

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, August 10, 1954.

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

### QUESTIONS.

#### OUTBREAK OF SMALLPOX.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I noticed from the press that there has been an unfortunate outbreak of smallpox on a British ship bringing migrants to Australia. I want to make it clear that I am in no way complaining about the Australian quarantine system or the way it is administered. The press statement indicates that many of the passengers have never been vaccinated and that others were vaccinated a long time ago, showing that there must be some laxity overseas. I understand that the question is the subject of an international agreement. Will the Premier consult the Commonwealth authorities to see whether it would be possible to make better arrangements and thus obviate the possibility of such happenings in the future?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I will have the matter examined to see whether any better procedure can be adopted in connection with migrants coming to Australia, and furnish a report. It is not standard practice in Australia to require everyone to be vaccinated.

Mr. O'Halloran—It is when you want to go away.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—That is so, and one has to get a certificate so that it can be proved one has been vaccinated, especially when visiting Eastern ports.

#### AROONA DAM.

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—Can the Premier give any information regarding the progress on the building of the Aroona Dam at Leigh Creek as the people there are anxiously looking forward to a better water supply?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The honourable member probably knows that when Mr. Harrison left the Electricity Trust the Engineer-in-Chief (Mr. Dridan) was appointed to his place on the trust to provide engineering experience, and consequently the dam is really under his supervision. Rapid progress is being made on the dam and pouring for this year will be completed late in September. Experience has shown that, owing to the heat generated in the masses of concrete poured, it is necessary to make a break in pouring during the summer in the hot northern areas. By the end of September work on the dam will have progressed

far enough to enable it to hold water, and any rains that fall may be used to supply the Leigh Creek township.

#### PURCHASE OF TIMBER FRAME HOMES.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—This morning's press indicates that the chairman and the general manager of the Housing Trust purpose visiting Canberra some time this week for discussions on the purchase of homes by means of low deposits. Can the Treasurer say whether the trust has considered the proposal that tenants who have paid rent for timber frame homes for some years, without getting into arrears, be given the opportunity to purchase their homes?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The purpose of the Canberra conference is to enable Commonwealth and State housing authorities to confer. For a number of years money has been made available by the Commonwealth to the States under the Commonwealth-States Housing Agreement, which is now terminating and the Commonwealth authorities are considering a renewal or substitution. The South Australian officers going to Canberra will advance certain proposals on behalf of this State with regard to the financing of houses for sale and rental. The only reason why a certain number of the timber frame houses were not purchased in the first place was that not enough intending purchasers were able to make deposits, but, as far as I know, under present day procedure there would be no objection to tenants purchasing separate unit timber frame houses which they are now occupying, and I think the Housing Trust would facilitate such action.

#### ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

Mr. DUNKS—My question is directed to the Minister of Works representing the Minister of Roads. The *South Australian Road Transport Journal* of July, 1954, contains the following statement:—

Is the latest modern roadmaking equipment and building technique functioning so efficiently that it is overtaking the high expenses of labour and materials and is reducing the cost of roadmaking? It is reported from the U.S.A. that highway construction costs decreased by 4½ per cent in 1953 as against 1952.

This seems to me to be a wonderful achievement. Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Roads whether any new methods of roadmaking have been adopted in South Australia?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I will. Two officers of the department returned from abroad

recently, and they try to keep abreast of modern improvements. I am sure the Minister will be able to say exactly what is being done.

#### OIL BURNING LOCOMOTIVES.

Mr. STEPHENS—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked on August 5, 1954, about damage caused to homes by the vibration set up by oil burning locomotives on the Port Adelaide railway line?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—A report furnished by the Railways Commissioner to the Minister of Railways has been forwarded to me; it reads as follows:—

Oil burning locomotives are still being used in the great majority of the suburban passenger services. Until the quality of the coal we receive from New South Wales improves considerably and its price is on a more competitive basis, it is not intended to convert the present oil burning locomotives back to coal. Every effort, however, is being made to ensure that the oil burning locomotives are so operated as to avoid objectionable vibration. The Government has approved the construction of twelve diesel-powered cars as a first step in the improved suburban services. This work is now in hand.

I understand that instructions are given as to the operation of these engines, and that under certain conditions some improvement can be brought about in their use.

#### MOTOR SPARE PARTS PRICES.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—Before leaving the river yesterday morning I was approached by a neighbour who complained bitterly about what he regarded as a very excessive charge for a piece of pipe 2in. in diameter and 3ft. 6in. long connecting the exhaust manifold of his car engine to the muffler box. When he took his car into the local garage the proprietor said it was almost a shame to tell him how much the piping would cost; the price was £10 2s. 6d. My neighbour felt that possibly there had been a mistake and asked that the suppliers should be contacted to check the charge. This was done, and the reply sets out that there was really an undercharge, as the price quoted should have been £11 5s., plus 12½ per cent sales tax, making a total of £12 13s. 1d., the amount quoted by the garage owner being the trade price. Will the Premier investigate this matter?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes. All States have decontrolled motor parts because great difficulty was experienced owing to sales of some of the spare parts being rather sluggish, and with any standard write up of them it would not pay the trader to handle them. The Prices Department knows that when spare

parts were decontrolled a number of them rose in price far in excess of their real value. I will get the prices officers to investigate the honourable member's question and see whether we can get some more satisfactory arrangement, particularly as it seems, from what the honourable member says, that this part is neither an intricate one nor even a moving part. It does not seem that £10 would be appropriate for a piece of piping to merely connect up the engine to the muffler box.

#### REFRIGERATORS FOR SCHOOL TUCK SHOPS.

Mr. HUTCHENS—I understand that it is the policy of the Education Department to subsidize school refrigerators, particularly those used for science instruction. Many tuck shops adjacent to schools are run by parents' and friends' associations or school committees or councils and some of the profit is returned to schools supplying necessary equipment subsidized by the Government, but to conduct the shops profitably it is necessary to install refrigerators. The bodies running these shops have been unable to get the shop equipment subsidized, and I ask the Minister of Education whether he will consider subsidizing refrigerators for these tuck shops?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I have received two or three requests for subsidies for refrigerators for different purposes. I am now considering them and I will make a decision in the near future and communicate with the honourable member concerning his request.

#### GRANTS FOR EDUCATION.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—A leader in last Friday's *News* dealing with education, states:—

But why can't the State Education Departments get additional money in the same way that the universities are getting it—by a special Act of Federal Parliament? Once a State has spent a qualifying amount each year on its university, it becomes eligible for a special grant. There is no doubt that there has been an immense improvement in the position of the universities under this scheme, which apparently does not jeopardize the bargaining power of a State before the Commonwealth Grants Commission. A scheme such as this for education is sure to have the support of other States if a joint approach were made to the Federal Government.

Does the Treasurer consider the scheme suggested practicable for education and, if so, will he put it before the next Premiers' Conference?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—This question was raised at the last Premiers' Conference. It was placed on the agenda by two States and

was discussed fully by all the States and the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth's attitude was that in the first place education was constitutionally a function of the States and it did not desire to control or enter the States' province in this field. Secondly, the Commonwealth considered that the States should finance education out of their general revenue in the same way as they finance other functions. The Commonwealth considered that the tax reimbursements that were received from the Commonwealth covering other matters also covered expenditure on education.

#### KIRTON POINT POWER STATION.

Mr. PEARSON—On July 29, I asked the Premier a question relative to extending the power generating capacity at Kirton Point to meet the increased demand in that area. Has he any further information?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes. The Electricity Trust has on order for installation in the Kirton Point power station of two 2,500 kilowatt turbo-alternators, with two steam boilers of equivalent capacity. The fuel used will be furnace oil which will be more economical than coal. It is expected that the first turbo-alternator will be placed in operation early in 1956.

#### GEPPS CROSS MIGRANT HOSTEL.

Mr. JENNINGS—I recently took a deputation to the Premier about the Gepps Cross Hostel. Two requests were made: firstly, that a plan be evolved for the orderly and gradual transfer of migrant families to Housing Trust homes, such transfers to be decided according to their length of residence at the hostel and, secondly, for a review of the Gepps Cross Hostel balance sheet to ascertain whether rents could be reduced. The Premier promised to investigate these matters. Has he anything to report?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I have discussed both matters with the chairman of the Housing Trust. I told the deputation that if transfers were to be arranged purely on a question of effluxion of time no persons from the hostel would be considered because there are many applications from persons of much longer standing outside the hostel. As a matter of fact, many persons from the hostel have been provided with other housing by the trust but not because of their length of residence. The rental charges at the hostel were specifically approved by the residents there before the State took over the project. All of the conditions of the

taking over were submitted to the hostel residents at a meeting I attended and they were invited to vote upon them. I think only seven votes were recorded against the proposals. Nevertheless, I have asked the chairman of the trust to ascertain whether it is in a position to reduce the rents and when that information is available I will advise the honourable member of what action, if any, the Government proposes taking. The State is losing heavily annually on its emergency housing scheme. That is not caused through any default by the tenants in paying rent or because of trust administration but because the write-off on these temporary homes has to be done in a comparatively short period, which means that the depreciation charge is fairly heavy. However, the figures are being prepared and when they are available I will advise the honourable member.

#### BUDD CARS ON MOONTA LINE.

Mr. McALEES—During last session it was stated that Budd cars would be in operation on the Moonta service by June of this year. As this is not the case will the Minister of Works ascertain when they will be in service?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I am not aware of any promise to run the Budd cars to any particular place. The arrangement of services and timetables is the prerogative of the Commissioner of Railways, but I will address the question to my colleague and bring down a reply as early as possible.

#### WOODVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL OVAL.

Mr. TAPPING—Some time ago the Minister of Education was good enough to accompany me on a visit to the Woodville Primary School where it was pointed out that, because of the unevenness of the surface of the oval, a number of accidents had occurred, and the Minister promised to look into the matter. Has he any information to give today?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Following the visit referred to I approved of the request and have been informed by the Architect-in-Chief that survey plans have been prepared for the grading and paving of the oval. Estimates are being prepared and I hope that the work will be commenced within a reasonably short period.

#### TEROWIE ELECTRIC SUPPLY.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I understand the Premier has some information relative to a question I asked last week of the Minister of Works concerning a further loan to the Hallett District Council for the extension of electricity

services in the town of Terowie, and I will be pleased if he will give that information to the House.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—This matter is normally dealt with by the Minister of Works on a recommendation from the Electricity Trust. Actually Mr. McIntosh recommended to the Treasury that a further amount be made available and that was confirmed this morning. The additional amount is £500, bringing the total subsidy to £1,750.

#### ERADICATION OF RED SCALE.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Two years ago I addressed a question to the then Minister of Agriculture about the disease known as red scale, which was affecting citrus trees in the metropolitan area. I was told that it was difficult to police the matter as there were so many trees. Since then I have noticed that some attempts have been made to eradicate the disease but they are spoilt because others are not making any attempt. The red scale is carried easily from tree to tree by birds, which must have a bad effect on commercial gardens. If the disease is allowed to spread it will be costly. Will the Minister of Agriculture take steps to enforce control by the inspection of gardens with a view to stamping out the disease which is spreading rapidly in the metropolitan area?

The Hon. A. W. CHRISTIAN—I am not aware of what the Act provides in this matter by way of enforcement of control, but I will certainly have the position examined to see if it is possible to compel people to spray. Normally my reaction would be not to favour compulsion in this matter because people ought to take steps in their own interests. I would imagine that the commercial growers would protect their orchards against pests, even if the small suburban gardeners do not.

#### MARION ROAD CROSSING WARNING DEVICE.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Has the Minister of Works obtained a reply following on the question I asked on August 6 regarding the synchronising of warning devices at the Marion Road crossing?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The following reply has come from the Railways Commissioner:—

The time of operation of the warning devices installed at the Marion Road crossing is based upon the movement of express trains at scheduled speeds. This necessitates the cut-in being situated on the far side of each of the adjacent stations. As a consequence, the time of operation is somewhat greater at this

crossing in the case of stopping trains. Removal of the cut-in points to the opposite ends of the adjacent stations would reduce the time of operation of the warning devices below the safe minimum appropriate to express train movements.

The honourable member will see that it is a technical disability.

#### ANGLE VALE SCHOOL.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Has the Minister of Education any information following on the question I asked on June 10 about additional land for the Angle Vale school?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Following on the honourable member's question I gave instructions for negotiations to be entered into with the owner of the adjacent land and they were successful. The land is now being acquired by private treaty from the owner.

#### TEROWIE SCHOOL.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Last Friday I visited Terowie with the Minister of Roads in order to meet a deputation from the Hallett District Council and the school committee about a request for an extension of about five chains of bitumen road past the schoolhouse on the Terowie-Jamestown Road in order to minimize the dust nuisance at the school and the schoolhouse. The Minister observed that there was a rather blind corner where this road intersected the main road. It was then pointed out that tenders had been accepted for the erection of a fence around the schoolhouse. I was asked to bring the matter up as one of urgency to see if it could be arranged between the two departments and the contractor to have a couple of very poor type pepper trees removed and then set the fence back a few feet in order to improve the visibility at this blind corner. It was pointed out that it would reduce very little the distance to be fenced and would provide additional safety measures for the children attending the school. I should like the Minister to take the matter up as quickly as possible, as the contract has been let and the work may begin at almost any moment, to see if something can be done to meet the position, which I can assure the Minister is one which merits serious and sympathetic consideration.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—As the contract has been let it is obviously a question for the Architect-in-Chief's Department. The rest of the question is one for the Minister of Education and I will confer with him and let the honourable member know what has been done in regard to the contract after the Minister has given his decision on the school ground.

## SCHOOL DENTISTS.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question of July 28 regarding the number of dentists employed in his department?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Owing to the absence of my colleague the Minister of Health in the South-East I have not had an opportunity to confer with him, but I have received the following report from the acting Director-General of Public Health:—

On a number of occasions applications have been invited for the positions for dentists on the staff of the department and none has been received. Dental scholarships have been discussed by the Director-General of Public Health and are now, I understand, being considered by the Public Service Commissioner.

In due course I will let the honourable member have a further report.

## HOSPITAL BENEFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Is it the Government's intention to introduce legislation concerning organizations which are not registered by the Commonwealth Government to enable them to participate in the hospitalization scheme now operating in this State?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The honourable member forwarded this matter to me for consideration some time ago, and I am now able to tell him that the Parliamentary Draftsman is preparing a draft Bill. I have no doubt that it will be accepted by Cabinet, although it has not yet been before it.

## UNDESIRABLE PUBLICATIONS.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question of July 28 concerning prosecutions under the Police Offences Act for the publication of undesirable literature?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I think the honourable member referred to two matters—prosecutions for undesirable literature and whether any of these magazines have been banned. Through my colleague, the Attorney-General, I have received the following report from the Crown Solicitor:—

The only prosecution since the Police Offences Act, 1953, was in relation to an offence committed before the new Act came into operation and the charge was therefore laid under the old Act. No paper has been or could be actually "banned" as a result of the conviction, but I am confident that the proceedings have had a salutary effect in keeping publications of the kind in question out of circulation.

