

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, May 31, 1955.

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

### QUESTIONS.

#### RAILWAY DELAYS IN PETERBOROUGH DISTRICT.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Recently I had a number of complaints from people in my electorate regarding delays which they allege have taken place in forwarding goods by rail to Terowie and beyond. I have also had a complaint from the South Australian division of the Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Enginemmen regarding the working of a train which is known as "the wolf." It is a long and heavy train, and sometimes takes a considerable time to get to Terowie. The following is a brief extract from a letter I have received from the secretary of the Union:—

It takes over 20 hours to cover the 140 miles between Mile End and Terowie. The logical way, to most people, of working this train would be to put all loading for Terowie and stations beyond on one train and get it there in eight hours, and put the wayside loading on another train which would take no more than 15 hours to cover the distance. Will the Minister representing the Minister of Railways refer the matter to his colleague for inquiry with a view to information being made available to the House at a later date?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Yes.

#### OIL REFINERY AT PORT LINCOLN.

Mr. PEARSON—The Port Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, an active body, has approached me for information about the possibility of establishing industries in that town. Frequently there are press reports of the visits to South Australia of people representing industries to discuss their projects with the Premier. Because such approaches are confidential there is necessarily no public announcement of the industries they represent or the negotiations that take place. Last week and over the weekend the press headlined the possibility of an oil refinery being established in South Australia. The Premier has stated that the Government would go to considerable lengths and probably considerable expense to encourage the establishment of a refinery. Port Lincoln has probably the best harbour in South Australia and one of the best in Australia, and the town would possibly offer a cheaper site for the establishment of a refinery than the one suggested along

the Port River. Will the Premier obtain figures from the oil companies as to the distribution of petroleum products in South Australia to see whether there is a sufficient demand along Spencer Gulf to justify a refinery at Port Lincoln, taking into account the cheaper cost of establishment I have mentioned. Will the Premier give me, acting on behalf of the Port Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, an assurance that no opportunities have been missed for encouraging industries to be established at that port?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The honourable member must realize that any industry coming to this State is in a unique position to select its own site. The Government has no power to compel an industry to go to an area where, for one reason or another, it does not want to go. Regarding the establishment of an oil refinery, I understand that the desirable objective, to make a refinery practicable, is one million tons of products a year. On present indications we will not reach that target for another four years—our present figure is only 611,000 tons for the whole State, so the honourable member will realize that the metropolitan area, which is the big market, is obviously the place for a refinery. I can give the assurance that no opportunities have ever been missed to influence an industry to go to a country district. Members of the Industries Development Committee know that if a project is suggested for a country town it gets special consideration from the Government, and everything possible is done to see that finance or other assistance is given. From time to time, if the opportunity occurs in connection with the establishment of an industry, I will mention Port Lincoln and other country towns.

#### GARDEN SUBURBS COMMISSIONER.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—The appointment for six months of the present Gardens Suburbs Commissioner at Colonel Light Gardens expires on June 30 this year. Can the Minister representing the Minister of Local Government say whether the Government intends to re-appoint the present Commissioner for a further term of six months or call for applications for the appointment of a new commissioner?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The matter has been discussed in Cabinet and is now receiving close attention. A decision has not yet been reached. As soon as one is made there will be an announcement.

Mr. Frank Walsh—Here?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Yes, I take it it will be so.

## WATER SUPPLIES.

Mr. DUNNAGE—During the last week-end we we have again had copious rains. I wonder what is the position regarding our metropolitan reservoirs. I understand the department has stopped pumping water from the Murray. If so, what effect will it have on the supply to Woodside and other places in the Onkaparinga Valley that are connected to the Mannum main?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Pumping from the Murray ceased some time ago when the storages in the metropolitan reservoirs were about, I think, 3,100,000,000gall, then later they had about 3,400,000,000gall. Present storages are about 5,000,000,000gall., which is a considerable increase on the lowest level reached. With regard to areas that were supplied from the Mannum-Adelaide main, the Warren reservoir will supply areas in that part of the State, and the Lobethal reservoir should be able to cope with requirements in its area.

Mr. TEUSNER—Can the Minister state the recent intakes to country reservoirs, particularly to the Warren, which serves my electorate and was badly depleted at the beginning of this year?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The intake into the Warren reservoir for the week ended May 28 was 90,000,000gall. The reservoir then had 235,000,000gall., compared with a capacity of 1,400,000,000, so the storage is still far from satisfactory. However, the catchment area had 265 points from the recent rains, and it seems that the flow will continue. The Barossa reservoir received 86,000,000gall. and it then contained 194,000,000gall., compared with a capacity of 993,000,000gall. As the catchment area has been well saturated by the recent rains the reservoir should build up rapidly from now on.

## TAPEROO PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. TAPPING—Last February I introduced a deputation to the Minister of Education on the need for better sanitary arrangements for the Taperoo primary school. After some months I tried to get more information on the subject and I was finally told that negotiations had been proceeding between the Minister of Works and the Minister of Education. The position is serious because of an attack of dysentery in the area and the people of Taperoo approached the Port Adelaide Local Board of Health asking that the school, which has 542 scholars, be closed down. The board refrained from taking action because I said I thought the Government would soon make an announcement on sewerage policy. In view of the grave position at Taperoo, I ask the Minister of

Works whether he has any scheme that might overcome the trouble?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I think in fairness to the House, and to residents generally, I should put the position as it really is, having regard to the many difficulties surrounding this matter. This school has been built somewhat in advance of local development. The surveyed blocks to the north and to the east are not built upon. The latter are held by the Housing Trust and it is not anticipated that early building will take place on these blocks. The dwellings on the south are emergency dwellings. There is no main sewer closer than nearly one-half mile away from the school, and a septic tank proposal would involve an expenditure of at least £5,000. This is relatively high because special measures would be necessary to dispose of the effluent in this high water-table area. Septic tanks would of course become redundant when this area is eventually sewered and would have practically no recovery value. On the other hand, the cost of sewerage to serve this school and a few adjacent homes is estimated at £16,000. Whereas complaints have been made against the pan system being used, it should be understood that thousands of children are daily attending schools in the country which can never be served other than along the lines objected to at Taperoo. However, as this area is rapidly developing, Cabinet has decided it would be more desirable to install a sewerage scheme, thus avoiding the wastage of £5,000 on septic tanks, which would still involve difficulties in disposing of the effluent because of the water-bearing nature of the ground. This work will be attended to as soon as circumstances will permit, having regard to works already in hand. Of course, if we started the sewerage scheme tomorrow it would be many weeks before it could be completed.

## FLAXMAN'S VALLEY ELECTRICITY SUPPLY.

Mr. TEUSNER—In 1952 an application was made by 33 people at Flaxman's Valley, near Angaston, to the Electricity Trust for an extension of its main to that area. The application was declined, I understand, because the extension would be uneconomic unless a high surcharge was imposed on the applicants. As legislation has been passed in recent years pursuant to which the Government may subsidize the supply of electricity to sparsely populated areas, will the Treasurer have this application again investigated to see whether it can now be acceded to?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Electricity Trust is doing much work under the subsidy scheme and I think that every fortnight a list

is submitted to Cabinet for approval for various districts or towns to be supplied with electricity. Some areas in the honourable member's district have come under the scope of this scheme recently, but I will see that the project he has mentioned is brought to the trust's attention.

#### PORT PIRIE WHARVES.

Mr. DAVIS—On the opening day the Minister of Marine advised me of an elaborate scheme for the improvement of Port Pirie wharves. Does he know how much money will be spent on that scheme?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I will get the information for the honourable member and bring it down. If a reference has not yet been received by the Public Works Committee it is being prepared.

#### CROYDON GIRLS' TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Before the member for Glenelg was appointed Minister of Education I, as member for Hindmarsh, received a letter stating that modern permanent buildings for the Croydon Girls' Technical School would be built on a site on Torrens Road, and that they would be completed before the beginning of the 1955 school year. I received this letter before the proposal was submitted to the Public Works Committee, and as I felt there might be some mistake and that it would be impossible to fulfil the promise made, I approached the present Minister of Education, who agreed with me and had the matter referred to officers of his department. Later the work was referred to the Public Works Committee and approved. I thought an announcement would be made long ere this, and the people are concerned because this matter affects three important schools in my electorate. Can the Minister say what progress has been made and why there has been this delay in commencement?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—As the honourable member says, this project affects three schools, and I appreciate his interest in the matter. Preliminary sketch plans were prepared by the Architect-in-Chief and referred to the Superintendent of Technical Schools for consideration. Some modifications have been suggested by the superintendent after conferring with his officers. These modifications are now being returned to the Architect-in-Chief to proceed with the official sketch plans, and I anticipate that this will take about three weeks.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Recently I supported a request for the appointment of a clerk at the Croydon Girls' Technical School and set out certain peculiar circumstances that I believed

warranted such an appointment. In due course I received a reply that clerks were appointed only in special circumstances. Possibly I was under a wrong impression in setting out only a few of the special circumstances and not enlarging on many other circumstances that are special in this case. I am aware that that reply came from the Public Service Commissioner and not from officers of the Education Department. The special circumstances at the Croydon Girls' School are that the school is separated by a distance of three quarters of a mile into two parts; the teaching staff has been changing rapidly; the head mistress is obliged to teach because there are not qualified teachers for some subjects and she is also secretary of the School Council; and the hours for lunch and recess breaks have to be staggered to meet the convenience of the adjacent Croydon Primary School. I understood that the Girls' Technical School not far from this school has an enrolment of not more than 20 above the number at the Croydon school, housed under the one roof. In view of these circumstances will the Minister of Education make further representations to have a clerk appointed at the school?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I shall be glad to do so. The honourable member made written representations to me and the secretary of the school made lengthy and detailed representations to the Director of Education. These representations were referred to the Public Service Commissioner, who considered them, but did not make a favourable recommendation. I will bring the docket down and let the honourable member see it and will discuss it with him. I will give favourable consideration to the present representations and any further ones that may be forthcoming.

