything. I will inquire what the position is.

#### NORWOOD PRIVATE HOSPITAL.

Mr. MOIR—Following on a press announcement of the closing of the main hospital in Norwood, will the Premier meet a special committee appointed by the local council to go into the question of making the hospital a community one, with Government assistance?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—This matter comes under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Health and I will ask him to arrange to receive the deputation.

#### SUPERPHOSPHATE SUPPLIES.

Mr. McLACHLAN—I have been advised by some of my South-Eastern constituents that, because of transport difficulties, they were unable to get their superphosphate supplies on their properties before June 30. They have been informed by the superphosphate companies that the superphosphate will be charged at the 1951 rate on delivery. Can the Premier do anything to help these people? I understand that the quantity involved is about 500 tons.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The price for superphosphate is receiving the attention of the Prices Commissioner. I think that the member for Rocky River asked a question on this matter earlier. I am not sure whether the Commissioner's investigations will cover the further point raised by Mr. McLachlan, but his remarks will be brought under the Commissioner's notice and he will be furnished with a reply.

#### IMPORTATION OF HOUSES.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—In last Saturday's *Mail*, in an article headed "Fifteen Hundred New Homes to Come Here," it was stated that South Australia would import 1,500 timber-frame houses, together with 260 workmen, of which number 180 would come from Britain and 80 from Western Germany. Can the Premier say if any arrangements have been made to house these men and their families? If so, will it be on the same ratio that applied to employees of the Peak Construction Company, who were allocated one home in three after the company was supposed to have erected that number? Secondly, will the present practice in the building industry of authorized union officials having the right of entry to jobs on the site be extended if the new companies are established in this State?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—These contracts were arranged by the Housing Trust and as far as I know no recommendation has been made for the housing of the migrants. That is the responsibility of the people bringing the houses to Australia. I will check up to see if there is any concession in regard to accommodation, but as far as I know there is none. I doubt whether the honourable member's second point has ever been raised. It is the first time I have heard of a possibility of difficulty. I do not think it has been raised by people either in Australia or overseas. I will have a check made by the Chief Inspector of Factories.

#### GRAIN DISTILLERY AT WALLAROO.

Mr. McALEES—Can the Premier indicate when Pascoe & Co. will start production in the old grain distillery at Wallaroo?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The last report I had showed that to all intents and purposes the floor space in the old grain distillery had been cleared and that the company was installing its plant. It expects early production because recently there was an application by it before the Industries Development Committee regarding some of the raw materials required.

That committee has reported favourably on the application and the mine owners have been instructed accordingly. The matter is now in their hands. The company is anxious to get going as quickly as possible and as far as I know everything is being smoothed out to enable it to be done. I believe electric power is the dominating factor, but every attempt will be made to see that production begins as soon as possible.

#### RED SCALE AT LOXTON.

Mr. STOTT—Can the Minister of Agriculture give a further report regarding red scale in the Loxton area?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—I am pleased to be able to give a most satisfactory report. Red scale has been virtually eliminated from the district. I have received the following report from the Chief Horticulturist, Mr. Strickland:—

Very close inspection of the Loxton township area carried out this year indicates a very satisfactory position in regard to red scale. In the home gardens in which a short time ago several hundred trees were very heavily infested, traces have been found on three trees only. These have all been heavily retreated. In two commercial blocks immediately adjacent to the town, the scale has been reduced to a very light, scattered infestation on a limited number of trees; nearer Pyap a group of six trees has been found affected with scale, and treatment has been applied to all of these this season. Red scale has been virtually eliminated from the township section and the same objective is in sight in the case of the commercial plantings on the township boundary. Some nursery trees distributed in 1950 were found to be carry odd scale. Even though such trees had been fumigated, they were destroyed and all young trees in the area were submitted to intensive oil spraying treatment. There is at present no sign of red scale in the irrigation settlement but continued keen observation by blockers and inspectors is essential.

#### PRICE FIXING AND WAGE PEGGING.

Mr. DUNKS—I assume that under the Commonwealth Constitution there are two ways that price fixing can be arranged by the Commonwealth. One is by the transference of power by the States to the Commonwealth and the other by the carrying of a referendum. Can the Premier say whether I am right in this assumption? Under what provision can wages be pegged either by the Commonwealth or the State?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I do not presume to have a great legal knowledge where the interpretation of the Constitution is concerned. I assume that the honourable member

is right in his statement on the first matter, but there may be another method by which the Commonwealth could take over price control. That is for the State to pass legislation covering price control and then appoint the Commonwealth as its agent to administer the law.

Mr. O'Halloran—There would have to be uniformity of legislation as between States.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—That would be necessary if the transference of the power were to be effective. There are three ways in which the Commonwealth could get power to control prices. One is by means of a referendum, another by the permanent transference of power by the State to the Commonwealth, and the third is by the State passing a Prices Act and delegating the administration of the Act to the Commonwealth. The position in regard to wage pegging is more complicated because of constitutional problems. State law applies only in the spheres left to the State, and where it does not conflict with a valid Commonwealth law. The Commonwealth has power to arbitrate in industrial disputes as between States. The Commonwealth Arbitration Court deals with the matter and it is at present the main authority for fixing wages. I do not think the State has power to peg wages except those wages which come under the jurisdiction of its wages boards. It would create an intolerable position if they pegged wages. Even assuming that the State desired to take the action, there is no way in which the State could control the Commonwealth Arbitration Court in the fixation of wages. The Commonwealth Government has no power to peg wages; such a power would be equivalent to a price-fixing power. I do not think for one moment that the High Court would hold any general wage-pegging power of the Commonwealth to be valid. I know of no easy way in which wage-pegging could be effected, except perhaps by the co-operation of wage earners. Whether that is a practical way I hesitate to say.

