

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, August 13, 1953.

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

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The SPEAKER—I have to inform the House that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to receive members for the presentation of the Address in Reply at 2.05 p.m. today. I now propose, accompanied by the mover and seconder and other members who so desire, to proceed to Government House.

At 2.02 p.m. the Speaker and members proceeded to Government House. On returning at 2.17 p.m.,

The SPEAKER—I have to inform the House that, accompanied by the mover and seconder of the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech and other members, I proceeded to Government House and there presented to His Excellency the Governor the Address adopted by the House on August 11, to which His Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:—

I thank you for your Address in Reply to the Speech with which I opened Parliament on June 25 of this year. I join with you in the re-affirmation of your loyalty to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II., in the year of Her Majesty's Coronation. I am confident that you will give full and careful attention to all matters placed before you, and I pray that God's blessing may crown your labours.

QUESTIONS.**PUBLIC SERVICE SALARIES.**

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I understand that in February of last year the Public Service Association lodged a request with the Public Service Board for a general revision of public service salaries. In August and November last I questioned the Premier on the subject and his last reply was that the evidence had been completed and that a finding would soon be determined. From an examination of copies of the *Government Gazette* I have discovered that on January 15 of this year there was a reclassification of salaries of higher ranking officers and of male officers on the automatic scale, and on July 23 a reclassification of salaries of female officers. Can the Premier say when the application by the Public Service Association for a general revision of salaries will be determined by the board?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I am not in a position to answer the question. Under the Public Service Act a salary can be gazetted

and on the day following gazettal a further appeal may be made. At all times there are many applications for alteration of salaries, either from groups or individuals, before the board. The Government does not in any way prevent the board from making determinations nor does it hinder it in making them. The board acts as a judicial body and makes such determinations as it thinks warranted by the circumstances. I will make inquiries to ascertain whether any new determinations are expected in the near future.

TYPHOID BACTERIA IN DESICCATED COCONUT.

Mr. DUNKS—Last Tuesday I asked a question concerning the examination of desiccated coconut and there is an article in this morning's press relating to that. Can the Premier supply anything authentic in relation to the examination of various brands of desiccated coconut and its use in the future?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I have a report from Dr. Poynton, the Director of the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, and also a short report from the Director-General of Public Health. I discussed this matter for a few moments this morning with the Minister of Health and the Director-General of Public Health. A number of tests have been made of various brands of desiccated coconut taken from the metropolitan area and elsewhere. Up to the present there have been no positive cases in which typhoid germs have been located but other contaminations, some of which are liable to cause food poisoning in certain instances, have been found in one or more brands of desiccated coconut. The Government is considering the question of its powers concerning the brand or brands found to be contaminated to see what further action can and should be taken. Although there has been no positive identification of typhoid germs in any brand examined up to the present, because contaminations were found in several samples I issue a public warning that people should not eat desiccated coconut of any brand at present unless it has been thoroughly cooked, and by that I do not mean just brought to 112 degrees or thereabouts on top of a cake. This warning has the support of the Director-General of Health and other health authorities. It is difficult to trace various brands of desiccated coconut because in some instances it is bought in bulk packages and then retailed in individual containers.

HOUSING TRUST GROUP SHOPS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I understand from the press that the Premier recently referred to the need of a review of town planning. As it is the policy of the Housing Trust to erect shops to supply essential commodities in its housing groups, can the Premier say whether the trust could consider the inclusion of premises suitable for hardware shops?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—As the building materials controls are no longer operative any person can now build a hardware shop or any other type wherever he considers the necessity exists. However, I will have the question examined and give the honourable member a further report.

TRANSCONTINENTAL PASSENGER SERVICE.

Mr. DAVIS—On Friday, August 7, an article appeared in the *Advertiser* under the heading "Change Sought for Transcontinental," as follows:—

Transcontinental railway passengers from Melbourne to Western Australia may soon travel direct to Port Pirie and avoid the four-hour wait and change of train at Adelaide. Senator Seward said today that the Commonwealth and South Australian Railways Commissioners would meet this week to discuss the question. He had been informed of this by the Federal Minister for Transport (Senator McLeay). Senator Seward had asked about the possibility of running through to Port Pirie Junction enough Melbourne-Adelaide coaches to accommodate interstate passengers. Senator Seward said that the Commonwealth Commissioner was anxious to make the change. Can the Minister of Railways say whether the conference has been held and, if so, did the commissioners arrive at any decision?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Discussions have taken place and correspondence has passed on the matter. Two years after the Redhill-Port Pirie railway came into operation in 1937 one sleeping car did work through between Melbourne and Port Pirie Junction, but this practice was discontinued during the war. Since then, the Railways Commissioner advises me, certain fundamental changes have taken place and the composition of the Overland is much altered, and the time table has been completely altered with the introduction of the diesel-electric locomotives on the trans-Australian railway. The whole problem of providing through working of sleeping cars and sitting up cars between Melbourne and Port Pirie Junction is being investigated, but a number of very serious difficulties are associated with the proposed working, and the Railways Commissioner says that he could not

subscribe to the statement in the press that "passengers may soon travel direct to Port Pirie." However, the Commissioners are trying to iron out the difficulties and, I am sure, will do so at the earliest possible moment.

MYPONGA RESERVOIR.

Mr. BROOKMAN—Can the Minister of Works indicate what progress has been made in the scheme to construct a reservoir at Myponga and when the plans are likely to be ready for submission to the Public Works Standing Committee?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The Engineer for Water Supply reports that investigations and estimates of the Myponga dam and pipeline scheme are complete and that the report of the Engineer for Design is at present being typed. The financial statement for the scheme has still to be prepared by the accountant and, in addition, the Engineer for Water Supply has to prepare his report and submit it to me. At this stage it appears that the proposal can be ready for submission to the Public Works Standing Committee in one month's time. The cost of the scheme would be about £3,000,000. It is not a small scheme and the work is proceeding as quickly as circumstances will permit.

QUALITY OF LEIGH CREEK COAL.

Mr. JENNINGS—Recently I asked the Minister of Works a question about the poor quality of Leigh Creek coal for domestic use and stated that I had been informed that a certain purchaser received preferential treatment. In reply, the Minister promised to have investigations made and stated that any suggestion that the Premier had preferential treatment accorded him was so wrong that he was surprised that I should bring the matter up. I quote from a letter published in the *News* yesterday over the signatures of nine coal merchants:—

In the Assembly last week the Works Minister (Mr. McIntosh) told Mr. Jennings, M.P., that no preference was given in the delivery or treatment of Leigh Creek coal, but that should buyers require specified coal, such as "large," they could have it at a small extra charge. He rebuked Mr. Jennings for suggesting that the Premier was given any preference.

