

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, August 7, 1951.

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

SHORTAGE OF REFINED SUGAR.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—It has been reported to me recently that there is an acute shortage of refined sugar in many parts of the State, and some people have stated that they are receiving less now than under war-time rationing. Is the Premier aware of the shortage, and does he know of anything that can or will be done to relieve the position?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—One of the problems of the refinery has been the shortage of fuel. I should like to check up on the position before making a statement. If the honourable member will ask the question again tomorrow I will give him full particulars.

HILLS ROADS.

Mr. SHANNON—Last week I drew the attention of the Minister of Local Government to difficulties experienced on the Mount Barker Road because of the heavy traffic, particularly interstate commercial vehicles. Will he consider a suggestion put to me that interstate road hauliers should be excluded entirely from the use of the Mount Barker Road from the Big Gum Tree at Glen Osmond to the Saddles at Crafers between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. and between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. each day, with total exclusion all day Sunday? The section of roadway referred to contains many bends and blind corners and it is here that the major difficulties arise. I understand that in Victoria road hauliers are excluded from travelling on the roads at all on Sundays.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I will take the matter up with the Highways Commissioner and discuss with him the feasibility of using the alternative route from Aldgate. Apart from any other conditions, one of the points that will have to be examined is the nature of the road on any alternative route—whether its foundations are as good as the road on which heavy traffic is now running. I cannot at present give any indication on this point.

Mr. Shannon—Heavy traffic could still be excluded from the main highway at certain times.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Such a restriction would have to be considered. In regard to diverting traffic, we would have to see whether the bends in any alternative route are not more

acute than on the main highway, for this would cause, perhaps, an even greater problem. I will take up the matter from the two angles the honourable member referred to—stoppages of heavy traffic at certain times, and the question of alternative routes—and bring down a full report.

PRICE OF BUTTER.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I understand that the Premier late last week attended a conference in Victoria which discussed a possible increase in the price of butter. Can he indicate the amount requested by the dairymen for butterfat? Did the question of subsidies hold up any increase being granted? Was an indication given whether the whole of any increase would have to be borne by consumers?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—A conference was held last Friday in Melbourne on the question of an increase in the price of butter. That was the second conference on this matter, no agreement having been reached at a previous conference, at which a request was made for the Commonwealth Government to increase the subsidy by 6d. a pound. The States signified their willingness to increase the price by 6d., making an overall increase of 1s. a pound to the industry. The proposal was that, of that shilling, slightly over 9d. would be paid to the producer, about ½d. to the factory, about ¼d. for wrapping, and for an increase in retail margins, which are extremely low. However, the Commonwealth indicated that it was not in a position to increase the subsidy, so the second conference was called to consider the position that then arose. No agreement was reached at last Friday's conference, largely because one or two of the State Prices Ministers had received from their Cabinets definite instructions which limited their discretion in dealing with the matter. The conference investigated what appeared to be the course most likely to be accepted, and a recommendation was made asking the Commonwealth Government to reconsider an increase in the subsidy, and a further recommendation was made asking the States to reconsider an increase in the price. It was hoped that a compromise agreement would be reached this week. Whether that will come about I am unable to say, but I assure the honourable member that this State was prepared to reach an agreement which would have involved an increase in the price of butter, for I believe it inevitable that to continue to receive an adequate supply of

butter it will be necessary to pay a price which is reasonable under all circumstances; we cannot expect one section of industry to continue to produce at lower levels of prosperity than other sections. The Minister for one other State was also in that position, but others were unable to make any decision, and others again had been instructed to make only limited agreements, so the conference could not reach finality.

MOTOR VEHICLES INSURANCE PREMIUMS.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—It was reported in the press recently that, at an interstate conference of insurance companies, it was proposed to increase motor car insurance premiums by 25 per cent, and subsequently it has been stated that this matter would be investigated by the Prices Ministers. Have the functions of the Premiums Committee been suspended, and is the matter now handled by the Prices Department? Before any increase is approved by the Premiums Committee, if it still functions, will the interests of motorists be fully investigated, notwithstanding any interstate agreement?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Premiums Committee deals only with compulsory insurance under the Act. As the increases proposed were in respect of comprehensive policies they have never been considered by the committee. The question therefore arises whether the increases proposed in respect of comprehensive policies are in accordance with present-day costs and whether they should be approved or not. The matter was examined briefly at the conference on Friday, when some concern was expressed because the increases were proposed for only some of the States. It was decided that each State affected should make a thorough investigation to see whether the increases were justified. If they are found not to be justified it is proposed to bring insurance rates under price control and to fix an amount fair to both motorists and the insurance companies.

Mr. STEPHENS—The press report referred to concluded with the following paragraph:—

It was pointed out that car insurance rates were not increased in some States where Government insurance companies provided this type of cover.

As it seems that the increases were proposed only in States where Government insurance departments do not function, will the Government consider the use of the Government

Insurance Office to deal with this matter to prevent car owners from having this extra impost placed upon them?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The question is not based entirely on correct premises. In some States where Government insurance companies operate the rates have been increased. In Victoria, where a Government insurance office operates, they have been increased, but in another State where the Government does the work they have not. I have yet to learn why the increase has not applied uniformly to all the States. Thorough investigations will be made here and the course of action indicated to the member for Eyre will be followed. If circumstances justify any increase it will have to be approved, but if not insurance will be brought under the control of the Prices Commissioner and a rate fixed in accordance with what is considered just.

MUNICIPAL TRAMWAYS TRUST INQUIRY.

Mr. MOIR—Can the Premier say when the report of the committee which is investigating the Municipal Tramways Trust undertaking will be presented?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I understand that the committee is pressing on with its inquiries, but I am not sure when the report will come to hand. The terms of the inquiry that were asked for are extremely wide, and the investigations must necessarily take some time, particularly as the question of future policy is involved. It is a big question which will take a long time to investigate.

EGG PRICES.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—As regards the recent reduction in egg prices in South Australia, a poultry man pointed out to me that the present time seemed to be singularly inopportune for reducing prices because the prices of certain feed products, especially meat meal, have been increased, and labour costs have also increased considerably. The poultry man points out that a number of egg producers established in the metropolitan area have gone out of production and contends that if this system continues eggs will soon be like butter and potatoes—impossible to obtain in the metropolitan area. Can the Minister of Agriculture say what formula is adopted by the South Australian Egg Board in either reducing or increasing egg prices so far as producers are concerned?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—The fixing of egg prices is the function of the Egg

Board, which is not controlled by the Minister of Agriculture. The Act is committed to the Minister for administration but that is as far as his control goes. The Egg Board is exporting considerable quantities of eggs to the Old Country at prices lower than those being paid in South Australia today. That, in itself, should be a sufficient answer for the reduction made. I believe that the honourable member has always upheld the principle of free marketing; under which eggs, like meat and other produce, are always much cheaper during the flush season.

With a plentiful supply, egg prices naturally fall a little, and if the Egg Board refused to reduce the price during the flush season, when the cost of production is much lower than in the off season, when high prices operate, it would be properly taken to task by consumers for not meeting the market reasonably. The fact that there is an abundant supply of eggs to meet the export demand at a lower price than is obtainable locally is a perfect justification for the reduction in the price.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—The Minister of Agriculture said that one reason for the reduction in the price of eggs was cheaper production costs. Is it not a fact that there has been no reduction in some of the principal costs of producing eggs—the prices of wheat, bran and pollard? Has there not also been an increase in one expensive item, namely, meat meal? Is it not a fact that South Australia has usually produced eggs for export overseas and any deficit has always been made up on the home market? Is not the production of eggs one of the principal primary industries in South Australia, in which there is considerable capital invested? If the Minister is in agreement with me on those points will he get a report from the Egg Board as to why the price of eggs was reduced recently? Is there some formula by which the price of eggs is adjusted?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—There is an equalization fund under which the export price and the price for local consumption have to be equalized. If the Egg Board continued to keep the price up for local consumption and the price for export were not raised—and we cannot raise the export price without the consent of the British Government—the Egg Board would soon become bankrupt because there would not be enough money in the fund for equalization purposes. However, I will get a report for the honourable member on his questions.

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES—Both as one who keeps fowls and one who represents consumers I ask the Minister if he thinks that the Egg Board, in fixing the price of eggs, was influenced by a little mild remonstrance which the Auditor-General administered last year when he stated:—

From a perusal of statistics related to egg prices and supplies in Australia, and the price movements in other States, it appears that the board was somewhat tardy in reducing prices when production was rising and premature in increasing them in anticipation of falls in production during the year under review. . . . It is considered, generally speaking, that the prices at which eggs were sold by the board during the year were reasonable, subject to the above reference relating to the intermediate price movements during the year.

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—I recall very well the comment by the Auditor-General in reference to the operations of the board last year and I think it will be found by anyone who reads the report that it was very complimentary to the board's administration of the Act. That was his only comment, but in most instances the price of eggs has been raised in other States earlier than in South Australia, and I think it can be said that, under the chairmanship of Mr. Anderson, the Egg Board has been run very well, and I know the high esteem in which it is held in other States among authorities administering the Acts. I think we have every reason to be proud of the administration in this State.

MICROPHONES IN COURTS.

Mr. LAWN—I have been advised by persons who have sat on Adelaide juries that certain judges, and some young witnesses and others who are at times subject to embarrassment, are most difficult to hear, and it has been suggested that microphones be installed in front of the judges and witnesses. Has the Minister of Works received any complaints of this sort and, if not, will he have the matter investigated?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I have not heard from the Attorney-General or the Architect-in-Chief of any difficulty in this direction, but I will have an investigation made and, if necessary, the position rectified.

LANDLORD AND TENANT LEGISLATION.

Mr. DUNKS—Can the Premier indicate when the committee appointed to consider the landlord and tenant legislation will present its report?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—No. This morning I was advised by Mr. Pearce, my secretary,

that the chairman of the committee had been in touch with him requesting permission to go ahead with the printing of the report forthwith, because a considerable amount of printing was involved. He knows that it is the desire of the Government to receive the report in time for any necessary amending legislation to be introduced this session. I presume from the chairman's request that the report must be in an advanced stage. Other than that I have no information.

PRICE CONTROL: TRANSFER OF POWERS.

Mr. STOTT—There seems to be some legal doubt as to whether a State can refer powers in regard to price control to the Commonwealth temporarily. I do not profess to have any legal knowledge but to a lay mind it would appear that if a State referred price control powers to the Commonwealth by passing legislation limiting its operation to 1953 it could not be regarded as giving permanent powers to the Commonwealth. Will the Premier call for a report from the Crown Solicitor, or some other King's Counsel, to see if a State can transfer temporary powers in this way by limiting the operation of the legislation, and will he present the report to Parliament?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I cannot accept the honourable member's suggestion. The decision as to what can be done under the Constitution ultimately rests with the High Court or the Privy Council. On one occasion the Victorian Government referred the matter to eminent members of the Victorian Bar, and I think the result was 2s. each way, because half the K.C.'s consulted said it could be done and the other half said it could not be done. It finished up with no-one knowing where he was. In fact, I think they knew rather less afterwards than they did before it started. There was considerable doubt as to whether power could be transferred temporarily, whether in fact it would not be a permanent power, or whether there would be any transfer. The Constitution refers to the transfer of powers, not to the temporary transfer. It was not that the men concerned were unable to give opinions, but rather that they were obviously trying to decide what action the High Court would take—something completely unpredictable. In those circumstances I believe a temporary transfer of powers cannot be undertaken by our Parliament. If it is desired to temporarily transfer power to the Commonwealth in any matter, I think the proper course—and one which would be

undoubtedly constitutional—would be for the State Parliament to pass a law under which the Commonwealth would be created an agent to carry it out.

Mr. Stott—For a limited period?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes. That is the only way power could be transferred for a short period without such action being successfully challenged.

Mr. STOTT—An Act was passed by this Parliament in 1942 to suspend the collection of amusement taxes during the war. Included in the preamble is the following:—

Whereas the State of South Australia, at the request of the Commonwealth and in conformity with like action to be taken in other States, has agreed to suspend the levy and collection of amusements duty until the end of the first financial year after the war but no longer.

That seems to strengthen the Premier's contention that powers could be transferred to the Commonwealth for a limited time.

