

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, August 8, 1951.

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

SHORTAGE OF REFINED SUGAR.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked yesterday about sugar supplies?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The honourable member's question was placed before Mr. Layton, General Manager of the Colonial Sugar Refining Co., who replied as follows:—

Sugar restrictions and lack of production are due to the shortage and poor quality of fuel. The company is using Leigh Creek and Newcastle coal and fuel oil. It takes half a ton of this mixture to refine one ton of raw sugar. Shortage of these fuels therefore causes shortage of production. The sugar is being distributed as equitably as possible. About a month ago the company increased the rate of distribution to wholesalers and some manufacturers from 80 per cent to 90 per cent of quotas. An additional reason for the sugar shortage is that in some instances the raw sugar has deteriorated due to lack of shipping. It is received in a damp condition and takes more refining.

Mr. Layton assured me that the company was doing everything possible to ensure the fairest distribution of sugar in the circumstances.

Mr. TEUSNER—For some years fruit canneries have had to limit production because of a sugar shortage. I am reminded of a particular cannery in my district which has found it difficult to carry on, particularly in the last 12 months, because of a sugar shortage. Has the Premier any knowledge of large quantities of sugar being exported from Australia and, if so, would he communicate with the Federal authorities with a view to restricting exports so that essential requirements of Australian industries can be met?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Large quantities of sugar are exported from Australia, but I understand that it is in a semi-refined condition. It is the refining which causes the present bottleneck. Not often, but occasionally, there is a surplus of refined sugar in Queensland, and I will see if it is possible to draw additional supplies of that sugar from that State to meet the shortage here. I do not hold out much hope, but on a previous occasion we got relief to the extent of about 7,000 to 8,000 tons. I will see if it can be done again.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I have been informed that in the absence of refined sugar customers are compelled to take unrefined sugar from various distributors. As this unrefined sugar is sold at the same price as refined sugar people feel they are subjected to a price disability and hardship. Has this question been investigated and, if so, what was the result and, if not, will an inquiry be made to see whether when people are forced to take unrefined sugar they can procure it at a lower price than refined sugar?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Last session an honourable member raised this question and the Prices Commissioner then examined the position and was reasonably satisfied with the situation. However, the same conditions may not exist today and I will ask him to make a further investigation and let me know what action, if any, is deemed necessary when the full facts are obtained.

KANGAROO ISLAND HARBOUR FACILITIES.

Mr. BROOKMAN—Some months ago the Royal Commission on State Transport Services furnished a report on the transport problems of Kangaroo Island. In view of that report, what are the Government's intentions in this matter?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—With the concurrence of the Minister of Marine and at the request of the Harbors Board I have discussed with the Board on the site the possibilities of improving shipping facilities at Kangaroo Island. The two main proposals under discussion were (1) an entirely new port to be constructed at Ballast Head, which is fairly close to the entrance to American River, and (2) additional facilities to be provided at Kingscote. The best port can be made at Ballast Head, but there is no township there and the hinterland is difficult. For these reasons the Harbors Board has recommended improved facilities at Kingscote by improving, re-making, and considerably lengthening the jetty. This is a major work and I expect that it will be necessary for the Public Works Committee to report upon it. In the meantime the Harbors Board will immediately take up the question of improving the shore facilities to enable the services to be maintained pending the big project being put into operation, and a sum of probably £7,000 is to be expended for that purpose.

BUTTER PRICES.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Yesterday the Premier said he hoped that a decision in respect of butter prices would be made this week, and also intimated that he was awaiting advice from other States. In view of the announcement in the press this morning to the effect that New South Wales is definitely of the opinion that any increased return to producers should be by way of payments met by the Commonwealth, can the Premier give any further information?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I have had no further information from the other States beyond what is contained in the report mentioned. It appears from it that the States of Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, and Tasmania are in agreement that some increase should be given immediately to dairymen. It also appears that New South Wales has decided not to give any increase in price, but to attempt to force a subsidy from the Commonwealth Government to make up the deficiency. That decision creates a very difficult position. Butter equalization is an Australian-wide scheme and it is not possible, in my opinion, for one State to take individual action. For example, if South Australia raised the price of butter by 1s. a pound, that extra return would be paid into the Equalization Fund and the South Australian consumer would pay an extra 1s. a pound, but the South Australian producer would get possibly only an extra 1d. in common with the producers of the other States. I very much deplore the fact that New South Wales has not fallen into line with the other States, but until the Commonwealth Government's decision is known it is useless to speculate on what action is to be taken. The Commonwealth Government will have the matter before it in Cabinet today and I presume it will announce some decision tonight. It will then be possible to see whether further action should be taken.

SUPERPHOSPHATE SUPPLIES.

Mr. GOLDNEY—In view of the shortage of sulphuric acid can the Minister of Agriculture indicate what amount of superphosphate will be available to primary producers for the 1952 season? Also, is it expected that any further rationing of supplies will be necessary?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—The question of supplies and the quality of superphosphate was discussed at the last meeting of the Agricultural Council. It was decided that no variation in the quality of superphosphate

should take place until the States and the Commonwealth Minister for Commerce and Agriculture had agreed to it. Following upon the meeting of the Agricultural Council, representatives of the superphosphate companies waited on me and pointed out that there would only be sufficient supplies of acid available to manufacture 280,000 tons of superphosphate for the coming year, whereas the State's requirements, based on present rationing, are 315,000 tons. The companies suggested that the Government agree to their using the same quantity of acid with a greater quantity of rock, producing a 36-38 per cent super. They said that that would enable them to meet requirements of South Australian farmers and graziers, with a lower water soluble content in the super. The companies pointed out that by drawing upon accumulated stocks last year they had been able to supply about 293,000 tons. I communicated with the Commonwealth Minister for Commerce and Agriculture, pointing out what the companies had put to me. I understand that they have also communicated with the Minister, but I have not yet heard anything further from him. Any arrangement such as is suggested for the production of superphosphate should come about by agreement between the States, as it is obvious that if any State led the way the others would have to follow later and I do not think South Australia should be placed in that position. The superphosphate companies have advised that, following upon reduced rationing this year, the probability is that further reduced rationing will be necessary in the following year. They expect that the Nairne pyrites mine will be in production by that time and will be able to supply sufficient pyrites and sulphur to meet South Australia's requirements.

PUBLICATION OF FIXED PRICES.

Mr. STEPHENS—In this morning's press the Premier is reported as having supplied a statement showing the prices to be charged for meat. Can he go further and have the prices fixed for other commodities published so that the public will know whether they are being charged the right price by sellers and thus protect themselves from overcharges?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Wherever possible we have made prices available to the public, but it would be difficult to publish some prices because in some instances the prices for the same commodities in shops in the same street or even in the same shop may be different because of the circumstances under which they were purchased. The prices of the trader

operating on a margin fluctuate according to how he buys. It is difficult in such circumstances for the Prices Commissioner to fix prices. We have published petrol prices for every town in the State, but it is a lengthy computation and difficult to arrive at. I would like to be able to do as the honourable member suggests because it would be useful to the public and to the trade, but in the circumstances under which price control operates it is, unfortunately, impracticable. The statement I issued covered meat sold within a certain distance of the General Post Office, and did not apply to all meat sold in the State.

FISH PRICES.

Mr. RICHES—Port Augusta fishermen claim that in the week they received 1s. 6d. per lb., less freight and commission, for silver whiting on the Adelaide market the price on the Adelaide retail market was 7s. a lb. On their behalf I mentioned the matter to the Prices Commissioner and he said that at present the fish prices were not controlled. Will the Premier have an investigation made into the wholesale and retail fish prices operating in the metropolitan area with a view to determining whether they should be recontrolled? I have been informed by the fishermen that they are compelled to sell to Daw's Fish Market in Adelaide. In view of this I think the matter warrants a thorough investigation.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The prices of fish were controlled, but it was found a most difficult line to police largely because many fishermen were individualists and proceeded to sell their products at prices gravely in excess of the fixed prices. For a number of years we tried to police the sale of fish, but, owing to some retailers, such as cafes and hotels, selling fish in a cooked condition, this was found to be impracticable. At present fishermen have markets in which their fish may be sold through agents. The Government has also supported the establishment of a co-operative society which markets the fishermen's produce. As far as I know, there is no law to prevent a fisherman from selling his fish retail to any customer who may desire to buy it.

Mr. RICHES—A fisherman cannot sell direct to retailers.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I know of no law prohibiting him from doing so.

Mr. Stott—It is an arrangement he has with the fish merchants.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Fishermen's Co-operative Society, Melbourne agents, and the Adelaide fish market are all interests which compete for the fishermen's product. Our extensive experience in the control of fish prices was not happy, because in many instances we found we were penalizing the honest trader and subsidizing the dishonest one. I believe every State has now decontrolled fish prices.

ERECTION OF HOMES AT KIRTON POINT FOR ELECTRICITY TRUST.

Mr. PEARSON—In a letter addressed to me the secretary of the Kirton Point Progress Association, Port Lincoln, indicates that he understands the Electricity Trust proposes to erect a number of prefabricated houses at Kirton Point for the housing of its staff to be employed in the power station being built there. The land on which it is proposed to build these houses comes within the area prescribed by the municipal by-laws as a "stone house" area. Whilst Port Lincoln people appreciate the way in which the trust is getting on with its job and do not wish to impede its activities, they suggest two alternatives: either that the houses may be of brick and perhaps erected by the Housing Trust contractor at Port Lincoln, or that they may be built one street back from that in which the land has been secured, thereby placing them outside the "stone house" area. Will the Premier take up this matter with the Electricity Trust and ascertain whether the facts are as stated, and, if they are, will he suggest these alternatives to the trust so that houses may be erected without contravening the building by-laws?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I will call for a report from the Housing Trust, and, when it is available, will be pleased to discuss the topic with the honourable member. I think it will be found that the supply of bricks available at Port Lincoln is being fully absorbed by the Housing Trust in its normal housing activities. The difficulty in connection with stone is that stonemasons are extremely hard to get. Our experience in construction of stone buildings has not been particularly successful. The alternative then arises, as the honourable member said, of erecting prefabricated buildings on another site. Before we can go into that, I will discuss the matter with the Housing Trust and then communicate with the honourable member.

USE OF COUNCIL FUNDS.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—I have received a letter from the Upper Murray Local Government Association in which it inquires what is the intention of the Minister of Local Government in regard to district councils and corporations in the Murray Valley contributing funds to the Murray Valley Development League?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—In the earlier days of the league some of the councils did subscribe funds to that cause but were later advised by their auditors that their powers did not permit that to be done. Realizing the value it would be to the councils, the Premier was approached on the matter and following that the Parliamentary Draftsman was instructed to frame an amendment to see whether it would be possible to extend the powers of councils to enable them to subscribe to causes outside the limited powers now existing without unnecessarily opening the door to appeals backed by high pressure politics for objectives quite outside the purposes for which ratepayers paid their rates. When the Bill to amend the Local Government Act is introduced it will contain an amendment towards the desired end. The position must be safeguarded so that funds subscribed by ratepayers are not dissipated in directions outside that of immediate necessity.

MOORLANDS COALFIELD.

Mr. McKENZIE—Although there are unlimited quantities of coal at shallow depths available at Moorlands, lime burners in the district have to import American oil to burn their lime, and wood, which is almost unprocurable, is costing £3 a ton. Will the Premier consider using some of the plant from the Leigh Creek coalfield to develop the Moorlands field and thus enable sugar to be refined and power to be provided for other industries? The coal has been tested by Richards Industries with successful results.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I think members will join with me in expressing gratification at the improvement in the honourable member's health, enabling him to resume his Parliamentary duties. The development of the Moorlands coalfield has been considered by the Government for a considerable time. A question was recently asked in the Commonwealth Parliament whether the Commonwealth Government would assist in the project. I welcomed that suggestion because it enabled the whole matter to be placed before the Commonwealth technical officers to see whether the considera-

tion I believed to be of importance was, in fact, important, and whether my conclusions were justified when analysed by other authorities. The data concerning the Moorlands field was submitted to the Commonwealth Minister for Fuel to see if it were, in the Commonwealth Government's opinion, a feasible proposition which should be gone on with, and whether there was a possibility of its being successful. After a considerable time and after figures had been considered by the Commonwealth experts a report came back from the Minister that the Commonwealth was not able at present to recommend any expenditure on opening this field. The overburden and the quality of the coal are against making it an attractive proposition. I assure the honourable member that if Moorlands coal were available to the sugar refinery it would not be able to use it. The company is even obliged to use a considerable amount of oil with Leigh Creek and Newcastle coal, which are both of a higher calorific value than Moorlands coal.

FUNERAL CHARGES.

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES—The Commissioner of Succession Duties will allow a deduction of up to £35 only for funeral expenses, but, I doubt, whether any funeral can be conducted for that amount in Adelaide nowadays. Are funeral expenses under any control and, if not, will the Premier have an inquiry made? I do not wish to reflect on the great majority of undertakers who render a very fine and delicate service to the community, but there are some who exploit the feelings of the bereaved and charge unjustifiable sums.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The services of funeral directors are not at present under price control so I have no knowledge of their charges or whether they are reasonable, but I will ask the Prices Commissioner to examine the matter and when his report is to hand I will be glad to discuss it with the honourable member or any other member interested.

MARGINAL LANDS.

Mr. STOTT—It was stated last session that the comprehensive report of the Marginal Lands Committee would be placed before Cabinet to see if any legislation should be brought down. Will that report be released to the House and does the Government intend to bring down legislation this session?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—An interim committee was appointed to examine the full report in connection with marginal lands. I

have not that report with me, but will secure it for the honourable member. Briefly, it was to the effect that the committee could not see any good purpose in recommending further legislation in the interests of settlers on marginal lands.

SHORTAGE OF SOAP AT LEIGH CREEK.

Mr. DAVIS—There is an acute shortage of soap at Leigh Creek. Will the Premier take this matter up with the Electricity Trust with a view to having adequate supplies made available on the coalfield?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes.

EYRE PENINSULA WATER SUPPLIES.

Mr. PEARSON—Can the Minister of Works state what quantities of water are held in reservoirs on Eyre Peninsula?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I am glad to say that as a result of good rains on the West Coast the Tod River reservoir is practically two-thirds full and contains 1,681,000,000 gall. Cowell and Cleve reservoirs, although not up to that capacity, contain the very useful quantity of about 70,000,000 gallons and they can be well held now by the water from the Tod River. The position on the West Coast, as with other reservoirs, is now very satisfactory.

RURAL WORKERS AND AMENDMENTS TO INDUSTRIAL CODE.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked recently as to whether the Australian Primary Producers Union had made representations to the Government to alter the Industrial Code?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I took the matter up with the Public Service Commissioner to see if any letter had been received from the union. The Commissioner reported that no request for an amendment of the Industrial Code regarding rural workers had been received in his office from the Australian Primary Producers Union.