We, the undersigned coal merchants, have been handling household coal since the inception of Leigh Creek coalfield, but until last week we did not know we could obtain specified coal at an extra cost.

We saw the coal loaded on the Premier's truck on August 4. It was handpicked, and a large percentage of rock and shale thrown out.

For more than 12 months householders have had to buy inferior coal. The 300 tons now being sent to Osborne was taken away only after several vendors had refused to load it.

Has the Minister any comments to make in view of the disclosures contained in the letter, and can he say that the departmental report is accurate?

The Hon. H. McINTOSH—I am more than confident that what I said was correct. In view of the suggestions made I took a lot of trouble to ascertain the facts. Preference is not given to anybody. Any concession allowed in the case mentioned by the honourable member is available to anyone. I shall read from a prepared statement supplied to me:—

Leigh Creek coal is, and always has been available under different categories. Originally coal was supplied loose on to the ground and merchants bagged their own. This facility is still available; however, vendors found with the installation of a bagging machine at Mile End that it was more economical to buy it already bagged. Today's prices are:—Truck loads, 58s. 2d.; coal bagged, 3s. per bag of approximately 1 cwt. or 60s. a ton; large coal, loose, per lorry load, 62s. 2d. a ton; large coal, loose, screened on the ground, 64s. 2d. a ton. Although the coal is crushed, picked and screened at Leigh Creek with the object of eliminating shale and rock (which incidentally is very difficult as both are almost identical in colour with coal) the coal supplied to wood merchants again goes over the screen here to eliminate fines. This is not done when coal is supplied in lorry loads. Whereas originally bagged coal was much dearer than loose coal, the position has now been reversed and bagged coal for household purposes is by far the cheapest coal available.

That is another benefit obtained by purchasers of bagged coal. The report continues:—

This has been done as a matter of policy and to assist householders. The coal as supplied to the Premier (and to anyone else requiring it) is at a price of 4s. 2d. above bagged coal. If during the process of loading the coal on to the purchaser's lorry, shale or rock manifests itself, this is naturally discarded. This represents the so-called "hand-picked" coal supplied to the Premier. Whether the writers of the letter are aware of this custom is beside the point. The fact is that it is available to them or anybody else if they so desire. I suggest that they will not take this coal having regard to the extra price and labour involved. The wood merchants refused to take the coal on that day, but the Premier's driver, obviously not knowing this or its quality, proceeded to load his lorry, but even the "picked over" quality was so poor that he only accepted half the quantity desired. That taken by him was out of the same consignment of 300 tons refused by the merchants and subsequently taken to Osborne.

Therefore, the suggestion that preference was given is not correct. What was open to this man was open to anyone.

PENALTIES FOR DRUNKEN DRIVING.

Mr. PATTINSON—I refer the Premier in general to the grave menace of the drunken driver and in particular to the fact that during the year ended June 30 last, there were 393 convictions, compared with 356 in 1951-52 and 332 in 1950-51, for the offence of driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor. Police officials have commented that drunken driving would continue until penalties were strong enough to act as a deterrent, and they stated that the time was now opportune for Parliament to reconsider them. I also refer the Premier to the sub-leader in today's *Advertiser* with which I wholly agree and which, I predict, will meet with overwhelming public support. It states:—

That the number of motorists convicted for drunken driving in South Australia last year was higher than that of the year before (393 as against 356) can be partly "explained" by pointing out that there were more motorists on the roads and also more police patrols. But that is not an explanation that will satisfy anybody. The fact is that the worst menace abroad on the roads is growing year by year. The senior police official who said that the introduction of heavier penalties for drunken driving had not yielded results was stating a self-evident truth. Public opinion would be strongly behind any move to deter these irresponsible people from endangering life—and surely such a move must now be forthcoming.

Is the Premier aware that the Australian Uniform Road Traffic Code Committee has recommended to the Governments of every State that their respective Parliaments enact legislation to provide that any person who, whilst under the influence of intoxicating liquor or a drug drives a motor vehicle or attempts to put a motor vehicle in motion shall be liable upon summary conviction to imprisonment for not more than 12 months or a fine not exceeding £100, or both, and shall automatically be disqualified for driving for not less than three months for the first offence and not less than 12 months for a second or subsequent offence if committed within five years? As Leader of the Government, is the Premier satisfied with a state of affairs which permitted, during the last financial year, 393 convictions for this serious and increasingly prevalent offence? Will the Premier inquire how many of the penalties imposed for those convictions involved imprisonment for a first offence, as authorized by Parliament, and, of the total number of penalties involving imprisonment,

how many were imposed by experienced magistrates in the Adelaide Police Court and how many—or should I say how few?—by magistrates in suburban and country courts? Is the problem today not so much a lack of legislative power, but the reluctance of some magistrates to use the powers with which Parliament has clothed them? Will the Premier ask some proper authority such as the Commissioner of Police or the State Traffic Committee to investigate and report on this problem?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I am afraid I am unable to remember all the questions the honourable member submitted, but I wish to make a few comments on some of the topics raised. The statement that the number of convictions was high is true and gives the Government much concern. Possibly, one of the reasons for the higher number of convictions is that not only has the legislation been tightened up with regard to offences, but it has been made much easier to prove an offence under legislation passed not long ago. It is now comparatively easy for the police to prove an offence for which previously the offender would probably not have been convicted. No-one can be satisfied with the present position for the intoxicated driver constitutes a menace not only to himself but to everyone else. I am sure the Government would have the support not only of members on this side but also of members opposite in arriving at a solution of this problem. I will go into the questions asked by the honourable member categorically, have them investigated specifically, get replies to the questions referring to figures and, after those replies have been examined, advise him whether any further action is possible.

PROCEDURE IN ASKING QUESTIONS.

Mr. McALEES—I shall not go so far around the bush as the member for Glenelg did in asking a number of questions, but, as he asked so many in one speech, I claim the same right to ask a couple myself.

The SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member will take his seat. I think, now that the procedure in asking questions has been rather commented on, it is time for the Speaker to draw honourable members' attention to Standing Order 125 which states that in putting a question there shall be no explanations, no debate, no argument, and no answering the question, but there shall be a question asked; therefore, I think honourable members might prune down their questions and the Ministers will then answer them one at a time.

