

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, August 14, 1951.

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

## CLERK ASSISTANT.

The SPEAKER—I have to inform the House that, in accordance with Standing Order No. 31, I have appointed Mr. A. F. R. Dodd to act as Clerk Assistant and Sergeant-at-Arms during the temporary absence on duty of Mr. I. J. Ball, Clerk Assistant and Sergeant-at-Arms.

## POLIOMYELITIS.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Has the Minister of Lands, as Minister in charge of the House in the absence of the Premier, any information to give following on questions I previously put to the Premier suggesting the co-ordination of research activities in an effort to find means of preventing the spread of the poliomyelitis epidemic that has been raging in South Australia for about two years?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I have received the following report from the Director-General of Public Health:—

Effective co-ordination of research activities exists in Australia at present largely through the National Health and Medical Research Council, and its various special committees. Experts in the several fields in the research institutes and universities of the Australian cities confer at frequent intervals on the problems with their work.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Has the Minister of Lands obtained a reply to the question I asked on August 2 about Dr. Hendrickson's treatment of poliomyelitis?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I have obtained the following report from the Director-General of Public Health:—

Dr. D. B. Hendrickson, of Glenelg, recently interviewed the chairman of the State Advisory Committee on Poliomyelitis and elaborated his ideas on various aspects of poliomyelitis. The chairman advised that a preliminary report should be prepared and submitted for publication in the *Medical Journal of Australia*. By that means the matter would receive the attention of doctors throughout Australia and evaluation of the suggestions might be effectively arrived at. The chairman also advised Dr. Hendrickson to discuss the matter with scientists at the University and other institutions. When Dr. Hendrickson takes the opportunity to clarify his suggestions, and especially to publish them, it will be possible to assess this value in treatment. There has been no special incidence of deaths—the 30-40 age group—as this table indicates:—

Years.	July to Dec., 1949.	Jan. to June, 1950.	July to Dec., 1950.	Jan. to June, 1951.
Up to 10 ..	3	4	3	2
10 to 19 ..	5	—	—	6
20 to 29 ..	11	4	1	12
30 to 39 ..	—	2	1	2
40 to 49 ..	—	—	—	2
50 to 59 ..	1	—	—	—
Over 60 ..	—	1	—	—
Totals ..	20	11	5	24

## BUILDING CONTRACTORS.

Mr. PATTINSON—During the past five years about 15 builders and contractors have been adjudicated bankrupt in this State, and in almost every instance a substantial number of their creditors have been young married or engaged couples, including a large number of young ex-servicemen, who have paid builders and contractors substantial sums as deposits on building contracts in expectation of having dwellings built for them. Most of the houses have been only partly completed and in many cases no building whatsoever has been done, and these young people have lost the whole of their savings because, in practically every one of the 15 cases of which I am aware, these builders and contractors have shown huge deficiencies. In one case last year a bankrupt builder and contractor obtained about £2,500 from eight depositors and no work whatsoever was done on any of the eight contracts. He showed a very large deficiency and the young people will lose practically the whole of their deposits. In another case this year a bankrupt builder and contractor received nearly £20,000 from about 35 home seekers, and the buildings in respect of a large number of the contracts have not been started. This man shows a huge deficiency and many of the 35 people will lose all their deposits. As the Minister of Lands is aware, in 1949 there was an amendment to the Building Materials Act requiring the payment of these deposits, in anticipation of building commencing, into a joint account in the name of the builder and the depositor. Many people do not seem to be aware of the provision, and in those cases where they have been made aware of it the builder has sometimes talked them out of it, saying that it does not apply in his particular case. There have been a few prosecutions for breaches of the provision, but the builders pay the fines out of the deposits, so they are no worse off, and they are impoverishing the home seeker further. Will the Minister

examine the Western Australian Registration of Builders Act passed in 1939, which requires any builder engaging in a contract of £800 or more to be a registered builder, and no local governing body is allowed to pass a building permit unless the contract is to be carried out by a registered builder? Failing that, will the Minister consider, when we are amending the Building Materials Act this session, substituting the penalty of imprisonment for fines for breaches of the Act?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—Unfortunately the position set out by the honourable member is true. It is regrettable that, although much publicity was given to the matter, that position still exists. I hope great publicity will be given again by the press and others to this position with a view to remedying it. I will take up with my colleagues the points mentioned by the honourable member to see if something can be done to improve the position.

#### MOUNT PLEASANT-ANGASTON ROAD.

Mr. TEUSNER—Has the Minister of Works any further information in answer to my question of August 2 regarding the inclusion of the Mount Pleasant-Angaston Road in the Government's post-war road construction programme, and can he say whether that work will be proceeded with at an early date?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—As I indicated previously, the Commissioner of Highways and I have discussed a number of roads which are to be changed from ordinary surface to sealed roads. There has been some delay in providing crushed stone for this work. Although certain road programmes are in arrears owing to the particularly wet winter and the demands made by roads which carry heavier traffic, the Commissioner of Highways has informed me that he hopes to be able to proceed with the bituminous coating of this road during the carrying out of the 1951-52 programme; preferably before the summer.

#### LOADING OF WHEAT.

Mr. McALEES—A fortnight ago I asked a question regarding certain ships leaving Wallaroo and later picking up salt at Port Adelaide which could have been loaded at Wallaroo. I understand that this week between 3,000 and 5,000 tons of wheat is being taken from Paskeville to Port Adelaide, where it is being loaded for shipment. Can the Minister of Lands say why that wheat was not loaded at Wallaroo, a port much nearer Paskeville?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—It could be due to one of two reasons. Firstly, I believe that recently the port of Wallaroo has been very busy shipping wheat and may not have been able to handle this cargo. Secondly, it may have been that the wheat was urgently required in Port Adelaide and it was necessary to get it down with all possible speed. I will obtain a report and let the honourable member have it.

#### PORT PIRIE BRICK SUPPLY.

Mr. DAVIS—Has the Minister representing the Premier a reply to my recent question regarding the Port Pirie brick supply?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—The following information has been supplied by the Director of Building Materials:—

Inquiries have been made and it has been ascertained that the contractor in question recently constructed a brick kiln of his own and is now producing approximately 11,000 to 12,000 burnt bricks a week. When it was known that he intended to make burnt bricks, the leading hand at the Port Pirie Brick Works contacted him requesting employment at the new works and was subsequently engaged. Other than the manager, this leading hand was the only skilled man at the Port Pirie Brick Works and his departure added to their labour difficulties. The Port Pirie Brick Works is owned by Brick Manufacturers Limited, an association of various manufacturers in Adelaide, with Mr. Tom Hallett as managing director. The Adelaide management decided that as Mr. O'Loughlin was manufacturing his own bricks he should no longer be supplied with bricks from the old works. So far as is known, bricks from the Port Pirie Brick Works are still being supplied to individual housing jobs, but the contractor prohibited from supply is the biggest builder in Port Pirie, so that group schemes for war service homes and Housing Trust may be jeopardized. There is power under the Building Materials Act to direct supplies of building bricks to a particular contractor, and I am having further inquiries made to ascertain whether this action should be recommended.

#### DAMAGE BY ELECTRICITY TRUST EMPLOYEES.

Mr. HEASLIP—Over the week-end I received complaints from landholders in the vicinity of the power line being erected between Port Augusta and Port Pirie to the effect that Electricity Trust lorries were travelling over properties during wet weather, becoming stuck and leaving tracks which may lead to erosion. To enter the properties the men sometimes ignore the gates and if it suits them cut the fences and leave them open. On one occasion a thousand sheep passed from one man's property to another's and were boxed

with the neighbour's sheep. Although I realize the necessity of the power line I do not think the practice of cutting fences to which I referred is necessary. Will the Minister have an investigation made into this matter?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Assuming that the honourable member has been correctly informed, it seems inconceivable that men would dare to take upon themselves the right to cut fences and enter other people's property and thus cause their sheep to be boxed. I will have an investigation made and if the honourable member will let me know the properties involved I will see that, as far as the Government is concerned, there will not be any recurrence of the practice.

#### COOL DRINK PRICES.

Mr. FRED WALSH—Last Thursday the Prices Commissioner published in the *Government Gazette* a list, under various headings, of prices covering the sale of cool drinks. I have no quarrel with the prices fixed, but my attention was drawn last Saturday to the fact that in some parts of the metropolitan area certain drinks being sold as fruit drinks are not fruit drinks. Last Saturday I noticed on the flat enclosure of the racecourse that a drink was being sold at 7d., whereas in my opinion it was covered by the schedule issued by the Prices Commissioner as a draught drink at 5d. Its basis is syrup and it is artificially coloured and flavoured. The syrup is made by manufacturing grocers at practically no cost and sold in half-gallon and one-gallon jars. All that is added in the sale to the customer is water or soda water. Will the Government refer the question of overcharging for cool drinks by vendors to the Prices Department with a view to prosecution where breaches are detected?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—From what the honourable member has said there appears to be a breach of the Act. If he will give me the name of the vendors of those drinks I will have an investigation made and obtain a report for him.

#### OUTPUT OF MARGARINE.

Mr. DUNKS—In 1939 the Government introduced the Margarine Act at a time when the price of butterfat was very low and butter was very plentiful in South Australia. The price of butterfat is fairly high today and butter is scarce. Will the Government consider altering the Act so that table margarine may be available to the people for home cooking and to those who would be satisfied to use it on the table during the butter shortage?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—The Government considered this matter but decided, at any rate for the present, that it is not prepared to introduce a Bill to amend the Act as suggested. The dairying industry is going through a difficult period. It is being shot at by many people and under the circumstances it would be very unwise to further unsettle the industry by the introduction of legislation of this nature.

#### SUPERPHOSPHATES SUPPLIES.

Mr. FLETCHER—Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to the question I asked on July 31 with reference to superphosphate supplies for soldier settlers in my district?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—This matter was first raised by the member for Victoria and the Premier promised to investigate the position. Following the honorable member's later question I took it up with the Premier's department as it already had the matter in hand, but I have not received a report. I will make further inquiries and let the honourable member know in due course.

#### HILLS ROAD TRAFFIC.

Mr. SHANNON—Since my question on August 7 with reference to the control of heavy vehicles on the Mt. Barker road an accident occurred which fortunately did not result in any casualties. However, it is obvious that there will be further and possibly fatal accidents on this road due to the congestion created by road hauliers. Can the Minister of Local Government say whether the Highways Commissioner has yet reached a decision regarding this urgent matter?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I conferred further with the Highways Commissioner and took several steps in other directions but I think that the matter will probably have to be dealt with when we are considering the whole problem of our traffic regulations in relation to the report of the Transport Commission. In the meantime the Commissioner of Highways has reported upon the honourable member's question as follows:—

The regulation of traffic is not included among the powers of the Commissioner of Highways, but is dealt with under the Road Traffic Act. This empowers the Commissioner of Police to

“give such reasonable directions . . . as are necessary for the safe and efficient regulation of traffic.”

I understand that during November, 1950, the Commissioner of Police examined a proposal—similar to that now suggested by Mr. Shannon—but from the information he obtained, did not recommend its adoption. As

regards congestion, the prohibition of interstate haulage vehicles only would involve some difficult legal complications, and I do not think it would produce the benefit expected. A large proportion of this class of traffic travels outside the hours enumerated. On the other hand, to prohibit all heavy vehicles would affect both service buses and lorries registered in South Australia. As regards alternative routes, there are available from Crafers to the G.P.O.:

- (a) The Greenhill Road, which is two miles longer, and
- (b) the Belair road, which is 4½ miles longer.

However, on both these routes the curves are more numerous and sharper, and the construction much lighter, rendering them unsuitable for heavy semi-trailer traffic. They are available for, and in fact are largely used, by drivers of cars wishing to avoid the congestion during peak hours. Some additional control of traffic may become desirable but this is a matter of policy and as previously mentioned could be implemented under section 60 of the Road Traffic Act or by special regulation under section 61 of the Road Traffic Act.

The whole matter is under consideration by the Government. I appreciate members' suggestions, all of which will be considered when dealing with the type of legislation to be submitted to the House.

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES—Members who represent people who travel much along the hills road are continually receiving complaints about the dangerous nature of the traffic. Will the Government treat the matter as very urgent and have a decision made within the next fortnight?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—No, that would be impossible. We have no legislative authority to do it and if we framed a regulation it would doubtless be challenged immediately and considerable time taken up in discussion.

The Hon. S. W. Jeffries—Will you put a regulation into force immediately?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I will not undertake to do that. We have given the matter urgent consideration from two points of view—the damage to the hills road itself and the irrevocable damage to the road beyond the hills. I travel the hills road frequently and do not think that the danger is very great. I think more accidents happen on the open highway than on the dangerous curves on the hills road, where people exercise more care. Many accidents occur on the highway near Bordertown, where the road is straight. We must consider not one particular section but the whole road; what is a reasonable road and what is a reasonable length. A Standards Committee recently sat in Adelaide on traffic matters and its report will have to be taken into

consideration. Risk is another point to be considered and much publicity has been given to the lack of transport. We can manage all that is offering in South Australia, but other States are carting a lot of essential goods at present, and if we eliminate interstate road transport we shall probably do much harm to our own industries. Many people registered in New South Wales and Victoria drive diesel trucks, and except for a few pounds a load, the Government does not get any revenue from them. The Government is treating the matter as urgently as circumstances will permit, but it would be almost impossible, so far as interstate traffic is concerned, to arbitrarily close down a system that has been working for years.

#### SECONDHAND MOTOR CARS SALES.

Mr. STOTT—Can the Minister of Lands say if Cabinet has considered the question of price control of secondhand motor cars, and whether the matter has been listed for consideration at the forthcoming prices conference in Melbourne?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—Cabinet has not considered the request and I cannot say whether it will be dealt with at the forthcoming conference.

#### DAVENPORT NORTH SCHOOL.

Mr. RICHES—I was informed by the Minister of Works on July 31 that a report had been called for from the district inspector about transport for children from Davenport North school into Port Augusta and that the lowest tender received represented 10s. a day for each child. I know that lower tenders than that were received before the reply was given. I have repeatedly inquired from the district inspector and find that until today he has not received any request from the department to report on the transportation of those children, who have been without education for months. Will the Minister treat this matter as urgent and obtain a report at the earliest possible date?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Not being in charge of the Education Department I naturally do not know anything of the alleged facts. It is inconceivable that the department would send a false report to the Minister of Education. The honourable member says that lower tenders than the one mentioned were received. He cannot know that unless he knows, of his own knowledge, that they were in the hands of the department itself.

Mr. Riches—I submitted one!

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—In view of the circumstances and accusations implied in the honourable member's question I will ask my colleague to make inquiries and will bring down a report.

#### MANNAHILL PASTORAL LEASES.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Can the Minister of Lands say whether an area which was closed in the Mannahill district upon the expiration of the leases about seven years ago is to be offered for allotment or kept for a permanent soil conservation reserve? The area was closed to see how it would affect regeneration of natural growth. I understand that some recent investigations were made as to its future use.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I took up the matter with the chairman of the Pastoral Board and have received the following report from him:—

The Pastoral Board has been in touch with the Director of Agriculture and discussed the question of the land being used for experimental purposes by the Department of Agriculture. Dr. Callaghan asked that the matter be held in abeyance to give him an opportunity of inspecting the area at some convenient time. I got in touch with Dr. Callaghan, and he advised that the Minister of Agriculture is arranging to discuss the matter with Mr. McGilp (member of the Pastoral Board), who is fully conversant with the area.

