

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, July 31, 1951.

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

### POLIOMYELITIS.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—When the Estimates for 1949-50 were before the House providing for £10,000 to be devoted to poliomyelitis research, I suggested consideration being given to co-ordinating the research being carried out in South Australia and other States. I notice that, unfortunately, the epidemic that has prevailed for a considerable time does not show any signs of abating; in fact, it appears that its incidence is becoming more severe, as is shown by the regrettable deaths of a number of persons in the 20 to 30 age group. Has any consideration been given by the Government to the co-ordination of research activities, and if not, can the Minister of Lands, representing the Premier in the latter's absence, say whether such consideration will be given?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—The Government has given the greatest consideration to the poliomyelitis epidemic and the Minister of Health is greatly concerned about it. I will take up the matter with him, and he, I am sure, will give every consideration to the honourable member's request.

### FLUORINE TREATMENT OF WATER SUPPLIES.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—Has the Minister of Works any further information on the question of fluorine treatment of water supplies, about which I asked a question last week?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Yes. As I intimated at the time, a special committee is constantly taking samples of water supplies and sitting in judgment on the results. The Engineer for Water and Sewage Treatment, Mr. Hodgson, who is an authority on the subject, has prepared a long report on the matter, which I shall be glad to make available to the honourable member. He states that anything in excess of one part in 1,000,000, which is regarded as the optimum, has the effect of creating dental fluorosis, or mottled enamel, and it is necessary that it should be kept down to the optimum. An interesting factor, so far as water supplies in the honourable member's district are concerned, is that the Uley-Wanilla water, from the point of view of content, is a perfect example, and it has been suggested that West Coast towns of Port Lincoln, Tumbly Bay, and

Cleve should receive only Uley-Wanilla water, which will provide an excellent opportunity for testing its benefits, compared with other towns. A world authority on the subject states:—

I believe that water supplies should only be used for medication after alternative practices, which are more specific in their treatment, have been thoroughly explored.

There appears to be a danger in treating water until all the facts are known.

### EMERSON RAILWAY STATION.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Can the Minister of Railways say how soon further work on the duplication of the Goodwood-Marino line will begin? I understand that there is a raised platform at Emerson, which is seriously affecting the entry of train travellers and their assembly on the platform, entrance to which can only be effected along a 2ft. path. Will the Minister take up with the Railways Commissioner the question of having the platform earthworks levelled to make the platform more easily accessible to train travellers?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I will take up the matter with the Railways Commissioner and see if improvements can be effected forthwith.

### MARKETING OF EGGS ACT.

Mr. DUNKS—Recently I asked the Minister of Agriculture a question about the Marketing of Eggs Act and the conviction of storekeepers for having connived with egg producers. Under the definition in the Act "producer" means "a person who keeps 20 or more adult fowls." When the legislation was first introduced in 1941 a producer was a person who kept more than 20 adult female fowls, but when the Commonwealth took control the number was increased to 40. It was felt that it would encourage people to keep more fowls; it certainly encouraged them to keep fowls in the metropolitan area and some country towns, affording them an opportunity of selling eggs direct to storekeepers and receiving the full price, whereas today, if they have more than 20 fowls, they must sell to an agent of the Egg Board and have the eggs tested, the returns being not as high as if they sold eggs direct. Will the Minister ask Cabinet to consider increasing the exempt number of fowls to 40, as was allowed under the Commonwealth legislation?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—Both Houses of the State Parliament agreed that 20 laying hens would be a reasonable exemption. What the honourable member suggests would

mean an amendment of the Act. I am prepared to get a report on the matter and have it discussed in Cabinet, but frankly, I do not hold out much hope of the Act being amended in the direction indicated.

#### PORT PIRIE WEST POLICE STATION.

Mr. DAVIS—Will the Minister of Lands make inquiries about the closing of the Port Pirie West police station?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—Yes.

#### LABOUR FOR DAIRY INDUSTRY.

Mr. SHANNON—I have been approached by the Onkaparinga branch of the Dairymen's Association regarding the serious hardship which will result if sons of dairy farmers are called up for national service training. Virtually the only labour left on a dairy farm is the farmer's own family. It is practically impossible to attract labour from industry in these days because of the high wages and comfortable working hours. It would be a body blow if the sons of dairy farmers were called up. In some instances it would mean the selling of certain herds because the farmers are getting on in years and are dependent upon perhaps two sons for their labour. Will the Minister of Agriculture take up with the Commonwealth Minister the matter of exempting these men who are engaged in producing essential foodstuffs? During the war they were exempt.

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—It is not a question over which I as Minister have any jurisdiction. I want everyone to realize that whether a youth is employed on a dairy or anywhere else he has a duty to perform in the defence of his country. Nevertheless, I shall take up the matter with the Minister for the Army and point out the disabilities under which dairy farmers labour at present.

#### KADINA SULPHUR DEPOSITS.

Mr. McALEES—Has the Minister of Lands obtained a reply to the question I asked on July 25 about sulphur deposits near Kadina?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I have received the following report from the Mines Department:—

The reported occurrence of sulphur deposits at Kadina refers to pyrites associated with the copper lodes of the district. A pure specimen of pyrites would contain 46.8 per cent sulphur. The mines, however, in the district contain other minerals and waste material which considerably reduce the amount of sulphur actually present in the lodes. The recovery of sulphur at Kadina would only be

feasible if it were possible to bring into production a new copper ore body. The reports quoted by Mr. McAlees refer to old copper mines which have been, to all intents and purposes, worked out. There is no possibility of their yielding useful quantities of sulphur in the form of pyrite or any other mineral at economic cost. The department is making every effort to find new copper deposits in the district and the only hope of a revival of mining depends on the successful outcome of the search.

#### SUPERPHOSPHATE SUPPLIES.

Mr. FLETCHER—During the week-end, in the Mount Gambier district, I was astounded to hear of the number of soldier settlers who had been unable to get superphosphate supplies, although the orders were placed early in January of this year, whereas a number of settlers who had placed their orders in February and March had got supplies. The following letter was received from an agent by a settler in my district:—

The Wallaroo-Mt. Lyell Fertilizers have advised that they were unable to despatch your order for 10 tons of super prior to the 30th June, which terminated deliveries for the 1950-51 season, and delivery of your order will now have to be at whatever price is fixed for the season 1951-52. The company is holding your order pending further instructions, and we would be pleased if you could let us know by return whether you will require the super so that we can advise the company. At present we cannot give you any indication of the price, but we think super will again be in short supply this coming season, and would advise you to accept delivery of your order.

The letter was handed to me on Friday afternoon. On Saturday morning the settler told me that after handing me the letter he had called on the firm with whom he had placed his order and had been told he could have superphosphate within a week if he wanted it. What will be the position of the men who ordered their superphosphate in good faith early in the year? At present they do not know what they will have to pay for their supplies this year, after getting none last year.

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—A question along similar lines was asked the Premier last week by the member for Victoria, and he promised to go into the matter. I will bring the honourable member's question before the notice of the Premier so that he will have further evidence of what is transpiring.

#### LAND FOR RETURNED SERVICEMEN.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—Following on the statement on soldier settlement made by the Minister in this House last week, and the publicity given to it in the press, I have been

approached by a number of ex-servicemen qualified for land settlement for as long as five years and told that at no time have they been approached by the department regarding any application they may have made for land. One settler, a young married man with one child, said he approached the Lands Department last December regarding the likelihood of getting a block, and pointed out that he had to make a decision regarding his future. He was told he was unlikely to be settled unless more land and/or plantings were made available.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—Was that in respect of irrigation or dry land?

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—Irrigation. Does the Minister know whether such letters were sent to settlers, and, if so, how many? If they were sent out, can the responsibility rest with the ex-serviceman for not following up something which he had been told was unlikely to happen?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—Because of lack of information from the settlers who have actually been called up we have been unable to tell those lower in merit exactly where they stand. Therefore, we are sending out this week a circular to ascertain the true position. It is quite possible a number of letters have been sent out saying that, because we have been allocated only 10,000 acres by the Commonwealth, any applicants in excess of those who would take the whole area have been told that they may not get a block.

Mr. Macgillivray—Would the Minister say they are apathetic in that case?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—Those of whose apathy I complain are those we have written to asking if they were prepared to come and help with the development of the blocks, and who have not responded.