WALLAROO HOUSING.

Mr. McALEES—On July 22 I asked the Premier a question concerning the rents of Housing Trust homes at Wallaroo. Has he a reply following the investigation he promised to make? The number of houses being built at Wallaroo does not warrant extra rent being charged to people who have been in their houses for years.

The SPEAKER—Is that the question the honourable member asked last week? He cannot repeat it unless there is some new phase.

Mr. McALEES—I wish to add a little to my question. Who are consulted in a district when an inquiry is made into who shall be the tenants? Some time ago I mentioned that the agent at Wallaroo died and that the agency had been moved to Kadina. Why was the alteration made when there were applicants from Wallaroo who were capable of doing the work? Because of the transfer, Wallaroo people who want to consult the agent have to go to Kadina, which is six miles away, and they consider that is unfair to them.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I think the honourable member realizes that the matter is not directly under my control, but under the Housing Trust. I have asked for a report but it has not yet been made available to me. I have made a further note and will specifically ask for it tomorrow.

CREMATORIUM LICENCE.

Mr. GEOFFREY CLARKE—Can the Minister of Works say if a licence to operate a crematorium has been issued to either or both of the cemetery authorities who desire such a licence?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The position is that both require a licence. Enfield General Cemetery Trust was second in the field. I had a long conversation with them and at present they have no demand for it, or the financial capacity. The question of granting a licence to the Centennial Park Cemetery is under active investigation and I hope a decision will be reached in the near future. In the meantime the Government has refrained from attempting to do anything at West Terrace because of the desire, pursuant to an agreement made many years ago, to close it down at the earliest possible date.

SUBSTANDARD HOUSING AT MOUNT GAMBIER.

Mr. FLETCHER—I ask leave to make a brief statement before asking my question.

The SPEAKER—The statement must be just sufficient to make the question clear and not be the substance of an argument.

Mr. FLETCHER—The position as given to me last week is that in the town of Mount Gambier there are 250 substandard houses. An inspector told me that, since the advent of the Housing Trust into the area, as far as he knew only four people living in substandard houses had been able to obtain trust homes. Will the Premier consider extending the temporary homes scheme to Mount Gambier to alleviate the shocking conditions under which some of the people live in substandard houses?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Government is not in favour of extending the temporary homes scheme because all the money available to it for housing this year can be used for permanent housing, which, of course, is more economical and in every way better. The temporary housing scheme was entered into when the Government was not able to spend money on housing to the extent that it had funds available, and it went into the temporary housing scheme as an emergency to overcome shocking conditions which could not otherwise be alleviated. At present the Government can get contracts for house building at fairly competitive prices for all the money which can be made available to it from its various resources. In these circumstances we are not in favour of extending the temporary housing scheme, but I shall have an investigation made to see if it is possible to speed up the permanent housing scheme at Mount Gambier.

MUTTON PRICES DECONTROL.

Mr. HEASLIP—As eight years have passed since World War II. ended and mutton is in as plentiful a supply as it probably ever will be and there is ample competition, will the Premier consider decontrolling the price of this commodity, particularly as lamb has been decontrolled for some considerable time?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I examined the matter three or four months ago but action was deferred at the time because a number of prosecutions were pending. The mutton position has eased considerably and I will examine it again to see if there is any useful purpose in continuing with the regulations.

Mr. RICHES—In the course of his inquiries regarding the control of meat prices, will the Premier investigate the desirability of continuing price control in the northern areas and will he adopt some means of ascertaining public opinion before price control is abolished?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—It has not been practicable to ascertain public opinion on all the prices orders that are issued from day to day and I do not think it would be practicable on this occasion. Any survey of the problem of decontrol or otherwise of mutton will certainly apply to all the main areas in which the present order is operating. It will not merely relate to the metropolitan area but will take into account conditions in country areas and it will be a general review of conditions. The matter will be thoroughly examined before any decision is announced.

ELECTRICITY TRUST AND CARPENTERS AT PORT AUGUSTA.

Mr. LAWN—I understand that the Electricity Trust has for some considerable time been asking the Carpenters Union to supply carpenters for employment at Port Augusta. The Carpenters Award provides for a living away allowance of £3 5s. a week. The Electricity Trust refused to pay it and claimed that it wanted to engage labour for employment at Port Augusta and not transfer it. The union refused to supply the labour. The cost would have been 7s. 11½d. an hour for wages and 1s. 7½d. an hour for the living away allowance, making 9s. 7d. an hour. The trust refused the request and has now asked several contractors to supply labour at Port Augusta to do the work. The arrangements made are that the contractors pay fares and allowances for the carpenters, wages, and in some instances £9 a week for hotel accommodation. They pay the workmen's compensation costs, other incidentals, and then charge an additional 10 per cent. I am advised that that is costing from 15s. to £1 an hour as against the 9s. 7d. I have mentioned. Can the Premier state whether these facts are correct, the number of contractors so employing these men and the actual cost per hour to the trust for employment of labour?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I have no knowledge of the matters mentioned but I will make inquiries and inform the honourable member of the facts in due course.

PARAFIELD AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTRE.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—In this morning's *Advertiser* Dr. Callaghan, the Director of Agriculture, is reported as having stated that it is the intention of the Department of Agriculture to start a new research centre at Parafield to investigate problems associated with

horticulture and viticulture. Is not the Minister of Agriculture of the opinion that work dealing with citrus fruits and vine fruits would be better carried out in irrigation areas? Obviously, the development of citrus and vine fruits is at present taking place in the irrigation areas and will no doubt continue to do so in future.

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—I think the report the honourable member quotes from is an exaggerated statement. The position is that the Department of Agriculture lost its experimental orchard at Fullarton when the Education Department took over the area. That experimental orchard was transferred to some land we have at Parafield and the excellent work previously performed at Fullarton is continuing. I would disabuse the honourable member's mind of the idea that it is a new research station. It is not. Also they were growing oranges in the Salisbury district before they ever started at Renmark.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—I am fully aware of that. I understand they were planted at Salisbury 100 years ago and that the present Minister of Agriculture planted the first tree.

The SPEAKER—Order! That is not a relevant aspect of the question.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—For a number of years citrus growers in the irrigation areas have approached the Minister of Agriculture and his department and asked that various experimental work be carried out in the district. Despite citrus trees being grown at Salisbury, does not the Minister think that expansion in the future will be in the Murray areas, and therefore experimental work in citrus and vines should be carried out in the river areas?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—There is already an experimental orchard in the Murray district at Berri. All types of fruit trees are grown there and great good has resulted to the Murray people from the experiments that have been carried out. An area has also been reserved in the Loxton district for the establishment of an experimental orchard. The people in that area have been well looked after by Governments in South Australia for many years.