YALATA MISSION STATION.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—Last year, in answer to my request, the Minister of Works assured me that before a mission station was established at Yalata he would send either Mr. Penhall or some other responsible officer to the area to discuss the proposition with local settlers. Now that the purchase has been successfully concluded, does the Minister intend to send Mr. Penhall forthwith to the area?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I think Mr. Penhall will go to the west coast on Friday week

to attend celebrations taking place at Koonibba Station. When the honourable member made his suggestion the matter was in a state of flux and there was a great deal of local opposition to the proposition that Yalata be converted into a station for aborigines. Unfortunately, the gentleman who was most anxious that the station should not be acquired for that purpose told us rather bluntly that he did not want anyone to go over there, so Mr. Penhall did not go. Before the station was acquired the points raised by the local people and the requirements of some people adjoining the station were considered. The Aborigines Protection Board forwarded a minute to the Government to the effect that if the property was acquired the board would not oppose the suggestion that some of the land on the eastern end of the property be made available to local farmers, provided officers of the Aborigines Department and members of the Land and Pastoral Boards certified that this could be done without prejudice to native welfare. We believe that that can be done. The station contains about 1,000,000 acres and on the western side there are also unallotted Crown lands that could be used for native requirements. Mr. Penhall will confer with local residents, but whatever is done will have to be done with the concurrence of the Aborigines Protection Board and the other two boards acting in conjunction. I think that that safeguards the position.

Mr. RICHES—Can the Minister assure the House that before any of Yalata Station is made available to white settlers adequate provisions will be made for native settlement in the future? There is a feeling that the younger natives should be trained in suitable land husbandry and that the next generation should acquire some land upon which to operate. If land is made available from this station to white settlers at this stage will the Minister undertake to see that a sufficient area is retained for the settlement of the next generation of aborigines, when they should be in a position to take up land in their own right?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I think the whole object is, not the settlement of the aborigines in settlements, but to get them out into the community.

Mr. RICHES—Yes, make them cheap labour.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Nothing of the sort. A great number are now employed in public utilities, such as roads and railways, and they receive the same rate of pay, and always must, as other sections of employees.

If the honourable member had listened carefully he would have noted the very definite proviso in respect of the alienation of this land for any purpose, namely, "Provided officers of the Aborigines Department and members of the Land and Pastoral Boards certify that this can be done without prejudice to native welfare." I cannot take it further. The final decision will be in the hands of the Government and I am sure the honourable member will be glad that firstly, we have purchased the land and, secondly, that we do not want land idle which can be better applied to other purposes. Subject to those reservations the station is primarily for the benefit of the aborigines, and it will be so used.

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES—Referring to a question on the Notice Paper yesterday to which the Minister of Works gave me a very courteous reply, can he now say whether the University resents inquiry into how it spends money granted to it by this Parliament?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I have not had personal contact with any member of the University Council, but I would hate, to think that that was their attitude for I believe they would welcome the fullest investigation into their affairs, provided it was within the scope of Parliament. They are a self-regulating authority by statute, and I have had no evidence of any resentment on their part.

MEAT MEAL SUPPLIES.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—Since I drew the attention of the Minister of Agriculture yesterday to the rise in the price of meat meal in connection with the production of eggs, I have been informed that there is an even more important aspect to this question, namely, that no meat meal can be procured, at any price, by pig breeders and poultry men in the metropolitan area, very largely, I understand, because tomato growers are using meat meal as manure. I realize that there is considerable difficulty associated with interfering between buyer and seller, but I would draw the Minister's attention to the fact that there is some precedent for it in respect of superphosphate, and even in the allocation of sugar to the community. In view of the difficult times through which those primary industries are passing, will the Minister take up with the major producing companies in South Australia the allocation of sufficient meat meal for pig breeders and poultry men?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—The honourable member is now becoming a first-class bureaucrat and wants me to step in to determine to whom meat meal is to be sold. I do not know whether he is serious in this matter, but does he suggest that the meal, which he says is being used by tomato growers and as a consequence is helping to provide food for human consumption, should be switched to some other avenue? The greater part of the meat meal is made by the Metropolitan Abattoirs, which does not sell retail in quantities, but to regular wholesalers. It, therefore, becomes a question of whether the wholesalers are to be put under any restrictions in their purchases. As a good deal of policy is involved I will discuss the matter with my colleagues in Cabinet before giving a definite answer.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE INQUIRIES.

Mr. STOTT—As the cost of public works is much more than it was many years ago, and as the limitation of £30,000 in the Public Works Standing Committee Act compels reference to that committee of many lesser projects for which a Minister might well accept responsibility, does the Government, as a matter of policy, intend to review the Act with a view to bringing it more into line with present day conditions by increasing the limit to say £50,000 or £60,000?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Last year I discussed this topic with the Chairman of the Public Works Committee and asked him, in turn, to discuss it with members of his committee. The committee at that time intimated that it felt it would be unwise to alter the provisions of the Act. As the honourable member has raised the question again I will submit it in due course to Mr. Christian for the consideration of his committee and, after receiving its report, I will place it before Cabinet. The honourable member will then be furnished with a reply.

FREE MILK FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Mr. RICHES—Can the Treasurer give any further information regarding the distribution of milk in schools, particularly in relation to the distribution of milk in bulk where that system had been operating successfully until this year and has been held up only because of the increased price which has obtained and the publicity given to the Commonwealth Government's free milk scheme?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I have submitted the honourable member's question, but have not had a reply. As soon as it comes to hand I will see that the honourable member gets it.

TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE.

Mr. LAWN—About twelve months ago the Government appointed a Town Planning Committee to make recommendations in regard to the metropolitan area. Has that committee yet made any recommendations?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—It is a very comprehensive committee and I think meetings have been held, but no report has reached me. As its field is very wide I think it will be some time before we can expect a report.

WOOLLEN MILLS.

Mr. McKENZIE—As the Premier knows, we are sending away thousands of bales of greasy wool and buying it back through the hands of middle-men so that, by the time woollen goods reach the consumers, the price is exorbitant. Will the Premier inquire into the possibility of bringing woollen mills from England or the continent to manufacture wool here and so assist in stabilizing the pound? If such mills are established here we will get full value for the pound.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The honourable member can rely on my support for any project along those lines.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

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

(Continued from August 7. Page 246.)

Mr. McLACHLAN (Victoria)—Last night I went to some trouble to try to convince the House that the cause of inflation did not lie with many of the people on whom some people tried to place the blame, and referred to the proposed dismissal of 10,000 Commonwealth civil servants and their transfer into more profitable types of industry. I think members will agree that it is a wise move because, if these employees find their way into other industries, greater production with a lower cost of living and a higher living standard will result. I feel that many business houses in the Commonwealth could well follow the Prime Minister's suggestion. Reference has been made to the large quantity of luxury goods being manufactured in Australia. It has been suggested that higher taxation should be levied on profits derived from such sources, but if we could get men and

women engaged in the production of luxury goods to enter more essential industries we would do much to combat inflation. I agree, somewhat, with the Leader of the Opposition when he said that we were possibly nearing the end of high prices. Wool prices have already dropped considerably from the peak period of February and March and if the wool market declines we must naturally overcome some of our present inflationary tendencies. Members must realize that inflation is not the curse that its after effects might prove to be. They are something which we will have to prepare for and pay marked attention to. It is well recognized that the people understand that inflation is really a test to the nation and that if we are to emerge from it we must have real unity. I suggest to all members of Parliament, both here and in other States, that if we will only look to the virtues in one another instead of trying to make political capital out of the matter we shall be doing something really worthwhile.

I read the Governor's Speech with much interest. It was an excellent one and catered for practically all parts of the State and all classes. The Leader of the Opposition justly claimed that the Party he represents gave great assistance in the establishment of the projects mentioned by His Excellency. It is a great thing for democracy and the State to have a Parliament in which members of the Opposition can play a most effective part. I hope that in future, whatever Party may be in opposition here, it will always receive a good hearing and consideration from the Government in power. I was naturally interested in the Governor's reference to the provision of portable classrooms for schools in various districts. I reside in one of the most prosperous parts of the State, where the population is increasing rapidly, but much difficulty is experienced in providing comforts and amenities for our school children. We are benefiting, however, through the erection of the new portable school rooms.

We have every reason to be proud of the State's housing programme. Last night the member for Hindmarsh went to much trouble to point out that the South Australian housing programme did not compare as favourably as he would like with that of other States. I shall not argue with him on the question; possibly his figures are authentic, but it is pleasing to note that the people of South Australia are, generally speaking, satisfied with the number of houses being erected. All right

thinking people must realize that the Government is doing everything possible to provide much needed amenities for the people.

Mr. Teusner—A better class of home is being built in South Australia than in any State.

Mr. McLACHLAN—If we provide more amenities we shall automatically get more homes. Today the Housing Trust has 97 contractors, proving that the Government has the confidence of the people. In a recent talk with a prominent interstate bank manager he said that his town was experiencing great difficulty in getting contractors because so many preferred to do "spot building"—building houses for themselves, not for clients, and selling them at exorbitant prices. That state of affairs definitely does not exist in South Australia. I express my appreciation to those contractors who are doing so much to assist the Minister of Repatriation in the settlement of ex-servicemen on the land and it is pleasing to note the attractive type of house that is being built throughout the South-East. That work must counter some of the propaganda which is put out about soldier settlers being tired of waiting to be allotted blocks. The work in hand is proof that the Government is doing everything possible for them. I was perturbed on reading a recent statement, not by the Minister, but by the Land Settler's Association at Mount Gambier, that a number of would-be applicants appeared to be diverting their interests in other directions. I trust that the Minister will not be disappointed with the results of our land settlement scheme and will continue with his vigorous policy of getting as much land as he can and settling as many ex-servicemen as possible. The proposal to establish a Young Farmers' School meets with my approval. I am a primary producer and feel that primary production could be greatly increased with proper education in rural activities. The personnel of the committee which the Government intends to place in charge of the school greatly interests me. I urge the Government to appoint practical men to the committee, not theorists, but men with experience who probably started with very little and achieved much by dint of hard work and vision. I hope that the young people who attend the school will not believe that they will automatically get a block of land, because they may be disappointed later. We have a responsibility to settle on the land as many people as possible, because South Australia is still a primary

producing State. The Leader of the Opposition suggested compulsory acquisition of land, but I hope we never have it. It is something which is unfortunately characteristic in countries behind the Iron Curtain or those on the verge of going behind it. We have a section in our community who hold large areas of land without developing it. I have no sympathy with them. For settlement purposes the Government should buy as much land as possible. I have said previously that during the last 20 years 75 per cent of the land in my district has changed hands at some time or another. No doubt in the next 20 years history will repeat itself, especially if wool prices continue to fall as at present.

I was interested in questions asked by Mr. Hutchens in connection with meat prices. It is a subject in which everyone is concerned. Meat prices at present are exorbitant. It will be remembered that for several years now I have asked the Minister of Agriculture whether something could not be done to avail ourselves of the thousands of sheep which are left to "melt" in the paddocks instead of being brought to the abattoirs to be slaughtered. I have been given many reasons why it cannot be done. It happens every December, and no doubt it will happen again next December. There is no more economical way of storing meat than to put it in the freezers. At present meat is fetching from 16d. to 22d. a pound. Last December thousands of sheep could have been bought for 3d. to 4d. a pound. I hope the Minister and the slaughtermen will get together to see what can be done to make meat available when shortages occur. When we have them innocent people are blamed. Last Sunday I spoke to an influential stock salesman in Adelaide about the Monday market and he thought prices would fall because Mr. Playford had put his inspectors into the butchering business. No doubt our Premier did that, but it was done because his attention was rightly drawn to butchers charging more than the fixed prices. Those with a knowledge of the meat business know that if the butchers had not charged the increased prices they would have gone insolvent. Mr. Hutchens suggested that the Government may have condoned their action, but the Premier denied it. Meat prices have now been increased overall by about 4d. a lb. In about three months time there will be another approach to the Prices Commissioner for a reduction, but between now and then the butchers will benefit because they will not be in a hurry to bring down their prices.

I suggest that minor accidents on our roads should not be reported to the police. Recently I was concerned in a minor accident, because when ranking my car I scratched another vehicle. The cost of repairing the damage was about 25s., but the driver of the other vehicle and I had to go to the police station to make an extensive report on the matter. Probably three man-hours were wasted in making the report. When a minor accident occurs, and the two parties are agreeable, I think it should not be reported. Much paper is used in reporting thousands of minor accidents, and it should be avoided if possible. If the driver of a vehicle runs over a dog he should not be compelled to report it to the police. If the owner of the dog values the animal so little as to allow it to roam it is ludicrous for a report to be made to the police when the dog is killed.

The condition of our highways represents a difficult problem. Undoubtedly heavy vehicles are causing the trouble. Some of the drivers show scant appreciation of the roads over which they travel. There are speed and weight limits for various sized vehicles, but little notice is taken of them. The other day I travelled behind a semi-trailer with 10 wheels and carrying from 12 to 15 tons, and for some distance it cruised along at about 50 miles an hour. If these people showed more consideration to road users there would be less trouble. I urge the Minister to do everything possible to police driving on that road, although I realize that most of the heavy traffic travels by night when there is less chance of its being policed.

In speaking of the forthcoming referendum I do not want to imply that any loyal person advocating a "No" vote has Communistic tendencies. However, I am anxious that the result of the referendum will give the Federal Parliament the powers it seeks. I am at a loss to understand why so many of my Labor friends seem to be so fearful of any Government, whether Liberal or Labor, getting those powers.

Mr. O'Halloran—You would not give these powers to a Labor Government a few years ago.

Mr. McLACHLAN—We begged Mr. Chifley to do something about the Communist menace. The *Industrial Victoria* of April last reports Mr. Peters, MHR, in addressing 1,000 workers at a meeting in Melbourne organized by the A.L.P. Industrial Group, as saying that unless Australians woke up they would find themselves ruled by a small coterie of trade union leaders

with their headquarters in Moscow. He said that trade unionists were entitled to meet in freedom from intimidation and "basher tactics." Mr. Scully, M.L.A., in Victoria is reported as having said "The day we get clean ballots the day of Communist-controlled unions is ended." Mr. V. Alford, a senior vice-president of the Waterside Workers' Federation, is credited with saying that much of the waterfront trouble was caused by the Communist Party. Those statements made by men holding high office in Labor circles show clearly how great a menace is Communism. In speaking in this debate the honourable member for Port Adelaide, who has been associated with Labor for many years, said "The Waterside Workers' Federation should be encouraged to get rid of the Communists from its ranks." Is there any better way of getting rid of the Communists than by giving the Government the power to deal with them?

During the last two World Wars many persons have been interned for making statements disloyal to the British Empire. Many of them were of German origin and sympathetic toward that country. In Australia today men of Australian birth are denouncing their own country in favour of another. Something must be done about this sad state of affairs.

Mr. Riches—Why don't you have those people interned?

Mr. McLACHLAN—This measure will have a greater effect than that, because offenders of other than Australian origin may be deported to their country of origin, those of Australian birth being interned. I am amazed to hear members opposite advocate a "No" vote, because they have as much to fear as anyone from the Communists who are trying to white-ant our industrial life. In speaking on this matter the Leader of the Opposition said he was not prepared to sacrifice fundamental human rights; but if this menace is not attacked few rights will be left in this country. Last evening in making one of his points, the member for Hindmarsh said that he and his pals had stood at an open grave. Communists wish to destroy the democracy we enjoy and throw the freedom of thousands of men and women into an open grave. All Australians have a responsibility to do something about this matter. There are traitors in this country who have no love for the British Empire, and who are prepared to sacrifice everything decent, including our democracy and the souls of Australians, for their own personal gain and glory. Members opposite should realize that their future is in

jeopardy and, regardless of what they say for political reasons, should vote "Yes" in order to rid Australia of Communism and thereby make the way of the Labor Party easier. I am as much interested as members opposite in the continuance of the Labor Party, because its politics have done much to benefit the State and will always do much for democracy; but I do not want those politics to be subservient to Communism. I support the motion.