Mr. QUIRKE—In complaining of the apathy of applicants for land settlement and in reply to my question last week, the Minister of Lands said that letters were sent out to certain men asking whether they were prepared to go to Kangaroo Island. I read the letter actually sent to those men which stated, *inter alia*:—

The department will provide living quarters for the applicants during the term of employment but no guarantee can be given that accommodation will be provided for the applicants' wives and families.

That letter was sent out in February last. Can the Minister say whether it was known then that accommodation could be found for

married men within six months, and if so, why was an intimation of that fact not included in the letter? I maintain the non-inclusion of that information was responsible for most of the apathy.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I say definitely that it was not known at that time, or it would have been mentioned in the letter. It is only very recently that accommodation we had at Wanilla on the West Coast has been transported to make this accommodation available. There is still one house at Wanilla that we hope to shift in the near future. I was recently at Kangaroo Island and went, with members of the Returned Soldiers' League, into one of the houses that was vacant then. It is only recently, because of the improved conditions of accommodation, that I have been able to say that, unless something unforeseen happens, settlers will not have to wait longer than six months.

Mr. Quirke—Is it the intention of the department to advise these people of the improved conditions?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I thought I made that quite clear to the House last week when I said that we were further interviewing the 50 applicants that had been selected. Six of the first 19, after accepting the position regarding accommodation, refused to go, but only one because of the accommodation.

Mr. QUIRKE—Some have not replied. Is it the intention to tell those who have not replied that the accommodation referred to would be found within six months?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—In the meantime those who have accepted the position will get first consideration. After that others will be called up, and will know the exact position.

#### SALISBURY DEFENCE PROJECT: EMPLOYEES' PRIVILEGES.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I understand that several persons engaged on the long range weapons project at Salisbury, holding University degrees, and receiving salaries of about £1,000 per annum, are extended the privilege of study during working hours at the expense of the Commonwealth Government. Can the Minister of Lands, as Acting Leader of the Government, ascertain from the Federal Minister for Supply how many such persons have been extended this privilege?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—This is a matter for the Commonwealth Government. However, I will confer with the Premier on the subject.

## LOADING OF SALT.

Mr. McALEES—At present the s.s. *Wellpark* is loading about 7,000 tons of wheat at Wallaroo. It has been reported that later she will call at Port Adelaide to pick up 2,000 tons of salt along with other cargo of fruit and vegetables. That salt must come from Port Price to Port Adelaide. At present, as in the past, wheat from the Price district is shipped from Wallaroo. We are concerned with the delay of the ship which must come to Port Adelaide to pick up this salt, which could be loaded at Wallaroo and shipped direct without being transported all the way to Port Adelaide. Recently the s.s. *Cheltenham* came from Wallaroo and picked up about the same quantity of salt at Port Adelaide—a cargo that had to be rushed around by road from Yorke Peninsula to catch the ship. Could the Minister of Lands as Acting Leader of the Government inquire whether that procedure can be altered?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—The shipment of salt has created a problem for a considerable time because of the hold-up of certain interstate ships. On one occasion it was found necessary to rush salt to Port Adelaide from the lower end of Yorke Peninsula to connect with a New Zealand steamer so as to save a very considerable quantity of hides which were deteriorating in New Zealand. Recently, it has become usual to take the salt by motor transport from Price to Ardrossan, whence it is shipped both to Port Adelaide and other States. The old method was to transport it by ketch from Price. I will make inquiries, but I take it the ship referred to is probably going to New Zealand and it is a matter of great urgency for the salt.

## IRRIGATION COLLEGE IN UPPER MURRAY AREAS.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—On several occasions last session I drew the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the advisability of having an irrigation college established so that the sons of settlers on the River Murray could be trained in scientific methods of irrigation. Has the Minister further considered this matter during the Parliamentary recess?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—I asked the Director of Agriculture for a report about the possibilities of establishing an irrigation college on the River Murray. His report was entirely adverse. He pointed out that much of the training which would be given at such a college is already given at Roseworthy College. Even much of the training in irrigation

could be given at Roseworthy, and the greater part of the training would simply be secondary to what is already given there. The director's report is too lengthy to read in reply to a question, but I will bring it down for the honourable member to read. The Director pointed out that institutions such as Roseworthy and the Waite Institute are extremely short of staff and there is great competition for the trained officers who are available between the institutions here, those in other States, and the C.S.I.R.O. In consequence it would be difficult to start an irrigation college. In addition, for some years we have been trying to establish a residential college at Urrbrae for the benefit of the agricultural high school students, but have not been able to do so because of the shortage of materials and the prior claims of other educational establishments on the materials available.

## SHORTAGE OF SURVEYORS.

Mr. RICHES—At Port Augusta, and, I understand, other northern towns, difficulty is being experienced by those who desire to build houses, in obtaining the services of licensed surveyors. In some cases, because of the lack of surveys, men have put fences on other persons' properties. Can the services of a departmental surveyor be made available on periodic visits to centres where this difficulty is being experienced?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—Government surveyors make periodic visits to country areas for the purpose mentioned, but the Government has been very short of surveyors. In many cases this has held up, and is still holding up, soldier settlement. However, if there is a special case that the honourable member has in mind, and he will give me particulars, I will do my best to have the matter attended to as soon as possible.

## MEAT MEAL.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (on notice)—

1. Is all meat meal produced by the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs sold to purchasers for the local market?
2. Are some purchasers sending meat meal interstate?
3. If so, could the Minister of Agriculture indicate—(a) the names of exporters; and (b) the quantities exported?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—The General Manager of the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board reports:—

1. Yes.

2 and 3. I have no knowledge whether any of the purchasers are sending any of the product interstate.

#### BUTTERFAT SUBSIDY.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (on notice)—Is the Federal Government paying a subsidy on butterfat to manufacturers using whole milk in the manufacture of milk products other than butter and cheese?

The Hon. C. S. Hincks, for the Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Government is advised that the Federal Government is paying a subsidy of 7.8246d. per pound of butterfat on milk products other than butter and cheese, but only on those milk products containing butterfat such as full cream milk powder and condensed milk, sold in Australia. This subsidy is being paid to ease the price to Australian consumers of milk products.

#### FIREWOOD SHORTAGE.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice)—

1. Is the Minister of Railways aware of the acute firewood shortage in the metropolitan area?

2. If so, is he prepared to consider recommending the granting of road permits to owners of lorries in the country who desire to transport firewood to the metropolitan area when railway trucks are in short supply?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The replies are:—

1. Yes.

2. The chairman, Transport Control Board, reports that very few applications are received for road transport of firewood from the country to the metropolitan area. When received they are granted. When the firewood is the property of the carter it can always be carried without restriction. A high priority is given by the railways to this traffic at very low freight rates. The shortage of cutters and manpower generally in the country, rather than the lack of transport, is the reason for the shortage of firewood.

#### WHYALLA SEWERAGE.

Mr. RICHES (on notice)—

1. What progress has been made with the preparation of details of a sewerage scheme for Whyalla?

2. When is it proposed to submit the plan and estimates to the Town Commission?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The design of the sewerage scheme and the preparation of plans have been completed. Estimates of capital and annual costs have also been completed, but these are now being revised in the light

of recent increases in wages and the cost of materials. Full particulars will be available for submitting to the Town Commission within the next two months.

#### QUORN RESERVOIR.

Mr. RICHES (on notice)—

1. What progress has been made on the work of de-silting the Quorn reservoir?

2. Has this work been suspended?

3. If so, why?

4. When is it anticipated that the work will be re-commenced?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—About 20,000 cubic yards of silt has been removed from the reservoir, representing approximately one-third of the total. Although the inlet channels have been closed, recent rains have caused some water to enter the reservoir from the embankments, making the silt too wet for the use of mechanical equipment. Work has therefore been temporarily suspended and will be re-commenced as soon as the machines can again operate efficiently. The date of re-commencement obviously depends upon subsequent weather conditions.

#### YALATA STATION.

Mr. RICHES (on notice)—

1. Have negotiations for the purchase of Yalata Station been completed?

2. If so, when is it anticipated that the Oldean natives will be moved to the new reserve?

3. Has the Government yet decided on the method of control of Yalata?

4. If so, what is the policy of the Government in this matter?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The replies are:—

1. Yes.

2, 3 and 4. The method of control is being discussed with the respective missionary organizations concerned and, pending the result of these negotiations, the station will be carried on as a "going concern" under the present manager.