EMERGENCY HOUSING.

Mr. STEPHENS—Will the Premier ascertain from the Housing Trust the number of people awaiting emergency houses?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes.

PORT AUGUSTA JETTIES.

Mr. RICHES—Some weeks ago the Port Augusta Corporation asked the Harbors Board if it would confer with fishermen and representatives of the council on the future of two jetties at Port Augusta. No reply has been received from the board. Will the Minister call for a report from the Harbors Board on the condition of the jetties at Port Augusta and request the board to meet at the earliest possible date the persons interested in the jetties there?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I am not aware of the circumstances. The board has been very busy of late in its investigations around the coast and I assume that has debarred it from certain other activities. I will bring the matter before the board and obtain a reply. I know that the board is anxious, as far as possible, to meet the wishes of fishermen.

POTATO SUPPLIES.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Under the heading "Plan to end Potato Famines" the following appeared in the *Advertiser* this morning:—

Potato experts from four States who met today hope to complete in Melbourne tomorrow a Commonwealth-wide plan to end potato famines. It is understood that the experts claim the problem of price control can be settled satisfactorily between the States themselves. Government representatives from South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania and Canberra attended the conference.

The Victorian Agriculture Minister (Mr. Stoneham), who called the conference, is expected to recommend that other State Ministers act with him to implement the experts' recommendations. They are planning to regulate the flow of potatoes between States, prevent shortages and blackmarketing, control production and ensure reasonable prices to growers.

Does the Minister of Agriculture know anything about this conference, and if so, did he send an expert to it, in which case can he tell me the name of this "wonderman?"

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—I think the honourable member spoilt the whole question by his last remark about a "wonderman." It was facetious and not in keeping with the rest of the question. This conference was called by the Victorian Minister of Agriculture and South Australia was represented by its Chief Horticultural Expert, who is highly regarded throughout Australia. I have not yet had a report of the conference, but I hope it will achieve all that the press report says.

Mr. SHANNON—During the war an Apple and Pear Board operated in South Australia and certain other States, but was discarded and this allowed the produce of the growers to be marketed through the usual channels without control. Has the Premier considered the desirability of doing the same with potatoes and possibly discovering whether all these so-called experts who are discussing what should and should not be done might be discarded and so allow the ordinary laws of supply and demand to operate?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—A conference was held in my office this morning on the sale of potatoes. Most of the potato districts were represented and there was a long discussion. This is not an easy problem because, as the honourable member knows, the New South Wales Government has decontrolled potatoes and that means as soon as there is a shortage the sky is the limit—in fact the only limit as to price is buyers' resistance.

Mr. Shannon—That applied to apples and pears.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—That is correct. Potatoes and onions are regarded as basic foods under the "C" series index and therefore the price of potatoes becomes a very important matter in the national economy, and particularly in the economy of this State. The price of potatoes has a bigger influence on the "C" series index than almost anything else except rent and meat. The upshot of this morning's conference is that the Potato Board will submit to the Government proposals designed in the first place to give growers a fair return, and in the second place to see that adequate supplies are made available to consumers at reasonable prices. Until these proposals come forward I will not express an opinion on them. I assure the honourable member that the whole problem will be examined very critically in the next few weeks.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF QUORN DISTRICT.

Mr. RICHES—Has the Premier any knowledge of the geological survey promised for the district of Quorn earlier this year? I understand there has been some delay, possibly unavoidable, but that the report was expected to be completed by the end of August.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I certainly have some knowledge of the survey. It was one of the matters which arose out of discussions held with the people of Quorn as to the possibility of establishing alternative industries to off-set

any disability the district will suffer when the Commonwealth railway line is diverted. The survey was approved, but I have not yet seen the geologist's report. I will see whether it is complete and can be made available to the honourable member.

ELECTRICITY TRUST TRADING ACCOUNT.

Mr. DUNKS—Can the Treasurer say whether the trading account of the Electricity Trust is to be published before the closing date of the trust loan which is now on the market, and, if not, when can we expect it to be published?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I am not certain whether it will be available before the closing of the loan, but I am pleased to say that it is entirely satisfactory. Last year the trust made a profit of about £300,000 and that after it had made some tariff reductions. The trust's tariffs are lower than those in New South Wales, from which we have to import a large quantity of the coal used in the manufacture of electricity. I hope it will be possible to publish the account before the loan closes, because nothing could be a better advertisement for the trust.

LOAN ESTIMATES.

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended the House to make provision by Bill for the appropriation of such amounts of the revenue and other money of the State as are required for the following purposes, namely:—

(a) The repayment with interest of the sum of £25,118,000 to be borrowed for the purposes mentioned in the Loan Estimates for the financial year 1953-54 and of any other sums to be borrowed pursuant to the Public Purposes Loan Bill, 1953.

(b) To make payments from the Loan Fund of repaid loan money and surplus revenue for purposes mentioned in the Loan Estimates for the financial year 1953-54.

(c) Any other purposes mentioned in the Public Purposes Loan Bill, 1953.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD moved—

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the Loan Estimates for the year ending June 30, 1954, as set out in Parliamentary Paper No. 11.

Motion carried.

In Committee.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—These Estimates provide for an expenditure of £27,618,000. In addition to this amount the Commonwealth Government is making available to the State £4,500,000 pursuant to the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. This makes a total amount of £32,118,000 available for expenditure on capital works during the year as against a gross expenditure last year £25,402,000 from the Loan Fund. Though less loan monies were available for capital works last year than during 1951-52, a considerable amount of progress on capital works was made. The following were the major amounts expended during the year and the projects on which the amounts were expended—

	£
Electricity Trust	4,150,000
Loans to the Municipal Tramways Trust for capital works	400,000
Advances to State Bank for assistance to primary and secondary industry	750,000
Loans to producers for erection of cold stores and loans to the fishing industry	165,000
Afforestation	1,075,000
Hospital buildings	808,000
School buildings	1,107,000
Harbour facilities	900,000
Advances for homes	974,000
Advances to the Housing Trust	3,490,000
Irrigation works	136,000
South-Eastern drainage works . .	327,000
Leigh Creek coalfield for capital works	600,000
Mines Department for purchase of plant and technical equipment and for financing stores and other facilities in connection with the Radium Hill project	769,000
Railways	3,025,000
Waterworks and sewers	4,000,000
Mine and chemical development in connection with the Radium Hill project	1,565,000

All materials have not been in plentiful supply during the year, but it has not been as difficult to obtain the materials required for most of our projects, as was the experience over the last few years. Consequently departments were able to make greater progress with various essential works.

