

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, June 3, 1954.

The House met at noon pursuant to Proclamation, the Speaker (Hon. Sir Robert Nicholls) presiding.

The Clerk read the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor (Air Vice-Marshal Sir Robert George) summoning Parliament.

After prayers read by the Speaker, the House, in compliance with summons, proceeded at 12.05 p.m. to the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Governor's Speech. Honourable members returned to the Assembly Chamber at 12.40 p.m. and the Speaker resumed the Chair.

NEXT DAY OF SITTING.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer) moved—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, June 8, at 2 p.m.

Motion carried.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The SPEAKER—I have to report that, in compliance with summons from His Excellency the Governor, the House attended in the Legislative Council Chamber, where His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both Houses of Parliament of which I have obtained a copy, which I now lay upon the table.

Ordered to be printed.

[Sitting suspended from 12.47 p.m. till 2.15 p.m.]

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1.)

His Excellency the Governor recommended to the House the appropriation of such amounts of the general revenue as were required for the purposes mentioned in the Appropriation Bill (No. 1.)

SUPPLY BILL (No. 1.)

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended the House to make provision by Bill for defraying the salaries and other expenses of the several departments and public services of the Government of South Australia during the year ending June 30, 1955.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer), having obtained the suspension of Standing Orders 43 and 44, moved—

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider a Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

Motion carried.

In Committee of Supply.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—I move—

That towards defraying expenses of the establishments and public services of the State for the year ending June 30, 1955, a sum of £6,000,000 be granted; provided that no payments for any establishment or service shall be made out of the said sum in excess of the rates voted for similar establishments or services on the Estimates for the financial year ending June 30, 1954, except increases of salaries or wages fixed or prescribed by any return made under any Act relating to the Public Service, or by any regulation, or by any award, order, or determination of any court or other body empowered to fix or prescribe wages or salaries.

Resolution agreed to, adopted in Committee of Ways and Means, and agreed to by the House.

Bill introduced by the Treasurer and read a first time.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill follows the usual form of Supply Bills, and the amount for which authority of Parliament is being sought for expenditure for the public services of the State for the financial year ending June 30, 1955, is £6,000,000. This amount will be sufficient to carry on the services of the State for approximately two months. Clause 2 provides for the issue of an amount not exceeding £6,000,000. Clause 3 provides that no payment shall be made out of the moneys provided under Clause 2 in excess of the rates voted for similar services on the Estimates for the financial year ending on June 30, 1954: except that increases in salaries or wages fixed or prescribed pursuant to any award or determination may be paid. Clause 3 (2) provides for the Treasurer having the power to pay such increases out of the moneys voted by Parliament in this Bill.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages without amendment.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended the House to make appropriation of the sums set forth in the accompanying Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure by the Government during the year ending June 30, 1954, for the purposes therein stated.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer) moved—

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition)—There is one important matter on which I desire clarification by the Premier, as Leader of the Government, at this stage—electoral or constitutional reform. This matter has attracted State-wide interest in recent months and is still of great interest, being looked upon by most citizens of the State as of major importance. His Excellency's Speech contained a reference to electoral reform.

Mr. Lawn—He did not say "electoral reform."

Mr. O'HALLORAN—No, the reference was to electoral matters. I thank the honourable member for his correction, for apparently I am over-optimistic in thinking that a measure for electoral reform would emanate from this Government. The electoral matters referred to are probably minor amendments to the present electoral law.

Mr. Lawn—The Government wants to safeguard the electorates of Glenelg, Torrens and Unley.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I am afraid it will not go as far as that at the moment, but this session the Government may give Parliament an opportunity to consider this important matter. If it does not I will give the House an opportunity to debate the matter at an early date. The mal-distribution of voting strength in South Australia is disclosed by the inequality in the numbers of electors in the various electorates, an inequality that is growing each year. The electorate of Adelaide, for instance, has about 32,000 electors, whereas my own electorate—Frome—has about 3,600. Possibly, with development at Radium Hill, the electoral population of Frome will soon increase, but it cannot conceivably increase to the extent required to give proportionate electoral justice. The average number of electors in the various country electorates at present is 6,600, but in Stuart there are 11,000. Nine country electorates—Murray, Eyre, Frome, Light, Newcastle, Rocky River, Stanley, Wallaroo and Young—

Mr. Shannon—All well represented.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—They may be well represented from the standpoint of the predominant political party in the electorate, but in relation to other electorates their representation is unbalanced: they have a total voting strength of 42,000, whereas Hindmarsh has 23,000 and Thebarton 19,000. Those nine country electorates, which elect nine members, have only the same number of electors as Hindmarsh and Thebarton between them, which return two members.

I consider that I am entitled to a statement from the Premier as to whether his Government intends early this session to introduce legislation to correct these anomalies, so that, if the Government does not intend to do so, I may have the opportunity of giving notice of the necessary Bill.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—I appreciate the moderation of Mr. O'Halloran's remarks. He merely desires to know whether the Government proposes to introduce a Bill for the redistribution of seats so that he will be saved the trouble of preparing his Bill. He is really trying to anticipate whether his job will be merely one of amending the Government Bill or whether he will have to prepare the legislation. It is necessary to bring in an Electoral Bill this year, and reference to that Bill has been made in His Excellency's Speech. The present Electoral Act has existed for many years, and during that time many conditions have changed, including the customs associated with elections and the value of money. The amount necessary to finance a campaign in an electorate has altered materially. When the Electoral Act was introduced we probably had penny postage for instance.