Mr. McALEES (Walleroo)—Like other speakers I am pleased to know that their Majesties the King, the Queen, and Princess Margaret will visit Australia. This visit will go down in history, because it will be the first paid to this country by a reigning king and queen. I congratulate the mover and the seconder of the motion on their contributions, although I disagree with several of their points. According to the member for Torrens and the member for Mitcham the way to solve inflation is simple. They said there was only one way to counteract it and that was for the people to work harder, for 48 hours a week or even 60 hours if necessary, and they also suggested that workers should forego their holidays. If we are to wait for those drastic measures to be introduced we shall be much older and there will be many headaches in trying to introduce them. If the Australian people had not been misled and fooled at the last two Commonwealth elections and a Labor Government had been returned we would not be in our present position. The people were misled in the press and over the air in such a way that the majority were induced to vote for the Liberal and Country Party, which also had the banks behind it. The only reasonable suggestion I have heard from the other side came from the member for Burnside, who suggested that the Government should appoint a committee similar to our existing standing committees and inclusive of members of both sides to consider various problems as they arose. I believe that is one way to overcome our difficulties. I am not a high financier and do not believe in trying to do something beyond my capacity, and I will therefore leave it to a higher authority to handle the subject of inflation. Members should not panic, because in time the position will right itself. There was little reference to Government policy in the Governor's opening Speech and certainly nothing concerning my district. In their speeches members opposite have taken us to Moscow, but I do not intend to take members farther than Wallaroo and Moonta.

Before the Government embarks upon heavy expenditure to install a bulk handling system for wheat I hope it will give it very serious consideration and remember that in South Australia there are about 40 ports, several of which are visited by overseas ships. Although bulk handling may be profitable in some of the other States, the Government should consider whether such a proposition would be economical to the State because of the number of ports. For many years a form of bulk handling has been adopted here, the wheat bags being slit over the ship's hatches, enabling the sacks to be further used. In my district hundreds of thousands of bags of wheat are shipped every season and many families there depend entirely upon such seasonal work for a livelihood. The district has already been hit hard enough, and I therefore hope it will not be hit again by the introduction of bulk handling.

There is still an abundance of copper to be mined in the district, practical miners contending there is as much ore still in the ground as has already been removed. By boring to test a field for copper it is possible to miss a valuable lode by only a few feet. That is the opinion of practical men. They have told me that the only way to test an area properly is to sink a shaft and then drive in various directions. I mentioned this matter last session, and it was then mooted that a search for copper was to be made at Wallaroo and Moonta. I understand an aeroplane flying at hundreds of feet at about 80 to 90 miles an hour was to be used. I was told by one who supports this idea that such wonderful instruments are now available that it is possible by this method to ascertain the various types of metals existing hundreds of feet below the surface. If that will work, I must be a long way behind the times. I have since been told that instead of an aeroplane being used for the search the same instrument will be carried in a jeep and driven over the area. That is certainly getting a bit closer to earth. I certainly hope that the Government's efforts will not be in vain, but if they are successful it will certainly put heart into the people of the district. When the Wallaroo and Moonta mines were closed many years ago copper was selling for just under £40 a ton, whereas the most recent quotation I saw was £330. Recently the shift boss at Wallaroo mines told me nobody knew the mines were closing down until a few days before. Had this present Government been in office in those days the mines would not have closed, nor would they have been closed if a Government of another Party had been in power. All the

assets were on the field and all that was required to keep them going was a subsidy. But what could we expect? The chairman of directors of the mines, Sir Lancelot Stirling, was also the President of the Legislative Council, and when the mines closed Sir Henry Barwell was Premier. Once any Government sees fit to allow an undertaking to close it is hard to convince any other Government that it should be re-opened. It is now up to the present Government to make a move, and I believe it will.

Mr. Whittle—Did the Government close down the mines?

Mr. McALEES—It did not help; it did not provide a subsidy. The company went into liquidation, but the shareholders had made their money and took the wealth from the district, leaving the miners to lament and move out. Many of the miners and their families are still in the district. The lure of the city does not attract them because they wish to remain in their homes. If the Government believes in decentralization it should investigate mineral deposits in the district.

Mr. Whittle—There have been some Labor Governments in South Australia since the mines at Wallaroo were closed.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—The last Labor Premier got into office on the promise that he would re-open the mines.

Mr. McALEES—The Housing Trust has done much work in my district but has not been able to build sufficient houses to meet all the applications, some of which were lodged over two years ago. There have been three convictions for breaches of building permits in my district. One man had spent the greatest part of his life on a farm and decided to retire in Kadina. He obtained a permit to build a house but also built a sleepout, thus exceeding the prescribed number of squares. He was fined £75 and not allowed to put another stone or brick into the house, which is still only half finished. Another man was fined £65 and not allowed to continue building. The third case, that of a man of 27 years, produced the greatest injustice of all. He persuaded his parents to allow him to leave school to join the air force during the war and spent two years in the services. He became engaged to a lady who was in the forces and decided to build a house. He was refused a permit, but was allowed to build without one up to the prescribed number of squares. When laying foundations it is wise to lay the whole of them at the beginning. This man put down

foundations for an extra two rooms with no intention of building them until he could get a permit. He worked for two years on his house and spent much time at week-ends and at nights on it, with the help of a friend. An inspector charged him with laying foundations for more than the area allowed and he was brought before the court and fined £50. If the Government has any conscience it should refund that money to him and allow him to complete his house. He has bought the tiles and other necessary materials, but the authorities say he cannot proceed. It is a pity these inspectors do not pay more attention to seeing how many people are living instead of laying charges for small breaches of the law. I have no sympathy for the man who builds over his limit in the city for the purpose of selling in order to make big profits. The young man of whom I have been speaking admits that he was wrong, but I hope the Government can do something to help him.

All the small schools outside of Kadina have been closed because the department cannot obtain enough teachers. Each of these schools had about 12 or 14 children who now have to go to Kadina school which has about 330. Many facilities are needed at this school and I hope that when it is approached the Government will seriously consider the requests because school boys and girls of today will be the men and women of tomorrow, who will have to solve the problems perplexing us today. Our children must be well educated. Nobody knows the value of education better than those who have received very little. It is no wonder that the Education Department cannot get sufficient teachers. Their salaries and conditions should be made more attractive. I know some teachers who come from highly respected families and were sent into outlandish places. It is difficult for them to find accommodation, but after they have settled down they get—

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Married.

Mr. McALEES—There is no harm in that, and I know married women who have left their homes to go teaching. I hope the Government will give serious consideration to what I have said. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

Mr. HAWKER (Burra)—At the outset I express my appreciation of His Excellency's consideration in allowing members of the House of Assembly to be seated while he delivered his speech. I also, like other members, express my pleasure at the improvement

in the King's health and am glad that the visit postponed two years ago now seems certain to be made next year. I congratulate the mover of this motion on his maiden speech. It was well thought out and contained a number of very sound observations, and I am sure he will be an asset not only to his district, but to this Chamber. I also compliment the seconder, but point out to him that, with the exception of Ministers, who must naturally reside near their offices, the majority of country members live in their own districts.

During the recess I visited two countries which have now become, with the advance of modern transport, very close neighbours of Australia, namely, Ceylon and Malaya. I did not go there to study any specific subject, but purely for a holiday. However, through the facilities afforded by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and having friends resident in both countries, I was possibly able to get a better impression than the ordinary traveller. One thing that struck me was that, despite the vast differences in race and of climate, the problems of those two countries are very like our own. They must be of great interest to Australia, for in future they will be either bastions against the spread of Communism southwards, or hot-beds for the seed of Communism. Moreover, they provide Australia with some very essential raw materials such as tea, tin and rubber. Great changes have taken place recently. Ceylon is now self-governing and the people are divided into two broad classes; all those of dark skin are Asians and all whites are regarded as Europeans, even Australians and New Zealanders. However, the groups get on extraordinarily well together and there is not, as I thought there might be, any vindictiveness on the part of the Asians: the crowds are very orderly. There is universal franchise except that no European has a vote, nor have the indentured Tamils or their children, even though they may have been born and reared in Ceylon. The voters are largely illiterate; so much so that a candidate does not advertise his name, but uses a symbol such as a house, a tree, an umbrella or an elephant, and the voter votes for the symbol of his choice. I did not hear of anyone using the symbol of a cow or an ass.

Although Europeans have not a vote they are still required to serve on juries and leading Cingalese are very keen that they should continue to render this service, despite some dissatisfaction on the part of the Europeans who say that, as they have not a vote, they

should not be required to act as jurors. However, the Cingalese are very insistent that they should serve and I think this is a great tribute, even in these days, to British integrity. The House of Representatives is an elected Chamber of about 120 members, and there is a Senate of 30, of whom 15 are elected by the House of Representatives and 15 by the Government; five from each bloc retire every two years.

There are much wider gaps between the Cingalese classes themselves than is found in Australia. First, there is the very definite line drawn by wealth. At the Galle Face Hotel I saw a wedding reception for one member of a family which runs motor omnibuses. The wedding cake was a replica of a motor bus and was, I suppose, four to five feet long. The dress of the women in their native saris was a most wonderful and colourful sight. At the opposite end of the scale there are people sleeping in the street, as in all eastern countries. I was rather interested in an advertisement inserted in a newspaper by a Cingalese, "Lost, one servant girl aged nine years." Of course, no European would dare advertise like that. I have been told by white residents that the general working classes are not very thrilled with the present Government, which is really representative of the more wealthy trading classes. However, British rule will never be restored and the people have only two alternatives. There are two Communist Parties, so if there is any popular uprising against the present Government the only alternative is one or other of the Communist Parties, and therein lies a potential danger to Australia, for Ceylon is on the trade route to Europe; it is now a port of call for both aircraft and ships, and if the new air route via Cocos Island to Western Australia is established it will become an even more important air port than it is today. Each of the Communist Parties held its rally on May Day and it was very interesting to see the numbers of Red Flags, flags emblazoned with hammers and sickles, and so forth, whilst on the outskirts of the crowd were three most modern panel vans selling icecream.

There is another side of self-government. I was told by a man who had much to do with some electrical works being established that the Government had sent two Cingalese to England to study the working of the machinery. The makers sent out their own men to erect the plant, but when it came to starting it up these two men were unable to perform their task, and it makes one wonder how Ceylon is going

to work; there are bound to be teething troubles and it is to be hoped that they will get over them satisfactorily. Another question is that of the tea plantations. There is good tea husbandry and bad. It is important to keep the tea bushes covering as much ground as possible, for the hot sun is very detrimental to the ground itself as it can sterilize the soil and kill all the bacteria in it. The desirable thing is to keep the tea bushes flat and pluck only from the tops, but the native planters pluck all around the bushes which, although giving a much bigger immediate yield, is very bad from a long-range point of view. One can always determine native plantations by the small bushes with bare spaces between.

Mr. O'Halloran—What is the length of life of a tea bush?

Mr. HAWKER—That has not been determined yet. Bushes first planted about 50 years ago are still bearing as well as ever. In its natural state the tea bush grows to a height of 12ft. to 15ft., but they are pruned and kept down to about three feet.

Mr. O'Halloran—And the quality remains constant despite the age?

Mr. HAWKER—The quality is affected only by the season. The district where I stayed has an altitude of 4,000ft. and until the British came there it was virgin scrub. The Cingalese are content to live in small shacks in the valleys and never go into the jungle. When we talk about self-determination for the natives it is well to note what the country was like when the British went there and what they have made it today. The Cingalese are making a big drive for more production. Mr. R. St. L. P. Deraniyagala, M.B.E., gave me some interesting information on the matter. They are instituting a scheme similar to the Tennessee Valley scheme, which is under the control of Americans, whose aim is to give each man three acres of "mud" for growing rice and five acres of highland for sago, rubber and coconut production, a total of eight acres. The land is most productive and Mr. Deraniyagala told me that some men earn sufficient from eight acres to purchase a motor car. There is really no labour problem on the Ceylon tea plantations. Various European tea planters are carefully considering the question of increasing the quarters of the Tamils, although they will be unable to employ them.

From Ceylon I travelled to Malaya, which is experiencing trouble from bandits. Compared with Ceylon, the first thing that strikes

a traveller is the cleanliness of the country. In Ceylon a traveller does not need to open his eyes to see whether he is going through a village. In Malaya he does not have to cover his nose with a handkerchief, as is the case in Ceylon. It is a pleasant sight to see Chinese and Malayan children dressed in uniforms, apparently prosperous and happy. About half the population are Malays, closely followed in numbers by the Chinese, who are most industrious. A Chinaman will tap rubber from 4.30 a.m. to 11 a.m., and from 11 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., will work in the timber mills, later returning to his block to work. It is no fancy that some Chinese become millionaires from rickshaw runners.

Mr. O'Halloran—They must have a most lucrative sideline?

Mr. HAWKER—I do not doubt that. The coolie Tamil, who works at tapping rubber on the plantations, receives extremely good wages, but he is not making the slightest attempt to increase his living standards. He is content to live in a squalid wurlie, getting a little rice and rarely buys his family any other food. It is estimated that he spends one-tenth of his wages on food, the balance being spent on small things like fountain pens, three-gear bicycles, and a large sum on jewellery for his wife. Some money is sent to India. Jewellery is partly an investment as the Tamil has seen British as well as Japanese currency go for nothing and so he puts any savings he has into gold. The amount spent on jewellery is staggering. From one rubber plantation of 36,000 acres, with 6,000 inhabitants, one jeweller makes a profit of £800 a month. One newspaper estimated that the sum spent on gold jewellery in Kuala Lumpur, the capital, totalled £18,000 a day. The country is infested with terrorists, whose creed is Communism. The modern bandits came into being as guerillas when fighting the Japanese. A book by Col. Chapman *The Jungle is Neutral* gives the early history of these happenings.

After the war many guerillas handed in their arms, but the Communists stopped in the jungle. They feed themselves by threatening outlying communities. The terrorists ambush and shoot Europeans, burn buses, and steal identity cards, which it is necessary for all residents to have. Notices are placed on rubber trees by bandits that tappers must not take less than seven dollars a day. I visited a plantation the night after notices were placed on trees.

In Pahang, where the estates are somewhat isolated, I was told that 46 per cent of the

Europeans in the area have been shot up, but at the place I stayed at in Klang guards were not posted round the houses. Re-settlement of outlying estates is occurring and barbed wire is placed round them to prevent bandits from obtaining food and ammunition. The air force is hounding the bandits out of their hide-outs, but the whole job is slow and most expensive. I asked one influential man in Klang if he had any idea how the campaign was going and whether Britain was likely to be "shot out." He replied that Britain had never been "shot out" of any country and that so long as there were bandits the British would remain. The British have a much better chance of staying in Malaya than the Dutch or Indonesians, because they are two different races. The Malaysians know that if the British walked out they would probably have to fight the Chinese for possession of the country. The Chinese own half the tin mines and rubber plantations and most of the land. They also do most of the trading. Despite bandits, Malaya is booming. I saw three tin dredges in a distance of seven miles that are being built, each costing about £750,000 Australian. Rubber planters are replacing their old trees in the plantations with new ones and there is no intention of any wholesale withdrawal of British interests from Malaya.