Mr. O'Halloran—That Act was not a transference of power.

Mr. STOTT—It was a suspension of power. It seems to strengthen the idea that powers can be transferred temporarily from the State by allowing the Commonwealth to act as agent. To test the feeling of the House, will the Premier introduce a Bill to transfer temporarily power of price control to the Commonwealth to clear up the position, particularly in relation to butter, so that that industry can receive a payable price, which seems to be impossible now because of the difference in price control of the States and the Commonwealth?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I am unable to agree with the honourable member's reasoning. In the first place the suspension by the State of the operation of the Act referred to, as stated by Mr. O'Halloran by interjection, was not a transference of powers to the Commonwealth, but merely a suspension by the State of legislation which it was operating and which it did not operate after the law was suspended. It does not resolve itself into the transference of power to the Commonwealth. Be that as it may, the second part of the question is also quite wide of the mark, because this State is one which has agreed to the Commonwealth's submission regarding the price of milk for butter, and is not the State causing the difficulty. I made it definite in Melbourne on Friday that South Australia is prepared to agree to an increased price of butter to enable the

dairying industry to be maintained. Therefore, the transfer of powers from this State for the purpose mentioned is unnecessary, because it has already signified that it is prepared to agree, and has notified the Commonwealth verbally and formally to that effect.

EARTH MOVING EQUIPMENT.

Mr. HAWKER—The International Edition of the magazine *Life* dated January 29, 1951, advertises the Vickers VR.180 Tractor as "Britains 180 h.p. answer to the world demand for faster earth moving." In view of the shortage of heavy earth moving equipment in Australia, has the Minister of Works or his department explored the possibilities of getting supplies of this tractor?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—My department has explored every known avenue and has a number of huge tractors, including the Vickers, on order. However, the difficulty is to get delivery. In fact, not long ago two of our construction men were abroad seeking large earth moving machinery, and we took supplies of reconditioned machinery, because we could not get delivery of new equipment. In connection with our northern and western roads outside district councils' areas we have had offers of that type of tractor and the ancillary plant. The first consignment was to be here in March this year and the second in September, but no supplies have been received. We have outstanding large orders for this type of tractor both in America and Great Britain.

BONUS ON FOX SCALPS.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Has the Minister of Lands an answer to the question I asked on July 26 regarding the payment of a bonus for the purpose of encouraging the destruction of foxes?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—Cabinet considered this matter last Monday. As the Leader of the Opposition knows foxes are declared vermin under the Vermin Act, and the landowner is responsible for destroying them. If he does not do so, the local district council may take appropriate action against him. Regarding the recommendation from various organizations for the payment of up to 10s. for each scalp, it would appear necessary to impose quite a substantial rate to meet this bonus. That would be very unfair to the landowner who has taken appropriate action to destroy that vermin, therefore, Cabinet has decided against the payment of the bonus.

MEAT PRICES.

Mr. HEASLIP—Has the Premier a reply to my question of last week regarding the price of meat?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—A number of questions were asked last week about meat and the policing of the regulations. I have discussed this matter with the Prices Commissioner and he informs me that last week difficulty arose because wholesalers had discontinued supplying retailers, and the industry was completely disorganized because retailers had to go to the market themselves to purchase meat. At the conference of Prices Ministers on Friday I raised this question with Victoria and New South Wales and said that South Australia was not in a position to lose the substantial quantity of meat coming on to the local market and then going to black markets in the other States. I said that interstate interests were buying heavily over the ceiling provided under the prices regulations, and unless action were taken to police the order in the other States, and at the same time bring our ceiling up to a realistic level, I felt that control would result in people in this State going without meat to a substantial extent. Both States agreed that they would immediately investigate the position and confer with us by telephone today on the question of a new price. Unfortunately, yesterday was a holiday in New South Wales, and I had received no information prior to my leaving for the House this afternoon. I believe I will have to gazette a fairly substantial increase in the prices of meat today to enable butchers to compete on the mutton market with graziers in order to get sufficient supplies, and also to enable this State to retain for local consumption a considerable quantity of the meat which at present is being drawn off interstate. I hope that the new prices will be gazetted this evening.

Mr. STEPHENS—Last week the member for Hindmarsh asked a question about the price of meat. Subsequently an article appeared in *The News* showing in one column the fixed prices for various cuts of meat and in another the prices the public were being charged. I think the overcharge amounted to about 1s. a pound. I have not seen any official replies to the statement in *The News*, nor whether any firms have been prosecuted for breaking the law by overcharging people for meat, but I saw the following report in today's *Advertiser* about a grocer in a very small way:—

In a reserved judgment delivered yesterday, David William Chamberlain, of Park Terrace,

Wayville, was fined £35 with £5 15s. costs for having, on June 15, at the City Central Market, sold 2 lb. of potatoes for 6d. a pound instead of 4½d. per pound, the price fixed under the Prices Act.

Whereas the man who made an overcharge of 3d. was fined £35, butchers who have been overcharging 1s. a pound, and have, I suppose, sold some tons of meat, have not been dealt with. Why is one class prosecuted and others not?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Penalties are determined by the courts over which, rightly, the Government has no control. I have previously informed the House that the Government believes its laws should be observed, and where there is evidence of the law being broken it is a matter of policy to submit that evidence to the Crown Solicitor with a view to prosecution. New meat prices will be gazetted, possibly tonight, and I have already discussed with the Prices Commissioner steps which can be taken to police them. If they are infringed I assure the members that the appropriate action will be taken, as has always been the case. It must be realized that the Prices Department has only about 80 officers to cover the whole of the State, and recently it was found necessary to make a drive in certain country districts where it was believed fixed prices were not being observed. The honourable member will see that in this matter we need a good deal of support from the public, whose duty it is to report any overcharges they believe to be taking place.

Mr. Frank Walsh—Before they go to litigation?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The public does not have to go to litigation. If they believe incorrect prices are being charged they should report it, as is frequently done. In some instances, if we find that a *bona fide* mistake has been made, the Crown Solicitor will possibly recommend that no prosecution should take place. In cases where there is a doubt as to the correct price refunds have been ordered, but where there has been a wilful breach of the law prosecution will follow.

MILK FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Mr. STEPHENS—Can the Premier say whether contracts have been called for the supply of milk to metropolitan schools and, if tenders have been received, are they considered satisfactory from the Government's point of view?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Tenders have been called for milk for the metropolitan schools and generally speaking they are satisfactory, although they do not cover all the schools in

the metropolitan area. Speaking from memory, I believe tenders were not available for the supply of milk to about 40 schools, but milk can be assured for approximately 120 schools. I understand that the Minister of Education has decided to go on supplying where he can get a satisfactory tender, hoping that time and circumstances will enable him to carry out the full programme.

40-HOUR WEEK.

Mr. DUNKS—Recently when speaking in the House I said I thought that one way to counteract inflation was for the working week to be increased. The first legislation for a 40-hour working week in Australia was brought in by the New South Wales Government, and later the matter was examined by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court. Prior to that judges of the Arbitration Court had said that it was on the ability to pay that wages and hours should be fixed. In fixing the 40-hour week, I believe the judges said that if industries found any great difficulty in the shorter working week they could again approach the court. The Governments of Australia must be finding the 40-hour week very difficult from the point of view of production and Budgets. Is the Government prepared to approach the Arbitration Court for a longer working week?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—When this matter was before the Court this State, through its representatives, said it believed a 40-hour week was a good thing but also that it was not a fitting time to introduce it when we were so short of commodities. I think this State was the only governmental authority that took any such stand. We said that when commodities and labour were freely available a 40-hour week would be something that could be considered. My Government believed that in the circumstances that existed at the time a 40-hour week would not be in the best interests of the community as a whole, and I think that subsequent events have proved that our contention was not wide of the mark. The number of employees that the South Australian Government has under Commonwealth awards is very insignificant, and I am quite certain that any request by the State in regard to that limited number of employees would not be supported by the Commonwealth in any court action. I doubt whether it is politically possible to put back the clock. Further, I believe that the disruption in industry and the industrial disputes that would occur in trying to enforce a longer working week would more than wipe out any advantages we could

hope to gain. In those circumstances my reply must be that this Government will not take the action suggested by the honourable member.

HOUSING TRUST BOARD.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Section 5 of the South Australian Housing Trust Act, 1936, provides:—

The trust shall consist of a chairman and five other members, all of whom shall be appointed by the Governor.

I have been advised that the trust now consists of the chairman and six other members. How did this come about, and does it not conflict with the Act?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I believe there were some subsequent amendments to the Act in this connection, but I will check up and let the honourable member have a reply tomorrow.

UNIVERSITY STAFF: OVERSEAS TRAVEL.

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES (on notice)—

1. How many professors and lecturers on the staff of the Adelaide University have been granted leave to travel overseas during the year 1951?

2. What are the financial arrangements made with such members of the University staff while they are absent?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The University is by Statute controlled by the council of the University. I have, however, obtained the information required, and it is in the form of a report which is available for perusal by members.

RAIL CARRIAGE OF WATER.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (on notice)—

1. What quantity of water was carted by rail from Burra to Terowie during the year ended June 30, 1951?

2. What quantity of water was carted by rail from Gladstone to Peterborough during the same year?

3. What was the cost in each instance of—
(a) the water carted; and (b) the cartage?

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

1. Water carted Burra to Terowie, year ended June 30, 1951—12,474,000gall.

2. Water carted Gladstone to Peterborough, year ended June 30, 1951—6,000,000gall.

Water carted Gladstone to Jamestown, year ended June 30, 1951—700,000gall.

3. (a) Cost of water Burra to Terowie, £1,455; cost of water Gladstone to Peterborough, £300; cost of water Gladstone to Jamestown, £35.

(b) Cartage to Terowie, £7,826; pumping at Hanson and Terowie, £1,143; cartage Gladstone to Jamestown and Gladstone to Peterborough, £11,607.

Costs have been calculated on bare running costs only, excluding station services, maintenance of permanent way and overheads. The costs from Gladstone to Peterborough were based on the use of special water trains. The costs a 1,000gall. are lower between Burra and Terowie, because these are based on the haulage of water on ordinary freight trains and the movements assist in balancing the traffic.

TEROWIE HIGHER PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (on notice)—

1. Have the renovations and improvements at the Terowie higher primary school promised some years ago been carried out?

2. If not, can the Minister of Works indicate when this work will be completed?

3. In connection with the improvements referred to, has consideration been given to the installation of a septic tank system for the lavatories instead of the pit system now in use?

4. Is it intended that a septic tank system be installed, and if so, when?

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

1 and 2. Tenders for additional closets were called in July, 1951, and October, 1950, but no tender was received. Tenders were called for improvements to school and residence, including the above closets in February, April and July of this year without any tenders being received. Negotiations with a local contractor are now in progress and it is anticipated that a tender will be submitted.

3 and 4. Consideration has been given to the installation of a septic tank system, but at present this is not practicable.

AMENDMENT OF ROAD TRAFFIC ACT.

Mr. STEPHENS (on notice)—

1. Is it the intention of the Government to bring before the House this session a Bill to amend the Road Traffic Act?

2. If so, will the Bill be introduced early in the session?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes, as early as possible.

PRICE OF IMPORTED CEMENT.

Mr. MOIR (on notice)—

1. Is imported cement obtained by the State Government being sold to builders who have contracts with the South Australian Housing Trust at the trade price for cement of local manufacture?

2. Are those building for private persons compelled to pay the increased costs?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—No. The position is that in order to supplement the supplies of local cement, of which insufficient has been available to carry out the building programme of the South Australian Housing Trust, the trust itself has from time to time purchased considerable quantities of imported cement. Imported cement has been supplied by the trust to any of its builders whose supplies of local cement are deficient. These builders are charged for this cement at a little above the price for local cement. The builder's contract price with the trust is based upon local price of materials with a rise and fall clause and thus it is incumbent on the trust to bear the excess cost involved by the use of imported cement. It is consequently more convenient to supply the imported cement at substantially the local price than to have to consider a claim later by the builder for a recoup of the difference between the local and imported prices. These arrangements do not in any way alter the fact that the excess cost of imported cement over local cement is borne by the trust and this excess cost is charged up to and spread over the jobs of the trust.