That is not the matter referred to by the honourable member, for he refers to an alteration of the constitution to provide for a different set of electoral districts. Before the session is over the Government hopes to be able to give some consideration to that problem. Wherever there is any large advancement and progress, there must of necessity be shifts of population. I do not believe in the flat system of one vote one value. If that system were introduced it would be extremely retrograde for the development of this State: it would provide for all the development in the most highly developed areas of the State and no development in outlying areas. I do not believe in an electoral system that does not take into account the sparsity of population and the needs of outlying areas. I am not in a position to do quick mental arithmetic as are some of my friends. For instance, on Monday, I read press statements showing the precise percentages of votes cast at last Saturday's Federal elections, yet votes are still being counted; but I assure the Leader of the Opposition that, within the general framework of our electoral laws provided by the Constitution, the Government is examining this position, and I hope to be in a position later this year to introduce a Bill that will enable the Leader to debate this matter. In saying

that I make it quite clear that I believe there is a tremendous amount of wisdom in our present set-up, which provides that only one-third of the electorates shall be in the metropolitan area. I cannot go as far as the honourable member would like. I cannot, for instance give him the new districts, because the Government has not got that far with this matter, but there have been substantial shifts of population even in the metropolitan area. For instance the population of Adelaide has fallen considerably, whereas that of Port Adelaide has risen considerably, and the population of Glenelg is almost as large as that of Port Adelaide.

Mr. O'Halloran—That is dangerous, and something should be done about it!

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Leader of the Opposition is asking me to do something about it, and I hope I shall be able to oblige him.

Motion carried.

In Committee of Supply.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—The Supplementary Estimates for the financial year 1953-54 provide for expenditure on essential and urgent matters totalling £561,530. The revenue finances of the State will permit of this expenditure, and there will still be a healthy surplus, as revenues have been buoyant, and expenditure has been less than was anticipated mainly as a result of the difficulty experienced during the year in obtaining labour.

CHIEF SECRETARY AND MINISTER OF HEALTH.

The Government is asking the House to make funds available to the extent of £229,900 for subsidies towards the capital cost involved in the provision of homes for aged persons. The subsidies will be paid to the various bodies providing these homes on the following conditions:—(1) The Government will find half the capital cost of any home or proposed home on the basis of moneys expended or commitments made (which are considered satisfactory by the Government) during the financial year 1953-54. The capital cost will include the cost of original furniture and equipment. (2) The Government will require a certificate from the Auditor-General as to the amount involved in respect of each home. To enable the Auditor-General to furnish this certificate vouchers, contracts and other information will be required from the various bodies. (3) The Government will only pay subsidy on premises used exclusively in connection with providing accommodation for aged persons. (4) The Government will

require an undertaking from any religious or other body receiving subsidy that the premises will always be used for housing pensioners or aged persons of limited means without further commitments to the Government. (5) In cases where a mortgage exists over real estate which is being used as a home for aged persons of limited means, and the Government is assured that the home will continue to be used as a home for aged persons, the Government will provide a subsidy of half the mortgage on the responsible body raising the other half of the amount and arranging for repayment of the mortgage in full before June 30, 1954. The provisions of this paragraph will not apply where the Government has already granted subsidy in respect of moneys expended or commitments made.

The societies or religious bodies which have been in communication with the Government and have supplied details of amounts which they estimate they can claim by June 30, are as follows:—

	£
The Australian Lutheran Aid Society (Inc.)—The Australian Lutheran Aid Society's Home for Aged People, Fullarton ..	2,600
Central Methodist Mission, Port Adelaide—Wesley House	18,500
Central Mission, Port Pirie—“Lealholme” Old Folks Home, Port Pirie	500
Central Mission Old Folks Home Inc.—Payneham and Henley Beach	17,500
Church of England—Social Welfare Committee—Diocese of Adelaide, St. Laurence's Home for the Aged, Grange	26,500
Churches of Christ Evangelistic Union Inc. S.A.—Christian Rest Home, St. George's	13,000
Little Sisters of the Poor (S.A.) Inc.—“Lourdes Valley” Home for the Aged Poor, Glen Osmond	22,000
Mount Gambier Old Folks Home, Inc.	5,500
North Adelaide Christian Community Centre—“Helping Hand Home for the Aged”—North Adelaide Home for the Aged and Riverton Rest Home Inc.	22,800
“Resthaven” Methodist Home for Aged Women, Inc.—Leabrook and Malvern	29,500
S.A. Baptist Homes for the Aged, Inc.—“Illoura” Home, Norwood	13,500
Sisters of St. Joseph—St. Joseph's Providence, Cowandilla	6,000
The Salvation Army—“Eventide” Home for Aged Men, Linden Park	35,500
The United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Australia—S.A. District Inc.—Lutheran Rest Home for the Aged, Tanunda	16,500

The deputation which waited upon the Government some time ago, and which led to the proposal to subsidize the housing of aged persons, was representative of the major religious denominations. They said they could assist the Government materially in accommodating aged persons if capital funds were made available. The Government has reached substantial agreement with them, resulting in a big increase in the activities of churches. This is a meritorious public service but has been carried on with considerable financial difficulty. I believe the amounts proposed will receive the support of all members, because the proper housing and care of the aged has been one of our greatest problems of recent years.

Mr. Stephens—Is this expenditure mostly for erecting buildings?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—It is for capital expenditure, which includes original expenditure for furnishings and equipment. It is not merely for buildings, but it will not be used for maintenance expenditure.

Mr. O'Halloran—It provides for new buildings for increased accommodation?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes, and even to help organizations to liquidate some of the capital expenditure they have already incurred.

Mr. Shannon—For instance, to pay off a mortgage?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes. If an institution finds half the money needed to liquidate a mortgage the Government will find the other half. I was unable to tell these institutions what the financial position of the State might be next year, but I assured them that where they entered into a binding contract to carry out capital works a Government subsidy would be paid, even if building had not started. The Government greatly appreciates the readiness of religious denominations in coming to the assistance of the community in this difficult problem. The grants will be widely distributed amongst religious denominations to encourage them to provide appropriate accommodation for the aged.

Mr. Corcoran—Only £5,500 is proposed for the Mount Gambier Old Folks Home. On what basis was that amount fixed?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—On the same basis as for other organizations, that is, 50 per cent of the capital expenditure required for original furnishing and equipment.

Mr. Corcoran—It seems rather a small sum for that home.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The total amount proposed for these organizations is £229,900, because that is the total that the various

denominations and societies have applied for. The Government decided that up to £300,000 would be made available this year, but that sum has not been applied for. No application has been refused.