## STERILIZATION OF HOTEL GLASSES.

Mr. WILLIAM JENKINS (on notice)—

1. How many metropolitan hotels have installed approved mechanical glass-washing apparatus for the cleansing of drinking glasses as required by regulation under the Food and Drugs Act?

2. How many metropolitan hotels have not installed such machines?

3. How many country hotels have complied with this regulation?

4. How many country hotels have not done so?

5. Is there constant supervision by the Metropolitan County Board, Department of Public Health, and local boards of health of the hygienic conditions prevailing on race courses and trotting tracks?

6. Are glass-washing machines in operation on these premises when used by the public?

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

1 and 2. Information from the Metropolitan County Board shows that two orders have been issued under the food and drugs regulations requiring the installation of glass-washing apparatus at an hotel. Machines have been voluntarily installed at others. There are 200 hotels in the city and suburbs. Accurate information could be obtained as indicated below.

3 and 4. Accurate information could only be obtained in regard to the 381 hotels outside the metropolitan area either direct or through the local boards of health. It is known that at some country hotels clean water under pressure is not available so the issue of an order would not be practicable.

5. Race-courses and trotting tracks are inspected from time to time.

6. This information is not readily available. As in the case of hotels it could be obtained by direct inquiry from the racing authorities concerned or through the local boards.

## BLANCHETOWN FERRY.

Mr. DUNKS (on notice)—

1. What is the estimated cost of the second punt at Blanchetown crossing of the River Murray?

2. What is the cost up to the present?

3. When is it estimated that it will be completed?

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

1. £48,000; including ferry landings and approach roads.

2. £39,937.

3. Approximately three months.

#### TANUNDA HOUSING.

Mr. TEUSNER (on notice)—How many houses, if any, does the Housing Trust intend to build at Tanunda during the present financial year?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—At present the Housing Trust has a contract with a builder to erect three houses at Tanunda. Additional buildings will be carried out if the trust is

satisfied that a further demand exists for its houses.

#### HARBOUR TONNAGES.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice)—What was the total tonnage of cargoes of all types imported and exported respectively, through Outer Harbour and Port Adelaide during each of the financial years, 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953-54?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The figures are as follows:—

	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54. 11 months to 31st May.	*1953-54. Estimate for June.	1953-54. Totals including June Estimates. Tons.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	
Outer Harbour—					
Imports .. . . .	124,534	63,795	49,302	5,814	55,116
Exports .. . . .	88,723	42,197	50,448	5,645	56,093
Inner Harbour—					
Imports .. . . .	3,025,737	2,538,809	2,526,849	209,029	2,735,878
Exports .. . . .	951,076	1,156,179	1,068,153	63,535	1,131,688
Total Imports .. . . .	3,150,271	2,602,604	2,576,151	214,843	2,790,994
Total Exports .. . . .	1,039,799	1,198,376	1,118,601	69,180	1,187,781
Total In and Out .. . . .	4,190,070	3,800,980	3,694,752	284,023	3,978,775

\* For 1953-54, the figures shown are actual to the end of May and estimated for June.

#### TRAINEE TRAIN CONTROLLER.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (on notice)—

1. Were applications called for the position of trainee train controller at Peterborough in *Weekly Notice* 17/54?

2. If so, how many were received?

3. Has an appointment to this position been made?

4. If so, was the senior applicant appointed?

5. If the senior applicant was not appointed, what were the reasons?

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

1. Yes.

2. Twenty-five.

3. Yes.

4. Yes.

5. *Vide* 4.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption of Address in Reply.

(Continued from August 5. Page 287).

Mr. McALEES (Walleroo)—I support the motion and join with members in their reference to the visit earlier this year of Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Undoubtedly this visit has resulted in increasing the support of Australians for the Old Country. It is a great pity that such visits could not be made more often. I congratulate the new Ministers of Education, Railways and Roads, and Agriculture, on their appointments. I wish Sir George Jenkins, who recently retired from the office of Minister of Agriculture, the best of health, long life and happiness. I was disappointed to notice that my district was not mentioned in His Excellency's speech, nor has it been mentioned in any Governor's Speech since I have been a member. I congratulate those members whose districts were mentioned this year, and I suppose I may expect their sympathy for the omission of Wallaroo. This Government has paid scant attention to the needs of Wallaroo; indeed, whatever has been done for the district has been done by Labor Governments, and much of that good work has been destroyed by the Playford Government. My constituents are seldom visited by a Minister, except the Minister of Lands for whom they have the greatest respect and whom they are always happy to see.

On the eve of the last State elections the Premier, to prove his alleged desire for decentralization, said a meat works would be

established at Kadina, but today my constituents are wondering whether that statement was true. Although there may have been some legal hold-up, I wonder whether, even if that had not been so, a meat works would have been opened there. The people at Kadina will have to wait for a change of Government before they get their meat works, and the sooner that change comes about the sooner the people of my district will be able to look for progress.

Last week the member for Ridley, Mr. Stott, asked a question about Port Pirie harbour facilities and said that the channel there should be deepened; but I am a loss to know why he asked that question, for no town in South Australia has thrived more than Port Pirie, and credit for that must go to the member for the district, who does not require the assistance of Mr. Stott or anybody else. In reply to the question the Minister of Works said he had received a deputation from Port Pirie on the same matter and that some members of that deputation had said that, because of the lack of harbour facilities, ships were being diverted from Port Pirie to Wallaroo; but that statement is one of the most ridiculous ever made in this House, for at that time the Wallaroo waterside workers were on attendance money and waiting for a ship to come in. A ship did eventually berth at Wallaroo, but only because Port Pirie was full, and she had to wait four days before proceeding to Port Pirie with her cargo of coke and coal. Only this morning I learned that the Wallaroo waterside workers have been on attendance money for the past eight days, whereas every berth in Port Pirie is occupied. I hope that the Minister did not take the statement of the Port Pirie deputation too seriously. Although I am not jealous of Port Pirie, I claim it is over-industrialized and that some of the work done there could be diverted to other places badly in need of it. I do not complain about the construction of the power plant at Port Augusta, but I see no reason why Wallaroo should be continually overlooked.

In the near future about 60 men will be discharged from the Wallaroo-Mount Lyell fertilizer works at Wallaroo because of the shutting down of one part of the plant and the installation of certain machinery in another. Further, if the bulk handling of wheat is introduced, about 300 waterside workers at Wallaroo will be without work except for the handling of about 10,000 tons of phosphate rock, for which only a few men are required. It seems that the Wheat Board is

always in trouble. The silos are full of grain, and it cannot be disposed of. This would have happened to the Barley Board if it had mishandled its affairs, but fortunately its members have more business acumen than the Wheat Board. The Barley Board sold at a reasonable price, therefore the sheds are empty and the machinery waiting to handle the next harvest. The Wheat Board is still building new plant for the new harvest, which it is hoped will be a record one. Provision must be made for the wheat crop, but at the same time those at the head should be asked why the bottom fell out of the market. This did not happen to the barley market, because the board handled the matter in a proper way. Mr. Tomlinson, the manager of the Barley Board, congratulated and thanked those who had worked in his interests, particularly the waterside workers who had been criticized and scolded by everyone else, and his remarks were appreciated by them. Would such remarks be made by the Wheat Board, the stevedoring companies or the shipowners? Never. That is why the men co-operated with the Barley Board more, perhaps, than they have done with the Wheat Board.

Mr. O'Halloran—What you mean is that the Wheat Board will not co-operate with them.

Mr. McALEES—Yes, the board will not co-operate with the men. I have often listened to the member for Mitcham speaking about the good old days. I can well remember these good old days, when not only those in my district but people throughout South Australia experienced a period of bad seasons and poor wheat prices, and the farmers were hard pressed. In Wallaroo Mr. Muller, a schoolmaster who was also a very good singer, conducted singing and dancing on the jetty every Sunday night to raise money to buy seed wheat for the farmers. In those days farmers received 1s. 10d. a bushel, if they could buy seed wheat to sow, and they used to come into town in spring drays with the rims wired on the wheels to get their rations. These are the good old days that we hear so much about! Today, instead of spring drays, the farmers run about in Rolls Royces. As one who learnt the hard way, I say we should forget about the so-called good old days.

Since the appointment of the new Minister of Education, I, with many others, have looked forward to a big improvement in the department. I know a Minister cannot wave a magic wand, but we all have confidence that he will do his best and carry on where the job was left off. I urge that whatever money

the Government has to spare be put into education, because the boys and girls of today will be the men and women of tomorrow. Nobody knows the value of education more than those who have had very little. It is well known that there is a shortage of school teachers, and that is because the job is not made attractive enough. The member for Gawler mentioned that many married women are employed as teachers and have to employ people to do their home duties. This should not be necessary. In the Wallaroo school there are four or five married women employed as teachers. Their place is in the home, and I blame the Government for this position because it should see that there are girls and young men qualified for the job instead of encouraging married women from their homes. The Government can find money to put into wild cat mines but it cannot find enough for education. I hope that some notice will be taken of what I have said, although I do not expect anything to come of it. Members opposite praise their Premier. They are quite right in doing that, but he came into office in prosperous times. Other Premiers also did a good job. Sir Richard Butler even mentioned Wallaroo as a possible source of iron ore, and I think he was the best Premier that the L.C.L. ever had, but he did not suit the Liberal and Country League, so they politely pushed him overboard. I do not want to weary members with all my grievances, but I have drawn the Government's attention to a few matters needing urgent attention. I hope that some good will come from what I have said, and I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY (Chaffey)—I first wish to draw attention to the inordinate length of the speeches in recent years with which the Governor, or Lieutenant-Governor, has opened Parliament. Ministers of the Crown get considerable practice at reading speeches which other people prepare for them, and probably they would not feel the strain as much as our Governor in reading long speeches, but at least one Deputy Governor was considerably distressed by such an ordeal. I realize that I am now speaking on a subject which is perhaps not within the province of a private member, but I urge that in the future the speeches be sub-edited to see whether it is necessary for them to be as long as they have been in recent years.

I do not wish to traverse the ground so ably covered by previous speakers about the Royal

Visit. Like other citizens, I was glad to hear of the safe arrival of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in Australia, and I was also very glad when I heard that they were again safely back in England with their family. I suppose few people realize the tremendous physical and mental strain placed on the Queen in particular on a tour of this order. I sincerely hope that never again will Her Majesty be asked to undertake a tour of such magnitude, because it is asking more of human flesh and blood than can reasonably be asked. I join with other members in congratulating those members of this House who have been recently promoted to the Ministry. I extend to them my best wishes, though I know that I opposed an increase in the Ministry because I felt that it was unnecessary. I believed that six Ministers were ample, but Parliament decided otherwise. However, I have nothing but admiration for the way the new Ministers are facing up to their responsibilities. They are comparatively young men, vigorous and enthusiastic, and I have no doubt that the State will benefit from their administration.

Previous speakers have congratulated members who have been honoured by, technically speaking, Her Majesty. However, there has been one notable omission. I do not know why no-one has mentioned that the Independent Member for Ridley, Mr. Stott, has also had an honour bestowed on him. I hope that it was because in referring to so many other matters previous speakers overlooked Mr. Stott. His honour was richly deserved. When I came to this House for the first time about 16 years ago the wheat industry was a political football. It was kicked from pillar to post by every shade of political opinion. I remember when the present Minister of Agriculture, as member for Eyre, propounded a scheme for stabilizing the industry, but he was immediately pounced upon by the Labor Party, whose members said there was no virtue in what he said. The next week, when the Labor Party submitted a proposition for stabilizing the wheat industry, members on the Government benches did exactly the same. The man who brought to fruition these schemes was the member for Ridley. He did not do this on the floor of this House, but he solved the problem in a way that all similar problems are solved—by going out to the people concerned—the wheatgrowers—and organizing them so that he could bring something definite before the Government. If that was



the only thing that the honourable member ever did in his political life, he well deserved the honour bestowed upon him.

During the weekend people in my district had the great pleasure of a visit by the Minister of Education. I thank him for his courtesy in telling me that he would be in my district and in the district of the member for Ridley. This meant that I was able to inform members of primary and secondary school committees and councils, who work so hard for the benefit of schools, of the Minister's visit, so we were able to meet him to the great advantage of these bodies and, I hope, not without some advantage to the Minister himself. I appreciate the Minister's action, because in the past—no doubt because I have seen fit to differ with the Government on policy—Ministers have visited my district without my knowledge. Had I known of their visits I could have communicated with my constituents who could have met the Ministers, to the advantage of both parties. I hope that the happy practice established by the Minister of Education will continue and that no public criticism of mine will jeopardise the happy personal relationships existing between us.

I congratulate the Minister of Agriculture on his appointment, but I have a suggestion which I hope he will investigate before the Budget is presented. Rightly or wrongly, I have always felt that the Horticultural Branch of the Department of Agriculture has been regarded as a poor relation. The Government does not seem to appreciate the importance of horticulture and we have never had sufficient qualified officers to undertake the investigations and work needed in this State. The head of this department is well-known throughout the Commonwealth and is recognized as possessing high scientific qualifications. He is wholeheartedly wrapped up in his work and the growers who have met him have absolute faith in his wisdom and integrity. But what do we find? His time is taken up to a large extent with other responsibilities the Government has placed upon him. He is a member of the Dried Fruits Board. I do not suggest that he has less commercial ability than others, but others could do that work, whereas there is no-one else in South Australia who could do his work as a scientist. His time on that board is being wasted. I do not think it fair to place heads of departments on commercial boards, which often disagree with Government policy. As far as I know, the Government's policy has been to expand the dried fruits and

wine industries in order to absorb ex-service-men settlers from World War II, but the policy of the Dried Fruits Board has been to oppose expansion. I do not suggest that the growers think any the less of the Chief Horticulturist, but he is in an invidious position because of his association with that board. He is also concerned with the Potato Board and I do not think any board has received more adverse criticism than that one. The fate of that board is to be decided by the growers themselves. The Chief Horticulturist, through being appointed chairman of that board, is again in an invidious position.

The most important reason for relieving this officer of outside responsibilities is that his services are required as a full-time scientist. In view of the expansion taking place along the Murray will the Minister consider relieving the Chief Horticulturist of duties which interfere with his work as a scientist? Other officers, too, are needed because at present there is only one adviser for the north side of the river between Cobdogla and Renmark. No one officer can do all the work that is required. He is not only an adviser on horticultural matters but a horticultural policeman. He has to supervise the control of red scale, see that vineyards are sprayed regularly, and take censuses of peach and other trees, and these duties might occupy most of his time for three months on end. Whilst we are supposed to have an adviser, in actual practice the average grower never sees him.

The Hon. A. W. Christian—He would have other officers assisting him?