PUBLIC SERVICE WORKING HOURS.

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES (on notice)—What is the aggregate number of working hours per week lost to the Public Service through the Government acceding to the Public Service Commissioner's recommendation to reduce the daily hours of work of public servants?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Seventeen hundred and thirty hours a week. For the information of the honourable member it is pointed out that no additional staff will be required because of this change which altered the finishing time from 5.6 p.m. to 5 p.m., and which brings the hours worked by the South Australian Public Service into line with those worked in the public services of other States and the Commonwealth, and also many private undertakings.

PASTORAL HOLDINGS.

Mr. O'Halloran for Mr. RICHES (on notice)—

1. What are the names of pastoral holdings in areas administered by the Pastoral Board in South Australia?

2. What is the area of each such holding?

3. Who are the owners or lessees of these properties?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—There are over 2,000 such holdings and it is impracticable to supply this information in an answer to the questions.

COST OF LIVING AND PRICE CONTROL.

Mr. O'Halloran for Mr. RICHES (on notice)—

1. Are all goods and services comprising the "C" series index for cost of living adjustments subject to complete price control?

2. If not—(a) what goods and services are wholly controlled; (b) what goods are partly controlled; (c) what goods, if any, are free of control?

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

1. No.

2. All goods and services under control are gazetted. The original schedule appeared in the *Gazette* dated September 20, 1948. Various alterations decontrolling and recontrolling various items have appeared from time to time and have been gazetted as follows:—

Date of Gazette.	Item.
4/11/48	Decontrol of fish.
2/12/48	Recontrol paint manufacturing materials.
23/12/48	Decontrol retreading and recapping.
13/1/49	Decontrol repairs to motor vehicles.
24/2/49	Decontrol towel services.
31/3/49	Decontrol buttons, flags and bunting, etc.
14/4/49	Recontrol ball bearings and watchbands.
14/4/49	Recontrol dinner sets, tea sets, etc.
14/4/49	Decontrol motor cars, motor trucks, and motor vehicle chassis.
16/6/49	Recontrol meat meal and stock and poultry foods.
23/6/49	Decontrol typewriters and ethical.
30/6/49	Decontrol millinery.
30/6/49	Recontrol bush rugs and bunny rugs.
30/6/49	Recontrol services allied to board and lodging.
28/7/49	Recontrol crockery.
4/8/49	Decontrol 14 items.
13/10/49	Decontrol 10 items.
3/11/49	Decontrol handkerchiefs.
24/11/49	Decontrol 17 items.
12/1/50	Decontrol toys and some small goods.
19/1/50	Decontrol cash registers and six chemical items.
9/2/50	Decontrol 74 items or part items.
16/2/50	Decontrol motor parts and accessories.

- 30/3/50 Decontrol 95 items or part items.
 27/4/50 Decontrol brown onions, hiring of films, and admission to cinemas.
 25/5/50 Decontrol printing paper.
 6/7/50 Decontrol electric tape and industrial gases.
 14/9/50 Recontrol secondhand batteries.
 5/10/50 Amendment to definition of drugs and chemicals.
 2/11/50 Decontrol three items.
 2/11/50 Recontrol 24 items.
 30/11/50 Recontrol 15 items.
 18/1/51 Recontrol jams and jellies.
 19/1/51 Recontrol retreading and recapping.
 22/2/51 Recontrol canned meats and radios.
 22/3/51 Recontrol soft drinks and ice cream.
 26/4/51 Recontrol cooking and kitchen utensils and handkerchiefs.
 21/6/51 Recontrol hosiery.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

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

(Continued from August 2. Page 220.)

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES (Torrens)—I support the motion and congratulate the mover, Mr. Pearson, who has taken the place of his distinguished brother. I do not agree with the member for Unley that Mr. Rex Pearson has taken a higher place in the interests of the community by entering the Senate than by representing the district of Flinders in this House. I trust that the present representative of Flinders, Mr. Glen Pearson, will have a long term of usefulness here and be able to contribute materially to the debates in this House. With other members, I view with great satisfaction the proposed visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen and Princess Margaret to South Australia next year. I confess to some doubt whether His Majesty's health will enable him to carry out the arduous duties of a tour of this nature. In any event, even if his tour has to be considerably curtailed, I trust he will be able to come, especially as we have so many New Australians amongst us. It would greatly assist if the New Australians, with Australian-born residents, could see the head of our nation and Empire and note how loyal our own people are to the institution of the monarchy and to the person of the monarch himself.

One matter with which I am greatly concerned is housing, another is Communism, and a third is inflation, a subject that is in the minds of us all. Notwithstanding all that has been done to grapple with the housing problem in this State, the position has not

improved. Those who represent metropolitan constituencies particularly are greatly concerned about the misery and unhappiness caused by the lack of housing. It is undermining not only the people's health but the whole social structure, and I believe that many divorces and separations are due to the unhappy housing position. I shall not unduly lengthen the discussion on this matter as I am certain that the Premier and his Government are fully seized with the desirability of pushing on with the housing of our people with all speed. I repeat what I have said previously—that we should make manpower and materials go as far as possible. I entirely agree with the Premier that it is desirable for people to own their own houses and live in them, but if we can build six houses for rental—three pairs—in the same time and with the same manpower as it takes to build four single-unit houses for sale, I believe it is our duty to build homes for rental. I want to see a curtailment in the use of materials for houses for purchase today so that more houses can be built for rental purposes. Since I entered the Chamber this afternoon I have received a letter from a constituent who had to leave the house he was occupying because it was condemned by local authorities, and rightly so. The Housing Trust was sympathetic and offered some emergency accommodation, I believe, at Draper, near the Outer Harbour. The man who occupies the house is working at Magill and considers it impossible to live at Draper and work at Magill. He took the next best accommodation offering, at Norwood. I have received the following letter from his wife:—

I thought I would let you know I still haven't a home to go to. This old sleep-out is getting me down, the rain beats in and the dew drips over you off the tin roof and it only has a canvas around the sides, and my husband had to put tin and old lino around to try and make it a bit warmer for myself and two kiddies. It has only a cement floor, and no way of having a fire so you can see, Mr. Jeffries, how cold it really is. My two children are never free of colds; I can tell you I am really sick of it all. We only want one for a short time, as soon as my husband's business is his own we are going to build a home near his work. I have written to the Housing Trust stating how we are living; I don't care if it is anywhere near Magill, but I just can't go on much longer. My little girl of four cries with the cold, but I just can't do a thing about it.

That is not an unusual kind of letter for metropolitan members to get because there are hundreds of cases similar to this one. I am

sure the Government and the Housing Trust are doing all they can, but I urge them not to build three houses where they can build five. As the demand for housing is so dreadfully acute they should build the small house for rental and not the large house for sale. I emphasize the dire straits in which old people are today in regard to housing. I had the privilege of introducing a deputation to the Premier four or five weeks ago setting out a survey which the South Australian Council of Social Services had made in the metropolitan area of accommodation of old people, and of old people needing accommodation. The Premier gave us a patient hearing and I believe he is trying to work out a plan, in which the Government will have a part, which will to some extent relieve the desperate situation of thousands of old people in the metropolitan area, and I believe in the country as well. The old folks are sometimes forced to live with their children, where there are small grandchildren, and this undermines the natural affection that the grandchildren have for their grandparents. It brings about a state of great concern. In this public way I bring under the notice of the Government the dire necessity to do something in housing, and to provide accommodation for old people.

Mr. Macgillivray—Have you seen the Old Folks Home in Western Australia?

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES—No. I have seen homes in South Australia conducted by religious and charitable organizations, and they are doing all they can in these costly days.

(Sitting suspended from 3.13 to 7.30 p.m. to enable members to attend the civic reception to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of London.)

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES—All responsible persons will be behind whatever action is taken to suppress the menace of Communism, a matter on which Australians are shortly to express their views through a referendum. I believe the referendum proposals will pass by a great majority. The eyes of Russia will be on the result to see whether it shows substantial support for a Communistic system of government in this country.

Mr. O'Halloran—Do you suggest that those who advocate a "No" vote are the friends of Russia?

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES—No; but all right-thinking people are opposed to industrial Communism. A majority for "Yes" would give the Federal Parliament the power to deal with this menace. The measure which will be

put to the people will be that which was passed by the Federal Parliament last year with the aid of all parties. Subsequently, when taken to the High Court, it was held, on a strict legal interpretation, that the Federal Parliament had not the power to pass that legislation. Therefore, that Parliament has no alternative but to ask Australians to give it the power which in effect all parties in the Federal Parliament agreed to give in the passing of that legislation.

The best element in the Labor Party is opposed to the Communistic trend. The fact that the Australian Labor Party has applied to the responsible Federal Minister for permission to go into migrant camps to counteract the Communistic influence which is being promulgated there shows that the Labor Party is opposed to Communistic propaganda. I commend the A.L.P. for applying for such permission, and I also commend the Federal Government for granting it. Much of our present industrial trouble with regard to production can be laid at the door of Communism, as having influenced the workers in our community against putting their best into their work.

Mr. O'Halloran—Are your remarks directed against all workers?

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES—No, only those influenced by Communistic propaganda. The honourable member knows that the Communists have had some influence in bringing about strikes.

Mr. Lawn—That might also be said of some employers.

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES—If any employers have helped to cause strikes they deserve censure, as do all people who encourage Australians not to give of their best. They are doing a great disservice to themselves and to the community as a whole and deserve to be treated as its enemies.

Mr. Frank Walsh—Would the honourable member say that the most recent strike in this State was caused by Communistic influence?

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES—I do not know who fomented that trouble, but the honourable member knows that in some of the basic industries strikes have been engineered and encouraged by Communists who, by means of their propaganda and technique, hope to bring about in Australia the state of dissatisfaction in which their final weapon of bloodshed will be considered by the workers to be justified. Therefore, all right-thinking Australians will support giving the Federal Parliament the

power it seeks so that it may deal with this great menace which is threatening our very life.

Previous speakers in this debate have referred to the present inflationary trend. Speaking on the Prices Bill last year I said I hoped that both Federal and State Parliaments would attack the evil of inflation. An honourable member interjected:—"Australia has never been better off than under the system of inflation." Later I said we were in the grip of inflation, and that the outlook for us was most serious. I asked members to deal with the matter, not in a Party political way, nor as representing different types of constituencies, but from the point of view of what was best for Australia. I said that the evil was threatening the whole Commonwealth, and suggested, as a measure which might help to stave off inflation, that everybody, whether a professional man or the lowest paid worker in the community, should work to his utmost. I said "Another way to combat inflation is to purchase less if we can do with less." I repeat that advice today. The causes of inflation have been set out by the Prime Minister.

Mr. Macgillivray—He may know less about the causes of inflation than many other Australians.

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES—The honourable member was the one I referred to as saying that Australia had never been better off than under the system of inflation, but this year he tells us that inflation is a cancer, and I agree with him. It is eating out the heart of the community.

The Prime Minister's summing up of the causes of inflation is not necessarily in their order of priority. His first cause is that the last war must be paid for. He points out the enormous increase in personal incomes—from £748,000,000 in 1938-39 to £2,186,000,000 in 1949-50. He says there have been huge post-war demands for needs postponed under war-time controls, such as houses, furnishings, water, power, and transport. He also mentions an investment boom leading to an extraordinary competitive demand for capital buildings and equipment. He refers to the building boom, saying that 39,209 dwellings were completed in 1947, whereas 63,429 were completed in 1950. He also points out the vast increase in public works and private capital investment. In 1938-39 the total public and gross private capital investment was £166,000,000; in 1950-51 it was £717,000,000. A further cause stated is industrial expenditure. The building of

public works has caused an excessive demand for labour, plant, and materials, with resultant bottlenecks and high competition, with "bidding up" for scarce labour, plant and materials and with ever-increasing wages, profits and prices.