Mr. O'Halloran—Is it a condition that all this money must be spent by June 30?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Government realized that it was not possible to carry out all the physical work before that date, and any binding contract that has been negotiated will be included. In several instances very little expenditure on building has been incurred, though the necessary contracts have been let. Incidentally, we have tried to ascertain accurately what amounts of money are required and also the exact titles of the institutions to which grants will be made. In some instances the precise name of the institution may not have been given, but I can assure members that if there is a slight technical error either in an amount or a name, the Government will not be pedantic and refuse any grant for that reason.

TREASURER AND MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION.

Publicity and Tourist Bureau and Immigration Department, £70,400.—For the purchase of land for the establishment of a recreation ground in the vicinity of West Beach £60,100 is on the Estimates. Later in this session the Government proposes to introduce legislation to hand this land over to a trust to administer, and to then ask Parliament to make provision for a Government grant of £20,000 towards the cost of improving the area. The sum of £1,800 has also been provided for the erection of a kiosk at Kelly's Hill caves on Kangaroo Island. This will fulfil a long felt want in this locality. The Estimates of Expenditure for the year provided for £13,000 for subsidies to municipal authorities for the development of tourist resorts. This amount will be inadequate to pay all of the subsidies which are necessary, and it is now proposed to make a further £8,500 available for the purpose. Members may desire to know the precise details comprising that amount of £8,500. It includes a swimming pool and amenities at Mount Barker, £1,450; a toilet block at Mount Gambier, £1,700; caravan park at Christie's Beach, £1,120; lifesavers' room, Port Elliot, £625; toilet block, Port Elliot, £375; toilet block, Port Noarlunga, £1,375; tourist drive, Barmera, £600; completion of seawall at Port Lincoln, £1,036; and a picnic area at Summertown, £250. Later I can provide members with a complete list of what is involved in the amount

of £13,000 set down for the development of tourist resorts. This money is made available as a result of recommendations from the Director of the Tourist Bureau and it is usually a 50 per cent subsidy on expenditure which will convey not only a local benefit, but a benefit to tourists. There is scarcely a district in the State which has not received considerable subsidies in this regard. In a few instances where the benefit has been almost entirely local and not for tourists, the subsidy has been 33 per cent. The local authority has had to pay 66 per cent.

Mr. Dunnage—Is anything likely to be done at the Brownhill Creek camping area?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—A substantial amount is included this year for improvements at Brownhill Creek. That is controlled by a Government Department and the amount to be spent is included in the departmental vote. The amount at present under consideration relates to subsidies to local authorities.

Miscellaneous.—Under this heading £20,000 has been provided for a contribution to the Advances for Homes Insurance Fund to assist in meeting claims made by home owners with outstanding advances under the Advances for Homes Act for damage sustained in the recent earthquake. It has been estimated by the State Bank Board that this amount, together with the balances now in the fund, should be sufficient to meet the claims. As a matter of fact, the amount in the fund at June 30, 1953, was £52,525. During the year insurance premiums paid into the fund totalled £10,700, and the estimated amount of the fund at June 30, 1954, is £63,225. The estimated amount of earthquake damage claims is £81,000, leaving an estimated shortage in the fund, to be met from revenue, of £18,000. I shall be quite candid with honourable members concerning this amount of £20,000. There is absolutely no legal liability upon the Government to make this amount available. The insurance provided by the State Bank covered fire, storm damage and tempest, but not earthquake. Over a period of years the excess amount of premiums paid to the State Bank, which has been paid into the general revenue of the State, is about £260,000. Under those circumstances the Government considers there is a strong reason why the claims should be met on precisely the same basis as if earthquake damage had been included in the policies. Whether policies did or did not cover earthquake damage was more or less an accident.

Mr. Travers—Do mortgagors undertake their own insurance, or does the State Bank do it for them?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—That is another reason why the Government felt it had some obligation. In cases where advances are made under the State Bank Homes Act the insurance has to be effected through the State Bank.

Mr. Geoffrey Clarke—Will future policies cover earthquake damage, and if so, will the amount of premium be increased?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I think we can take the attitude of the House on the present vote as being a decision on this matter. If the House votes this amount without objecting to it I will instruct the State Bank that that is an expression of opinion that earthquake damage should be covered as a matter of course. I cannot express an opinion on whether it will be necessary to alter the amount of premium. On past figures it would appear to be unnecessary.

Mr. Travers—Does the Bank carry its own insurance?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes, and acting as an agent for the Government the Bank has, over the years, paid in surplus amounts totalling £260,000.

Mr. Stott—That represents the amount of premiums over and above the actual claims?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes.

Mr. Shannon—For the purposes of insurance does the State Bank accept a figure for premiums comparable with that of ordinary insurance companies?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Frankly, I do not know. I believe the State Bank premiums are lower.

Mr. Shannon—The State Bank has no expense in obtaining business.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—It is in a different category from normal insurance companies which have to go after business. The State Bank has compulsory insurance as part of the advances and no agency fees or expenditures of that nature occur. Also it does not have to pay taxation.

Mr. Stephens—You said that the State Bank carried its own insurance. Is that a separate body to that known as the Government Insurance Company?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I am not quite sure in what way the honourable member is trying to trick me. The position is that the State Bank carries the insurance on these houses as an agent of the Government. Advances are made on home building by the State Bank

on behalf of the Government and if there are any losses the State Bank does not stand them, but the Government must meet them. Similarly, if there is a profit from insuring the houses, it accrues to the Government. In these circumstances, because of what we believe to be a moral obligation, there is a responsibility on the Government and it is being met by a grant from revenue.

Mr. Shannon—It will still leave a credit balance on the insurance side of the State Bank's activities of £180,000?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—No; over the years it will be £240,000. It is not possible to accurately estimate the claim amounts, as so many owners of homes have notified the bank that they will have a claim but have not yet notified the amount of their claim, nor has the damage covered by many of the applications for assistance been inspected by the bank's inspectors. Until this is done an accurate estimate of the amount required is not possible. If the amount now being provided is insufficient a further request for funds will be placed before the House when the Estimates for the next financial year are presented.