#### STIRLING BUS TRANSPORT.

Mr. DUNKS—Although the Municipal Tramways Trust has control over buses which run within a 10-mile radius of the metropolitan area, can the Minister of Works say under what franchise or licence buses are allowed to run along Mount Barker road to Stirling?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—As far as my memory extends I think the buses are under the control of the Tramways Trust, but I will make inquiries and if the position is otherwise I will inform the honourable member immediately. I know that within a 10-mile limit all bus transport must operate under franchise of the Tramways Trust.

#### BEDFORD PARK HOSPITAL.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—A full-time superintendent, although not a resident officer, was recently appointed at Bedford Park Hospital. On several occasions I have mentioned the desirableness of continuing the farm at Bedford Park to grow fodder and keep stock. Will the Minister of Agriculture see if the services of the chief inspector in the Department of Agriculture can be made available to

the medical superintendent at Bedford Park on the possibility of continuing farm work at the hospital?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—The administration of the Bedford Park Hospital comes under the Minister of Health, and any communication from an officer of his department must go through that Minister. Consequently, if there is a desire on the part of the farm manager or anyone else to get certain works done they should apply through the Minister. I can assure the honourable member that any approach made to me by the Minister of Health for assistance from the Department of Agriculture will be sympathetically received.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Can the Minister of Lands indicate whether Dr. Woodruff, Director of Tuberculosis, has recommended the building of a new hospital or increased accommodation at Bedford Park Hospital?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I will take up the question with the Minister of Health and bring down a report for the honourable member.

#### CREAM SUPPLIES.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I notice that in the *Government Gazette* of last Thursday the Metropolitan Milk Board was granted further powers under its Act. Page 295 of the *Gazette* refers to the supply of city cream, and says that the cream must be of a smooth, even texture and be in accordance with certain standards. Some retail shops in Adelaide sell cream for spreading purposes; others sell a liquid type of cream more like milk, where a spoon is used. Will the Minister of Agriculture ascertain whether the additional power given to the board means that purchasers of raw cream will be guaranteed cream of a smooth, even texture and not a liquid which is more like milk?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—I will submit the matter to the chairman of the Metropolitan Milk Board and bring down a report.

#### PREMIERE OF FILM "KANGAROO."

Mr. RICHES—In the north of the State we were more than a little interested at the beginning of the year in the production of the film "Kangaroo" and naturally we are interested in the fact that it is to be shown shortly in theatres. Will the Minister of Lands confer with the Premier and ask if it would be possible for the world premiere of the film "Kangaroo" to take place in South

Australia and, if possible, concurrently at Port Augusta and Adelaide? It is thought that the Premier may be able to have discussions along these lines whilst in America.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I know that the Premier has made representations to the company which produced the film with a view to the premiere being held in this State. I take it that it would be in Adelaide, but as the honourable member would like it to take place also at Port Augusta I will take up the matter with the Premier.

#### CATTLE COMPENSATION FUND.

Mr. Whittle for Mr. MICHAEL (on notice)—

1. What amount was held in the Cattle Compensation Fund on June 30, 1951?
2. What amount of income was received during the year ended June 30, 1951?
3. What amount of compensation was paid during the same period?

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

1. £48,098 0s. 5d.
2. £14,548 14s. 10d.
3. £5,658 5s. 3d.

#### KUITPO COLONY.

Mr. FLETCHER (on notice)—

1. How many offenders were committed to the Kuitpo Colony for the year ended June 30, 1951?
2. How many offenders under the Offenders Probation Act committed to Kuitpo Colony absconded from that colony for year ended June 30, 1951?
3. Are any reductions in offenders' sentences allowed for good conduct or good work?
4. Does the Government of South Australia assist this institution by a grant of £600 per year?
5. Are any inspections made to ascertain the conditions under which those placed there are living?
6. Is the living standard comparable with the standard at the Kyeema Prison Farm?
7. Is the Kuitpo Colony an undenominational institution?
8. Are representatives of the various religious denominations granted entry to attend the spiritual needs of the inmates?

The Hon. C. S. Hincks for the Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The replies are:—

1. There is no power to commit offenders to Kuitpo Colony. Under the Offenders Probation Act courts have power to release a convicted person upon his entering into a recognizance,

and one condition that may be imposed is "with respect to residence." For the year ended June 30, 1951, of the persons who were released under that Act, six were directed to reside at Kuitpo Colony.

2. Seven of the persons directed to so reside absconded during the year.

3. There is no sentence, the period is not varied on account of good conduct.

4. Yes, and by weekly sustenance payments of 25s. for each person received under court direction.

5. The manager of Kuitpo Colony Incorporated advises:—

An officer of the Audit Department visited the colony recently, that in February last a number of ministers of religion inspected same, that the committee frequently carry out inspection, and that the colony is open to anyone upon application to the manager.

6. No comparison is available with Kyeema. At Kuitpo—Food: Three regular meals a day are supplied, two of these meals are always hot and sometimes hot dishes are included in the third. Meat, vegetables, eggs, milk, and fruit are included in the diet. A cup of coffee is supplied at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Accommodation: The men sleep in huts, never more than two to a room, with single beds, mattresses, and five blankets. Conveniences: Electric light is installed in all buildings; bathrooms with hot water, and two lavatories which have septic system.

7. Yes.

8. Yes, upon application to the manager, the representative of any religious denomination will be welcomed at any time.

#### MINISTER OF HOUSING.

Mr. MOIR (on notice)—

1. Does the Treasurer consider that it is within the capacity of the Housing Trust to cope with the increasing numbers of applications for—(a) houses; (b) flats; and (c) cottages for old-age couples?

2. Is it the intention of the Government to take the necessary steps for the appointment of a Minister for Housing to direct the trust's activities?

The Hon. C. S. Hincks for the Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The replies are:—

1. (a), (b), and (c) The number of houses completed by the Housing Trust is increasing from year to year. During the last three financial years the trust has completed 1,252, 1,790, and 3,057 dwellings respectively, whilst it may be expected that during the current financial year the number will exceed 4,000. It is

not the intention of the enabling legislation that the trust should undertake to provide for all the housing needs of the State and it would be a most undesirable state of affairs if a person in need of housing could only obtain a house through the trust.

The trust only disposes of about 30 per centum of the ordinary local building materials and it is obviously highly desirable that the greater part of the local materials should be reserved for the very important work of building apart from the trust's programme. If the trust were to use more of the local materials it follows that others would get less. However, the trust is doing a great deal of building by using materials drawn from outside sources. During the last financial year the trust imported overseas materials to the value of over £200,000. In addition, it has contracts for approximately 4,000 imported houses, many of which are now reaching the State. These importations have aided the State's house production considerably.

2. No. The amount of house building which can be carried out is obviously limited by the materials and labour available. To appoint a Minister to direct the trust's activities would not increase these supplies of materials or labour.

#### PASTORAL HOLDINGS.

Mr. RICHES (on notice)—

1. What are the names of pastoral holdings in excess of 50 square miles in area?
2. What is the area of each such holding?
3. Who are the owners or lessees of these holdings?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—There are a great number of pastoral holdings in excess of 50 square miles. It is suggested that if the honourable member requires any information regarding any particular holding, this information will be supplied.

#### PRICE CONTROL.

Mr. RICHES (on notice)—

1. What goods and services included in the "C" series cost of living index are not subject to price control?
2. What goods and services included in the "C" series cost of living index are subject to partial price control?

The Hon. C. S. Hincks for the Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The replies are:—

1. Goods and services included in the "C" series cost of living index not subject to price control:

Section A—Groceries.—Sago and seed tapioca; raisins, seeded; currants, loose, 2 crown; apricots, dried, loose, 2 crown; onions, brown.

Section B—Dairy Produce.—Bacon—rashers, best middle.

Section C—Meat.—Pork.

Section E—Men's Clothing.—Braces.

Section F—Women's Clothing.—Hat, fur felt (Australian); hat, straw; gloves, fabric (unless made or partially made from wool); gloves, nappa.

Section G—Boys' (10½ years) Clothing.—Braces; cap, skull, cloth (other than made or partially made from wool).

Section H—Girls' (7 years) Clothing.—Hat, straw.

Section J—Boys' (3½ years) Clothing.—Hat, cloth (other than made or partially made from wool).

Section L—Household Utensils.—Cup and saucer (stone china); plate, dinner (stone china); jug, quart (earthenware); teapot, brown ware (2 pint); tumbler (8oz.); bucket, galvanized (11in.); dipper, galvanized (2 quart); broom, millet; broom, hair, complete (12in.); brush, scrubbing (10in.); mop, polishing, complete; knife, table (stainless); spoon, tea; spoon, dessert; fork, table; globe, electric light (gas filled); iron, electric (full size).

Section N—Other Miscellaneous.—Union dues; lodge dues; recreation.

2. Goods and services included in the "C" series cost of living index subject to partial price control:

Section B—Dairy Produce.—Eggs, standard, new laid; wholesale prices—S.A. Egg Board; retail prices—S.A. Prices Department. Milk, fresh, in sealed bottles or not bottled: metropolitan area—Metropolitan Milk Board; country areas—S.A. Prices Department.

Section C—Meat.—Beef and mutton not so far as it concerns livestock prices.

Section N—Other Miscellaneous.—Medicines (proprietary and ethicals other than insulin and medical gases of all kinds are excluded from control). Newspapers (daily only controlled). School requisites (primary school text books, school exercise books, and the like only controlled).

#### LAND FOR CLOSER SETTLEMENT.

Mr. Frank Walsh for Mr. McKENZIE (on notice)—Is it the intention of the Government to approach owners of large areas of land suitable for closer settlement and ascertain—(a) what areas are available for purchase; (b) the price; and (c) the amount of rates and taxes payable thereon at the present time?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—This has always been the policy of the Government, and the Government has officers making investigations in various parts of the State, namely, the South-East and Yorke Peninsula at the present time.

## ADDRESS IN REPLY.

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

(Continued from August 9. Page 304.)

The SPEAKER—I remind members that in the remaining part of this debate the Loan Estimates will not come within the scope of the discussion. Standing Orders were suspended specifically for the consideration of the Loan Estimates, which may be dealt with only in Committee. What has been already said on the Loan Estimates in Committee may not be replied to in the House, under Standing Orders.

Mr. WHITTLE (Prospect)—I support the motion. I rejoice with His Excellency, members of this House, and, I am sure, all South Australians that the health of His Majesty the King will permit of his projected visit to Australia with Her Majesty the Queen and Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret. I am sure South Australians will make the most of this opportunity to express their loyalty to the Royal Family and to the British Empire. Although the state of His Majesty's health will not permit him to examine fully the whole of this State's resources, I believe that His Excellency the Governor, one of the most well-informed King's representatives who has ever governed South Australia, as a result of his State-wide travel and numerous contacts with peoples of all classes in all parts of the State, will be able to inform His Majesty fully on South Australian resources and industries.

I congratulate the mover of the motion, a member who, I am sure, will worthily represent and uphold the prestige of a very important section of the State. Many members have spoken in this debate on the inflationary tendencies of the present times. These do not apply only to South Australia but are world-wide. I must admit that I have no solution. Speakers opposite have advanced the theory that if price control had been retained by the Commonwealth Government our economic position would be on a better basis. They consider that the States have fallen down on their job. It is a problem which reminds one of the old story about the egg and the chicken as to which came first—high wages or higher prices? Our economic position is linked up with the world increase in the price of raw materials. At least two honourable members have, to their own satisfaction, evidently solved the problem by suggesting that there should be a payment of the

equivalent of all price rises, based on the added cost of production, to be met by Government subsidies through the wholesale expansion of bank credit. I give them credit for being sincere, but am sorry I cannot see eye to eye with them. If what they said were true, it would be the easiest way out of our troubles one could imagine. However, I believe a little more sweat and tears are necessary before we can overcome the present inflationary tendency.

Throughout the world there is a great desire among people to attain a higher standard of living. Surely those in the more civilized countries cannot deny the millions in Asia an improvement in their standard of living? No doubt they will demand and are entitled to higher prices for their products and their labour. This in itself is one of the causes why price rises here are so potent. Consider jute goods produced in India. The price of corn-sacks, sugar bags and similar goods has increased by about 500 per cent during the last few years, and the impact on the price of goods packed in them has been tremendous. If the price of these jute goods were subsidized, as has been suggested, there would be added costs to the community.

Mr. Quirke—Who will shed the tears and who will do the sweating you speak of?

Mr. WHITTLE—I am not suggesting that the majority of workers in Australia are not sweating; they are doing a very good job, but some of our union leaders are to blame for a lack of a fair return for wages paid to workers. The sooner the will of the people, as expressed at the last Commonwealth election, is given effect to the better. They decided in no uncertain terms that the Commonwealth Government should be given power to control Communism, particularly in the major unions. I am surprised that members opposite are not backing the Government in that resolve. At the referendum to be held next month I believe and hope that our friends opposite will get a rude shock when they realize that most Australians are behind the Commonwealth Government's resolve to oust this menace which tries to undermine our industrial movement. Communism in Australia is doomed to failure. I do not endorse remarks by some members on this side that workers generally are not giving a fair return for their wages. Many of the old school are still keen on their job and look upon work not only as a means of earning money but as a vocation. A question asked today by the member for Ridley brings to mind whether or

not State control of prices has been effective. One of the first things the States did when they acquired the power to control prices was to delete those clauses which were not effective.

Mr. Fred Walsh—The Commonwealth Government found it possible to exercise powers under those clauses.

Mr. WHITTLE—There were many underhand practices. The member for Ridley asked whether price control would be re-instated on secondhand motor cars. One cannot imagine a greater racket than existed when the prices of secondhand motor cars were controlled.

Mr. Fred Walsh—You are not implying that there is no racket now?

Mr. WHITTLE—There is no control over their price now.

Mr. Fred Walsh—And everybody knows it.

Mr. Shannon—There is plenty of competition, too. Just read the advertisements!

Mr. WHITTLE—The control on the price of secondhand motor cars was so difficult to administer that it became a farce. The same thing, to a lesser extent, applied to price control on houses.

Mr. Hutchens—Do you say there was an extensive racket in secondhand motor cars under price control?

Mr. WHITTLE—I know there was, and the honourable member does, too. It was rampant. Many underhand dealings occurred in the sale of secondhand houses, but probably not to the same extent as with secondhand motor cars. With the control on properties now lifted the whole thing is fair and above board. We know that people are paying much more for houses than their true value, but they are doing it with their eyes open. Previously it was done under the lap and the State was not getting what it was entitled to on transfer fees. Associated with price control is the precarious position of the dairying industry in this State. On the opening day of this session the Deputy Leader of the Opposition made an impassioned appeal on behalf of South Australian dairy farmers. I wish it were possible to get him to make the same impassioned appeal to the Premier of New South Wales that he might bring commonsense to bear on the future of the dairying industry.

Mr. Fred Walsh—Why hasn't the Commonwealth Government honoured its promise?