One thing which interested me was the road traffic code in Ceylon and Malaya. A signal which I have always advocated should be used here, as in England, is that a lorry driver should indicate to a following vehicle whether to pass or not. Any motor or lorry driver who notices another car approaching automatically signals so that the approaching driver will know that it is unsafe to pass at the moment. All lorries have a man at the rear to give the signal. The danger in Malaya is that if the Communists get a grip of the country it will give them a stepping stone to Australia. They know what happened in Indonesia. One thing which gave the Communists their biggest fillip was the fact that the British Government recognized Communist China. Before that the bandit morale was extraordinarily low and there was a chance of stamping them out. There was talk of an amnesty, but nothing was done. The cost of living in both countries is extremely high compared with Australian standards. A good seven-roomed house in Ceylon costs about £15 a week to rent. A cartoon which appeared in the *Straits Times* of Kuala Lumpur in May last depicts Mary and her little lamb. It

has the caption "Modern Malayan Fairy Tale: Mary had a little lamb." Mary's handbag bears the words "Higher wages" and the lamb is branded "Higher prices." Malaya, apparently, has the same problem of inflation that confronts Australia and the cartoon could be applicable to the Commonwealth. There are labour troubles in Malaya because of high prices, and every tin mine and rubber estate wants labour.

It has frequently been mentioned by certain people that until we stop the peoples of eastern nations from breeding as rapidly as they do and threatening the rest of the world there will be trouble. The only way to prevent this rapid breeding of the races is by birth control. Seven birth control clinics are operating in Singapore and when I was there a birth control clinic was being erected in Kuala Lumpur. A doctor with whom I was staying said he was making arrangements to start a birth control clinic in Klang. Some of us may have doubted the practicability of having birth control in eastern countries, but it is the practice there now. When we see two countries so prosperous, and the healthy state of the native population, we realize that Great Britain has done a better job there than any other nation could have done. It will be most regrettable if she gives up the protection of those two countries.

In Ceylon and Malaya prices are rising. I have seen a report from Pretoria, South Africa, dated July 25 last, that the Governor of the South African Reserve Bank issued a warning about inflation in that country. This shows that we are not alone in having an inflationary problem. The matter has been referred to by members on both sides of the House. Several Opposition members said that if price control had remained with the Commonwealth Government we would not have the present inflationary spiral. The Leader of the Opposition gave figures to show how steeply cost of living has risen since the Commonwealth Government relinquished price control. Shortly after the State took over the responsibility there was a definite swing from a seller's market to a buyer's market. We were told of how travellers tried to sell their goods to storekeepers, who were not keen to take them. Such a thing was unknown prior to that time. I have pointed out previously that the travellers offered to reduce prices if the storekeepers would take large quantities of goods. The "C" series of index figures shows the slackening in the rapid rise in cost of

living. For the 12 months following September, 1947, when the Commonwealth Government controlled prices, the "C" series figure rose by 10 per cent. In the next 12 months, when there was State control, the "C" series figure rose by only 8.9 per cent. This shows that State control was more effective than Commonwealth control. Our first major act towards bringing about inflation was the reduction in the exchange rate. This depreciated our currency by 25 per cent. Prior to that time there was a general feeling of stability in Australia. We felt that more goods were coming on to the market and trade was free. Then the Commonwealth Labor Government depreciated our currency by 25 per cent. In June, 1950, when the Korean War started, things overseas tightened up considerably. Then we had the re-armament programme. These two factors could not be foreseen by any Government; also since 1948 the value of our imports has risen by 59 per cent.

One member opposite said that many of the imports were luxury goods and that the Commonwealth Government could immediately prevent their importation. I looked at the details and found that the amount of luxuries imported was very small. The quarterly summary of Australian statistics, for the period ended December, 1950, shows that of our total imports 4.5 per cent represented such luxury items as tobacco, confectionery, edible nuts, pickles, spirits and alcoholic liquors, cushions, doyleys, trimmings and ornaments, toys, fancy goods, precious stones, talking machines, phonographs, perfume, flavourings, antiques, works of art, and musical instruments. Without tobacco the figure was 2.5 per cent. Several members opposite have suggested cures for our inflationary problem. In Great Britain and America there is a strong inflationary spiral. If we are to keep our economy stable in this inflationary world we must re-value the pound. Our economy has been good. I now want to give figures showing increases in prices of certain Australian goods compared with overseas goods. Since 1948 the rise in the price of Australian galvanized iron has been 24.7 per cent. The rise since 1950 has been 14.4 per cent. The rise since 1950 has been 14.4 per cent. The price of imported galvanized iron rose 100 per cent in the same time. Imported rabbit netting a year ago could have been bought for £9 2s. 6d. a 100yd. roll. Today it costs that much for a 50yd. roll. I think we have done a good job in connection with prices.

Mr. Pearson said that we should have more steady work in production. I agree, because our shortages are due more than anything else to continual hold-ups. What is happening in the dairy industry is a manifestation of what is happening with food production throughout the world. We have been warned for several years that because of our growing population we must build up food production. Because it is a seven day a week job the dairy industry has been the first to suffer. Mr. Playford said that we have been exporting too much butter, but it does not show up Australia in a good light if this large primary industry cannot export butter. Many of the dairies which have gone out of existence will not come back. The Minister of Agriculture has already given figures showing the reduction in the number of heifers in South Australia. The cost of feeding dairy cows is now extremely high. In future our dairies will be more confined to those areas where cattle may be pastured all the year round. Although much cream is produced on dairies worked as family concerns, an assessment of costs of labour and feed would show that many are actually working at a loss. Some of the bigger ones employing labour have gone out of business for that reason. South Australia is short of rural labour. I agree with the member for Alexandra that, if a house, which is within easy walking distance for young children from the school bus, is supplied, little difficulty is experienced in getting rural labour. However, outback producers of both mutton and beef have found it very difficult to get labour. In the Northern Territory cattle cannot be shifted because of the lack of drovers. Had more labour been available in the far North, more beasts would be coming into the abattoirs today.

I congratulate rural industries on the way they have kept up production under very difficult circumstances. Not only has labour been short, but it has been found extremely difficult to get the machinery necessary for cultivation. Inquiries for the simplest and most necessary machinery will usually elicit the reply that it cannot be supplied for between three and five years. Mr. Herriot, Soil Conservator in the Agriculture Department, in conjunction with one of the agricultural engineers, has designed an instrument for trash farming, but I have been told that it cannot be supplied for five years. Another implement recommended by the department is not even in production at the moment,

because the firm which produces it is behind in its orders to the extent of 1,000 harvesters. In spite of these difficulties rural production has been maintained extremely well. Between the three-year periods 1936-1939 and 1947-1950 rural labour has increased by only two per cent, whereas factory labour has increased by 81 per cent. The increase in rural labour has been solely due to an increase in female labor, because there has been a decrease in rural male labour. Despite this small increase, the value of primary production in South Australia has increased by 207 per cent, whereas that of secondary industries has increased by 304 per cent—only $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the former's increase during a period in which the percentage increase in its labour force has been 40 times that of primary industries.

One of the finest examples of Government assistance to primary industries is its investigations with regard to the production of sulphur at Nairne, so vital to the production of superphosphate without which South Australian primary production would be in a bad way. In particular I mention Mr. Herriot's work, as he and his officers are doing a wonderful job by advising farmers on methods whereby they may increase their production. Mr. Herriot and his officers have the confidence of the farmer. That is necessary, because it is no good for a Government to spend large sums on research and employ many officers unless those officers have the farmers' confidence. They must be able to sell their ideas to the farmer as well as explain better methods of production. In an address to agricultural bureaus Mr. Herriot has explained that in America a social department studies the social conditions of the people who are to be assisted and decides the best approach to obtain their confidence. That could be taken as a model by Government departments which must sell their ideas to the community.

I have continually urged the Government to set up a Weeds Eradication Branch of the Agriculture Department similar to the Soil Conservation Branch. Mr. Orchard, Adviser on Noxious Weeds, is an extremely capable officer, but he is hamstrung not only by the lack of technical officers but also by the out-moded Noxious Weeds Act which is based on the idea that, if a man has noxious weeds on his property, he is a criminal. That Act should be placed upon the same basis as the Soil Conservation Act under which an officer may say to a farmer "I have a method by which, with very little expenditure, you may

increase your production." However, an offender under the Noxious Weeds Act is under the penalty of a fine if he does not comply with certain provisions. Answers should be found to these problems. Anyone knowing anything about farming would take up a badly eroded farm rather than one infested with hoary crest, because the Department is willing and able to help solve the problem of soil erosion, whereas it is quite unable to assist with regard to weeds. The soil can be restored extraordinarily rapidly, but the weeds remain a menace.

The proposed plan with regard to a minimum reserve price for wool is not only quite ineffective but could be dangerous. The wool industry is most delicate. Wool is not used for any one article but for a wide variety ranging from the finest underwear and billiard table cloth to carpets. Under wool appraisal there were 1,050 main types, all of which had a number of sub-types. Joint Organization was successful for two reasons. In the early stages it put on the market large quantities of wool at low figures so as to get the industry back onto its feet. Its reserve price was so far below world parity that it did not interfere with the market. A booklet entitled *Plan of Minimum Reserve Prices for Wool* published by the Federal Department of Commerce and Agriculture contains the following statement:—"The cardinal feature in the plan is the level at which the reserve prices are fixed." The booklet goes on to say that, in a period of low market prices, in fixing reserve prices regard would continue to be had to the trend of general commodity prices, the level of wool prices ruling during the preceding season, and an assessment of the future market trends of wool. No-one, whether an official of the Government which has the final say in fixing the minimum price under this scheme or a grower can accurately assess future market trends. As has been stated by the Australian Woolgrowers' Council, wrong action at the beginning of a depression might accentuate that depression. The proposed plan simply will not work. We must remember that force begets force, and anyone conversant with Yorkshire woollen interests will realize that their buyers would win any battle of business tactics against woolgrowers or Government on a world market. Buyers could easily pull out of the market and land J.O. with a large proportion of the clip, knowing full well that the clip would have to go on the market eventually. It is a very different thing if a buyer knows

that his rival is buying wool not to manufacture into consumer goods, but to put them on the market again. Woolgrowers would be well advised to leave the Commonwealth Government's proposal alone. Clause 8 of the proposed agreement is very significant because it says:—

Normally, reserve prices would be fixed just prior to the opening of the wool season, and would not be altered during the course of the season except in unforeseen or exceptional circumstances as, for example, currency changes or widespread economic crises.

Wool prices dropped before when we had a wide-spread economic crisis. Just when the woolgrower would want some protection under clause 8 the Government could drop the reserve and still not be forced to buy a single bale of wool. In the event of a wide-spread economic crisis the Government will guarantee purchase of wool by lending money at up to 4 per cent interest on the security of that wool, but in such a crisis would the Government be able to find £58,000,000 to buy in large quantities of wool? On a previous occasion a Commonwealth Government had £151,000,000 on the books for social services but the money was not available.

Mr. O'Halloran—Where did you get the idea that money for social services was not available?

Mr. HAWKER—From a statement made by Sir Earle Page and it was never denied.

Mr. O'Halloran—When the Commonwealth Government collects money for social services or similar services it is kept in the Treasury and is available when required.

Mr. HAWKER—It was not available on this occasion.

Mr. O'Halloran—It was, and was spent by your Government.

Mr. HAWKER—I congratulate the member for Adelaide on his speech. He said that employees were working more than 40 hours a week. His speech was about the best justification of the evidence submitted by the South Australian Government and employers against the granting of a 40-hour week, because on his own showing workers are working more than 40 hours a week, and yet we are still suffering from shortages, among them being milk and housing. He also admitted by interjection when Mr. Dunks was speaking that many men work at week-ends. That is generally known. At the inquiry into standard hours in 1947 it was stated by employers' representatives that workers want goods whereas the employees' representative said that

the men wanted leisure. Mr. Eggleston, who presented the case for the claimants and represented the great mass of trade unionists in Australia, said that the workers were asking for a higher standard of living and regarded increased leisure as the first and most important instalment of that higher standard. The employees of some Adelaide businesses which close on Friday evening are employed in shops on Saturday mornings. The member for Adelaide said that the unions were trying to stop men from working at week-ends.

Mr. Lawn—I did not. I said that the trades union movement frowns upon and tries to stop employees working for another employer over the week-ends.

Mr. HAWKER—You said that employers encouraged week-end work, but that the trades unions were trying to stop it.

Mr. Lawn—The member for Mitcham said that many men work 40 hours in five days and then work for another employer over the week-ends. I did not say that the trades union movement was trying to stop men from working overtime.

Mr. O'Halloran—Employers said exactly the same things as you are saying when the 44-hour week was being fought for. The time is never ripe for a drop in working hours.

Mr. HAWKER—The change from a 48- to a 44-hour week settled down more quickly than the change from 44 to 40 hours. I made inquiries from three big departmental stores in Adelaide and a big general store and was told that the average working week for their employees was between 36½ and 37½ hours. They must work 40 hours before getting overtime, and very little overtime was paid by those firms. Many people do not work a 40-hour week, and among them are shearers. The award provides for 40 hours to be worked in five days. Although it may be wet from Monday to Friday the men will not shear on Saturday mornings.

Mr. O'Halloran—Would you like to muster sheep for Saturday morning shearing?

Mr. HAWKER—There are occasions when it could be done.

Mr. O'Halloran—Not many.

Mr. HAWKER—That is beside the point. The member for Adelaide said that very few people worked more than 40 hours a week and I am giving instances where he is wrong. The report of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court on the 1947 Standard Hours Inquiry included the following argument of employers against a shorter working week: "It would

have an inequitable and unfair incidence upon other sections of the community." This has happened, as instanced by the dairy industry working 56 hours a week, shearers 40, the motor industry 57 and city firms 40.

Mr. Lawn—How many hours a week should be fixed?

Mr. HAWKER—Each industry has its own particular problems and therefore I am not prepared to say what hours any industry should work.

Mr. Lawn—It should be longer than 40 hours?

Mr. HAWKER—Definitely in some cases. Mr. Lawn quoted cases where it was being done. The unions debunked their own argument they put forward in the Arbitration Court by saying that men are willing and wish to work at week-ends.

Mr. O'Halloran—I think the member for Adelaide said the court had instructed the employees to work reasonable overtime.

Mr. HAWKER—That is right, but it is not the reasonable overtime that I am speaking of. As the member for Mitcham stated, many workers, after being employed during the week by one employer, work for other people at week-ends. I thank Ministers and the heads of departments for the courtesy and help they have extended to me when I put before them problems of my district. Ministers cannot do all that they want to because of the tremendous shortage of materials, but I think country people realize this. South Australia is still essentially a primary producing State because of its climatic, soil, knowledge and traditions. It is the foundation of our economy. We must see that people are kept on the land in the outback country.

Mr. O'Halloran—And that land is available for those who want it.

Mr. HAWKER—There is only a limited area of land available, but we should make the best use of it.

Mr. O'Halloran—You can stop people from monopolizing good land which can be subdivided.

Mr. HAWKER—When the Leader of the Opposition was out of the Chamber I said that outback country stations are very short of labour, which is one of the causes of the meat shortage. This land is not suitable for subdivision. In many cases when land has been cut up disaster has followed, but following re-aggregation they have carried more people

and produced more than under closer settlement. I am pleased to see the members for Thebarton and Murray here again after their illnesses and have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

Mr. MICHAEL (Light)—I congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion on their speeches. Mr. Pearson made a thoughtful speech which augers well for his future in this House. I hope he will be with us for a long time. I was out of this State when his brother decided to contest the Federal Elections and am sorry that he has left us. I was closely associated with him during his term here, but perhaps the wider sphere of the Commonwealth Parliament will give him greater scope. The result of the by-election for the district of Flinders was a triumph for the Government because it showed that its prestige is high. Some members have said that the electors were influenced by the Government's promises. However, the Government has been in office long enough for the public to know whether its promises are honoured or not. I join with other members in expressing pleasure at the forthcoming visit of the Royal Family, who do so much in keeping the Empire united. The Royal Family is very interested in the people of the Empire.