The State Bank Board is having an investigation made of the amount of premiums necessary to give proper cover for damages, such as earthquake damage, to people who have obtained advances under the Advances for Homes Act if they so desire it, and to make provision for those people who only desire to insure against fire damage. In future the board will issue an insurance policy to each of the home owners so that they will know what they are insured against and what cover they are receiving for the premiums paid. Another reason why the Government hastened to come into the matter was that insurance had previously been part of the agreement in connection with the loan and a separate insurance policy was not issued. Under such circumstances it was easy for a person getting a loan to assume that he was covered. In future it is proposed to deal with the matter more on the insurance side, which is getting a little closer to what Mr. Stephens desires. All claims received by the bank are being sympathetically considered and no person's claim will be refused without a proper inspection being made.

Parliamentary authority is required for the payment of £17,161 as a contribution to the National Debt Commission, being this State's share of the shortage on London conversion operations met by the National Debt Sinking Fund pursuant to the Financial Agreement.

This payment is in respect of a conversion loan which was issued by the Commonwealth Government in London in the early part of this year at a discount of 10s. per cent. It becomes necessary under these circumstances for the discount to be refunded to the National Debt Commission.

When the Estimates for the year were before the House £600,000 was provided as a contribution towards the working expenses for 1953-4 of the Municipal Tramways Trust. A later review of the trust's finances discloses that the cash loss this year will exceed £700,000, and a further £100,000 has been provided on the Estimates towards this loss. The Tramways Board has been active during the year examining all avenues for economies in the undertaking. A considerable amount of new equipment has been ordered and the trust has taken the decision to gradually abandon trams and replace them with diesel and trolley buses. With a view to further economies it proposes to establish workshops equipped with modern plant. To reduce dead running of buses to a minimum the trust proposes to establish depots in localities other than Hackney and Victoria Square. All these things are being done in an endeavour to improve the operating results of this undertaking. Losses on tramways and other public transport is not peculiar to Adelaide. Money is being lost on operating by transport authorities in many of the large cities of the world, and in many of the cities of Australia. Nevertheless, everything is being done by the board to reduce the loss as quickly as possible.

There is a reference in the Governor's Speech to this matter. Later it is intended to place before members proposals to provide for services being effectively maintained and to cut down the heavy losses which the tramways and railways are incurring in the metropolitan area. The Government has either to abandon some of the services, with a subsequent reduction in the activities of the trust, or steeply increase the fares, which are paid to a large extent by working people. It is not proposed now to adopt either of these alternatives. The activities here are not unfavourable when compared with those in other States and I recommend this additional assistance to the trust to enable it to operate on a payable basis.

A gift of £10,000 to the Government of New South Wales is provided for. This amount is a contribution from the Government of this State to assist those who suffered hardship during the floods in the early part

of the year in New South Wales. Payment of this amount was made to New South Wales during March of this year. I have received a letter from the Premier in which he states that he personally and his Government appreciate the generous action of the Government of South Australia in assisting those who suffered hardship involving personal loss from the very heavy floods in New South Wales. In the same letter he expressed to me concern at learning that many people in Adelaide had suffered shock and damage to their homes from the earthquake which we experienced in March last.

MINISTER OF LANDS AND MINISTER OF
REPATRIATION, £15,400.

The sum of £4,700 is included for the Botanic Garden to permit of the reconstruction of a bridge over First Creek and the resurfacing of roads. The bridge was found to be in a very dangerous condition and the Government authorized the Botanic Garden Board to proceed with renewal of the bridge. While this work is being done a much-needed job of resurfacing the roads is also being carried out. In the case of the National Park, Belair, a special grant of £3,600 is being provided for road construction and repairs, and £7,100 is being made available by special grant for the widening of and alterations to bridges. The number of people patronizing the National Park is increasing and it is necessary to provide further roads; also bridges which have been in the park for many years require maintenance and, in some cases, reconstruction.

MINISTER OF WORKS, £18,669.

An amount of £7,600 is included for maintenance of aboriginal children at institutions and homes. A maintenance rate has been fixed at 25s. a week for each child boarded at an institution or home. I have a list of the institutions to which grants are made but members know that 25s. a week is not an excessive amount for the maintenance of a child. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia, S.A. District Incorporated, has made arrangements with the Government to care for the natives resident at the station on the West Coast purchased some time ago. The Lutheran Church has taken over this work and has incurred certain expenses. Provision of £11,069 is made to reimburse the Lutheran Church for expenses for the medical care and maintenance of natives, and to provide funds for expenses, maintenance and repairs at Yalata Station. The company which controlled the station when it was purchased by the Government is being wound up, and an amount

of money somewhat in excess of the £11,000 provided on the Estimates, being proceeds from the sale of wool, will be recouped to general revenue later this year or in the early part of the next financial year. The amount will be approximately £18,000.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, £30,000.

This amount is necessary for the purchase of motor buses for use by the Education Department for conveying country children to school. Increased numbers of children attending schools on some of the routes provided with school buses will necessitate the use of larger vehicles, and the department must provide for extensions and establishment of new services. We are also faced with the necessity for duplicating certain of the services where the number of children has increased beyond the capacity of the present bus, or a second run by the bus. The amount provided in the Estimates will purchase four small buses and ten chassis and bodies of buses of a larger size.

Miscellaneous.—This amount has been provided as a grant to the University of Adelaide towards the cost of providing a fourth floor to the medical school. This addition will provide much needed space for the school, and will also make available to the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science space which is now occupied by the medical school and which is badly needed by the Institute. When the building for the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science was first constructed it did not operate to a large extent and it made space available to the University for a medical school. As its activities have increased there has been a desire by the Institute to get back that space, but the University could not vacate it because no other accommodation was available for the medical school. To overcome that problem the Government undertook to provide a grant of £50,000 to the University for the erection of an additional floor on the medical building. I move the adoption of the first line.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

QUESTIONS.

FIRE WARNING SIGNS.

Mr. SHANNON—Before asking my question I congratulate the new Minister of Agriculture on his elevation to the Treasury Benches. To warn the public of the fire hazard the Forestry Department is operating signs, the use of which depends on the prevailing weather

conditions. They are operating at strategic points on roads near forest plantations and are so effective and have attracted so much comment from members of the public that they may be the most suitable means of training the public to become bushfire-conscious. Will the Minister of Afforestation see whether it is possible to put one or two similar signs at strategic points in the Adelaide hills? I realize that they must be manually operated, but I suggest that he confer with the Chief Secretary in order to get the concurrence of Mr. Kerr, Chief of the Emergency Fire Service, to use his officers to fix the signs at the appropriate points.