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—He has one part-time officer who undertakes some of the rudimentary work. I suggest that there should be one officer for Berri, Barmera, Winkie and nearby areas and another for Renmark and Cooltong. I believe there should be three officers but would be content if, for the moment, two officers could be stationed in my district to advise growers. Earlier last week I had the privilege of opening a conference in the Berri area at which over 100 school teachers were present. They attended to hear addresses from Mr. Penrose and Miss Holmes, members of the Education Department, whose responsibility it is to give music lessons. I was very interested to hear Mr. McAlees say that 30 years ago promenade concerts were held in the Wallaroo district to raise funds for charitable organizations. Throughout South Australia and the Commonwealth there are men and women interested in music who are glad to give their services to help

deserving causes. This conference—which was an eye-opener to me for I had heard little about this branch—must have been a wonderful inspiration to the hundred or so teachers present and of invaluable aid to them in teaching their pupils. This led me to think that the Education Department more or less centres its functions on the mundane aspect of teaching the child how to earn a livelihood. The bulk of our community work about 40 hours a week, leaving 128 hours a week to be filled in, and I believe that if the Education Department paid more attention the aesthetic side of life and gave the boys and girls something with which to fill in their spare time it would be doing something very valuable indeed. If he has not already done so I would suggest to the Minister that he pay particular attention to this branch of his department to see whether it would be possible to expand its scope, for in the 16 years I have lived in my district this is the first time to my knowledge that those officers have ever visited the river. I wish they were able to come very often and would like to think that there were other officers capable of carrying on this kind of work.

I now wish to draw attention to a practice that has been growing up lately and to which even the most prominent members of our Government seem to be addicted, namely, the giving of gratuitous advice to primary producers. It reminds me of the old story of teaching our grandmothers how to milk geese. If these people who feel that they must give advice to the primary producers would only be a little more specific and tell them how to cut down their cost of production and increase their efficiency there might be some virtue in their advice, but they don't do that. They get up, sometimes on the floor of this House and sometimes in other places, murmur in their beards for a while about things over which the primary producer has no control, and then sit down feeling that they have done their job. I should like to examine some of the costs that the primary producer has to meet so that if any Minister or other member feels able to give advice to our primary producers who let me say, are second to none in the Commonwealth, he may take this opportunity of doing so. Some time ago I visited a district in the back blocks of New South Wales and when I made it known that I came from South Australia I was told that some of the best farmers in that district were South Australians and that they were second to none in growing wheat in low rainfall areas. What advice would our gratuit-

ous advisers give men such as that? Wheat growing is largely a family concern. In probably 90 per cent of cases the farmer and his family carry on the work of the farm. They could, of course, work even longer hours than is the practice. I suppose that at seeding time and harvest the average farmer works anything up to 80 hours a week, which is 100 per cent more than those engaged in secondary industries are asked to do. Would our efficiency experts suggest that the farmer should work more than 80 hours a week? Surely not. Therefore, we can rule out the possibility that the labour position can be altered.

The next considerable expense in farming is the cost of manures. We cannot maintain maximum production on our farms without adequate supplies of manures, so what is the answer to that problem? Has the farmer any control over the price of manures, or is it controlled by the big interests in the city? The modern farms must have a good deal of expensive machinery and plant. Is it suggested that machinery should be abolished and that the farmer revert to horses, or even oxen if they were cheaper, or is it a fact that, willy-nilly, the farmer must mechanize? If so—and I believe we must—what control has he over the cost of his machinery and plant? So one could go on, but the point is that these people who give this entirely gratuitous advice—and it could be taken as insulting advice—to our primary producers do not know what they are talking about. They seem still to regard the primary producer as some kind of back-block hayseed leaning up against a post with a straw hanging from his lips.

The Hon. A. W. Christian—I think that went overboard long ago.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—If so what is the purpose of all this advice that I complain about? How can you tell a man to produce more economically when he has no control over the cost of the materials with which he must work?

The Hon. A. W. Christian—He has control of some of his costs.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—Tell me what they are.

The Hon. A. W. Christian—For one thing he can exercise business acumen.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—The primary producers are organized today by Mr. Stott in a way they have never been organized before. If that organization, with the best brains behind it, has no business acumen the Minister should tell it so. I am not prepared to accept that statement.

The Hon. A. W. Christian—Isn't there room for improvement even in business methods?

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—Yes. If the Minister could make a valuable contribution in this matter the wheat industry would be the first to appreciate it. My complaint is that the gratuitous advice given to primary producers is of no value at all. The costs paid to the middleman are ruining the dried fruits, citrus and wine industries. In connection with the dried fruits industry, I have not been able to get exactly the price the grower gets for the products sold on the Australian market because an equalization scheme applies. For the 1953 crop the overseas payment has been about £90 a ton. To get the Australian price another £10 may be added. That dried fruit is retailed on the Adelaide market at £270 a ton. In view of that, is it fair to advise the grower to be more efficient and to produce his crop more cheaply?

The Hon. A. W. Christian—Has there been an appreciable fall in the price of garden land?

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—No, speaking by and large. The growers are hanging on hoping that the position will rectify itself. Depressions and changes in values are not new to the growers. They have lived through them before and they hope to do so again, and that is why land values are holding up. The position is the same with the citrus fruits industry. If there is any inefficiency there it is not due to the producer for he does a good job. It is when the produce leaves him that the exploitation starts.

The Hon. A. W. Christian—What is the Australian Dried Fruits Association doing about it?

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—I suppose it is doing all it can, but if the association cannot protect its members is that any reason why the middleman should be allowed to exploit them? This afternoon I asked the Premier a question regarding a primary producer who was charged about £13 for a 3ft. 6in. length of 2in. diameter piping, with perhaps one or two bends in it. Is that a reasonable charge? Why not put the blame on those who are exploiting the growers instead of giving gratuitous advice to growers who are doing almost a 100 per cent job. I have a return for oranges sent to Adelaide in March of this year. The grower was surprised to see that his oranges had sold under the circumstances at a good price. For 361 cases his gross return was £418 1s. 6d., but he was not happy when he went through the account sales and found that all he got was £196 19s. 4d.

Mr. Jennings—Who got the rest?

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—The middleman. There were handling, packing and transport charges, and the cost of cases. This took £221 2s. 2d.

Mr. John Clark—Surely this calls for an inquiry?

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—I am not asking for one at present, but I am asking for common decency instead of the boots being put into the primary producers.

The Hon. A. W. Christian—What were the various charges?

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—They cover packing, freight, cartage, levy and commission. The point is that if the people of Adelaide are paying exorbitant prices for oranges—and I believe they are—the growers are not responsible for it. The middlemen are taking too much out of the industry.

The Hon. A. W. Christian—I want the facts. I am not siding with anyone. What are the costs of the cases and the transportation?

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—I have not got the itemized costs.

The Hon. A. W. Christian—Those you mentioned are not debited against the middleman.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—They should not be debited against the grower.

The Hon. A. W. Christian—I am talking about the cases in which the oranges are put. The cost of the cases is one item and then there are the transportation charges.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—And commission is another.

The Hon. A. W. Christian—They are costs that arise in any case and are not debited against the middleman.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—Every charge I mentioned is a middleman's charge. The Government is embroiled in this, too, because it charges maximum rates for case timber. Even if the Government reduced its price, someone in between would snatch the extra 1s. I got the following information from the secretary of the Citrus Growers Association:—In 1952 the average price of navel oranges on the Adelaide market was 27s. 5d., and in 1953 it had dropped to 18s. 7d. The prices of valencias in those two years were 31s. 2d. and £1 and 9d. On the Melbourne market the price of navel oranges in 1952 was 30s. 5d. and in 1953 it was 21s. 4d., and for valencias the respective figures were 34s. 9d. and 21s. 3d. Speaking broadly, the return to the growers had dropped 10s. a case between 1952 and 1953, but Adelaide consumers throughout the navel season had paid exactly the same price—3d. to 4d. an orange.

Is that the reason why we should blame the producers for lack of efficiency?

One of the major expenses in the irrigation areas is the cost of water. In 1949 the Government appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Drew (Under Treasurer), on which also were Mr. Gordon (Superintendent of Irrigation), Mr. Jeffery (Senior Investigating Officer, Department of Industry), the Government Economist (Mr. Seaman), and two grower representatives, one from Barmera and the other from Waikerie. They produced one of the most extraordinary reports ever to come from a committee. Right throughout growers stated that they were not in a position to stand any increase of water rates. They pointed out that the only benefit they received was increased prices over a short period when they obtained returns which enabled them to pay off back debts. The growers concerned are mainly returned soldiers from World War I., who for more than a quarter of a century had no possibility of paying their debts, and it was not until World War II. that prices increased to enable them to earn sufficient to pay off liabilities, some of which had been carried for more than 25 years. This could have been the only reason that this committee reported that the Government was justified in increasing the water rates. One of the charges laid against the Government by growers was referred to by the present Minister of Education on the floor of this House last year when he was a private member. He then referred to the costs and expenses of running our irrigation areas. In its report the committee said:—

The committee was informed by the local representatives of growers that the opinion was widespread that the Government's costs of supplying water were higher than they need be, particularly in regard to head office administrative costs and accounting costs. It was suggested that there is unnecessary duplication of records and activity in the local and central offices, and that the present centralization of records in Adelaide also meant less satisfactory service and information to the settlers.

That was a serious charge made to a committee whose sole purpose, one would imagine, was to investigate facts. Its report further stated:—

The committee was able to clear up some misconceptions regarding Government costs and accounting procedure, but on the general criticism of the remote administration, duplication of records, and lack of economy the committee considers it is not in a position to judge.

If the committee could not make a decision on whether there was extravagance, what right is there now to pass on the increased costs to

growers? There is no doubt in the minds of those knowing anything about the irrigation areas that they are over-governed. There is unnecessary duplication which does not work to the advantage of the settlers.

The Hon. A. W. Christian—Was the committee's decision concurred in by the grower members?

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—They were on a committee of six headed by such exponents of finance as the Under Treasurer and the Government Economist, and felt themselves in a very invidious position. I attended a meeting at which one of the settlers' representatives explained why they had agreed. He admitted he did not know that a minority report could have been submitted. He took it that the majority carried the day. When the Land Settlement Committee was inquiring into the Loxton scheme evidence was given by one of the leading officers of the Irrigation Department which showed that the head office in Adelaide was going to cost approximately the same as the local office where all the work for the irrigation area was done. The work of local officers did not mean a thing. Evidently what they did was to collate information and send it to Adelaide. The effect was that with all the organization the Irrigation Department had organized itself into stupidity. The report also stated:—

It would appear that since the 1941 season the costs of production have on the average risen by about 55 to 60 per cent, whilst prices have risen by 45 to 50 per cent. Perhaps the higher figure in each case would best represent the facts.

In other words, the returns to growers were still 10 per cent behind the costs of production. The report added:—

Accordingly, it appears that the present marginal returns in money terms above costs is not substantially greater than in 1941. If allowance is made for the reduced purchasing power of money at present we are satisfied that the average settler has no better current margin above costs and living expenses in 1949 than in 1941 . . . . Thus, whilst it would appear that upon a strict accounting of present-day costs and present-day returns, growers are in little better position than in 1941, their capital position, the equity in their holdings, and their financial commitments have been appreciably changed to their advantage.

All that happened in the meantime was that growers were able to pay off debts they had been carrying since the completion of settlement following World War I. The committee then adds:—

For this reason we are satisfied that settlers generally can reasonably afford to pay some increased charge for their water.

There had not been one shred of evidence to support that, except the one instance I gave that settlers had been able to pay their debts. So the Government will increase its charges and put these men back into debt again. That is the only conclusion one can come to. At the end of this extraordinary report—one that is unique in the history of any Government—appears the following:—

To persons not closely acquainted with the industry of the irrigation areas, the conclusion of this committee that the present margin between returns and costs of production are little if at all better than in 1941 may be surprising. Most of the other major primary industries, and in particular wool and wheat, are receiving returns which have increased by considerably more than have costs. The irrigation fruits industry has not been able to participate to such an extent in the great rise in world parity prices of primary products. In the earlier years of the war agreements were made with the United Kingdom for the sale of dried fruit at prices which were undoubtedly below what could have been obtained by fully exploiting the market. The sales upon the local market, at the same time, have been subject to the control of the Prices Commissioner, and he has only permitted such price rises as have been fully supported by acknowledged increases in production costs.

The growers were glad to accept that limitation on the export price, because they knew that the Mother Country was up against it and that her credit resources were strained but, although Australian growers did not take advantage of Britain's necessity by extracting the maximum price, today they find themselves no better off than other exporters of fruit, such as the Greeks, who exploited the market to the utmost and today can undercut Australian export prices. Despite this, the South Australian Government has increased the water rates of these producers. Only a few months ago a deputation asked the Minister of Irrigation to rescind those increases because of the drop in returns from dried and citrus fruits and wine grapes. The report states:—

In arriving at the recommendation prime regard has been paid to the present position of the industry, and it is our opinion that, should there be any substantial change in costs, prices, or other factors affecting the industry, the whole matter should be further reviewed.

The deputation asked the Minister to review the rates because there had been a material change in the income of the dried and citrus fruits and wine industries, but in reply to my question recently the Minister said:—

I have reached the conclusion that there is no justification for a reduction of the charges which it is pointed out are less than those made by the Renmark Irrigation Trust for general irrigations, and also less than charged

by the Mildura Irrigation Trust for both generals and specials. It is expected that Government costs for the operation and maintenance of the irrigation areas will be higher this year than in 1952-53, but notwithstanding this it is not proposed to increase the irrigation and drainage charges for the current year.

The Minister says he sees no justification for a reduction in the charges, but he completely ignores the recommendation of the committee on whose findings he originally increased them. Further, there is no comparison between the Renmark and Mildura settlements and the newer soldier settlement irrigation areas, for Renmark and Mildura were developed in the closing years of the 19th century and the early years of this century and, consequently their developmental costs bear no relationship to those of districts settled by soldiers from the two World Wars. Because of this treatment by the authorities, the fruitgrowers on the River Murray have less control over their agricultural destiny than have the Kulaks of Communist Russia. Apparently in South Australia, even when a so-called impartial committee makes a recommendation, the Government, through its responsible Minister, is able to ignore it. Government leaders have the audacity to suggest that the primary producer use more efficient and economic means of production, while at the same time those very leaders impose rates that ensure primary production cannot be efficient. In reply to the Minister's statement that the Mildura and Renmark trusts have not done much about this problem, I quote the following statement from a recent edition of the *Berri Community News*:—

Water users in the First Mildura Irrigation Trust district will save an estimated £6,300 in water rates as a result of the fixing of a reduced uniform water rate. The new rate has been fixed at £7 15s. an acre for the 1954-55 irrigation which is a saving of 9s. an acre compared with the 1953-54 rate. Rates for the 1954-55 irrigation year have been fixed by F.M.I.T. Commissioners. The new rate is considerably below the estimated cost of supplying water for the year. The commissioners decided that in view of the prices at present being received for dried fruit, cost of water must be reduced to the lowest possible figure.