As I have said before in this House, the rapid increase in population has made it necessary to increase our food production, and in addition it has made very great demands on public undertakings, such as railways, electricity, water supply, sewers, harbour facilities, housing and the many other services which the

State is required to provide. To absorb the increasing population and to assist with the migration policy it is necessary that these public utilities shall be expanded from year to year, because, unless the Government can expand these utilities, it will be impossible to cope with the increasing demand and so maintain the standard of living to which the Australian people have become accustomed and to which they are entitled. It is also the desire of the Government to extend many of these utilities to the country in order to give the country people similar facilities to those enjoyed by the people in the city. By such steps the Government considers it will assist in stopping the drift of population to the city. We need more large towns; we want more towns with a population of over 10,000; and we need many more with a population of 5,000 to 10,000 people; but we cannot hope to achieve this unless we provide services to these towns to the standard set by the times in which we live.

Under the financial set-up in Australia it is quite impossible for a State Government to follow the lead set by the Commonwealth Government and finance its capital works from revenue. The facts are that if any State set out to finance its capital works from revenue it would find that under the tax reimbursement system the Commonwealth Government would not make sufficient money available to enable it to do so. In the case of a State such as South Australia, there is the further deterring factor in that any money expended on capital works is first of all deducted from the amount of the grant which the Commonwealth Grants Commission in its judgment sees fit to recommend to the Commonwealth Government for payment to this State, so that the State is forced into the position of financing its capital works from money borrowed from the public. Over the last two years the public has not been inclined to lend money to the Governments to carry out public works, and accordingly it has been necessary to curtail the programmes. Notwithstanding this curtailment this State has been able to make very considerable progress in carrying out its public works programmes during the last two years.

In spite of the limitation of finance which has ruled, the Government has every reason to be pleased with its position. It has carried out its 1952-53 capital works programme without being compelled to dismiss employees, as was the case with some other States, and without having to seek wholesale cancellation of

contracts, as also has been the case in some other States, and it had enough in hand at the end of June to enable it to carry on the capital works programme at the normal rate pending the receipt of its share of the 1953-54 loan moneys.

The Loan Estimates provide for a gross loan expenditure of £27,618,000, repayments to the Loan Fund of £2,500,000, giving a net loan expenditure of £25,118,000. As I mentioned earlier, this is not the total amount of the funds to be expended in the State this year, as £4,500,000 must be added to this, being the money made available under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement for the purpose of the housing programme. The total estimated expenditure for 1953-54 is therefore £32,118,000, which is the largest capital works programme planned in the history of the State for one year. The Loan Council meeting this year was held during my absence overseas at the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II., and I pay a tribute to my colleague, the Hon. A. L. McEwin, the Acting Premier, for the fine work he did at that meeting in obtaining an allocation for this State of £26,500,000, which was 13½ per cent of the total cash made available at the meeting. On a population basis this State could expect to receive about 8.6 per cent of the total. The works programme now presented has been prepared to provide the maximum possible amount of employment consistent with the works being urgent and essential.

In addition to the money provided for in this loan programme the Loan Council has given authority to the Electricity Trust to raise further sums as a semi-governmental body, and today the trust has opened a loan of £1,000,000 for subscription by the public. The loan has a currency of eight or 11 years, at the option of the subscriber, and an interest rate of £4 12s. 6d. per cent. This is the highest interest rate ever offered to the public by the trust.

During the past year the Housing Trust has pushed on with its programme and it is now expected that during this year over 3,500 homes for rental and sale will be completed. Sufficient funds have been made available to the Electricity Trust and to the Engineering and Water Supply Department to ensure connections of electricity, water, and sewers to the homes built by the Housing Trust and to houses built by other people. Full details of the works proposed are set out in the Loan

Estimates for the information of members, and I therefore intend to confine my further remarks to the main works and purposes for which provision has been made.

STATE BANK, £2,008,000.—The main lines for which money has been provided for the State Bank are as follows:—

	£
Advances for homes	1,050,000
Loans to producers	400,000
Advances to settlers	50,000
Advances to State Bank	500,000

During 1952-53 the State Bank provided finance under the Advances for Homes Act for the completion of 531 homes, of which 99 were erected by the bank under its group housing scheme. In addition, 77 applicants were assisted to purchase homes and to discharge mortgages. This year the bank estimates that it will expend £100,000 on the erection of group houses, will advance £731,000 to applicants to build their own homes, and will use £419,000 to finance loans for homes already approved. As far as possible, the money made available to the bank will be used to provide for new homes, either to be erected by the bank or built by private contract with the assistance of finance provided by it.

Under the Loans to Producers Act the bank makes advances to co-operative societies, fruit-growers, and cheese, butter, and fishing industries for the provision of cold stores, and for the purchase of fishing boats and equipment. This year several applications for large amounts have been received, and it is anticipated that the various co-operative societies will proceed with the projects for which plans have reached an advanced stage.

To enable settlers to take advantage of the amendment made to the Advances to Settlers Act last session, a much larger amount has been provided in the Loan Estimates this year. Last year the amount provided was £5,000; this year it is £50,000.

LANDS DEPARTMENT, £170,000.—Most of this amount has been provided for the purchase and development of land for civilian and State soldier settlement in accordance with the Crown Lands Development Act. If any lands which are developed by the State under this Act are later accepted by the Commonwealth, then the Commonwealth will provide the money to take over the lands under its War Service Land Settlement Scheme, and the State will be recouped the amount expended before the Commonwealth took over.

IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE, £696,000.—This amount is provided as follows—

Irrigation and reclamation of swamp lands	£ 245,000
Lessees reclaimed swamp lands— loans to	1,000
South-Eastern drainage	450,000

Last year £136,000 was expended on irrigation works and it is proposed this year to make £245,000 available, the main works contemplated being progress on the Loveday-Nookamka comprehensive drainage scheme; electrification of the Berri, Moorook, and reclaimed areas pumping plants; erection of houses and buildings at Chaffey and Berri; drainage works and pipelines at Loveday, Nookamka, Neeta, Burdett, Monteith, Cobdogla, Mypolonga and other reclaimed areas; township water supplies (replacements and extensions) for Barmera, Berri, Glossop and Winkie; extension of the Chaffey irrigation area-Cooltong division headworks.