Inflation is causing the people more concern than any other problem. However, the high cost of living is common throughout the world. It is not the fault of any one government because it is perplexing the Attlee Government and the Truman administration as much as the Menzies Government. Of course, Government action can do much to solve the problem. Human nature plays a big part in intensifying the inflationary spiral. When people can easily get the things they want it is hard to change their attitude. Much of our trouble is the result of the great demand for all classes of goods and the abundance of money available since the war. I have great regard for the Leader of the Opposition, who usually speaks logically. However, when speaking on this motion he said that when prices were controlled by the Commonwealth Government they rose by only 39 per cent, but that from 1948 to 1951 when the Commonwealth relinquished control they rose by 44 per cent. He used those facts as an argument in favour of Commonwealth price control, but his reasoning was completely illogical because he did not take into account many factors. Firstly, inflation has speeded up throughout the world during the past two or three years. Secondly, certain

actions of the Government in power in the Federal sphere during the period of Commonwealth price control gave a direct impetus to inflation. That Government made a mistake in not bringing the value of the Australian pound to parity with the English pound when it had the opportunity of doing so.

Mr. Macgillivray—How would that action have affected the dried fruit and other industries?

Mr. MICHAEL—By not revaluing the Australian pound an opportunity was lost to retard the rising cost of living. Another factor assisting the inflationary spiral was the introduction of the 40-hour week. The members for Adelaide and Port Pirie said the shortening of the working week had no such effect, that the excess profits being made in industry were the cause. Their arguments were completely illogical.

Mr. Macgillivray—So is yours!

Mr. MICHAEL—Those members said that the workers produced everything in industry.

Mr. Lawn—So they do!

Mr. MICHAEL—If so, how can their working hours be reduced without raising the cost of living?

Mr. Macgillivray—You don't care twopence for what happens to the primary industries.

Mr. MICHAEL—I have heard the honourable member on many occasions. When times are bad he advocates the issue of bank notes as a solution, and when there is too much money about he advocates the same thing. That sort of thing can be operated only if people produce more; the only way to reduce the cost of living is to produce more. If we continue to have a shorter working week and inflate our own money in order to give us more spending money we are contributing to inflation.

Mr. Lawn—I quoted the hours being worked in some industries. How many does the honourable member think a man should work?

Mr. MICHAEL—The honourable member said the shorter week was introduced to give the workers more leisure.

Mr. Lawn—I did not say anything of the kind.

Mr. MICHAEL—The member for Hindmarsh last night promised to unfold something of great significance. I thought that the press and the radio would come out with some great news and that I would have the proud privilege of saying that I was present and heard the disclosure. However, it fell flat for he did not disclose anything which is not being

done by all sections. He complained about people combining for certain purposes, but even trade unions combine to keep people out of employment. I do not favour handing back control to the Federal Government; that is not a solution of our troubles, but merely a passing of the buck. I think it was Father Ryan, who attended the conference in Sydney last week, who made a statement which I thought very sound. He said that the idea of a majority of people seemed to be to hand over the problem of inflation to someone else to cure, but he thought that unless we each did our part there was not much hope of finding a solution. I entirely agree that there is not much hope of a solution except by the hard way and, unfortunately, while human nature is what it is, it must be brought home to people the hard way. Nevertheless, the Government is thinking along lines which should alleviate the position and I wish to offer two or three suggestions which might have some bearing on the subject. Curtailment of hire-purchase is one of the things contemplated. Admittedly it can be checked, but I appreciate the difficulties associated with it. Many who are starting new homes can get the things they need only by means of hire-purchase, and it would not be just to deprive them of those essentials. Consequently, I do not think there is much hope of keeping any great sum out of circulation by that means.

Another expedient suggested is the reduction of the output of luxury goods. To some a motor car is a luxury, but for people living eight or ten miles away from a railway station it cannot be considered a luxury. It would be possible, I suppose, by means of increased sales tax, to get more from luxury goods and the funds thus obtained could be used as subsidies on the necessities of life. A business man has put another suggestion to me which I think holds some possibilities, namely, the disallowance of minimum prices by trade arrangements. For example, lux and razor blades are sold at minimum prices, and if retailers sell them at lower prices their supplies are cut off. I was told by this business man that in America and England steps have been taken to make this illegal. But if an efficient tradesman can sell an article at a cheaper rate than another I see no reason why he should not be able to do it, and legislation in that direction would be beneficial to the country.

Mr. Macgillivray—That would not have much effect on inflation.

Mr. MICHAEL—A number of small things added together will, perhaps, make up something fairly substantial.

Mr. Lawn—How many business people would reduce prices? Could they not do it today?

Mr. MICHAEL—No, because quite a lot of these things are controlled by trade arrangements, and this man told me of how he had got into conflict with suppliers because he was willing to sell certain articles for a little less than the trade organization thought was proper. I offer it as something worth looking into.

We have allowed ourselves to drift into a difficult position. Despite the fact that most people—except possibly pensioners and those living on life's savings—have more money to spend than probably they have ever had in their lives, but Governments are finding it increasingly difficult to carry on. But for the high prices being paid for Australian wool, wheat, metals, and other products which have brought more money into Australia, and thereby increased taxable incomes, I do not see how Governments could carry on. We seem to have reached the stage of too much dependence on Governments; our people depend on Governments for every little thing. We must look into our financial arrangements generally. I do not think people have entirely lost the pioneering spirit, and they should get out and do things for themselves. Before leaving this topic I would like to quote from an article by Barbara Ward. I must confess that until the Leader of the Opposition quoted her I had never heard of this writer, but I have since read several articles and have come to the conclusion that she is a woman with considerable common sense. She said, in an article in the *Advertiser* on July 25:—

Australia cannot tackle inflation by expending its resources unless it first expends its power production, its coal and steel, its transport and food.

We will not get away from inflation by cutting down our expansion programme, or the opportunities for the individual to go out and develop the country. I hope that whatever restrictions are imposed it will not be necessary to cut down those activities because they offer the only way to build up the country in order that it can produce more, and so overcome our difficulties.

We are frequently told that the Government should do more to put industries out into the country, but I believe this Government has done a great deal towards decentralization. Again it is a human problem; until

people are willing to go out and establish industries in the country, short of direction of manpower—which I am pleased to note my friends opposite do not believe in—or direction of industry, I do not see that the Government could do anything more, beyond acting on one or two suggestions I am about to make. I am very proud to be able to say that in my electorate there are quite a number of industries; not very big ones, although some are quite considerable. In the past two or three weeks I have had talks with the people conducting those enterprises to see whether they thought the Government had given them a fair deal, and I want to give the House the benefit of those conversations. First, I went to the proprietor of Hawke and Co., makers of weighbridges in Kapunda, a very old established firm which, some years ago, was at a pretty low ebb but has now built up a considerable business. The firm supplies all the States with weighbridges and has also sent them to New Zealand, South Africa and Cyprus. Mr. Rees, proprietor of Hawke and Co., told me he believed it was both possible and practicable to establish industries in country towns, provided that a person had sufficient grit and determination. He said he was satisfied with the services provided by the Railways and the Electricity Trust.

At Kapunda two Scotsmen, Flinn Bros., who went there with their wives founded a knitting mill. It has become a thriving industry. They told me they were thoroughly satisfied with the position at Kapunda and complimented the Electricity Trust, the Government, the Postmaster-General's Department and others on the assistance rendered to enable them to establish themselves. I visited E. Anders and Sons, an old established firm at Freeling, whose business has expanded rapidly during recent years. The firm manufactures plough shares and similar machinery parts for all parts of the Commonwealth, South Africa, Malay States and New Zealand. I was told that the firm did not suffer any disability through being in the country. They receive every consideration from the Railways Department, but are dissatisfied with the housing conditions in the town. They have stability of labour, which is not evident in the city.

The firm of Linke-Noack, machinery manufacturers at Freeling told me the same thing. They do not use the railways greatly, having their own means of transport. However, they were satisfied it was far better to establish their industry in the country. I visited Solomit (S.A.) Ltd., which manufactures straw

boards, in the same town. I was told that there was undoubtedly a distinct advantage in having their industry in the country, mainly because of the stability of labour. The straw boards are used for insulation work and house building. The industry is expanding and is now in a big way. At Eudunda a man and his son took over a business, which was not thriving greatly. It began manufacturing castings, and carried out a lot of work for Horwood Bagshaw Ltd. I have heard members say that the Ford Motor Co. of America had different parts manufactured in various places and that the same thing could be done in South Australia. It is being done today. J. B. Reimann & Son constructed 200 saw benches. The industries are not large, but all say that with the services rendered by the Government it is possible to establish industries in the country.

Mr. Whittle—Do they get adequate labour?

Mr. MICHAEL—They told me that they get stability of labour, which does not exist in the city. As regards the Housing Trust policy of building homes in country towns, I was informed that conditions would be made much easier and more attractive to labour if more houses were built. The Housing Trust insists that it must have the names of people who want houses before any are erected, but it takes between 12 and 18 months from the time application is made to get one built. Proprietors of these businesses have pointed out that they will take more men, but they cannot get them to leave the city and work in the country for 18 months before they can get a house. If the trust's policy on building houses in the country were altered and it would build half a dozen or so houses for the employees on the guarantee of the employer, it would greatly assist industries in the country. This difficulty does not exist in the city. One employer told me that the chairman of the Housing Trust asked him why he did not build houses for his own workmen. If a factory starts in the metropolitan area the proprietor is not asked to build houses for his employees; the Housing Trust does that and allots a certain number for the workmen. It does not ask for their names before building the houses.

Mr. Whittle—They have to wait, on an average, five and a half years.

Mr. MICHAEL—Some might have to do so. However, this is a way in which established industries in the country could be assisted and the position eased.

Mr. Whittle—It would be a real help in decentralizing industry.

Mr. MICHAEL—I agree, and that is what we hear so much about. I am greatly concerned about the position of the dairying industry. It is paying better today than ever, more money being put into it, mainly because of high prices received for dairy produce, but grave dissatisfaction exists because it is not receiving the same margin of profits as the wool industry. The 40-hour week is, perhaps, hitting the dairying industry harder than any other. It is quite impossible for it to work a 40-hour week. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition contends that if a 40-hour week was introduced the troubles of dairy employees would fade away, but I cannot agree with him as it would be necessary to employ two men to do the work of one. It would not meet the position even if a man assisted by working two hours in the mornings and evenings. Dairy-men are entitled to a considerable rise in their production costs and should not be called upon to produce cream to manufacture butter, one of the most necessary foodstuffs in the home, at heavy expense.

I am interested in superphosphate requirements and trust that the Government will push on with its investigations into sulphur supplies. Superphosphate is the life blood of the State and I urge the Government to do everything possible in its power to maintain supplies. I understand that there are great possibilities in the pyrites deposit at Nairne and I hope that the scheme will soon become an established fact. I have been told that there is a certain amount of sulphur in our salt lakes. I do not know what research has been made into this matter, but I hope investigations will be pursued to the utmost and that it will be practicable to extract sulphur from our salt deposits. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

Mr. TAPPING (Semaphore)—I support the motion and congratulate the mover, the member for Flinders. In my view he has already proved that he is a member whom the people of Port Lincoln and other towns in his electorate hold in high esteem. I attended a by-election meeting at Port Lincoln which Mr. Pearson and the Premier addressed, setting out L.C.L. policy. I listened with interest to their remarks. Mr. Pearson said, in effect, that he would fight the Australian Labor Party on its socialization policy as long as possible. He then said that the Government had done

excellent work in acquiring the Adelaide Electric Supply Co. and commencing the Leigh Creek project, but his remarks were somewhat contradictory because on the one hand he condemned Socialism and on the other commended the Government for its socialistic activities. The idea of the Australian Labor Party is to take over undertakings which are not functioning under private enterprise in the interests of the people. The Adelaide Electric Supply Co. did marvellous work in the metropolitan area, but did little expansion work in the country. Since the undertaking has been acquired the expansion work has been tremendous. The Leigh Creek project has proved its worth to the State. Labor subscribes completely to these projects because they are in the interests of the people, and in accordance with Labor's policy.

I join with other members in expressing pleasure that the Royal Family is to visit South Australia. My constituents would be honoured if they could spend some time in the Port Adelaide and Semaphore districts. The visit of Their Majesties is important, because it will cement the bond of loyalty which has always existed in Australia with the Mother Country.

Last week the Premier said he would appreciate receiving suggestions from members towards solving the inflation problem. It is difficult for a layman to make suggestions of an economic nature because he has no great knowledge of financial matters, but in times of emergency common sense must play an important part. We should look at the problem from every angle. Each Party has a different viewpoint. Members on this side feel that their contention is important, but in times of stress co-operation is more necessary than ever before. It has been said that our inflation problem has been aggravated by the 40-hour working week. When the matter was before the Arbitration Court in 1948 evidence was given by employers and employees, and State Governments were represented by eminent counsel. The Commonwealth Labor Government, led by Mr. Chifley, had counsel to argue the Commonwealth view that Australia could economically stand such a working week. It was not argued as the Party view, but because it was believed that Australia could economically stand the reduced working week. Forty hours, and more as reasonable overtime, are now being worked. If the reduction had been detrimental to industry it would have been shown in the

balance-sheets of various companies. As Mr. Jeffries pointed out, the balance-sheets each year show that companies are becoming more prosperous.

Mr. Whittle—Some of them.

Mr. TAPPING—Most of them. I am pleased about the prosperity, but it is not fair to blame the workers for wanting the 40-hour week if those in control of industry are making greater profits. The I.C.I. Company is one of the most progressive companies in the British Empire, and it treats its employees remarkably well. In 1950 it had a credit balance, after paying high taxation, of £5,000,000, and in 1951, £8,000,000.

Mr. Whittle—It is a world-wide organization.

Mr. TAPPING—Yes. I know the magnitude of the company's operations in Australia and the success it has achieved. The improved financial position of most companies shows that industry can economically stand a 40-hour working week. The following is included in a book entitled *Fighting Inflation 1945-1949*—

One act of policy may temporarily have reduced production, or at least reduced the rate of increase of production. This was the introduction of the 40-hour week from January 1, 1948, by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court. This measure had the support of the Commonwealth Government. Even here, however, the adverse effects on production have been greatly exaggerated. For several reasons, the reduction in the standard working week from 44 to 40 hours did not reduce production in anything like the same proportion. In many firms, employers were stimulated by the pressure of higher wage costs to introduce improvements of management or new machinery which actually increased output, or prevented a serious fall. In other cases, the old 44-hour week was worked, the last four hours being paid at overtime rates. This raised costs and prices, but kept production up. A sample survey of the effect of the introduction of the 40-hour week on some 70 Victorian firms, conducted by Dr. S. S. Stevens, of the Department of Economic Research, Melbourne University, showed that during 1948 production per man-hour increased by 9 per cent. This increase can, of course, not be wholly attributed, even indirectly, to the 40-hour week.