The Hon. A. W. CHRISTIAN—I thank the honourable member for Onkaparinga for his kindly reference to my recent elevation to this responsible position. He was good enough to acquaint me beforehand with the subject matter of his question, and I have conferred with a departmental officer and obtained from him the following report:—

Following the establishment of a Fire Weather Research Station at the Mount Burr Forest, a reliable forecast of the fire hazard for the ensuing 24 hours is now available each day during the fire season. It was considered that knowledge of the fire hazard would make the travelling public much more fire conscious, and consequently prove of great value in the prevention of outbreaks. Approval was given for the erection of fire hazard signs at five strategic positions in the South-East and two in the Adelaide hills area. The ratings are classified as under:—Nil, low, moderate, high, very high, extreme, and are depicted in colour on the signs. The signs are located near forest headquarters. The pointer is set each morning by an officer of the department to the existing hazard, following the issue of the forecast from Mount Burr Station. The cost of making and erecting the signs averaged approximately £50 each.

That is a considerable cost. One of the drawbacks to the use of these signs in all areas is that they are manually operated, and I do not know the exact cost of such operation. Where they are placed in forest areas it is a simple matter for forestry officers to operate them, but in other areas such facilities are not available. I shall be pleased to discuss that matter with the authorities involved, but I point out that whereas in the forestry areas—and particularly in the Adelaide hills—people are more conscious of the fire danger, nevertheless in many areas fires often occur not through neglect by ordinary people, but because of the thoughtless and “don’t care” attitude of occasional visitors who travel through those areas. Whether such persons would be influenced by these signs I very much doubt, but

I do not suggest that we cannot do something along the lines of the honourable member’s suggestion, and shall be glad to look into the matter.

KADINA ABATTOIRS.

Mr. McALEES—Immediately prior to the last State elections the Premier, to show his sincerity on decentralization, broadcast a statement that an abattoirs would be erected near Kadina. A start was made on the project and land bought, but during the last 18 months the project has been at a standstill and my constituents are very much concerned wondering whether any further progress will be made. Can the Premier throw any light on this matter?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—Substantial agreement was reached on the establishment of an export abattoirs works near Kadina. Details of the project were worked out to an accurate degree, land was purchased and negotiations entered into with the Minister of Agriculture. The details of those negotiations, which would have required legislation, reached a stage where substantial agreement was arrived at on all matters of principle. One such matter important to the company was that it should have an exclusive abattoirs area of a certain radius, for, if large sums of money were to be spent on the establishment of an abattoirs, it was necessary to have an assured supply of stock to enable the works to operate successfully and profitably. That principle has been recognized in regard to the Metropolitan Abattoirs, in which case Parliament has provided that no works shall be set up within a distance of 80 miles. Now another factor has arisen that is of great importance to South Australia in many ways. It is a constitutional matter that has a big bearing on matters other than that mentioned by the honourable member. The Commonwealth Government has issued an export licence to the Port Noarlunga Meat Works, and the issue of that licence is in direct contravention of the South Australian Abattoirs Act, which has on many occasions been re-affirmed by the South Australian Parliament. If the Commonwealth may issue licences for export works, then, under the same provisions relating to its external trade powers, State planning, health services and many other matters may be seriously interfered with. That, of course, is a matter of great moment to this Parliament, because, if the provisions of the Commonwealth Constitution relating to overseas trade can be extended to enable the

Commonwealth Government to interfere with the domestic arrangements of any State, a totally new Constitutional factor is introduced. My Government challenged that decision, and the case will be considered by the High Court in the near future. The decision cut across any agreement which we could arrive at for the establishment of an abattoirs at Kadina giving that abattoirs a sphere of influence, because, provided the issue of the licence to the Port Noarlunga Meat Works is upheld, any law passed by this Parliament on the lines I have indicated would cease to have any validity. I think it is largely this issue that has prompted the Kadina company to clamp down on its activity. I believe that if this issue were settled favourably the company would be interested in proceeding with its activity. I assure the honourable member that his district is regarded by the Government as one where all the circumstances justify a first priority for the establishment of an industry. It was established on a mining field which has closed down, and this has left large centres of population with houses and all other amenities, but without any natural industry to support them.

URANIUM FIND AT MYPONGA.

Mr. BROOKMAN—Some months ago there was an important find of uranium at Myponga. Can the Premier give any information about it?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Governor's Speech stated that mining was already being undertaken at Myponga. The find there was extremely important because of the high quality of the ore, which was of massive pitchblende origin. Actually, the surface indications of the finds were not large, but the type and quality of the ore gave hopes that they would lead to important discoveries in the area. Investigational work has been proceeding, and this indicates that the deposits exist in depth, and investigations undertaken by low-flying aircraft over surrounding areas have picked up a considerable number of important reaction spots. In general terms, the investigations appear to be developing favourably, but it is too early to say whether it will be a permanent field.

SALE OF WINE.

Mr. QUIRKE—The wine industry has just completed the intake of a record grape harvest, and considerable credit is due to winemakers for the way they have co-operated and handled

the harvest without loss to the growers, but the main problem remains—to sell the wine. Export of wine to England has practically stopped owing to the high tariff restrictions in that country. I do not blame England for that, but it is our job to put our own house in order. We have planted large areas to soldier settlement, but not made provision for selling the product. The main avenue in Australia for the sale of wine is through hotels, but this avenue is completely inadequate. I ask the Premier whether the Government will consider amending the Licensing Act to provide better avenues of sale of wine through grocers' retail licences and longer hours for the consumption of wine with evening meals in licensed premises.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—This question involves policy, and I do not want to commit my colleagues, but I feel that the present limit of 8 p.m. for the consumption of liquor served with meals is not in accordance with modern trends. I believe an extension of that hour is justified, and I do not think it would lead to any intemperance or anything else undesirable, and it might have an important bearing on our tourist trade. People from overseas do not understand the rigidity of our licensing laws in South Australia and in Australia generally. Of course, the number of licences which are in operation in any particular district has been decided by the people. I believe a big reform is required in hotel premises in this country. Many licensed premises are not suitable and do not provide the necessary accommodation. This has resulted largely from the fact that during the 10 years when building restrictions operated no one could provide better or adequate premises, even if he desired to do so. It is urgently necessary to improve our hotel accommodation, and any steps taken along those lines would have my personal support.