Mr. Stott—The Commonwealth Minister for Labour could refer the matter to the court.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I do not believe the Arbitration Court has any power to deal with these matters, except that of dealing with an industrial dispute extending beyond the boundaries of any one State. In my opinion that power does not extend to the pegging of wages. Certainly tribunals operated by a State authority to fix wages have

no general wage-pegging powers, nor is it possible under the provisions of the Constitution at the moment for them to operate in that way.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Is it not a fact that nearly all wage-fixing authorities in Australia, both Federal and State, adopt the practice of automatically adjusting wages in accordance with the rise and fall in the cost of living? If so, by pegging prices and the cost of living wages will be automatically pegged.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—In broad terms the honourable member's first assertion is correct. Australian wage tribunals today base the standard wage on the cost of living. However, I do not agree with the honourable member that it is possible to peg wages by pegging prices, because there are so many things affecting the daily standard of prices upon which no price-fixing authority in Australia has any say. I refer to all those goods and services provided from overseas over which the price-fixing authority can exercise no control. I believe that if the conference called for next Monday considers this matter one of the difficulties facing it will be that, where it is practicable by subsidy or price control to regulate the cost of a commodity to the Australian consumer, overseas factors will have such a big impact on our price structure that it will be found impracticable to bring in a system of flat wage-pegging. When the Commonwealth was exercising this control in war-time, I asked one very senior officer in the department whether it would be practicable in peace-time. He said that, in peace-time, it would break down under its own weight. I assume that the same position would obtain today. I doubt whether it is possible to make the clock stand still in these matters.

Mr. O'Halloran—You could reduce the swing of the pendulum a little.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I believe it is possible to regulate the clock and, by wise and concerted action, to stop the impetus of inflation and, in fact, to ultimately check it; but I do not think it can be done by merely passing a law which will peg wages. I do not think it would be practicable, and, even if it were, I do not think it would be accepted. It is not possible to pass a law which will hold prices at a static level irrespective of any conditions which may arise.

#### PRICE FOR BUTTER FAT.

Mr. MOIR—The dairy industry is working under trying and unsettled conditions. It is hard to keep the dairymen on the land so as to provide sufficient milk to supply the city of

Adelaide. Can the Premier say when the dairymen may expect an increase in the price paid for butter fat?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—A conference was arranged to deal with this matter next Monday but, for some reason which I have not yet heard, it has been deferred until Friday week, when this matter will be considered by the Prices Ministers, together with the Commonwealth Minister.

#### SUBSIDY ON IMPORTED CEMENT.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I understand that the Housing Trust is subsidized on the imported cement it uses. Can the Treasurer say whether, with a view to extending this concession to home builders using imported cement, it would be possible to arrange with the cement companies that they be responsible for the allocation of imported cement to the merchants, the cement companies being paid the subsidy?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I am unaware of any subsidy being provided on cement used by the Housing Trust. Certainly, it is not being provided by the Government, nor can I imagine its being provided by the manufacturer. The Housing Trust has had an allocation of local cement made to it, but has found it insufficient for its requirements and has had to augment its supplies by purchasing imported cement, the cost of which is very much higher. However, so far as I know, the Housing Trust is standing this cost in the same way as any other consumer.

#### OIL BURNING LOCOMOTIVES.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Last session I understood that much had been done with regard to the installation of oil burning units on South Australian locomotives. Apparently, we are not going to get enough coal, and the only alternative is to use oil. If that is so, can the Minister of Railways say whether the equipment is available to use it?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—With the concurrence of the Minister of Railways, I will answer this question because it comes under supply. With regard to fuel oil, we are in the greatest difficulty in maintaining locomotives equipped with oil burners, because our oil supplies have been cut off by the unfortunate disruption in Persia. One of our contracts has completely broken down and the position became so desperate that recently I went to Melbourne to get some relief. I was fortunate enough to get relief so as to maintain our stock of oil throughout August. However, beyond

that we are already gravely concerned as to the maintenance of the units already converted. The price of oil has gone up to the sky and is now exorbitant. Quite apart from the price factor, a contract for 35,000 tons went to sleep overnight, and nothing is available to take its place.

#### ST. MARGARET'S HOSPITAL, PAYNEHAM.

Mr. MOIR—Will the Premier ascertain from the Chief Secretary the possibility of the Government taking over St. Margaret's Hospital, Payneham, if suitable arrangements can be made with the proprietor, for the after-treatment of poliomyelitis patients who have been released from other hospitals?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes.

#### PARINGA WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. STOTT—The district council of Paringa is anxious to receive from the Engineering and Water Supply Department the schedule of rates that the ratepayers of Paringa will have to pay for a supply of water. Will the Minister of Works expedite that schedule and forward it to the district council so that the ratepayers can be informed of their obligations?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Yes. This morning I was discussing certain design works with the Engineer-in-Chief and the Paringa scheme was mentioned. The design has been completed and estimates are almost completed. Until the estimates have been completed and brought up-to-date it is not possible to compile the schedule of rates, but it will be finalized within the next week or so and I will advise the honourable member when it is ready.

#### MARKETING OF OATS.

Mr. STOTT—Can the Minister of Agriculture inform the House of the decision made at the Agricultural Council meeting in Brisbane on the marketing of oats by the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia? Was the proposal for a pool rejected on the ground of a guarantee price only or was any alternative suggestion considered for the States of Victoria, New South Wales, and South Australia to operate a pool without a guarantee price under similar legislation to barley legislation?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—The question was raised at the Agricultural Council meeting, but it was felt that not sufficient information was available, so the matter was referred back to the standing committee for a further report.