Production has maintained its level since the introduction of the 40-hour week, because employers and employees have got together more than in years gone by in order to improve working conditions, and more particularly because of the development of the machine age in this country. We have all seen the machines used by the Engineering and Water Supply Department which do the work of many men. In all industries machines are used now to increase production, and to reduce the

manpower needed. The goods produced under these methods are cheaper than those produced in the old way. The loss of production by manual labour, brought about by the introduction of the 40-hour week, has been more than offset by the installation of machinery. Some members have said that if we had more coal our production of goods would be greater. We know that coal is essential to the well-being of the nation, but we should be fair when criticizing the coal miners. Every new house built and every new industry started means that more coal is needed, and the coal resources in this country will not be able to stand the strain much longer. In fairness to the coal miners who have been so often castigated, I quote the following from the *Monthly Summary of Australian Conditions*, issued by the National Bank of Australasia Ltd. in January, 1951:—

During the year just ended approximately 12.8 million tons of coal were mined in the State (New South Wales)—a figure which surpasses the previous record of 12.2 million tons obtained in 1942.

That must be abundant evidence that the coal miners are producing more now than previously, yet a number of miners leave the industry daily. The production last year surpassed the record of 1942. In the war years, under defence powers, Australian price control operated satisfactorily. There were price increases, but they were minor compared with the increases in recent years. I do not think that price control will solve our inflation problem, but it would cushion its effects.

Mr. Whittle—Wages were pegged during the war.

Mr. TAPPING—The Leader of the Opposition pointed out that if prices and profits were pegged the position would remain static, and we had that position in the war years.

Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. TAPPING—When the people of Australia in 1948 rejected the Federal Government's request, they made a very great error. If they were asked to vote on a similar question today, I am sure they would give to the Commonwealth the powers necessary to cushion the effects of the inflation which is rampant. I am concerned with these effects on certain sections of the community, especially pensioners who are receiving only £2 10s. a week. It is difficult to understand how they can meet their bills. The cost of living has risen to such an extent that on the first payday of this month the workers are receiving 13s. a week more; yet the pensioner's income remains

static. Some years ago some people invested their money in insurance policies and others put it into savings banks. Because of the recent spiral the value of those policies and deposits has been reduced by about 50 per cent. This problem is unprecedented in Australian history. Unless the Federal Government controls prices, the position will worsen rather than improve. Those who opposed the referendum proposals of 1948 said that the States could do the job, but we on this side of the House then emphasized that they could not. It must be conceded today that our statement have proved all too true.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Would you say that the position today would be better had the Commonwealth continued to administer price controls?

Mr. TAPPING—Prices remained at a reasonable level during the war.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Because they were pegged and men were pegged to industry.

Mr. TAPPING—Wages were pegged, and so were profits and prices.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Manpower was pegged to essential industries.

Mr. TAPPING—I cannot understand the Minister's reasoning when he says that men were pegged to industry.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—The pegging of profits, wages and men resulted in everything remaining static.

Mr. TAPPING—The position remained static by virtue of the Defence Powers which kept prices and wages normal. The same position could obtain under Commonwealth control today, because, if prices were stabilized, wages would remain at a steady level. The States have failed to do the job of price control. They have different opinions as to the commodities to be controlled. Uniformity between States has been difficult to achieve.

Mr. Brookman—Would Commonwealth price control solve the problem of inflation?

Mr. TAPPING—No, but it would have the effect of cushioning it. Unless the Commonwealth controls prices, the position will be aggravated. After the States assumed price control powers, some important commodities were entirely exempted from these provisions. The Premier has told members that the control of the prices of land and houses was found to be impracticable and that the black market was rampant. However, that legislation provided for penalties for offenders and some black market operators were brought to book and punished. Since the lifting of the decontrol homes which under control were

worth £1,000 in 1947 are today bringing as much as £2,500. The payment by a purchaser of more than double the real value of a commodity indicates inflation in its severest form. We have been told that the sale of secondhand motor cars is difficult to control and that, in any case, that is a luxury line, but even a luxury line must be considered because it is a real commodity.

Mr. Brookman—The control of the prices of secondhand cars was never very effective.

Mr. TAPPING—Some people were brought to book under the legislation. This afternoon the Premier replied to a question regarding the price of fish. Because it is not controlled people in humble circumstances are debarred from purchasing it. These include people for whom a fish diet has been prescribed by their doctors. The price of 5s. 3d. a pound for uncleaned whiting puts that fish out of their reach. Fish prices were decontrolled in South Australia in November, 1948. Prior to that uncleaned whiting was sold retail at 2s. 4d. a pound. Values have increased since then, but an advance of over 100 per cent in price indicates that something is wrong. Although the Premier said that price control of fish would be difficult to police, the penalty is there and the authorities would have recourse to that provision in the law. Prior to decontrol garfish cost 1s. 6d. a pound, uncleaned, whereas today it costs 4s., a price which debar people who should have fish from buying it.

I did not intend to say anything further regarding the waterfront position, as on the opening day of Parliament I described the position in detail and said that blame should not be placed on the shoulders of the waterside workers. However, I feel it my duty to again defend this section because of a statement made by the member for Victoria in this debate last night. He referred to an extract from yesterday's *Advertiser* which reported the senior managing partner in Melbourne of MacDonald, Hamilton and Company (Mr. D. MacKay) as saying that the *Stratheden* had arrived at 1 p.m. on a Saturday and that waterside workers' restrictions prevented work on Saturday afternoon. He continued:—

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. Until the wharves work 24 hours a day, seven days a week, there will always be hold-ups and high freights.

It was implied that work was delayed until midnight Saturday because the waterside

worker would receive two and a half time his normal rate for Sunday work as against double time for Saturday afternoon. That is not true. The strength of the waterside workers in Port Adelaide today is about 1,700. It has been suggested that they should increase that strength so as to ensure that continuous labour will be available to shipping. From time to time the Waterside Workers' Federation has agreed, at the behest of the Stevedoring Commission, to open its books and bring in new members. Of the 170 members brought into its ranks some months ago over 65 per cent have drifted to other industries because the work did not appeal to them. The federation has done all it could to co-operate with the authorities to see that shipping is cleared as quickly as possible. Mr. McKay is reported as saying that ships move 24 hours a day like other forms of transport and that the wharves should work 24 hours a day for seven days a week. What other transport in Australia goes for 24 hours a day for seven days?

The Hon. M. McIntosh—He did not mean that they would go for that period worked by the same men. The railways is a 24 hour process. They run all through the night.

Mr. TAPPING—On certain lines, but it is not a continuous service throughout Australia. The Minister's assertion only applies in isolated cases. Does the Government wish these men to work seven days a week, day and night? That would be humanly impossible. In tackling this problem we should adopt a reasonable approach. I have met members of the executive of the federation more than once, and I must admit that those men, headed by one of the most sane chairmen in their history, Mr. Beitz, are doing their best to maintain harmony on the waterfront. One reason for the slow turn-round of shipping is the antiquated harbour facilities. In this regard I reflect on nobody because, due to the war, plans made by the Government and the Harbors Board could not be carried into effect. Port Adelaide waterside workers are doing a magnificent job. In reply to imputations of Communistic influence, I point out that only one in ten of the members of the executive is a Communist. The others are men who stand firmly behind Australian Labor Party policy and who are doing their best for their country.

I will now refer to the question of the co-ordination of ambulance services. The Port Adelaide district has been perturbed because it has not adequate services to look after those who may meet with an accident, particularly at night. The ambulance is housed at the Port Adelaide Town Hall during the day,

but at 6 p.m. is transferred to Hindmarsh. At week-ends Port Adelaide has no ambulance service, and if a person meets with a serious accident an ambulance must be sent from Hindmarsh. The delay has resulted in the loss of life. I am pleased that the Government has appointed a committee to investigate the possibility of co-ordinating ambulance services in South Australia and I look forward to seeing its report. There are more than 1,000 employes of the South Australian Electricity Trust at Osborne and they are most anxious to have an ambulance service. On occasions when an accident has occurred at Osborne it has been necessary to transfer the injured to hospital by motor car. I would be failing in my duty if I did not compliment the South Australian Ambulance Transport, which has given such excellent service over the years. Some of those driving the vehicles at night give their services voluntarily. However, the job is beyond their resources and that is why I hope the Government will co-ordinate all ambulance services so that every district will have an adequate cover.

Some time ago I was approached by a man from Seaton Park who said he had received an advance of £380 on a 10-year agreement from the State Bank. After some years he decided to liquidate the liability and approached the bank board, which turned the proposition down. He then approached me and I took the matter up with the Premier's Department. The following is the reply I received:—

With reference to your letter of April 27, regarding the case of Mr. . . . of Seaton Park, I am directed by the Premier to inform you that this case has been before the State Bank Board on several occasions and has received very full consideration. The board is, however, not prepared to waive the 10-year clause as requested.

I contend that when a special case is presented to the board it should be given special consideration on its merits. After this man liquidated the liability on the home he could not obtain his title deeds. He desired to purchase a store in the country. His case was all the stronger because he had a child suffering from acute asthma and the doctor advised that it should be taken away from the sea. It was unfortunate that the board decided to reject the claim. Although he has paid the board the £380 owing he has to wait for the conclusion of the 10-year period before he can get the title deeds, and until then he cannot purchase another property because of lack of capital. I ask the Government to consider this case.

I have been approached by the Company of Master Mariners of South Australia, which desires that something should be done to provide a better flow of men to serve on ships as officers. I was informed that Australia, and particularly South Australia, is frequently in need of such men. To receive the necessary tuition this organization feels that the Education Department should, through the School of Mines, impart the knowledge required by those desiring to go to sea. It is true that there is a class for two hours a day, but that time is insufficient to impart the knowledge to boys undertaking this calling. Consequently some of them must go to Melbourne or Sydney for tuition. I realize that it is difficult to get the tutors, but everything possible should be done to seek the men who can teach sea-faring so that there can be a continuity of men to serve in important positions on ships. Unless we have the right type of men in those positions the efficiency of our sea transport will be impaired. I ask the Government to consider that aspect.

There is an acute firewood shortage in South Australia, particularly in the metropolitan area. The secretary of the Firewood Vendors' Association said that only 20 per cent of requirements are reaching Adelaide. In my district pensioners, invalids, and other old people are sadly in need of firewood, but cannot get it. During the bad depression years more firewood was available than was needed, but today wood cutters in the country are finding more congenial jobs and therefore people in the city cannot get sufficient firewood. I got in touch with a man on the Murray who is familiar with the position and he told me that there are two reasons why supplies are not coming to hand. The first is road transport restrictions. Last week I directed a question to the Minister of Railways and he told me that that did not apply, but according to the evidence I have men have sought to bring firewood to Adelaide, but could not get a permit. I have a letter from a man who has 700 tons of roots on his farm at Sherlock, but he cannot arrange its transport to Adelaide. He is prepared to accept £1 5s. a ton on the property.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—You get in touch with me and I will see that transport is arranged.

Mr. TAPPING—If more consideration were given in the issuing of permits, more firewood would be available.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Any man who has firewood to cart can get a permit. I give that undertaking.

Mr. TAPPING—Another reason for the shortage of firewood is that woodcutters are not being paid enough, the highest price being 15s. a ton. That includes the cutting and the loading on railway trucks or motor lorries. According to my information, a cutter can handle about two to two and a quarter tons a day. Something must be done to improve the position and I contend that the issue is so grave that the Government should consider granting to cutters a subsidy to help supplement their wages. It has been said that we should build up firewood stocks during the summer. That does not work out in practice, because most of the men who normally cut wood in winter transfer their employment to the wine industry in summer, so that in the summer it is just as hard to get firewood as in winter. Only 20 per cent of normal requirements are coming to Adelaide. The Chief Storekeeper is finding it difficult to get enough firewood for Government departments. If it is hard for him to get supplies, seeing that he buys thousands of tons, it is much harder for the ordinary worker who buys only a half a ton or a ton at a time.

It is our obligation to provide homes for people in need of shelter in the eventide of their life. In the *Mail* recently there appeared an advertisement inserted by the Rev. A. D. McCutcheon under the heading "Grant us safe lodging and peace at the last." That sums up the position very well. Some months ago Mr. McCutcheon bought a home at Semaphore South for old people and it is now housing 14 persons, who deeply appreciate his action. He is now launching an appeal for a fund of £15,000 to house about 40 more of these unfortunate people. He and others like the Rev. Mr. Forsyth have done a marvellous job in this connection without any Government help. The Government says it cannot give any financial assistance to religious bodies, but we should not side-step our obligation to help those who, in years gone by, have done their bit to advance this country. If legislation prevents the Government from donating funds on a pound for pound basis to any of these organizations to house old folk, Cabinet should consider some other means of helping them. It is the duty of the State or the Commonwealth Government to look after these old people. A recent report by Dr. H. M. Birch, Superintendent of Mental Hospitals, mentioned those who were senile and those who were mentally afflicted, but he also referred to a third section—those who can care for themselves if housed under decent conditions. By

his report Dr. Birch, in effect, appealed to this Parliament to do something. The only way we can help is by giving monetary assistance to people such as the Rev. Forsyth and the Rev. McCutcheon and others who undertake similar work. We should consider these appeals from a Christian point of view, irrespective of religious denominations.

Another body deserving greater financial assistance is the District and Bush Nursing Society. The Port Adelaide branch is doing excellent work, but its obligation to the parent body is £1,240 annually. It can only obtain funds by appeals year after year. Ninety-five per cent of the people whom the two nurses serve are pensioners and cannot afford to pay for the services received, so a great burden is placed upon the society in rendering services throughout the State, especially in these days of rising costs. In the Port Adelaide district alone in 1950 the two nurses paid 7,400 visits, but in 1951 they attended 9,424 people. Although they are on a 40-hour week they even do night work of their own volition without any fee. They are making a great sacrifice and the Government should help the society more. In 1950 the grant to the D.B.N.S. parent body was £5,400. I understand it is proposed to increase the grant to £7,400, which is a considerable improvement, but the increase will be absorbed by rising costs. The District Nursing Society in Sydney in 1950 received £19,000 from the Government. That may not show New South Wales in very good light, but the set-up there is entirely different. In South Australia we have the District and Bush Nursing Society—one organization—but in New South Wales and Victoria there is the District Nursing Society and the Bush Nursing Society. Besides the £19,000 granted in New South Wales to the D.N.S., a subsidy was also paid to the B.N.S. I often wonder how we get people to continue making sacrifices for the sake of humanity. Nowadays the pleasure motive has developed amongst many sections of the community, but nurses in the various hospitals and in the D.B.N.S. work not for the monetary reward but because they love their job and love to serve the people. I hope the Government will make a greater increase than proposed in the grant to the D.B.N.S.

As a member from this Parliament on the National Fitness Council I have been asked to request an increased grant for that body. At present it is £2,750, but the council desires a grant this year of £3,500. This increase would only be in keeping with increased costs. The

Commonwealth Government inaugurated the National Fitness Council and is increasing its grant each year. Those who travel throughout the State, especially in the hills districts, find that many places have been established by the council in the interests of our youth. This body has done marvellous work for youth in various clubs throughout South Australia and it behoves Parliament to seriously consider the request for an increased grant. It is remarkable that the council has to pay sales tax on everything it purchases, even on motor cars or trucks needed in its work, despite the fact that it is a national project assisted by the Commonwealth and State Governments. The South Australian Spastic Paralysis Welfare Association is another organization doing noble work. Spastic children are those suffering from various forms of paralysis caused by damage to the portions of the brain governing muscular control, either before, during, or immediately after birth. The chief sufferers are the parents of the children concerned.