#### DAVENPORT NORTH SCHOOL.

Mr. RICHES (on notice)—

1. Is the Minister of Works aware that the Davenport North school has been closed for several months because of a shortage of teachers?

2. Is the Education Department prepared to provide transport for these children to another school?

3. What action is being taken to meet the situation created by the closing of this school?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The replies are:—

1. Yes.

2. Yes, if transport can be arranged at anything approaching a reasonable cost. When tenders were called the lowest price received worked out at 10s. a child daily, which is considered far too high.

3. The district inspector has been instructed to report on the matter as soon as possible with a view to a suitable solution being found. In the meantime the parents have been informed that correspondence tuition is available.

#### SCHOOLROOM AT COOK.

Mr. RICHES (on notice)—

1. Has a tender been accepted for the erection of a portable schoolroom at the Cook school?

2. If so, has work commenced on the building?

3. If not, what is the policy of the department in this matter?

The Hon. H. McINTOSH—The replies are:—

1 and 2. Tenders for the erection of this classroom were invited, closing July 4, 1951, but no tenders were received.

3. Tenders will again be called, and if none is received, efforts will be made to have the works carried out by other means.

#### SWINE COMPENSATION FUND.

Mr. MICHAEL (on notice)—

1. What amount was held in the Swine Compensation Fund on June 30, 1951?

2. What amount of income was received during the year ended June 30, 1951?

3. What amount of compensation was paid during the same period?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—The replies are:—

1. £51,914 6s. 4d.

2. £12,879 17s. 3d.

3. £8,550 5s. 11d.

#### RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' WORKING HOURS.

Mr. LAWN (on notice)—What were the average fortnightly working hours of employees of the Railway Department during the six months ended June 30, 1951:—(a) locomotive department; (b) traffic department; and (c) workshops?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The Railways Commissioner reports:—

(a) Locomotive Department (Running)—101.6 hours per fortnight. (b) Traffic Department (Transportation-Traffic)—96.6 hours per fortnight. (c) Workshops—89.4 hours per fortnight.

#### WATER RESTRICTIONS.

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES (on notice)—

1. How often since January 1, 1940, have restrictions on the use of water in the metropolitan area been imposed?

2. On what dates were the respective restrictions imposed and on what dates were they withdrawn?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Restrictions on the use of water in the metropolitan area have been imposed on two occasions since January 1, 1940. Following dry conditions on the catchment areas in 1943 and drought conditions in 1944, restrictions were imposed on November 23, 1944, and remained in force until February 28, 1946. During the 1949 and 1950 winters there was a serious rainfall deficiency, the stream flow being only about 40 per cent of the average. This necessitated imposing restrictions on November 30, 1950, which remained in operation until June 14, 1951.

#### RENMARK INFANT SCHOOL.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the report of the Public Works Standing Committee on Renmark Infant School, together with minutes of evidence.

Ordered that the report be printed.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption of the Address in Reply.

(Continued from July 26. Page 138.)

Mr. DAVIS (Port Pirie)—I join with other speakers in congratulating the mover of the motion. Although I do not agree with many of his remarks I believe that they were made in all sincerity. I appreciate that he is a new member and has had no experience of the Government and does not know much of Parliament's inactivities during the past few years. If he travels through his district and sees the condition of schools there he will agree with me that the children should receive a better education than they are getting. Many schools have been closed and children thereby deprived of proper educational facilities. He has heard replies given to the member for Stuart why certain schools have been closed in his district. The closing of schools in different centres in

my district has meant the overcrowding of the Port Pirie school. School children are being housed in the old drill hall and proper sanitary facilities have not been provided. That state of affairs has continued for years. Schools are being closed right and left throughout the State and the Government does not provide sufficient travelling facilities for children to attend the schools that are provided. The Government has sadly neglected country school children, but I trust that in the very near future it will realize its responsibilities to them. The member for Flinders said he would fight socialism in Parliament. If he does he will find himself trying to upset some of the legislation that has been passed. He will endeavour to abolish the Housing Trust and the Electricity Trust and close the Leigh Creek coalfield; but I think he will realize, before he has been here long, that there is such a saying as, "Do what you are told."

Mr. Michael—You found that out!

Mr. DAVIS—The Party whip will be cracked and Mr. Pearson will find he will have to do what other Government supporters have done on numerous occasions. Even if certain legislation is distasteful to him he will have to do as he is told. I have known of Government supporters opposing certain legislation, but immediately the whip cracked they danced to the tune played by the Honourable T. Playford; and before he has been here long the honourable member will find that he will have to do the same. I congratulate him on his splendid speech, although he had little material to work on.

In this debate much has been said about inflation and various suggestions have been made towards solving the problem. Up to a point I agree with what Mr. Macgillivray said about the payment of subsidies. In tackling the question we must get down to the real cause of inflation, which is profiteering. According to the press, Mr. Menzies said that the first thing to do in tackling inflation is to freeze wages. As always, he wants the workers to carry the burden. I think the first thing to do is to freeze profits at a reasonable level. If profits are frozen at their present level it will mean that many people will get rich whilst the workers will become poorer. Since the war the prices of goods have increased considerably and in order to meet the position wages have been increased. It is not long since Mr. Menzies told the people of Australia that if his party was returned to power he would check inflation because he knew all the answers. Now it appears that he does not

know the answers because he has asked the workers, with other people, to attend a conference in Sydney to discuss the matter. He has introduced in the Commonwealth Parliament the most vicious legislation ever introduced. It has been done for the purpose of smashing the organizations of workers, yet he does not hesitate to ask them to assist him to deal with inflation. He is out to crush industrial organizations and to bring us back to the conditions which existed about 100 years ago. He is following in the footsteps of his Tory ancestors. In those days the Tories introduced legislation which had the effect of putting the workers in chains and having them transported to Australia if they stood up for their rights and if they formed organizations to give them protection. In those days men worked for 8s. and 9s. a week. Many were sent to Australia, and some died on the way out. If Mr. Menzies gets the opportunity to put this legislation into effect our workers will find themselves in the same conditions as the workers of 100 years ago. Seventy to 80 years ago men in South Australia worked under bad conditions. The following quotation from a history of South Australia shows those conditions:—

The following rules of the establishment are posted in the various buildings:—Working hours: all hands to rise at 5 a.m. when the bell rings; horses to be fed, watered, and cleaned; breakfast at 6; all teams to be afield at 7; dinner hour at noon; work to commence again at 1 p.m., to continue to 6 in summer and 5 in winter; supper at 7; horses to be fed and watered at half-past eight, and the dining room to be cleared and locked up at 10 p.m. Wages: first class men will be paid at the rate of 20s. a week; second class at 18s.; 3rd class at 16s. Anyone by good and industrious conduct can raise himself to the highest class. Wages paid every fourth week, and at no other time. Anyone in charge of horses neglecting to feed and tend them properly, or found abusing them, will be discharged at once, and forfeit all his wages due. Anyone wilfully disobeying orders or neglecting his duty will be discharged, and will forfeit two-thirds of the wages due. Anyone found in a state of drunkenness will be instantly discharged, and absolutely forfeit all wages due. Anyone bringing intoxicating liquors on the premises, as well as those partaking of them, will forfeit all the wages due and be instantly discharged. Anyone found smoking near the stables or stacks will be at once discharged and proceeded against under the Bush Fires Act. Each man at the time of hiring is required to sign the above rules, binding himself to abide by them in all respects.

Those conditions applied to the district now represented by the member for Stanley. I know of no penalties such as these against

employers in industrial awards. The Prime Minister introduced this recent legislation to take away the workers' freedom. It is the most vicious legislation ever introduced in Australian history. It is foolish because it is unworkable. When a strike is pending how can a ballot be taken in the Australian Workers Union, with its 180,000 members? It would be impossible to locate half those members because they work their way all over the Commonwealth. A shearer may be working in Western Australia this month, and next month in another State or even New Zealand. This legislation requires the provision of the names and addresses of all members. The union is liable to a fine of £10 a week until such information is supplied; but it is impossible to give it. An official may be fined £500 or sentenced to two years in gaol. A rank and file member may be fined up to £20. An official will be able to walk into the office of any trade union and demand the right to investigate its affairs. Has any provision ever been made for a person to walk into an office of an industrialist to examine his books and ascertain his profits? When traders withhold goods whilst waiting for a higher price, as in the case of those who recently refused to send potatoes from Tasmania, are they penalized? These people who supply the necessities of life may withhold their goods until they are paid a suitable price, but they are not branded as strikers, yet people who have only their labour to sell are not to have the right to strike in seeking higher wages. They are told they must go to the Arbitration Court, which under the Act will be able to order a ballot to be taken. That ballot may be in favour of a strike, yet a judge of the court may nullify its result and order the men back to work. If they do not return to work they may be penalized.