Mr. WHITTLE—It has been paying a subsidy to the industry and offered a further subsidy, but it considers the States should do something in the matter. The Premier of

New South Wales is only playing politics, nothing else. He has made up his mind that State control of prices is a failure and is determined that it shall fail. It is a terrible thing that such an essential industry as dairying should be placed in a precarious position by the whims of one man. I hope a solution of the problem will be found soon. I noticed that the Prime Minister of New Zealand in his policy speech suggested that the price of butter in New Zealand should be reduced by 4d. I think the price of butter in New Zealand is 3s. a lb. sterling. The corresponding value in Australia would be 3s. 9d. It is clear that a drop in price of 4d. a lb. would not be very serious to dairy farmers in New Zealand. That would bring the price back to 3s. 5d. on Australian values, whereas the price here, even with the Commonwealth subsidy, does not come up to that figure.

Mr. Quirke—The price here is 1s. 1d., plus the Government subsidy, making the wholesale price 2s. 2d.

Mr. WHITTLE—The subsidy is made up on the butterfat. The Commonwealth provides a subsidy of 1s. 1d., but the price does not work out exactly as the honourable member suggests. If the selling price was increased by 8d. a lb. and the Commonwealth Government subsidy by 3½d. or 4d. a lb., the producer and consumer in Australia would be on a parity with those in New Zealand. I hope that Commonwealth Government investigations will result in something being evolved to give more stability to the price structure in Australia. However, as world prices of exportable goods in all countries have greatly increased there does not seem much chance of the general price level being lowered for a considerable time. Paragraph 6 of the Governor's Speech clearly sets out the position. It states:—

The control of prices has at all times received careful consideration. Most of the factors determining price levels are not within the control of any Government; but so far as prices can be controlled by Governmental action success has been achieved.

It goes on to say that the prices in South Australia are relatively lower than in other States and, in Australia generally lower than in other parts of the world. The control of prices by the States rather than by the Commonwealth Government has many advantages. In May last I visited New South Wales and stayed at a private home. I was therefore able to gain a better impression of the life of the people than had I stayed at an hotel. I found that in the suburbs of Sydney it was practically impossible to purchase common salt; it

had not been seen in the large chain stores for weeks, and housewives were forced to use English salt, which is of lower value for domestic purposes and costs three times as much, even allowing for the carriage of South Australian salt to New South Wales by road. It seemed to me that this was due to the fact that the New South Wales Prices Department had not awakened to the fact that it was necessary to cover the added cost of transport in the price of Australian salt by increasing their local selling price. Paragraph 8 refers to the extensions of the electricity services in country areas. The Government has always contended that the best way to bring about the desired decentralization of industry is to give outlying parts of the State amenities commensurate with those enjoyed in the metropolitan area, and this policy is being pursued vigorously by the trust. The provision of water supplies is another essential step in this direction, and the Minister of Works has from time to time stated that in South Australia a bigger percentage of the population enjoy a reticulated service than in any part of the world; about 90 per cent. When the works now in hand and projected are completed, such as the extension of the trunk main on Yorke Peninsula, the percentage of our population enjoying an assured water supply will be still greater.

We are happily blessed this year with a bountiful rainfall and the two main reservoirs supplying the metropolitan area are full and running over. Although not wishing to chastize the Government I do express great regret that it has not been able to build more dams like Mount Bold reservoir on the Onkaparinga catchment and, to a lesser extent, on the River Torrens. Sufficient water is running to waste from Mount Bold to fill another reservoir three or four times over.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Every man and every bit of material is being used somewhere.

Mr. WHITTLE—I am aware of that, but I do feel that had the Government persevered in the endeavour to construct another dam on the Onkaparinga River it would not have been necessary to bring Murray River water to Adelaide for some time, and my view is supported by engineers of no mean merit. I know full well that at some time in the future it would have become necessary, but it is a great pity to see this huge volume of water, of infinitely better quality than Murray River water could ever be, running to waste. I consider our railways to be the best in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Fletcher—What about the South-East?

Mr. WHITTLE—The South-Eastern division is in a state of flux; much the same as our roads were just before the introduction of bitumen. They became very bad before they were improved, and I have no doubt that, when the broadening of the gauge is completed and better rollingstock is introduced, the South-Eastern services will be comparable with those in other parts of the State. I recently had the pleasure of travelling to and from Melbourne in one of our much-praised and very fine twinette cars. Three American couples were in the same car and one of the gentlemen, who seemed to have considerable knowledge of railways, assured the conductor and myself that he had seen nothing to equal our twinettes anywhere in America. Our railway authorities are to be congratulated on a fine job which will bring credit and patronage to the railways. The activities of the Housing Trust are often criticized, not so much in Parliament as outside, but I agree with most members that the trust's officials and its contractors are doing a good job under difficult circumstances. The people of South Australia ought to be very thankful that this scheme was inaugurated just when it was, about the year 1938. No-one could then have contemplated its present magnitude.

Mr. Teusner—Was not the scheme the idea of a member of this House?

Mr. WHITTLE—I think the suggestion came from Mr. Hogben, then a member for the district of Sturt, and it is gratifying to think the he is still very active in the administration of the affairs of this fine organization. Paragraph 30 of the Governor's Speech states that a Bill will be introduced for the extension and amendment of the legislation relating to control of rents and evictions. I trust that there will be some revision of the schedule on which rents are based and that when landlords appeal for higher rentals the whole matter will be viewed in a more realistic manner. I have had cases brought under my notice where tenants have realized that the rent charged is altogether too low. They were prepared to pay an additional 5s. a week, but when the landlord applied to the Housing Trust for a higher rental, it fixed 6d. a week extra.

Mr. Pattinson—How does that measure up with the trust's administration?

Mr. WHITTLE—I am talking about rent control, which today is not realistic. During the whole period of the trust's administration the percentage of rent increase has totalled about 4.9.

The Hon. S. W. Jeffries—The trust has increased its own rentals.

Mr. WHITTLE—I have every sympathy for tenants, who naturally do not want to pay more rent than is necessary, but at the same time there is something to be said for landlords who rely on rents for a living. These are not normal times, in fact, the reverse is the case, and the Housing Trust should realize that there are two sides to the question. The schedule on which house rents are fixed should be reviewed. I have particular interest in one or two matters which vitally affect my district. Paragraph 12 states that plans and designs for the building of a new plant to take the place of the Islington Sewage Farm have been prepared and the project, estimated to cost £5,000,000, is to be referred to the Public Works Committee. Obviously an undertaking of that magnitude will be before the committee for a long time. The scheme, if put into effect, will give a great impetus to development in the northern suburban area and the sooner it is undertaken the better. Great advantage would accrue, not only from the point of view of removing something in the nature of a menace, but in providing a large area of land for industrial development. There is a great shortage of land for industrial uses in the metropolitan area and I trust that the Government will consider the question of reserving a large part of the sewage farm for industrial operations. Several large Housing Trust settlements are in the immediate vicinity.

The member for Semaphore referred to co-ordination of our ambulance services. This is an important phase of community work and I hope that the Government, as a result of inquiries made, will co-operate in this most necessary work. I trust that the volunteer service rendered during night and week-end shifts, which provides such excellent training for our young men, will not be discarded. Under our national compulsory training scheme many young men will have to render service which, in some respects, is similar to ambulance work. It is a public service which does an immense amount of good, as well as saving costs. Extracts from a text book supplied to young army recruits were published in the *Advertiser* of June 28. They dealt with the Army's advice on liquor to 18-year olds and stated:—

Stick to your guns; don't drink if you have not had a drink before. That is the Army's advice to 18-year olds called up for national service training. The Army's new booklet for trainees called, "Welcome to your Army,"

says, "If you haven't had a drink up to date keep your good record up. You're not missing much."

The article also says that if young men heed this advice they will be healthier, wealthier and wiser.

The Hon. S. W. Jeffries—Why does the Army supply liquor?

Mr. WHITTLE—I do not know that the Army does. The article continues:—

To those accustomed to having a drink the Army urges moderation. National servicemen will not be allowed to purchase drink, or have liquor in their possession while in camp.

If the honourable member's statement is correct this is a contradiction. I was pleased to see publicity given to the matter as we do not get enough of that kind of advice these days. It appears to be the view of some people that a youth cannot be a man unless has a drink. I was pleased to read the extracts setting out the Army's advice to our young men. In paragraph 28 the Governor stated that a Bill dealing with compensation rates to workers and other matter would be brought down. The steady increase in prices during the past few years has made it necessary for the Government to review certain payments prescribed by Statute. His Excellency's statement is in line with the views I have repeatedly put before the House. Rates of compensation payable for injuries or death were fixed by Parliament in the early days of industrial advance and it behoves Parliament to review them from time to time. I have always adopted that principle and have given expression to it. I have also taken definite action in the matter. I was more than disgusted when in January last I read an article in the official organ of the Australian Labor Party which condemned me in every respect for having introduced an amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Act last session. According to the paper the article was written by Mr. C. D. Hutchens, member for Hindmarsh. The article stated that the Bill, the amendments and the whole set-up was pre-arranged. It also stated that the measure was designed as an obstacle to block Labor from introducing a Bill. Mr. Hutchens' remarks were untrue. He said:—

When the Liberal and Country League member for Prospect, E. G. Whittle, pretends to serve the workers, let the Workmen's Compensation Bill he introduced in the 1950 session of Parliament be a warning. The introduction of the Bill was a trick. It was from the start a Government measure and I

was never concerned about securing the passage of the Bill to the extent of arranging for a private member to see it through.

I attribute many of his statements to the honourable member's lack of knowledge of what is required of a member of Parliament. Unlike Mr. Hutchens and others associated with the Labor Party, a member on this side of the House can do and say what he likes. There is not the slightest doubt about my remarks. We are responsible to only one body of people—the constituents in our own district.

Mr. O'Halloran—You are responsible to one man and you know it.

Mr. WHITTLE—I refute that. The principle is laid down in the Liberal and Country League platform. Not one member behind the Government knew that I intended to introduce the Bill. I did so because my integrity was challenged the previous year. I wanted to get the measure passed because it provided a just entitlement to the workers. It hurt me considerably to see a new member, who did not understand all these things, rushing into print and making his views public. He said it was a purposeful betrayal of the workers. I am here to do the best I can for them. I do not always see eye to eye with those who say how the interests of the workers should be maintained; there are some conditions of workmen's compensation which I would not have at any price. I wrote to the honourable member and challenged him to debate on a public platform his statements appearing in the *Weekly Herald*. I offered to engage the Prospect Town Hall and suggested as chairman of the meeting one of the representatives of the Legislative Council Central District No. 1.

Mr. Dunks—When is it coming off?

Mr. WHITTLE—It will not come off, because the honourable member would not accept the challenge. Some friends of mine heard that I wanted to apologize, because they were told so by the local branch of the Labor Party. I do not apologize for getting men £8 instead of £6 a week. I was proud when the Bill went through. Possibly some members do not know that I had some anxious moments about getting the Bill handled in the Legislative Council. Finally I had to go cap in hand to the Chief Secretary who was not entirely in favour of all clauses in the Bill. For over a month the measure was before that House. I had to decide whether I would accept it after it had been considered and amended there. I may have been wrong

in accepting it, but I do not think I was. Fourteen out of 18 thought it was a fair compromise and I feel certain that if I had referred it back to the Council it would still be there undecided. I did not know anything about the amendment until I read the *Hansard* report. To say that I was instructed by the Government to accept the amendment is sheer nonsense. It is quite wrong to say that I had to accept it because the Premier whistled and instructed me to do so. The challenge to debate is still on and if the same set of circumstances arose tomorrow I would do exactly the same thing. Mr. Hutchens smiles, but if that is to be the procedure adopted by him whilst he represents Hindmarsh in this place I shall not give much credence to the good opinion others may hold of him.

I support the remarks made by members on this side about the excellent work of the Government. The Leader of the Opposition said the Government was doing a good job because it was carrying out Labor's policy, but that statement should be accepted with a grain of salt. He also spoke about remarks on socialism made by Mr. Pearson during the Flinders election campaign.

Mr. O'Halloran—I referred to the publicity given on his behalf by your Party.

Mr. WHITTLE—There is a vast difference between general socialization of industry and the taking over of the Adelaide Electric Supply Company. I have always favoured the acquisition of public services.

Mr. Quirke—What about the Gas Company?

Mr. WHITTLE—That is a purely local concern.

Mr. Quirke—It is a company similar to the Adelaide Electric Supply Company.

Mr. WHITTLE—I thought the honourable member would have more sense than to say that the taking over of the Gas Company would be of the same national importance as the taking over of the Adelaide Electric Supply Company. I have pleasure in supporting the motion.

Mr. MOIR (Norwood)—I congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion on their fine speeches. Mr. Pearson showed that he is used to public speaking, because he was not at all nervous. As usual, Mr. Dunnage was in good humour and had a shot at Ministers and interjectors. We expect that sort of thing from him. He always lets Minister know what he wants for his district. I was pleased to receive an invitation from the Lord Mayor of Adelaide

to attend the reception tendered to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of London. It was a wonderful sight and worth going a long way to see. Our local mayors wore their robes of office and chains, and the Lord Mayor of London was in his robes and was escorted by his sheriff and mace carrier. The hall was full of municipal people, politicians, and others interested in the function. It would have been better if it had been held at Centennial Hall, where it could have been viewed by school children. This is the first time that a Lord Mayor of London has visited Australia whilst in office and it was a wonderful spectacle.

It is pleasing to know that the King and Queen and Princess Margaret are to visit Australia and that the King's health has improved considerably. I well remember the last visit to Australia of the King and Queen when they were Duke and Duchess of York. In those days they were very popular, but now as King and Queen their popularity is even greater. I hope that their Majesties and Princess Margaret will travel along the boundaries of our parklands so that they may be seen by assembled school children. In this debate there have been some fine speeches, but not one member has provided the absolute cure for inflation. I will not try to suggest one. I am too old in the head to suggest a way to solve the problem when it cannot be solved by all the wise heads we have in Australia. It is a world-wide problem. It has been suggested that one cure is the pegging of profits and prices, and if they are not soon pegged they will become too high. We should deal with the problem from the top of the ladder and not the bottom. The basic wage, which is fixed on the cost of living, should not be altered, but we should reduce the salaries of the men at the top.

Mr. Davis—What do you mean by that?

Mr. MOIR—I am talking about those who are paid from £50 to £60 a week, which they cannot possibly earn. In many instances those men have understudies who do most of their work and get about half their salary. The man on the basic wage cannot bank £4 to £5 a week in the same way as men getting a salary of more than £25 a week. If the man on the basic wage does an honest day's work he has the right to be able to bank some of his wages. City members are worried more than country members by people calling on them in regard to housing matters. Hardly a day or night in each week passes without someone calling on me about an eviction order. People are given 30 days in which to get out of a house. There may be two or three

families in the one house, and the landlord complains about sub-letting, which is not permitted. We who possess a home take in our sons and daughters, and we do the same as those who sublet their houses, but we do it with authority. These people find it hard to turn out their own flesh and blood. Members are frequently approached by tenants who have received eviction orders. If members can do nothing, such people often seek the support of the clergy or obtain doctor's certificates. However, the Housing Trust must have become very hardened to these approaches, because usually it sends out a letter, which must have been printed by the hundred and dated on the day of its despatch. The applicant is usually told that owing to shortage of materials and, lately, wet conditions, the trust has been handicapped. I believe this statement is true. In some Housing Trust areas in wet weather workers would have to row around houses in order to put up the guttering. Some of these areas are virtually swimming pools. Had they been levelled off and roads made the trust would have been saved the expense which will be necessary to remedy the position.