Yet Mr. Hincks thinks the charge in this State should be increased to the highest possible figure. The article continues:—

The reduction in the rate has been made possible, primarily because of grants received from the State Government and also by economy in the operation of the trust district.

In saying that the rates in other districts were higher the Minister showed that he did not

know that the Mildura trust, as a policy, reduced the irrigation costs to its growers so that they could be kept in production and out of the Bankruptcy Court. On the other hand, the Playford Government has made no such effort: it has refused to implement the latest recommendation of the committee that recommended the original increase. Instead of giving gratuitous advice to the primary producer, Government authorities should tell the city people that the primary producer is working at a maximum capacity to supply both Australian and overseas markets and will not be able to carry the city people on his back much longer. It would be more pertinent to advise the manufacturer of machinery and fertilizers to ease the primary producer's burden than to tell the primary producer to be more efficient.

This exploitation of the primary producer is not limited to South Australia. Recently Victorian pig breeders complained to the Victorian Minister of Agriculture that, although they were receiving lower prices for their pigs, the prices of bacon, ham and pork to the consumer were as high as ever. An article from a Victorian country newspaper states:—

Bacon and ham had been free of control since September, 1948. The Acting Minister for Prices, Mr. Coleman, said a quick survey by the Prices Commissioner, Mr. Waldron, had shown that very big margins were being obtained by traders dealing in ham and bacon. Producers had told the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Stoneham, that the public was being asked to pay very high prices for these commodities, even though the price of pigs at market had fallen greatly. Cabinet also decided to ask Mr. Waldron to review smallgoods' prices and to watch current prices of pork. Mr. Coleman warned that failure by wholesalers or retailers of these lines to follow current market trends and to trade on normal margins would, undoubtedly, lead to re-control. Uncontrolled retail bacon prices on Monday were:—Best middle rashers, 6s. 6d. a pound (a fall of 3d. on last week's prices); and shoulder bacon, 5s. 11d. a pound. A recent deputation of producers told Mr. Stoneham that producers were receiving only 1s. 8d. to 2s. a pound while housewives were paying up to 6s. 9d. a pound. Mr. Waldron said the controlled prices for bacon and ham would be gazetted as soon as possible.

The Victorian Government is giving direction in the right place by telling the exploiters what will happen to them if they continue to exploit both consumer and primary producer. Such action is more effective than the gratuitous advice handed out by those in high places to South Australian primary producers.

The wine industry is one of our leading industries, and I support Mr. Quirke's suggestion that more opportunities be given for the

sale of wine in this State, because the sale of wine is far more important to this than to any other State, and it is far more important to my district than to any other in the Commonwealth, for no district produces more grapes to be used for wine. While I agree with the salient points put by Mr. Quirke, I do not think he has the whole answer. To speak about the wine industry one must know its history, which is unique in that it has been developed along family lines. This industry was founded three generations ago, when the pioneer forefathers of the present winemakers came to this country and started to grow vines, and with their integrity and ability developed a trade of which we can be proud. They have built up a name for their wines second to none, not only in the Commonwealth, but throughout the world. Because there was no competition when they were building up their trade they have what is practically a monopoly of wine sales in the Commonwealth, and if we increase sales throughout Australia the young grower will get only an indirect benefit because he has not the reputation that the family concerns have. I have no desire to take this right away from them because they worked and made sacrifices to build up their businesses, but I suggest additional opportunities should be given to the younger growers. Distilleries in the river district are handling the grapes grown by returned soldiers from the first war, and a bigger one I hope will be soon handling the product of vineyards owned by men from the last war. The Minister of Agriculture should investigate the possibility of putting wines on the British market. In the dried fruits industry there is what is known as an equalization scheme by which the people who have the benefit of a protected Commonwealth market pay a levy to make up for losses on exports, and I suggest this could be done in the wine industry. The market should be left for those who can compete for it. The Minister of Agriculture's scheme should be gone into with the Commonwealth Government to see whether some arrangement could be made to get our co-operative wineries to agree to export wines subject to a subsidy being paid to them. I support the motion.

Mr. STEPHENS (Port Adelaide)—I support the motion. Like other members I was very pleased at the opportunity given to the people of South Australia to show their loyalty to the Throne and to Her Majesty the Queen. The arrangements were a credit to those concerned. The children's display at Wayville

is something that will never be forgotten by those who were fortunate enough to see it, and the organization that enabled the children to put on such a fine display was wonderful. As Her Majesty said that she will visit South Australia again, it should be made possible for her to travel around the suburbs, and to have children and old folk accommodated at the different racecourses, ovals and other reserves. Her Majesty could go through on a slow non-stop drive, which would give thousands who did not have the opportunity on the last occasion the opportunity of seeing Her.

I offer my congratulations to the new Ministers. I have known both the Minister of Education and the Minister of Agriculture for many years and on several occasions have heard them severely criticize the Government. However, I suppose that will not happen again as they are now members of the Government. At one time before a meeting at a small country town a discussion took place on how to stop the interjection of a man who always attended such meetings for that purpose, and it was decided to put him in the chair. However, I do not suggest that this is why the two members I have mentioned have been given portfolios. Although on many occasions I have not agreed with them they have an interest in their work, are very sincere, and will do a good job. Sir George Jenkins has rendered a good service to his Party and to the State, and all members on this side of the House wish him well.

Although the Governor's Speech referred to many important matters, some items of importance were omitted, including amendments to the Constitution and electoral reform. We realize that the Government is not in favour of an amendment to the Constitution; we also know it will do nothing to bring about electoral reform because it wishes to remain on the Treasury benches. Other matters that should have been contained in the speech are an improvement in the Workmen's Compensation Act and the provision of long service leave and retiring allowances for the men who have served the country so well. I regret that the Arbitration Court has seen fit to ignore marginal differences, which is one of the worst things that the court has ever done. Marginal differences should be sacrosanct, as Mr. Justice Higgins said in his book, *A New Province for Law and Order*. If they are not provided, in the years to come young men will not worry about learning a trade because they will not be compensated for the time and money spent in learning it.

Salary increases and better treatment for our school teachers are an urgent need, because we cannot expect people to enter this profession if they are not to receive a reasonable remuneration for their services.

I regret that no reference was made in the Governor's speech to sewerage works. Mention has often been made of the lack of sewerage in the country, but many here would be surprised to learn the number of dwellings in my district not connected to the sewers that have to use the old pan or pit system. Something should be done to provide sewerage to these homes instead of waiting until some disease breaks out. When the Government had its insurance office it was profitable. I think the Gunn Government established it and it made thousands of pounds of profit that was paid into revenue. What happened? There was a change of Government and the insurance was handed over to private enterprise. Decentralization should receive more support from the Government than it has, though this Government has done a little. The extension of electric power to country areas has assisted decentralization because many people will be able to enjoy some of the amenities that we have in the city. When the supply of electric power was in the hands of private enterprise those people had no opportunity or hope of getting electricity. The Adelaide Electric Supply Co. Ltd. was not run to provide a service, but to make a profit. That meant dividends before service.

Mr. Dunks—It gave a pretty good service, too.

Mr. STEPHENS—I have heard the honourable member on that before. He stood up in this House and fought his own Premier and many other members in an effort to prevent the passing of the Bill taking over the company; yet when that fine power station at Port Augusta was opened recently he was not prepared to tell the people, "I did my best to prevent this station being erected."

Mr. Dunks—I did not get the opportunity.

Mr. STEPHENS—All the same, the honourable member would not have said it. If he is able to convince some members opposite in the years to come I am afraid the trust may go back to private enterprise, for he has said, and it is recorded in *Hansard*, that the Government should provide services for the people and when they begin to pay they should be handed over to private enterprise. Is it honest to use the people's money to build up an industry and then hand it over to someone else? That is the way some people have

become wealthy, but it is not in line with the teachings of the Bible. Some people would not allow the people a lottery, but they are prepared not only to rob the people of their rights but to hand over a profitable Government undertaking to private companies.

Mr. Brookman—Are you afraid the Electricity Trust will be sold to private enterprise?

Mr. STEPHENS—It would be if the honourable member had his way.

Mr. Brookman—I don't think you need worry.

Mr. STEPHENS—That is what happened to the Government Insurance Office. Some of my constituents wanted a supply of electric power, and I approached the Adelaide Electric Supply Co. for them, but was told, "If you guarantee that so many people will apply for power and use so many units it will pay us and we will make the installations. If you don't give the guarantee the people will not get power." The Bill establishing the Electricity Trust would never have been passed but for the efforts of the Labor Party. The Liberal and Country League deliberately blocked the Bill in another place.

Mr. Brookman—You said that the company needed a guarantee before supplying power. What does the trust do?

Mr. STEPHENS—It does not ask for a guarantee.

Mr. Brookman—It makes pretty sure that a good many units will be consumed.

Mr. STEPHENS—That is dodging the question. I am prepared to give the honourable member's Government more credit than he is. Some people do not greatly care what the Government does, whether good or bad. They are so jealous and selfish that they want everything for the few. Since the Government took over the electricity company country people are getting more of the amenities of life. When the Bill was introduced we listened attentively to the Premier and thought he had a good case. It is not often that he has, but when he has we on this side give him all the assistance we can. Paragraph 9 of the Governor's Speech states:—

In the irrigation areas an important development is the extended use of electricity for pumping. The electrically operated pumping station at Loveday is giving full satisfaction, and the conversion of other pumping stations to electricity is being carried out.

That is something that would not have happened but for the support of the Labor Party.

No member opposite can deny that. Paragraph 14 of the Governor's Speech states:—

The operations of the Electricity Trust reflect the growth of production. During the present financial year electricity supplied to industry increased by 20 per cent, and total sales will be approximately 675,000,000 units—100,000,000 units above the amount sold last year. The trust's consumers are increasing at the rate of 1,000 a month and now number 187,000. A considerable proportion of the new consumers are in country areas, to which the trust gives special attention.

Mr. Brookman—Hear, hear!

Mr. STEPHENS—Private enterprise would not consider country people like that or give them any amenities unless it was assured of getting its pound of flesh first, yet the honourable member says "Hear, hear!"

Mr. Brookman—The electricity company, like most companies, wanted a profit.

Mr. STEPHENS—I am glad the honourable member admits that, for it is the only thing that private enterprise worries about. When our tramways service was established the electricity company tried to prevent the trust from supplying its own power. I remember the company stated in the press that the trust could not supply its own light and power. There was a great uproar about this, and a big meeting was held in the old Exhibition Building. On the very night of that meeting the electric light failed and the building was plunged into darkness. I shall quote again from the Governor's Speech:—

During the year the electricity supply on Yorke Peninsula was extended to Edithburgh and Yorketown, and a transmission line built from Kadina to Moonta. Electricity has also been connected to the irrigation areas between Mannum and Murray Bridge and will be taken down the river to Wellington. Electricity has also been supplied to Radium Hill from Adelaide by a transmission line 260 miles in length. Construction of the power station at Port Augusta has proceeded rapidly. The generating plant is being installed, and electricity will be produced during this winter. In view of the proved deposits of coal at Leigh Creek, the trust is designing another power station at Port Augusta, which will bring the total capacity of its stations there to 270,000 kilowatts. An agreement has been reached between the trust and the Forestry Board respecting the establishment of an electrical power station in the South-East. This plant will use waste wood as fuel and will supply power not only to the Government mills but also to the general public in Mount Gambier, Penola, Millicent, and other places. Later, additional stations will be established for the further extension of electricity supplies in the South-East.

We would have had none of this had it not been for the awful "socialism" to which some members opposite have referred. When the



Premier first introduced a measure to establish the Electricity Trust it was rejected by Liberal members. The Premier then called a special session of Parliament and submitted another Bill which was passed by both Houses. The Premier was like the British bulldog. Once he got his teeth into something he would not let go and he got his teeth into some members of his own Party. When the vote on that measure was taken in this House, 29 members supported it and five opposed it. Those supporting it comprised 16 Labor members, 12 Liberals and one Independent. Not one Labor member opposed the measure. Four Liberals and one Independent voted against it and two Independents who supported the measure paired with two Liberals. It can be seen that had it not been for the support of my Party the Bill would not have passed. When it was before the Legislative Council it passed with a majority of one. I suggest that had some Council members not been afraid of what might have happened they would never have supported the proposal. Of the eight votes in support of the Bill, five were from Labor members. Every Labor representative in that House supported the measure but only three Liberals. The seven who opposed the Bill were all Liberals. I contend that the Labor Party was responsible for the passage of that measure and for providing the amenities to country people derived from the use of electricity. I have heard it suggested that my Party does not consider country people. We do, by actions and not by words.

Another socialistic undertaking of the Government is the Leigh Creek coalfield. One man, a Labor member, who has since passed to the Great Beyond, was entitled to much of the credit for that venture. Both inside and outside this House he urged the establishment of a State-owned coalfield at Leigh Creek. He was not listened to at first, but he kept battling and eventually the Premier saw the light and established this field. The Adelaide Electric Supply Company refused to use Leigh Creek Coal. It could easily have adapted its furnaces but was opposed to the use of the coal because the field was Government controlled. However, there are now two Government socialistic projects working for the betterment of this State. I understand that the power station at Port Augusta will consume Leigh Creek coal.

Paragraph 11 of His Excellency's Speech refers to the Government's policy of improving our railways which are still a vital factor in our transport system. I have always supported the railways. Without them the country would

not have been developed. Many people who accepted the assistance of the Railways Department in opening up land and increasing its value now complain because they cannot get a cheaper or better rail service. It does not matter what rates are charged, some people will complain. It has been suggested that road transport should be used. I suggest it is time to electrify some of our railways. It would not be necessary then to import coal from interstate and oil from overseas and it would speed up our services. One portion of paragraph 11 states:—

Satisfactory service has been given by the diesel-electric locomotives. During the year tenders were called for 10 more of these locomotives for use on main lines, and a contract was let for 10 smaller diesel-electric locomotives for work at Port Adelaide.

Are those engines to be used only at Port Adelaide, or as I hope, on the Port Adelaide line? Paragraph 13 of His Excellency's speech refers to harbour improvements. I have examined the proposal, but there does not appear to be any provision for the establishment of a suitable dock at Port Adelaide. A port without a dock is not up-to-date. Boats would come here more often if there were a dock where repairs could be effected. They would not have to go interstate.

Many of our hospitals are overcrowded, including Royal Adelaide. Only a fortnight ago an old age pensioner came to me almost in tears saying that his wife was sick and had no-one to look after her except himself and the district nurse who came in daily to wash her. The doctor had told him that he should try to get his wife into Royal Adelaide, but he had been unable to do so. He saw two doctors who referred him to a lady who, I presume, was the almoner. I have not heard of the case since, and whether or not the old lady died, but my point is that such conditions should not exist in a country like South Australia. We who are enjoying good health should do all we can to help the sick and, as a Parliament, should not leave it to charitable and religious organizations. I hope there will be no further delay in the completion of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It has been under construction for a very long time; indeed, I have heard it said by the time the maternity ward is ready to take patients some of the babies who should have been born there will have become mothers.