#### MOONTA MINES ELECTRICITY SUPPLY.

Mr. McALEES—Last session I introduced a petition signed by 98 residents of the Moonta Mines district asking for an electricity supply. Although the main line has been constructed and a number of people have had their houses wired, they are still awaiting a supply. Will the Premier inquire into the reasons for the delay?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—If the honourable member will ask this question again tomorrow I will have a reply then.

#### WALKERVILLE-GLEN OSMOND BUS SERVICE.

Mr. DUNSTAN—Last week I raised in this House the matter of the Walkerville-Glen Osmond bus service which runs through my

district. At the end of last week the Tramways Trust announced that that service, which is now being run by the Metropolitan Bus Company, was to be discontinued on June 11. This means that the large number of school children who use that service, particularly those attending the Payneham school, will be completely without transport. Will the Premier ask the trust to approach Messrs. Lewis Bros., of Norwood, to see whether that company would be prepared to run at least a minimum service to ensure that the essential service to the school children of the area is maintained?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The honourable member mentioned this matter the other day on our going into the Committee of Supply, and in accordance with the Government's custom I immediately examined his complaint. I find that the matter arose in the first place out of a deputation to me in connection with private operators operating in the metropolitan area, who had asked whether the trust would give them a more assured franchise than the annual franchise under which they were operating. They said that an annual franchise did not enable them to get the necessary finance for their buses and that they would be willing to pay a reasonable fee for a five-year franchise under which they would know where they stood and not be subject to a yearly alteration of the trust's policy. That was granted by the trust and accepted by all operators in the metropolitan area except the one mentioned by the honourable member, who was conducting a lateral service not running into the city that was rather poorly patronized and probably not very profitable. He objected particularly to a £7 10s. fee payable for an inspection to see that the vehicles were in a roadworthy condition. The association, however, in its desire to get this programme into operation, agreed to pay the fee, but I think there was some limit on the time the association was prepared to pay it. I think they were prepared to pay it only once or twice. Since then, in order to maintain the service mentioned by the honourable member, the trust has arranged for somebody else to undertake it. I have spoken about this matter to Mr. Seaman, a member of the trust, and I am sure that if Lewis Brothers were prepared to carry on the service, the Tramways Board would be prepared, because the service is not a remunerative one, to licence that firm and forego the inspection fee normally charged. I will, however, get that confirmed and advise the honourable member in due course.

#### FISHING INDUSTRY.

Mr. WILLIAM JENKINS—Is the Minister of Agriculture aware of the falling off in demand for flake or shark and the consequent drop in returns to fishermen and does he consider that this is due to the large amount of hake being imported from Africa? Is he aware that some of the best fishing cutters in southern waters are either sold or for sale, and will he investigate the amount of hake being imported on import licences and its effect on our fishing industry?

The Hon. A. W. CHRISTIAN—I regret that I have not the precise information on the various points raised, but I shall be glad to have an investigation made. I point out, however, that some falling off in the catch is often due to seasonal conditions, but whether that is operating in this case I do not know. Some time ago—I think last year or the year before—an attempt was made on a Commonwealth-wide basis to bring about a close season for shark fishing because it was feared that they were being unduly diminished through heavy catching, but no agreement was reached. So far most of our fishing is what might be termed in-shore fishing. There appears, however, to be great promise in the development of an off-shore fishing industry, and a gentleman from this city is at present abroad investigating the possibility of getting Norwegian and other foreign fishing interests to develop deep sea fishing here. Whether anything will come of that I do not know, but we are certainly deeply interested in the matter.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—If the Minister investigates this question, will he consider the great disparity between the price that fishermen get and the price paid by the consumer? It seems ridiculous that processed fish can be imported from England and South Africa and sold here at about 40 per cent of the price that has to be paid for fresh fish caught in South Australia.

The Hon. A. W. CHRISTIAN—I shall be glad to get information about facts and prices, but if the honourable member requires any action I suggest that he address his request to the Premier.

#### TRAINEE TEACHERS' TEXT BOOKS.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—I have been informed that in some university subjects there is a grave shortage of text books at the Teachers' College, necessitating the sharing of books, sometimes between four or five students. Naturally, this

rather handicaps those students. Will the Minister of Education have the statement investigated, and if it is verified will he have the position rectified?

The Hon. BADEN PATTINSON—I shall be pleased to do so.

#### TEACHING STAFF.

Mr. STOTT—Has the attention of the Minister of Education been drawn to a statement made by the president of the Teachers' Institute that he disagrees with the Minister's statement in reply to my recent question regarding the recruitment of teachers, and disputes the facts the Minister gave. Will the Minister clarify the position?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I would like to clarify what the honourable member has just said that the president of the Teachers' Institute disputes the facts that I gave. I gave no facts. I only made a comment.

#### HOMES FOR THE AGED.

Mr. LAWN—Has the Treasurer a reply to my question of last week regarding homes for the aged?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The honourable member asked me to get him a return showing the assistance that had been given to old folks' homes and the progress that had been made on the various undertakings. The return is as follows:—

#### SUBSIDIES FOR HOMES FOR AGED. SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SCHEME.

Home.	Amount of State Government Subsidy.	Work to be Performed.	Present Position.
North Adelaide Christian Community Centre	£ 11,961	Purchase of a building, renovations, furnishing and painting. Reduction of overdraft.	Virtually complete. Linos being laid. Overdraft has been reduced.
"Eventide" Salvation Army Home, Linden Park	35,501	Additional Buildings— Two dormitories.	One dormitory will be occupied in a fortnight. Second dormitory 80 per cent complete—ready in two months. About 80 per cent complete.
"Resthaven" Homes for Aged— Malvern .....	28,574	Dining block, staff block, minor works and furniture. Staff residence. Payment of mortgage. Additional buildings— Nurses Block.	Complete except for laying of lino. Mortgage has been repaid.
Leabrook .....		Dormitory Block. New Laundry.	About 85 per cent complete—ready in four weeks.
Central Mission Old Folks' Home, Payneham		Furnishings, equipment, etc. Alterations to existing buildings.	About 60 per cent complete. About 80 per cent complete.
Lutheran Rest Home for Aged, Tanunda	13,428	Alterations to existing buildings. New wing, furnishings, equipment, etc.	Alterations to old residence will be commenced when Nurses Block completed.
St. Laurences Home for Aged, Grange	23,079	Repayment of loan. Construction of new men's wing.	Complete. About 60 per cent complete—being plastered at present.
"Illoura" Baptist Home for Aged, Norwood	10,523	New wing, furnishings, etc. Repairs to laundry, storeroom, etc.	Work 99 per cent complete. Architect going to Tanunda on 31/5/55 to inspect.
Lutheran Home for Aged, Fullarton	2,498	Purchase of a building, renovations, furnishing and painting.	Loan has been repaid. Building complete except for second fittings and painting. Should be finished in July.
Sisters of St. Joseph's Home, Cowandilla	5,900	New wing, purchase of house, additions to existing buildings, furniture	Some hold-ups in progress but architect has stated his objective is to have everything complete by 1st June.
Wesley House for Aged, Semaphore	16,537	Construction of new wing, new dining room, furniture, and alterations to existing buildings.	Furnishings should be complete in a fortnight—then ready for occupation.
"Lealholme" Old Folks Home, Port Pirie	492	Additional accommodation and improvements. Furnishings.	All complete.
Mount Gambier Old Folks Home	7,960	Construction of new building. Matron's Block. Furnishings, fences, etc.	All complete except for minor details.
Churches of Christ Home for Aged, St. Georges	12,091	Two dormitories; erection of a cottage; erection of covered way; furnishings.	Completed in November, 1954.
Little Sisters of the Poor, Glen Osmond	21,161	Construction of new two-storey wing. Alterations to additional buildings. Furnishings. Verandahs enclosed.	Work held up awaiting tiles, but now roofed. Plastering to commence. Ready in about three months. All complete. Opened last Saturday, 28th May, 1955.
Total .....	£202,792		About 75 per cent complete. Ceilings not in yet. Complete in about six weeks. Completed.