The member for Adelaide said that the 40-hour week had made no difference to South Australian industries, but I do not believe that. Naturally, it has not made much difference in some industries where workers using machinery or on a chain system may work a little faster to pick up the four hours over five days. However, in the dairying industry a driver delivering milk must serve the same number of customers under the 40-hour week as he did under the 44-hour week. The employer considers it fair to pay his driver overtime rates for four hours, if he has to serve the same number of customers as previously. As an employer I never ask my men to do more than what I know from experience is reasonable. It may be said that the member for Adelaide put up a good case from the point of view of a trade union secretary, for which job he is paid, and, as such, he is expected to do the best he can for his members at conciliation conferences.

The member for Hindmarsh mentioned my being a shareholder in an earthenware pipe company. The Minister of Works tells members almost weekly that sufficient pipes for sewers and water mains cannot be produced in this State. The honourable member said that certain brick kilns had not been operating for a number of years; but pipemaking is as important as brickmaking. I do not apologise for buying a few shares which will be of benefit to my children later.

Mr. Whittle—Surely it is not a crime to put money into an industrial organization.

Mr. MOIR—No, nor is it to buy a badge on a button day in the streets of Adelaide. When a member acts as a secret service agent or an investigator, it is time he was asked to consider the possible consequences of his actions. I really think some power was behind him and that he did not do this off his own bat. He should think for himself. As he has to work with other members, he should try to do the best for the State and not for any individual. My district contains many workers, some of whom I am called upon to help financially in cases of distress. I do that cheerfully, nobody knowing the extent of that assistance. Within the past few years I have assisted many families to pay their undertakers' bills, but I did not hear the honourable member mention such things. Surely, if I am permitted to assist my constituents and support their sporting activities, I am entitled to invest as I wish what is left out of my parliamentary and business earnings. If the honourable member wishes, I am prepared to give him the names of my tradespeople so that he may ascertain whether I am behind in my payments because of this investment.

Mr. O'Halloran—That was not suggested.

Mr. MOIR—I did not say it was.

Mr. O'Halloran—Then what is your implication?

Mr. MOIR—What was the purpose of the honourable member in checking up on me? Is he a secret service man?

Mr. O'Halloran—What is wrong with a man's searching the Companies Office Registry which is open to the public?

Mr. MOIR—Nothing, if he keeps his information to himself, but the honourable member made it public in this House. I can give him a list of other companies in which I hold shares. Why did he not find out that information? His sole purpose was to belittle me, a purpose of which I do not approve. The honourable member said that I had called myself a politician. That is easily explained. I would rather call myself a politician than a gaolbird. Originally I described myself on the share application as a company director. The young lady in the office said, "Aren't you a member of Parliament?" I replied "Yes." She said "Suppose I put down 'politician'?" I said "Yes, that will do." The *Advertiser* of August 11 contained an editorial fully ampli-

fying the definition of "politician," which reads as follows:—

If the original and true meaning of the word be any guide, the word "politician" should carry with it a high and honourable significance. Anyone who is "concerned for the welfare of the State" and "skilled in State affairs" ought to be an immense asset to the community and entitled to the greatest respect. One may go further and say that all good citizens should aim to be "politicians," in the sense of being "concerned for the welfare of the State." Here indeed is the acid test of our citizenship. Yet it must be admitted that, in everyday speech, the word "politician" is often employed with an accent of depreciation. We learn from "The Concise Oxford Dictionary" that, in the United States, the word has come to mean "one who makes a trade of politics." Nor is this unworthy connotation peculiar to the United States. If this be so, it is hardly necessary to look further for an explanation of the widespread eclipse of democracy. When politics becomes a trade, democracy becomes a delusion. It is significant that the word "minister," which is another word for "servant," is associated in our minds with both religion and politics. This is as it should be. In each of these high vocations, the dominating motive should be a whole-souled devotion to the service of God and man. It may be said that the service of the Church is sacred and that of the State merely secular. This, however, is a false distinction. The highest purpose, both of Church and State, is to make possible the realization of the finest possibilities of the individual. Folks who are fond of indulging in hostile criticism of politicians often need to be reminded that low standards of public life are commonly the outcome of the apathy and corruption of public opinion. Too frequently we blame the politicians when we ought to blame ourselves. Adult suffrage, secret ballots and the general apparatus of parliamentary democracy cannot, of themselves ensure that political life shall be healthy. It is not enough that the people should be enfranchised, everything depends on the spirit with which they regard and exercise their franchise. Before men and women can faithfully and fruitfully use their franchise, their own minds need to be enfranchised from all the influences which make against right living, straight thinking and honest doing. If the people are not highly concerned for the common weal, it is unreasonable to expect that their representatives will be any better. It is good that an alert and intelligent public opinion should be critical of unworthy politicians. A community with no capacity for healthy moral indignation is in a bad way. Yet it is even more important that we should welcome, encourage and reward politicians who faithfully and honourably fulfil their duties.

Some years ago the member for Unley and I approached the Premier with regard to improved wages and conditions for public servants. Later they received rises in pay

and better conditions. Recently a vast retrenchment of Commonwealth employees has been forecast. I hope that will not apply to the State, because many State employees have to work two or three nights a week, which proves that their departments are not overstaffed. This goes on for five or six months a year. Many husbands and their wives are working in the Federal sphere. I heard of one married woman in the postal service earning £8 or £9 a week, and her husband was bringing in a similar amount. They are certainly in a better position than when only the husband is working and such a set up is likely to cause discontent, especially when one cannot compete with the other and afford to buy such things as hot midday meals. If there is to be a reduction in the number of employees, I hope the first to go will be the wives whose husbands are also working.

The conditions under which employees at the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department work are deplorable, being the same as they were 30 years ago. It is time improved quarters were provided. Application for financial assistance was made to the Government by the Kensington and Norwood Corporation to enable it to light Dequetteville Terrace, the widest and busiest street in the district. Similar assistance is given to the Adelaide Corporation for streets which abut the parklands, as does Dequetteville Terrace. Tramway buses stop at the side of the park and young people do not like to wait for them at night unless the stops are well lighted. The position is considered dangerous. When the Government refused the request I thought the action was rather harsh.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—The Government has not the power to meet the request unless it is approved by Parliament.

Mr. MOIR—The Government grants assistance to the Adelaide Corporation for streets abutting the parklands.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—But not for lighting.

Mr. MOIR—The Electricity Trust gave a quotation of £850 to provide better lighting, and this was considered too much for the council to bear. If only half the Bills mentioned by the Governor in his Speech are passed it will result in advancement for the State. Bills are to be introduced to assist hospitals, to provide reservoirs, electricity and water mains for the country, the construction of a main from Mannum to Adelaide, and the provision of sewerage systems for country residents. Although these works will cost hundreds of thousands of pounds, they are very

necessary, but it is realized that they cannot all be undertaken for many years. However, I should like a start made on some of them before long to let the people know that the Government does not merely make promises. Such action would entice people to remain in the country and give them some of the amenities enjoyed by city dwellers. In his Speech the Governor mentioned that there was a strong demand for meat, dairy produce, and eggs. It was suggested that primary producers in settled areas should give more attention to animal production. I am associated with the dairying industry, but I would never have the cheek to advise dairymen to increase their herds, because of the present prices for their produce. Such action would be adding insult to injury. These people are entitled to a reasonable return for their labours. The dairying industry is the Cinderella of the primary producing industries of the State. How I have stuck to it for 20 years I do not know. I consider that the wool industry is as much to blame for our present inflationary position as any other industry in Australia. Today I am handling only half as much milk as I did two years ago because many dairymen are disposing of their herds, partly or wholly, to keep sheep. It is time we did our bit to keep these people in dairying.

Mr. Whittle—It is not this Government's fault that they are not getting higher prices.

Mr. MOIR—It is partly. If the Commonwealth Government will not take action the industry will be ruined. At present there is not sufficient turnover for the milk factories. Although some people advocate the erection of additional factories in the country, I know of one of the biggest country factories in Australia which has to close for four or five months of the year. That should not happen in a country like Australia. In the *News* on Thursday appeared an article under the heading "Big Drop in South Australian Milk Output." It stated that South Australian milk production had dropped by more than 6,000,000gall. during the 11 months to the end of May compared with the last similar period. During that time whole milk production in Australia amounted to 1,154,500,000gall., more than 37,000,000gall. less than for the same period in 1949-50. Butter production in Australia for the same period amounted to 154,124 tons, which was 7,143 tons less than in the previous period. Only 6,849 tons was produced in South Australia, a drop of 877 tons. The production of condensed milk and

powdered milk was not as great in Australia during that 11-month period as in the previous period.

The Governor in his Speech stated that the Government was anxious to make country life more attractive to the young people. I believe it is prepared to do what is fair and just and to give country people a reasonable return for their labours. I cannot imagine anyone in his right senses requesting his sons to remain on the land just for the sake of working morning, noon and night.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—The Governments of three States were agreed that the price of butter should be increased by one shilling a pound.

Mr. MOIR—Throughout the war years dairymen were pegged at a price which amounted to a starvation wage to those handling milk. Although the people in general are now getting more money than ever, butter is being sold for a lower price than during World War I. and immediately afterwards, when the price was 3s. 4d. a pound, compared with the present price of 2s. 2d. As the price to wholesale buyers of milk is fixed by the equalization committee, these people cannot pay above it. The extension of electricity to country areas is undoubtedly a great boon and I hope that when power is extended from the Port Augusta station people on the Adelaide side will not be overlooked. I understand that Port Germein, situated between Port Augusta and Port Pirie, is likely to be by-passed. At one time it was a flourishing town. We ask people to go back on the land, yet it seems likely that the town of Port Germein will not be supplied with electricity from the main which will pass less than one mile away.

Mr. Davis—If the town is by-passed the Government will be responsible.

Mr. MOIR—I have heard that one or two other towns may be missed. The people concerned will need to obtain new engines to replace their old ones to generate electricity themselves. During a recent visit to the river areas I found that many settlers desire two road bridges to be constructed over the Murray, even if Barmera and Morgan are connected by rail. They asked me to give them all the support I could. I told them I have had plenty to say on this matter previously. I am still eager to see the bridges erected. My relatives and friends in Mildura and Renmark repeatedly ask me, "When will the bridges be built?" It is time a start was made.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—What project would you stop in order to do that? We have not sufficient steel and men to carry out all jobs.

Mr. MOIR—When I was first elected to Parliament about 12 years ago I said in one of my early speeches that I considered Murray water should be pumped into the Torrens. The Minister said it would be too costly.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—No. You would probably say it is too dear today.

Mr. MOIR—Not if the water could be brought here. We have had several droughts in past years, but we would not have been short of water if we had brought Murray water here. We cannot put forward the excuse that there was not sufficient manpower or steel because the depression period was the ideal time to go ahead with the scheme. We were told what a terrible cost it would be to take a road through to Western Australia, but during the war great development took place in Central Australia. All sorts of vegetables were grown and roads were laid down. This shows what can be done. The Governor's Speech mentioned additions and alterations to hospitals. There is ample room for improvement in many hospitals, especially Bedford Park Sanatorium and Port Lincoln and Northfield hospitals. The nursing accommodation particularly requires improvement. Some of the sewerage systems in our hospitals are deplorable. I was disgusted to see the conditions at Port Lincoln, and I hope something will be done there before the Royal Family arrives. Paragraph 21 of the Governor's Speech is incomplete. After the words "Municipal Tramways Trust" the following should have been included: "and continued requests from councils and the general public for an investigation." The trust used to be a paying proposition, and so was the Postmaster-General's Department. However, they are now two of our most expensive organizations. Had they been run by private enterprise they would not have been permitted to get into debt. I do not know what the committee of inquiry will suggest as a remedy. I do not condemn the present members of the trust for its unhealthy financial position because the drift started 18 or 20 years ago. If a private firm carried on unsatisfactorily for that time the auditors would certainly draw attention to the position when certifying the balance-sheets. When Sir William Goodman retired recently another man who is due to retire soon took his place. I do not know who will take the blame for the trust's financial position and patiently await the report of the committee of inquiry.

I am pleased that the Commonwealth Government intends trying to control the operations of the Communist Party. I am also pleased that the Labor Party is endeavouring to drive Communists from important positions in unions. These people have white-anted the unions for a number of years. I have asked in this Chamber when the report from the committee investigating ambulance services will be furnished. I am pleased that the Advisory Council on Health and Medical Services will co-operate in organizing a better ambulance service. There would not be nearly sufficient ambulances if there was a serious train accident, and I hope the Government will do something about this matter soon. I was interested in paragraph 38 of the Governor's Speech about amendments to the Industrial and Provident Societies Act to facilitate the operation of co-operative societies. I do not know what the Bill will contain, but I hope it will improve the Act because I consider producers should not be bound to supply one particular factory with milk. They should have much more freedom. The Governor's Speech also said that a Bill dealing with the treatment of sufferers from tuberculosis will be introduced. Sufferers from tuberculosis, cancer, or venereal disease should be compulsorily medically examined at least once in every 12 months. Those who are handling dairy produce should be X-rayed once a year. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

Mr. FLETCHER (Mount Gambier)—I join with other members in congratulating the mover of the motion. He made a good speech and I agree with the member for Norwood that it was quite apparent it was not the first occasion on which he has been on his feet. I hope we will be privileged to hear more fine addresses from him. I endorse the remarks of previous speakers about the contemplated visit of the Royal Family and sincerely hope that the King's health will enable him to make that visit. All citizens of the British Commonwealth of Nations are proud at having such a Monarch as King George VI. The Crown has kept the various dominions united down through the ages, and I am sure it will continue to do so in the future. One paragraph of His Excellency's Speech in which I was particularly interested was his reference to young farmers' clubs. I think I may claim that the first club to be formed in South Australia was in the district of Yahl, near Mount Gambier. A body of young

farmers interested in the welfare of the district, and the improvement of stock and general farming methods had visited the sister State of Victoria where such clubs are numerous and play a prominent part in the life of the agricultural community, and came back imbued with the idea of establishing a similar club locally; the officers of the Agricultural Department were very helpful. This movement is really a junior branch of the Agricultural Bureau, though I regret to see so many of the early stalwarts of the movement ceasing to display that interest which they evinced in its early days. I hope that the establishment of young farmers' clubs will be the means of revitalizing the agricultural bureau movement, as well as being helpful to the young members of the clubs.

Much has been said about price control, inflation and the means of combating those evils, and I was much interested in the remarks of the member for Torrens regarding the enormous profits of some of the big trading companies. Without mentioning names I wish to draw attention to one group in particular. In the *Advertiser* of April 11, 1951, it was reported that a motor car manufacturing company in England had raised its ordinary dividends from the rate of 24½ per cent to 27 per cent, and on January 16, 1951, the balance-sheet of the Australian subsidiary company handling the products of that English firm disclosed a profit of 41 per cent. That is a combined profit of 68 per cent, which proves that, somewhere along the line excessive prices are being charged and I think this sort of thing warrants investigation. Viewing it from another angle, on October 10, 1950, the charge for a particular service on my car was 10s. On February 2, 1951, the charge for the same service was 20s., and I have no doubt that it would be 25s. today. This kind of thing is going on everywhere, and I maintain that many of the prices being charged ought to be investigated; I go further and say that many of the prices retailers are allowed to charge are far too high, and I cite the prices of lines handled by retail chemists as an example.