We have no home in South Australia where these patients can be placed for a period in order that the mother may be relieved of the burden. It is true that under the guidance of the Crippled Children's Association there is a centre where children of up to 16 years can go daily for attention. Sister Gum is doing her best and working long hours at the centre for the children, but the tragedy is that when they reach 16 they cannot attend. I have no complaint about that because the centre is not large enough to cater for patients of all ages. I know of two cases where the mothers became physically exhausted and by doctor's orders the two children were transferred to the Parkside Mental Hospital. This is an excellent institution, but cannot look after this class of patient. I know that one of these two children, to ensure that he would not make any noise and not interfere with the work of the institution, was given needles to put him to sleep. As chairman of the Spastic Paralysis Welfare Association I claim that Parliament has to face up to its responsibility and help those who cannot help themselves. As with poliomyelitis, spastic children are increasing in numbers and we must give whatever financial assistance we can. I trust that my remarks will not fall on deaf ears. I have pleasure in supporting the motion.

Mr. GOLDNEY (Gouger)—I congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion on their excellent speeches and feel sure that the member for Flinders will prove a valuable

acquisition to this House. I join with other members in expressing pleasure at the forthcoming visit of the Royal Family. The visit will be one means of strengthening the ties between the Motherland and the Dominions. Many members have referred to the shortage of goods. Blame should not be attached to only one section of the community. Production is falling short of what it should be. We sometimes talk about absenteeism amongst the workers, but we sometimes find business executives and others playing golf or bowls during working hours. There is too much of this and no need for it, because we now have a longer week-end for recreation. The reduction of working hours on the waterfront is a much discussed topic. Much of the work there cannot be carried on during extremely wet weather, and we have had many examples of that during this winter, which has been very wet. On numerous occasions men have had to cease work because of it and, although that is beyond human control, the men might be more co-operative and work longer at some other time to make up for time lost. Overtime rates are too high. Why should we pay waterside workers overtime rates for work performed beyond a certain number of hours? Men in the army during World Wars I. and II. were on duty for seven days a week and received no overtime for week-end or Sunday work.

Mr. Lawn—Do you suggest that Judge Kirby, who fixed the overtime rates for waterside workers, does not know his job?

Mr. GOLDNEY—The honourable member told us what he thought was a fair thing as regards working hours.

Mr. Lawn—You contend that overtime rates are too high?

Mr. GOLDNEY—Yes.

Mr. Lawn—It was a member of the judiciary who fixed those rates.

Mr. GOLDNEY—I am merely expressing my opinion in the same way as the honourable member expressed his. Waterside workers have shown a distinct disinclination to work on some days when work could have been performed. A 44-hour week may be all right; it would not be too long. It is another matter whether it is worked in five days or six. The high cost of carrying on public utilities is another matter with which I am concerned. There appears to be too much travelling time and not enough time worked. The staffs of councils frequently have to travel several miles to reach their job; in some cases it takes half an hour, 45 minutes,

or even an hour for them to reach their job and a similar time for them to return. Frequently men who are working several miles from a country town will return to it to obtain their lunch, which takes from 45 minutes to an hour. Too much time is being paid for without any work being done. The whole matter is getting beyond control; councils and other public undertakings are finding it most difficult to cope with. Any man or woman who is a true citizen should be prepared to give a certain number of hours to assist in the labour problem. History has shown that peoples who have stopped working and lived only for pleasure and all their heart's desires have quickly declined and crumbled, and eventually ceased to be a nation.

I agree with the remarks of the member for Semaphore about housing our aged people, a matter which both the State and Federal Governments should pay more attention to. I know of a number of people who, in their old age, have nowhere to live. In some cases it is not their fault. A minister of religion in a country town suggested to me that in certain country centres a building could be acquired or constructed to house these people and that the Government should contribute towards the cost. One objection which might be raised is the difficulty of obtaining sufficient staff to run such places, but I trust that the Government will make more provision to house people in their declining years.

We are continually being told that primary production is falling quickly and that with our additional population we will, within a few years, be short of foodstuffs to meet requirements. Many things militate against increased primary production. The high price of wool is contributing towards the fall in production and is responsible for the decline in our dairying industry, which calls for a 7-day working week. The industry is unattractive at the moment, but notwithstanding the number who have left it many owners of dairy herds are keeping them, believing that the industry will come back into its own. Dairy cows are bringing higher prices today than ever. Something should be done immediately to place the industry on a better footing. Superphosphate plays an important part in primary production. In South Australia, as in other States, it is a most necessary requirement for increasing primary production. I trust that the proposed undertaking in our Adelaide hills will be successful and will eventually provide all our sulphur requirements. If it does it will mean

that South Australia will be more or less independent of sulphur imports that are now required for the manufacture of superphosphate.

As regards water conservation, more attention should be paid to springs and rivers in country areas. Storages could be constructed on some of our smaller streams and rivers and, although they do not run regularly, much of the water that is running to waste in the present wet season could be impounded to supply country people. The Government is pursuing a vigorous policy in its search for minerals. I commend it for that as the more research that is carried out the better for the State. The Government is to be commended for its boring operations for coal and other minerals, all of which must contribute largely towards the State's welfare. We are reaping the benefits of the foresight of those of a generation ago who instituted our afforestation programme and I trust that the Government's policy on afforestation will be continued. Our forests have made a valuable contribution towards our building and housing programmes and I trust that additional forest plantings will be undertaken. Because of the shorter working week the workers now have much more time on their hands and they are inclined to take their sport too seriously. Everybody should give more attention to the things that matter. We must look around to see where we are heading and whether it is not possible by united effort to increase production, and thereby contribute to the welfare and happiness of our community. I support the motion.

Mr. DUNN (Stirling)—I compliment the mover and seconder of the motion on their speeches. I also congratulate Mr. Pearson on his election to this Chamber. He occupies the seat which his brother occupied for so long, and he will be an asset to the debating strength of this place. With other members I join in expressing pleasure at the visit of the Royal Family to Australia. If possible the Government should give schoolchildren the opportunity to see the King and Queen and Princess Margaret. Because of the curtailment of the tour the children may have to be brought to the city, but it would be worth while because they would long remember seeing the Royal Family.

I was told recently that dairymen were not going to put up with their present conditions much longer. I asked what they proposed to do and the reply was that they would go on

strike and pour their milk down the drain, but so far they have not gone on strike. Some cannot get away from dairying and therefore have to suffer more than any other section of the community. The time is not far distant when we will be short of whole milk. With every new home built a greater production of milk is required. During the war an increased quantity of butter and milk was produced, but the men who milked the cows in those days cannot go on for ever. In the war years they were too old to do anything else and many of them have since died. The young men do not have the inclination to keep cows.

Mr. Stott—The income is too low.

Mr. DUNN—Yes. They can go into other industries where they have a shorter working week and get greater remuneration. We must do all we can to help dairymen. I keep cows and if I had any trouble with my milkman I would not bother to get another one, because I could do better by keeping the cows and selling the calves. If ever milk is in short supply our people will be in difficulties. Col. Nelson, general secretary of the Dairymen's Association, told me that last year 312 licences were not renewed; if that is so something is wrong.

The Hon. Sir George Jenkins—That figure is not correct. Within a day or two more than 100 licences were issued.

Mr. DUNN—We have heard much about the increase in the price of cornsacks, but when that price rose the price of bread was increased a halfpenny a loaf. Poultry keepers also have to buy bags, but the price of eggs was reduced 3d. a dozen recently. Poultry keepers do more work than even dairymen. That is hard to believe, but cows have to be milked only twice a day whereas the poultryman has to look after his fowls all day and then spend half the night cleaning eggs. I know what has to be done and another think is coming to the man who thinks the poultry keeper has an easy life. Often half the eggs are smashed, which means that much of the profit goes. This section has never received much consideration. The price of the eggs has been reduced but the cost of producing them is still high. The small producers are paying the piper today. Soon someone will realize that dairymen must get a fair go.

Mr. Frank Walsh—What do you advocate for dairymen?

Mr. DUNN—An increase in the price of their products. Irrespective of whether an increase is granted, many dairymen who have

left the industry will not return until a depression occurs and then they will have to go back. When a man is down and out he turns to dairying because of the quick returns. Our highways are in a very poor condition. Recently in this House the Leader of the Opposition mentioned a road between Atherton and Cairns in Queensland which carried one-way traffic and which, over a distance of 12 miles, rises 2,400ft. I understand that in a relatively short distance it has over 600 turns.

Mr. Macgillivray—That road would not be called upon to carry the heavy traffic passing over our main hills road?

Mr. DUNN—That is true. Our hills roads are overloaded. The main hills road is not wide enough to carry the heavy traffic passing over it. During the railway strike it took me over an hour to travel from Glen Osmond to Aldgate because a heavy lorry was ahead of me. I cannot see any benefit in the proposed road from Burnside to Crafrers. Traffic to Strathalbyn is embarrassed by the heavy volume of traffic travelling from Adelaide to Aldgate. The road between Strathalbyn and Victor Harbour has been in a bad state of repair for a long while, and will remain that way until it is top-dressed, but the foundations must be prepared before the road is top-dressed, otherwise it will break up quickly. This road and the Meadows-Goolwa road were on the first five-year Highways plan, and both works are being carried out at present. Much work remains to be done on the Bull's Creek road which is steep and hilly and has many sharp turns. The position has been aggravated by landslides. It has been stated that in 10 years Australia will not produce enough to feed its own population; but I do not believe that. We should use the water we have in our own State and which is at present running to waste. It has been proved that irrigated land produces 10 times as much as the same land before irrigation was applied. Five small rivers flow into the Murray in the southern district, and at present the water cannot be let out of the barrages quickly enough.

Mr. Macgillivray—This is an exceptional year.

Mr. DUNN—Yes. The water which is going to waste would be sufficient to irrigate the areas around the Murray mouth, thus supplying, for instance, fodder to feed cows. In this way we would be able to feed our people for many years to come. People in this area believe that the pipeline now being constructed

from Mannum should have run from the Murray mouth, because the water there is fresher, purer, and cleaner. Last year the River Hindmarsh, on which Victor Harbour depends for its water supply, was dry, and people lower down had no water for their stock. The construction of a reservoir on this river was one of the cheapest projects of which I know, and could be extended to double its capacity without much cost. Much water will be needed when the proposed Victor Harbour sewerage system is installed. If that reservoir is not improved, Goolwa and other places will go short of water. As the Engineer-in-Chief has this matter in hand and always looks after the interests of the district to the best of his ability, I am hopeful that the position will be improved.

A few weeks ago several derailments occurred on the hills line within a very short period. It is time that surveys were made with a view to building another line to carry heavy interstate railway traffic. The Adelaide-Aldgate line was opened on March 14, 1883, the population of South Australia being about 300,000. Today it is over 7,000,000, and the line is inadequate for the heavy traffic travelling over it. The aeroplane which is to be chartered by the Lands Department to survey the State could be used to find a route through the hills which would eliminate the expensive haulage on the present line. I have been told that the camber has been taken off the present line so that the diesel locomotives may run on it. If they are top heavy on a down grade they may go over the bank and down the gully.

Mr. Macgillivray—Do you suggest a deviation through Meadows?

Mr. DUNN—From Tailum Bend towards Meadows. The cost of haulage would be much lower, and the existing hills line could be left for tourist traffic. Some of the goods now being carted by road could then be transported by rail.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—The railways can take all the traffic offering.

Mr. DUNN—Unlike some people, I will never believe that we could do without our railways. The police sergeant at Strathalbyn is living in a house built in 1858. Dry rot is to be found in many of the boards and the windows are particularly small. Every man transferred to this centre likes to leave as soon as possible, and I believe that one who was appointed in recent years refused to occupy it. A block of land opposite the police station has been for sale for some time and the owner is anxious that the Police Department should

have it. He does not want to sell to anyone else because he realizes that the department could not get another block so handy to the present police station and he is holding it in the hope that the Government will buy it and erect another police residence there.

We hear much about the shortage of manpower. It is not to be wondered at when one sees the number of men on some jobs. It is not to be taken for granted that in all cases the men themselves are responsible for not working. A friend of mine came to Adelaide to accept a job about 18 months ago, but when he started to do what he considered was a fair day's work he was told by those above him "to cut it out." Can we blame the men if the foreman is not allowed to help them? Often it is someone above the ordinary workers who is responsible for not getting more work out of them. The last man I had working on my farm said to me when he left to enlist, after having worked for me for three years, "I have worked on many farms, but I have never worked on one where I have done more in less time." I do not believe in long hours, but that one can get more work out of a man in shorter time provided he is willing to work. I have been brought up to work, and nothing makes me more tired than hanging about doing nothing. Judging by what I see of some men's performances on a job a 40-hour week is too long for them; they must get tired not doing enough work. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

Mr. RICHES (Stuart)—I join with other honourable members in extending a welcome to the member for Flinders. If the district had to send us a Liberal—and I regret that it did—I do not know of anyone better who could have been selected to represent it. I believe he will prove a worthy successor to his brother. I also join with other speakers in expressing pleasure because of the intended visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen and Princess Margaret. I hope that it will be as successful as members hope.

This debate has been largely on the question of inflation. We have heard numerous proposals for improving the economic position, which most members realize is worrying our people and giving more concern at the moment than any other problem facing this country, but I regret that members opposite have not been able to offer much else than the suggestion that the other fellow should work harder. This country needs something better in the way of leadership than carping criticism from

behind an office desk or an editorial table, or even from behind a Parliamentary bench. Often the criticism is in bad taste, being directed against those who are working and producing. The continual complaint is that the other fellow is not working hard enough. We may sometimes see men who appear to be loafing on the job or not working with a will, but on investigation we usually find a perfectly logical explanation. There may have been delays in material deliveries, transport delays, or other difficulties, and rather than have gangs disorganized they are often held together so that work can proceed when those difficulties have been overcome. Breakdowns in machinery may have been responsible for what appears to be loafing on the job. Whenever people have complained to me that men, especially those on roads, who are more easily observed than others, are not working as hard as the critics would wish, I have found there was a good reason for it. The average Australian is not a lazy worker and does not wilfully loaf on the job. I was thrilled when an American engineer, who came here in connection with the installation of the Budd rail car service at Port Augusta, paid a glowing tribute to the Australian workman. He said the men at the Port Augusta workshops compare favourably in intelligence, workmanship and output with any workers in the world.

Mr. O'Halloran—That opinion was given publicly.

Mr. RICHES—Yes, and I do not believe the men in the Port Augusta workshops are any different from those in other Australian undertakings. If we seek co-operation from the workers in a greater effort let it be in the form of leadership and not continual goading from behind an office desk. The member for Mitcham made a remarkable statement when speaking of the effect of inflation on the people of Australia and on industry generally. He quoted from Omar Khayyam's *Rubaiyat*, "But evermore came out by the same door where in I went." The honourable member said that after listening to some of the cures for inflation put forward by members he felt that he came out of the same door by which he entered. After a brief criticism of other members' speeches he said:—

Some true things have been said in this debate, but what impressed me more than anything else was the statement that too much money is chasing too few goods. It is a jolly good thing to have plenty of money, and I am not so much concerned about this bogey of inflation. That might surprise members, but I cannot see many people suffering under present conditions, although they might suffer under future conditions.