## LICENSING OF TAXICABS.

Mr. JENNINGS—During the debate on the Metropolitan Taxicab Control Bill last year a number of serious allegations were made of racketeering, trafficking in licences and hiring out of licences at exorbitant fees. None of the allegations were denied and I have been told recently that under the existing control by the City Council, such practices are continuing. As the Bill was defeated last year, can the Premier say what the Government's intentions are this year concerning the licensing of taxicabs?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The matter was investigated at the request of certain taxi drivers—I believe Yellow Cab drivers—who complained to the Prices Commissioner that the amount they were being charged by the company was exorbitant. As a charge was involved the Prices Commissioner was able to investigate the matter. The question arose whether the terms under which they were operating made them, legally, partners in the undertaking. It was rather a peculiar set-up and the Crown Law Office held that they were on a profit-sharing basis of some type and were partners in the concern. Under those circumstances the Prices Commissioner offered to arbitrate but, in the first instance, the Yellow Cab Company was not prepared to accept his arbitration, although the drivers concerned were. Subsequently, the company agreed to his arbitration and it was accepted by both parties. The arrangement is now working smoothly and amicably.

## TARLEE STOCK LOADING FACILITIES.

Mr. QUIRKE—Last Thursday evening or night sheep were loaded at Peterborough. They left there at 8.30 a.m. on Friday and arrived at Tarlee between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. on Saturday. They were unloaded at 6.30 a.m. There were some losses, as can be understood, as they were on the trucks for between 24 and 30 hours, travelling a distance of about 100 miles as the crow flies. The sheep could have been unloaded earlier, possibly as soon as the train arrived, but at least five hours earlier, had the loading facilities at Tarlee been illuminated in some way. The station area is served by electricity. Can the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Railways, ascertain whether the Railways Commissioner will investigate the possibility of lighting the ramps when goods trains arrive in the middle of the night to enable owners of sheep to unload them immediately? Unloading is a difficult operation on a pitch black night

when no illumination is provided. If the sheep could be immediately unloaded losses would be reduced and the animals would not be so knocked about.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I will take up the matter with my colleague and bring down a reply at an early date.

## SEWERAGE OF COUNTRY TOWNS.

Mr. CORCORAN—Some time ago I approached the Minister of Works for information regarding the prospects of deep drainage being established in the near future at country towns, particularly Naracoorte. He told me that a committee had been set up comprising two Government members and two members from this side, with himself as chairman, to investigate the matter. Can he give any information as to the deliberations of the committee and whether the prospects of deep drainage in country towns are brighter now than at any time since I have been in this place?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I think the prospects are considerably brighter. The committee met and decided what should be maximum and minimum charges. I will bring down the information in more detail tomorrow. A recommendation has been submitted to Cabinet and the Treasurer is considering the matter in relation to the Loan Estimates for the next financial year. It is hoped that there will be sufficient funds to start work in connection with the more important of the country sewerage schemes. One member of the committee desires another meeting to be held to see whether some country town should be aided for septic tank purposes. The committee has not yet met on this matter. I will bring down further information tomorrow.

## DRIED FRUITS INDUSTRY.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—Did the Minister of Irrigation see an article in yesterday's *Advertiser* regarding producers of dried fruits? The paper was evidently alarmed at the financial position of the growers and sent a special reporter to investigate the matter, and it is reasonable to assume that he went into it fully. In his report he said that one packing house has half of its growers with no equity in their accounts, and that for the first time in 25 years a Renmark grower has gone bankrupt. In today's *Advertiser* there is a statement of a similar nature by Mr. Tripney, chairman of the local branch of the A.D.F.A., who for many years has been actively associated with the dried fruits industry, and it is

supported by traders in the town who feel that they are in for a difficult time indeed. Is the Minister convinced that the statement I made last week that the income of growers had been materially reduced is correct, or is he still of the opinion that the growers are in a position to carry their losses and liabilities, as suggested by the head of his department?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I do not doubt the honourable member's statement made last week that the settlers are having a lean period this season. I admit it frankly. I said that of the four previous seasons three have been very good ones and one not so good, perhaps a little below average. I did read the press report mentioned by the honourable member, but there was also a statement by one man whose returns had dropped £1,000 this year because of the poor season, which would indicate that previous to this year the seasons were not so bad.

#### HOSPITAL BENEFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Last session I received from the Premier certain information about hospital benefit organizations that were approved under the Commonwealth Government's health scheme. Recently I perused a list of approved organizations that had been supplied to me by the Commonwealth department, and I have found that there are a number still canvassing the country for contributors which have not been approved by the Commonwealth Government under its scheme. Last year the Premier said he intended to introduce legislation to provide a comprehensive coverage for contributors. Does the Government intend introducing the legislation this session?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—This matter has been investigated to see whether it is possible to devise provisions to meet the position which would also be constitutional. We would be dealing with a matter that comes to some extent under the control of the Commonwealth Parliament; indeed, this subject has been discussed in that Parliament this session, and I believe that the Commonwealth Government has intimated that it will take some action. One difficulty is that these organizations are clearly stating on their literature that they are not registered under the Commonwealth scheme, so they are not misrepresenting the facts. I do not know of any organization that has defaulted in payment, although I have been informed by the Government Actuary that these organizations are not sound financially and that they are proposing to pay benefits that they cannot meet on the amounts they charge. The question of defining what

is a *bona fide* organization is most difficult, but I will get the honourable member further information as soon as possible.

#### LAND DEVELOPMENT ON EYRE PENINSULA.

Mr. PEARSON—From time to time the Lands Department receives requests from people anxious to take up land in various parts of Eyre Peninsula. I know the Minister is taking steps to have certain Crown Lands surveyed and prepared for allotment. Can he give me any information that would enable applicants to know their chances of taking up land in my electorate and in the district of Eyre?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—From information I have received it seems that a considerable area on Eyre Peninsula can be allotted for development, such as an area north of Darke Peake and west of Kimba, two blocks to be gazetted shortly in the southern portion of the hundred of Pinkawillinie, eight blocks to be gazetted shortly in the hundred of Peachna, some land in the hundred of Tooligie and the hundred of Murlong (unsurveyed) that is being investigated by the Surveyor General's staff, and some land west of the hundred of Buckleboo that is to be investigated as to suitability.

#### ADULT EDUCATION.

Mr. DUNSTAN—I understand that about eight months ago the Minister of Education received a request from the University Council for an investigation into adult education in South Australia. So far as I know, no formal investigation has taken place, so I ask the Minister who will be appointed to conduct any investigation and whether the tutorial class department, the University Council and the Workers' Educational Association will be invited to give their views if an investigation is undertaken?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—A request was made by the University Council to the Government that it should join the University in making a joint investigation into adult education, but the Government decided not to accede to that request but to make its own investigation. Investigations are being made at present. I shall be pleased to hear the views of the Workers' Educational Association or any other body. The Director of Education has recently been engaged in discussions with a committee at the University, and the only difference of opinion has been on whether the Government should join the University in a joint scheme or pursue its own investigations.

# KINGSCOTE AREA SCHOOL.

Mr. BROOKMAN—Last year I asked the Minister of Education to consider the acquisition of additional land for the area school at Kingscote and the Minister agreed to do so. Can he now say what stage negotiations have reached?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—When the honourable member asked his question I referred the matter to Cabinet, which agreed to acquire the land. Speaking from memory, I think half the land was to be acquired by the Government and the other half by the Kingscote Soldiers Memorial Park Incorporated. The transfers for the two blocks of land at Kingscote have been sent to the vendors at Kingscote for signature. This is a subdivision of land in which the Education Department and the Kingscote Soldiers Memorial Park Incorporated are each purchasing equal portions. The Education Department's transfer cannot be registered until the balance of the land is transferred to the Soldiers Memorial Park Incorporated. Advice has now been received that the latter transfer is ready for registration. The whole matter should be completed within the next few weeks.

# MONTEITH SCHOOL FENCE.

Mr. WHITE—Early this year improvements were made at the Monteith school. The amount of work done was fairly considerable and the only major work left undone was the building of a paling fence on the southern side. As a result of inquiries I understand that this work was left because it was considered that local workmen could do the work and on the understanding that tenders would be called. Because much of the severe weather that is experienced along the Murray, particularly at this time of the year, comes from the south-west, will the Minister of Education expedite the construction of the fence, which is required to protect the school?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I do not know what stage the tenders have reached, but I will have inquiries made. I do, however, make the general comment that it seems to me the Monteith school is not in a much different position from that of many hundreds of schools throughout the State where it is impossible to obtain contractors to do work that is required or desired. I know the great difficulty the Architect-in-Chief has in obtaining contractors to perform works that have been approved firstly by the Education Department and secondly by the Architect-in-Chief. On my several visits to country areas

when school committees have complained to me about the delay in works proceeding I have asked them, as school committees, to try to obtain local contractors, but by and large school committees do not appear to be any more successful in that direction than the Education Department or the Architect-in-Chief.