Last year we passed the Electricity Supplies (Country Areas) Act, but it does not fulfil what I expected of it. I was under the impression that it would enable electricity undertakings in the country to apply to the Government for financial assistance to provide for extensions of plant and services, but I have been surprised to learn that, unless in dire straits and unable to meet commitments,

local electricity undertakings are not eligible for assistance under the Act. Mount Gambier is a rapidly growing centre and the local electricity undertaking is in much the same position as the Electricity Trust in the city, hard pressed to keep up with the demand for services by reason of the extensive building operations being carried on. The Mount Gambier Corporation obtained the consent of ratepayers to borrow £68,000 for extensions, to which the Minister readily agreed. However, when the application for assistance was lodged the corporation was promptly informed that it was not eligible for more than about £10,000. Evidently the policy is to wait until an undertaking is in dire straits and then to say that as it cannot carry on the Electricity Trust should take it over. In the South-East, particularly in the Mount Gambier district, we are in the unfortunate position of not having a regular fuel supply. Quite recently I asked the Premier a question regarding the search, by boring, for coal deposits in the Penola district, for until more fuel of a type suitable for all industries, including electricity undertakings is available the South-East will be seriously handicapped, for we are so far from the sources of fuel supply. The sawmilling industry can take care of itself because sawdust and other waste products from the mills is sufficient to supply power for their operations. I commend those in charge of the Government sawmills in the South-East for the efficient manner in which the mills are run and for the full use they are making of all timber waste. The mills are self-supporting and before long should have surplus power to sell.

South Australia is peculiarly situated as regards the status of its towns. In the main there are no cities outside the metropolitan area. This matter needs to be revised and the Government should consider giving larger country towns the right to become cities. Victoria is in a different category. I understand that when the rate assessment reaches between £20,000 and £25,000 towns in Victoria automatically become cities, but that South Australian towns require a population of between 20,000 and 25,000 before being entitled to that status. Let me compare several Victorian towns with Mount Gambier. The figures I shall quote are for 1949 and do not include revenue from electricity, abattoirs and so on. Hamilton, not far over the border from Mount Gambier, has an area of 5,100 acres, with a population of 7,181. It has 2,100 dwellings and £25,771 general revenue. Respec-

tive figures for other towns are:—Horsham, 5,760 acres, 6,450 population, 1,575 dwellings, £31,930 revenue; Warrnambool, 4,150, 10,000 2,310, £35,256; Mildura, 5,760, 9,530, 1,879, £31,223; Sale, 5,242, 5,300, 1,243, £22,442; Shepparton, 4,523, 8,500, 2,074, £31,898, and Mount Gambier (year 1950), no area given, 8,500, 1875, £26,725. If Mount Gambier were placed on a similar footing to the Victorian towns it would be a city. The same would probably apply to Port Pirie and Whyalla. If these towns were created cities it would be an incentive to residents to take more interest in them. Visitors from Horsham, Hamilton, and Warrnambool frequently visit Mount Gambier, and when asked where they come from say "the city of Warrnambool," and so on. This gives such places a much better status.

I do not suppose that any district has done more towards the settlement of ex-servicemen on the land than the district I represent, Mount Gambier, and the South-East generally. From my experience the majority of the settlers who have been selected for blocks are a fine type. I congratulate the Government on having selected such men, who undoubtedly will make good. On many areas it cannot be otherwise, as the settlers went on the land in a time of high prices and have taken advantage of them. I also pay a tribute to the various councils in the South-East where ex-servicemen are settled for the wonderful job they have done in constructing roads. I congratulate, too, the older settlers for the patience they have displayed in putting up with bad roads, knowing that the councils' officers and workmen are busily engaged with all available plant to build roads for the new settlers and so make life worth while. These roads enable the new settlers to get on to and out of their holdings. Take the Eight-Mile Creek area. Some of the settlers there will definitely require help for some time to come. I inspected the area last week-end and noticed the work that had been done on the blocks. There was ample water, but not the large quantity that I expected to see. A number of the blocks will need a lot of work before they can reach their full productive capacity. On June 27 last I asked the Minister of Repatriation the following question about the Eight-Mile Creek soldier settlement area:—

On visiting the Eight-Mile Creek soldier settlement area last week I noticed a lot of re-growth on some of the blocks. Can the Minister of Repatriation say what is the Government's future policy towards assisting settlers where the re-growth has definitely got out of hand?

The Minister replied:—

When the matter was reported to me a few weeks ago I visited the area and found that there was some re-growth, most of it having appeared since that type of country had been cleared. As the area is considered a developmental one, the department is meeting the cost of clearing. The new growth, known as cutting grass, has little stock food value. We are paying settlers to clear the grass so that they will derive an income through the re-growth. Some settlers have begun clearing the cutting grass on their own initiative and are doing an excellent job. I have not the slightest doubt that the grass will eventually be cleared to the benefit of settlers.

The settlers have done a good job, but it is the type of country where a horse can be used on some areas for clearing purposes, but on other blocks, especially two which have been abandoned, a horse cannot be used. It is not a true re-growth but the re-growth of the old tussock grass. The only way to deal with the problem is to put in big ploughs as soon as the soil is sufficiently dry and then later do more ploughing. If a farmer sows a pasture and it is a failure he starts again, and that is what the department will have to do in some of the South-Eastern areas. I have no doubt that in later years they will become one of the State's greatest settlements. At present all the land is not ready for full development. When the cutting grass has gone and the land is stocked to full capacity there will be success. In the rich, heavy country at Eight-Mile Creek heavy stocking would have done more good. Much of the roughage would have been kept down because it would have been eaten eagerly by the stock after eating clover and better type grasses. I do not suggest that the settlement at Eight-Mile Creek has been a failure, or is likely to be one.

The Hon. S. W. Jeffries—How much an acre has been spent on the land?

Mr. FLETCHER—I cannot tell the honourable member exactly, but it has been a reasonable proposition because the settlement took place on Crown lands. More drainage in the area may be necessary.

Mr. Whittle—Is there any stock on the land?

Mr. FLETCHER—Yes, dairy stock.

Mr. Moir—What is total acreage?

Mr. FLETCHER—From 4,000 to 5,000 acres. It is mostly a dairy settlement. Until such time as meadow hay can be cut the settlers will be in difficulties. The soil will grow feed, but a number of stumps still have to be removed. The settlers will require assistance for some time. At present it is disheartening to

drive from Port MacDonnell through to the productive Mount Schank country and compare it with the partially developed Eight-Mile Creek settlement. Although it may mean destroying some of the roughage, the settlers should be allowed to grow turnips to get the land into production. I commend the department for the stone houses constructed for the settlers at Eight-Mile Creek, but I am disappointed with the type of cowshed built. Instead of using the Armeo type of shed a stone cowshed should be built. The settlers should be assisted to build such a shed, because it is not difficult to use Mount Gambier stone. Most of the settlers with Armeo sheds have either altered them or built stone sheds, using the other sheds for housing machinery. I have seen the northern area of the Eight-Mile Creek settlement where land will be allotted shortly. The selection of the house and shed sites is superior to the selection in the southern area, where the homes and sheds are some distance from the main road, necessitating the building of roads to them. In the northern area wherever possible the homes and sheds will be built facing the main road, which means less expenditure on roads and not so much worry for the settlers. It is pitiful to see the state of the roads on the blocks in the southern area. Those responsible for the selection in the northern area should be commended.

I was interested recently to hear the remarks of the Minister of Lands about apathy among settlers. I want to read a letter sent to a settler who applied for a block. A similar reply was sent to several other settlers. They came to me for my advice on the matter. They had leased holdings and had started dairying on their return from the last war. They did not have an opportunity to assist in clearing and developing the blocks, because they had their own herds and plant. The following is typical of the letters sent to these settlers:—

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 24th ultimo with regard to your application for land under the provisions of the War Service Land Settlement Agreement Act. At the present time the land available is not sufficient to meet the needs of the large number of applicants still awaiting allotment, and although the Government is endeavouring to secure additional suitable lands, this is becoming increasingly difficult. This is particularly the case in relation to properties suitable for dairying. However, from time to time as further areas come into the hands of the department, groups of applicants are selected to participate in the allotment of the holdings to be provided from these lands. Existing circumstances make it necessary for the department to require all

applicants so selected to take their share in the work of preparing these lands for settlement, by taking up full-time employment with the department on the developmental work when called upon to do so. This was explained in my letter of the 27th October last, in which you were given the opportunity of being considered in the selection of such a group of applicants. You replied that owing to the fact that you were engaged in dairying with your own cows on leased land, you were not in a position to undertake work for the department, and consequently you were not included in the group selected. As acceptance of employment on the developmental work is now an essential condition for selection for allotment, I cannot hold out any prospect of your obtaining a holding until you can see your way clear to take up this work. You should, therefore, keep the department informed of any changes of circumstances which would affect your willingness to enter into employment, and your claims would then be given full consideration in connection with any land available at the time. The property to which you refer in your letter appears to be the area of 249 acres in the hundred of Grey, purchased from the estate of G. A. Bennett; this land is not yet available for allocation.

That sort of reply has had much to do with the so-called "apathy" of applicants. One man who would have made a desirable settler, and who had his own cows, tractor, and plant, received this letter. He asked my advice, and I told him to carry on as he was doing. He had made his start and was prepared for settlement. I advised him not to sacrifice his herd and plant and go on to the land for 12 months as an ordinary worker until he was allotted a block. During the war the uncle of one young man in the services reared calves and kept them until he came home, so that he would have a herd. The young man was ready to commence operations as a soldier settler shortly after returning, but was unable to get satisfaction from the department. He leased a block of land in the Kongorong district, and has become a successful dairy farmer. That is the type of man we want as a soldier settler; but correspondence such as I have read has had a dampening effect on the outlook of many applicants. This man of whom I speak has a stud Jersey herd and some of his beasts have taken prizes at the Royal Adelaide Show. To sell that herd would have meant a big sacrifice.

Today a burning question in the dairying industry is the price of butter. One member said that the dairyman was being kicked from pillar to post. It appears to me that all Australian Governments, whatever their political shade, have backed and filled on this question for a considerable time. Figures given by other members bear out the serious position of the

industry. A question asked by the member for Onkaparinga with regard to the call-up of the sons of dairy farmers reminded me of what happened early in World War II. I admit that every Australian should be trained in some way for defence. However, during the war, when each manpower officer was given his quota for defence to be filled every week, I interviewed one officer with regard to the release of a young man for the dairying industry. The officer said, "What am I to do? I have to fill my quota. I try to be as fair as possible, but I realize that, if these quotas are maintained, we will have an army which we will be unable to feed." Not long after that releases from the army were granted to dairymen. We are approaching the time when we will not get adequate supplies of milk, butter, cheese, potatoes, and other essential foodstuffs. We will have enough homes, but many empty stomachs. I have never unreservedly condemned the 40-hour week; but I believe it has meant the crucifixion of the dairying industry. A member said that industry did not produce as much under the 40-hour week as under the 44-hour week; but I have been told by managers and directors that their industries produce more under the 40-hour week.

Mr. Fred Walsh—Statistics prove that.

Mr. FLETCHER—Yes; but the dairying industry cannot be run on a basis of a 40-hour week. I do not think the general public will be able to pay for milk if the wage paid to the dairy worker is to be based on a 40-hour week. It is not only a question of the work done on the dairy farm, but also that in the cheese and butter factories. More condensed and powdered milk has been produced, because there is more money in their production. Cheese and butter factories cannot be successfully worked on the basis of a 40-hour week. Today many of them are co-operative concerns. A manager must retain his key men so as to ensure continuity of production, although between May and August the services of some of those men could be dispensed with. However, if they were released from that industry, they might take a job elsewhere, with the result that, when increasing quantities of milk flowed into the factory in the spring, a new team would have to be broken in or production reduced. Less labour is required for the production of condensed or powdered milk than for the production of butter and cheese. The following is an extract from an article written by a staff reporter of the Warrnambool

*Standard*, which appeared in *The Border Watch* of August 4:—

The log served on Victorian dairy farmers by the A.W.U. and the announcement by the Australian Primary Producers' Union—an employers' organization—that it would support dairy workers' claims for a 40-hour week and higher pay emphasizes more than ever the anomalies which exist in the dairying industry. Comparing the general hand's present wage with that claimed in the log, the article continues:—

Taking the general hand as a typical example, the pay for a 5-day 40-hour week would be the present basic wage of £9 9s., plus £1 10s. margin for skill, equalling £10 19s. However, on the basis of the dairy farmers' 56-hour week, the general hand could earn:—£10 19s., plus two hours' overtime at time and a half, 16s. 5d., plus 15 hours' overtime at double time, £7 12s. 10d., equalling £19 8s. 3d. a week. This makes an income of £92 10s. 6d. for the year, including two weeks' paid holiday. In addition, double time would also have to be paid for all public holidays worked. On the other hand, the dairyman's cost of production is based on a 56-hour week. He is allowed a 25s. margin for skill over the basic wage, and 3½ per cent return on capital.

A salary of £19 8s. 3d. a week is low compared with that received by a number of men in the timber and quarrying industries and those employed as potato diggers—in fact, in most contract work. I cannot see why the public is unable to pay more for butter. If a 40-hour week is to apply to the dairying industry people must be prepared to pay what the article costs to produce.

Mr. O'Halloran—Didn't the present Federal Government promise the dairy farmer the cost of production?

Mr. FLETCHER—I would not be sure. All Governments have changed from one side of the fence to the other and today the dairy farmer does not know who is his friend or who is his foe. This afternoon Mr. Dunks asked a question regarding the increased production of margarine. If this were agreed to it could easily be the end of the dairying industry. I understand that Africa and other countries are growing nuts for oil for the manufacture of margarine, but it will be found that if margarine comes in cows will go out. It will be bad for the Commonwealth generally if the dairying industry cannot be placed in a healthy position, and the only way to do that is to give the dairy farmer an opportunity to make a decent living. I know a number of dairymen whose sons will not work on the property. They have undertaken jobs in the pine forests and elsewhere. I hope that approval will not be given for an increase in the manufacture of margarine.