In the South-East, £450,000 has been provided for drainage work, compared with an expenditure of £327,000 last year. This amount will be used for construction of drainage works and acquisition of land in the western division, replacement of worn out bridges and provision of new structures, surveys of drainage proposals in the western division of the South-East.

AFFORESTATION AND TIMBER MILLING, £1,300,000.—Last year expenditure by the Woods and Forests Department amounted to £1,075,000. With the larger amount of loan money made available to the State this year it has been possible to provide £200,000 for the department to commence the erection of the central mill at Mount Gambier. It is anticipated that it will take about three years to get the first portion of this mill into production. The remainder of the money for afforestation has been provided for the purchase of land, preparation of land and planting, maintenance of existing forests, purchase of plant and machinery, erection of homes for employees, and erection of other buildings. Provision has also been made for working expenses of the sawmills, erection of homes for men employed there, purchase of plant and machinery and felling and hauling of mill logs.

Forest operations will be maintained on the same level as in 1952-53 and the establishment of 4,800 acres is planned. The esti-

mated log production from State forests for 1953-54 is as follows:—

Sawmills—	Super feet.
Private sawmills—mainly used for case production by private sawmillers	68,000,000
Departmental sawmills—for production of flooring and cases	48,000,000
Plywood manufacture for furniture trade, and veneer for match splints	2,000,000
Pulpwood	10,000,000
Total	128,000,000

In addition 3,000,000 sup. ft. of hardwood logs and 40,000 tons of firewood is estimated to be produced from State forest reserves. It is planned to maintain production in departmental mills on the same level as in 1952-53, and the estimated output from the 47,000,000 sup. ft. of log supplied to departmental mills is as follows:—

Flooring and other dressed timber (lin. ft.)	16,500,000
Undressed timber (sup. ft.)	1,000,000
Veneer for match production (sq. ft.)	1,500,000
Fruit cases (cases)	3,000,000
Case flitches (sup. ft.)	3,000,000

Flooring and other dressed timber is used almost exclusively in connection with the housing programme and the undressed timber for furniture manufacture. Fruit cases are supplied mainly for use in the citrus, apple and dried fruit industries. Flitches are sold mainly for case production in the metropolitan area. It is estimated that revenue from the sale of forest produce will be £1,100,000 during 1953-54, compared with £1,075,000 last year.

RAILWAYS, £3,000,000.—The works planned by the Acting Railways Commissioner include strengthening and betterment work on the various tracks, new cottages for the staff, continuation of work on duplication of the Goodwood to Marino line, purchase of land for railway development, provision of diesel engine depot at Mile End, and considerable progress expenditure on the provision of additional freight cars, ten 750 h.p. diesel shunt locomotives, and 14 pancake diesel rail cars. Whilst on the matter of railway works, I pay a tribute to the very high standard of work which the railways attained under the commissionership of the late Mr. R. H. Chapman, and I am sure all members will join with me in expressing regret at his untimely passing. We do know, however, that that standard will be maintained, and that his influence will be felt for a very long time in as much as his

staff, which under his leadership was characterized by a pride in all matters pertaining to the railways, will continue to carry on the railways at the same high standard which Mr. Chapman set.

HARBORS BOARD, £950,000.—Expenditure last year was £900,000. The amount provided this year will be expended at Port Adelaide (inner and outer harbours) on the reconstruction of wharves at Berths 1, 6, 8, and 9, including the deepening of berths to 27ft. at low water; on the provision of three cargo sheds and rail tracks; and on roads, drainage, water service, electric light, and conveniences. It is proposed to use £115,000 for the purchase of land, and £125,000 to carry out considerable rehabilitation of the dockyard to facilitate the work of the department. The sum of £150,000 will be expended on the reconstruction of the coal-handling plant. This plant has been in operation for a considerable time, and was originally constructed to handle half a million tons of coal per annum, whereas last year the plant actually handled 872,000 tons, and the requirements of the State are such that the plant may well be required to handle a million tons per annum in the near future.

Considerable work will be carried out at outports such as Edithburgh, where work will be done on tracks, stacking areas and lighting; Hog Bay, where a cargo shed will be provided; Kingscote, electrical services, etc; Murat Bay, shed and office; Port Lincoln, water and electrical services; Port Pirie, floodlighting, lavatory accommodation, and plant depot; Wallaroo, electrical rehabilitation. The board also proposes to purchase additional cargo handling equipment and construction and maintenance plant, and will carry out extensive rehabilitation work on some of its floating plant. It is anticipated that over £20,000 will be spent on accommodation for the fishing industry, and £20,765 has been provided for amenities for waterside workers at Port Adelaide and outports.

WATERWORKS AND SEWERS, £5,350,000.—Last year the expenditure of the department had to be curtailed to £4,000,000, but it has been possible this year to add a further £1,350,000 to its capital works provision to enable the department to do much-needed work on the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline, including the provision of the trunk main section from the Hope Valley reservoir to the city and metropolitan area.

The amounts to be expended by this department and the main works are as follow:—

	£
Mannum-Adelaide pipeline	1,805,000
South Para reservoir	150,000
Hope Valley—Inlet improvements (This work is necessary in order that advantage may be taken of the new trunk main being laid from the reservoir to the city)	50,000
Services and mains for consumers	379,000

In country water districts the following have been provided for:—Barossa water district £74,000, Warren water district £71,000, country water districts £777,000 (mainly for supplies for Geranium, Milang, Meningie, Karoonda, Paringa, Loxton, Jamestown-Caltowie, Pinnaroo, Woods Point, and for the Nairne pyrites project). Pumping plants will be supplied at Murray Bridge, Taillem Bend, and Moorook; a bore and pumping plant at Naracoorte; and trunk mains will be lined with cement *in situ* to the extent of £8,000. Enlargement of mains in the Victor Harbour district and improvements to water supply in Goolwa, Middleton, and Encounter Bay areas will also be carried out. Mount Gambier water supply will be improved, and at Murray Bridge work will be carried out to provide for electrification of the pumping plant and enlargement of mains and the chlorination works. In the Loxton area a new booster will be provided at Taplan. Mains and services and minor works in country water districts will be carried out to the extent of £108,000.