# PORT PIRIE WATER PRESSURE.

Mr. DAVIS—In 1953 a dwellinghouse was burnt down in Senate Road, Port Pirie. On that occasion the fire brigade reported to the local council that low water pressure was responsible for the loss of the home. On March 31, 1953, a letter was written to the engineer-in-charge of the Port Pirie district water supply, emphasizing the fire brigade's report. On May 1, 1953, the council received a letter from the engineer stating that its letter had been forwarded to the head office in Adelaide and that no doubt he would receive a reply in due course. No reply has been received yet, but another letter has been received from the engineer stating that certain water pipes in Port Pirie are not as efficient as formerly. Last Saturday another fire occurred in Port Pirie, and as it was only 50yds. from my home I saw everything that took place. When the fire brigade arrived a hose was attached to the hydrant, but insufficient water came out to fill the fire hose. A booster pump was then used, but even then there was insufficient water to save the home. From a statement that appeared in the press I understand that one of the firemen said that the brigade would have been able to save the first home had sufficient water been available and that they were most fortunate to save, with the aid of the booster pump, two adjacent buildings that had caught fire. Port Pirie ratepayers are paying £5,390 a year towards the upkeep of the fire brigade and they desire to have sufficient water available in the case of fire. Has this matter been brought to the attention of the Minister of Works, and, if so, what does he intend to do about increasing the water pressure in Port Pirie?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—This matter has not been brought to my notice, but I am aware that in many parts of the State the reticulation mains have outlived their usefulness and the department is restoring them to their full capacity as rapidly as possible. The matter having been raised, I will ascertain the best means of meeting the situation at Port Pirie and bring down an early reply.



### WAR SERVICE LAND SETTLEMENT SCHEME.

Mr. STOTT—His Excellency's speech contained the following statement:—

The War Service Land Settlement Scheme continues to work satisfactorily. The number of settlers has now reached 844, and 87 applicants have been selected as eligible for blocks in course of development. Practically all the settlers are meeting their liabilities to the Government, and are in a sound financial position.

As this statement has caused confusion among soldier settlers on the River Murray because of the fact that final valuations have not yet been made, can the Minister of Repatriation say whether that statement refers to broad acres?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—The honourable member is correct when he says that valuations have not been completed for irrigation blocks; therefore, the statement refers to settlers on broad acres. Up to the end of the financial year, as I have stated previously, 90 per cent of those settlers had met their commitments in full. Only yesterday I read a report on valuations. There has been some disagreement between the States on the system of fixing valuations, but I think that on or about June 20 a meeting will be held to try to arrive at a definite valuation scheme. As soon as I get further information I will advise the honourable member.

### NEW TOWN NEAR SALISBURY.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—On a number of occasions I have noticed from the press that strong objections have been raised to the suggested transfer of a hotel licence to the new town near Salisbury. I will not argue whether this application should be granted, but it has occurred to me that it would be opportune for the Government to consider the establishment of a community hotel in that area. The establishment of community hotels has spread throughout the State and Commonwealth, and New Zealand has been very active in that regard. The revenue derived from such an hotel is of great assistance to a town and would be of particular help to the new town for its various undertakings. Will the Premier give this suggestion serious consideration?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—There will be an application to the Licensing Court for permission to transfer a licence from one part of that licensing district to another. That is a matter the Licensing Court was established to control and it will no doubt take evidence and make a decision in due course. Legislation does exist relating to community hotels and there is

nothing to prevent any person from establishing such an hotel if he can secure the necessary licence.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Many traders are experiencing difficulties in making out accounts and cartnotes in respect of the new town near Salisbury because it is not named. Will the Premier take steps to see that an early name is given to this town to overcome these difficulties?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I will endeavour to do that.

### MENTAL INSTITUTION PATIENTS.

Mr. LAWN—In reply to a question last year the Premier said that there were between 300 and 400 persons in mental institutions who could be better cared for in infirmaries. I asked whether the Government would inquire whether certain institutions would care for them or itself do something in the matter. He replied that in addition to a building being erected at Northfield, the Government had subsidized religious homes to the extent of £312,000 to look after these people. I raised the same question recently and was again told that between 300 and 400 such people were in mental institutions, so apparently the financial support has not relieved the position. Last Wednesday I asked the Premier whether the Government's policy was to continue putting these people in mental institutions, or whether it would provide other accommodation. Today the Premier read a list relating to subsidies totalling £203,000 to charitable institutions. Can he say whether the Government will continue to put aged people into mental institutions or will it adopt the policy of providing infirmaries for them?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—As there is a question by the honourable member on the Notice Paper relating to this matter I suggest it would be improper for me to reply at this stage.

Mr. Lawn—That is a different question altogether.

Later:

Mr. LAWN (on notice)—Of adult patients placed in mental institutions since 1932, how many, in each year, were placed there merely because of old age as distinct from mental ill-health?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Nil.

### BULK HANDLING OF WHEAT.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—The Minister of Agriculture has given notice that he intends to introduce legislation relating to the bulk handling of wheat. Does he know when the report

of the Public Works Committee on bulk handling of wheat will be received and will he consider deferring his proposed legislation until members have had an opportunity of perusing that report?

The Hon. A. W. CHRISTIAN—The Government has already received two, if not three, progress reports on the question of bulk handling generally. I believe the committee is almost ready with its final report, specifically concerning Wallaroo. I think it will be ready by the time we come to consider the legislation of which I have given notice today.

#### BICYCLE SHEDS AT SCHOOLS.

Mr. STEPHENS—Some primary, high and technical schools are provided with bicycle shelter sheds, but at some schools school committees are apparently expected to provide them. Will the Minister of Education indicate what the department's policy is concerning such sheds?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—This is not an easy question. Sheds are provided originally at some schools, but not at others. I will bring down a considered reply tomorrow.

#### RAIL TRANSPORT OF TOMATOES.

Mr. STOTT—On four or five occasions since January tomatoes have been consigned from Loxton to Adelaide to reach the market early on Friday morning, but have been left at Tailem Bend where they are supposed to be transferred to another train, and have missed the Adelaide market. Consequently there has been considerable loss to the settlers at Loxton and the consignees. Application has been made to the Railways Commissioner for compensation, but he has refused to consider the claim. It is quite obvious that the loss has been due to the negligence of the railway employees at Tailem Bend in not transferring the fruit to the train for Adelaide. Will the Minister of Works take up the matter of compensation with the Minister of Railways to see that justice is shown to these people?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I will obtain a report from the Railways Commissioner.

#### PRINCESS SQUARE, WOODVILLE.

Mr. HUTCHENS (on notice)—

1. Who paid the land tax for the five years prior to 1955 on the property known as Princess Square situated in Beverley ward of the Woodville Corporation?

2. What was the amount paid for each of the five years?

3. When was this property transferred from one owner to another prior to 1954 and who were the parties involved in such transfers?

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

1. and 2. The Commissioner of Land Tax reports that Princess Square is entered in the assessment book of the Department as a public reserve. So far as is known by the Land Tax Department, it has always been so defined, and is therefore, exempted from land tax.

3. John Riggs to Edward Stephens in 1849; trustees of Edward Stephens to William Thomas Foster in 1875.

#### RECENT PUBLIC WORKS.

Mr. HUTCHENS (on notice)—

1. What public works have been recommended by the Public Works Standing Committee since August 11, 1950?

2. What were the estimated costs of each work?

3. At what stage of construction are these works?

4. Of those works uncompleted, how much has been spent on each?

5. Of those completed what were the individual costs?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The information will be tabled as it is too voluminous to be included in *Hansard*.

#### REBATES ON COUNCIL RATES.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice)—Is it the intention of the Government to amend the Local Government Act this session to enable local government bodies to allow rebates on council rates to pensioners and other persons in necessitous circumstances?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—No.

#### ABORIGINES: LIQUOR CONSUMPTION.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY (on notice)—

1. How many persons in each of the towns of Berri, Barmera, and Renmark have been charged, since December 17, 1953, with supplying liquor to aborigines or half-castes contrary to section 172 of the Licensing Act?

2. How many of these persons were convicted and (a) gaol'd; or (b) fined?

3. How many aborigines or half-castes in each of the abovementioned towns have been charged since December 17, 1953, under section 173 of the Licensing Act with consuming or possessing liquor?

4. How many of those so charged were convicted and (a) gaol'd; or (b) fined?

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

1. Persons charged since December 17, 1953, with supplying liquor to aborigines or half-castes contrary to section 172 of the Licensing Act are as follows:—Berri, 4; Barmera, 1; Renmark, nil.

2. Convictions and penalties awarded for supplying liquor:—Convicted—Berri, 4; Barmera (case dismissed); gaoler, 1; fined, 3.

3. Number of aborigines or half-castes charged with consuming or possessing liquor since December 17, 1953:—Berri, 70; Barmera, 20; Renmark, 12; total, 102.

4. Convictions and penalties awarded for consuming or possessing liquor:—

	Gaoled.	Fined.
Berri .. . . .	18	52
Barmera .. . . .	4	16
Renmark .. . . .	8	4
	30	72

#### GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND OVERSEAS TRIPS.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice)—

1. Which officers in the employ of the State Government have been sent abroad to gain experience since 1945?

2. Which departments during that period have not been represented on such trips abroad?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The information has been tabled. The first information tabled today in reply to a question involved nine pages of foolscap paper. The Government believes a return should have been called for because of the amount of work and printing involved. However, so that members would have the information, the Government decided to get it, and it has been tabled. These remarks apply also to the present question.

The SPEAKER—The Premier has raised an interesting point. The Standing Orders provide for a motion to be moved for the preparation of a return. When it has been tabled a motion may be moved that it be printed.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Under the Standing Orders the Government should have asked the honourable member concerned to move for a return, but if that had been done he would have been denied the information he desired for his speech on the Address in Reply. For that reason and to avoid the honourable member having to wait for private members' day to move for a return, the Government decided to table the information, but I point out again that questions that involve nine foolscap pages of information in the answer should not be asked.