I offer my congratulations to other members on their speeches on this motion. The usually sound, constructive speech of the Leader of the Opposition, who analyzed most of the matters

referred to in His Excellency's speech, was well worth hearing. The member for Stirling (Mr. Wm. Jenkins), referred to the control of tuberculosis and asked that more be done to eradicate it. He mentioned the glasses used in hotels, at sports gatherings and other places for dispensing beverages and I admire him for bringing this topic forward. It is not only in hotels and on racecourses where the washing of glasses should be closely supervised, because there are many places, such as refreshment rooms, which need supervision. Some of the places manufacturing foodstuffs are a disgrace and simply breeding grounds for disease. This awful scourge of T.B. has been brought very close home to me in my own family, and I know it can destroy, strong, healthy young people who contract it through the neglect of others. I have seen sufferers from T.B. drinking in hotels. After they have finished they put their glasses down on the counter and walk off. The glasses are simply slushed around in water and the germs left to float about, thereby spreading the disease. The sooner we make notification of this disease and its treatment compulsory, as the honourable member advocates, the sooner will we eradicate it. Dr. Cowan has told us that we could wipe it out in 25 years if we passed the right laws and did the right thing although if neighbouring States did not act simultaneously in the same way it would militate against the success of our own wise course. Immigrants should be thoroughly screened to see that they are not carrying the disease. I give Mr. Jenkins all possible credit for having brought this matter forward. If he will keep on fighting for it he will some day achieve success and I am sure he will have the blessing of every member of this House.

I regret that the member for Torrens, Mr. Travers, is not in his seat at the moment. He referred to the long hours of work and small pay of young men in the legal profession. I suggest that he could do something to improve their conditions by putting up a case for them to the Law Society, which is a strong and powerful organization consisting mainly of wealthy people. If this course proved unsuccessful these young people should take their case to the Arbitration Court and then, perhaps, we would see the honourable member acting for both sides. He also referred to "Socialists' supporters." Was he referring to himself? For he is a Socialist supporter; he is supporting the Premier, the leader of Socialism in this House. The Premier has the support of members like Mr. Travers who, although they condemn

Socialism, are standing solidly behind a Socialist Premier—and I do not blame them.

Mr. Shannon—Is that criticism or praise?  
Mr. STEPHENS—It is praise.

Mr. Shannon—It will read all right, but the tone of voice seemed a little sarcastic.

Mr. STEPHENS—I think the honourable member was one of those who opposed the socialization of the Adelaide Electric Supply Company, but I praise the Premier for his attitude on that question, and am fairly criticizing other members who claimed that they were opponents of Socialism but accepted that measure in supporting their leader.

Mr. Travers also dealt with appeals against the decisions of stewards in both horse racing and trotting. I asked by interjection whether he agreed with me that the press should be allowed to attend hearings of appeals and he said that he did. I do not know much about appeals in racing, but I do know something of trotting appeals, and those to which he referred were appeals against the decisions of the stewards—and that alone. I want members clearly to understand that he was not referring to appeals against decisions of the league because that is an altogether different matter. If a reinsman is fined or suspended for a term by the stewards he has the right to go to the Appeal Board when, according to the honourable member—and I believe he is right—he is allowed legal representation. If there is an appeal against the league's decision there is no right to legal representation.

Mr. Shannon—I thought Mr. Travers was concerned because in these appeals the people responsible for the disqualification or fine were not always witnesses and could not be cross-examined.

Mr. STEPHENS—He said that the stewards could not be cross-examined.

Mr. Shannon—Do you agree with that?

Mr. STEPHENS—I agree with what he said. The same position should apply to the league, which has far greater power than the stewards. If I were to say anything that the league considered improper I could be disqualified for life and, in addition, fined as much as £100. If I appealed against that decision I would have no right to representation. League rule 482 says:—

Every person commits a corrupt or improper practice within the meaning of these rules who in South Australia or in any other country—

Then paragraph 16 continues:—

At any times writes or causes to be written, publishes or causes to be published, utters or causes to be uttered, any improper, insulting or

abusive language with reference to the league or any members or officials of such body, the stewards, racecourse inspectors, committee, officials, officers or members of any club or to the handicapping, starting, racing or anything connected therewith.

That applies to everybody. Who but the league decides what is improper language? It was once said that the secretary and I said something improper and a member of this place, who was a solicitor, was requested to issue a writ against us, but it was not gone on with. Another paragraph says:—

Refuses to supply any information or make a written declaration, statutory or otherwise, respecting any matter connected with trotting or any horse registered with the league or the ownership thereof which the stewards, committee, racecourse inspectors or league shall require him to supply or make.

Whether a person is a member of the league or not, he can be disqualified for life, which means he cannot go on to any racecourse in Australia. Have members heard anything like it before? The matter will be before Parliament shortly and members should understand the position. Years ago I told Parliament I would not break a promise I made. I said that if I found anything wrong with trotting I would expose it and I intend to let members know everything. I want to pass down to my family the reputation that was passed down to me by my father. I do not intend to mislead members of this place. The books and documents of the Trotting Club are open to any member of Parliament. I invite members to go along and see them, there is nothing secret. We do not refuse to publish a balance sheet, but the Trotting League does not have to produce one. It has really been appointed by Parliament. The club pays in £7,000 a year. We do not know what other clubs pay in. We cannot find out because the league will not tell us. Money has been paid into a trust fund, but the league will not produce a balance sheet. It does not have to provide one for the Registrar of Companies. I have a copy of the league's balance sheet, but I am not supposed to have it. The position is serious and members should examine it carefully before the matter comes before the House.

Mr. Travers referred to accused persons awaiting trial by the court and every member must have been disgusted when he heard of the treatment meted out to them. The honourable member spoke about innocent people, innocent because they had not been found guilty, being handcuffed, hustled into the Black Maria and sent to gaol, where they were given 1½ lb. of bread, one ounce of cheese and two ounces of

jam, and locked up in a cell for 16 hours, with only a bucket for a lavatory. Mr. Travers referred to the improvements made in Tasmania. It is not many years since I was in that State and I saw the black cells where prisoners used to be flogged and where there was a gutter for the blood to run away. I saw much of the awful conditions that existed and was surprised at the improvement that had been made there considerably in advance of South Australia's. I heard that conditions here were bad but I did not know they were as bad as they are. I do not think any member would refuse to support the honourable member in a move to improve them. We were told that this applies over one night, but does it apply every night when a case is adjourned for a fortnight? Does the accused person have to stay in the cell for 16 hours each day until his case comes on again? We say that our prisons are a place of reform but it is no wonder that men after serving a term of imprisonment revolt against society. I do not call that British justice. The matter has been brought forward and if the Government takes no action something will happen in the future, because all church people and others desiring an improvement in the position will rise up in protest at the awful treatment meted out to these people. I do not think one member of the Government would agree to it. I conclude by offering congratulations to the member for Norwood (Mr. Dunstan) for the way in which he analyzed figures he had received from the Government Economist. This analysis only went to show that a statement made by the Leader of the Opposition was justified, and all members should be thankful to Mr. Dunstan for putting the true position before them. When he referred to the Education Department I know the Minister of Education listened to him attentively and no doubt will consider the suggestions offered, but I appreciate that he cannot do all that we want. Although the State recorded a big credit balance last financial year, we cannot afford to provide as much money for education as we should like. I support the motion and hope that some good will come from what has been said by honourable members.

Mr. HAWKER (Burra)—I express thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his gracious speech in opening this Session of Parliament, and associate myself with all those speakers who have mentioned the visit of Her Majesty the Queen. It was one of the most outstanding events in the British Commonwealth of

Nations—previously known as the British Empire, a name I like better. I pay a tribute to those responsible for the organization of the visit. Never before have we seen such crowds congregated in Adelaide. One thing the authorities could not accurately forecast was where all the people would be, and therefore during Her royal progress part of the route was only thinly guarded by members of the police force, who deserve credit for their work. Like other honourable members, I saw the visit from two angles—one as an ordinary citizen on the route of progress and the other as a member of Parliament in functions associated with Parliament. I pay a special tribute to those responsible for the children's display at Wayville. I have heard people who had seen similar displays not only in Australia, but overseas, say that although they had seen displays equal to it they had never seen better. It gave thousands of our children a special opportunity to see Her Majesty.

I congratulate the new Ministers. Our Minister of Education, Mr. Pattinson, had a very auspicious start to his Ministerial career in connection with the children's display at Wayville. Although at times I thought when he was a private member he did not attach to the country that importance which I considered necessary, he has since as Minister given tremendous consideration to the requirements of our country districts and very necessary work has been done. I particularly commend to his consideration the question of school buses. One reason for people leaving rural occupations to live in a country town or the city is to enable their children to be properly educated. In his speech Mr. Corcoran mentioned that he knew of children riding three to four miles on ponies before catching a school bus. I live on about the edge of Goyder's Line and know of children who daily drive seven miles to meet the school bus and then travel another 10 or 12 miles, and have to do the same on the return trip. The introduction of the correspondence system of teaching was an excellent idea, and I understand it largely originated in this State. It is doing much good work, but throws added responsibilities on to parents if they are unable to get a governess. I am not certain that our State is not getting lopsided and that too many people are not being drawn from the country into secondary industries.

Mr. O'Halloran—A very useful solution would be to put more people on the land.

Mr. HAWKER—Unfortunately, a Socialist Government never attempts to do that. I congratulate Sir George Jenkins on the wonderful work he did as Minister of Agriculture, and extend felicitations to the Hon. A. W. Christian, his successor. The member for Alexandra (Mr. Brookman) mentioned the difficulty of getting modern scientific information to farmers, and I agree with him. He suggested that there should be some kind of school to bring producers up-to-date and I think he is on the right lines.

Under Sir George Jenkins we had demonstrations and farmers' schools in the country conducted under the auspices of the Agricultural Bureau and they proved very effective. Something happened recently which shows where the present set-up fails and where the rural population has also failed. There has arisen a serious disease which causes sterility in rams. It had been known to be present in a mild form for many years, but now it demands urgent attention. All the answers are not yet known, although it is known that it is caused by an organism similar to that which causes contagious abortion in cattle and can be transmitted from one animal to another. Only one testicle of a ram may be affected. During a survey conducted by the Department of Agriculture it was ascertained that one man had bought some rams, a percentage of which were sterile in at least one testicle and he was advised to dispose of them. However, they were sold at a market and mated to ewes, which produced 100 per cent of lambs. Some of these rams were sterile only in one testicle, but they were carrying an organism which could be transmitted to other animals. The advice given by the department in this case was in my opinion right. When I first heard of it, I was inclined to think that the scientists had made a mistake, but recently the Department of Agriculture had a demonstration in my district on this problem, for which I congratulate the officers for their excellent work. The scientists realized the danger of the indiscriminate use of affected rams, knowing that they could be fertile. The general public, which sometimes ridicules the scientists, do not know the full story and are not prepared to take them on trust. That is where we have to tie up some of the loose ends in agricultural advice. I submit this to the Minister of Agriculture for his consideration so that information from the scientists can be passed quickly and accurately to the primary producers. A scientist does not like to make

a pronouncement until he is quite sure, and it takes much research and experiment before he can be certain. However, there are instances where he has a pretty good idea and his advice should be acted upon fairly quickly. If, in those circumstances, a scientist does offer certain advice for the benefit of rural production, farmers should at least give him the benefit of the doubt, although the information may subsequently prove inaccurate. Weed control has always been a major problem in this State, and ever since I became a member of this House I have said that until we find an economic means of combating weeds legislation on the subject will be of no avail. We now have two effective means of controlling weeds: hormone sprays and low volume boom sprays. Further, the recent conference on weed eradication held at Roseworthy College should produce useful results. A few years ago a Bill on this subject was introduced by the then Minister of Agriculture, Sir George Jenkins, but it did not receive the support of the local councils, which were to administer its provisions; consequently, it lapsed, but, in view of recent modern developments, the time will soon be opportune for our weed control legislation to be overhauled. The existing provision that a man shall be responsible for half the road running past his property is just as archaic as would be a provision requiring a Rundle Street shopkeeper to keep his half of Rundle Street clean. I have seen road after road full of noxious weeds spread by motor vehicles and stock, and I am sure that land owners would be prepared to pay a special rate to have the road sprayed rather than be responsible for keeping their half of the road cleared of weeds.

Mr. Pearson—Should that be a State-wide charge or confined to the district?

Mr. HAWKER—The details of such a charge would have to be worked out, but I doubt whether the principle that the man on the spot should pay is wise. His Excellency mentioned the progress being made in rural production and the Leader of the Opposition referred to this matter at great length; but I do not agree with Mr. O'Halloran in every respect. Firstly, he applied 1953 acreages to the 1914 drought year average yields.

Mr. O'Halloran—I applied them for the purpose of comparison and pointed out what could happen if we had another drought year such as 1940.

Mr. HAWKER—Yes, but in doing so the honourable member completely ignored modern agricultural methods and the cultivation of other cereal crops. Our wheat acreage has fallen, and some people have expressed unwarranted concern about that, whereas, on the other hand, other people say we should reduce our wheat acreage; but I do not believe that it is the job of the politician to tell the farmer what he should grow. Mr. O'Halloran quoted the average annual acreages and yields per acre for the last four decennial periods, and showed that the average yield per acre during the 1941-51 period was 13 bushels—27 per cent greater than the average for the previous three decennial periods. Mr. O'Halloran has said that, however good the modern methods of agriculture, wheat cannot be grown without an adequate rainfall, and in this respect it is interesting to note the average agricultural rainfall—from April to November in each year—for those four decennial periods:—1912-21, 12.34in.; 1922-31, 11.68in.; 1932-41, 11.91in.; 1942-51, 11.66in.

Mr. O'Halloran—But in which districts were those records compiled?

Mr. HAWKER—Those figures were published by the Commonwealth Statistician and, taken over the wheat-growing area; they represent fair annual averages.

Mr. O'Halloran—It is not the quantity, but the incidence of the rainfall that counts.

Mr. HAWKER—The figures are for the wheat season from April to November, and give a fair picture for comparative purposes. Mr. O'Halloran referred only to wheat acreages and yields, but South Australian farmers are growing large quantities of barley. It has been said that South Australia should produce more wheat with which to feed the starving millions of Asia; but 75 per cent of South-Eastern Asians, who live on rice, cannot stomach a wheat diet, whereas they can consume our treated barley.

Mr. O'Halloran—What do the people of Pakistan and India do with all the wheat they grow?