This Act will breed more Communists in this country. Mr. Menzies said that he would smash the Communist Party and eliminate Communism, but this legislation is a blow at Australian industrial organizations. If it so desired the Federal Government could deal with Communists under other legislation. Although much is said about what the Communists have done, Communism has never hurt the people as much as capitalism has. Under Communism people would not starve, whereas under capitalism thousands of people have died. Only the acts of capitalists have brought into being such political doctrines as Communism. Thousands of Australians were living in a state of semi-starvation for years.

Mr. Quirke—They are not starving now.

Mr. DAVIS—No, and that is why Mr. Menzies is trying to smash these organizations which have been strong enough to force the Government to give the workers a decent standard of living and compel employers to recognize at least some of their rights. Thousands of the boys who went overseas were told that Hitler must be defeated before he smashed the industrial movement. He did smash it in Germany, and now Mr. Menzies is doing the same thing in Australia. The present Prime Minister has struck a greater blow than any ever struck on the battlefields of the last war. Instead of taking the lives of soldiers, he wants to take the right of the workers as well as those of their wives and families. He would be very happy to have the workers in the position they were in during the depression years. Yet another of his ideas is to sack 10,000 Commonwealth civil servants. He has made a start by reducing the hours of work of a few unfortunate women at the post office—probably widows or single girls who have to depend on their labour for a livelihood. Prior to the elections Mr. Menzies said he would clean out the civil service which, he said, had been built up by the Chifley Government. However, when he had been in power for a few months the number of civil servants had increased by 6,000. It has been suggested by another gentleman that 100,000 should be dismissed. Mr. Menzies would be very pleased if he could dispense with the services of that number from industry, so that the poor unfortunate worker would have to look for employment. That is the objective of the Liberal Party and its representatives. Last year, in Tasmania, a prominent gentleman said that Australia could not be run economically without a pool of 10 per cent unemployed.

The Hon. S. W. Jeffries—He was a University professor and not a Liberal member.

Mr. DAVIS—As he advocated 10 per cent unemployed he was certainly not a Labor member. If that pool could be created the Liberal Party could crack the whip over the unfortunate worker who has only his labour to sell. Australians would not tolerate another depression such as the last one. Up to a couple of years ago they had been able to enjoy a decent standard of living. However, that standard is slipping from the worker today, because a basic wage increase covers only the period of three months prior to its being granted. For the ensuing three months the worker must suffer the increase in prices consequent upon that basic wage increase. They never catch up to prices.

Mr. Dunks—How does the honourable member say that should be overcome?

Mr. DAVIS—I said in my opening remarks that the only way to stop inflation was to get at the source of the trouble. It is of no use trying to fix prices over the baker's or grocer's counter. It is essential to go to the source and control the prices of raw materials and profits from the time the raw materials are manufactured until they get to the consumer. I noticed from last night's press that one industry made £6,100,000 more profit this year than last. If profits such as that cannot be controlled I do not know what can. I believe that workers organizations would be happy to seriously consider the pegging of wages if the Federal Government would see that only reasonable profits were made. Then the workers would have greater purchasing power, but at present it is being diminished every time increases in wages occur following quarterly adjustments. I, like many other members of this House, realized the impossibility of effectively controlling prices when this power was handed back to the States. Thousands of items were released from price control by the Government of this State, and many other States followed suit. It was then impossible for State Governments to control prices. A referendum was held on price control and members on this side of the House asked the people to vote for Commonwealth control. Members opposite asked them not to do so. We realized that under State control the workers would lose all the benefits of price control. Mr. Menzies was a great advocate of handing the power back to the States and said if that were granted machinery would be set in motion in the States immediately. What did we find? We had to wait weeks before the necessary legislation was brought down. Unfortunately for the people of Australia and of this State the control of prices broke down.

I do not know what is intended to be done at the conference now being held in Sydney. The Prime Minister seems to be running around in circles. In one breath he says he will freeze wages and in the next that he will impose heavier taxes so as to reduce the surplus spending powers of the people. Thousands of workers in Australia would like to know where their surplus spending power is. They have very little surplus. Ask the housewives! They have a difficult job in balancing the budget week by week. The greatest problem of housewives today is to provide a decent Sunday dinner. People in my neighbourhood with families of four or five children say it costs

them 30s. for their meat alone, and little is left after Sunday. A pound of steak costs 4s. and a pound of chops 4s. 6d. I do not know how Mr. Menzies and his Government can say that a man has any surplus spending power when he has a family to rear. A suit of clothes costs from £20 to £30. A child's dress costs up to £6 and a woman's dress up to £15. If prices were fixed from the beginning the workers would agree to the freezing of wages. I believe Mr. Menzies suggested the freezing of wages knowing that the workers would not accept it so that he could be in a position to say to his Government it is impossible for him to check inflation because he cannot get the assistance of the workers of this country. Does he expect to get the support of the workers in this regard? No! When Mr. Menzies was returned to office the people expected him to check inflation, but the people now realize that he and his Government have fallen down on their job.

I do not desire to belittle the efforts of the Housing Trust because under the circumstances it is doing a good job, but the Government should find materials for the trust. People desirous of building homes are being held up because of the shortage of materials, yet this Government has done nothing to find those materials. The member for Unley referred to the shortage of bricks. Why does not the Government set up brickyards? The building of houses is being held up in my district. There is only one brickyard there and at present only sufficient bricks for one home a week are being produced. At that rate we shall never catch up with the lag. Hundreds of people in Port Pirie desire a Housing Trust home. If the Government took steps to manufacture the necessary materials we should be able to overcome the housing shortage in South Australia.

The financial position of local government bodies is causing me, and many others, great concern. Owing to the rapidly increasing costs of labour and materials councils are becoming financially embarrassed. If the position continues as it has over the last 12 months the Port Pirie Corporation will not be able to carry on until the end of the year. Greater grants should be made by the Government to councils. Port Pirie is working on a rate of 1s. 4d. Its assessment is £279,000, which brings in a revenue of only £18,000 in rates. The wages bill alone is about £30,000. Repeated appeals have been made to the Government for financial assistance, at times with success, but not to the extent required. There

are thousands of motor cars in the district of Port Pirie and much money must be collected from registration fees and petrol tax as a result. Port Pirie, and other councils throughout the State, should receive much greater grants from the State Government. I support the motion.

Mr. HEASLIP (Rocky River)—I congratulate the new member for Flinders on his well-prepared and thoughtful maiden speech. I am sure that the district of Flinders will be well looked after and represented by him. I also congratulate the seconder of the motion, the member for Unley, on his championship of primary industries. I am glad to know that he has given his support to the country, which will be greatly appreciated by people there. I am sure that the eagerly awaited visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen and Princess Margaret will give great pleasure to all members of the community. I think no monarch has ever been held in higher esteem than King George VI. He has not spared himself in any way; rather has he sacrificed himself in order to unite and cement the bonds between the various members of the Commonwealth of Nations to a greater extent than ever before in history. I trust that the visit of His Majesty will assist him in regaining his health, which he has sacrificed in our interests.

His Excellency the Governor's Speech shows that primary industries will at last receive due consideration. All industries are dependent on primary production; without it none is possible. The bounteous rains in this State have meant a wonderful opening for the season, and the development that has taken place in the opening up of new high rainfall areas must greatly extend the possibilities of primary production. I congratulate the Minister of Lands and other members of the Government on their developmental programme. I do not agree that more land in the lower rainfall areas can be settled; it is to the higher rainfall areas that we must look for decentralization and extra production, both of which members realize are necessities, and I shall support the Government in all its efforts in this direction.