The sum of £367,000 will be expended in the Tod River water district, of which £170,000 will be required for the Uley-Wanilla water supply. Water supply in the hundred of Goode will be attended to. Work will be done to permit reorganization of the Port Lincoln reticulation and extension of mains in the hundreds of Hutchison, Yaranyacka, Cootra, and Caralue. In the Beetaloo, Bundaleer, and Baroota water districts an amount of £497,000 will be expended. Of this, £290,000 will be used for the Yorke Peninsula water scheme. A new overflow channel will be provided at Baroota reservoir, and mains and services will absorb £121,000. The amount of £532,000 provided for Adelaide sewers will be mainly used for miscellaneous extensions and minor works and for connections to new homes; for treatment works at Port Adelaide; pumping stations at Islington, Queensbury, Ethelton, and Glenelg; and modifications to the Glenelg treatment works.

Further work will be done on planning and investigations in connection with proposed sewerage schemes at Mount Gambier, Port Pirie, Port Lincoln, and Port Augusta. Expenditure on water services outside water districts is set at £83,000, and provides for tanks in county Buxton and mains and services and minor works in connection with water conservation schemes. South Australia's quota of expenditure for work to be carried out by the River Murray Commission during 1953-1954 amounts to £175,000, and provision has been made for the payment of this amount.

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND LAND, £2,605,000.—The expenditure made by the Architect-in-Chief on similar work last year amounted to £2,160,000. The amount now provided will be mainly expended on the following works—

	£
Hospital buildings	1,000,000
School buildings	1,300,000
Police and courthouse buildings	80,000
Agricultural college	15,000
Other Government buildings	200,000

Details of the proposed works are as follows:—

Royal Adelaide Hospital, £125,000.—This amount will be required to finance progress on the new nurses' block, the new boiler house, the casualty department (where alterations will be made to the lift and lift-house); for alterations to various buildings and for new equipment; for Magill wards, alterations and additions and main for fire control; and for Northfield wards, new patients' block and new nurses' block.

Western Districts Hospital. To permit work to proceed on this hospital £385,000 has been provided.

Parkside Mental Hospital. The amount of £161,000 will be expended on the new nurses' home, new female treatment ward and admission block, new male T.B. ward, male treatment and admission block, alterations and additions to various buildings, and for new equipment, reconditioning of main roads, etc.

Northfield Mental Hospital. The sum of £84,000 will be expended to provide additional accommodation for 300 patients, new residences, and for alterations and additions to various buildings.

Bedford Park.—Alterations and additions to various buildings, and new equipment, will absorb £11,000.

Morris Hospital, Northfield. Alterations, additions, and new equipment will take £10,000.

Barmera Hospital. Alterations and additions will be carried out which are estimated to cost £5,800.

Mount Gambier Hospital.—An amount of £13,000 has been provided for completion of the new children's ward, £15,000 to enable a start to be made on the new general hospital, and £1,500 towards a new residence and for construction of roads and footpaths.

Port Augusta Hospital.—Alterations and additions to various buildings, and new equipment, will absorb £4,600.

Port Lincoln Hospital.—Additional accommodation and sewage disposal is estimated to cost £40,000.

Port Pirie Hospital.—The sum of £30,000 will be spent at this hospital for a new theatre and men's block, and £44,000 for alterations and additions to nurses' quarters. Alterations and additions to various buildings, and new equipment, will absorb a further £8,000.

Wallaroo Hospital.—A cool chamber will be provided at the hospital at an estimated cost of £1,500.

In the case of school buildings, where £1,300,000 has been set aside, £272,000 will be spent on new primary and infant schools at the various localities set out in the Estimates. Alterations and additions to primary schools are estimated to cost £55,100, and £57,000 will be expended on technical schools at Norwood, Nailsworth, Port Adelaide girls, Norwood girls (additional classrooms), and alterations and additions at Gawler, Apprentice Trade School, Croydon girls, Nailsworth boys, Norwood girls, Thebarton boys, and Unley girls. An amount of £31,000 has been made available for area schools. New schools are being provided at Allendale East and Yankalilla; new classrooms at Eudunda; dual craft block at Oakbank; alterations and additions at Kingstote, Wudinna, and Yorketown. The sum of £125,000 will be expended on high schools. This will provide for expenditure in connection with new schools at Naracoorte, Adelaide boys, Brighton, and Minlaton; and for alterations and additions at Birdwood, Urrbrae, Booleroo Centre, Jamestown, Millicent, Mount Barker, Riverton, Enfield, Gawler, Nuriootpa, and Adelaide girls. A new wing and workshop block will be proceeded with at Brighton high school. In order to cope with the extraordinarily large number of new pupils coming to schools in has been the practice for some time to provide portable buildings which have very well met an urgent necessity, and £310,000 has been provided for this purpose this year. Septic tank installations at various schools will

absorb £100,000, and £24,000 has been provided for grading and paving of school yards. Purchase of land and residences for school purposes is estimated to cost £82,000, and £21,000 has been made available for new residences and for alterations and additions to residences.

Police and Courthouse Buildings, £80,000.—This will provide for new police stations at Williamstown, Naracorte, Flinders Park, and Strathalbyn; for alterations and additions to the Supreme Court; for additions and alterations to residences at police stations at many centres, which are set out in detail in the Estimates; for new court houses at Barmera, Berri, and Murray Bridge; and for residences at Port Lincoln, Terowie, Gawler, Kingscote, and Port Pirie. Provision has also been included under this heading to meet the cost of a garage at the police barracks and for urgent accommodation as required.

Agricultural College, £15,000.—This will provide for the building of a dairy, cottages for farmhands, and other minor urgent works.

Other Government Buildings, £200,000.—Of this amount £33,000 has been provided for buildings for the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department to provide new nurses' quarters at Magill Home, cottage home at Lochiel Park, staff quarters and new laundry at Seaforth Home, new residence at Struan farm school, and alterations, additions, and equipment for Magill Home, Magill training school, Glandore industrial school, and Struan farm school. Residences and drainage scheme at Parndana on Kangaroo Island will absorb £4,500. These residences are required to house Lands Department officers who are working on the island in connection with the land settlement scheme. Under the heading of Sheriff and Comptroller of Prisons, alterations, additions, and equipment for the Adelaide gaol are estimated to cost £8,600. Extension of laundry and new equipment at the Yatala labour prison, and the provision of a hot water service in the bath wing, will be attended to this year. Alterations to the Gladstone gaol to accommodate prisoners are estimated to cost £15,000, and £15,000 has been included to provide residences for the staff of this gaol. At the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science £5,000 will be expended on a central sterilizing and media-making unit; and various other amounts to be spent include the Public Library (further accommodation) £6,150; the Museum £1,000; the National Gallery £1,000; Parliament House £1,000; and Government offices generally £8,000.