CIVIL DEFENCE.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—The explosion of atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II., and experiments which have been conducted since by the explosion of hydrogen bombs in the Pacific, have led to much concern in the community as to what the effect would be in South Australia if we unfortunately became involved in hostilities and such bombs were dropped, particularly in our more densely populated areas. I ask the Premier whether consideration has been given to the possibility of evolving any form of

civil defence which would afford some protection to the people and whether any plan has been evolved or is being considered.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Government has received communications from time to time from the Commonwealth on this topic. We made available to the Commonwealth one of our senior police officers to go overseas for a special course of training so as to be in a position to advise on certain aspects. I have had a number of secret communications and some work has been done in regard to the civil defence organization, but I do not know what is involved in protection against hydrogen bombs. We can only read reports furnished by the press, but if those reports have been accurate I should think that this problem would require heavy expenditure and tremendous planning to overcome it. It is not a simple problem with a simple solution. I will refer the honourable member's question to the Prime Minister.

EDUCATION OF DEAF CHILDREN.

Mr. GEOFFREY CLARKE—Can the Minister of Education say whether the Government has considered the report of the committee appointed to report on the education of deaf children and whether the substance of it can be made available to the public?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Last year my predecessor, the Hon. R. J. Rudall, appointed a special committee to inquire into and report upon the existing arrangements in South Australia for the education and training of deaf and hard-of-hearing children. It was a very reputable committee, consisting of Mr. Cannon, the officer in charge of hard-of-hearing children in the Education Department of Victoria, Dr. Reilly, an ear specialist in Adelaide, and Mr. Pollnitz of the Auditor-General's staff. They produced a comprehensive report of more than 60 pages of foolscap and containing over 30 recommendations. I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Government, of placing on record my appreciation of their valuable report. On the other hand, I say, with the greatest respect to the committee, that I do not consider that their report and recommendations contain a full or final solution of the problem of the education of physically handicapped or mentally retarded children, but that was largely owing to the limited scope of the terms of reference. Last month we had the benefit of a visit to Australia of a Mr. Lumsden, of the British Ministry of Education, who came here at the invitation of the Commonwealth and all State Governments in inquire into and

report upon the problem of the education of retarded children generally. I think that his report, if and when it is received, will be nearer to a solution of the problem. I have studied the committee's report minutely and it is being considered by Cabinet, but the Government has not decided whether it will introduce legislation on the matter.

Mr. Riches—Will any part of the report be made available to members?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—In view of the inquiries that I have received, the question from the member for Burnside and the honourable member's interjection, I am prepared to lay the report of the committee on the table so that it can be printed and published.

BRIDGES OVER RIVER MURRAY.

Mr. STOTT—Has the Premier received a report from the Engineer-in-Chief on the type of bridge suitable for erection over the River Murray at Blanchetown? The Government proposed to build a railway line from Morgan to Barmera involving the construction of two bridges over the River and the matter has been reported on by the Public Works Committee. At the time the Government was prepared to spend money on the building of two bridges, and it is obvious that the expenditure then proposed would be less now because of no railway being built. Has Cabinet considered any report from the Engineer-in-Chief? Can the Premier say what type of bridge should be built, and when the matter will be referred to the Public Works Committee for inquiry and report?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Minister for Roads has given some consideration to the matter and has discussed it with Cabinet. As a result approval has been given for the Highways Commissioner, the Railways Commissioner and the Engineer-in-Chief to form an inter-departmental committee to draw up plans for bridges before the matter goes to the Public Works Committee. How long it will take to draw up the plans I do not know. Details are not required, only a general plan with an estimated cost, so that something will be available to place before the Public Works Committee.

NEW UNLEY HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. DUNKS—Attendances at the Unley High School have reached an all time record. Can the Minister of Education say what progress has been made with the plan for a new high school so that the matter can be referred to the Public Works Committee?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Some months ago I received a plan from the Architect-in-Chief. It was a beautiful plan and contained every possible amenity but the building would have cost more than one third of the total funds allocated for school buildings, or about £750,000 of a total allocation of £1,500,000. The honourable member introduced a deputation to me from the council of the Unley High School and the committees of the Unley Girls' Technical School and the Unley Primary School, supported by the member for Unley. They adopted a most reasonable attitude when I explained the likely cost. I made a personal inspection of the three schools involved and as a result I recently submitted to the Architect-in-Chief a request for a revised and heavily curtailed plan for a new school. When I receive the plan I shall submit it to Cabinet to see if it can be referred to the Public Works Committee.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL.

Mr. TAPPING—Can the Premier indicate when the Queen Elizabeth Hospital will be officially opened and by whom?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I understand the Minister for Health is arranging for the opening of the hospital some time in July and is inviting His Excellency the Governor to perform the opening ceremony. I shall make a check and let the honourable member have the precise details in the near future.

URANIUM IN PORT LINCOLN AREA.

Mr. PEARSON—Recently it was reported in the press that uranium had been located in some degree in the Port Lincoln town area. I have been aware of the research into the matter and have seen samples of the ore. Has the Premier any information in regard to the find from the point of view of the Department of Mines?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I have seen samples of the ore from the Port Lincoln area. Assays have been made and there has been an inspection of some of the outcrops. In general terms, subject to confirmation later, the outcrops are important but the grade of the ore is not high. Although the mineral providing the uranium has not yet been identified it appears that there is a massive formation of the material that can be economically worked. The Government has agreed to additional money being spent on a check of the position and is considering a reward to the finder.

HOUSING TRUST HOMES.