## EXPORT OF POTATOES.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (on notice)—

1. Were any permits issued by the Potato Board for the sale of potatoes interstate during any time that the local market was short supplied?

2. If so, to whom were permits issued to export potatoes to eastern States?

3. What quantity of potatoes has been exported since June, 1950?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The replies are:—

1 and 2. No. In August, 1950, the South-Eastern Potato Growers' Association sought a permit from the South Australian Potato Board to consign table potatoes to New South Wales. The board refused the request, and asked South-East board members to use every endeavour to influence South-East growers to forward potatoes to Adelaide. However, the South-Eastern Growers' Association made a direct approach to the South Australian Potato Distributing Centre—a trading body which acts as distributor for the board—asking that body to consign potatoes through the distributor of the New South Wales Board. The declared objective of this request was to keep potatoes in recognized marketing channels, and prevent as far as possible interstate consignments through black market operators. Despite the disapproval of the South Australian Potato Board, some consignments were made by the South Australian Distribution Centre in August and September, 1950, amounting to 89 tons. During the same period black market buyers moved interstate from the South-East a known quantity of approximately 1,150 tons. In May, 1951, the South-Eastern Potato Growers' Association made a similar request to the South Australian Potato Distribution Centre. Again the South Australian Potato Board carried a resolution of disapproval, but for a brief period the centre despatched interstate consignments amounting to approximately 600 tons in May and June, 1951. During the same period, independent operators despatched approximately 1,100 tons. When arrangements were made in early June, 1951, for imports of potatoes from Tasmania, the South Australian Potato Distribution Centre withdrew from the interstate business. However, independent agents are still operating. Prior to the war, South-East potato growers and merchants were accustomed to sell potatoes in Adelaide or eastern States, according to which market gave best returns. They consider that they should still be permitted the alternative market outlet,

and it seems that some growers will continue to do business with independent operators, unless a method is found of adjusting the overall Australian price structure with some recognition of their pre-war privileges. The South Australian Potato Board disapproves of its distributor engaging in interstate transfers when South Australian supplies are short, and will do all in its power to prevent this type of business. However, there appears to be no means at present whereby the board can prevent the interstate operations of the independent merchant.

3. From Mount Gambier to New South Wales country areas, 3,011 tons, which includes 570 tons of potatoes described as "seed." To Broken Hill—Normally supplied through the distributor of the South Australian Board, 1,632 tons.

## SITTINGS AND BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD moved—

That during the present session, unless otherwise ordered, the House meet on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in each week, at two o'clock.

Motion carried.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD moved—

That during the present session on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and after the six o'clock adjournment on Wednesdays, Government business take precedence over other business, except questions.

Motion carried.

## ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD brought up the following report of the committee appointed to prepare the draft Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech:—

May it please Your Excellency.

1. We, the members of the House of Assembly, express our thanks for the speech with which Your Excellency was pleased to open Parliament.

2. We re-affirm our faithful allegiance to the Throne and express our heartfelt satisfaction at the continued progress in His Majesty the King's restoration to good health. We await with eager anticipation the arrival in South Australia of Their Most Gracious Majesties King George and Queen Elizabeth and Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret. We ask Your Excellency to transmit these expressions to Their Majesties.

3. We assure Your Excellency that we will give our best attention to all matters placed before us.

4. We earnestly join in Your Excellency's prayer for the Divine blessing on the proceedings of the session.

Mr. PEARSON (Flinders)—I have much pleasure in moving the adoption of the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech in opening Parliament. I realize it is a great honour to be invited to do so. I am conscious that this privilege has not necessarily been accorded me because of any merits of mine but because it is a happy custom in this House for the youngest of the political children to be invited to perform this duty. It is an honour to be elected to this Chamber because South Australia has an honourable Parliament. The South Australian Parliament is outstanding among the Parliaments of Australia for the way its members attend to their duties and the way its business is conducted. This reflects the esteem and respect in which you, Sir, are held by members and by those outside this House, who appreciate the work of this Parliament and the way you carry out the duties of your high office. It is also an honour to be a member of this Parliament because it is led by a Premier and a Government holding the respect of the people. The Government leads this House in such a way as to engender respect and co-operation from members of both sides. I thank the electors of the district of Flinders for electing me to this honourable position and express appreciation to my predecessor for paving the way so effectively for my election to Parliament. My brother, during his 10 years' occupancy of this seat, built up a legacy of goodwill which I have largely inherited and which I hope I shall, in due course, to some degree merit.

I desire to refer to the remarks of the returning officer for Flinders at the declaration of the poll for the recent by-election when he complimented those who conducted the polling booths on polling day. He said he had experienced considerable difficulty in getting people to act as poll clerks and presiding officers because the fees paid were not commensurate with their duties.