His Excellency's Speech mentioned making country life more attractive. One method cited was the formation of young farmers' clubs. I appreciate the work that is being done by the Minister of Agriculture and his department, but I do not think the formation of these clubs will do much to make country life more attractive to the people living there and help to hold them. More must be done.

Country people must have additional amenities to bring them more into line with people in the metropolitan area. On May 22, 1950, I presented a petition to the Premier, signed by 300 country people, asking for a £2,000 grant for improvements to the seafront at Port Germein, but so far nothing has been done about it. Two thousand pounds spent in the direction indicated would be a realistic approach towards keeping people in the district and making country life more attractive for them. I do not advocate going to the Government for a hand-out for everything we want, but it should appreciate that country people around Port Germein are contributing towards the amount required. They desire to protect the foreshore, the highway, the police station, and post office, all of which are Government works. Local inhabitants should not be called upon to make this contribution, but the fact remains that they are. Vacant allotments have already been purchased, levelled and filled in, and it is the intention of the council to build caravan parks, instal ablution conveniences, erect a community kitchen and so on. If those works are carried out the residents will be doing their part towards making that portion of the country more attractive, not only to country residents, but to the many tourists who go there. The State Tourist Bureau is subsidizing the money spent by the council on a pound for pound basis. People who are familiar with Port Germein and nearby scenery realize that tourist traffic must increase if amenities are provided.

His Excellency mentioned the importance of increased production. I entirely agree with him and I do not think anybody can argue against it. The Government takes pride in the fact that the Industries Development Committee recommended that a big advance be made to the Adelaide Cement Company. On the one hand we have a State instrumentality recommending an advance, whilst on the other hand the Commonwealth Government is placing a curb on finance. The whole of our inflationary troubles today are, in my view, caused by too much money. I do not agree that the Government should make this money available to the company, as in doing so it assists the inflationary trend. Money is available elsewhere and before the company approached the Government for financial assistance it should have approached private interests. Because the Government made this advance more money has been placed in circulation. There is too much in circulation today. The Government should endeavour to curb our inflationary trend. I

do not say that assistance should not be given in any case, as there are instances where ordinary people cannot provide sufficient capital. I understand that the Industries Development Committee intends to recommend that financial assistance be granted to develop the Nairne pyrites mine. That is essential. If we are to increase primary production and provide munitions for war we must have sulphur, which is one of the basic essentials. If capital is not available through the public it is the Government's duty to make it available through the Industries Development Committee, but we will not do anything towards curtailing inflation if we rush in, where money is easily available, and prevent the public from investing in the venture and using up their surplus money.

I disagree with the member for Port Pirie about price control. It is impossible for price control to work properly unless everything is controlled. We must have control at the source and everything that affects it, otherwise we will have sectional control. We have that today, and I am strongly opposed to it. I think I made that clear last session on the question of price control of rents. I entirely disagree with the principle, but in cases of emergency or under extraordinary conditions we should do something to curtail inflationary increases.

Mr. O'Halloran—Do you think that conditions must be pretty bad before the remedy is applied?

Mr. HEASLIP—If we had kept out of price control altogether things would have righted themselves, but having got in we have to go right on, or stay right out. In this instance we are already in, but not right in. We are not doing one thing or the other. Either we should have control or we should not have it, but having partial control we must continue. The cost of living figures today, compared with those of the September quarter of 1939, show that Adelaide figures have increased by 98.2 per cent. Individual rises are:—clothing, 215 per cent; food, 107.4 per cent; rent, 6.2 per cent; and miscellaneous, 65.7 per cent. There has been a 215 per cent increase in the price of clothing, but rents have been increased only 6.2 per cent. This is sectional control; not proper price control. An injustice has been done to landlords. Owners of property are being called upon to make too big a contribution to the economy of the State.

Mr. Moir—The clothing people are making too much profit.

Mr. HEASLIP—We have profit control, not price control. Every time an application is made to the Prices Commissioner for an increase in the price of goods he wants the firm's balance-sheet. It does not matter how efficient or inefficient that firm is; if it makes a profit the increase is not granted. Essential industries are being controlled whilst luxury industries are not. This prevents competition. We should have real price control, not profit control. If an industry is efficient and makes a big profit, let it do so, provided it gives a service to the consumers. If there is not the incentive to become efficient we will soon have more inefficiency, and we have plenty today. On the first day of the session much was said about the dairy industry. Since then not one word has been said on the matter. It is contended that the Commonwealth and that the States are to blame for the raw deal given to the dairy industry, but no-one is doing anything about it. The Commonwealth has given a fixed price for dairy products exported. It subsidizes the industry to the extent of £16,000,000 a year, which represents about 1s. 1d. for each pound of butter we buy. Today not one dairy man makes his own butter. It pays him to sell his cream to the factory. The Prices Minister can rectify the position, but why has it not been done? I have been accused of not doing anything as a representative of a dairy district. I have been accused also of being afraid and not voicing my opinion on the matter. Those accusations were made on the opening day of the session. At that time we were expecting an increase in the price of butter, but a month has now gone by and no increase has been granted. It has become incumbent upon me to voice the opinion of all people that something should be done to assist the dairy industry. Unfortunately, that industry works a 56-hour week, spread over seven days. To get the people to work in it we must make conditions worth-while. I am sorry that the Prices Minister is not here today. He has the power to assist the industry, but nothing is done. Butter is rationed today. Tomorrow we will have none. What is happening now could be rectified overnight. What has happened over the last few years will take years to rectify. Money can be found for other projects, but none is available for the dairy industry.

Mr. Frank Walsh—What do you advocate towards assisting the industry?

Mr. HEASLIP—On the opening day of the session the honourable member advocated

increased incentive for those in the industry. He represents a consuming district and supported an increase in the price of butter. He knew that consumers in his district would not object to the butter price being increased because they were prepared to pay for the butter they wanted. He knew that the dairymen were not getting enough for their products. If something is not done soon we shall have no butter.

Mr. Frank Walsh—In view of the answer given today to a question on subsidies, what do you suggest?

Mr. HEASLIP—I do not believe in subsidies. If we want anything we must be prepared to pay for it. I do not support the suggestions made for the control of the milk flow over the week-end. I do not agree with the A.P.P.U. suggestion for a 40-hour working week.

Mr. Quirke—Do you believe in absolute price control?

Mr. HEASLIP—Over a period of years the only remedy is to make it worth-while for people to engage in industry.

Mr. Quirke—If you peg prices you must peg wages.

Mr. HEASLIP—I am opposed to control of any sort, but having once gone in for price control we must have complete control, not sectional.

Mr. Quirke—You would control everything in connection with prices?

Mr. HEASLIP—Yes, and peg wages.

Mr. Quirke—Your remedy is to have price control and peg wages.

Mr. HEASLIP—Yes, at this stage. I oppose the control of the milk flow over the week-end in order to allow dairymen to work a 40-hour week. I do not say it is not practicable because it can be done, but that is only tackling the problem from the wrong end. It would curtail the milk supply rather than increase it. To get increased production we must make conditions in the industry worth-while. What I have said about the time which will elapse to improve the position of the dairy industry is supported by figures given by the Minister of Agriculture. He said that in 1949 heifers of one year and over totalled 54,500, and that by 1950 the number had been reduced to 50,800. In 1949 heifers under one year totalled 42,900; a year later we had only 37,500. This state of affairs cannot be rectified overnight. A man can go out of industry or out of production of wheat and come back next year, but a herd of animals cannot be built up in one year. The damage

has been done and the position is getting worse, but nothing is being done to improve it. As I have said, the Prices Minister could rectify the position overnight. I know something about the dairying industry. I have a dairy herd. Like many loyal men I have stuck to dairying. I also represent what was a good dairying district, but today the production in that district is only half what it was previously. Once a man goes out of the dairying industry and tastes the amenities offering elsewhere it is hard to get him back.

Mr. Macgillivray—Don't you think the Prices Minister could have done something for the industry?

Mr. HEASLIP—Something should be done.

Mr. Macgillivray—Don't you think there should be an increase in the price of butter?

Mr. HEASLIP—I have advocated that. It is useless passing the buck to the Commonwealth Government or to anyone else. Irrespective of agreements made with other States, we have the power to improve the position, but nothing is being done, and I do not know why. The production of wool has been increased because of the good prices offering. If it is considered necessary to encourage the dairying industry a price rise should be given; but even if an attractive price were fixed tomorrow it would take years to right the damage already done. Recently the member for Stanley said, "Wheat production per acre is less today than 30 years ago." I do not know where the honourable member got his figures.