A number of questions have been asked in the House regarding potato production and prices, and one member even accused potato growers of being Communists. I should hate to go into my district and tell some of the growers that they were Communists. Many are good old A.W.U. men and made a start with four or five acres of potatoes. I am pleased to say that some are now in a very sound financial position. Good luck to the working man who can become an employer. He is a greater asset than an ordinary union man. I draw member's attention to the decreasing acreage being sown to potatoes. Costs have grown, particularly for bags. Years ago it was not unusual to see a light burning in a paddock before daylight. It would be a man sewing up the bags of potatoes he had dug the day before. The potato position is likely to continue serious. When a dispute arose recently concerning the consignment of potatoes interstate a hullabaloo was set up by Adelaide hills growers. They claimed it was the duty of South-East growers to forward supplies to the Adelaide market. They did not want to sell their potatoes until after June 30 so that their income tax would not be affected. It is one of the weakest arguments I have ever heard. The market for South-Eastern potatoes for years has been the Wimmera, the Riverina and Broken Hill. Would members think it fair that those growers should sacrifice their market by sending their potatoes to Adelaide while the hills' growers refused to sell until after June 30? The potato grower has been in practically the same position as the dairyman. He has more or less had to accept what has been handed out from the Adelaide end, having to do exactly what he was told by a board in the city. Although these growers desire to be loyal to South Australia, they think prices should be commensurate with those paid in the eastern States. The Prices Commissioner in South Australia has always been dilatory in increasing the price here. In spite of what has happened in the other States and the big increase in prices there, he has refused to advance the South Australian price to compete with that in New South Wales. Recently I read an article in the press which stated that in Sydney the public were willing to pay extra for potatoes. The writer pointed out that from about 12 noon to 1 o'clock on certain street corners in Sydney one would see barrowmen selling small bags of potatoes. These men disappeared immediately after 1 o'clock and did not re-appear until 5 p.m. There was a big demand for these supplies, proving that the public were

starving for potatoes. Shortages have occurred before and will occur again. It is a question of supply and demand. The object of the establishment of a Potato Board and of growers' associations was to try to keep a uniform price for both growers and buyers. It is generally known that in past years one could always buy new potatoes in August, but they are not to be seen now, there being no encouragement for growers to dig them. That has been the position for years.

*Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.*

Mr. FLETCHER—Many men are leaving the potato industry and during the adjournment I read something about the position in New South Wales. The Riverina and western districts of New South Wales and Broken Hill have been a good market for South-Eastern growers. The following is contained in *The Farmer and Settler*, a Sydney newspaper, of July 20, 1951:—

In 1942, when the war-time potato control was set up, there was a glut of potatoes and ample quantities of seed available. If the war came now it would find Australia with production at the lowest level of recent years and practically no seed to be had. Even if seed were available and paddocks ready, many months would have to elapse before the harvest came in. These figures will show clearly the sad plight the country is in: in the peak war year (1944-45) New South Wales had 34,796 acres planted to potatoes and harvested over 80,000 tons. In the last season, 1950-51, New South Wales only planted 11,500 acres and gathered in about 27,000 tons.

No wonder potatoes are dear and scarce in New South Wales. The article goes on:—

As 1,600 men have gone out of potato production in New South Wales alone in the last 12 months, authorities would not be surprised if 1950-51 acreages and yields were cut in half.

That gives an indication of what we can expect in regard to our exports of potatoes to New South Wales in the near future. We are well aware that New South Wales imports large tonnages of potatoes from Tasmania and has done so for many years. I hope that the South Australian Government will give our growers more consideration and endeavour to fix a more uniform price. The growers in the South-East are just as loyal to Adelaide and South Australia as any other people in the State, but they cannot allow the market they have developed over many years to be filched from them because growers near Adelaide are well able to supply the local market at certain times of the year.

This afternoon I asked a question about Kuitpo Colony. I have nothing against the

colony, but I have a special interest in a young man who was committed to it. For a long time I have been trying to get some satisfaction from the Chief Secretary's Department about this case, but so far without success. I am at a loss to know the value of the Offenders Probation Act. It appears that one section is of some use but from my knowledge of this case the Act seems to be a hindrance. The answer I received this afternoon convinced me that the Act is due for review. I hope the Government will review it and bring down legislation this session, otherwise I will have to do so. I asked whether there had been any reductions in sentences of Kuitpo prisoners for good conduct or good work. I understand that anyone committed to the Kyeema Prison Farm gets a reduction for good work and good conduct, but it seems that those committed to Kuitpo do not get any reduction or allowance and have to serve the full period of their bond. The Minister said that there is no sentence, but what are those men doing at Kuitpo if they are not under any sentence? The young man of whom I have been speaking has been at Kuitpo for 14 months and has done everything required of him. He is said to be a good worker and a good lad. He broke a bond, but it was a trivial affair. In his answer the Minister stated that seven offenders had absconded. There is not much evidence of reform when a lad who works well gets no remittance of sentence. I hope the Government will review the Offenders Probation Act because it is not doing what it is supposed to do. If I am forced to introduce a motion in Parliament I shall have much more to say about this case. We shall not achieve anything if we make young men sour and bitter, and that is what will happen in this case.

Mr. Frank Walsh—What type of reform do you suggest?

Mr. FLETCHER—A person on probation may commit an offence. This lad was arrested by the police last October. His parents were not told nor was the priest who was his probation officer. A summons was served on the lad on a Friday night and he had to appear before the Supreme Court at Mount Gambier. This was six months after the offence and nobody, except the lad, knew anything about the charge. There is nothing in the Offenders Probation Act providing that the parents or probation officer shall be informed.

Mr. Davis—Was it a serious charge?

Mr. FLETCHER—Drinking a glass of beer.

The Hon. Sir George Jenkins—Didn't the boy inform his parents?

Mr. FLETCHER—I do not wish to say much about the case now. The boy had a doctor's certificate that he was not mentally normal. Doctor Birch said he would not recommend sending him to prison as it would not do the lad any good. The lad did not even say anything to his bondsman about the charge, and the police are not required to inform the bondsman. A summons was issued on the Friday and the circuit court sat on the following Monday, affording no time to procure witnesses. He had already served six to seven weeks.

Mr. Davis—But a man could be of good behaviour and still have a glass of beer.

Mr. FLETCHER—One of the stipulations in the bond was that he must not have a glass of beer. I am pleased to note that so many members are displaying interest in this matter and I suggest that they examine the Act, for I think this is a case which should receive sympathetic consideration.

I have much pleasure in supporting the motion and hope that some of my remarks will prove constructive and helpful to the State.

Mr. TEUSNER (Angas)—Like other members I express my gratification that the health of His Majesty has been sufficiently restored to enable him, in company with Her Majesty the Queen and Princess Margaret, to visit the Commonwealth in the coming year. His Majesty can be assured of a spontaneous, hearty and loyal welcome from all his subjects. Although it will be impossible for him to make excursions far afield into the rural areas I trust that Princess Margaret will be able to visit some of the country districts of South Australia. I take this opportunity to congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion. In the mover, the newly-elected member for Flinders, we have a member who will contribute greatly to the debates in this Chamber. He comes from a rural district and has had practical experience of matters pertaining to primary production, and that experience will doubtless be of great value to this House.

We are this year celebrating the Jubilee of the union of the States of Australia into a Federation and it is appropriate to be mindful of the very prominent part played by eminent South Australians in the days immediately prior to Federation and subsequent to the inauguration of the Commonwealth; names like

Kingston, Downer, Playford, and Glynn readily come to mind. Those giants of the Federation movement played an important part at the time and the work which they performed in days long past live after them. It was, indeed, a compliment to this State in 1901 when the Federal Senate elected as its first President the Hon. R. C. Baker, who, for many years, was President of the Legislative Council of South Australia. A further tribute was paid this State in 1901 when the House of Representatives elected as its first Speaker the Hon. F. W. Holder, who, immediately prior to his election to the House of Representatives, was Leader of this Chamber, as Premier. Not only was South Australia honoured by those two appointments, but a further honour was bestowed by the appointment of Mr. E. G. Blackmore, that prince of authorities on Parliamentary procedure and practice, who had been Clerk of Parliaments in this State for many years. He was appointed the first Clerk of Parliaments in the Federal Parliament.

Mr. O'Halloran—That is why the Commonwealth Parliament's Standing Orders conform very closely to our own.

Mr. TEUSNER—That may be the reason, for I understand Mr. Blackmore ranks very highly in the matter of Parliamentary procedure and practice. There has been a repetition of those compliments in this Jubilee year in as much as the Federal Senate has appointed a South Australian, the Hon. E. Mattner, as its President, and the House of Representatives the Hon. A. G. Cameron, as Speaker. Not only are we celebrating the Jubilee of the Commonwealth, but we are also in the centenary year of the introduction of the principle of self-government in South Australia. It was in 1851 that the Imperial Act, which had been passed in England, was brought to South Australia, and as a result the Legislative Council of 24 members was set up, consisting, as to one-third, of members appointed by the Governor, and as to two-thirds of elected members. The new Constitution arrived in South Australia on January 16, 1851, in the ship *Ascendant*, and it was in this vessel that George Fife Angas came to South Australia. My own electorate was named after him and he played a very important part in the founding of this State. George Fife Angas had watched with great interest the passage of the Imperial Bill, which embodied the principle of self-government for South Australia, through both Houses of Parliament in England and he was anxious to have the honour of handing this document to the Governor of

South Australia. However, his application for this honour was refused by the Colonial Office, and it may be of interest to remark that it was instead taken to the ship *Ascendant* and, in the absence of the captain, handed to a ship's steward who placed it in a dirty linen bag and forgot all about it. Upon the arrival of the *Ascendant* in South Australian waters the authorities went to the boat and asked for the Imperial Act, but the captain knew nothing about it, the steward not having told him that he had placed it in a certain linen bag. This important document was not discovered until the bag was emptied for laundry purposes.

The Constitution was proclaimed on January 20, 1851. On February 21, 1851, an Act was passed establishing the Legislative Council, and the first candidate for political honours was F. S. Dutton, the first elections under the new Constitution taking place on July 2, 1851. Mr. Angas was returned unopposed for the district of Barossa on July 8, 1851, and the new Legislative Council met for the first time on August 20, 1851.

In paragraph 4 of his Speech His Excellency said, "A gratifying feature of our primary industries is the continued development of land in high rainfall areas." I think all members are pleased to hear of the development which has taken place in some of our high rainfall areas. It is highly imperative that developmental work of the nature indicated should be carried out wherever possible. If we wish to maintain our standard of living and to continue to export primary production to the same extent as in the past it is absolutely necessary to make more suitable land available for primary production purposes, and, further, it is incumbent upon us to see that people are kept on the land, and more people enticed into rural avocations. When we bear in mind that the population of Australia has increased to great proportions since Federation it becomes all the more necessary to make an extra effort in connection with primary production. In 1901 the population of Australia was 3,800,000; today it is 8,300,000. The increase since the inception of Federation has been at the rate of 1½ per cent per annum. During the 19th century the size of the average family in Australia was five to six, but it appears that with the higher standard of living to which we have become accustomed, and probably the desire to enjoy more of the amenities and luxuries now provided, the natural increase has been considerably reduced and the average size of the family in the 20th century has been 2½ to

three. Furthermore, the immigration programme in operation aims at increasing our population to 11,000,000 by 1960, and it has been stated that by the year 2000 it will be about 16,000,000. In 1950 the population increase was 3.2 per cent, which is a considerable increase over the rate for the past 50 years and was due to an excess of births over deaths of 112,000 and a net immigration of 153,000. In other words, the population of the Commonwealth increased by 265,000 in 1950. Such an increase in our population can only result in a tremendous strain on our economy and, in particular, have a tremendous effect on primary production. That can be better illustrated if I refer to an opinion expressed by Professor P. H. Karmel, Professor of Economics at Adelaide University. In a lecture earlier this year on the Australian economy from 1901 to 1950 he said he considered that if we are to achieve our objective of 11,000,000 by 1960 and maintain the increase in our standard of living and our level of exports we must increase our production of pig meats by 78 per cent, mutton by 58 per cent, beef by 40 per cent, milk by 37 per cent, sugar by 28 per cent, lamb by 23 per cent, wool by 11 per cent, and wheat by 7 per cent.

Mr. Stephens—Does he say anything about the housing position?

Mr. TEUSNER—He says that whereas in the Jubilee Year of 1901 there was an average of five persons to every house in Australia, the position has improved in as much as there are only four persons to a house today. It is apparent that unless our primary production is increased there will be no export surplus by 1960, bearing in mind the opinion expressed by Professor Karmel. Whilst on this matter, I refer to a pertinent statement in today's *Advertiser* under the heading "Big Drop in Food Exports":—

Latest overseas trade statistics published by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, show that less butter, cheese, dried milk, eggs in shell, beef, lamb, mutton, pork, poultry, rabbits, jams, sugar and preserved fruits were exported in 1950-51 than in the previous year. The biggest decline was in meat exports. Lamb shipments at 45.8m. lb. represented a drop of 77.5m. lb. compared with 1949-50, while mutton exports fell from 69.7 m. lb. to 8.5m. lb. Beef exports dropped from 182.3m. lb. to 158.3m. lb., and rabbit and hare shipments from 21.8m. pairs to 9.9m. Butter exports declined by more than 55m. lb., and cheese by over 6m. lb. Nearly 10m. dozen fewer eggs in shell were sent away, and dried milk shipments dropped by about 17m. lb.

The late Mr. Chifley, when Commonwealth Minister for Post-war Reconstruction, was responsible in 1943 for an inquiry by the Rural Reconstruction Commission into the re-organization and rehabilitation of the Australian rural economy during the post-war period. The commission prepared a table, published under the title "A General Rural Survey" dated January 17, 1944, showing the computation of additional farming required to support an extra 1,000,000 population on average Australian standards from 1932 to 1941. This table makes it apparent that 23,410 man units are required to support an extra population of 1,000,000.

Mr. Quirke—On the land?

Mr. TEUSNER—Yes. The commission states that if the man units engaged in vegetable and poultry production were taken into consideration about 25,000 additional units would be required to support an extra 1,000,000 people. Dealing with wheat, it is interesting to note from the table, that at least 510,600 extra acres and 2,550 extra man units would be required. For potatoes we would need an extra 1,820 man units; for butter, 6,580; fresh milk, 2,150; mutton, 730; beef and veal, 1,420; and wool 640 for 1,275,500 sheep. I ask leave of the House to have this table incorporated in *Hansard* without reading it, as it contains most interesting and valuable information.

Leave granted.

TABLE SHOWING COMPUTATION OF ADDITIONAL FARMING REQUIRED TO SUPPORT AN EXTRA POPULATION OF 1,000,000 PEOPLE AT THE AVERAGE AUSTRALIAN STANDARD OF 1932-41.

Commodity.	Average Per Capita Consumption—Australia, 1932-41.	Amount Required for Every Extra 1,000,000 People.	Number of Productive Units.	Number of Man Units Required to Produce.
	Lb.			
Barley*	43-63	872,600 bushels	52,900 acres	260
Maize.....	59-37	1,060,000 bushels	44,600 acres	890
Oats.....	96-20	2,405,000 bushels	204,300 acres	1,020
Rice*	4-88	43,600 cwt.	1,300 acres	20
Wheat*	368-30	6,138,000 bushels	510,600 acres	2,550
Potatoes.....	116-86	52,200 tons	18,200 acres	1,820
Onions.....	12-95	5,800 tons	1,100 acres	180
Butter.....	31-56	71,010,000 gall. milk	197,250 cows	6,580
Cheese.....	3-97	3,970,000 gall. milk	11,000 cows	370
Milk, Fresh.....	231-95	23,195,000 gall. milk	64,400 cows	2,150
Milk, concentrated and condensed.....	3-60	1,080,000 gall. milk	3,000 cows	100
Milk, dried.....	2-24	1,723,000 gall. milk	4,800 cows	160
Bacon and ham.....	10-55	4,700 tons	81,200 pigs	680
Pork.....	7-83	3,500 tons	87,000 pigs	730
Mutton.....	63-89	28,500 tons	1,452,000 sheep	730
Lamb.....	13-88	6,200 tons	462,700 lambs	460
Beef and veal.....	124-66	55,700 tons	382,600 oxen	1,420
Sugar, refined.....	113-80	50,800 tons	18,500 acres	930
Raisins.....	4-93	2,200 tons	1,650 acres	90
Currants.....	1-53	700 tons	500 acres	30
Wool.....	10-00	10,000,000 lb.	1,275,500 sheep	640
Fresh fruit.....	120-00	55,000 tons	18,000 acres	1,600
			Total.....	23,410

\* Including seed requirements for local consumption.