#### COMMONWEALTH-STATE HOUSING AGREEMENT.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (on notice)—

1. How much money has been made available to the State under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement?

2. How much of this amount has been made available to—(a) The State Bank of South Australia; and (b) The South Australian Housing Trust?

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

1. £7,800,000 to end of May, 1955.

2. (a) Nil. (b) £7,800,000 to end of May, 1955.

#### NEW TOWN NEAR SALISBURY.

The SPEAKER laid on the table reports by the Public Works Standing Committee on new town north of Salisbury—area No. 1 primary school and area No. 5 primary school, together with minutes of evidence.

Ordered that reports be printed.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from May 26. Page 94.)

Mr. JOHN CLARK (Gawler)—I support the motion. It is a sad thing that at the beginning of my remarks I must say a few words regarding the untimely deaths of two colleagues. Our delight in defeating a candidate on the other side in an election—and I think this applies to both sides—is sometimes tinged with regret at losing someone from the Chamber whom we have learned to appreciate as a friend, even though we may have violently disagreed with him politically. Immeasurably more saddening is losing members by death. Irrespective of Party, all members join in the sentiments expressed in paragraph 2 of Lieutenant-Governor's speech regarding the passing of the Honourable R. J. Rudall and Mr. Steve Dunks, former member for Mitcham and long Chairman of Committees in this House. Mr. Dunks was a keen and able debater and did not hesitate to praise a good speech, even though he did not agree with it. He did not hesitate to give praise privately if he thought a member had made a good contribution to a debate. He came to me once or twice and congratulated me on my speech, but he also came several times to say that I did not go so well. I appreciated these utterances from a man who knew something about debate. I remember some years ago taking part in debating competitions at Eudunda when Mr. Dunks was the

judge. He was reasonably kind to me and gave me a first and second. Perhaps it pre-disposed me towards him. I regret his loss to this House. He will be missed by us all. I congratulate his successor and wish him a happy Parliamentary career, although I cannot wish him a long one, but that is understandable.

I regret the death of the Honourable R. J. Radalk. He was a fellow-townsmen of mine and I had known him since boyhood. For many years, as a teacher, I was under his guidance when he was Minister of Education. I believe his successor in the Legislative Council is a worthy gentleman, but I cannot sincerely congratulate him on his election, or any other member for that matter because of the franchise that we have for that place. I believe that it is the antithesis of democracy, and when I say that I do not mean that I support what we have in this House, because that is bad enough.

Most of the speech of the Lieutenant-Governor was a statement of what the Government claims to have achieved. Many of them were doubtful claims. The Government seemed reluctant to give definite statements about the future. It appeared to me that it is not too certain of what it will do this session, but that is not unusual. I listened with great interest to the maiden speech of our new member, Mr. Millhouse. All of us, whether we have been here for a long or short period, are keen to hear a new member speak. It gives us the opportunity to sum up his capabilities. Without attempting to be patronizing, I unreservedly congratulate Mr. Millhouse on his ability as a speaker. Unfortunately I cannot congratulate him on the subject matter, because it was not new. Possibly that was a wise procedure for a man making a maiden speech in this place. I have heard that for some time his has been a voice crying in the barren wilderness of the Liberal and Country League policy on electoral reform. I and other members listened in vain for mention of that matter. I hope the muzzle has not already been put on him and that the big whip has not been cracked, but I fear the worst. I admired his frank admission that he had much to learn about Parliament. I wish him well in his search for knowledge of this place. Perhaps in the course of his search for that knowledge he may form some doubt about the legitimacy of the so-called Liberal principles to which he has been proud to give allegiance. I also wish him well in his search for a bride. Members will agree that possibly the greatest asset a member of this place can have is a good and suitable

wife. I look forward with great interest to more speeches by the honourable member. I was happy to hear Mr. Heaslip frankly admit that he had gained much knowledge of Parliament since his election.

Mr. Heaslip—Don't you admit it?

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Yes, but I hope that there is more evidence in my speech that I have gained knowledge. Mr. Heaslip's remarks consisted of old hackneyed beliefs which were firmly implanted in his childhood, and which will remain for ever. Possibly he may have the same view of my remarks when I finish. Praise from me regarding the contribution by the Leader of the Opposition to this debate is not necessary. He gave his usual careful and constructive analysis of what little there was in the Lieutenant-Governor's speech to analyse. More important than that was his masterly demonstration of what wasn't in the Government programme, but should have been. I enjoyed Mr. Brookman's thoughtful contribution to the debate, although in his remarks there was much with which I could not agree.

Paragraph 4 of the Lieutenant-Governor's speech contains a favourable and true comment on this year's cereal crops. He then said that fruitgrowers and vignerons had suffered from adverse weather. Unfortunately that is true. The week-end before last I visited the river districts and found much dissatisfaction and complaint, and the possibilities of great hardship. The general opinion amongst the settlers was that they sorely need sympathetic treatment from both Federal and State Governments. They believe that such treatment has been lacking up to the present. I want to refer to an untimely incident that occurred in my district in January last. Much hail damage was done and I was approached by four or five residents of Williamstown who had suffered severely. They sought my assistance to see whether it were possible to obtain Government compensation for their losses. One man with 1,200 apple trees and 130 plum trees had more than a 90 per cent loss of what to my knowledge would have been one of the best fruit crops in the State. He is a particularly hard worker and a good citizen. He has worked strenuously over the last few years but has been forced to put his profits back into his property. This latest disaster has put him behind where he started. Other men had losses, but possibly not so bad. I told them that I did not think there was any legislation under which they could be helped, but I promised to discuss the matter with the Minister of Agriculture and seek assistance for them.

I stress that I am not criticizing the Minister of Agriculture when making these remarks; indeed when I spoke to him he was most sympathetic, but he only confirmed what I had told my constituents. I know he sincerely regretted that assistance could not be given, and sympathized with the sufferers. I will quote from the final paragraph of a letter I received from him, for it makes my point clear:—

It may be felt in some quarters that the Government is providing at the present moment substantial relief in the recent bush fire disaster and could therefore do something to relieve cases of the kind that you cite. The difference, however, is that in the case of hailstorm damage, the capital assets and the productive capacity of the individual's holdings are not impaired, the loss being purely seasonal. In the bush fire cases, however, substantial improvements, and in many instances homes have been burned up, stock lost, and in many cases orchards almost entirely destroyed, so that capital assets and productive capacity has been so seriously impaired as to seriously affect the livelihood of the sufferers for a very long time.

Again, I am not decrying the assistance given the victims of these disastrous bush fires, and I know that the Minister's arguments are valid, but it is hard to convince men that their cases are different from others, especially when they either have to borrow money and put a rope of debt around their necks or walk off their properties. I ask the Government to seriously consider giving financial assistance to people who lose so much from hail or frost because, as the member for Victoria said, they cannot insure against such losses.

Mr. Heaslip—What about assistance for damage by grasshoppers?

Mr. JOHN CLARK—I should be happy for that to be included, too. Paragraph 9 of the Lieutenant-Governor's speech states that our water supply schemes are progressing satisfactorily, and I am glad that the Government is at last pressing on with the completion of the South Para reservoir. So far the Government has hastened slowly, and I hope that the South Para reservoir will be completed in the not distant future. However, I point out that the construction of this reservoir has created some problems in my district, for it has deprived the district of Williamstown of much productive and valuable land, including gardens. I do not condemn the Government for choosing this site, but it has affected employment in the district. Many young people are being forced to leave in order to obtain employment. Of course, many go to the city and swell the already overgrown metropolitan

area. I have discussed this problem with several thoughtful and influential local citizens and I have two or three suggestions that I hope will be seriously considered by the Government in order to check the drift to the city and to increase the district's prosperity, which has declined to some extent.

When the reservoir has been completed I hope the Government will consider offering the workshops, buildings, and houses that have been established to a firm willing to start an industry in the district. Electricity and deep drainage have been supplied and roads have been constructed. The very considerable buildings should be worth much more standing where they are than if they were dismantled and transferred to another site. A new industry would be of enormous benefit to the town and district. I see no reason why the Government should not establish a timber mill in the Mount Crawford pine forest area or at least allow local mills, that provide employment for people in the town and district, to handle most of the timber grown in those forests. At present the local mills are starved for timber and, unfortunately, most of the local timber goes to the city mills. I point out that the thousands of acres under pines could have been divided into small dairy farms that would have provided many families with a good living. Therefore, local people have a moral right to employment in handling the bulk of the timber grown in their area. I also suggest that suitable land adjacent to the South Para reservoir be divided into small farms suitable for raising poultry. This is a particularly good district for poultry. Members know that I have strong views on an unfortunate policy that has been followed in South Australia of allowing, and even encouraging people, to flock to the city to the detriment of country areas. If the Government is sincere in its views on decentralization it has a real opportunity to do something for a town which has lost more than it will gain from the construction of the South Para reservoir.

Paragraph II of His Excellency's speech referred to increased road revenue, and I hope that this will mean better roads. However, I have found that often one has to repeat his request many times before he gets a satisfactory answer. On several occasions I have stressed the need for widening the Gawler Road. At one time I urged the construction of a dual highway, but I would now be prepared to accept the widening of the road.

Mr. Quirke—You advocated the widening of the bridges across that road, and that is now being done.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—I was more or less told that it was not necessary to widen them, but a week or two later I found the work being done.