I do not hold myself out as a financial expert nor claim to have the answer to the economic problems of Australia, but I assure the honourable member that inflation is not a bogey and that vast numbers are suffering because of the inflationary spiral today. The last Commonwealth Labor Government established in Australia the best standard of living in the world for the ordinary citizen. That compliment was paid by economists of other countries. The standard of living of the ordinary citizen reached an all-time high. The leaders of Labor determined that there would never be a repetition of the depression years, the memory of which is one of the contributing factors to our lack of production today. In addition to the task of winning the war, the Federal Labor Government undertook to give the people a measure of security they never enjoyed before. The Government sought to provide for the people from infancy to old age. The maternity allowance was increased, not only to give the mother sufficient to meet hospital commitments, but also to provide domestic help before and after the birth. Unemployment benefits were inaugurated so that if the bread-winner lost his job the family would be adequately protected. In lieu of rations a payment of 25s. a week was allowed the bread-winner during unemployment. Payments were provided for sickness and for hospital services and the old age pension was lifted to an all-time high and related to the basic wage.

Because of inflation, which the member for Mitcham said has not hurt anyone, the people of Australia have lost all they gained in 18 months. All those benefits have been filched from them by the depreciation in the value of money. The people have lost heavily in other directions, too. A mother now requires all of her maternity bonus to pay for the services of the doctor. She is therefore no better off than before this social service legislation was introduced. The 25s. a week provision during unemployment has not been raised, although all other pensions and costs have risen greatly. An unemployed man today would not be able to buy any more goods with his 25s. than the Government was able to purchase for 7s. 6d. during the depression; he is back to where he started. The old age pension is no longer related to the basic wage which, with cost of living adjustments, has been increased more in the last 18 months than the amount of the old age pension. I do not know how old age pensioners live today, especially if they have to pay rent. Everything that Labor sought to give by way

of security to the ordinary people has been filched from them and they have suffered. Along with the loss that has been sustained by them is the loss that has been suffered by every man who has sought to provide for his old age by saving. Speaking to a bank manager recently and referring to the bonus he received at Christmas he said, "Don't talk to me about bonuses; I would rather not have them. I would rather believe that the money I have saved through the years is secure. I have worked all my life to accumulate sufficient savings to provide a home, but they are not half enough to provide me with one today." Men who thought that their savings would provide for their old age have found that they are insufficient and that they must continue work. Many people have suffered through inflation, which must be stopped, otherwise chaos will reign.

I do not presume to be an economic expert, but I do know the angle from the point of view of the home budget. I know the difficulties that every housekeeper experiences in trying to make ends meet. The things for which I believe people live are more difficult to obtain today than during the war years. The average Australian seeks to provide a home for himself, his wife, and family; he seeks to give his children an education and to start his family out fully equipped for life. These things were more easily obtainable to members of the community during the period that Federal Labor was in office than at any time in our history, but today they are more difficult than they have been for two decades. It is more difficult for the ordinary citizen to get a home, educate a family, and start his children out in life. These things have been removed altogether and it is high time that the people fully appreciated the drift that is occurring.

Sir Keith Murdoch has frequently criticized Labor Party policy in Australia, and in articles published last February drew attention to the inflationary trend. He said that unless the present Federal Government took adequate steps to deal with inflation it would overcome the Government and swallow it up. He set out a 10-point programme of what he claimed were the remedies for inflation. He emphasized what the ordinary Australian citizen should do, but gradually we have seen the Federal Government embrace these points and gradually introduce legislation to give effect to the programme enunciated by Sir Keith. He said that there was a redundancy of manpower in the Government service and referred to a

statement made by Mr. Colin Clarke, Queensland Government Economist. Sir Keith quoted Mr. Clark as saying that there should be an immediate pruning of the Commonwealth Public Service and that 100,000, not 10,000 Commonwealth Government employees should be sacked. At election time the Federal Government promised no interference with labour and full employment for all Australian citizens, but immediately the elections were over it started to put Sir Keith's proposals for the dismissal of 10,000 employees into effect. On the one hand, although it proposes to dismiss 10,000 employees the Federal Government has officers in Germany recruiting people for the Public Service. Although the Federal Government is finding that most of the Government undertakings are undertaffed it has suggested that the services of married women should be dispensed with. I have yet to discover how that will held the manpower position in Australia or how it will provide more manpower for essential industries. Most Commonwealth public servants are engaged in essential works and developmental undertakings. If there is to be any pruning the first thing to be examined are the industries which are producing luxury goods that the ordinary citizen might be in a position to do without. Most of these public servants are engaged in utilities which we cannot do without, and any cutting down must be at the expense of services to Australia.

Sir Keith Murdoch recommended the indefinite postponement of the Snowy River hydro-electric scheme, but when the economic conference was called in Sydney two things were brought out. One was the discovery, apparent to most people, that the biggest drawback to Australia was the lack of coal and power. How does the suggestion to postpone indefinitely the Snowy River project measure up with that? Perhaps the chief benefit derived from the Sydney economic conference was the fact that the Prime Minister's attention was drawn to the ten Commandments and he has discovered that there is something in them after all. Sir Keith suggested an increase in the interest rate, that it should be increased to an extent that would prevent people from buying many goods. It was another way of saying that everything produced should go to the highest bidder. There, I believe, we find the difference in outlook between members who sit behind the Government and those occupying the Opposition

benches. Government supporters seem to think that everything that is produced should go to the highest bidder and that the devil can look after those who are unable to bid high. Members on this side believe that even if it necessitates accepting some kind of control we should as far as possible see that the necessities of life are equally distributed on the basis of need. Sir Keith Murdoch suggested this increase in the interest rate, but I do not know how that would reduce costs or arrest in any way the inflationary trend. He also suggested closing the University at Canberra. It is marvellous how when a crisis occurs the things designed to lift the standard of the people are the things which are first attacked. Education and public works are the first things to come under the scrutiny of those who plan the pruning. Those of us who do not claim to be professors of economics are concerned about the gap between the money in the pay envelope and the extent of the home budget. The Commonwealth Government has been in office for 18 months but no attempt has been made to honour the promises made to the people at election time. We feared that the present situation would arise when the people took from the Commonwealth Government the power to control prices, because it forced the Commonwealth Government to withdraw subsidies. When Mr. Chifley did it he was criticized by the present Prime Minister and his supporters, but when they assumed office they withdrew more subsidies and refused to grant subsidies in other directions. The withdrawal of the subsidies has done more than anything else to increase prices, and to start the present trend of continual increases in wages and costs. At election time it was said that the Liberal Party would reduce living costs and increase real wages. Our people are still waiting for these things to happen. In other advertisements it was said that Liberalism meant the provision of attractive homes, and an increase in the family income with a reasonable cost of living. It was said that the Liberal Party had a practical plan for increasing the purchasing power of wages and reducing the cost of living. Other advertisements said that a change of Government would mean a lower cost of living through increased production, taxation reductions, subsidies for home building, and integrity of government. The housewife knows that the Liberal Party has broken faith with her, and has not carried out the promises made glibly at election time.

I believe that the Governor's Speech opening this session was the longest I have heard. There was a time when members expected to hear in the Governor's Speech an outline of Government policy for the ensuing session, but if ever a Governor's Speech was bereft of policy this one was. None of the matters which vitally concern the people was remotely touched upon. The Governor gave only a recital of the works of public departments. In many instances few of the items had any relation to a contemplated legislation programme. The Speech was not confined to a recital of work by public departments, but it included such things as the development of the 90-mile desert country by the Australian Mutual Provident Society. It capitalized on the work of private enterprise, and I suppose it did so to get some kind of credit for the Government. Reference has been made to the establishment by the Electricity Trust of a regional power station at Port Augusta, and the progress made with the work. People generally in the north, and not only those in the immediate vicinity of Port Augusta, welcome the work which is being done by the Government and the trust to decentralize the production of electricity. We believe the work is up to schedule and we look forward to the day when the machinery can be set in motion. In their search for a site for the power station officers of the trust looked for deep water for cooling purposes. They were fortunate in finding it at Curlew Point where there is a depth of 40ft. The spot should be developed as a port for overseas vessels.

Mr. Christian—How far is it off shore?

Mr. RICHES—It is quite close. According to plans I have seen the Electricity Trust proposes to build a jetty out to the full depth and to off-load all the heavy machinery which will be brought to South Australia for that station, plant which is too heavy for the railways and roads. The Government should carefully investigate the matter to see whether it would not pay South Australia, instead of building a jetty which could be used for one purpose only, to build a wharf or, failing that, a jetty which could be used permanently as a deep-sea port and which might open up in the future many industries in the north of this State. It has been suggested that cattle should be lifted from the Northern Territory and north of South Australia and, if that is done, attention will have to be paid to the transport of stock and an extension of our abattoirs in Adelaide or, according to the report, the erection of abattoirs at Port Pirie or Port

Augusta. Money spent on the erection of this jetty for permanent use would be well invested as no-one can tell what the future may hold with regard to the further establishment of industries in the north.

Mr. O'Halloran—With a power station industries should certainly follow.

Mr. RICHES—Yes, particularly those associated with the raw materials readily available in the district. It is generally recognized that our iron ore supply has a definite life. I understand scientists are turning their attention to a substitute, and that magnesite has been considered. South Australia has deposits of this mineral stretching from Port Germein to almost as far north as Blinman. With power, water, and a deep-sea port, who can tell when the future may hold with regard to the development of these great natural resources? The Broken Hill Pty. Co. apparently places some value on them, because they have acquired the leases and are holding them for possible future development. I do not blame the Electricity Trust for erecting this jetty in the manner indicated. It is not its function to look after other industries and interests in this State. However, to go to the expense of building a jetty into that depth of water and then putting a power station right behind it so that no-one but the Electricity Trust will be able to use that jetty is short-sighted. The Government should refer the matter to either the Harbors Board or the Public Works Standing Committee with an instruction to investigate the desirability of the construction of a wharf which could be of permanent value to the district.

Mr. Moir—What will the jetty cost?

Mr. RICHES—I do not know; but in relation to a project costing over £10,000,000 the cost of a jetty would not be considered, although it could become an important facility in the district. The Government should pay some attention to using it to develop the hinterland of this State rather than letting it serve only one purpose. His Excellency's Speech referred to the setting up of the Royal Commission which is at present inquiring into the question of the proposed rail route between Brachina and Stirling North. To the residents of Quorn the finding of that Commission is vital. I understand from evidence already given that there are about 300 Commonwealth Railway employees at Quorn which has been built up by railway activity. Following the decline of agriculture, which has given way to pastoral pursuits, the welfare of Quorn has been maintained by the opportune develop-

ment of the Leigh Creek coalfield and increased railway activity. The north-south line is strewn with the ruins of towns and settlements. In every direction from Quorn are demolished buildings in small townships that flourished in the past but today are completely obliterated. Every effort should be made to preserve Quorn with a view to the welfare of the State as a whole. I am pleased that the State Government has taken the stand it has in seeing that this Royal Commission is charged with the responsibility of inquiring into a policy which could almost obliterate Quorn, if the line were to be built in accordance with the announced policy of the Federal Government. In that event the population of Quorn would be reduced from about 300 to less than 50. Such a blow would be more severe than any ever suffered by any other town in Australia. Any policy which would so adversely affect a community as progressive and wholesome as Quorn should be thoroughly examined before its implementation is permitted.

I have been interested in the periodical announcements by the Education Department concerning the Federal Government's scheme for the distribution of milk in schools. In the free milk scheme, the Government should give more serious consideration to the claims of country schools. I make a plea on behalf of country schools and will cite a difficulty at the Port Augusta primary school to show what has happened. They had a very good scheme for distributing milk to the children. The milk was obtained in bulk from Laura, in specially chilled cans, being delivered under hygienic conditions by the local milkman. The distribution was done voluntarily by the mothers of the children who rostered themselves and attended the school at 11 o'clock each morning. The cost amounted to 6d. or 7d. a week for each child. I believe the children benefited from the supply. The only alternative in the summer months is tap water and hot at that. In the winter months the milk was served in the form of cocoa, but because of the increase in price at the beginning of this year the scheme could not be operated for less than 1s. 3d. a week. Because of that increase and the announcement by the Federal Minister for Health that the Commonwealth Government intended to distribute milk to school children free of charge where possible the scheme broke down and the children have been without milk since.

The parents are looking forward to some form of agreement being reached between the

department and the local committee under which the scheme can be reinstated. If the Ministerial replies to my questions had concerned themselves with the difficulty of distribution they might have been understood. The department tried to put the committee off in the first place by saying that bulk distribution was not hygienic. However, it has been allowed to continue for many years and had received the department's blessing until this year because it had paid for the milk distributed in all cases where children were receiving free books. The physical difficulties of providing bottled milk in areas remote from the milk supply centres are such that it would take years before they were overcome. If the Minister had referred to those physical difficulties we might have accepted the replies as being genuine, but they led us to believe that the department has not given serious thought to the possibility of assisting with a bulk distribution scheme. There is no indication that we are likely to get anywhere this year. Certain members of the school committee came from New South Wales recently and have said that in some of the Sydney schools where milk is supplied in bottles the mothers attend and empty the milk into cups and pannikins in precisely the same way as was done at Port Augusta. There is nothing to prevent the distribution scheme from being reinstated next week if the Government were prepared to say that it would assist the committee with the cost of the milk. I believe the mothers would again give their services voluntarily. The member for Port Pirie referred to the closing of certain schools and I have in mind the school at Winninowie in my electorate known as the Davenport North school. It has been closed since about February and most of the children are going without education. Some fettlers on the railways have to board their children in other towns at costs they cannot afford to meet in order that they can be educated. The department has been unable to provide a teacher. A bitumen road runs past the school and it has been requested that the department should provide transport. Tenders were called and according to the Minister's reply to my question the lowest tender was for 10s. for each child each day, and that cost was considered too high. I lodged one of the tenders and telephoned in another and neither exceeded 6s. a day. I am at a loss to understand that a responsible department, knowing that, should have given such an answer. It was also stated that a

report was to be called from the district inspector. When I last interviewed the department I was promised that that would be done. I told him that he would be asked for a report and he said that as soon as that was done he would give one. Up to the day I asked the question he had not been requested to supply a report. I saw him again last week and he had still not been asked for one. It seems to me that because these children are far removed from the department they are forgotten. Apparently there has been a breakdown in the machinery somewhere. Every time I have been to the department I have been received with the utmost courtesy and given the greatest consideration. However, these children are not receiving the education they require. Gaps in education can never be bridged. I am the son of a railway fettler and despite unlimited goodwill and a determination in carrying out the chief aim of his life, namely, to give his child a better start than he had, my father could not afford to give me any education above Grade VII. standard. I know what happens in fettlers' camps today and know the handicaps facing children for the rest of their lives if they do not receive adequate education. Those years in which they miss schooling can never be made up. The necessity of educating their children is one of the great problems of men in country areas. At present in Cook, on the East-West Railway, there is a family with three children who should be attending high school, but a house cannot be obtained in a town where there is a high school and the education required cannot be obtained at Cook. The children are still under 14 and will suffer a handicap for the rest of their lives. That is not fair. That is one of the difficulties we must overcome if we are to induce the best type of labour into the country. I ask leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC WORKS STANDING COMMITTEE.

The SPEAKER laid on the table reports by the Public Works Standing Committee on Glanville Dockyard improvements and the Ethelton sewage pumping station, together with minutes of evidence.

Ordered that reports be printed.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 10.3 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, August 9, at 2 p.m.