Mr. Quirke—From the *South Australian Vital Statistics* under the heading "Chief Secretary."

Mr. HEASLIP—Then he took particular figures to suit his own argument.

Mr. Quirke—Those figures cover a period of 84 years. Seventy years ago 11 bushels were produced to the acre, and not much more is produced now.

Mr. HEASLIP—From figures I have taken out, for the five-year period ending 1920-21 South Australia produced 29,322,782 bushels, an average of 12.84 bushels per acre, and for the five-year period ending 1950-51 29,143,525 bushels, an average of 13.82. Those figures show an increase of almost one bushel per acre. I would have been disappointed if that figure had reflected the true picture of progress in our primary industries; but reference to the mean rainfall during those years showed that in South Australia for the five years ending 1920-21 it was 14.33in., whereas for the five years ending 1950-51 it was only 11.82in. The

difference between those rainfalls could mean as much as four bushels an acre. The member for Stanley was not correct in his statement about production. He also said that, when the population of Australia reached 10,000,000, her wheat production would not be sufficient to export even one bushel. In 1945-46 of the Australian wheat production of over 142,000,000 bushels, 85,000,000 was consumed locally and 57,000,000 exported; in 1946-47 of over 117,000,000 produced, 71,000,000 was consumed locally and 46,000,000 exported; in 1947-48 of over 220,000,000 produced, 89,000,000 was consumed locally and 131,000,000 exported; in 1948-49 of over 190,000,000 bushels produced, 71,000,000 was consumed locally and 119,000,000 exported. In 1949-50 over 218,000,000 were produced, and it is estimated that 130,000,000 bushels of that crop will be exported. Therefore, that contention of the honourable member for Stanley is incorrect, as the amount of wheat exported is rising.

The Leader of the Opposition said that until about 1938-39 the average annual South Australian production was between 34,000,000 and 35,000,000 bushels, but that now it has dropped to about 30,000,000. The wheat-grower is making as big a contribution as any other member of the Australian community today. For the five years ending 1925-26 the annual South Australian wheat production averaged 29,000,000 bushels, for the five years ending 1930-31 28,000,000, for the five years ending 1935-36 36,000,000, for the five years ending 1940-41 32,000,000, for the five years ending 1945-46 (a period affected by drought) 23,000,000, for the five years ending 1950-51 29,000,000. I suggest the Leader of the Opposition picked the two high production periods to try to prove his point; but I submit they are not a true reflection of past production.

The area producing wheat is gradually diminishing, but we are producing about the same quantity as previously. At one stage we were cropping over 3,000,000 acres, but now crop only about 1,600,000 acres. Over the last 30 years South Australian wheat production has averaged about 29,000,000 bushels annually and in 1950-51 we are still producing 29,000,000 bushels. It is not right to say anything which would give the public the idea that the wheatgrower is not pulling his weight.

Mr. Quirke—My purpose in quoting figures was to show the decreasing fertility of the soil.

Mr. HEASLIP—The public, particularly the consumer, may get the idea that the wheat farmer is not producing as much as he should. As a primary producer I oppose a bounty on foxes. The time is most inopportune for wool producers to approach the Government for such a hand-out. Farmers plagued with rabbits are not paid 9d. or 1s. a head for killing them. That is their responsibility. The same principle applies in respect of foxes. The destruction of rabbits has led to foxes becoming a greater menace, particularly within the last 12 months. The foxes must eat something and are now eating lambs. It is up to the owners of those flocks to get rid of these foxes, either by concerted action or through local government bodies.

Mr. Whittle—Foxes evidently are prevalent.

Mr. HEASLIP—They are prevalent throughout the State.

Mr. Whittle—And worse in the newer areas.

Mr. HEASLIP—Possibly, but it is the responsibility of farmers to get rid of them. The question of bulk handling of wheat is vital. I have asked several questions in the House about the inquiry being made by the Public Works Committee. I agree that the question of bulk handling does not matter much while cornsacks are available, but India may not be able to supply us soon. If so I do not know what will happen to the wheat produced in South Australia. It is useless to produce grain and then let it rot on the ground. If the Public Works Committee cannot bring down a final report, it should make an interim report to let farmers know something of the position about bulk handling.

Mr. LAWN (Adelaide)—Various statements have been advanced about the cause of the inflationary spiral and for its cure. We hear much about the pegging of wages and the controlling of prices being the cure for inflation, or a means of halting it. I draw a distinction between "pegging" and "control" of wages. The pegging of anything implies a rigid fixation. When we speak of controls we imply movement. Wages are controlled and always have been since the inauguration of the Conciliation and Arbitration Court, and before that by the employer. I have had much experience in advocating claims before the Arbitration Court and know it is not easy, in fact it is difficult, to obtain wage increases from the court or from an employer. We have to substantiate a case to the hilt. Often we have to wait two years before a judgment is given, particularly on an application for an increased

basic wage. In the recent basic wage case judgment was given in November last. It took the court two years to hear and determine that case. The forty-hour week case commenced in May, 1947, and judgment was given at the end of 1948, the forty-hour week to operate from the beginning of 1949. Many people are piece-work fanatics. However, the members of the court which fixes the wages and conditions of the workers would not earn their bread and butter if they were paid on piece-work principles. I have fought many applications on behalf of workers and have had to wait six to 12 months to get a hearing and a further six to 12 months to get a judgment. If anyone told me the worker could take 18 months to two years to do a job, and do it satisfactorily, I would say he was wrong. We expect greater efficiency from the workers of this country that we receive from the Arbitration Court.

Wages are controlled now. I give an instance of workers being deliberately robbed of some shillings a week over the past three months. In April of this year the Federal Industrial Registrar was to announce the basic wage to commence from May. Just prior to the official announcement word got out unofficially that the basic wage was to rise between 10s. and 12s. in the various capital cities. This information was published in the press by employers and union officials. The Prime Minister realized the significance of such a big increase in the basic wage on the eve of a general election, with the result that the official announcement was a rise of 5s. to 6s. The operation of the full increase was postponed until August, so during May, June, and July, the workers of this country were deliberately robbed of several shillings a week.

Mr. Whittle—What votes would the Prime Minister's Party have lost as a result of that?

Mr. LAWN—In Balaklava, where the elected member had a majority of 10,000 at the previous election, it has been reduced to 4,000.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Since when?

Mr. LAWN—I have taken my figures from the capitalistic press—the *Advertiser*. I think the majority last Saturday was 4,000. I am certain, and I think the member for Prospect is certain, too, that the people today are more conscious of price increases than they were three or four months ago.

Mr. Whittle—I do not quarrel with that.

Mr. LAWN—Had the announcement been made in April that the basic wage would be

increased by 12s. a week in May, the people would have realized that what they have been told by members of my Party was correct, namely, that there should be a rigid control of prices. We had been advocating such control for years. Had the basic wage risen by 12s. a week in May the result of the Federal election might have been different. Many people say there is too much money in circulation and because of this they consider that wages should be pegged. I do not agree that the few extra shillings a worker may get can affect the position one iota. When we speak of wages we mean the basic wage, because very little is made up in margins. The basic wage is only a reflection of the prices index as collated by the Commonwealth Statistician. It has been written that if anyone sought to destroy a nation's economy it could be done by printing and distributing counterfeit money. If too much money is the cause of inflation it is because of the huge amount coming into our country as the result of our exports. Last year our wool exports yielded the record sum of £300,000,000, but the figure was doubled this year. If there is anything in the theory that the excessive amount of money in circulation is the cause of the inflationary spiral it is not the result of the wages being paid, but the result of the amounts received for our exports. Controls over that money should be imposed before controlling the wages of workers. Why is not the woolgrower in the same category as the wheatgrower? It has been said that the wheatgrower is making a great contribution to the economy, and I believe that is so. I think wheatgrowers sell 75 per cent of their production for the home market at a fixed price.

Mr. Quirke—The wheatgrower is making the biggest contribution of any producer in Australia.

Mr. LAWN—I agree. Further, the cattleman has to sell 75 per cent of his hides at 6½d. a pound, whereas he can get between 5s. and 6s. for the remainder, but the woolgrower sells to the people of Australia at overseas prices.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—When wool was low in price he did not get a subsidy on the Australian price, but the wheatgrower did.