PRODUCE DEPARTMENT, £200,000.—Expenditure last year was £100,000. The amount provided this year will be expended on extensions to slaughtering, refrigerating and treatment plant at Port Lincoln, and a new boiler and building at these works. At the Light Square works additional accommodation will be provided, installation of fluorescent lighting and ammonia recirculation system will be carried out. It has become necessary to make provision on the Estimates for the financing of slaughter of export lambs, etc., and export of fruit during the period between the time of supplying the services from the Produce Department and receipt of remittances from the buyers on the export market. Previously this lag has been financed from cash in the hands of the Treasurer but this source is not a stable one. The financing of this department's export activities from the Loan Fund will assure the availability of cash to meet all trading commitments.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOUSING TRUST WAR-TIME AND POST-WAR HOUSING, £1,000,000.—This amount is in addition to the £4,500,000 being provided by the Commonwealth Government under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. About £780,000 of this £1,000,000 will be used to finance second mortgages of houses sold to purchasers. The amount available from financing institutions, plus the deposit available from the purchaser, in many cases precludes a purchaser from buying a house at today's prices, and, in order that these people may be able to obtain homes it is necessary for the Housing Trust to take a second mortgage to bridge the gap between the total amount of finance available to purchasers and the current sale prices of the houses. The amount of these second mortgages is, of course, the minor part of the finance, the bulk of it being supplied by the lending institutions and the purchaser. An amount of £220,000 has been provided to enable the trust to complete 150 single unit houses for rental purposes. These houses were in course of erection at June 30, 1953, and were too far advanced to be included in the Commonwealth-State Housing arrangement this year. During 1952-53 the trust completed the erection of 4,127 houses of all types. This year it is anticipated that the number of houses to be completed will exceed 4,500.

LEIGH CREEK COALFIELD, £700,000.—This amount will be mainly spent on buildings in the mine area, including extensions to the

power station, roads and railway sidings, housing for employees, temporary water supply, Aroona Dam construction, water reticulation, sewerage reticulation, power house plant, electricity mains and connections, excavators, and other plant, coal handling and treatment plant, and transport vehicles. With the commissioning next year of the new Port Augusta power station it is necessary to step up the production of coal at Leigh Creek above the tonnage which it has been the practice to send to Adelaide in the past few years. The field could have produced much larger quantities of coal than have been forwarded to Adelaide but the bottleneck has been the narrow gauge railway system. When the Port Augusta power station is generating electricity and the broad gauge line is completed between the field and Port Augusta, much larger quantities of coal will be required and the broad gauge railway will be capable of bringing down the larger quantity of coal required. It is therefore necessary for the trust to have further development of the field well in hand so as to meet the larger production which will be required when the power station at Port Augusta is brought into commission.

THE ELECTRICITY TRUST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, £4,200,000.—The sum of £4,200,000 has been provided to enable the Treasurer to make advances to the trust from time to time during the year. The trust's programme is set out in the Estimates, and it will be seen that £861,000 has been provided to meet final and progress payments on boilers and turbo-alternators at Osborne. When these are finally commissioned this will bring the number of boilers at the Osborne "B" power station to 12, and with six turbo-alternators Osborne "B" will have a generating capacity of 180,000 k.w. To continue the construction of the Port Augusta power station £2,404,000 is necessary, and this will provide for costs in connection with the commissioning of No. 1 alternator, and boilers Nos. 1 and 2, and associated equipment. It also provides for progress work on buildings for No. 2 alternator and for boilers Nos. 3 and 4, for coal handling plant, and for equipment and workshops.

At Port Lincoln installation of three diesel-alternator sets, completion of powerhouse building for the diesel section of the station, and associated equipment, have been provided for to the extent of £51,000. This amount will also provide for some preliminary work on the steam station in connection with which

the trust is now calling for tenders for two 2,500 k.w. turbo-alternators, and will shortly be calling for tenders for the supply and erection of two boilers in the Port Lincoln powerhouse.

The extended activities of the Electricity Trust involve a considerable amount of very costly work on transmission lines, and £997,000 is estimated to be required for this work during the year. Further work on transmission lines will be carried out on the Port Augusta-Northfield section, North-West Bend to Berri, Bungama to Gladstone, and Northfield-Mannum section, and in association with such transmission lines it will be necessary to provide the necessary sub-stations and transformer equipment. Extensions will also be made to existing sub-stations and transformers to provide for the handling of increased loads.

Services for consumers, and associated equipment, will require about £1,500,000, and provision of hire appliances will take £240,000. The sum of £577,000 has been provided to cover other requirements such as sundry capital expenditure, transport vehicles, workshop equipment, and plant and buildings for the construction of concrete and steel poles. It is of interest that during the existence of the trust and the company over 100,000 concrete and steel poles have been constructed and erected in the transmission and distribution system.

It is estimated that £1,000,000 will be expended during the year on the transmission and distribution systems in the country. About £465,000 of this amount will be used exclusively for providing supplies outside of country townships. The total works programme estimated for the trust is £8,089,000. The trust will provide—

	£
From private loans approved by the Loan Council	2,000,000
From the present public loan ..	1,000,000
From depreciation funds and the use of stores already in hand	889,000
Making a total of	£3,889,000

Leaving a balance to be provided from State Loan funds of	£4,200,000
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MUNICIPAL TRAMWAYS TRUST, £600,000.—This is to provide for loans by the Treasurer to the trust. The money will only be used for capital works and is necessary to pay for contracts entered into for passenger vehicles and to provide for rehabilitation of workshops, machine tools, servicing depots, converter stations, and restoration of roads.

MINES DEPARTMENT, £372,000.—This amount will be expended on buildings, and for the purchase of plant, equipment, and scientific instruments in accordance with the detail shown in the Loan Estimates.

URANIUM PRODUCTION, £3,096,000.—This amount includes some moneys which will be available from the Export-Import Bank and the British Ministry of Supply to the extent of £2,318,000, and the balance of £778,000 will be provided by the State for working capital in connection with the Radium Hill project. The agreement entered into by the State provides that the State will make provision for all working capital from its own funds.

I realize it is impossible to set out all the details covered by an enormous programme of about £32,000,000, so if any member desires further details I shall be happy to get them for him. The Loan Estimates are based primarily on the development of the State and adequate amounts have been provided for services and amenities. There are large appropriations for rural areas. I move the first line.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.10 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, August 18, at 2 p.m.