I was pleased to read in the Governor's Speech, and to hear from outside sources, felicitous references to the visit of His Majesty the King to this State. Everyone is delighted that His Majesty's health is sufficiently improved to make definite plans for his visit possible. I commend Port Lincoln residents, the town council, and various committees which have been established, for the work which has already been done and is continuing, to receive their Majesties the King and Queen, and Princess Margaret at that town, the first port of call in

South Australia. I appeal to all Eyre Peninsula residents to attend Port Lincoln on the day of their Majesties' visit and give them a right royal welcome. The Royal visit is of great significance and importance to people of the British Empire. I refer to that term which is sometimes used of the British Empire—the "Family of Nations". I am aware that it has fostered the development and growth of sister Dominions in the early days. It has helped and built them up in the period of their youth and adolescence and enabled them to take their places in world affairs, helping them by supplying their wants, giving relief in adversity, and maintained the principles of freedom and democracy which have made us famous. His Majesty comes to us as head of this family. Although troubles may develop we should maintain real loyalty to the land from which we derive our birth and infant nurture. I feel that the people of South Australia will gather in large crowds, hear His Majesty's speeches, and show their gratitude to him and members of his family for the lifelong service they have given to their people. Whatever changes may occur in the character and relationships of this Empire, and there have been some in recent years, I feel I express the sentiments of all when I say that we trust we shall always have a King and Queen as head of this Family of Nations. It is an office of the utmost significance and vital importance in maintaining our ideals of democracy. In the standards of government it has made the British nation the greatest in history and, with all sincerity, I say, "God save the King."

At the opening of Parliament His Excellency gave another example of the grace and dignity which have been characteristic of him ever since he came to this State. Recently the people of Eyre Peninsula had a visit from His Excellency and Lady Norrie, a visit that once more brought under our notice their excellent qualities, their ability to identify themselves with all sections of the community, and the dignity which is appropriate to their office. South Australia has been most fortunate in its Governors and I trust that Sir Willoughby will continue to enjoy his stay here and that both he and Lady Norrie will remain with us as long as they care to stay.

I am proud to be a supporter of the Playford Government. The Premier's record is unique. I think that the vote accorded to me at the recent by-election, when nearly seven people out of every 10 voted for me, was not

so much for me as a candidate as an expression of confidence in the Government's administration of the State.

It is not surprising, perhaps, that His Excellency's speech was not particularly spectacular. It had no need to be. It gives an indication of the type of legislation that has met with general satisfaction in the past and the desire of the people for a continuance of the steady and constructive work of former years. His Excellency's speech indicates the importance to the State of our primary and secondary industries. It indicates, too, that the Government is doing everything possible to solve the problems which confront it. The Government has an eye to the future, with far-sighted development that covers a wide field of matters which play an integral part in the life of the State.

I shall not comment on details of the speech so far as they affect proposed legislation, which will come before the House later. As a new member I am incapable of making full comment on many of the matters raised. I commend the Government for many of its activities, foremost amongst which is the attention it has given to the development of young farmer clubs and land development generally. South Australia is still largely an agricultural State and is likely to continue so. Any policy which will tend to keep people who are most suited to it on the land is both wise and sound. Life on the land is not something which the opportunist readily grasps; it is not something which can be lightly entered upon, but to those who have a soil outlook it is a calling and, in so far as it is, it assists in building up their best characteristics in life. I commend any policy which tends to keep sons of the soil on the land and the Government's policy of fostering the formation of young farmers' clubs and assisting in the development of land settlement must help in that direction.

I compliment the Government on the assistance it has given in the production of certain vital commodities in South Australia, particularly cement. Everybody is aware that cement is a basic need and has a vital bearing on almost every kind of development. Country as well as town residents are particularly affected by the cement shortage. It is pleasing to note that because of steps which have been taken South Australia might look forward to becoming independent of outside cement supplies in the near future.

I turn now to water supplies, particularly as they affect my district. I know that water

schemes are in progress all over the State and it is interesting to note, as one moves around in our far-flung areas, the length of pipe lines compared with what are seen, or rather not seen, in other States. The construction of the pipelines follows the policy of the Government in past years in bringing water to far-distant areas. I agree with the statement of the Minister of Works about the position of our water supplies and what they have meant to Eyre Peninsula. I note that a water supply can be expected in Tumby Bay early in August. The scheme is rapidly nearing completion. I commend the Engineering and Water Supply Department for having completed a connection between the Uley basin and the Tod River system last year, which has enabled water to be drawn from the basin and pumped into the mains. The scheme has been directly responsible for saving sheep flocks on Eyre Peninsula during the whole summer. All of this area is virtually dry and depends on reticulated water.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—It would have been dry had it not been for the scheme.

Mr. PEARSON—Yes. I congratulate the Government on its efforts to increase sulphur production. There is a need for extra sulphur and sulphuric acid production because of the increased use of superphosphate in South Australia. Anything that can be done to make the State independent of outside sources of supply deserves commendation and support.

The Electricity Trust is making rapid strides in the extension of its supplies of power to Eyre Peninsula. I hope the work will be continued and that towns outside the present proposals will eventually come under the scheme. The trust deserves much commendation. It is enthused with a desire to get things done, which is pleasing in these days when there appears to be apathy on the part of some people.

The Housing Trust is doing a splendid job. I believe that a house is not desirable merely to provide a roof over the heads of a family, which is important, but to provide a home, which is the unit from which spring the best things in life. I am glad that this is the policy of the Housing Trust.

The activities of the Soil Conservator are a matter for considerable gratification. We have experienced a wet year on Eyre Peninsula, where the work done by the Soil Conservator is an object lesson. Those of us who availed ourselves of the services of officers of the department, and had certain protective measures put into effect, are reaping a reward

this winter. I hope the department will be given every assistance and sympathy because it is one of the most important departments in the administration of the State.

I am pleased that progress has been made with the survey in connection with the Port Lincoln harbour. I am indebted to the Minister of Marine for some details. I understand the survey has been completed and that the department is now able to draw up a scheme for submission to the Public Works Committee for investigation and report.

Eyre Peninsula is dependent largely on sea transport for contact with the mainland. Production has increased enormously, and with it has come a greater demand for consumer goods. This in turn has necessitated a great deal of traffic between Port Lincoln and the mainland. We have experienced grave difficulties over the last three or four years because of the factors which make sea transport so difficult. One difficulty has been the inadequacy of the harbour facilities at Port Lincoln and anything which can be done quickly to alleviate the position will be appreciated.