The Prime Minister mentions the 40-hour week, with its inevitable reduction in production. He refers to the basic wage increase of £1 last December, saying that it has probably produced at least 10s. of the subsequent quarterly adjustments. It is stated that the migration programme has had an inflationary effect which will continue until the migrants become productive factors. They have, however, added to the work force, particularly where most needed. There have been grave shortages in the production of coal and power, and a lag in productive effort caused by overfull employment. The Prime Minister refers to Communistic activity in industry, the defence preparation demands, and export incomes, which, he says, have increased enormously since the war—from £309,000,000 in 1946-47 to probably £980,000,000 in 1950-51. As a cause of inflation, the Prime Minister refers to the rising prices of imports for which, taking 100 as the base for 1936-39, the index figure for 1951 (third quarter) was 359. There has been a great inflow of capital from abroad, rising from £29,000,000 in 1946-47 to £176,000,000 in 1949-50. Those he gives as the causes. The Prime Minister then gave some of the effects of inflation, one being the reduction of the living standards of those whose income lagged behind price rises. We all agree with that. Another is the diminution in the value of savings and insurances and other forms of savings for the future. The savings of the people have diminished in value. Another is the conversion of legitimate investments into a gamble, a fourth is the encouragement of speculation at the expense of productive investment, a fifth the reduction of competitive powers of Australian products, particularly manufactured goods in overseas markets, and a sixth the enormous additions to the cost of all Government services and benefits.

That is a survey by the Prime Minister of some of the causes and effects of inflation. We have had a spate of remedies suggested—we agree with some but disagree with others. It depends on how seriously we view this menace as to what steps we are prepared to take. We need to avoid extravagant statements and hysterical comments, but inflation is with us with all its evils, and it has to be

tackled. Not only the causes of inflation, but also the effects have to be tackled courageously and without considering Party political results. The matter is sufficiently serious for a national Government to deal with it—not a national Parliament.

The *News* last night forecast that a decision was likely to be made by the Commonwealth Cabinet for the launching of a national publicity campaign, the three-fold purpose of which would be to awaken Australians to the gravity of the drift in the value of the pound, to seek their co-operation in a national campaign of saving to check inflation, and to launch a national drive for more production. We are all in favour of that, but that is only playing with the matter. What we want is not words, but actions. Although those three suggestions are good, they are hopelessly inadequate. We are now reaping the result of a "do nothing" policy of the last two years.

I suggest that inflation seriously began when the 40-hour week was introduced. This meant less production and lowered production feeds inflation. Naturally a corollary of a 40-hour week was the increase of £1 a week in the basic wage, and that was followed by an 8s. increase and recently by another rise of 13s. Until the most recent increase the country was quite satisfied. The increases were being passed on, but when the 13s. rise was granted the country suddenly awoke to the danger. Before this year ends everyone expects another serious increase in the basic wage of at least 10s. I will suggest some measures which might be taken to check inflation. I know that certain of them will not meet with the approval of some honourable members. I believe that a revaluation of the exchange rate is overdue. The effect would be a reduction of the spending power of the community and a reduction of the price of imports. We might be told that New Zealand is on parity now and yet that her inflationary position is no better than ours. I cannot say whether that is so or not. When talking to New Zealand people who were here recently I found that most of them seemed to be pleased that their pound had been revalued and they were satisfied that if it had not been their position would have been worse than it is today. The next measure necessary to check inflation is greater production. I believe that the working week will have to be increased to 44 hours. One honourable member has told us that production under the 40-hour week is

greater than it was with 44 hours. That is entire nonsense. No-one can prove that if we went back to a 44-hour week our production would not be greater than it is today.

Mr. O'Halloran—Can you tell me why our commodities are still the cheapest in the world?

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES—No.

Mr. O'Halloran—Is not that the answer to your argument?

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES—Does the honourable member think that inflation is not a menace to the country? Is he not willing to listen to genuine suggestions, although they might not conform to his convictions? We will have to return to a 44-hour week; and if necessary it will have to be done by legislation.

Mr. O'Halloran—And if necessary have a 48-hour week?

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES—If necessary to save the country from disaster. Would the honourable member rather see the country ruined than have a return to a 44-hour week? My third suggestion is that we want not only more production, but wider production. Too much energy has been expended on non-essentials. One can go into any big departmental store in Adelaide, and although he cannot get essential things, he can see flotillas of chromium-plated yachts on seas of glass and hundreds of other absolutely unnecessary things, all of which have engaged labour unnecessarily in their production. By some method there must be a direction of labour into essential production.

My fourth suggestion is that we should have compulsory savings. There seems to be a fairly general idea that there are to be big increases in taxation. I am opposed to that because if taxation goes any higher production will be discouraged, whereas if compulsory saving is enforced the savings will still belong to the people who earned them and that money will be withdrawn from circulation. Fifthly, we must have a reduction of governmental and semi-governmental expenditure. This question must be looked at carefully and fairly. We are told that one in every four persons employed in Australia is in governmental employ—not including those engaged by local governing authorities. That is far too great a proportion of the total. Those who have read a little of history will remember that when Rome began her great decline one in every two persons was in government employment.

Consider some examples of governmental finance. The Postmaster-General's Department costs about £50,000,000 a year to run and returns to the Commonwealth Treasury £45,000,000, a loss of £5,000,000, although it is a monopoly. Whether the increased charges recently introduced will wipe out that deficit remains to be seen. There is much scope for investigation into Government employment. Consider for instance the Commonwealth railways financial position. Although it is only a very small part of the railway system of Australia it costs £3,100,000 a year to run, but the return to the Treasury is only £2,000,000, a loss of more than £1,000,000 a year.

Mr. O'Halloran—You will admit that most of the lines are developmental?

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES—I do not admit that.

Mr. O'Halloran—You might admit that the Commonwealth railways are carting coal for South Australia as very low rates.

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES—I do not think they are carting coal at a loss. Consider also the broadcasting service, which is on a different footing from the post office services and the railways. If any one public service should be made to pay surely it is our broadcasting system. It costs the Commonwealth £3,400,000 a year, but the return is only £2,000,000, a loss of £1,400,000. My statement shows that there is room for a serious inquiry into the cost of government. We must have wage pegging, or as they call it in England where they have a Socialist Government, "a wage freeze." I believe that will have to come. It could be done by legislation.

Mr. Stott—By which Government?

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES—The National Government.

Mr. Stott—It has not the power.

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES—If the honourable member is satisfied that we must have it, I hope he will say so. Wage pegging must go hand in hand with profit pegging. Profits should be pegged at reasonable levels. I shall give examples of dividends paid by certain companies in Australia over the last few years. One motor company in 1947 paid a 40 per cent dividend to its shareholders. In 1948 it paid 60 per cent, and in 1949, 255 per cent. In 1950 it paid 110 per cent and during 1951 it has already paid 40 per cent in interim dividends. Another motor company in 1949 paid dividends amounting to 25 per cent and in 1950, 35 per cent. Yet another company in 1949 paid 20

per cent; in 1950, 22½ per cent; and in 1951, 37½ per cent. On account of the depreciation in the value of the pound I maintain that shareholders are entitled to a higher dividend than before the pound was depreciated. That is only fair.

Mr. Macgillivray—It depends on when the shareholders put their money into the business.

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES—No. If the dividend was 5 per cent when the pound was worth 20s. they should receive a higher dividend now. The eighth point that I put in regard to combating inflation is that we must conserve manpower and use it in the right direction. That overlaps to some extent my point about production of essential materials.

Mr. Stott—You believe in directing manpower?

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES—No; we have to cut out the wastage of manpower. One example is mid-week racing, which entails a complete loss of manpower on a parasitical business. We cannot afford it. I put forward my ninth point with much diffidence. I believe that the migration programme has to be curtailed for the present. It would be much better if we satisfactorily settled 100,000 people a year than muddle along trying to absorb 200,000. I realize that immigration will greatly help our country ultimately, but we have bitten off at present more than we can chew.

Price control will not cure inflation but may postpone it or attack its effects. A long-term policy must be adopted to cure inflation, but there must be an immediate policy in attacking its effects. A report was published a short time ago by 227 American economists, representing 27 American colleges and universities. They issued a statement concerning anti-inflationary policies. I do not believe in blindly following the advice of economists. I was a Minister in a Government which was led by economists down a dark and dismal path. However, we should listen to them and consider their suggestions without necessarily following them. The statement issued by the American economists advocates the elimination or postponement of all Government expenditure on works that are not urgent or essential. It also recommends restricting credit for purposes not essential to defence programmes. It points out that stability of the general level of prices would be impossible in the face of general wage increases that substantially raise costs and private spendable incomes. The statement goes on "that in the absence of such measures a prolonged decline in the purchasing power of

the dollar (and we in Australia can say the pound) would undermine the very foundations of society, or an ever-spreading system of direct controls which could jeopardize our system of free enterprise and free collective bargaining." Those are the two alternatives.

I have placed before the House my own ideas about the remedies, though I do not expect many to agree with them. No nation has ever gone down through frugality, austerity, or hard work. As public men we have a duty to warn our people against any easy road out of inflation. The easy road will only lead to national and individual disaster.

Mr. HUTCHENS (Hindmarsh)—I listened to the member for Torrens with great interest, especially his remarks advocating the strongest action against those who do not give of their best in production. I take this opportunity of expressing my pleasure at the return to the House of a number of members who were ill prior to and during the recess. Some members of the Ministry were ill and we are pleased to see them in good health again. Ministers were helpful to members on this side during times of sickness. This shows that while we sometimes debate issues in this Chamber with much feeling, when the House is adjourned a feeling of mutual helpfulness prevails. I join with those who have expressed their pleasure at the forthcoming visit of the Royal Family. I endorse the remarks of previous speakers that we should not endeavour to deceive their Majesties in any way, but that they should see us as we normally are. Those whom I have the honour to represent will be among the foremost in presenting evidence of their loyalty. Some are compelled to live under unfortunate conditions, being unable to get a decent home, and they do not wish to be debarred from an opportunity to express their loyalty.

Paragraph 4 of the Governor's Speech refers to the lack of farm labour, but to my amazement the member for Alexandra gave convincing evidence that farmers today enjoy greater leisure than before. This seems to indicate that paragraph 4 of the Speech is incorrect. I noted with pleasure that the Government intends to electrify the railway between Woodville and Henley Beach. Paragraph 9 of the Governor's Speech states that this was favourably reported upon by the Royal Commission on State Transport Services and is now before the Public Works Committee. I conveyed this information to some of my constituents, who said they hoped this is not

merely another parcel of Government propaganda. They trust that the project will be completed within the next 25 years.

Mr. Macgillivray—They are optimistic.

Mr. HUTCHENS—I am afraid they are.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Why make a lot of Aunt Sallies of us!

Mr. HUTCHENS—I must compliment those responsible for the designing and building of the twinettes that travel with the Overland Express. I have travelled on a number of interstate railways but have not seen anything in Australia to equal those twinettes. Item 11 referring to the Adelaide-Mannum pipeline, is of some interest, in as much as an article was published in the *News* referring to a type of bath-heater installed in large numbers throughout the metropolitan area. It will be known to many that during the time we had to resort to bore water these bath-heaters caused a good deal of trouble and frequently needed adjustment. I have been told, in the presence of the member for Semaphore, that when the Murray water reaches Adelaide this type of bath-heater will be useless; they cannot be adjusted because the electrical contact is dependent upon the solid content of the water and the Murray River water is so fresh that it lacks the requisite percentage of solids. I asked the Government to take note of this as in another State installations of bath-heaters of this type are prohibited for this reason.

The really important item in the Governor's Speech is No. 16, and I ask the indulgence of the House as I wish to deal with it at some length. It will be recalled that this phrase was used:—"Noteworthy progress has been made in dealing with the housing problem, approximately 6,800 houses being completed in the financial year." At this juncture I wish to compliment the South Australian Housing Trust and its officers. As one who has to deal with some 25,000 constituents in an industrial electorate I have been called upon to endeavour to give a good deal of assistance to those requiring homes, and I have always received the most courteous and helpful service from officials of the trust, who have been most understanding and sympathetic. If it has been within their powers an allocation has been made in every deserving case which I have brought forward, and I cannot speak too highly of the treatment I have received. However, I object to the purport of that item in the Governor's Speech for I submit that it is designed to suggest that all is well with housing in South Australia; that an improvement

has been made in the housing position in the last 12 months. Facts and figures however, present an entirely different story. The trust's figures show that last year the trust had 22,000 applications, and this year the number has grown to 27,000 so that, on those figures alone, the position has worsened to the extent of 5,000 applications. The trust plans to complete 2,000 emergency homes and it has about 7,000 applicants for them.