Mr. HAWKER—They do eat some wheat, but barley is a good supplement to the rice that is the staple diet of other peoples, and, as we are growing barley, we are making some contribution to the problem of feeding Asia. Japan is taking half our exportable barley. The following table showing the acreages sown

over the years to wheat, barley and oats gives a fair picture of our primary production:—

Five-year period.	Average acreage sown. Wheat, barley and oats.	Average total yield. Bush.	Average yield per acre. Wheat.	Mean rainfall Apr.-Nov. Inches.
1916/20 .. . . .	2,577,000	33,481,000	12.54	14.33
1921/25 .. . . .	1,999,000	34,748,000	12.04	12.76
1936/41 .. . . .	4,116,000	40,400,000	11.07	10.59
1947/51 .. . . .	3,052,000	48,000,000	14.99	11.84
1950/54 .. . . .	2,848,000	49,450,000	16.55	14.09
1953/54 .. . . .	2,741,000	63,185,000	19.91	12.80

That proves that our average per acre has risen to just under 20 bushels.

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

Before the dinner adjournment I pointed out that the return of grain per acre has increased very considerably in recent years. Although the area sown is considerably lower than the record of 4,000,000 acres, the 63,000,000 bushels of wheat, barley and oats from only 2,250,000 acres last season is a record. Members opposite are continually bemoaning the fact that there are fewer farms but that is an effect, not a cause. Over the years we have had many closer settlement schemes in this State, and nearly all of them provided farms that were too small; with the wheat-fallow-wheat-fallow rotation—the mining of the soil—our land lost its fertility considerably. In later years although we have not put in the same acreage we have been building up the fertility with modern methods, aided by the scientists, so that we have nearly doubled our harvests. That is a very notable achievement. Even omitting any consideration of the average rainfall on the score of its unreliability the picture remains the same, for we have increased not only our cereal but our animal production. This has been due largely to the amount of country sown to pasture and the use of superphosphate. In 1928-29 250,413 acres were top-dressed with superphosphate and 1952-53 2,321,743 acres. Wool production has increased from 57,812,000lb. in the 5-year period 1920-24 to 137,000,000lb. for the period 1951-54, yet despite that the fertility of our soil has been built up putting this State in a better position to withstand a drought. Although wheat production has fallen, barley and oats increased, and although I do not suppose the Leader of the Opposition would look forward to having porridge for breakfast instead of bread, he would survive if he had to have it. Looking at the whole picture South Australia has advanced as much as labour and materials have allowed. It must

be remembered that over this period secondary industries have increased considerably and have drawn off a large amount of rural labour.

Re-aggregation of areas has been brought about because the farms have been too small. As Sir John Russell one-time head of Rothamstead has pointed out, modern conditions demand larger areas and one man can feed very many more people than he could under the old methods. In the old days when the farms were too small I have known of cases when they have been hawked around the district and nobody would buy them, as I think can be borne out by the member for Rocky River in relation to his district. On the other hand, farms divided up among returned soldiers eventually came into the hands of one man who had a flair for working the land. If a man works his farm well he has a right to get market value if he wishes to sell it. Much has been said about compulsory acquisition; the Leader of the Opposition spoke at length on it although he did not say exactly why or when it should be done. I take it if the experts consider that a man has over a living area or is not producing what they think he should, his land should be compulsorily acquired. I consider that a man who owns land should work it to the best of his ability. This varies considerably from farm to farm; often we make progress through the man who is willing to try something that nobody else will touch. Our only guide to Labor's policy is what it has done in regard to acquisitions in New South Wales. Land there was acquired at 1942 values plus 15 per cent if you went quietly; if not, at 1942 values. This was challenged and the Supreme Court of New South Wales found against the Land Board. The High Court allowed the appeal provided the Act had not been altered in the meantime. What is a fair value? The Leader of the Opposition mentioned certain figures. He said that land worth £10 an acre prior to the war is now selling at £30, and I think that is a fair statement of the facts. He went on to say that

he thought £30 was a highly inflated value and I would like to examine that in relation to the prices generally. Before the war the price of wool was about 1s a lb.; today it is 5s. or a little more. Wheat was then about 3s. 11d. or 4s., and today it is about 14s. 8d. a bushel. Wages paid to pastoral workers were £3 7s. a week and today are £13 3s. 7d. All these things have increased by a much greater proportion than land values, and if the Labor Party ever gains office and acquires land we can expect no better deal from it than the landowners received from the New South Wales Government. I now quote from a review of a book called *Conquest by Terror* which appeared in the July, 1952, issue of *Readers' Digest*. This book was written by Leland Stowe, an American journalist, and was reviewed in several publications. The *Christian Science Monitor* said, "Leland Stowe has been right too often to be discounted"; the *New York Herald Tribune* stated, "A first rate newspaperman with direct knowledge of the area"; the *New York Times* in its review said, "Mr. Stowe is a reliable, careful man. When it comes to reporting you can believe him." The *Readers' Digest's* condensation of the book is as follows:—

To tell the shocking story of the world's greatest plot, no better fitted writer than Pulitzer prize-winner Leland Stowe could have been found. A distinguished international correspondent, he was successively accredited during World War II to seven armies, including the Russian. He has spent considerable time in the Iron Curtain countries. Concerning his recent intensive study of them, he writes, "I am convinced that we need desperately to know precisely how the Stalinists are nailing down their conquest of Eastern Europe . . . . The result of 18 months of such research is an unforgettably vivid portrayal of the Communist blueprint for the enslavement of all free men. This article was shown me recently by a Hungarian who had recently come to Australia, and he said it was a fair picture of the condition of his country under the Soviet regime. Leland Stowe said:—

The Communists began their campaign in 1945 by breaking up and redistributing the vast feudal estates, a move which won them powerful initial support from the peasants. But the plots doled out were designedly so small that the new owners could not possibly make ends meet. After a few hopeless seasons they could be much more easily coerced into putting their land and livestock into the pooled kitty of a collective farm. Bankruptcy—or join up! This is one way the communists "get" the small farmer.

Members opposite like to refer to the old days when we had more farms, but they were too small. Today many of them have been acquired

by other farmers and are being worked for the good of the country. It is to the lasting credit of this Government that its land policy has been of great benefit to our rural industries.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to the completion of the north-south railway, and I agreed with most of his remarks. Of course, this line has been on the books for many years. It was debated in this House in 1949 when we had a Bill before us for the unification of gauges. However, I do not think that the route planned would be in the best interests of this State. I think the Leader of the Opposition quoted what the member for Light said about the Birdsville track. The channel country is the natural fattening country of much of Queensland and the Northern Territory. It is planned to take the north-south railway approximately along the same route as the main bitumen road through the Northern Territory, but that will go through much barren country and would only touch the Barkly Tableland and would not be a good outlet for the stock there. There would be nothing to stop the Federal Government from building a line to take cattle to Brisbane, but that would not have the same advantages as a line to Port Pirie or Adelaide, which would provide much better outlets.

Mr. McAlees—What about Wallaroo?

Mr. HAWKER—I will not argue that, but my point is that I want the cattle to come to South Australia. Mr. Beattie, of the C.S.I.R.O. made an intensive study recently of the cattle industry in northern Australia. He recommended that no railway lines be constructed to take cattle from the Northern Territory to Queensland, but that lines should run to Marree from the channel country, and that one be extended north of Alice Springs into the north-west of Western Australia rather than one straight to Birdum. I am perturbed that the Commonwealth Government may build the line along the planned route and say, "We have given you what we promised," but that would not be of much use to us. The Beattie report is a very good one and contains much valuable information.

Another power station was recently opened at Port Augusta with much flourishing of trumpets, but there is one serious hurdle that we must get over. Although we may be able to generate electricity cheaply—and atomic power may be generated even more cheaply—we have not yet been able to materially reduce heavy distribution costs. Many disappointed people

in our State see the big power lines going past their homes, but have not been connected with power. Many of my constituents outside Goyder's line of rainfall can thank the Government for only one service—the mail, which perhaps comes once a week. They have to provide telephones, electric light and water themselves, yet those people are most important in our economy. The members for Victoria and Mount Gambier know that many primary producers in their districts go to the mid-north and upper-north for their sheep, which they cannot breed in the South-East. I shall give some idea of the cost of distributing electricity. A light line has just been extended from Spalding to Booborowie. There are three houses—two about a mile from the line and the other about one and a half miles—and the total amount of distribution line required to connect them would be about two miles. Before the trust will provide supplies it wants a guarantee of £200 a year for each house. Of course, a 32-volt plant, with big batteries, can be installed for about £200.

Mr. Pearson—You cannot get much use from an electricity service like that.

Mr. HAWKER—No, but it would be much better than what they are getting from the trust now. If they wanted something better they could install 240-volt automatic alternators, which cost over £700. I am stressing the high costs of distribution of electric energy, which is one of the big headaches in my district. It has been brought as far as Waterloo, which is 25 miles south of Burra, but Burra is still being lighted by private enterprise. The member for Port Adelaide said that the old Adelaide Electric Supply Company did not supply power to the country, but Jamestown was supplied and it got a better service than people there are getting today from the trust, so my informants say. We must realize that people will not get cheap electricity throughout the State until we find some means of reducing distribution costs.

The bad state of many of our roads is causing the new Minister many headaches, though he is handling the problem well. He is travelling all over the country to inspect our roads and I think he has some good ideas, but motor transport has advanced much more speedily than road construction. Our bitumen roads are inadequate to cope with big semi-trailers. I think the Minister must examine why these vehicles carrying hard drink and soft drink, petrol, electric poles, and huge transformers, should be used for these purposes when the railways might well be used. I believe the railways are not being patronized

because of the cost of carting material to the railways, putting it on trucks, unloading at the other end, and taking it to its destination. The break of gauge is another problem. How we can solve our transport problems I do not know, but it seems that it is costing the taxpayers about the same sum to maintain our roads as the deficit on the railways.

Mr. Davis—The roads cost us more.

Mr. HAWKER—I think both cost us about £5,000,000 a year. I do not know whether we can afford to allow these big semi-trailers to travel at 40 or 50 miles an hour over our present roads. I do not want to cramp private enterprise, but this is a problem that Parliament must examine. Can we continue to allow our roads to be knocked about by heavy traffic that should be carried by the railways? South Australia has the most liberal road laws in this country. A man can cart his goods on his own truck without let or hindrance anywhere in the State, but I do not think that applies anywhere else. I should not like to see that altered, but day after day I see huge loads being carried by private enterprise and semi-governmental undertakings on roads running parallel to the railways.

In a debate like this we touch on many subjects, and the contentious subjects are those that are worth debating. Although we often argue I still have much in common with members of the Opposition, and I have passed much profitable time with the Leader of the Opposition, whose district is just north of mine. There are many problems common to both our districts, and we have worked together with the greatest harmony, and I am sure that will continue. I have not joined in this debate at all on parish pump politics. I thank the Ministers for the consideration they have shown me in all matters I have taken to them. Although I do not take every proposal for my district to the Ministers I feel that when I come before them with proposals they cannot accept, they at least know they are worth investigating. Finally, I would congratulate you, Sir, on your 21 years' service as Speaker. You have carried out your duties with dignity and impartiality and you have been a friend and adviser to every member. I do not know whether as a result of your 21 years' service you are entitled to a deliberative as well as a casting vote, but you should be congratulated because the conduct of this House compares favourably with that of any Parliament in the British Commonwealth of Nations. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.



Mr. LAWN (Adelaide)—The last speaker was very critical of the U.S.S.R. but I remind him, and his colleagues, that they, in common with the U.S.S.R., support a political dictatorship in South Australia similar to that operating in that country. People who live in glass houses should not throw stones. I have nothing in common with the Communists who run that country and the Opposition, notwithstanding Mr. Hawker's suggestion, has nothing in common with it. Once more Parliament has re-assembled after seven months of this year have elapsed and from now until the end of November members will be asked to rush legislation through. That is foreign to the principles of democracy. I can remember on one occasion last session when members were asked to remain until the small hours of the morning. We adjourned at 4 a.m., not because the Government desired to adjourn then, but because of an unfortunate happening. It is impossible to say when we would have adjourned had that not occurred. There were several occasions when Parliament continued sitting until after midnight and many more when it sat until nearly midnight. This session will be as bad as, if not worse than, last session, and members will not be given a proper opportunity of considering legislation. Several matters were rushed through last year without receiving proper consideration. A complaint I have against this practice is that during the first six months of the year members are confronted with problems they would like to ventilate in the House. I had occasion to draw the Premier's attention to the advantage picture theatre proprietors were taking in respect of amusement tax. I wrote to him and he replied that the Government had no intention of taking action. Shortly after Easter, after the proprietors had reaped their profits, the Government reimposed price control. I believe other members raised this matter with the Government and probably the Government yielded because of pressure. If the House had been in session members would have had an opportunity of ventilating their grievances. Another matter I have consistently raised with the Premier concerns happenings which have resulted from the easing of the landlord and tenant legislation. Many members and private persons have made representations to the Government since that easing of control but we have not had an opportunity of airing those grievances in Parliament.

I also had occasion to take up the question of hire-purchase with the Government. That practice represents a serious problem in this

country. Persons who are greater authorities on hire-purchase than I view the matter with concern. The Government ignored the representations I made. In answer to a question of mine on June 3, the Premier said:—

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.

I have had no opportunity of expressing my views on this subject until now, because Parliament was not called together early enough. Another matter which has received much publicity in the last few months is the exploitation of rural workers. I have said previously that advantage is being taken of the labour offering and men have been paid as little as 10s. a week and keep. When I said that last session I was ridiculed but presently I will refer to an authority in this matter who suggests, not that people have been receiving only 10s. a week, but that pensioners are being exploited and are receiving only 27s. 6d. a week for 60 hours' work. In one instance I know the person concerned.

Members have desired to ventilate these and many other matters, but they have not had sufficient opportunity. There have been articles in the press stating that Parliament only sits for so many hours a year and that it has not sat for so many months. Such articles only result in the ridiculing of Parliament but the Government is to blame for not assembling it earlier. There are 35 paragraphs in the Governor's Speech but 24 of them refer to the past and review happenings of the past 12 months and earlier. I think one refers to 1924. Only 11 paragraphs relate to the present session and there is little of a progressive nature in them.

Mr. Macgillivray—Do you think the speech could do with sub-editing?

Mr. LAWN—I seem to have heard similar speeches at least four or five times. If a member were to compare this with previous Governors' Speeches he would find that they are 90 per cent similar. For example, the word "prosperity," which the Premier seems to have continually on his mind, is mentioned in paragraph 5, which states:—

During the financial year now ending, the State experienced continued prosperity.

That sentence is almost identical with comments we have heard for the last five years. The paragraph concludes:—

Production is still increasing but the demand for some of our products is not so strong as in recent years. This fact indicates the vital importance of using every effort to improve the efficiency of our industries.