I draw the attention of the Minister of Railways to railway problems on Eyre Peninsula. I have already referred to the tremendous increase in production, which has placed a great strain on the Eyre Peninsula railway system. I can speak with knowledge regarding the movement of cereals in the area because of my connection with the marketing board. Railway officials have expressed concern at their inability to move the volume of goods to be sent to the shipping port. We have had to move grain by road vehicles at high cost and at considerable damage to the roads. This is an uneconomic proposition. I cannot make detailed comment on the matter at present, but steps will have to be taken to permit a railway movement of goods in excess of what is possible now.

Another important matter is the shortage of veterinary officers available to visit Eyre Peninsula to test dairy herds for tuberculosis. A studmaster in the Yallunda Flat area told me he was unable to make a sale of stud stock to a local purchaser, and for the purchaser to obtain the full benefit of the subsidy, because he could not guarantee the herd to be free of tuberculosis. He could not give the guarantee because he could not get a qualified officer to make a test. We are anxious in these days to see that there is no further diminution of the production of dairy produce

and it would be of great assistance to people who have built up their studs if they could be assisted in this way.

The Governor's Speech refers to the transference of powers by the State to the Commonwealth in order to meet the Communist threat in Australia. I regret very much that because of the attitude of some State Governments it has not been possible for this method to be adopted in order to solve the problem. It now seems that a referendum will be necessary before the Commonwealth can get the authority desired. I would advocate an overwhelming vote at the referendum in favour of getting rid of the menace. Since the dawn of freedom it is the greatest menace that ever threatened democracy, because it works from inside. The perils to a democracy, which work from outside, are not so great. If the heart of the nation is sound pressures from without will unite it to resist a common foe. Communism seeks to break up the fibres of freedom within, to break down the economy, to bring into contempt laws and government, to unbalance perspectives, and to undermine the will to resist, and so render the victim country easy prey to its dominations. I admit that this is not the only peril. There are others like lethargy of the individual in voting, selfishness, which is illustrated by pressure groups, reaction, extremism, and the misuse of privileges and powers. There is also the lack of self-discipline, such as vandalism, delinquency, excesses, and irresponsibility.

Mr. Frank Walsh—And black markets, too.

Mr. PEARSON—Yes, but of them all Communism is the worst. I believe we can get rid of it. It may cause us to strain our ingrained, and sometimes mis-applied, ideals of human rights, but we are in duty bound to do it. Twice in the last two years the people of Australia have indicated in definite terms their determination to get rid of Communism. I say deliberately that any persons or parties attempting to stand in the way of the people in this matter will do so at their acute political peril. I hope that the question submitted to the electors in the referendum will be simple and straightforward, so that the most ardent supporters of State rights, and I am one, will have no hesitation in wholeheartedly agreeing to it. The surest way to defeat a referendum is to ask a complex question, or to attempt to get from the electors something which they may not desire to grant, by, as it were, wrapping it up with something they do desire.

Doubtless the programme submitted in the Governor's Speech will not meet the needs of

every member nor solve every problem. I am firmly convinced that such a solution is beyond the capacity of any Government to achieve. I believe that in a large measure many solutions lie with the individual citizen. We have grown to rely too much on our Governments, and to run too early and too often to the Legislature to solve our difficulties. It is the function of government to give a lead to its citizens, to create opportunities for individuals and private enterprise to use their initiative and to develop their powers and genius to the fullest extent for their own benefit and the betterment of the State and people as a whole. The programme outlined in the Governor's Speech will assist in doing this, and if backed by the united and consistent effort of every member of the community a great deal will be achieved.

The financial picture for Governments in Australia is not particularly rosy. Anyone can see that there are problems of this nature ahead. Indeed, a conference has been called by the Prime Minister to discuss inflation. That may be the beginning of a series of steps to combat this menace. I am not competent to express any authoritative opinion on some of these matters, but I believe the success of this conference and the subsequent steps arising therefrom may depend largely on the attitude in which representatives approach it. All sections of the community must be prepared to share in any scheme which has been equitably conceived and fairly implemented. The main solution of all the difficulties facing the State and the Commonwealth is the simple and old-fashioned remedy of work—steady, intelligent work by everybody in his own sphere, whether great or small.

The programme of legislation set out in His Excellency's speech has been accepted by the people of this State as another instalment of that sound and solid legislation which over the years has done so much to further the development and the betterment of South Australia. I formally move the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. DUNNAGE (Unley)—It is my pleasure and privilege to second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I commend my colleague, the new member for Flinders, for his very fine opening speech in this House. I remember vividly the first time I had to speak here. I entered this House immediately after a term as Mayor of Unley. A mayor is used to speaking to dignified, quiet, and intelligent-looking audiences. I think it

was about 4 p.m. and apparently afternoon tea time when I rose to make my maiden speech. I found that members were not as interested in listening to me as they were in other things. They moved backwards and forwards across the Chamber and did not seem to pay any attention to me. However, on this occasion as well as commending my colleague for his very fine speech, I also commend members for the great attention they paid him.

I had the great privilege of assisting the new member during the first week of his election campaign. I travelled extensively with him on the western shores of Spencer Gulf, and was impressed by his sincerity and by the ready way in which he was received by all sections of the community. Evidently, he had given great service to the district, because he was well-known and highly respected. Now he comes to us with the ability to deliver a speech and having the honour of his position as a member of this House made possible by a distinguished brother's election to the Federal Parliament.