The Hon. S. W. Jeffries—Many of those are applicants also for rental homes.

Mr. HUTCHENS—I concede that, but accepting the figures in the Governor's Speech and those supplied by the Government Statistician, we find that in five years we have built 19,208 dwellings, including 2,671 emergency homes. It can be reasonably assumed that 15,000 were of stone or brick and more than 2,000 of less durable material. Those figures exclude converted army huts. Each year we read in the Governor's Speech passages designed to show that the housing position is improving, but we should also take into account the type of house being erected. It was implied that we are building houses more cheaply than any other State, but it would be more correct to say we are building them for less cost, and to substantiate this I refer to an item in the *News* of July 5 last, which stated that Mr. F. A. Swinburne, of the Victorian Housing Commission, who was visiting South Australia said that South Australian houses built by the Housing Trust are not up to the standard of those built by the Victorian Housing Commission, and anyone who has seen both types must agree that this is correct. I have also had the privilege of seeing houses

built by the New South Wales Housing Commission for rental purposes, which are equal to those we build for sale; cement paths are laid before the tenant occupies them and all amenities associated with modern housing are provided. The astounding thing is that they are available to the worker on the basic wage for as little as 36s. a week, whereas in this State the rental for homes which have been referred to by a certain municipality as dog-boxes, and by people who are much more polite as "Uncle Tom's Cabins," is £1 7s. 6d. a week irrespective of the worker's income. They are in no way comparable with the houses in Victoria and New South Wales, yet our people are led to believe that all is well and that we are doing a good job, and it is tragic that such statements should be written into His Excellency's address.

Taking another view, we have during the five years ending June 30, 1951, completed 19,000 dwellings, but in the same period there have been 33,000 marriages, and on those figures the housing position has worsened by 14,000. Again, the Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics gives the estimated increase in population over that period as approximately 92,000 so, on an average of three persons to one home, the lag has increased by 11,000, and on a basis of four persons to a home it has increased by 4,000. Allowing for demolitions, our housing position has not improved by one iota; indeed, we are slipping very badly. How do we compare with other States? I do not expect the House to accept a statement based merely on the observations of a member, so I have extracted figures from the Commonwealth Summary of Census and Statistics, as follows:—

	Estimated population at December 31, 1950.	Dwellings completed from July 1, 1947, to December 31, 1951.	Number of dwellings completed per thousand of population.
Tasmania	315,791	9,298	29.44
Queensland	1,283,423	35,933	28
Victoria	2,412,488	57,989	24.04
South Australia	766,266	16,736	21.84
Western Australia	641,357	13,274	20.7
New South Wales	3,590,455	70,025	19.5

Those figures prove that this State is a bad fourth in its housing efforts. From a quick look at the figures showing the number of houses and flats under construction in each State on December 31, 1950, we must be convinced that there is little hope of the position improving. I quote the following figures from the Commonwealth Census Bureau and Statistics:—

New South Wales, under construction, 28,133 houses and 2,176 flats; Victoria, 24,327 houses and 75 flats; Queensland, 4,405 houses; South Australia, 5,892; Western Australia, 4,537 houses and 229 flats; and Tasmania, 3,447 houses and 15 flats. An alarming feature is the lack of suitable accommodation for aged couples. One matter that

has not been mentioned in the Governor's Speech and which has a bearing on housing and home building concerns Government buildings, such as schools, hospitals and so on. I shall not deal with this matter at the moment because the figures I have given prove beyond doubt to any right thinking person that the housing position in South Australia is rapidly declining.

I have been influenced about the housing position and the lack of certain materials by an article which appeared in the *Mail* of July 14. It showed that South Australia has a ready supply of all types of materials, with the exception of bricks. When speaking on the Address in Reply debate last year I drew attention to the fact that in my area at least four brick plants were standing idle and, although capable, with a life of 20 years, of producing at least 250,000 bricks a week, were not producing one. Surely if any man has the interests of the country at heart he will want to see these works in operation. I cannot say that four plants are idle in Hindmarsh today, at least, not the same four, because one which was capable of producing 110,000 bricks a week has been demolished. Last week the member for Mitcham said that the 40-hour week had caused an annual loss to Australia of 1,125 houses and 22,500,000 bricks a year. When I learnt that a kiln was about to be demolished I wrote to the Premier and asked if he would do something to prohibit its demolition as I was confident that it would mean a great loss in brick production. The Government made available £40,000 for the construction of a similar kiln in another part of the metropolitan area. I received the following reply from the Premier's secretary, under date April 9, 1951:—

Referring to your letter of the 26th ultimo with regard to the Metropolitan Brick Company's property at Croydon, I am directed by the Honourable the Premier to inform you that he brought the matter under the notice of the Brick Committee. The chairman of the committee has now furnished the following information:—

1. The kiln in question has not been in operation since 1928.

2. The committee has, for some time past, explored all avenues to re-open this yard, and has realized that there was little probability of this eventuating, because—

(a) shortage of labour; eighty (80) men including a number of key men, would be required to fully man this yard:

If the Government cannot find 80 men, I know of 180 qualified brickyard workers in the Hindmarsh district, working in other industries,

who would be glad to resume their former trade. The letter continues:—

(b) in order to increase efficiency, labour, as available, has been utilized in brickyards only partly operating;

I emphasize "partly operating". The reply goes on:—

(c) any attempt to re-open this yard would have prejudiced the existing production of other yards.

This should not go unnoticed because the yard that was demolished has been rebuilt and if it is to operate as intended a number of men who would naturally work in brickyards will be required to work this yard. The reasons stated in the letter will not bear investigation. The letter proceeds:—

3. In the Hindmarsh area there is a substantial excess of kiln capacity without this kiln. That excess capacity, if it could be used, would provide a large increase in the present output of bricks.

4. This kiln will be only partially demolished; the existing chimney stack and flues will form the nucleus for the construction of a series of "potter" kilns necessary for the production of earthenware pipes.

5. Demolition of portion of the kiln has already been carried out.

6. There is no statutory power which could be invoked by the Government, even if thought desirable, to prevent the partial demolition of the kiln in question.

I ask members to take particular notice of the following paragraph:—

7. Brick Manufacturers Ltd. has intimated to the committee that it contemplates extensions to yards based on the shale deposits in the Adelaide foothills.

I was obliged to show the reply to certain people in my district who told me things about Brick Manufacturers Limited which I felt were incorrect. I have eaten, drunk and talked with these people. We have exchanged confidences. I have stood at the open graves where our comrades were buried. I have attended places of worship with them and heard some of them preach of love and say that it meant understanding. I could not believe the things that were told to me by people living in Hindmarsh about Brick Manufacturers Ltd. When Mr. Dunks blamed the 40-hour week for the lag in production I had a feeling that he was trying to hide something, to protect somebody, and was using the poor old worker again in order to do so. In order to discover whether there was any truth in what I had been told about Brick Manufacturers Ltd. I went to the office of the Registrar of Companies and spent a few shillings to find out the position. I was horrified at what I found. It would make the Kreuger scandal of Sweden in 1932 and the Stavisky scandal

of France in 1934 pale into insignificance. I shall disclose what I found in my search at the Registrar of Companies office. I find no pleasure in doing so, and I know that it will not do me much good in my district, but there are things a man must face up to when he enters Parliament and accepts the responsibilities which go with that office. I shall face up to that responsibility, cost what it may, and shall read to members the names of all brick manufacturing concerns in the metropolitan area. They are:—Knapman Bros., J. Hallett & Sons Ltd., J. King & Son, Standard Brick Yard (owned by Brick Manufacturers Ltd.), Magill Brickyard and Adelaide Brick Co. Limited (now owned by Gilburn Brick Co. Ltd.), Freburg's Brick Yard Ltd., Barrey's Brick Yard Ltd., City Brick Co. Limited, A. E. James, Bourne Bros., S.A. Co-op. Brick Co. Limited and Willas & Williams Ltd.

It was disclosed that on September 30, 1950, the nominal capital of Brick Manufacturers Limited was £10,000, divided into 1,000 shares of £10 each. The total number of shares taken out at that date was 513. The sum of £2 has been called up on each of these shares, making a total paid up capital of £1,026. The list of shareholders makes interesting reading and members will find the names of all brick manufacturers in the metropolitan area there. The shareholders are:—Adelaide Brick Co. Ltd., 48 shares; Barrey's Brickyard Ltd., 33; C. A. Bourne, A. L. Bourne, and T. Hallett, 18; City Brick Co. Ltd., 51; Freburg's Brickyards Ltd., 51; J. Hallett & Sons Ltd., 150; A. E. James (brickmaker), 27; J. King & Son, 24; Knapman Bros., 24; W. E. Palmer, 3; E. L. Williams (brickmaker), 36; and S.A. Co-op. Brick Co. Ltd., 48. The directors are:—Charles Elder Armstrong, Glen Osmond Road, Glen Osmond; Maurice Linden Barrey, 25 Young Avenue, New Hindmarsh; Thomas Hallett, Alfred Street, Croydon; Percy Knapman, Napier Street, Exeter; Charles Bourne, Mann Street, Brompton Park; Arthur King, Manton Street, Hindmarsh; Albert Arthur Thiele, Bolton Avenue, Renown Park; Howard John Williams, Main Street, York; Clarence William James, 58 Main Street, York; Ralph Reginald Freburg, 25 Torrens Street, Linden Park.

The objects of the company are:—

1. To buy, sell, manufacture, or deal in either as principal or agent bricks, tiles, pipes, pottery, and other kindred manufactures of all descriptions.

7. To take or otherwise acquire and hold shares in any other company having objects altogether or part similar to those of this

company or carrying on any business capable of being conducted so as directly or indirectly to benefit this company.

8. To act as agent and/or attorney for any person, firms, or company who may be associated with or a shareholder in this company and that no limitation to any other power as such attorney or agent to ask, demand, sue for and enforce, resist and defend, whether by action at law or by arbitration or otherwise any rights or liabilities of such person, firm, or company.

9. To act as arbitrator in any disputes between any persons, firms, or companies associated with or as shareholders in this company.

Mr. Pattinson—Is that a purpose of the company?

Mr. HUTCHENS—Yes—to be judge, prosecutor, and jury. Another object of the company is:—

10. To regulate and fix prices at which persons, firms, or companies associated with or shareholders in this company shall dispose of his, its, or their products.

Mr. Macgillivray—That is to peg prices.

Mr. HUTCHENS—It is for the very purpose of dictating what shall be paid for bricks and to prevent small fry from competing against the company so that it can increase its profits. A further object of the company is:—

11. To make and from time to time amend, alter or enlarge by-laws, rules or regulations covering the conduct of persons, firms, or companies associated with or shareholders in this company and to enforce either by the infliction of fines or penalties compliance with such by-laws, rules and regulations.

Mr. Dunks—It sounds like a union.

Mr. HUTCHENS—It is a union of employers for the purpose of retarding production. Other objects of the company are:—

12. To enter into contracts for and on behalf of any of the shareholders in the company and to enforce the performance of such contracts by the said shareholder.

20. To amalgamate or co-operate with any person, firm or company having objects similar to the objects of this company.

Its Articles of Association include the following:—

14. No share shall be transferred to any person, firm or company who is not already a member of the company or whose name shall not have been submitted in writing to the directors and approved by them In no case (other than in the case of an executor or liquidator) shall the directors approve of a transfer to any person, firm or company which is not actively engaged in the manufacture of bricks or similar articles.

Mr. Hawker—What is wrong with that?

Mr. HUTCHENS—It is to prevent interference by any company which wants to enter

the trade and to keep out of the business people who do not agree to the terms set out.

Mr. Pattinson—How?

Mr. HUTCHENS—I think the honourable member knows. The Articles also include:—

17. The directors may in their absolute discretion and without assigning any reason therefore decline to register any transfer of shares or to enter the name of the transferee in the register of members in respect of such shares.

Mr. Heaslip—Is this a private or public company?

Mr. HUTCHENS—It is a private company and as such does not have to publish a balance-sheet.