Mr. LAWN—As the initial step in the fight against inflation I urge the inauguration of a proper Federal control of prices. I think I am supported in that by at least a portion of the capitalistic press of this country. The following was published under the heading "Will

Premiers' Plan Save Australia?" in the *Sunday Herald*, a Sydney newspaper, of July 22, 1951:—

Mr. Menzies said on Thursday that he was going into the conference assuming that the stark realities of the problem would be seen by all the Premiers. Presumably he hopes that he will get some sort of agreement like the Premiers' Plan of 1930—an all-in effort to make sacrifices for the common good. But indications are that his path is not going to be rosy. One thing is certain: the Labor Party is going to indulge in much "I told you so." However much one may sympathize with the Menzies Government in its present dilemma, the fact is inescapable that for more than 18 months it has been aware of the drift towards inflation.

I emphasize that the present inflationary spiral has not commenced just recently. Members of my Party have foreseen this problem for some time. Last week the Leader of the Opposition said that during the period from June, 1939, to June, 1948, the cost of living increased by only 39 per cent, but from June 1948, to June, 1951—only three years—it increased by 61 per cent. As the *Sydney Sunday Herald* indicated, the Prime Minister had an opportunity for at least 18 months to deal with the problem. During the whole of that period he told the people that he was going to do it. According to the *Melbourne Argus*, which is not a Labor paper—

The Hon. M. McIntosh—It is a Labor Party paper.

Mr. LAWN—It is not; it is a capitalist paper. A leading article in the *Argus* of Tuesday, July 24, 1951, under the heading "Prices First," states:—

Commonwealth price fixing must be the spearhead of any serious attack on inflation. This is the lesson of our war-time experience. Because of that experience Australia had one of the best anti-inflation records in the world—a record which vanished only in the last two years. The economic emergency now is as great as it was in war-time, yet there is no firm lead on the necessity for full-scale price control. Why?

That is an indication that during the war years, when controls existed, we had the best economic conditions in the world.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—There were all kinds of restrictions then.

Mr. LAWN—There is control over some labour in the Commonwealth for two years. The Premier is reported in today's *News* as advocating a tax on luxury goods. Apparently he includes string shopping bags and motor cars. What would be the effect of additional taxation on the person who has plenty of money? What is another £100 on a motor car

to him? It does not mean a thing. If we are sincere as regards inflation and control of luxury goods, let me draw attention to industries to which migrants are allocated. Last year I mentioned that no restriction was placed on the availability of labour for the motor body building industry. The only restriction was that placed on it by the Vehicle Builders' Union. Until that was done any number of migrants could enter the industry as fast as the employers desired. Surely during the two years that migrants are under the control of the Commonwealth they could be directed to industries that are more essential than the motor body building industry.

Mr. Macgillivray—Aren't the majority of New Australians directed into big Government departments?

Mr. LAWN—I do not know what is the position today, but until last year large motor industries would put orders into the Commonwealth Employment Office for 200 or 300 men and get practically all their requirements. Early last year my organization told the motor body building people that at the rate at which they were engaging migrants they would soon be employing more New Australians than Australians.

Mr. Macgillivray—Aren't the Railways and Waterworks Departments the greatest employers of migrant labour in Australia?

Mr. LAWN—I do not know, but there are still opportunities for a larger number of migrants to be directed into essential industries. The Federal Government is advocating that certain steps be taken to prevent inflation. In the *Adelaide News* of Wednesday, July 25, a statement appeared by the Commonwealth Federal Treasurer, Sir Arthur Fadden, when addressing the Country Party conference in Brisbane. I do not know what inside information he passed on to the conference, but he is reported in the *News* as saying:—

The Commonwealth anti-inflation medicine would be strong, hard to take, but ultimately beneficial. Many unpleasant and unpopular things might yet be necessary, but drastic complaints need drastic remedy.

I sincerely believe that the public mind is being conditioned for a re-imposition of the 1930 Premiers' Plan but I do not think that the people will want a second taste of it. The Prime Minister has suggested the sacking of 10,000 Commonwealth public servants. I do not know how many he expects the South Australian Premier to sack. It is ridiculous for the Prime Minister to agitate for the

sacking of 10,000 Commonwealth public servants and make a start on the poor widows who clean rooms in our post offices. On page 4 of last night's News will be found seven columns of advertisements calling for applications for appointments to the Commonwealth Public Service. The advertisements did not refer to single appointments, but were in the plural. "Typistes" and "temporary phonogram operators" were referred to. They are for the P.M.G.'s Department where widows have to carry out their duties of cleaning offices outside the normal spread of working hours—in the early morning and late at night. Another suggestion by Government supporters is to increase taxation. I am not concerned how heavy the tax is made on big incomes, but I am with the amount that might be levied on people who produce our goods and do not receive sufficient to enable them to enjoy a decent standard of living and provide a reasonable amount for old age. I believe that the Government is attempting to soften up the workers for making greater sacrifices and paying increased taxation. Government supporters always welcome any attack on the mythical 40-hour week. I challenge them to tell me how many hours a week they work. Whom are they referring to when they speak of this mythical 40-hour week?

Mr. Heaslip—Why mythical?

Mr. LAWN—Who works 40 hours a week?

Mr. Heaslip—Not too many.

Mr. LAWN—No, because everybody is working more. How many hours do Government supporters work?

Mr. Dunks—How many do you work?

Mr. LAWN—I do not know; I have lost count, but they are well over 50. This is not a personal matter; I am replying to attacks made on the 40-hour week. Answering a question today the Minister of Railways informed me that employees in the locomotive section of the Railways Department had, since January to June last, a period of six months, averaged 50.8 hours a week.

Mr. Heaslip—At ordinary rates?

Mr. LAWN—There is no need to try to side-track the matter. I am taking up the challenge about the 40-hour week. On the Minister's figures, the men in the traffic department worked 48.3 hours and in the workshops 44.95 hours. If honourable members opposite are not satisfied with those hours, how many do they want the railway employees to work?

Mr. Heaslip—Don't you think that is a contributory cause to inflation?

Mr. LAWN—The honourable member will not sidetrack me—

Mr. Dunks—But that is the main point.

Mr. LAWN—Members opposite allege that the workers are only working 40 hours a week or less, that they have a go-slow policy and that if we went back to a 44- or 48-hour week everything would be all right. Let me now turn to private industry. The industry in which I worked, and all industries covered by Commonwealth Arbitration Court awards, have compulsory overtime provisions which compel all union members to work a reasonable amount of overtime. There are factories in the motor industry at present working 17 hours overtime, which means that the employees are working 57 hours a week.

Mr. Dunks—What does that cost the industry per week?

Mr. LAWN—The honourable member complains that that is not enough, but how many hours does he consider a man should work? The minds of members opposite are still working on the lines of the people to whom Mr. Davis referred, but he only went back 70 years in Australia and 100 years in Great Britain. Then, because a person in England killed a rabbit to feed his starving children he was transported for life, but let us go back a bit further, when juveniles were working 12 hours a day in the coal mines. One of the proud Lords introduced a private member's Bill prescribing the weekly hours for juveniles. This measure was designed to reduce the hours from 12 a day to 10—and six days a week too. One of his fellow lords said "Competition between the United Kingdom and Europe is so keen that a featherweight will turn the scale. We cannot allow this Bill to pass." In 1929 I gave evidence before the Arbitration Court in Adelaide in support of a 44-hour week, and Mr., later Sir E. W. Holden, also giving evidence, said that competition between Australia and overseas was so keen that a featherweight would turn the scale, proving that there is no difference between the trend of thought of members opposite and that of their forefathers of a hundred years ago. Whether it was 60 hours, 48 hours, or 44 hours a week, they have always said that the hours should be longer.

Mr. Dunks—No, we say it is costing too much.

Mr. LAWN—Before I forget it, let me tell a story about an Adelaide cake manufacturing company. It was not satisfied with the profits under price control and thought it could make more by going to Darwin. There

it found it could not get sufficient white labour and tried to recruit aborigines. The boss said to Jacky, "I will give you good money and you can buy plenty of good food and good clothes," but Jacky declined. Then the boss said "You work for me long hours, and work well and I will make you a boss, and then you will not have to work any more," and Jacky replied "Me not work now, boss." Private enterprise has taken from the individual the right to produce for himself and his family, and wants to set itself up as a dictatorship to say how many hours a man shall work. It is not prepared to abide by arbitration and conciliation. When a judicial body—a body which I thought members opposite always respected—after 19 months of complete and full investigation into the resources of the Commonwealth decided that this country could support a 40-hour week—

Mr. Whittle—Has this Government ever complained about a 40-hour week? You have never heard me or the Government complain?