I was impressed by the manner in which His Excellency delivered his speech. I was grateful to you, Mr. Speaker, and the President of the Legislative Council for allowing members to take their seats in the other Chamber. It was nice to be able to sit down comfortably instead of having to stand for three-quarters of an hour. Some of the older members of this House must have been especially grateful.

I congratulate the Premier and his Government on the context of this speech, which is one of the most outstanding ever delivered to Parliament. It is long, because the Government has so many good things to tell the people of this State. It was impossible to condense such good news into a smaller speech.

His Excellency mentioned that we were pleased that the King had regained his health and proud that he proposed to visit Australia and New Zealand. All members will agree with that and with the very nice remarks of my colleague regarding the King and the high office he holds. We are delighted that Their Majesties the King and Queen and Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret will visit South Australia. According to His Excellency's Speech, Princess Margaret is to travel into the country; I hope that she will visit as many country towns as possible. I have two young people in my own home, and know how young people feel about Princess Margaret. I am certain that the young generation will be delighted to see such a lovely young lady in person.

This is the fiftieth year of the Commonwealth. In speaking of the Jubilee Year I quote a speech made by the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable R. G. Menzies, last Saturday at the opening of a church in New South Wales:—

Future historians would probably describe the first 50 years of the twentieth century as the world's "period of darkest uncivilization," said the Prime Minister (Mr. Menzies) today. In this century, man's skill had reached heights previously undreamed of and yet there had been war after war. This is because we have thought about man as a mere economic instrument and forgotten his moral dignity, said Mr. Menzies. We have thought about Man as master and forgotten about him as servant. We have thought about Man as a maker of miracles and forgotten he, himself, is the miracle made by the greatest of all Masters.

I commend those remarks to all members and consider them appropriate in these days of Jubilee Celebration.

Naturally, in this Jubilee Year we have experienced a galaxy of talent coming into South Australia. All jubilee events have been organized by a special committee to which I pay a high tribute. The outstanding men on that committee are the Premier (chairman), Mr. Clarke, the member for Burnside (deputy chairman), and Mr. Baker, Director of the Tourist Bureau. There are many others, but I must especially mention Messrs. Clarke and Baker as having done a marvellous job. I bring to the notice of members the invitation they have received to view the Jubilee Train. I had the great pleasure of seeing this train in Melbourne when it was being prepared for its tour of Victoria. I was most impressed by it. When I came back to South Australia I had the pleasure of telling the Premier a little about it. I commend the Government for bringing it to South Australia. It will be an instrument of education and of great pleasure to many thousands of South Australians who will be able to see not only what is being done in this State but also throughout the Commonwealth with special reference to the Jubilee celebrations. I pay a special tribute to Mr. Clarke in this respect.

His Excellency's Speech mentioned the seasonal rains. Last summer was very dry and the outlook very bad, it appearing that we were in the midst of a drought. At that time it was said quite openly by letters to the press and in general conversation that the position was so grim that we should pray for rain. Indeed, in some churches prayers for rain were offered. Now we have been overwhelmed by rain, it having fallen heavily throughout the State; but

I do not hear anybody suggesting a prayer of thanksgiving for such bountiful falls. We are in for one of the greatest seasons this State has ever had, and it would be very fitting if the State should hold, on this occasion, a thanksgiving service for the bountiful rains that have fallen.

I have even heard members of this House say that the prolific growth of grasses, bushes and trees is so great that it will be impossible for their stock to eat them out and that we should have more stock. Last year it was said that we were over-stocked and should get rid of some, but now, with sufficient rain to give us the necessary feed, we are told that we are under-stocked and should have more, especially as meat prices are rising very rapidly with embarrassment to consumers. We have had good seasonal rains and should have a marvellous harvest, but my colleague has said that in his district the railways and other transport systems cannot shift all the grain already there. There must be something wrong somewhere. In a tour through the West Coast areas I found road vehicles transporting wheat from Cummins and Yeelanna and further north to Port Lincoln because the railways were unable to cope with it. Some of the wheat harvested two years ago still awaits transport, and the Mother Country needs it badly. We have been unable to shift the most bounteous harvest we have ever had and we may get another bumper crop this year. I was surprised to see so much wheat awaiting transport.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—It has been taken from the most convenient places.

Mr. DUNNAGE—The main road has been churned up considerably in carting the wheat. An expensive railway was laid to cart this wheat and other goods, but a road was then made alongside the railway for the purpose of transporting the goods for which the railway was provided. The reconstruction of the road will cost thousands of pounds. I had the unhappy experience of driving over it late at night. I know the Minister has many problems, but I hope his department will soon have the main road leading inland from Port Lincoln repaired.

We have no farming or railways in the district of Unley, but we have many solid workers who keep the community going. Many of them have tried in years past to grow fruit and vegetables in their backyards, but this is difficult when the Minister of Works cannot supply sufficient water. Further,

officers of the Department of Agriculture have been collecting, for the good of the country, fruit and vegetables grown in backyards. It was just as well they did. I commend the Minister of Agriculture and his officers for the eradication of the fruit fly. I, and many other members, objected to some of the measures taken for this purpose, but according to the latest information the fruit fly has been controlled successfully.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Eliminated.

Mr. DUNNAGE—I doubt that; only time can tell.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—We may get fresh infestations.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Then it has not been eliminated. The fly or the grubs may still be somewhere in the community.

Mr. O'Halloran—Or dormant because of peculiar climatic conditions.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Yes. Moreover, because of transport problems, many people are forced to come to South Australia by air and may unthinkingly throw away any fruit they are carrying when they arrive and so cause further trouble. I congratulate the Minister of Agriculture on giving so much publicity to the activities of his department.