Mr. Dunks—It must present one to its shareholders.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Yes, but not to the public. The South Australian Co-operative Brick Co., Ltd. is associated with Brick Manufacturers Ltd. Its total indebtedness is about £11,000, and directly we shall see the reason for that. Its directors are E. A. Hitchcock, W. B. Simes, W. E. Palmer, W. McIntosh, and J. W. Goulter. Its Memorandum of Association includes the following:—

ix. To purchase for investment and resale and to traffic in land and house property . . .

xv. To enter into any arrangements with any (Governments or) authorities supreme, municipal, local or otherwise . . . to obtain from any such Government or authority, any rights, privileges, and concessions which the company may think it desirable to obtain and to . . . exercise . . . any such arrangements, rights, privileges and concessions.

That sounds like legalized bribery. The Memorandum of Association also includes:—

xxiv. To remunerate any personal company for services rendered or to be rendered . . . in the conduct of its business.

Mr. Heaslip—There is nothing unusual in that.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Except that it provides for legalized bribery. Because I am not well acquainted with company law I sought the opinion of two King's Counsel and a lawyer who does not dabble in other things. I should hate to think that the majority of lawyers are dishonest. The Memorandum of Association seeks privileges from a Government. It is amazing that this company has been granted assistance by the South Australian Government through the Industries Development Committee.

The Hon. S. W. Jeffries—Are not members of your Party on that committee?

Mr. HUTCHENS—Everybody is capable of being misled. I do not blame the committee. It is the duty of the Government to see that such things are not written into a Memorandum of Association. Because of the Government

loan the total indebtedness of the company is about £11,000, yet it has done practically nothing to increase brick production. It has a Hoffmann kiln lying idle, which could produce 100,000 bricks a week.

The nominal share capital of J. Hallett & Sons Ltd., is £60,000 made up of 120,000 shares of 10s. each, 108,000 of which have been taken up as fully paid otherwise than in cash, making £54,000 paid up capital. According to the balance sheet as at June 30, 1950, its assets totalled £116,705 7s. 5d. The directors of this company are members of the Hallett family and Horace Gilbert Wilcox. The terms of its memorandum of association are similar to those of the company I previously mentioned. Clause 23 states:—

To obtain any Act or Acts of Parliament for enabling the company to carry any of its objects into effect or for effecting any modification of the company's constitution or for any other purpose which may seem expedient and to oppose any proceedings or applications which may seem calculated directly or indirectly to prejudice the company's interests.

This company is the biggest brick making firm in South Australia.

The Standard Brick Yard was registered on May 14, 1937, and the current registration shows that this brickyard is owned completely by Brick Manufacturers Ltd., of 33 Pirie Street, Adelaide. The Magill Brick Works was registered on February 11, 1947, its sole owner being Brick Manufacturers Ltd. On January 25, 1951, ownership was transferred to Gilburn Brick Company Ltd., of Waterfall Terrace, Burnside.

The Adelaide Brick Company Ltd., has a nominal capital of 50,000 shares of £1 each. Up to September 13, 1950, 27,625 shares had been taken up, 17,100 being issued subject to "wholly in cash," and 10,525 issued as fully paid up "otherwise than in cash." Calls received including payments on application and allotment totalled £17,099 2s., and calls unpaid 18s. Its assets totalled £39,686 15s. 11d. The directors of this company include Mr. Charles Baulderstone, a builder, of 48 Hay Street, Linden Park. My repetition of his name may indicate why a certain Mr. Baulderstone, a builder, can contract to build a non-permit house for about £2,900, requiring a further £200 which he says must be paid to somebody else as a bribe to secure materials. The other directors are Messrs. Chandler, Cowell, & Grasby. The company's memorandum of association includes the following clauses:—

iv. To buy, sell, manipulate, import, export, and deal in all produce, products, substances

required by any customers of or persons having dealings with the company.

vii. To enter into partnership or into any arrangements for sharing profits, union of interests . . . in any business . . . which this company is authorized to carry on. Surely the possibility of a bribe is implicit in the latter clause.

Mr. Heaslip—Are you prepared to make these accusations outside this House?

Mr. HUTCHENS—I can repeat these statements outside. Clause XIII. of the Memorandum of Association states:—

To buy up, or absorb, any other company or partnership . . . formed . . . for any . . . of the purposes for which this company is formed . . .

Mr. Dunks—What's wrong with that?

Mr. HUTCHENS—The honourable member may say there is nothing wrong with it and yet he blames the unfortunate worker for non-production. This company has clothed itself with the right to manipulate production. It is not for me to determine how it can do that, but there has been some manipulation lately.

The Gilburn Brick Co. Ltd., has a nominal capital of £125,000 divided into 500,000 shares of 5s. each, of which 172,723 have been taken up, 132,723 fully paid, and 40,000 paid up to 1s. Shares totalling 40,002 have been issued subject to payment wholly in cash, and 132,721 as fully paid up otherwise than in cash. Calls received, including payments on application and allotment, total £2,000 10s. The total amount agreed to be considered as paid on 132,721 shares issued as fully paid up otherwise than in cash is £33,180 5s.

On October 11, 1950, 7,062 shares were allotted *gratis*, their nominal value being £1,765 10s. They were issued to people named Cave, Baulderstone, Cunningham, Grasby, Hurse, McGregor and Paterson, all shareholders of Adelaide Brick Coy. Ltd. On November 22, 1950, a total of 14,319 shares were issued to shareholders in the Adelaide Brick Co. pursuant to clause 3 of the contract made between the Gilburn Brick Co. Ltd., shareholders of the

Adelaide Brick Co. Ltd., and Brick Manufacturers Ltd. The main allottees were:—

William Ernest George Baulderstone, 44 Hay Street, Linden Park, builder, 1,125 shares; Lydia May Clarke, Hawthorn East, Victoria, 1,530 shares; Estate of George B. Otto, 1,218 shares; Estate of Henry Rooks, 1,890 shares and Estate of Joseph S. Taylor, 1,200 shares.

Clause 3 of the agreement between Gilburn Brick Company Ltd., shareholders of Adelaide Brick Co. and Brick Manufacturers Ltd. reads:—

Gilburn . . . agrees . . . that it will . . . allot to each shareholder in the Adelaide Brick Co. Ltd., whose name does not appear in the schedule hereto three fully paid up 5s. shares in Gilburn for each fully paid up £1 share in Adelaide Brick Co. Ltd.

Under clause 5, Brick Manufacturers Ltd. agreed to transfer all its assets of property in Magill Brick Yard to Gilburn in consideration of the allotment of 78,028 fully paid shares in Gilburn *gratis*, and the allotment of 40,000 shares on terms upon the payment of 1s. a share with the balance to be paid when called for by directors. The interesting thing about this absorption is that the directors are:—

Thomas Hallett, Alfred Road, West Croydon; William Ewert Palmer, 33 Pirie Street, Adelaide; John Harvey Chandler, 91 Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe, Victoria; Charles Baulderstone, 48 Hay Road, Linden Park.

The main shareholder is Brick Manufacturers Ltd. with 118,028 shares.

The Littlehampton Brick Co. Ltd. has a nominal capital of 50,000 shares of £1 each. The total number of shares taken up to June 30, 1950, is 21,250; of which 8,500 were issued subject to payment wholly in cash. The number of shares issued as fully paid up otherwise than in cash, 7,750; and the number of shares issued as partly paid (extent of 12s.), 5,000.

The directors are:—

Thomas Hallett, Alfred Road, West Croydon; Horace Gilbert Willcox, Robe Terrace, Medindie; Reginald Thomas Hallett, 36 Glenhuntly Street, Woodville.

The shareholders are as follows:—

Name.	Address.	Fully Paid.	Contributing.	Total Held.
Edna Gwendoline Barrey, c/o Barrey's Brick Yards, Hindmarsh		1,100	600	1,700
Reg. Thomas Hallett, 36 Glenhuntly Street, Woodville		300	—	300
Thomas Hallett, Alfred Road, West Croydon		1,900	700	2,600
Thomas and John Hallett, Alfred Road, West Croydon		650	—	650

The net profit to June 30, 1950, was £3,244 9s. 3d. I do not expect the House to

accept anything I have said without my producing evidence of proof. My search shows

that J. Hallett & Sons Ltd., who own the brick works at Welland, own also the Federal Brick Yards at Thebarton, the Gawler Brick Yard, the Port Lincoln Brick Yard, and also have a controlling interest (by the fact of shares held, and/or that a member or members of the company hold directorships) in the Littlehampton Brick Company, Ltd., and the Gilburn Brick Company, Ltd., which absorbed the Adelaide Brick Company and the Magill Brick Works, of which the Brick Manufacturers Ltd. possess 118,028 shares out of a total of 172,723, thus giving it a controlling interest.

Brick Manufacturers Ltd. is a private company in which J. Hallett & Son, like all other brickmaking concerns, are shareholders, and has a paid up capital of only £1,026. This is apart from 118,028 shares in the Gilburn Brick Company. It owns completely the Standard Brick Yards and the Port Pirie Brick Yards. Until recently it owned the Magill Brick Works and the Metropolitan Brick Yards, which it sold for £20,000 to Earthenware Industries Ltd., and in which it now possesses 10,000 shares, quite apart from 1,500 shares held by members of the Hallett family, who own another brickmaking concern.

It has as its written objects:—

To regulate and fix prices at which persons, firms or companies associated with, or shareholders in this company, shall dispose of his, its, or their products, carrying on any business capable of being conducted so as to directly, or indirectly, benefit this company, to enforce either by the infliction of fines or penalties, compliant with such by-laws, rules and regulations, to enforce the performance of such contracts by the said shareholders.

Associated shareholding companies have in their memoranda of association the authority and right to "use, buy, sell, manipulate, import, export and deal in all produce, products and substances . . . required by any customers of, or persons having dealings with the company, to enter into partnership or into any arrangements for sharing profits, union of interests . . . in any business . . . which this company is authorized to carry on."

Paragraph 7 of the Premier's letter to me proves conclusively that these people have been able to influence the Brick Committee, consisting of Messrs. Perry, M.L.C., Bishop, Dean and Goulter, two of whom are engineers and the others accountants, which was set up to increase the production of bricks. "That the committee has complete confidence in Brick Manufacturers Limited," is given as one reason for the final paragraph, which states, "The committee considers in the circumstances outlined above that it is a better proposition to use portion

of the Hoffman kiln and other facilities at the brickyard for the manufacture of earthenware pipes than for the yard to remain idle indefinitely." Earthenware Industries bought this property from the Metropolitan Brick Co., and proposed demolishing a Hoffman kiln in Croydon which could produce 110,000 bricks a week. While this kiln was being demolished another Hoffman kiln was being constructed. This required enough bricks to construct 30 to 40 homes and was constructed because taxpayers' money was made available for the purpose. *The News* published an article showing there would be enough bricks made available from the demolition of the metropolitan brickyard to construct 33 homes, but what happened to the bricks? They were sold, with the iron and timber, to Australian Glass Manufacturers Ltd., another wealthy combine. Because of the inability to control these people we have lost enough bricks to construct 60 or 80 houses in the metropolitan area. These people have been successful in carrying out the objectives of their Memorandum of Association because brick production in this State has fallen from 82,000,000 bricks in the pre-war years to 48,000,000 in 1950, notwithstanding that there is more plant today than in 1926.