Mr. STEPHENS—I understand from the Housing Trust that civilian applications and ex-servicemen's applications back as far as seven years and three to five years respectively have not yet been dealt with. There are also applications for emergency homes, which the Government has decided should not now be built. Now when a person requires an emergency home it can only be obtained when one is vacated. I have a case where a man, his wife and two children have to leave their home or have an eviction order served against them. A number of people in my district and other areas have been served with eviction orders. Can the Premier say if the trust has completed the building of emergency homes and what can be done to help people get homes?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The emergency homes were erected to deal with urgent and bad cases which existed at the time. Their building resulted in more accommodation being available. We could at that time let contracts to small builders not normally engaged on that work but on repair work. When the Government announced the programme it was stressed that it would be limited because these homes are not suitable for permanent occupation. We can now get contractors for the building of permanent houses, and we can spend all the money made available each year for that purpose. When the emergency homes were built we could not get these contractors. Portion of the money available then was spent on temporary homes and the remainder on imported houses. Under the present circumstances I cannot give an assurance that we will embark on the construction of additional emergency homes. They have been beneficial but the relief given by permanent housing is much better.

TEACHER'S RESIDENCE AT ANGASTON SCHOOL.

Mr. TEUSNER—Some time ago land was acquired at Angaston by the Education Department for the building of a teacher's residence. In view of the present need for accommodation for the teacher at that town, concerning which matter I made representations to the Minister of Education a few weeks ago, can he say whether the department intends to proceed with the erection of the residence at an early date?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Consideration was given to the need for this residence and to the representations made by the honourable

member. Approval has been given for the construction of the house and the Housing Trust will proceed with it as soon as the land has been surveyed by a surveyor of the Architect in Chief's Department. I understand he will be returning from leave soon and that the work will be proceeded with immediately thereafter.

GALVANIZED IRON SUPPLIES.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Recently I was requested by a number of my constituents to make representations on their behalf for the purpose of securing Australian galvanized iron. On each occasion I pointed out I believed there was an acute shortage in South Australia, yet the Prime Minister has stated that there is no shortage of building materials. Will the Premier set out the true position in regard to Australian galvanized iron supplies in South Australia, and if it is unsatisfactory, as I believe it is, can he say what steps are being taken to effect an improvement?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The production of galvanized iron in Australia is still inadequate to meet all demands. Since the controls of building materials and building operations have been lifted there has been a wider use of galvanized iron. At the end of last week I noticed that three or four hardware merchants advertised that they had galvanized iron of certain lengths available for immediate delivery. That is unusual. The overall production in Australia is inadequate to meet the needs of the community. I think that is recognized by the Federal authorities, because recently unrestricted licences for the importation of galvanized iron were issued and substantial quantities of galvanized iron at a higher price are now available.

CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY.

Mr. MICHAEL—I was gratified to read recently that the Commonwealth Government proposed to broaden the gauge of our northern railway as far as Marree. I have no financial interest in the cattle industry, but, as I have travelled in Central Australia, I claim to have some appreciation of the problems of that industry. If South Australia is to play the part it should play in the processing and marketing of beef from Central Australia, it is essential that the railway should be extended to a point about 250 miles north-east of Marree. In that area there is about 200 miles of gibber country, and in an average season the value of cattle coming off the fertile chan-

nel country is depreciated considerably by their journey over this distance, whereas a railway would enable them to be trucked directly from the channel country. I feel that the extension of the line from Marree is of equal importance to the connecting of Alice Springs and Birdum by rail. Previously I have quoted from a report by Mr. Beattie of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, who said that South Australia was the natural outlet for the fat cattle from Central Australia and suggested Wallaroo as a natural site for a killing works. Can the Premier say whether the matter of the extension of the line north-east from Marree has been taken up with the Commonwealth Government, and if so, has he any report?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I will see that the honourable member's comments are placed before the appropriate Commonwealth Minister when the new Cabinet has been formally sworn in.

CEMENT SUPPLIES.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—Last session the Premier was frequently asked when cement supplies would be adequate in this State, and toward the end of the session he said that early this year ample supplies would be available not only for South Australia, but also for export to other States. However, in country areas today cement is more difficult to obtain than at any time since the war. As the money of South Australian taxpayers has been used to assist cement manufacturers in this State, can the Premier indicate the possibilities of more adequate cement supplies?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—There is not the slightest doubt that more cement is being manufactured in South Australia than is being consumed. For many years persons wanting to do a job were unable to get cement, and in many instances they bought their cement supplies a little ahead so as to be able to proceed with the work when in a position to do it. At present considerable quantities of cement may be stored by persons anxious to do work in the future. In my opinion, the present production of cement is satisfactory, and I should not be surprised if cement is not available from under the counter generally within the next few weeks. I wanted some cement this week, and, on ringing a supplier, had no trouble in obtaining a quantity. If the honourable member wants some cement, and provided that he does not want more than 500 tons, I will see that he gets it within a week.

PREFABRICATED HOUSES.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Like other members I am concerned with the housing problem today. Practically every day I receive applications from people wanting a house, and although many houses have been built, the position in my district does not seem to get any better. Can the Premier say how many applicants still await Housing Trust homes, both rental and purchase, and also whether he intends to reintroduce the importation of prefabricated homes, as this was one way in which our housing shortage was partially overcome?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—We are building more houses today than ever before in the history of the State. This year about 9,000 will be built, and substantial progress has been made in connection with this problem. Although there is still a great shortage of houses, the voting strengths in the various electorates, which were compiled just before the recent Federal elections, show that a substantial migration has taken place from certain areas into new housing areas, and this proves that there has been a big alteration in the general position. For instance, many people have left the City of Adelaide and the State electoral districts of Norwood and Torrens, which proves that accommodation in those districts is not so crowded as it was immediately after the war; but the Government is not complacent on this matter, for we realize that the basis of good social conditions is a happy home unit satisfactorily housed. It is not possible for the Government to reintroduce the importation of houses, which was part of a Commonwealth-State plan by which the Commonwealth Government made available to the State certain sums to offset the costs of importation, both transport and duty. That scheme has now been completely discontinued, and there is no corresponding Commonwealth scheme available today.