The above table does not include figures for vegetables, canned fruit, and poultry produce.

Mr. TEUSNER—If we assume, as a common test, that there were four dependants to every additional man unit required for the production of these commodities, 125,000 people would be associated with this new farming, therefore it seems that agriculture

on a reasonably efficient basis is able under Australian conditions to support a population seven or eight times as large as those engaged in it today. The tendency in the past decade has been for secondary industries to absorb too high a proportion of

our workmen. In 1901, 17 per cent of Australian workers were employed in secondary industries. In the same year 33 per cent were engaged in primary production. By 1947, 27 per cent were engaged in secondary industries in the Commonwealth and only 18 per cent in primary production. Coming to South Australia, we find that factory employment in 1939 was 43,371, whereas in rural employment there were 44,363. In 1950 factory employment in this State was 78,598, and rural employment, 45,551. During the period mentioned factory employment in South Australia rose by 35,227 and that of rural employment by 1,188.

Mr. O'Halloran—We are reaching the stage when people in the country will have a job to feed people in the factories.

Mr. TEUSNER—In the same period the South Australian population increased by 112,697—from 599,313 to about 712,000. From the table referred to we find that there would be about 2,800 additional man units required for primary production in South Australia to meet an increased population of 112,697, but rural employment has only risen by 1,188 during that period.

The Hon. Sir George Jenkins—There has been a lot of mechanization on the part of farmers.

Mr. TEUSNER—Doubtless mechanization has helped to increase primary production.

Mr. O'Halloran—And the overall result is a reduction in the volume of production.

Mr. TEUSNER—It is necessary to divert additional labour into primary production and encourage more people to take up that work.

Mr. Stephens—What is the cause of the drift?

Mr. TEUSNER—The attractions of the metropolitan area and the amenities provided are contributing factors.

Mr. Quirke—The question of labour during the war had a big effect.

Mr. TEUSNER—I have personal knowledge of rural areas in my district when young people left to engage in war production work in the metropolitan area. They got a taste of city life, liked it, and have not returned. More suitable migrants could be diverted to primary production activities. British, Dutch, German, and Scandinavian migrants have proved in the past to be ideally suited to primary production. In South Australia today there are approximately 12,200 displaced persons, of whom

5,300 are engaged in secondary industries, but only 700 in rural industries, less than 6 per cent of the total number of displaced persons.

Mr. Stephens—Wouldn't it assist the position if we improved amenities and conditions in the country?

Mr. TEUSNER—I strongly advocate that. Land that is being newly developed should be made available on generous terms to those who are prepared to take up primary production activities. The Government can play an important part in this matter and make suitable land, particularly Crown lands, available to approved migrants.

Mr. O'Halloran—Where do the Crown lands exist?

Mr. TEUSNER—I understand some on Kangaroo Island are being developed. I am doubtful whether all the land available will be used for soldier settlement purposes. In view of the apathy referred to by the Minister we may eventually have more land available than will be required by ex-servicemen. I do not mean that I advocate preference for migrants, because I strongly uphold preference for ex-servicemen.

Mr. O'Halloran—Can't we make more use of land in settled areas?

Mr. TEUSNER—I am hoping more land will become available for land settlement purposes. Perhaps the Government could continue to exercise its powers respecting undeveloped land.

Mr. Stott—The migrants would have to undergo a probationary training period.

Mr. TEUSNER—Many migrants have had a thorough training overseas. Perhaps they could serve their contract period of two years in primary production activities. Secondly, I suggest that the man on the land should have made available to him in greater ease than in the past essential materials to enable him to carry on production. I refer to fencing materials, galvanized iron, machinery and cement. Thirdly, I suggest that it should be made easier for the man on the land to carry on building operations. I realize that present legislation makes it unnecessary to apply for a permit for the building of a house if a certain price and area is not exceeded. The experience is that the largest families are found on farms. Often it is impossible for the man with a large family to be properly housed in four rooms. There should be greater latitude when the primary producer, or the man working for him, wants to build a home, Mr. Stephens referred to the provision of

amenities in the country. On several occasions I have referred to this matter and I will not go into it at length now. I urge the Government to continue with vigour its policy of providing water, electricity and roads in rural areas to make conditions easier for outback people. It was with pleasure that I read the following in the Governor's Speech:—

My Ministers consider that measures should be taken to make country life more attractive and to encourage young men to take up life on the land. To this end the Government has approved of the establishment of Young Farmers' Clubs . . . . .

I urge the Government to give effect to that statement and to embark upon a vigorous policy of providing amenities for rural areas. It can be said that already a start has been made in the provision of them, because in parts of my district electric power is being provided, and I hope that in time all rural people will have electric power available to them.

Mr. Stephens—Could you not do the same with other industries, such as cement?

Mr. TEUSNER—I have referred previously to Professor Karmel. He poses the question whether we may not have gone too far in the development of some secondary production, and asks whether it would not be better to concentrate on the more essential lines of production, and to eschew some of the lines on the margin of economic production which could be more profitably bought abroad. In the last few years too much labour has gone into industries producing luxury lines. Something should be done to clamp down on industries engaged in the production of non-essential goods.

Mr. Fred Walsh—Would you suggest the wine making industry as one?

Mr. TEUSNER—No, because it plays an important part in the economy of the State. We need only walk down Rundle Street or King William Street to see the large collection of chocolates and sweets in shop windows. During the war years it was difficult to obtain them, but in these days there seems to be an over-production of them. More labour should be diverted to primary production, and the production of essential goods. The difficulty is that we are trying to do too much in too short a time. We have taken too big a bite at the apple. During the war years it was impossible to engage to any large extent in the production of essential civilian goods, and we have a great lag to catch up, but we are trying to do it too quickly, which makes the

position more difficult. While efficiency in our primary production is second only to that of New Zealand, and a long way ahead of United States of America and Canada, the position is reversed in the industrial field. According to Mr. Colin Clark, Director of Queensland Bureau of Industries, and a world authority on economics, the Australian industrial production per man employed was only one-third that of the United States of America, and whereas that country with 22 per cent of its labour force in secondary industry could export vast quantities of manufactured articles Australia with 27 per cent could not even produce its own requirements. Mr. Clark said that Australia can now get twice as much secondary produce in exchange for one unit of primary produce as she did pre-war, and that this state will probably last about 20 years. He said that by failing to concentrate on primary production and trying instead to build up our secondary industry we have incurred an enormous economic loss, which is now about £200,000,000 a year.

The efficiency of our primary production is reflected in the fact that food costs are lower in Australia than in other countries. For each hour's pay the Australian worker can buy more food than workers elsewhere. A 1950 survey of 20 countries by the United States Department of Labour discloses that Australia was one of the few countries in which there has been a substantial decline in the cost of food in terms of working time since the war. I ask leave to have a table showing the index of purchasing power of hourly earnings in terms of food, taking the United States of America as 100, inserted in *Hansard* without reading it.

Leave granted.

Country.	Pre-War.	1950.
Australia . . . . .	92	*107
Austria (Vienna) . . . . .	38	*28
Canada . . . . .	86	*78
Chile . . . . .	26	37
Czechoslovakia . . . . .	34	*46
Denmark . . . . .	73	*73
Finland . . . . .	49	*39
France (Paris) . . . . .	68	*31
Germany . . . . .	51	38
Great Britain . . . . .	46	*62
Hungary . . . . .	29	*27
Ireland . . . . .	44	46
Israel . . . . .	52	63
Italy . . . . .	26	*24
Netherlands . . . . .	45	*38
Norway . . . . .	68	*84
Sweden . . . . .	60	*63
Switzerland . . . . .	49	46
U.S.S.R. . . . .	24	14

\*Purchasing power of workers with families is increased by family allowances.

Mr. Fred Walsh—how were those figures obtained?

Mr. TEUSNER—The United States Department of Labour (Bureau of Labour Statistics) is a well-known organization and apparently it made an exhaustive survey. It is of some gratification to us to know that the Australian position is better than the position elsewhere. Australia's favourable position compared with other countries was stressed by Mr. H. T. Armitage, former Governor of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, in a broadcast talk in December, 1950. As reported in *Western Australian Mining and Commercial Review* of January, 1951, he said:—

Although both prices and wages have been rising somewhat steeply in Australia over the last two years, it is to be borne in mind that for the two or three years immediately following the termination of the recent war Australian prices were particularly well held. On the contrary, prices in America, Great Britain, and many other countries rose steeply immediately after the war. In other words, Australia is, at a later date, getting the inflationary effects of the war which were felt much earlier by many other countries. In spite of all this talk about steeply rising prices in Australia, I would like to say from my own personal experience that the Australian pound today has a greater purchasing power in its own country than the local currency of almost any other country in the world. Having recently returned from a trip abroad, including England and many Continental countries, I say without hesitation that we still get more for our money in Australia than almost any other part of the civilized world.

Much has been said during this debate regarding inflation. I congratulate the member for Torrens on his valuable contribution to the debate. We know him as a member with convictions, and he certainly spoke with conviction on this subject. It appears that the creeping paralysis of inflation has been coming over us for years, and that some of the initial and primary causes have been the breakdown of price control in the international sphere after World War II., the abandonment of wage pegging late in 1946, the withdrawal of Commonwealth subsidies in 1948, and the introduction of the 40-hour week in New South Wales in 1947 and throughout Australia in 1948. I do not pose as an authority on these matters, but I note what gentlemen in the Commonwealth sphere have to say. The following is an extract from a publication entitled *Facts and Figures*, issued under the direction and by the authority of the then Commonwealth Minister for Information, the Hon. A.

A. Calwell, edition No. 21 for the quarter ended June 30, 1948:—

The effect of the stabilization plan was to hold Australian retail prices at 22½ per cent above the pre-war level for three years. In 1946 the price level began to rise again as price control in the international sphere broke down after the war. Soaring export and import prices exerted strong pressure on the internal price level and the upward movement really commenced when wage pegging was abandoned late in 1946.

An extract from *Facts and Figures* No. 19 for the quarter ended December 30, 1947, reads as follows:—

Higher prices are attributed to increased costs arising from the introduction of a 40-hour week in New South Wales on July 1, 1947, abolition of wage pegging, higher import prices and the withdrawal of some of the subsidies granted by the Government to stabilize prices during the war years. Further increases are expected in 1948, as the full effects are felt of the introduction of a 40-hour week throughout Australia on January 1, 1948.

There are other factors contributing to the problem of inflation. Greater efficiency in production would help solve this problem; in this connection I refer not only to the working man. An effort should be made to increase our efficiency by modernizing industrial plant and by the greater introduction of mechanical devices. Harder work by all sections is required, and everyone must have a will to work.

In his book entitled *The Curtain Rises*, Quentin Reynolds refers to an incident which occurred in the Middle East. General Donald Connolly was handed a telegram which read "Temperature today 129 degrees." Later he was handed another reading "Because unexpected size latest convoy to arrive, men afraid we may fall behind schedule. They suggest until cargo disposed of their 8-hour day be increased to 12." General Connolly said "That's what I mean about my men never complaining. Twelve hours' work in this kind of heat would kill a native, yet these boys asked for it. Do you wonder why I'm proud of them." We in this country have fallen behind schedule. We have a great leeway to make up in our housing requirements, coal and steel production, and in the provision of many essential commodities. While not advocating an increase in the working hours, I contend that, if every citizen of this State and of the Commonwealth were imbued with the same spirit of service as that displayed by those boys under the General's command, we would

soon emerge triumphant from the difficulties with which we are beset. I support the motion.

Mr. CHRISTIAN (Eyre)—I express my pleasure at the election of the new member for Flinders, who follows a brother who rendered very able and distinguished service in this Parliament and who is now a member of the Commonwealth Parliament. I met both these gentlemen many years ago when I was a political colt, and they appealed to me then as two fresh-faced boys who would some day make their mark in public life. They have made that mark, the present member having rendered very important and valuable service in other walks of public life prior to his election to this House. I feel certain he will do well in representing his district.

Much has been said in this debate regarding inflation and many remedies have been suggested. I do not profess to have any ready-made remedy in my pocket. In fact, I do not think that even a conjurer could draw out of the hat any new or mysterious remedy. I know of only one which has been well tried when we have been in a jam—good old honest, hard work. That may be scoffed at by some people in these days when it is suggested we can produce more by working shorter hours; but whenever those of us engaged in industry, particularly primary production, found ourselves up against it we had to tighten our belts and put our shoulders to the wheel more than ever before. When farm mortgages had to be paid off or the amounts advanced to soldier settlers repaid, we did not institute a 40-hour week or five day week or decrease our production. Only by working a damn sight harder and longer hours were we able to achieve the requisite production to earn the necessary income to meet those commitments. That is the only way in which it could be done. I took very strong exception to a statement by the member for Stuart who rather deprecated any criticism from this side of the House of the lower output in industry generally which is prevalent today. He seemed to think that our remarks arose from antagonism against the worker.

Mr. O'Halloran—Don't they?

Mr. CHRISTIAN—Certainly not. I have a high regard for the worker, whether he be in a factory, on a farm, or in any other sphere. I want to see that the worker's pay envelope not only meets his weekly commitments but leaves a little over, and that his standard of living is not only maintained but improved.

Will that desirable objective be achieved by continually shortening the working week and by decreasing output? Commonsense must answer "No" in every instance. What should be the number of hours of a worker in industry? We have tried the 40-hour week since January, 1948, but what has it achieved? About 1947 we were supplying most of our own needs of steel and steel products, but since the introduction of the 40-hour week we have been compelled to import huge quantities at double and treble the local price, and even so we are not nearly meeting our full requirements. Anyone associated with primary production knows how difficult it is to get machinery and machine parts, water piping and galvanized iron, all of which are required to maintain and expand our food production. The necessity for expansion has been made plain by every speaker who has spoken on the subject, and yet we cannot get these materials which are so essential to improve our food position.

Mr. O'Halloran—Is not the shortage due rather to increased demand than to lack of production?

Mr. CHRISTIAN—I admit that part is due to increased demand, but by no means all of it. Much of it is due to lowered output. We are not producing today the quantity of machinery we produced some years ago.

Mr. O'Halloran—If that is so, why is Australian production so much cheaper than overseas production?

Mr. CHRISTIAN—That has no relation to the question I am discussing—that of output, which has declined per man hour. I am not saying that it has declined in every industry. Those to which Mr. Tapping referred have in some instances increased output, but he admitted that in some cases it was due to greater mechanization. There is no gainsaying the fact that our output is declining. I give one instance by citing from the report of the Royal Commission on Transport, which refers specifically to one branch of service industry showing a lowered output. In speaking of the waterfront position it says:—

The rate of handling cargo has steadily decreased from 25 to 30 tons per gang hour before the recent war to 15 to 18 tons per hour at the present time.

That is one instance of lowered output, despite all the arguments used in this House to whitewash the waterfront position. Mechanization on the waterfront has advanced since pre-war days. I could give other instances

showing lowered output in many fields of industry. The number of men per gang has also been increased since pre-war days, and yet the output is so much less.