Some people state that the decline in production is the result of the shortage of labour. That may be so, but there is a reason for the shortage of labour. I submit that there should be an investigation into what has been achieved by the remuneration clause in the Memorandum of Association. Let us examine labour costs involved in producing 1,000 bricks. The *Government Gazette* showed the labour costs in 1947 as follows:—Pugholemen, 8s.; lofts-men, 2s. 4d., with a cheaper rate of 1s. 9d.; cutting off, 4s. 8d.; padding off, 7s. 0½d.; scintling, 1s. 7½d.; hand pressing, 9s. 11½d.; wheeling and setting in kiln, 9s. 5½d.; burning wages, 8s.; drawing and wheeling out of kiln, 7s. 2½d.; this made a total cost for labour in 1947 of £2 18s. 3½d., to produce 1,000 bricks. In 1951, the total cost of the same items, as shown by the *Government Gazette*, amounted to £4 12s. 5½d., an increase in labour costs of £1 14s. 2½d. per thousand. According to figures supplied by the South Australian Prices Commissioner the price of 1,000 bricks in the same period increased in one instance by £4 9s. a thousand, in another by £4 13s., and in another by £5 4s. 6d. If some of the increase in price had been passed on to the brick workers there would not be any shortage of labour in the brickyards today. The current price of bricks for first outsides is £12 9s.,

but in 1947 it was £8. The present price of second outsides is £11 13s. 6d.; in 1947 it was £7 0s. 6d. First insides now cost £10 19s.; in 1947 they were £6 9s. Second insides, which are no longer made, but are absorbed under first insides, were sold in 1947 for £5 14s. 6d. a thousand. Added to the cost of the bricks at the yard is a minimum delivery charge of 22s. per thousand. A number of brickyards stipulate that any bricks bought from them must be delivered by their own lorries.

I draw attention to the "short thousand" in delivering bricks. I do not know what it means though I am told it means 800 instead of 1,000, but it is interesting to note that in Victoria, first-grade bricks are available to the public for £9 8s. 6d. a thousand, whereas they are £12 9s. 0d. a thousand here. There is another aspect of the brick industry which should be noted, particularly by the member for Onkaparinga, namely, that bricks delivered to the site today are not stacked, but tipped, and because second insides are absorbed in what is now known as first insides, any shaped brick is included, so that as much as one-third of the time of the builders is occupied in sorting and grading.

Mr. Hawker—It is a pity they do not lay a few more.

Mr. HUTCHENS—They could if they did not have to sort them out. When the Metropolitan Brick Works was sold to Earthenware Industries Limited the committee claimed that it would be of advantage. But what can we expect from Earthenware Industries Limited—an associated company of Brick Manufacturers? I shall only touch on this briefly, but I think it important. It was registered on March 27, 1951, with a nominal capital of 100,000 ordinary shares at £1 each, paid up to 10s. a share, and it is of interest to note that, although not one pipe has been produced, those shares are now quoted at 10s. 6d., not because of any profits, but because investors realize that they cannot but gain by associating with such a combine. The list of shareholders is somewhat interesting. Brick Manufacturers Limited holds 10,000 shares, and I have the full list of shareholders and other details in reference to this company, when I ask leave to have inserted in *Hansard* without reading.

Leave granted.

The statement was as follows:—

EARTHENWARE INDUSTRIES LTD.

Registered on March 27, 1951.

100,000 ordinary shares at £1 each—amount paid on each share 10s.

Directors.—J. A. Rinder, Claremont Avenue, Netherby; Geoffrey Hallett, 97 Grange Road,

Allenby Gardens; Birkett Charles Martin, 6 Auburn Avenue, Myrtle Bank; Robert Bertram Woodroffe, 41 Winchester Street, St. Peters; R. C. Bissett, Claremont Avenue, Netherby.

Statement in Lieu of Prospectus.—Nominal share capital of company, 100,000 shares at £1 each.

Amounts Payable to Vendors.—Brick Manufacturers Ltd., £20,000 cash; G. N. N. Lambert, £3,000 cash.

Amounts to be Paid to Promoters.—J. A. Rinder, £600; R. C. Bissett, £600, for "services rendered in obtaining the properties, clay deposits, leases and buildings to be utilized by the company in the promotion and formation of the company."

Each of the directors must hold 100 shares.

Main Shareholders up to February 8, 1951—

	Shares.
R. C. Bissett, Claremont Avenue, Netherby	1,500
C. S. Bertram, 3 Talbot Grove, Marryatville	1,000
Brick Manufacturers Ltd.	10,000
T. B. Edwards, 24 Craighill Road, St. George	1,000
G. H. Fricker, 1 Sixth Avenue, Cheltenham	750
B. O. Galloway, 222 Brougham Place, North Adelaide	500
F. C. Hassell (architect), c/o Bank of New South Wales Building	1,000
Geoffrey Hallett, 97 Grange Road, Allenby Gardens	250
Percy Ifould, 16 Wyatt Road, Burnside	700
G. N. Lambert, Modbury	1,000
C. H. Martin Ltd. (building contractors), 82 Charles Street, Unley	5,000
B. C. Martin (contractors), 6 Auburn Avenue, Myrtle Bank	250
P. H. Martin (builder), 45 Clifton Street, Malvern	500
F. K. Milne (architect), Trustee Building, Grenfell Street, Adelaide	100
E. F. Monk (agent), 17 Ferguson Street, Toorak Gardens	2,000
Mosaic Flooring Co. Ltd., 73 Park Terrace, Parkside	500
J. A. Rinder (company director), 5 Claremont Avenue, Netherby	1,000
S. J. Weir (master builder), Dunorlan Road, Edwardstown	5,000
H. Wilkens (building contractor), 45 Parade, Norwood	1,000
H. D. Winterbottom (secretary), Chamber of Manufactures, 12 Pirie Street, Adelaide	250
M. C. Wood (building contractor), Anzac Highway, Hayhurst	1,000
R. B. Woodroffe (company director), 41 Winchester Street, St. Peters	3,000
P. B. Woodroffe (company director), 41 Winchester Street, St. Peters	1,000
L. F. Walters (chief brewer), S.A. Brewing Co.	200
C. R. Sutton (land agent), Pirie Street, Adelaide	2,000
Waddington's Theatres Ltd.	1,000
Albert McGlasson (builder), 92 Augusta Street, Helmsdale	500
L. G. May (stock and sharebroker), 58 Queen Street, Melbourne	1,000

F. R. Mayfield, Lower Mitcham . . .	1,000
Albert Roy Moir (company director, politician), 65 Parade, Norwood . .	250
Mosaic Flooring Co. Ltd., 73 Park Terrace, Parkside	1,400
John Stanley Murray, "Rosebank," Mount Pleasant	1,000
W. A. Norman (solicitor), 23 Grenfell Street, Adelaide	400
D. C. Norman (spinster), 23 Grenfell Street, Adelaide	400
W. N. Alford (company director), 16 Gurney Road, Dulwich	1,000
R. A. Applebee (bank clerk), 5 Treloar Avenue, Kensington Park	300
W. C. Beerworth (solicitor), 320 Lane Street, Broken Hill	190
J. B. Bennett (bank officer), 69 Wattlebury Road, Lower Mitcham	200
Dr. T. A. Britten-Jones (surgeon), 74 Hill Street, North Adelaide	1,000
Robert Britten-Jones (medical student), 74 Hill Street, North Adelaide . . .	200
H. J. Cattle (bank manager), c/o Savings Bank of S.A.	300
W. Cavell (company director), 377 Sussex Street, Sydney	500
T. V. Edwards, 24 Craighill Road, St. George	1,000
Ellis & Clarke Ltd.	1,000
C. W. H. Puller, Newey's Road, Mitcham	1,000
Charles Hallett, 69 Coombe Road, Allenby Gardens	300
Fred. Job Hallett, 53 Lewanick Street, Allenby Gardens	300
Geoffrey Hallett, 97 Grange Road, Allenby Gardens	50
Reg. Thomas Hallett, 36 Glenhuntingly Street, Woodville	300
Thomas Hallett, 3 Alfred Road, West Croydon	600
Sydney Roy Kellett, 15 Park Terrace, Gilberton	1,000

N.B.—There has been a substantial alteration in the above list of main shareholders.

Mr. HUTCHENS—It will be seen that Mr. B. O. Galloway is a prominent shareholder with some 500 shares. I understand he is a very decent gentleman, but he is secretary of the Builders and Contractors' Association and, I glean from some remarks which have been made by a Vice-President of that association in another State, that he speaks for at least some members opposite. He says that controls are not the answer to our inflationary problems; only more work can step up the large production needed, but here is an interesting point—the point that some members opposite were, I think, trying to make: He says a fixed weekly wage could be struck and operated on the same figure, whether the hours were 40 or 48, and cost of living adjustments should be abolished. It is amazing to learn how disappointed one can become in attending to one's duties as a member of Parliament. When discussing the demolition of the Hoffman kiln at the Metro-

politan Brick Works with a certain gentleman in the lobbies I felt certain I would have his full support if I brought before the House the position as I saw it. He agreed with me and said I should take the matter up, but looking through the list of shareholders of Earthenware Industries Ltd. I find the name Albert Roy Moir, company director and politician, 65 Parade, Norwood, 250 shares. I notice he is registered as a politician. I thought we were all members of Parliament, but I appreciate the difference; those behind the Government are just politicians.

Statistics from the *Statesman's Pocket Year-book* for 1950 show that, due to the housing shortage, the annual number of petitions for divorces has increased considerably. In 1930 the number was 153; in 1940, 311; in 1945, 616; in 1948, 784; and in 1950, 781, an increase of more than 100 per cent in 10 years caused, to a large extent, I submit, by the growing shortage of houses. The Government Statistician's figures show that the reproductive section of our population, that is, between 18 and 45, have been steadily increasing. The rate of birth per thousand was over four less for the five years ending June 30, 1949, than for a similar period ending June 30, 1914. What member of this House does not appreciate the fact that many more people would be marrying and having families, or increasing existing families, if they had homes? These peace-time atrocities are allowed to take place while the Government of this country has been referred to as a "Bicycle Government"—a one-man propelled vehicle, allowed to coast along the Avenues of Time, sheltered by the gerrymander tree planted by one of its "Butlers" in 1938. The Public Works Committee's report of April 20 on six new primary schools shows that by 1956 accommodation will be required for 100,000 children and that by 1962 sufficient school buildings to accommodate 130,000 will be required. I was glad to hear the member for Unley say that he had appealed to the Government for the provision of further educational facilities and classrooms, but his requests were never heeded. Boys and girls today have to be accommodated in buildings in which employes in industry would not work. Dr. Birch, Medical Superintendent of Parkside Mental Hospital, states in his 1949 report that of the 1,463 patients there, no attempt had been made to provide accommodation for 535. These patients, who are both physically and mentally sick, are each allowed only 50 square feet of accommodation. If members consider that that is not a peace-time atrocity they should study the

report, which shows that 38.3 per cent of the patients were over 65. Dr. Birch in his 1949 report said:—

Far too many senile patients are sent to mental institutions in the terminal weeks or even days of their lives, and these people are those who, in most instances, have led most useful lives at their various avocations.

Because the Government has not provided accommodation for these unfortunates, who have rendered valuable service to the community, they are committed to an asylum in their old age. The shortage of hospital accommodation generally is grave. The Government has made grants to various public-spirited bodies that are trying to meet the need for hospitalization by providing hospitals in different localities, and thanks are due to the Government for what it has done in this direction. The member for Unley referred to the District and Bush Nursing Society which, to a large extent, is called upon to attend people discharged from hospital long before they are fit. According to the society's report for the year ended June 30 last, 116,478 visits were made last year, being 17,235 more than the previous year. These visits were made by qualified nursing sisters, covering an area as far south as Mount Gambier and as far north as Marree. Much has been said about the way the society should be financed and it has been suggested that a charge of 2s. 6d. a visit should be made. In these days the greatest possible assistance should be given to people who need this attention to enable them to return to work quickly. Similar work, equal in importance to that carried out by the District and Bush Nursing Society, is performed by the Mothers and Babies' Health Association. In its report for the year ended June 30, 1950, the association states:—

To meet increased cost the State Government increased its grant for maintenance to £12,315. In addition to this, £2,600 was granted for new motor cars and buildings and a number of free railway passes were provided for the transport of association nurses. It is only with the assistance of the Government that the association is able to carry out its extensive programme.

I ask the Government to treat these two organizations on an equal basis. It is interesting to note that both the municipal and district councils make almost equal grants to both organizations. As regards hospitalization, our hospitals are being taxed to the fullest extent in providing accommodation for the increasing number of casualties caused through road accidents, usually by motor cycles. This means of transport gives our young people great pleasure, but

unfortunately many accidents result from their use. Because of the small protection that is afforded both drivers and pillion riders severe head injuries usually result from accidents. Frequently they cause irrevocable damage and the Government should consider the question of compelling all motor cyclists and pillion riders to wear crash helmets to protect them from head injuries.