Mr. O'Halloran—It has taken a long time to do it.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Yes, because men sometimes are taken from that job to work elsewhere, but I maintain that the road is most dangerous because of the huge volume of traffic it has to take, particularly when trotting is held at Gawler. I understand that land has been purchased for most of the way adjacent to the road with a view to its widening. If it were widened for a few feet on each side it would be safe.

Mr. Quirke—It is very dangerous between 4.30 and 5 p.m.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—It is, and I earnestly appeal to the Government to widen it as soon as possible. I hope the Government will grant larger subsidies to the Barossa Council, which has two roads that are suffering badly from the cartage of materials to the South Para reservoir. The Sandy Creek-Williamstown Road and the Williamstown-Springton road are being cut up by heavy loads, and it is not fair to expect the council to pay total maintenance costs. Paragraph 17 of His Excellency's speech states:—

The Housing Trust has continued to give special attention to housing needs in the country.

I commend the trust for what it has done in country areas, but I am afraid of the effect of its activities in the nameless town north of Salisbury. In reply to a question this afternoon the Minister of Education spoke of the difficulties of getting contractors for school buildings. He said that contractors were unobtainable, but they are scarce because of the huge congregation of contractors in the new town area. More trust homes should be built in Gawler, and I hope that the trust will build on land south of the Gawler racecourse that it bought some years ago. Many young people come to me seeking a trust rental home, and often I have been able to get one for them at Salisbury. That is Salisbury's gain and I am only too happy to help in getting accommodation for these young people; but many of them have been brought up in Gawler and would like to stay in the town they know so well. Because of the circumstances, however, they are forced to go to another town, which is unfortunate because it means that Gawler must suffer.

Usually one can be quite certain of finding in His Excellency's speech a reference to railways, but this year this subject was not mentioned, except for a slight reference in paragraph 12 to the treatment of pine for sleepers. I have repeatedly stressed the overcrowding on our trains, particularly on those taking workmen to Gawler in the evening. Anyone who has travelled in those trains will realize that between Adelaide and Salisbury the passengers are packed in like sardines; indeed, no self-respecting sardine would tolerate such conditions. My representations have had no effect; mine has been a voice crying in the wilderness.

I have also repeatedly sought a better service to Wasleys, but the Government does not seem to be interested. Perhaps the long-awaited diesel locomotives will help solve the problem, but I remember that not long ago we were proudly told that the electrification of the railways would solve it. That scheme, however, seems to have vanished into the limbo of the forgotten past. Perhaps the lack of reference in His Excellency's speech to railways may indicate that the Government thinks they are perfect but few members will agree that they are. Paragraph 34 of the speech contained the following statement:—

A Bill is being prepared which will enable subsidies to be paid to local governing authorities which are prepared to establish and maintain public libraries.

I entirely endorse the remarks of the member for Alexandra when he spoke in glowing terms about this project, because no type of decentralization can be better than an attempt to decentralize libraries and thus disseminate knowledge throughout the State. The implementation of this proposal might even be some answer to the bodgie and widgie problem about which we read so much for a while in our press. I am anxious to see the contents of this long overdue Bill. I hope it will not now be hampered by that pet claimant-State and loan-grant bogey of the Premier, which is so often conveniently produced by him.

Paragraph 16 of His Excellency's speech refers to several educational matters. I am sorry that the Minister of Education is not in the House at the moment; before I rose he courteously told me that he hoped I would not think he was rude by absenting himself, but he had to meet a deputation. He evidently thought I would make some reference to educational matters. The question of school buses needs investigation from several angles. I have studied the rates paid to school bus operators in my district. These drivers bear a great

responsibility in carrying children to school, and for a certain time each day the children's fate is in their hands. A comparison of the rates paid to bus operators in this and other States has amazed me, and I have been informed by operators here that it is almost impossible to obtain any adjustment of their rates. Further, I was surprised to learn that there appears to be a system of varying payments to operators. For example, in my district, of three drivers to whom I spoke one is paid 2s., another 2s. 2d. and yet another 2s. 3d. a mile. Why this discrepancy? No doubt there is some reason, but if so, the operators do not seem to know much about it. Further, they complain of frequent, unjust delays in receiving their pay cheque.

The rates paid have not been increased the same as other rates of remuneration over the last few years. These bus owners have a right to expect a little profit, but many are not making a profit after deducting depreciation and other expenses. One bus operator, who is an excellent driver, was paid £5 8s. per school day in 1951, whereas today he is paid £6 10s.—an increase of only 22s. On a percentage basis such increases are far below those provided workers in other occupations.

Mr. Fred Walsh—The basic wage has been increased by at least 20 per cent, since 1951.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Yes, I am not satisfied that in general the best service is being given by the department to children who have to be transported to school, and I would welcome an inquiry into school bus services. Surely, where schools are closed by the department, it has an obligation to transport children to the nearest school. Recently I have received two letters from parents at Magdala who are having difficulty in getting their children to school. I communicated with the Minister on the matter and some slight monetary assistance was offered, but nowhere near enough. It should not cost those parents anything, because their school has been closed by the department and it should be the department's responsibility to get the children to school.

This afternoon I was interested to hear a question by the member for Norwood on adult education. I was most disappointed to find that this subject was not mentioned in His Excellency's speech. In the *Mail* of May 21 Professor R. H. Tawney is reported as saying:—

You have an urgent need in South Australia for more public money to be spent on adult education. Your W.E.A. here is working well with its limited finances. In England the Association has been working for 50 years and

about 120,000 people are studying under the scheme this year. The W.E.A., universities and other education authorities in England are co-operating in adult education, and prospects are very bright.

Professor Tawney, a distinguished British historian, was on the executive of the British Workers' Educational Association for 42 years and he should know what he is talking about. South Australia is sadly lagging in grants for adult education. The following are the annual grants in the various States:—Victoria, £51,000; New South Wales, £50,000; Queensland, £50,000; Tasmania, £40,000; Western Australia, £13,000; South Australia, £7,000. We should be ashamed of this State's amazingly low pittance doled out with a niggardly hand.

Mr. Tapping—The Tasmanian grant is large.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Yes, and the adult education scheme in that State is famous. Adult education is possibly the most important adjunct of our educational system, but it is virtually ignored in South Australia. It is hard to credit that in an enlightened community last year's grant to the W.E.A. here was only a miserable £850.

In his reply to the member for Norwood Mr. Pattinson was not very plain on the intentions of the Government, but in a recent press statement he said that after a long delay the Government had decided to set up its own committee on adult education. Members have not been told when the committee will be set up, what its terms of reference will be, who will be on it, or how long its inquiry will take. I hope that the House will be given some information on this matter soon. I was pleased, however, this afternoon to hear the Minister say he would be pleased to have the views of the W.E.A. on adult education, because I am in the happy position to be able to give those views. They are:—

1. A board or council of adult education should be set up to co-ordinate adult education throughout the State. The University, the W.E.A. the Agricultural Bureau, the National Gallery, the Public Library, and other interested bodies should be represented on this board.

2. The University's part in adult education should embrace work in tutorial classes, in the country—particularly in discussion groups and music groups of the kind provided by the University of Sydney Department of tutorial classes. It should also include joint responsibility for residential schools in the city and country and these should be held several times a year. There might also be big scope for a residential college for adults with a permanent teaching staff.

3. The W.E.A.'s part in adult education should embrace work in elementary classes in the city and suburbs (as distinct from classes of a higher standard) and non-academic classes and craft classes. The W.E.A. should continue its work of representing students' views and fostering student activities out of class. The W.E.A. should work in the country at the same level and co-operate in the organizing of residential schools. It could continue to act as enrolling agents for classes provided by both the University and itself, and give publicity to the University's country work when desired.

4. The provision of a travelling theatre, travelling art exhibition, and tours of musicians would be delegated to appropriate members of the board. Good use could be made of documentary films, particularly in the country.

5. To provide the much needed expansion in adult education, in this State there will be considerable establishment costs to be met, and we recommend that when a definite scheme has been drawn up the State Government should be asked to make an appropriate increase in the present grants for the work. It is our view that the future Director of the University's extra-mural work, who should have the status and salary of a professor, should have a full time assistant director and probably a full time tutor for country work.

The W.E.A. is hoping, this year, to appoint a full-time and assistant secretary. Accommodation is needed for these officers and for better general office space, and there is no doubt that an adult education movement becomes a much more valuable thing if there is one building for city classes which gives physical meaning to efforts to foster a strong corporate life among students. A sturdy station waggon of a good size is most necessary for country work. As work increases there would be need, probably, for a second vehicle. Money should be spent on books and records for discussion groups, and extra full-time clerical staff would be needed to administer these schemes.

Members may think that these ideas are somewhat grandiose, but they are not. They are only what is being done in other, and civilized States. Members of the Government will probably hold up their hands in horror and cry "Expense!" I believe that every penny would be well spent and would produce incalculable dividends. I hope that these suggestions will not be ignored simply because we cannot say what the results will be in pounds, shillings and pence. I appeal for these things to be considered when the Government's committee does meet.