The Premier could have said that the greatest efficiency exists in the industries which enjoy a 40-hour week. I defy any member to contradict that. I will refer to some of those industries later to substantiate that claim. The prosperity the Premier refers to probably relates to the sales of business premises in Adelaide since the landlord and tenant legislation was eased, freeing business premises from control. Tenants who have occupied those premises for years are being evicted and the owners are enjoying prosperity at the expense of others. Mr. Hawker had several complaints, and referred particularly to electricity and roads. Many members complain of the lack of good roads and have complained for years of the lack of sewers not only in the country but in the metropolitan area. People throughout the State are complaining of the shortage of building materials, shortage of houses, lack of accommodation for the aged and lack of hospital accommodation. Many of the complaints about lack of hospitalization are coming from members of the medical profession and not from the general public. Many doctors have made statements on the matter. I have known it for years. Constituents of mine have told me that their relatives could not be admitted to the Royal Adelaide Hospital if the complaint was not curable. Hospital authorities told me in 1950 that some people could not be admitted because of the shortage of beds, and that the beds available were there only for people who could be made well again. Persons suffering from strokes or cancer have not been admitted to the hospital for years, yet to cope with the shortage beds have been placed in walk-ways and on verandahs. Each year we experience a shortage of water, schools and teachers. The many shortages are well-known to the Government and the people, and I will not go further into them now.

The Governor's Speech was prepared before the medical men made their public statements in regard to hospital accommodation. Paragraph 20 says that satisfactory progress has been made in improving public health. The Minister of Health denied what the medical men said about hospital accommodation. He referred

to the lack of this and that, and said there were not enough architects available. The Premier has been in continual negotiation with the Association of Architects, yet the Governor said there had been satisfactory progress. If there has been satisfactory progress in regard to hospital accommodation, God help the people of this State if they have to be protected from air raids. Paragraph 31 states:—

The Government is preparing legislation for the establishment of a Metropolitan Public Transport Council. It will be the duty of this council to deal with the problem of co-ordinating the various forms of public transport serving the metropolitan area, with the object of preventing unnecessary duplication of services, and of securing efficiency and economy.

I do not know exactly what it means, but it seems another attempt to copy Labor policy. For years the Labor Party has advocated the creation of a Ministry of Transport and the co-ordination of all transport. On the one hand the Government says it is preparing legislation for the establishment of a council and on the other it talks of scrapping trams and spending £6,000,000 to put in a fleet of diesel buses. If the Government is giving wise leadership in this matter, I do not know what leadership is. I hope to see the day when the atomic bomb will be used for other than destructive purposes. I visualize that in 10 to 15 years we shall have atomic energy available for industrial purposes, which will provide electricity for the running of tram, train and bus services. In view of that I do not want to see our trams scrapped in favour of diesel buses, and to have them scrapped later. In 10 to 15 years Adelaide will probably have an underground railway system. The Government talked about electrifying some of our suburban lines, but overnight it changed its opinion and favoured diesel engines. We should co-ordinate all transport under one Minister. Let us plan ahead. If we are to have an underground system in 10 to 15 years why not start off on that basis now instead of talking about electrifying suburban lines. If we are to use atomic energy for industrial purposes let us plan accordingly. I do not say I have all the answers to our transport problems, but I think I am on the right track. We should not throw thousands of pounds down the drain. Money raised by way of taxation should be spent wisely. Paragraph 32 of the Governor's Speech said:—

Problems associated with the land values system of rating in municipalities are receiving attention from my Ministers, and a Bill on this matter may be introduced.

This is the result of a poll that was taken in the district of Marion. The residents decided to change the rating system now operating to the land values system. Under the new system people who now pay £11 to £12 a year in rates will pay less than £5. That is why they voted in favour of it. The council worked out the rate necessary to provide the same money as previously, and it meant that every person owning or buying a home would pay 50 per cent less than previously, because the large landowner has to pay more than he did previously. The Government, which represents vested interests, will introduce legislation to deal with the matter. Is it to be in the interests of people buying a home or those who own acres of land? The Adelaide water system is supposed to be a reticulation and not an irrigation system, yet we have gardens in the metropolitan area using large quantities of reservoir water. It will be interesting to see how the Government handles this matter when considering the rating system. Mr. Dunnage said during the election campaign that the Government represented all sections of the community. I wonder whether it does.

It appears that the landlord and tenant legislation does not give the protection to the community that we were led to believe. I was under the impression that if the owner of a dwellinghouse desired possession of his home for his own use, obtained a court order and then put it up for public auction, he was liable to a penalty of £500.

On May 26 last I wrote to the Premier concerning premises facing Hurtle Square, Adelaide, from which the occupant had to leave a couple of years ago on a court order obtained by the owner. He did not occupy them but auctioned them, but they were not sold because he was not offered the amount required. I made enquiries from the land agent and know the amount asked. Although I gave my name to the land agent, he evidently did not realize that I was the member for Adelaide. If the Act provides that people can have families ejected on a court order and then have the premises demolished or used for office purposes, it is not a good act, and it would not appear that the position is as clear-cut as we thought. I have questioned the Premier on the matter and apparently he has no intention of having the Act altered. Many members of Parliament have been inundated with correspondence from people regarding the attitude adopted by owners concerning premises in Adelaide and elsewhere since control was lifted. In some cases rents have been

increased as much as 400 per cent, and in others the occupant has not been given the option to pay increased rent but has been told to get out. In some instances the owner does not want to use the business premises himself, but desires to put in other tenants. Earlier this year I drew the Premier's attention to the fact that houses can be occupied upon a court order and then they are demolished or converted to factories. In reply the Premier said he was well aware of the position, but did not intend to alter the legislation. I know of one property occupied by 18 people, the owner of which has applied to the court for an order as he desires to convert the premises, and possibly he will obtain the order. In the past 12 months many dwellings have been converted to factories. The member for Goodwood reminded me just now that until the end of 1952 the Building Materials Act safeguarded the position, because if an owner obtained the possession of his house he could not demolish it or convert it into a factory workshop or storeroom because he first had to obtain a building permit and the department would not issue permits in those circumstances. Since the lifting of building controls many houses in the city and possibly elsewhere have been converted to shops, factories, etc., and therefore they have been lost to the community as residences.

Since last session I have had occasion to take up with the Premier the question of hire-purchase. As a result of the publicity given to a letter I wrote to the Premier and his reply I have had much correspondence and many telephone calls, and they have not all been from purchasers, many being from the sellers of goods who had to be financed by finance companies. The position warrants an investigation by the Government or by a Parliamentary Committee. In January last the editor of a finance journal wrote an article concerning hire-purchase and said:—

Australians as a body will be more in debt than ever in the current year as a result of the record spread of the hire-purchase system. He then listed two companies and said that their hire-purchase transactions had increased from £3,000,000 in 1946 to £40,000,000 in 1952. Those figures were obtained by the editor from the Industrial Acceptance Corporation and the Australian Guarantee Corporation. I have it on reliable authority that the Commonwealth Bank also had £20,000,000 out at that time and there are also millions of pounds involved with firms such as David Murray and Company. I received a letter from a lady who borrowed

£984 for three years to purchase a used car and the interest charged amounted to £240, making a total indebtedness of £1,224. Under the terms of contract she had to repay £34 a month, and having regard to the total transaction the interest rate amounted to 15.8 per cent. Even if she purchased a new car the flat rate is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on the original loan and in effect it actually amounts to 12 per cent on the total transaction. About the same time I noticed in the press that one of our trading banks had loaned £11,000,000 at four per cent to a big finance company which is lending the money out at from 12 per cent to 15.8 per cent. I subsequently noticed a press statement that this same bank intended to open a hire-purchase department of its own and thus gain the benefit of the higher rate of interest on hire-purchase transactions. The Commonwealth Bank charges a flat rate of  $4\frac{1}{4}$  per cent on its loans as against the  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent charged by the finance companies. Comparing the charges made by the finance companies and that of the Commonwealth Bank I find that on a £40,000,000 loan under hire purchase agreements, as at the end of 1952, the people of this State were paying seven hundred thousand pounds more in interest than if they had borrowed through the Commonwealth Bank. For instance,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on £40,000,000 amounts to £2,600,000 as against £1,900,000 on the same amount at  $4\frac{1}{4}$  per cent, a difference of £700,000, which means that the people are being fleeced. I wrote to the Premier on the matter and in reply he ignored my representations but attempted to point out that my statement concerning the Commonwealth Bank was not analogous "as the bank only finances the purchase of new cars mainly for business purposes, trucks, tractors and new plant, and industrial and agricultural machinery whereas the companies mentioned financed the purchase of new and used cars, refrigerators, washing machines, radiograms, vacuum cleaners and the like". This is merely another indication of class discrimination on the part of the Playford Government, which represents only one section and not all the community. A man that can afford a new car but has not the purchase price in ready cash may make use of the services of the Commonwealth Bank, but a man that cannot afford a new car cannot borrow money from the Commonwealth Bank to finance the purchase of a used car, and, consequently, is forced into the hands of these hire purchase companies.

Mr. McAlees—Robbery!

Mr. LAWN—They are worse than robbers: indeed, one cannot use too strong language about their activities. In his letter the Premier said that people who wanted to buy refrigerators, washing machines, radiograms and other home amenities could not borrow from the Commonwealth Bank for that purpose, but, despite this, he will not introduce legislation to help such people. Although I would like to see the rate of interest charged by the Commonwealth Bank lowered, I only ask that the rate of interest charged by these companies be lowered to that at present charged by the Commonwealth Bank, so as to place people who want these home amenities in the same category as those represented by members opposite who want a vehicle for business reasons. The Premier says that such people may borrow cheap money from the Commonwealth Bank. Why, then, does not this Government legislate so that all sections of the community may benefit from such a borrowing scheme? The Playford Government is in office only because South Australia has a dictatorship similar to that existing in the U.S.S.R. Although it was voted out of office by 47,000 votes last year, this Government has clung to office so as to continue its efforts on behalf of vested interests. Because it has lifted all controls on the letting of business premises, such premises may now be occupied immediately after purchase either by auction or by private contract, as happened recently with the property formerly occupied by Macrow's. It is claimed that many properties in and around Hindley Street that have been sold recently have been owned by Government supporters, that the Premier is interested in the property occupied by Brown's in Hindley Street, and that this Government lifted the controls on business premises so as to satisfy vested interests supporting the Government. Similar controls on dwellings have not been lifted, either because Government members and their colleagues do not own dwellings or because they fear the people's vote in such districts as Torrens, Glenelg and Unley.

Mr. Frank Walsh—And perhaps in Mitcham.

Mr. LAWN—Yes; the present member would probably go if all controls were lifted.

Mr. Teusner—The honourable member for Adelaide may be apprehensive about his own seat.

Mr. LAWN—The honourable member is welcome to contest Adelaide. It is rumoured that a secret committee has been working to revise

electoral boundaries and to make Glenelg, Torrens and Unley safe for the Government at the next election. Last year the Premier denied that such a committee had been appointed, but I have reason to believe that it is now functioning. Again this Government has adopted Soviet Russia's tactics and instructed its committee to meet in secret so that members on this side and the general public shall not know what it is doing. Indeed, it is only because of certain intelligence organizations that the general public is able to find out what is going on both inside Russia and inside the Liberal Party. Before this session is out the Government will probably try to implement a scheme similar to that of 1936, when it was claimed by Labor members that the then Premier, Sir Richard Butler, had said that the new electoral set-up would keep Labor out for 20 years. He may have been too optimistic, because this Government, apparently, is not willing to go to the people again under the present set-up and will take steps this session to keep Labor out for another 20 years. The Playford Government does not represent all sections of the community, and, if the people knew what was going on, they would probably put "Honest Tom" Playford in the same category as Joe Stalin. I have received many letters and telephone calls from purchasers under hire-purchase agreements and I have consulted business people who, when arranging finance on behalf of purchasers, have sent them to these hire-purchase companies. I have been told that these companies insist on the purchaser's insuring the car with a nominated insurance company that is either owned or partly controlled by the hire-purchase companies. Were I to tell all I know about the people who manipulate these hire-purchase companies many ears would burn this evening; yet the Government continues to sidestep this issue only because it represents the vested interests that are reaping a benefit at the expense of other sections of the community.

On June 22 Mr. E. B. Coles, managing director of G. J. Coles & Co. Ltd., told the Australian Council of Retailers in Sydney that too many people were buying goods on small deposits and time payment. I emphasize "small deposits" because in South Australia certain companies require no deposit. Mr. Coles said that the present extent of hire purchase would increase inflation, but I understood that Sir Arthur Fadden, by means of his "horror budget" in 1951, took away all our excess spending power. It was then claimed

there was too much money in the hands of the community and that we were in danger of suffering from further inflation. Now, however, many are able to buy goods only by weekly payment, although they pay through the nose in the long run. The *Adelaide Mail* of January 23 contained the following report:—

United Dominions Trust, London, is about to enter the hire-purchase field in Australia. To head the Australian subsidiary, Mr. John Hall has been named. Mr. Hall recently resigned as officer in charge of the Commonwealth Bank's hire-purchase section. Mr. Downing, of the United Dominions' London office, is to become assistant general manager. United Dominions Trust transacts a large business in the United Kingdom. It has a capital of £24 million. Entry of English capital to Australian hire-purchase business follows moves by Australian banks to cater for the same type of business.

Australia is such a good field for investors that companies are coming here from overseas; in addition to hire-purchase firms and banks that have found the business profitable we now find other vultures are coming from overseas. It is freely rumoured around Adelaide that the trading department of the State Bank is lending money at 4 per cent, and I understand that it has made nearly £1,000,000 available to David Murray & Company. If this statement is not correct the Premier will have the opportunity of denying it. This firm and others are sending their representatives throughout the country selling goods on hire-purchase, and other firms have complained of a decline in business because of it. Many women have talked their husbands into buying various goods on terms; when it has come to making the weekly payments have found they have not enough to buy food and clothes and as a result their standards of living have deteriorated. Every day advertisements appear in the press offering goods on terms without payment of a deposit. In the *Mail* of June 19 appears a full page of articles on which no deposit is required, and even if the purchaser bought only half of them the total outlay would be £162 and the weekly payments £2/7/6. I know something of the effects of hire-purchase, as men I have worked with have told me what has happened in their homes. In many cases salesmen have called and talked their wives into buying different articles and as a result many of the men have had to declare themselves bankrupt to get out of the agreements. The housewives are very happy to think they will be able to surprise their husbands with their purchases but find subsequently that they cannot afford them. People are being talked

into purchasing things without paying deposits. I know of women who have tried to talk their husbands into getting different things for the home and when told they cannot afford them their answer is that no deposit is required and the goods can be had for so much a week without realizing until they make the weekly payments that the husband's wage is not sufficient to meet all their expenditure. I know that men have also entered into agreements that their wages will not stand and, consequently, their living standards have suffered. In the Australian Gallup Poll Journal of January/February, 1954, which is claimed to be an authoritative production, it is stated that three in every 10 paid on terms for their purchases in 1953.