Last year I mentioned the difficulties that councils were finding in meeting the many calls made upon them and said that they were being taxed to such an extent that it was almost impossible for them to carry on. I tendered a schedule showing that a more equitable manner of taxing them would be on annual values assessment and suggested that they should contribute 1.04d. in the pound. I find, however, that to meet the amount claimed by the Fire Brigades Board for 1950-51 a rate of 1½d. in the pound would be required. If some adjustment is not made certain councils will soon become bankrupt. The increased cost of contributions in two years to one municipality is £10,000. These increases cannot be allowed to continue if councils are to continue functioning. To support contributions being made on annual assessment values, I have prepared three tables showing contributions from various corporate bodies to the Fire Brigades Board, and as they are lengthy I ask leave to have them inserted in *Hansard* without reading them.

Leave granted.

The tables were:—

TABLE I.
Contributions.—Fire Brigades Board.

	1948-49.	1950-51.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Adelaide.....	13,592	23,719	10,127
Port Adelaide	6,283	9,787	3,504
Woodville	1,476	2,234	758
Hindmarsh	1,118	1,732	614
Glenelg	706	957	251
Unley	670	1,004	334
West Torrens	602	943	341
Prospect.....	598	897	219
Burnside	592	904	312
Marion	350	566	16
Enfield	327	538	211
Brighton	327	507	180
Mitcham	327	507	180
Thebarton	321	414	93
Kensington and Norwood	255	306	51
Walkerville	255	266	11
St. Peters.....	198	248	50
Henley and Grange .	194	288	94
Payneham	122	230	108
Campbelltown	42	71	29

TABLE II.

	Contribution to Fire Brigades Board year ending 30/6/51.	Annual Values Assessment, 1950-51.	Rate Revenue, 1950-51.	Per cent as to Annual Values Assessment.	Per cent as to Rate Revenue.
Adelaide	23,719	1,964,255	331,468	1.2	7.2
†Port Adelaide	9,787	507,720	73,671	1.93	13.3
Woodville	2,234	706,340	79,463	0.32	2.8
†Hindmarsh	1,732	138,270	28,437	1.25	6.1
†Glenslg	957	229,708	34,295	0.42	2.8
Unley	1,004	627,243	78,405	0.16	1.3
West Torrens	943	432,300	64,845	0.22	1.5
Prospect	897	330,613	37,194	0.27	2.4
†Burnside	904	478,793	65,834	0.19	1.4
*Marion	566	259,164	32,451	—	—
*Enfield	538	275,000	34,000	—	—
Brighton	507	169,525	21,821	0.29	2.3
*Mitcham	507	414,239	51,603	—	—
†Thebarton	414	179,422	23,519	0.23	1.8
Kensington and Norwood	306	202,982	23,685	0.15	1.3
Walkerville	266	88,976	12,234	0.25	2.2
†St. Peters	248	155,682	21,752	0.16	1.1
Henley and Grange	288	123,766	17,025	0.23	1.7
Payneham	230	191,956	19,405	0.12	1.2
*Campbelltown	71	119,217	13,829	—	—
†Colonel Light Gardens	128	48,431	5,809	0.26	2.2

* Those corporations marked thus have portion of their area outside the ambit of the Fire Brigades Board, and consequently percentages have not been worked as the result would be misleading.

† Portion of the city of Burnside is outside the ambit of the Fire Brigades Board. The figures shown only take into consideration the portion affected.

‡ These corporations rate on unimproved capital value and annual values assessments are those which are supplied to the Metropolitan County Board by the Engineering and Water Supply Department. These annual values were supplied in 1948 and would possibly be out of date. New assessments have been applied by the Metropolitan County Board but as yet are not available.

TABLE III.

The contributions to Fire Brigades Board under the present system for 1950-51, and the difference in contributions were my proposed method adopted.

	Contributions to Fire Brigades Board, 1950-51.	Contributions to Fire Brigades Board under 1½d. in £ A.V.S.	Decrease.	Increase.
	£	£	£	£
Adelaide	23,719	14,323	9,396	—
Port Adelaide	9,787	3,702	6,085	—
Woodville	2,234	5,510	—	3,286
Hindmarsh	1,732	1,003	729	—
Glenslg	957	1,258	—	301
Unley	1,004	4,573	—	3,569
West Torrens	943	3,152	—	2,209
Prospect	897	2,410	—	1,513
Burnside	904	3,803	—	2,909
Marion	566	2,502	—	1,936
Enfield	538	2,005	—	1,467
Brighton	507	1,231	—	714
Mitcham	507	1,799	—	1,292
Thebarton	414	891	—	477
Kensington and Norwood	306	1,480	—	1,174
Walkerville	266	644	—	378
St. Peters	248	1,225	—	976
Henley and Grange	288	902	—	614
Payneham	230	1,358	—	1,120
Campbelltown	71	869	—	798
Colonel Light Gardens	128	1,799	—	3,020

Mr. HUTCHENS—I believe that a committee is to be appointed to inquire into the amount of contributions required from councils by the Fire Brigades Board and I trust that the proposal will be favourably considered by the Government. The matter should be inquired into by a Government committee because under the present set-up certain areas are taxed unfairly. I am interested in municipal affairs and action should be taken to permit all people to take part in municipal elections. A rule for traffic employees of the M.T.T. says:—

No employee shall be a member of Parliament or any municipal council or district council and the acceptance by an employee of nomination for such a position shall be regarded as his resignation from the service of the Trust.

That may be justifiable, but the rule continues:—

Employees must not take part in election campaigns or solicit votes for candidates whilst in uniform.

This prevents many persons interested in municipal affairs from taking part in municipal elections. I say to those who by natural birth or adoption would like to call this land theirs that they have even now the right to claim equality of opportunity, and only when that claim is continually made, gained and used will this land be truly theirs.

Mr. McLACHLAN (Victoria)—I am delighted that the King and Queen and Princess Margaret are to visit South Australia. I hope that the health of the King will be such as to enable him to enjoy the tour. I congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion on their speeches. I thought Mr. Pearson did a good job, and in view of the criticism levelled at his remarks by some members opposite, he must have touched some tender spots.

This Address in Reply debate has been different from previous ones. Most of what has been said by our opponents has been criticism and as a member of the Government Party I want to refute some of the irresponsible statements made by some members who should know better. It seems that they have used this debate for the purpose of disseminating propaganda to discredit the Liberal and Country Party. On the opening day of the session we had a lengthy oration from Mr. Frank Walsh. He tried to convince members and people outside that if the Playford Government had adopted the Industrial Code for employees of dairymen there would be no butter shortage, but that is absolutely untrue and ridiculous. It is something I did

not think would come from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. If he knew as much about dairying as he claims he would not have made the statement, because today in the industry there are few paid employees. It is a type of livelihood that is not attractive and most people in the industry are either share dairying or own cows with the work being done by Mum and Dad and by the children before and after school. Few wages are paid in the industry. We have a butter shortage because we have inflation. Later I shall tell members opposite why we have inflation. Their brand of politics has contributed greatly to it. When we realize the great amount of work and the small remuneration received in the dairy industry it would be foolish if the dairyman did not switch over to the sheep industry where he can get three times as much money for the same amount of work. That is why we have a scarcity of butter, and while the prices of other primary products remain high we will not get an improvement in the position.

Mr. Tapping impressed on members and the public generally that the waterside workers were men of considerable virtue, which I accept, and were not in the hands of Communists, which I hope is true. He also said they were being persecuted by public opinion and the press. I do not know about the persecution, but the waterside workers are entitled to some of the criticism levelled at them. I hope their organization is big enough to take it. This morning's *Advertiser* contained the following report on the issue of the turn-round of ships:—

Melbourne.—Shipping freights were likely to continue rising, the senior managing partner in Melbourne of Macdonald, Hamilton & Co. (Mr. D. MacKay) said today on his return from abroad in the *Stratheden*. The turn-round was the problem. The *Stratheden's* experience in Adelaide was typical. The ship arrived at 1 p.m. on Saturday. Waterside workers' restrictions prevented work on Saturday afternoon. Unloading could not start until midnight. The ship could not wait for this, and brought all its Adelaide cargo to Melbourne. Apart from the delay, the extra handling sharply increased freight costs. Ships move 24 hours a day and so do other forms of transport, he added. Until the wharfs work 24 hours a day, seven days a week, there will always be hold-ups and high freights.

Brisbane.—Big liners were sailing partly empty from London, despite the serious pile-up of British exports for Australia, Sir Colin Anderson, director of Anderson, Green Co., managers of the Orient Line, said today. If the liners sailed from London fully loaded, they would be unable to turn-round in Australia in the time available, he said.

Sydney.—Four interstate ships are held up in Newcastle because of the refusal of seamen to man them fully. Calls for crews at the local pick-up centres today failed to bring any response. Shipping officials declare that the refusal to man the ships is part of a behind-the-scenes move by militant officials of maritime unions to disrupt coastal shipping.

Knowing the honourable member as I do, I am certain he would not bring the disabilities of the waterside workers before the House unless he felt he was justified in doing so. I see in it a ray of hope because I have always said that the trade union movement finds itself in the hands of men not worthy to act for it. In Mr. Tapping the movement has a man of much character and stability. If they have a man like the honourable member to act as liaison officer we will get somewhere with the waterside workers and the shipowners. Today we need more understanding and reasoning.

I always listen to the Leader of the Opposition with much interest because he speaks to us intelligently and from his remarks we generally learn something. I do not intend to try to pull him down in any way because I have the greatest respect for him, but he made some statements on price control which I want to refute.

In this debate he said that inflation was the price paid by the people for listening to Mr. Menzies, Mr. Playford, the press and radio satellites. I take it that he meant that, if the referendum had resulted in a victory for "Yes" instead of "No," such inflation would not have occurred. The Leader of the Opposition went on to say that since 1948 the cost of living had increased tremendously. However, Mr. Menzies, Mr. Playford, the press and radio satellites contributed no more to the present conditions than the Leader of the Opposition or the tens of thousands of his supporters. Rather it has been brought about by circumstances over which no-one in this country has much control. Mr. O'Halloran quoted Barbara Ward as saying:—

Higher food production was essential for Australia's survival and that of the Commonwealth and the free world. Food was the greatest need of the 20th century. There would be a shortage for the next 20 years.

Apparently, that lady made those remarks in speaking to a country women's organization. Had she been speaking to the wives of men working in the Broken Hill Proprietary Company she would have undoubtedly stressed the shortage of steel and the fact that it would be short for the next 20 years. Had she been

speaking in Newcastle to miners' wives, she would have stressed the need for coal. I assume that Barbara Ward is a patriot who speaks always for the good of the country.

The *Advertiser* of July 25, contained an article by Barbara Ward which read as follows:—

But price control is useful only if the flood of purchasing power has been cut back by other means. Otherwise price control is too frail a dam to hold back the floodwaters of excessive demand.

There is an enormous amount of money in Australia today and an excessive demand for the goods available. This state of affairs has been brought about by Soviet Russia's unwillingness to co-operate with the United Nations Organization. The member for Chaffey said that in World Wars I. and II. men had risen from poverty to riches because of the temporary inflation brought about by the wars. Today Australia has war fever and is suffering from "ding-dong" inflation because of Soviet Russia's efforts to jeopardize the Australian democratic way of life. While that country continues to remain aloof, we will have inflation, because the decent nations will stockpile the necessary armaments in case Soviet Russia attacks them. To say that inflation is due to Liberal politics is merely to further Communistic propaganda.

The member for Adelaide went to much trouble to brand Mr. Menzies as terrible, because he said he would sack 10,000 civil servants. The word "sack" will shortly be lost from our vocabulary, because it is usual for people to walk out of their jobs today. Hardly anyone is sacked. Mr. Menzies should be commended for his action. Tens of thousands of immigrants are being brought into this country. We were never shorter of manpower than at present. Mr. Menzies has decided too many civil servants are engaged in non-productive work, and wishes to transfer 10,000 of them to constructive work. Barbara Ward says:—

The most positive anti-inflationary step in Australia is therefore a determined effort to get manpower and resources back into essential work.

Members should not use the sanctuary of this House to make statements which are not justified. These 10,000 civil servants will find other employment easily. I ask leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 10.9 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, August 8, at 2 p.m.