Before I conclude I desire to refer to the recruitment of teachers in our Education Department. Paragraph 16 of His Excellency's speech reads:—

16. The Government has taken energetic action to cope with the large increase in the number of pupils in the primary and secondary schools. In the last five years the increase has been about 50 per cent; and in the next five

years there will be a further increase of 35 per cent.

That is absolutely true and I congratulate the Government on the building programme that has been instituted. However, the efforts to recruit further teachers merit condemnation. There has been a great deal of press publicity following statements by the president of the Institute of Teachers, with whom I entirely agree. An excellent and apt cartoon appeared in the *News*. I would like to see it incorporated in *Hansard*, but I know from the experience of the member for Prospect that that is not possible. I have obtained figures from departmental records which are illuminating. From 1950 to August, 1954, school enrolments increased by over 33,000. This increase necessitated the employment of an additional 1,097 teachers. To meet this demand 909 have been recruited up to the present, of that number 141 are permanent teachers and 768 temporary, of whom 529 are unclassified. I do not intend to debate the pros and cons of permanent teachers versus temporary teachers. I will leave that to members' commonsense. I know that many temporary teachers are doing excellent work, but they are not permanent and usually not suitable for secondary school teaching where the increase of pupils will be now most felt. The Government has done an excellent job in providing accommodation. Some schools are only temporary but there is nothing wrong with them. However, it is not much use having buildings unless there are sufficient teachers to educate the children in those buildings. The engaging of temporary and quick-trained teachers was an admirable expedient, but unfortunately is becoming a permanent feature of our Education Department and is something to be deplored. Perhaps the latest increase in teachers' salaries may help to obtain more recruits for the profession.

Why is it so difficult to get recruits? I believe the main reason lies in the unusual circumstances in South Australia over the last few years caused by the abnormal industrial expansion in this State. That is excellent in itself, but it has offered more congenial and remunerative opportunities to the young people who might otherwise have joined the Education Department. I believe that the Premier, unfortunately, is preoccupied with the industrial side of our State's life, frequently to the detriment of cultural interests. For many years interested people have suspected that something more tangible should be done to obtain more recruits for the Teachers College. We have been told that the Leaving Certificate pool is not sufficient to supply the requirements



of all occupations that draw from it. That is largely true, but the arguments have been put in a most misleading way. We have been told of the declining of the birth rate of the depression years with the consequent low number of 16-year old children—the normal Leaving Certificate year—from 1946 onwards. This would lead one to think that there was a lower pool to draw from. It sounds reasonable enough, but figures disprove it. The number of 16-year-old children fell gradually from 12,000 in 1930 to 7,700 in 1951 when the depth was reached, but there was a gradual increase again until there were 8,400 in 1953. Notwithstanding this, the number who gained the Leaving Certificate rose fairly consistently from 313 in 1930 to 907 in 1953. This means, of course, that although the number of 16-year-olds dropped by one-third in that period, the number gaining the certificate almost trebled. We must remember that it is from the Leaving Certificate holders that the Teachers College draws most of its recruits. The growth of eligibles for teaching has been further augmented by the number of young people who have gained the Technical and Area School Leaving Certificate. Thus the pool from which student teachers can be drawn is much larger than we have been led to believe. Unfortunately, we have not obtained the teachers.

I have some figures relating to the percentage of entrants to the Teachers College from those who obtained the Leaving Certificate. In the late twenties an average of 58 per cent of those who gained that certificate entered the College; from 1932 to 1935—the depression years—26 per cent; from 1936 to 1939, 42 per cent; from 1939 to 1947, 25 per cent; from 1948 to 1950, 23 per cent and from 1951 to 1953, 26 per cent. I am told that for 1955 it will be 23 per cent. We should be getting about 40 per cent, but the figure is just over 20 per cent. The intake remains about the same as it did, although we have three times as many children gaining their Leaving Certificate. The following table suggests one reason for it:—

Year.	Maximum Allowance for City Student.	Percentage of Basic Wage.
	£	%
1924 . . . . .	90	46
1944 . . . . .	70	33
1947 . . . . .	90	36
1949 . . . . .	110	36
Jan., 1950 . . . . .	130	43
Aug., 1950 . . . . .	190	54
Nov., 1951 . . . . .	210	44
Oct., 1953 . . . . .	280	47
May, 1954 . . . . .	300	49

I understand from the Minister's remarks today and from what I have read in the press that there is to be another increase of £20. It is obvious that during the post-war years allowances fell to their lowest level as did the recruitment of teachers. After the beginning of short courses in 1949 belated-efforts were made to improve the position, but the damage had been done. Not only did the department lose students in the late 1940's when they were so much needed, but possibly conditions at that time caused a drift away from teaching, which increased allowances failed to stop. Today there are well paid cadetships in industries. Commonwealth scholarships provide another opportunity for further education. In 1953, 447 people attended our training college but 698 students studied under the Commonwealth scholarship scheme. It is admitted by statisticians that a very important factor in occupation is the amount earned between the ages of 16 and 24. The average age at which a man marries is 25. Perhaps the following information will give another reason why we have difficulty in enlisting secondary school teachers. I have made a comparison between secondary school teaching and other professions. The figures do not include the recent salary increases for teachers or the marginal increases for members of other professions. At the age of 25 a male secondary school teacher has earned £5,260, a State public service employee £6,166, a Commonwealth public servant £6,149, and a bank employee with the Leaving Certificate £6,500, which is much more than the secondary school teacher. I have attempted to show that it is not true that the size of the Leaving pool has prohibited the further recruitment of teachers. Up to the present, unfortunately, teachers have been obtained at a reduced cost, but this to some extent has been forced on the department. It costs far less to train temporary women teachers—£70 or £80—than to send young people to the Teachers College where hundreds of pounds must be paid out. Later costs are reduced also, because the women mostly become unclassified assistants on the lower rates of pay. I do not say that this is deliberate Government policy in order to save money, but it has been suggested to me. It is unfortunate that it has happened, and it is not a good thing. It is certain that the attempt to obtain teachers by various means has had the effect of saving thousands of pounds for the Education Department, but no one knows what it will eventually cost the State in other ways.

What would have happened in South Australia if we had managed to recruit the number of students needed? We would not have been able to train them. Our college was built originally to take 300 students. Now there are 589, and at least 800 are necessary to meet future requirements. If we had 800 students where would we put them? Additions to the college were planned in 1949 but have not been carried out. A comparison with the position in other States shows that our college is sadly understaffed. In other States the average number of students to a member of the staff is 15, whereas in South Australia it is about 30. This is a matter which should be sincerely investigated by the Government. In an attempt to offset over-crowding and to cope with the training of teachers, we should consider establishing rural teachers colleges. Some people will bring up the matter of expense, but it would be expensive to enlarge our present Teachers College to more than its present size. When I mention rural teachers colleges I mean colleges in large country centres. Possibly we would get more children to attend them because it would be cheaper for the parents, and it would be a prestige to a town if it had a rural college. There could be one in the north, perhaps at Whyalla, Port Pirie or Port Augusta. One could be established in the South-East, perhaps at Mount Gambier or Naracoorte. In the river districts perhaps one could be at Berri. Victoria has three of these colleges, at Ballarat, Bendigo and Mildura. New South Wales has five—at Balmain, Armidale, Bathurst, Newcastle and Wagga. I understand there are several in Western Australia. Last year we were proud to say that we had obtained 23 per cent of the Leaving pool as entrants to our Teachers College, but in Western Australia earlier this year I learned that that State obtained 53 per cent. I suggest that the establishment of rural colleges is worth consideration. More facilities must be provided if numbers are to be increased. I have been told by the Premier that it cannot be done, but the time will come in all States when ways must be found of getting Federal assistance for education.

Mr. GOLDNEY (Gouger)—I associate myself with the remarks of other honourable members in regretting the deaths of a member of this Chamber and a member of another place. Both these gentlemen rendered a valuable contribution to the political life of the State; we sincerely regret their passing. I congratulate Mr. Teusner on his appointment as Chairman of Committees. I congratulate also the new

member for Mitcham. I feel sure that he will be a valuable member of this Chamber for years to come. The Lieutenant-Governor's Speech referred to the prosperity of the State in connection with industries and primary production. We have heard a great deal about the scientific knowledge available and that has been perhaps the main reason for the great increase in primary production in the past few years. Actually the area cropped has been less, but in some years the aggregate crop has been greater, owing largely to advanced scientific methods of production. Weather conditions play an important part in primary production and it must be remembered that unfavourable seasons may recur. Therefore, we should make preparations to meet this possibility, and endeavour to stabilize our markets. I was glad to learn that the Minister of Agriculture is appointing more officers to help primary producers by extending the agricultural services. In the past there has been some antagonism to new scientific ideas, but I believe that the younger generation, because of their more advanced education, are more inclined to accept scientific knowledge, the result of experiment. This eventually will prove of great benefit to the State.

The Lieutenant-Governor's Speech mentioned the work being undertaken to extend water services, both in the metropolitan area and in the country, and satisfaction was expressed at the achievement of bringing water from the Murray to serve the metropolitan area and certain country districts. As the result of a low intake last year the water level in many reservoirs is low, and it is therefore pleasing that Murray water is being made available not only to the metropolitan reservoirs but also some country reservoirs to serve the lower northern areas.