Mr. LAWN—In addition to complaining about the working hours, members opposite are suggesting the adoption of incentive payment schemes as a means of getting out of the inflationary spiral. When they talk of incentive payments they tell the men they will be made only according to the work performed. I shall not go back to what happened under the old piece work system, but the industrial magnates always say "We know what happened in the bad old days, but that will not happen today. We are sorry, and those things are a blot upon industry, but those days have gone forever." Let me refer to what has happened in recent years. In 1930 I was working for a motor firm and the manager wanted to introduce piece work. I was sacked because I had given evidence about five months earlier. Three months later the manager was sacked, and set himself up in Adelaide as an efficiency expert. One of the banks which had control of a business on Anzac Highway which was going bankrupt put him in as manager, and he introduced piece work. In 1940 he left that industry and came back to the motor industry, and immediately we knew he was going to try to introduce piece work. He attempted to do so and the men walked out, and the settlement was on the basis of no victimization, no piece work. Later, the gentleman having learned his lesson, approached my organization with a view to introducing piece-work, and during the discussions he said "I introduced the scheme which is operating over the way and it has been going

since 1931. You can go there and ask the men if it is a good scheme. Once I fix a rate it will never be cut. The bad old days are gone forever." That was only two or three years ago. Recently the firm which had adopted piecework in 1931, where the employees were earning on an average of £16 to £18 a week, eliminated piecework, but the employees were told that they had to give the same production as they were giving on piecework. They were told they would receive bonuses of 10s., 20s., or 30s. a week, according to the grading of the foreman, if a month's trial proved that they were giving the same production as when they were under piecework. There was much opposition by the unions and the employer withdrew the demand that they must get the same production, but it has been the experience of the men that when employees do drop back in production they have been given a week's notice. I referred to this matter in the Arbitration Court in Melbourne two or three weeks ago, but the Conciliation Commissioner did not view it favourably.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—What has all this to do with the matter before the House?

Mr. LAWN—In this place last week it was said that workers should agree to incentive payments, and that the leaders of the workers' organizations advocate a go-slow policy. It is sheer ignorance to suggest such things. I have had a lot of experience in the Arbitration Court. For our members we claim increased wages and reduced working hours, but we never oppose progress. We want more production provided it is achieved by the installation of labour-saving machines. We know that when production is increased there is a greater chance of our workers getting reduced working hours. On December 15, 1935, the motor body industry changed over to a 44-hour working week. Within a few weeks production was as great as production in the 48-hour week. When the changeover to 40 hours took place production at the 44-hour week level was maintained.

Mr. Whittle—That did not happen in every industry.

Mr. LAWN—The Statistician has figures to show that production everywhere increased. Not long ago Mr. McGirr, Premier of New South Wales, referred to the increased production in many industries in his State. In April of this year I had the privilege of inspecting the railway workshops in Sydney and I was shown a production graph. The information on it was astounding. It showed that production in the 40-hour week was greater than production in either the 44 or 48-hour week.

The Hon. S. W. Jeffries—Do you think there should be a reduction to a 36-hour week?

Mr. LAWN—Yes, if the reduction takes place at the right time. Industry can always adjust itself to alterations in hours and wages. It took some industries from the late 1920's to 1949 to have working hours reduced from 44 to 40. Industry can work a 36-hour week and maintain previous production. I do not know whether the honourable member has any association with big industries. Recently in the Arbitration Court I pointed out that whereas 350-ton presses were used in 1935, 840-ton presses are used today. It is now possible to press out in one operation the roof of a motor car, whereas previously seven or eight operations were necessary. Nothing on this earth is impossible. Everything is possible if you can find the way to do it. Years ago a friend of mine was elected to the Hindmarsh Council. Because of the majority of Labor representatives on the council a 40-hour week was introduced for employees. He told me later that those employees were doing more work in the shorter working week than previously, but he did not know how it was happening. A change from horses to motor vehicles would be one way to step up work in the transport section.

Mr. Brookman—Do the union officials limit the amount of work done in a day?

Mr. LAWN—No. Some years ago I appeared in the Arbitration Court before Chief Judge Dethridge, Judge Beeby, and Judge Lukin. The counsel for the employers, Mr. S. C. G. Wright, asked me if it was a fact that I fixed the output of employees in the industry. I was astounded at the question because nothing was further from the truth. I said that the employers fixed the target and that if it was not reached by the men they were dismissed. Judge Beeby pointed out to Mr. Wright that it was useless to discuss the matter further because I had proved conclusively that the output was fixed by the employers. Why would we want to reduce production? It would not be to the advantage of the workers to retard production.

Mr. Brookman—Are not the unions doing that?

Mr. LAWN—No, but I would not say that it had not been done.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—The slaughtermen at the abattoirs fixed a target.

Mr. LAWN—I do not say that is right.

Mr. Whittle—You know that the coal miners fix a target.

Mr. LAWN—There are plenty of jobs in the coal mines waiting for men like you. No-one in the industrial movement in Australia today is advocating retarded production. We hear criticism of the waterside workers and reference to a go-slow policy resulting in the slow turn round of ships. There is no greater band of loyal workers than those on our waterfront. Much has been said inside and outside this House about the slow turn round of ships, but I would draw members' attention to the following item from Canberra which appeared in the Melbourne *Herald* on July 3, under the heading of "Wharfies 'aren't cause of delay'; big waiting time loss":—

Wharf labourer's rates are not the main cause of slow turn round of ships, says the Australian Stevedoring Industry Board in its first annual report tabled in Parliament this afternoon. The report adds that the main cause of slow turn around is the large amount of wharf labourers' employment time which does not result in movement of cargo.

It cites figures to show that one waterfront employer has been getting a work output 18½ per cent better than the average of all other employers at one Australian port.

That is indicative of the efficiency on the waterfront. I remind members that some employers play golf and do not worry about the loss of production, always realizing that if necessary they can get increased production, even if they have to pay overtime. Members on the other side should first put their own House in order before criticizing others. Not all the blame is attached to workers for any drop in production. When blame is directed against the waterside workers for the slow turn around of ships, the critics should remember that often cargo is overstowed and has to be removed before other cargo for the port can be taken out.

The Governor's Speech refers to the projected visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen and Princess Margaret to Australia next year. I do not know what amount is proposed to be spent on the visit, but if my friends on the other side are sincere in saying that the inflationary spiral is due to the increased amount of money in circulation, they should keep in mind what money is to be spent during the Royal Visit. Is it to be spent for useful purposes and reproductive works, or will it be wasteful expenditure?

Mr. Heaslip—Do you suggest that the Royal Family should not come out next year?

Mr. LAWN—By no stretch of the imagination am I advocating a ban on the Royal Visit,

but if the present inflationary spiral increases as expected I suggest that the visit should be postponed. Are the workers to be called upon to engage in sweated labour, to work piece-work, and to tighten their belts because of increased taxation; and on the other hand are we to have large sums of money spent on the Royal tour throughout the country? I do not believe the people should be called upon to accept a dose of that kind of medicine. I am not advocating that the visit should be abandoned, but the people should not be asked to swallow the inflationary medicine while at the same time hundreds of thousands of pounds are to be spent on the visit. I do not know to what extent the Minister of Railways' department will benefit by the visit, or whether it is intended that it should be re-imbursed for any expense incurred on travel by the Royal visitors. If it is not to be re-imbursed, I

suggest that we are not doing the right thing to our pensioners, many of whom have worked 60 hours a week, others 48 hours, very few 44 hours, and certainly none 40 hours. They have been loyal, honest, hard-working people and they are suffering because of inflation. This section is suffering more than any other because of this cause. Earlier this session I asked whether the Government would consider granting free transport to pensioners, but it refused the request. If there is to be any free transport during the Royal tour, then charity should begin at home and we should start with the pensioners.

Mr. BROOKMAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.20 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, August 1, at 2 p.m.