Mr. O'Halloran—He is certainly a glamour boy.

Mr. DUNNAGE—I agree with most of his policy, but I would not say he is a glamour boy. He even says the same about me at times, but I do not believe that. The publicity he gives his department through the press and over the air is to be commended because the people should be informed of what is being done by departments with which they are vitally concerned. I wish other Ministers were as keen to give their departments the publicity they so earnestly desire and richly deserve.

According to the Governor's Speech supplies of cement will be increased in the near future. Within the next 12 months local production should be increased greatly. This has been brought about by the efforts of the Government, and the Premier in particular.

Mr. O'Halloran—And those producing it.

Mr. DUNNAGE—I was coming to that. The increase in home building has caused greater demands for cement. I presume the western side of Parliament House was built more than 70 years ago on a lime foundation and with the use of lime to hold the stones together. Practically every building in the city of Adelaide was built with lime cement, yet in these modern times we do not seem able to use lime as a cement. However, many people in

the country are still building houses with lime which stand up as long as houses built with cement.

Mr. McAlees—There are not as many stone masons today as there were years ago.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Many stone-fronted houses are being erected, but cement concrete is being used to hold the stones together instead of lime concrete. I hope the committee that is doing so much to improve the supplies of cement has the commendation of every member. It may get commendation but little assistance from members, many of whom do little to assist industries in their districts. They decry centralization, but when they get an opportunity to help their districts they, with a few exceptions, rarely put forward suggestions. We continually hear that this Government centralizes everything.

Mr. Hutchens—Did you say "continually hear"?

Mr. DUNNAGE—Yes. We hear it every day when the member for Murray is in this House. We know how he feels about centralization. Through the efforts of the Premier a certain company has been greatly assisted financially and within the next 12 months cement should be available freely. The Minister of Railways has many problems in the administration of his department, and we know he is doing his best. However, I deplore the fact that the railways today are giving not nearly the service they gave many years ago. For instance, where one or two trains were running daily to a particular place now there may be only one or two trains a week.

Mr. Moir—Semi-trailers are largely taking the place of trains.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—There are two reasons for the falling off in the service given by the railways—the concentration of freight which is greater than ever, and the shortage of manpower. Overcome those difficulties and I can do the rest.

Mr. DUNNAGE—I understand that, but apparently nothing is being done to overcome those problems. What has been done to get more men? Does the Premier ever confer with the Prime Minister or other authorities to get more men? I realize, of course, that the migration authorities are bringing people to Australia.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—We have 2,500 migrants in the employ of the railways, and we are trying to get more.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Were they brought here by the department, or under the general immigration scheme?

Mr. O'Halloran—I think the Chifley Labor Government brought them here.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—We employ more migrants than any other railway system in Australia.

Mr. DUNNAGE—But what are we doing today? Let us forget yesterday! The people are not satisfied with what we did yesterday; they are only interested in what we are doing today and what we propose to do.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—South Australia has the finest railway system in the Commonwealth.

Mr. DUNNAGE—I was in New South Wales about nine months ago, and if I had questioned the Minister there about the efficiency of the railways in that State he would have said the same thing. The same would be said in Victoria. However, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Our railways are in a worse condition today than they were 30 years ago.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—That is not so.

Mr. DUNNAGE—It is true. I recall that the member for Port Pirie asked for additional trains and that the member for Stanley said people became sick because of the condition of the railway lines in his district. The Minister did nothing about it, but I trust he will show more initiative and do something. The coal problem is continually cropping up. I asked a question today because of the Persian oil trouble, which will have a great effect on petrol and oil supplies for Australia. If the Persian problem is not soon settled petrol rationing will shortly be forced on us.

Mr. O'Halloran—That should be a good horse to back at the moment.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Yes. According to the Minister of Railways oil burning equipment is being installed on our engines. The Premier stated that the problem of oil supplies would become just as bad as that of coal supplies. I read a report in the *Advertiser* that oil is available in Canada in abundance. There appears to be no end to the possibilities of the Alberta supplies and inquiries should be made to see if petrol from that locality can be made available to Australia.

Mr. O'Halloran—The trouble is that the supplies are a long way from the coast.

Mr. DUNNAGE—I understand that oil is being pumped through a pipeline from Canada to the Great Lakes. Diesel-electric locomotives are being installed by the South Australian Railways, but it appears that we will be up

against the problem of diesel oil supplies. These locomotives will take the place of many of our steam-driven engines. It is a move in the right direction and I compliment the Minister on having made it. Have we started to look for any remedy for our troubles however? I do not think so. I turn now to water supplies and reservoirs. The position today is vastly different from last year as there is water in abundance; in fact, we are allowing it to run to waste. A new reservoir at South Para is under construction and others are mooted along the River Onkaparinga.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—From the day that Mount Bold reservoir was completed we have used every man and bit of material available in South Australia for use on water supplies.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Supplies today are ample, but our population and secondary industries are increasing rapidly. Efforts are being made to bring water from the River Murray. However, this can only be done at enormous cost and we will be faced with continuous upkeep even when our reservoirs are full. I believe that the Minister of Works was reported in the *Advertiser* as saying that Mount Bold had been full on only 10 occasions during its 14 years' life. That was an eye-opener to me. If that is so, when our reservoirs are full and the new South Para reservoir is completed and full, we shall have incurred a huge expenditure for practically nothing.

Mr. O'Halloran—What about taking industry to the Murray instead of bringing water to industry in the metropolitan area?

Mr. DUNNAGE—That is a good idea if you can show me how industries along the River Murray can compete with those established in the metropolitan area. Industries would have to take raw materials there and compete with those around the city.