I wish to make some suggestions which I believe should be adopted by the Government in the interests of the people of this State: firstly, any hire purchase contract should be signed by both husband and wife in the presence of each other; secondly, the interest charged by the finance companies should be limited to the rate charged by the Commonwealth Bank from time to time; thirdly, that the interest shall be charged only on the balance outstanding from time to time, not a flat rate on the total borrowed as at present; and fourthly, that a deposit should be paid. I do not propose that hire purchase agreements should be eliminated but that a deposit of about 20 per cent should be paid, although perhaps inquiries may reveal that it should be some other figure. The husband or the wife should not be free to enter into a contract for the purchase of goods at so much a week without the other partner having a say in the matter, nor should the husband be able to purchase a car and then tell his wife that they cannot afford as much for food because of his purchase. Conversely, a wife should not have the right to enter into hire-purchase agreements and find later that the weekly budget will not meet them. To maintain our ideals of family life both partners should be signatories to these agreements. Secondly, I see no reason why these investors, or vultures, should charge a higher rate of interest than the Commonwealth Bank charges. There is no reason why a certain section of the community represented by the Government—the people who buy trucks, motor cars and farm implements—should be able to go to the Commonwealth Bank and get cheap money when the greater number of people, who want washing machines and other household equipment, have to go to the vultures and get

money at a high rate of interest. There should be no discrimination. Private firms are able to borrow money at four per cent from Government banks, and even from trading banks, and lend it at 15.8 per cent.

The Opposition has consistently advocated that the Industrial Code be amended to afford protection to rural workers. We even introduced a Bill for this purpose, but the Government defeated it. I said last year that some farm workers were employed for 10s. a week and keep, but members opposite laughed at me. An article appeared in the *Adelaide Truth* of January 23 headed "Pensioners' Tough Deal from Farmers." I want members opposite to read it if they have not already done so. I can vouch for the truth of the statements because I know the man concerned. I, and others, endeavoured to obtain the old age pension for him, but correspondence in connection with the application went astray because of his change of address from Milang to Adelaide. The article states:—

Pensioners, beware! Don't fall readily for those advertisements which promise light, easy farm work, excellent accommodation, good wages, for active pensioner. You might find, if you check, that the advertisement was worded by a slave master. The slave master's idea of "light, easy farm work," is a working week of 60 hours, up at dawn and finish after dark, digging ditches, stacking hay, building fences, clearing scrub—all for 30s. a week and keep.

The man concerned in this article was getting 27s. 6d. a week and keep, and he was also employed on a pipe fitter's job. The article continues:—

And if the pensioner complains, or his health cracks up, he's sacked on the spot and its just too bad if any wages are owing to him, because he has no legal redress against the slave boss. This type of cruel exploitation is being practised every day by outwardly respectable city businessmen, who have discovered in the old age pensioners a cheap and ready source of labour for the out-of-town farm properties. What do they care if the pensioners' old bodies break under the strain?—There are plenty of old men desperately anxious for any job by which they can augment their pitifully inadequate pension. Victims of this callous racket have called in their dozens to the Trades Hall and to *Truth* Office in recent months, appealing for justice. But nothing can be done for them—rural workers, in this State, are not covered by any award and the Premier (Mr. Playford) has consistently refused to authorize an award for them.

Mr. Jennings—Shame!

Mr. LAWN—I agree. I have often said that the Government should be ashamed for not

affording protection to rural workers. The article continues:—

Typical of the victims is a 69-year-old pensioner who visited *Truth* the other day. He had been trapped by the glowing promises of a prominent city business man, who had offered him a congenial job on his farm at Milang. The old man, after a month at this congenial occupation, had blistered hands, a strained back and an injury to his bladder which has made a big operation urgently necessary. The pensioner had answered an advertisement inserted by the businessman, in which "light, pleasant farm work" was offered. The work kept him continually on the go for 10 hours a day. It included digging a trench for an irrigation pipe, man-handling heavy pumping equipment, clearing scrub, baling and stacking hay and milking a large herd of cows. The pensioner told *Truth* "I might have been able to do this work 20 years ago, but even then I would have thought it pretty hard. After a month at this job I cracked up. An old body will take just so much, and no more. I strained myself lifting some heavy machinery several days ago, and was in agony. When the boss came down from the city I was just hobbling around. I told him I was in pain and that I wanted to see a doctor. 'He just said, 'All right, you're finished. You're sacked. Get your things together; I'm driving back to the city later and you're coming with me.' He drove me back, but he didn't bring me to the city. He put me off at Glen Osmond, at the Old Gum Tree, and left me to find my way from there, while he drove on into the city. I was in great pain, and I couldn't lift my luggage to carry it to the tram stop. I waited until a taxi came along and hailed it. I spent my last few shillings on the fare. He owes me five days' wages—27s. 6d."

By the way, he has since received that money. The article goes on:—

*Truth* referred the old man's plight to the Australian Pensioners' League secretary (Mr. John Millikan). Mr. Millikan said, "We know of other cases similar to this." Trades and Labor Council secretary (Mr. Bert Shard) said, "We have received many complaints from old people who are being exploited by farm owners. But, unfortunately, there is nothing much we can do for them. Until rural workers are granted an award, which will lay down conditions of employment and set a standard of wages, they won't have a leg to stand on. For years we have appealed to Premier Playford to amend the Industrial Code to include rural workers, but he has always turned us down flat because he says that most workers get their keep." *Truth* thinks this excuse is so poor as to make condemnation unnecessary.

I entirely agree. Members opposite are sitting silent and, I believe, ashamed. The article concludes:—

Why is the Premier so reluctant to provide an award for rural workers?

We on this side of the House have already given the answer. His Government represents a certain section; it is not concerned with

others. I now come to the reference in the Governor's Speech to "electoral matters." I remind the Government that in September, 1952, when electoral reform was a big issue, Mr. Hollway, the Leader of the Liberal Party in Victoria, in moving a no-confidence motion against Mr. McDonald, the Leader of the Country Party, said:—

In moving this resolution I am conscious that it is probably the most important Constitutional issue that has come before this House. As such, it is far above any sort of Party politics.

I commend that statement to Government members. If they want to advance democracy they must keep their legislation clean and put before the people something of which they can be proud, and not retain the present dictatorship. The Premier said that the Government is considering electoral matters, but he still believes that the ratio between country and city should be two to one. I remind him that you cannot tell different stories to the free peoples of the world. If members are honest—and I know the Liberal Party, Government members and the Government itself is not honest—

Mr. Geoffrey Clarke—On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER—I will take the point myself. I do not think the honourable member is serious in suggesting dishonesty but I believe he is being carried away with his argument. The honourable member is not in order in imputing dishonesty to any member or group.

Mr. LAWN—The Liberal Party is not consistent nor is it honest in holding out to the people of the unfree world a free democracy, because it does not believe in it. The Premier and his Government disagree with Mr. Hollway. They do not agree with Mr. Casey because in referring at Geneva to the Korean position he suggested proportionate representation. A report in the *Advertiser* of April 30 states:—

The Australian External Affairs Minister (Mr. Casey) told the 19-nation conference on Korea today that he hoped the South Korean Government would agree to elections throughout Korea "if it were in the interests of a final settlement."

He said:—

We believe, of course, that the elections should be based upon fair proportionate representation as between North and South—that a free atmosphere both before and during the elections must be assured by specific

guarantees—and that the elections should be held under United Nations supervision.

Mr. Casey made it quite clear what he meant by proportionate representation, for he added:—

In the first place I should like to ask whether the number of members of both Assemblies on the commission would be proportionate to the number of inhabitants in the parts of Korea represented by those Assemblies, or if not, on what basis they would be represented. As Mr. Dulles has pointed out, the Supreme People's Assembly of North Korea, although a far larger body than the National Assembly of South Korea, represents far fewer people. It would seem to be quite unreasonable to have a joint body which was not based upon the relative size of the population in the North and South.

One could not find a fairer exposition of what this Labor Party believes. We do not advocate it only for the people in Korea, but believe that what is good enough for them is good enough for the people in South Australia. We should not tell the people in Korea and other parts of the world what sort of Governments they should have if we do not practise what we preach here. If we do, we are dishonest. Mr. Casey represents a Government which has, as near as practicable, adopted the policy enunciated by the Labor Party—proportionate representation. The electorates of the Commonwealth contain as nearly as possible the same number of electors. I realize it is impossible to limit all electorates to the same number of people, but they should be limited as near as practicable. When there have been redistributions of electorates the number of electors have been reasonably divided. We have been asking the Government to introduce legislation, and the Opposition has introduced legislation to give our people what Mr. Casey advocates for the people in Korea. This Government remains in office because it is not prepared to give the people the right to elect a Government of its own choice. This Government says, "We support the policy of the Commonwealth Liberal Party and we believe in giving people in the other parts of the world a free election, a free democracy and a right to elect a Government of their own choice." It does not believe in that in this State. A Party which speaks with two tongues is not honest to the people it represents, nor to its God, and some day its members will have to answer for it.

I said earlier that I would prove that the industries which are most efficient are those working a 40-hour week. One day last week

in replying to a question by Mr. Stott concerning the poultry industry the Minister of Agriculture referred to the efficiency of the egg-raising industry. It is not my intention to debate the dried fruits, wine or poultry industries, but to refer to some articles in the press recently and not from working class representatives. The first authority I take is Senator Spooner, Minister for National Development. He was quoted in the *News* of July 28 as saying:—

Australia today is an industrial nation by any standards. No longer valid is the traditional conception of us as a nation devoted largely to rural production.

That is where the original two to one came in because the Liberal Party claimed that Australia owed its position to the primary producers. Today Mr. Macgillivray said that the city people are carried on the back of the country people. It seems that some people cannot see further than their nose. They cannot see the progress made in Australia, particularly since we have had the 40-hour week. We export more now than we did in the 48-hour week period. Senator Spooner continued:—

Australia's manufacturing industries are growing at a rate equal to those of the United States and Canada and greater than the United Kingdom. More than 1,000,000 people are now employed in our 48,000 factories or twice as many as in all our primary industries put together.

Despite this, the vote of these people is worth only one-third the vote of country people. The next authority is Atomic Tom, the Premier of South Australia. The following is an extract from the *News* of July 28:—

South Australia's long sighted Premier, Mr. Playford, sees great opportunities for industrial advancement in South Australia. He feels this optimism is justified by the tremendous strides that have already been made in this State in the post-war years. Great advances are taking place in South Australia's industrial development, he says . . . The greatest industrial undertaking attempted in South Australia was officially opened last year. It is the new power station at Port Augusta, not yet completed.

This proves that industry is progressing with the 40-hour working week. Mr. Geoff Gerard, President, South Australian Chamber of Manufactures, said in the *News* of July 28:—

I wonder how many of our people remember the days when the basic wage in South Australia was £3 3s. and that for a 48-hour week. Seems a long time ago, doesn't it? Yet it is a scant 20 years ago. Since then of course the basic wage has increased by 266 per cent to £11 11s. for a 40-hour week, and the cost of



living as measured by the "C" Series index has also increased by 221 per cent. Side by side with this growth has been recorded one of the most phenomenal eras of industrial expansion in South Australia's history.

Mr. Gerard compared the present working week with the one existing 20 years ago. His article also contained a graph which showed that in 1934 there were 1,600 factories in the State and in 1954, 3,400. In the *News* of July 28 there was also the following article in regard to machine tool production:—

Export of South Australian machine tools to Britain sounds as much an anomaly as taking coal to Newcastle, yet at least one Adelaide firm believes it can be done.

The name of the firm was then given. At one time we used to import tools from Great Britain but it is now proposed to export them, and whilst we are working a 40-hour week. Also in that *News* was an article headed, "A Challenge to our Factories" and it said:—

Will Australia, and more particularly South Australia, become the industrial centre for South-East Asia? The workshop to supply 1,000 million Asian neighbours.

But for the local demand for motor cars we would now be exporting them, and they will be exported as soon as we meet our home requirements. We have greater efficiency in secondary industry than we have ever had before, and we are working a 40-hour week.

I now want to refer to the building of new petrol stations. The industry has become over-capitalized. There are insufficient competent tradesmen available to service motor cars. It will be impossible to place competent tradesmen in all the new petrol stations. The Government should control all petrol stations and garages in the metropolitan area.

I add my support to the agitation that the Government should speed up the building of hospitals and not print what appeared in the Governor's Speech that satisfactory progress is being made, because it is not. Nor is sufficient progress being made in the construction of homes for the aged. I urge the Government to do more in this regard. I know that lotteries are not permitted in South Australia, and on occasions when a business staff has conducted a raffle in aid of the Children's Hospital the police have made a raid and prosecutions followed. I condemn any Government which will allow raffles for charitable purposes to be banned on the ground that it is gambling, when actually they are conducted for the benefit of the Children's Hospital, while it permits heavy gambling on the Stock Exchange

on oil, uranium and other shares. It is a colossal blot upon the sincerity and honesty of the Government when it claims it is opposed to lotteries and gambling and yet takes no steps to prevent gambling on the Stock Exchange. It legislates in the interests of only one section and allows investors to gamble to their hearts' content, but if the common people try to run a lottery on the Melbourne Cup or conduct a raffle to raise money for the Children's Hospital the Government will see to it that they are prosecuted.

In considering its Budget I hope the Government will make provision for the education of our backward children. I have in mind those who are blind, deaf or mentally or physically handicapped. Some of these children are not eligible for admission to public schools or to Minda Home and their parents have decided to establish a school known as Suneden. They will have to finance not only the education of their children, but also provide transport for them. Although the school is in Adelaide, not all the children live there. I have taken the Minister of Education to this school and later he met a deputation introduced by the member for Unley on my behalf. When it is opened the Minister intends to visit it. I earnestly commend to the Government that it should help financially. It is wrong that people with abnormal children should have to meet expenses which are not imposed also on parents with normal children. A similar position exists in regard to deaf and blind children. I know the Minister of Education is considering the question of their education, and I hope the Government will do something for them.

The Government is preparing legislation for the establishment of a Metropolitan Public Transport Council. It should adopt a long range transport policy. In years to come it is possible our metropolitan railway services will be underground as in London and New York, with bus services on surface routes. However, bus services cannot cater for public transport as effectively as trams. I was in Sydney once when there was a strike of tram drivers and although the bus services were able to transport people to the beaches on this Sunday morning they could not be returned to their homes the same night. I believe that in years to come we shall be using atomic power, and I suggest that the Premier call a conference of representatives of the Government, the Electricity Trust, employers' organizations, scientists, the Opposition and the Trade Union movement to

consider possible developments in this line. We are led to believe that developments in this State are ahead of those in other States, and we certainly have uranium deposits. If the Premier believes that no good purpose could be served by such a conference on a State level, he should ask the Commonwealth authorities to call a Commonwealth-wide conference.

Mr. WHITE secured the adjournment of the debate.

PAYNEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL.

The SPEAKER laid on the table a report by the Public Works Standing Committee, together with minutes of evidence, on Payneham Primary School.

Ordered that report be printed.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 9.53 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, August 11, at 2 p.m.