Mr. McAlees—You are talking of something you know nothing about.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—My authority is the Harbors Board, and surely it knows what it is talking about. I am not referring to the question in any spirit of hostility. The 40-hour week is having an adverse effect upon the Australian workers' standard of living. What good has it done them?

Mr. Stephens—We challenge the figures you gave.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—Correct them if you can. Why do you get so hot under the collar?

Mr. McAlees—Because the figures are not correct.

Mr. Fred Walsh—You would have the men working 60 hours a week.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—I refute that. All we want is weekly hours of work which will maintain production and improve our standard of living. I am not concerned for the employers' interests, but mainly for the employees' own interests, which are being badly served by this shortening of hours and lowering of output.

Mr. Fred Walsh—That is a reflection on the Arbitration Court.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—Many a time I have heard criticisms from the other side of the House of the Arbitration Courts and their personnel. I am entitled to say that when it awarded the 40-hour week it was a mistake. Influences were brought to bear on that occasion which virtually gave the court no option but to grant the request. Now that the 40-hour week has been tried and found wanting so lamentably, is it not time that the position was reviewed and another approach made to the court for an amendment of the conditions? I agree with the Hon. S. W. Jeffries when he says we should make that approach and have the hours increased to 44. And why not?

Mr. O'Halloran—Would you work those hours in five or six shifts?

Mr. CHRISTIAN—I am not concerned with the number of shifts. All I know is that 40 hours are not sufficient to give the production needed.

Mr. O'Halloran—The number of shifts has an important bearing.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—That is for the court to decide, or it could be by arrangement between employers and employees. The number of hours should definitely be increased to at least 44. I am not one who believes in long hours just for long hours' sake. If we can achieve reasonable production with 44 hours, well and good. Why should the workers work only 40 hours?

Mr. Fred Walsh—It was decided by the court after months of investigation.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—Does it hurt anyone to work 44 hours? Did it ever hurt anyone to work 48 hours? Last year I cited reports, which disclosed that not only was the 40-hour week not being worked, but that the effective hours of work in many factories were only 35. I can take honourable members to places in the State where instead of a 5-day week being worked the effective number is only 4. I know of cases where the men engaged on road work spend the whole of Monday morning travelling to the job, and on Friday work stops at lunch time, the rest of the day being spent in returning home. If one travels around the State one sees plant which has costs tens of thousands of pounds lying idle most of the time. Mechanization has been forced upon us by the lack of manpower, and the machines are not as effective as they could be in reducing the cost of public and other works because they are standing idle most of the time. Instead of their being utilized for 40 or 44 hours a week, they should be in operation in shifts so that we could get our money's worth out of them and then our roads would be in something like decent shape. We have gone too far in the application of a principle which is always insisted upon so strongly by our friends of the Labor Party—one man one job. That has been taken to such a pernicious extreme that we have a duplication of manpower on many jobs, and thus we are increasing the cost of production per unit and absorbing more men than are really required. Let me give an example of this principle being carried to extreme which I saw the other day in my street. It was a Saturday afternoon and perhaps there was some reason for the job being undertaken then. Three men in a huge truck belonging to the Postal Department drove into the street to attend to some telephone wires. There was the truck driver who must not do anything but drive the truck, another man to hold the ladder and he must not touch anything else, and then

the third man who climbed the ladder and twiddled around with the telephone wires for a few minutes. They then drove off in the truck. It was a job that a boy on a bicycle could have done in no time. In fact it was such a simple job that it definitely did not warrant three men in a huge truck, incurring heavy costs. Who pays for it? We are always inclined to forget that these excessive costs in the field of labour are borne ultimately by the consumer, and in the majority of cases he is the basic wage earner.

Mr. O'Halloran—I suggest that you refer the complaint to Mr. Anthony, Country Party Postmaster-General.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—This state of affairs existed long before he assumed office. It is because of the insistence of the pernicious principle of "one man one job" carried to the extreme.

Mr. O'Halloran—A man should not risk his own life by climbing a ladder unless he has someone at the base.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—Haven't we all risked our lives at times and thought nothing of it? That sort of thing can be carried too far, and it costs us too much. I shall give some examples of what we are paying for the principles enforced today in our factories and other places of production.

Mr. O'Halloran—For safety precautions?

Mr. CHRISTIAN—No. I shall quote figures from the *Statesman's Pocket Year Book* for 1949 of the value of output per employee to illustrate my point. In the year 1948-49 there were 75,945 factory employees and the net value of factory output was £43,667,633. In the same year in the three primary-producing industries—agriculture, pastoral and dairying—there were 42,571 persons employed. The value of their production was £48,139,000. The value of factory output per employee was £575, whereas in the primary industries it was £1,130, practically double that of the factories. That proves that in primary industries people have to work much harder and longer hours.

Mr. O'Halloran—How were the figures for the primary industries influenced by high export prices?

Mr. CHRISTIAN—The prices were not inflated then as they are today. The price of wheat was 10s. 5½d. a bushel and wool was 44.14d. a lb. I am taking an average production year, not a year of inflated prices.

Mr. O'Halloran—Do you say they were the average prices for wheat and wool?

Mr. CHRISTIAN—You can say for a quinquennial period.

Mr. O'Halloran—They were not. They were three times as much in one case and four times as much in the other.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—The honourable member is referring to pre-war prices, but I am not. I am taking the average prices for the 5-year period just ended. I shall give the production figures of a typical single farm unit of an average size where all the work has to be performed by the farmer himself except at odd times of the year. I know of many farms where the farmer does the great bulk of the work and only has help at shearing time and harvesting time for bagging and carting grain. A typical farmer has 250 acres under wheat and obtains an average of 12 bushels to the acre. This would yield 3,000 bushels of wheat. He would run 300 sheep with an average clip of 10 lb. and at the prices I have quoted the value of his output would be £1,575 for wheat and £550 for wool, a total income of £2,125.

Mr. O'Halloran—Gross value?

Mr. CHRISTIAN—Yes.

Mr. O'Halloran—You previously gave us net values.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—That is so.

Mr. O'Halloran—That alters the position entirely.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—Not in regard to farm production because my farm production figures were net values as indicated in the *Statesman's Pocket Year Book*.

Mr. O'Halloran—Your later figures were totally different.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—To some extent, nevertheless they illustrate my point that the people engaged in our rural food-producing industries have to work much harder than those in factories. This does not harm their health, for their constitutions are as good as those of other people, if not better. Hard work has never killed anybody and a bit more of it in our factories and other allied industries would be the best antidote to remedy our present inflationary position. Further, it would maintain and perhaps improve the standard of living of the average worker. What good has the 40-hour week done for anybody?

Mr. McAlees—Put years on people's lives.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—I do not think so. Many people do not know what to do with their extra leisure and this is taking years off their lives.

Mr. Stephens—That applies to many directors and managers of companies who never produce anything.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—That may be. I am not speaking in their defence, but in defence of the worker because I do not want to see his standard of living lowered. Further, our food production programme is in jeopardy because we cannot get enough machinery or essential commodities such as fencing wire and water piping. During the war the position was better than it is today.

Mr. O'Halloran—You had a better Commonwealth Government then.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—We had a better output. Everybody was putting his shoulder to the wheel in order that the nation might survive. Would not the same remedy be as effective today as it was then? A better outlook, improved work, and increased production would overcome our problems. The Leader of the Opposition referred to the lower cost of Australian commodities. Surely they should be cheaper than imported commodities. We have the tremendous advantage that most of the raw materials required in our factories are obtainable right on our own doorsteps. We have the best iron deposits in the world and adequate coal supplies and basic metals. Surely, with cheap raw materials, the costs of our processed commodities should be lower than those anywhere else in the world? Great Britain has to import most of the basic raw materials for the manufacture of steel whereas we have them in our own country; more than that, we have controlled food prices. The Australian farmer feeds the consumer in this country with far cheaper wheat than can be bought by consumers in any other part of the world, and this is another factor making for lower cost of production and cheaper cost of living.

Mr. O'Halloran—But the farmer still gets cost of production price.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—I am not debating that. I am simply deducing that as one of the factors contributing materially to a lower price for our Australian made commodities. I now want to refer briefly to another important problem with which we are faced, namely, the transportation of our materials and commodities. This has unquestionably become a very serious and urgent matter. Our railways, by virtue of shortages of rolling stock, manpower and probably other reasons, are quite unable to cope with the movement of goods. Our shipping has not been able to keep pace with the demands upon it, and our roads were never designed to carry the tremendous traffic they have to cope with by virtue of the failure,

or partial failure, of other means of transport. Not only is our shipping handicapped by the slow turn-round in ports, but we are also faced with a very serious decline in the number of small coastal vessels which used to cater, to a large extent, for the movement of grain, super-phosphate and other commodities to and from the centres of distribution and outports. At one time the whole of our grain from the outports was moved by what was known as the mosquito fleet; that fleet has greatly diminished in numbers and so we are faced with the problem of further loading our railways or having the goods transported by road. Unfortunately, the railways have not sufficient rolling stock to cope with the increased demand.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—We are handling 38 per cent more freight than prior to the war.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—Nevertheless it is by no means adequate. In my view we are concentrating too much upon luxury items and not sufficiently upon essentials. A great deal has been said in this debate in regard to the many luxury goods being produced to the exclusion of essentials, but we should put our own house in order in that regard, particularly in respect of the railways. We hear much about the wonderful new twinette and roomette cars and other elaborate rolling stock for passengers developed in recent years and now in commission on the overland route. I say there should have been greater concentration upon essential commodity-carrying rolling stock.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—An immense programme in that direction is now being carried out.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—However that may be today we are reaping the results of an inadequate programme in years gone by. On Eyre Peninsula the position is acute. Tens of thousands of tons of grain have had to be shifted by road, not only from the outports from which it is normally taken by ketches, but from railway sidings. At many sidings the grain of two years' harvests is now concentrated, and the railway authorities have welcomed road transport taking over their job because they have been unable to function adequately. That is a very serious state of affairs, because, not only are the railways losing essential revenue, which is badly enough needed in all conscience, but our roads are being hammered to pieces. The roads on Eyre Peninsula are mainly brattened or graded earth roads which cannot stand up to the

tremendous pounding by heavy lorries and semi-trailers carrying huge loads of grain. Unfortunately, a great deal of this transportation has taken place during this wet winter. I have had the experience of making three or four trips through my district this year, and on each occasion it was almost a nightmare to get along because the roads had been seriously ploughed up by this heavy traffic. It has disrupted not only ordinary communications, but the regular passenger service, and this has most seriously inconvenienced the public. On my last trip one of our very highly prized passenger services, viz., the service to Streaky Bay and Ceduna was six hours late. The stress and strain which that imposes, not only upon service operators but travellers, can be easily imagined. Unless we do something to improve our rolling stock our railways will deteriorate still further. District councils simply cannot cope with the damage being inflicted upon their roads. In most cases they have sufficient plant to do the work, but because of restrictions on working hours, shortage of manpower and other incidentals they cannot carry their programmes through, and everyone suffers as a consequence. We should concentrate more on the requirements for the transportation of essential commodities.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—I think you will find that is being done.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—I regard passenger traffic as one of the frills—

The Hon. M. McIntosh—It is the most profitable and helps to keep down the freight in other directions.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—That may be so, but it is not helping in the transportation of essential commodities. We have all this great quantity of grain becoming weevil infested, and deteriorating from the weather; it is a serious situation and one to which we must apply ourselves, or the food situation, which is said to be deteriorating, can only grow worse from day to day. I deplore the recent action of the Government itself in further reducing the hours of work in the Public Service. Why shouldn't public servants work a 40-hour week? Is there any good reason why they should work only 37? I know of none. When the 40-hour week was introduced all factory and other workers were required to work 40 hours. Hours for the Public Service have been reduced to about 37. Why?

Mr. Frank Walsh—When did they ever work 40 hours a week?

Mr. CHRISTIAN—I do not know, but there is no reason why they should not.

Mr. Frank Walsh—Why should they?

Mr. CHRISTIAN—If everybody else works 40 hours or more a week why should those in white-collar jobs not work 40 hours? Thirty-seven hours a week in normal times is insufficient for the work that has to be done. If a 40-hour week were worked in the Public Service we would not need so many servants. The Federal Government is talking about reducing the Commonwealth Public Service by 10,000 employees. That could be easily achieved if a 40-hour week were instituted. We could then dispense with many surplus officers. What justification is there for those workers being favoured by working a shorter week than those engaged in other industries? We urgently need manpower in other forms of production. Another aspect of the 40-hour week is the depletion of manpower in primary industries. That is one of the effects of the much vaunted 40-hour week. How would those engaged in primary production get on if a 40-hour week on the one-man one-job principle was worked? On a farm where a single man today produces £2,000 worth of commodities he would have to employ half a dozen men to achieve the same result. Only one man would be allowed to drive a tractor, whilst another would not be allowed to do anything except milk cows. Somebody else would not be able to do anything except pitch hay; there would have to be another man to stack the hay, and so on. If that principle is to be applied to other spheres of production why not apply it to our primary industries? It could be done if we were prepared to pay the cost. I have heard none of the advocates of shorter hours and lowered output say that dairymen should work only five days a week and 40 hours.

Mr. Fred Walsh—We wanted to bring them under the Industrial Code so that they could get decent hours and conditions.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—What if they were, and all the other principles that the honourable member advocates were applied? Where would we be for food production and what prices would consumers have to pay? Wheat would not be available at 7s. 2d. a bushel or milk and butter at their present relatively low prices.

Mr. Fred Walsh—And woolgrowers would not be getting such a high price for wool.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—Probably, but I am not advocating the principles that the honourable member advocates. If they were applied logically to every other industry in the country

we would soon become bankrupt and our economy would be broken down in no time. The honourable member raised no objection to the output of the primary producer, to his long hours of toil and the hard work he does so that cheap foodstuffs can be made available to consumers.

Mr. Fred Walsh—And when producers cannot get the prices they want for butter and potatoes they will not bring them into market.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—Australian consumers get wheat much cheaper than world parity price. The wheatgrowers are willing to assist there. We are not complaining, and never did. I have made these observations, not in any spirit of hostility towards members on the Opposition benches, many of whom are my best friends, or in any antagonism towards the workers they represent, and whom I represent. I am a worker and proud of it. I am proud of the fact that I have done many a day's hard work, which does not hurt anybody; neither will it hurt anybody to do a bit for himself. Some of the principles in operation today are not any good to the workers in industry, or to anybody else. Years ago when we had people doing a variety of jobs, instead of the highly specialized work in the extreme that

we have today, we developed all-rounders—people who were able to do many things for themselves—but today they have to run to the Government or somebody else to get things done for them. Today, because of the highly-specialized jobs and the one-man one-job principle these persons are no longer capable of doing anything for themselves. They appear to have no desire to broaden their outlook about other matters. Hard work develops character for people to do things for themselves. It makes them far better citizens and for that reason they are of far more use to the State than when working under a high state of specialization. I do not blame the worker himself because he is continually being led up the garden path towards shorter hours and lowered output. We should be honest enough to admit that this is not helping the worker or doing him any good. The only way to salvation is a return to the days of harder work and, if necessary, longer hours.

Mr. FRANK WALSH obtained the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 9.29 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, August 15, at 2 p.m.