Mr. O'Halloran—We would not be very prosperous if they were all located in Adelaide.

Mr. DUNNAGE—We have never been as prosperous as we are today.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—How can you make people work there when they prefer to work around the "big lights" here?

Mr. DUNNAGE—It is a big problem to get people back to the land. How can we keep our young people in the country? Take country towns, with six to 12 children, a small school and one teacher. People there say, "It is no good to me; I want them to be taught better; I want them sent to an area school." They are being taken from the small

towns and sent to area schools. What does the teacher say to them? He says, "You want a better job. There are better jobs in the city." Even country members are having difficulty in keeping their children on the land. Many country members are living in the city when they are supposed to be living in the country. One of the first things some country members do after their election is to come to Adelaide to live when they should remain in the country. We are appealing to country people to return to their homes, but they will not do so. Nothing will induce them to stay there after they come to the city—and I do not blame them.

Mr. Moir—Give them amenities and they will stay there.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Children are being sent to area and high schools for better and higher education.

Mr. Riches—Many small country schools are being closed and area schools built. What is to be done in that case?

Mr. DUNNAGE—Nothing much can be done. I have requested the establishment of additional schools in my district, but it does not seem that we will get any.

Mr. Dunks—What do you want?

Mr. DUNNAGE—I have told the department what I want, but nothing is done.

Mr. Riches—Apparently other districts are in greater need.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Probably, but nobody in authority takes any notice of what I say. My district is thickly populated and there is no opportunity for scholars attending schools in the district to go elsewhere. I turn now to matters affecting the Housing Trust and the issue of permits for house building. The trust is doing a good job and is building many homes, but not enough. Many of the recent houses are of a type which we were loth to bring into existence—temporary homes. Instead of building 1,000 of them it is proposed to build 2,000. Materials used in the construction of these houses could be used to erect "back-enders." I hope that these temporary homes will be demolished and "back-enders" erected. If we could do that with the materials available from the temporary homes it would be worth-while. The Building Materials Office issues permits for the erecting of "back-enders" and all councils will accept them provided that plans are submitted and that there is a possibility of the home being completed in the near future.

Mr. Riches—Many people prefer homes to "back-enders."

Mr. DUNNAGE—Many are prepared to live in them, knowing that at some future date they will have a decent house. There has been much criticism of the activities of the office which deals with building permits. I pay a tribute to Mr. Pollnitz for his work. He is up against a big problem. I have often gone to him to make inquiries about building permits and I have always received the greatest courtesy. I deplore any criticism of his handling of building permits. Sometimes a man wants some red bricks and gets a permit. He may want to build his own home because he cannot afford to employ a building contractor, but he finds that he cannot get red bricks because the brick manufacturers supply only to building contractors. He is told that he must wait about 18 months. Mr. Pollnitz is then approached again, and we are informed that building contractors are able to get red bricks because of their contact with the manufacturers.

Mr. O'Halloran—Would you agree to the State manufacturing its own bricks?

Mr. DUNNAGE—I would agree to the Government subsidising the manufacture of bricks by private enterprise, but State manufacture is another matter. I think it would be best to leave things in the hands of private enterprise.

Mr. Davis—You said that private enterprise had failed.

Mr. DUNNAGE—I said that the brick manufacturers would not supply individuals with red bricks. I did not say that private enterprise had failed.

Mr. Frank Walsh—Is there any particular reason why the Metropolitan brick yard at Croydon was closed?

Mr. DUNNAGE—I do not know. The honourable member was a member of the Industries Development Committee when the brick manufacturers placed proposals before it. They could not get enough labour, and we have not been able to find more for them. As many bricks as possible should be manufactured.

Mr. Riches—Who could do it better than the Government?

Mr. DUNNAGE—Private enterprise. A responsible officer should visit brick yards in other States to try to get them to come to South Australia, and in this regard Government assistance would help. Some brick yards in England may be willing to come here.

The Hon. S. W. Jeffries—They would have to bring their own labour, and houses would have to be provided for their employees.

Mr. DUNNAGE—We could do it for the brick industry, because we have done it for other industries. There are other matters I want to refer to briefly. The Tramways Trust Inquiry Committee is now taking evidence regarding trust administration. I do not know how the trust will be able to pay its way following on the recent increase in the basic wage. It looks as though reasonably cheap tram transport will not be possible in future, but fares cannot be increased without the approval of the Premier through the Prices Branch.

The District and Bush Nursing Society in my district is doing great work. It is taking over a great responsibility in caring for people who have left hospital and gone home without being fully recovered. The organization should get greater financial assistance from the Government. It has to meet increased costs, cannot get nurses, and has to face other difficulties.

The Royal Commission on State Transport Services has at last presented its final report and recommends a Ministry of Transport, with all forms of transport being co-ordinated. Last

session references were made to the long time which was elapsing in the presentation of the report. Now that it has come to hand we should give it every consideration. On November 10, 1948, the City Engineer and Surveyor of the Corporation of Unley (Mr. F. S. Rogers) told the Royal Commission:—

My council puts forward the following recommendations:—1. That it is desirable that all transport activities should be placed under the co-ordinating control of a Minister of Transport whose portfolio should cover all Government departments and authorities connected with transport.

That was the first of several recommendations put forward by the council, and it has now been recommended by the Royal Commission. I hope that its report will be dealt with urgently because all forms of transport in South Australia are getting into a chaotic condition. I have pleasure in supporting Mr. Pearson's remarks and in seconding the motion.

Mr. O'HALLORAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.43 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, July 25, at 2 p.m.