Mr. Lawn—How did the State come out of that scheme financially?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The amount of subsidy on each house was about £300, but, even if that function of the housing agreement were available to us, I would still doubt the wisdom of importing additional houses, for experience has shown that the houses produced locally are equal to if not better than those imported, as well as being cheaper in their ultimate cost, even taking into account the subsidy. The problem today is not so much the physical problem of building, but that of financing building. The cost of housing has risen by so

much that, in many instances, it is beyond the means of the person desiring a home, and the cases that give me the most concern today are those in which the person is unable either to finance the deposit for a home or to pay the economic rent.

HIRE PURCHASE AGREEMENTS.

Mr. LAWN—Can the Premier say whether his Government intends this session to introduce legislation on hire purchase agreements?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—As Treasurer I have carefully considered this matter, and, although I feel it is no good either in the interests of the purchaser or of the community that people should be prevailed upon to buy, frequently with no deposit, expensive goods that become burdensome to them before they are paid for, strong grounds are necessary before legislation can be introduced. Any legislation introduced must be closely examined, for it might do more harm than good. Cabinet has not approved of any legislation on this matter, although some examination of it has been made.

MACE FOR SPEAKER.

Mr. WILLIAM JENKINS—In view of the atmosphere of ceremonial formality in which Parliament is opened and the recent appointment of a Black Rod and the wearing of wigs by you, Mr. Speaker, and the two Clerks of the House, is it intended to provide you with a mace for ceremonial functions?

The SPEAKER—The question has been investigated, but it would be expensive to have a mace fabricated. I believe it would be desirable for the Speaker to have a mace, but there are probably other considerations.

WATER SUPPLY FOR PETERBOROUGH AND TEROWIE.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Late last year, at the instance of the Mayor of Peterborough, a largely attended public meeting was held in Peterborough for the purpose of requesting the members of the district to urge the Government to extend the pipeline which was being constructed from Spalding to Jamestown further to serve Peterborough and Terowie. As a result of that meeting the Legislative Council members for the district and I waited on the Premier, who said he would have the matter examined and furnish a reply later. So far we have not heard of the decision, so I ask the Premier whether any decision has been reached and when we may expect a reply?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—A water supply to Peterborough involves the continuation of the main serving Jamestown. When the Government approved a supply to Jamestown it made a decision which had an important bearing on the Peterborough supply. It found that to take a main sufficient in capacity to carry water from Jamestown to Peterborough would cost £90,000. The provision of adequate water supplies to the metropolitan area and one or two country places exhausted all our resources at the time. The Jamestown scheme is well advanced and reticulation to the town has commenced. I assure the honourable member that I shall have a report for him on the Peterborough supply in a few weeks.

COUNTRY SEWERAGE SCHEMES.

Mr. FLETCHER—Does the Government intend going on with any of the country sewerage schemes that have been approved?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes.

COUNTRY WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. STOTT—From Lyrup towards the Berri punt there is a large area that could be used for the production of fat lambs, dairying and growing vegetables, but the difficulty is access to fresh water. A creek in the district could carry water from the Murray, but it has been blocked up for a number of years. A bulldozer could be used to clear it and only a small expenditure would be required to lay a 4ft. or 5ft. pipeline under a roadway. Such a water supply would serve 20 or 22 families, and a great quantity of land held under miscellaneous lease could also be used for primary production. This scheme would not interfere with the proposal to extend the soldier settlement area at Loxton. Will the Minister of Lands send a surveyor and an engineer to the area to get a report on the possibility of providing fresh water?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—From time to time officers visit various parts of the State to inspect land that might be suitable for development. I do not know whether I have had any reports about this particular area, but if the honourable member will give me its exact location I will send an officer there.

LARGS BAY PRIMARY SCHOOL YARD.

Mr. TAPPING—Yesterday I received complaints from the Largs Bay Primary School Committee that the schoolyard becomes partly flooded in wet weather. As this condition is regarded as unhealthy will the Minister of Education consider making a personal inspection of the schoolyard?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I have received no earlier complaints about this matter, but I inspected Woodville primary schoolyard recently at the honourable member's request with, I think, happy results for him. I am prepared to inspect the Largs Bay schoolyard.

VICTOR HARBOUR SCHOOL RESIDENCES.

Mr. WILLIAM JENKINS—During the last session I approached the Director of Education with a view to getting a residence for one of the school masters of the primary school at Victor Harbour. I have now received a request from one of the masters at the high school there for a house. Can the Minister of Education give me any information about providing residences for school teachers at that town?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The department realizes that two school residences are required at Victor Harbour, one for a high school teacher and one for a primary school teacher. Unfortunately, the department owns only one block of land in the town. We have been negotiating for the purchase of a house, but the negotiations have proved abortive. I hope that one house will be constructed by the Housing Trust within the next few months, and then it will be a question of who should occupy it. I hope the Treasurer will provide me with funds to have another house built at Victor Harbour next year. The Government has already constructed nearly 600 houses for school teachers and it proposes constructing a considerable number in the next financial year.

DEEP SEA PORT IN SOUTH-EAST.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the final report of the Public Works Standing Committee on a deep sea port in the South-East, together with minutes of evidence.

UPPER SOUTH-EAST LAND DEVELOPMENT.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the report of the Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement on Upper South-East lands development (counties of Russell and Cardwell), together with minutes of evidence.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

Sessional Committees were appointed as follows:—

Standing Orders.—The Speaker and Messrs. Geoffrey Clarke, Macgillivray, and O'Halloran.

Library.—The Speaker and Messrs. Riches, Stephens, and Travers.

Printing.—Messrs. Brookman, John Clark, William Jenkins, Jennings, and Michael.

The Legislative Council notified its appointment of sessional committees.

JOINT HOUSE COMMITTEE.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD moved—

That it be an order of this House that, in view of the creation of the Joint House Committee under the Joint House Committee Act, 1941, a Sessional House Committee be not appointed under Standing Order 404.

Motion carried.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD moved—

That a committee consisting of Messrs. Brookman, Dunks, William Jenkins, and Teusner, and the mover, be appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply to His Excellency the Governor in reply to his Speech on opening the Parliament and to report on Tuesday, July 27.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.49 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, June 8, at 2 p.m.