A much larger amount than previously is to be provided this financial year for road construction and maintenance. Road making is very costly, and I believe that the best methods have not always been employed. However, we have our road engineers to advise us and try to get the best results from the money available. The road from Balaklava to Port Wakefield has been subjected to much heavy traffic in the last two or three years since the opening of the wheat silo at Ardrossan and is now in a deplorable state. The Highways Department should seal this road which is used not only for heavy traffic but also for the transport of school children from Port Wakefield attending the Balaklava high school.

Nearly 30 years ago some of our railway lines—from Hamley Bridge westward to Moonta and north to Gladstone—were converted from narrow gauge, but the whole job was not completed, and consequently many of our country stations had no platform accommodation provided. This position still obtains, causing much inconvenience to the travelling public and also some danger when passengers have to alight. Since the introduction of rail cars the trouble has been aggravated because the carriage steps are very steep, and for elderly people, particularly when alighting at night, the position is dangerous. A mobile step, similar to those used for aircraft, has been suggested.

The Lieutenant-Governor's Speech also mentioned State forestry operations. Not only the present Government, but past Governments, are to be congratulated on their forestry programme. We are now reaping a handsome reward because of their foresight. Commendable work in this direction has also been done by individual private landowners. I commend tree planting to all land occupiers. It adds to the beauty of the country and to the comfort of stock. Much more could be done in this direction by private owners. The Government intends to subsidize hospitals which are prepared to make accommodation available for people with small means. This is a step in the right direction and is a long overdue need.

A very live topic in country areas is the extension of electricity services. Since the Electricity Trust was formed much extension work has been done, but still a great deal remains to be done. Naturally, the larger centres will be first served because of the greater revenue they will produce. Many isolated communities are not yet enjoying the benefit, including some people who are not far removed from the city. Eventually, I believe, practically all the people will be served.

In his speech the Leader of the Opposition advocated the sealing of main roads in country towns. This has been too long delayed. In the northern districts during the dry months fast-moving traffic stirs up the dust, leaving the local residents to suffer the discomfort. There is an almost continuous haze. A generation has grown up which apparently expects to receive everything from the Government, but it must be remembered that the Government would also appreciate help from the people. If they are prepared to help themselves the Government will be prepared to help them. I have pleasure in supporting the motion.

Mr. LAWN (Adelaide)—Unlike previous speakers I feel obliged to oppose the motion, as I have done on previous occasions. I have no objections to paragraphs 2 and 3 as I feel that every member will give his best attention to all matters that come before us, but bearing in mind the Government's practice of introducing six or eight Bills in the dying hours of the session I feel that in actual practice the Government does not attempt to give effect to paragraph 2. As regards paragraph 1, I am not satisfied with His Excellency's Speech, which in fact was a speech prepared by the Government. What the speech does not say would fill a book. I listened with attention to the whole of the speech by the mover, Mr. Millhouse. Early in his remarks he said:—

In his speech last July Mr. Dunks referred with satisfaction to what had lately been done by the Government and expressed the hope that the progress would continue.

I do not know what the Government has done since I have been here. Then the honourable member went on: "His hopes have not been misplaced." What has the Government achieved? His Excellency's speech does not mention anything of note except the work of the Housing Trust and the Electricity Trust, two things which the Government has copied from Labor's policy. Immediately after saying that Mr. Dunks had hoped that the construction of a new high school at Unley would be proceeded with at an early date and that the people at Highgate were eager for an infant school, Mr. Millhouse went on to say that he had been informed by the Minister of Works that preliminary estimates of the cost of the new high school ranged from £239,000 to £633,000, according to design, and that the scheme "will soon be submitted to the Public Works Committee. I know that the honourable member has a lot to learn, just as I did when I was in a similar position. For years I have been putting some questions on the Notice Paper. Consider, for example, a question I asked on notice on May 24 this year:—

At what stage of construction are the following buildings recommended by the Public Works Standing Committee for Parkside and Northfield Mental Hospitals—(a) new nurses' quarters, Parkside (recommended March 15, 1948); (b) new female treatment block, Parkside (recommended August 17, 1949); (c) Northfield Mental Hospital additions (recommended March 18, 1952); (d) male tuberculosis block, Parkside (recommended April 10, 1952) and (e) new men's admission block, Parkside (recommended June 25, 1953)?

The reply was:—

(a) (New nurses' home, Parkside)—completed and now occupied by the resident nurses.

(b) (Female treatment block, Parkside)—Completed except for about two months' work.  
 (c) (Northfield Mental Hospital—additions)—  
 (i.) Building for 40 women with tuberculosis—about two-thirds completed. (ii) Staff dining room—three-quarters completed. (iii) Residence for doctor—completed. (iv) Building for 80 senile men patients—tenders close June 29, 1955. Building for 80 senile women patients—specifications and bills of quantities being prepared. Building for 100 juvenile patients—specifications and bills of quantities being prepared. New laundry—in abeyance, pending decision with regard to central departmental laundry and extensions to other laundries. New kitchen—tenders close June 8, 1955. (d) (Male tuberculosis block, Parkside)—half completed. (e) (Men's admission block, Parkside)—contract signed.

If that is an example of the Government's progress the honourable member's hopes may be somewhat dampened. At election time the Premier goes around the country making all sorts of promises. I can remember several deep sea ports he promised the people of the South-East. He promised the people of Port Lincoln a fishing haven, and the people of Gawler a sewerage scheme and swimming pools; about the only thing he did not promise them was a deep sea port. The honourable member went to to say:—

As a lawyer I have sometimes wished that the legislature would stop tinkering so much with Acts of Parliament.

He is not the only one who wishes that, for big business feels the same way. Big business does not want to see Acts of Parliament tinkered with because they might be altered to improve the conditions of employees and give a little more balance to the scales of justice which are at present weighted in favour of big business. There was no mention in His Excellency's Speech of decentralization, of correcting the grave injustice inflicted upon the people by the present electoral gerrymander, or of giving rural workers access to the Arbitration Court. The members sitting opposite with whom the honourable member is associated are, in the main, market gardeners, farmers, graziers and the like and of course they would be affected if Parliament granted the right to their employees to go to the court to seek an award. Only last session, on the Industrial Code Amendment Bill, I referred to a statement by the Pensioners Association to the effect that the rural industry was exploiting rural pensioners who were being asked to work six days a week 10 hours a day on what was styled "light work." Of course there is to be no tinkering with that and no tinkering with the Industrial Code.

The Broken Hill Proprietary Company would not want to see existing legislation tinkered with. On the other hand there are large sections of the community which do want to see our statutes tinkered with. This State is one of the most backward in the matter of long service leave for employees—it is one of only two which makes no such provision. Of course, big business does not want to see the present law altered in order to grant long service leave to its employees. The crooks also are quite happy with the present position. We read in the newspapers, year in and year out, of people who occupy big positions in the community—not ordinary workmen in factories, but prominent business men—who are prosecuted for perpetuating huge swindles. We saw it again this year, as we saw it last year and for years past. They are quite happy with the present laws. The honourable member finally said:—

Having said this, I confess freely that I have a strong bias in favour of the present Administration, which comprises members of the Liberal and Country League. I, too, am a member of that league and I subscribe to the principles and beliefs which it upholds.

I do not know to what principles he was referring because the Liberal and Country League has no principles. While giving the right to every person over the age of 21 to have a voice in the election of his representative for this Chamber at the same time it gerrymanders the electorates and gives the right to the greatest proportion of the people, who live in the metropolitan area, to elect one-third of the members, whereas the sparsely populated areas elect two-thirds; at the same time it perpetuates the monument next door so as to prevent legislation passed by this House—which represents the electorate, gerrymandered though it be—from being put into effect. More representation is given in this Parliament to the amount of stockyard confetti and the number of sheep, parrots and cockatoos in a district than to the human beings in the metropolitan area. I shall refer later to the seconder of this motion. I have referred on previous occasions to one of the most Conservative members here, the member for Burra (Mr. Hawker). Although some members opposite say they are staunch supporters of private enterprise and condemn socialism, they get up in this House and commend socialism. The member for Rocky River commended socialism when he spoke on this motion. The member for Gouger commended the work of the State Forestry Department another socialistic enterprise, but he

could have referred to other Government enterprises, such as the railways, Leigh Creek coal-field and the Electricity Trust. This Government copies Labor policy, yet many of its supporters say they oppose socialism.

How can Liberal Party members say they are members of Parliament in a democratic country? Last year I invited students from the University of Adelaide to visit Parliament House and see this Chamber in session. That invitation was open to students born in Australia and also to students from other countries. I invited all students because there was an appeal made through the press at the time for Australians to be friendly towards Asian students and people from other countries. Some of the coloured students questioned me about our electoral laws and could not understand how South Australians, as part of the British Commonwealth of Nations, claim to live in a democracy. We tell Russia that we are a free democracy, but these students asked me how it came about that the people in the metropolitan area elected only 13 members of Parliament, whereas people in the country elected 26. They also wanted to know why we still had two Houses of Parliament. I could only answer that the Liberal Party is unprincipled and does not believe in democracy, that it thought more of stockyard confetti, parrots, galahs and sheep than it thought of human beings.

I hope that before the end of this session we shall have some progressive legislation before us, but I have been hoping that since 1949. I am still hoping and still learning. I endorse item No. 2 of the draft Address in Reply, and I earnestly endorse item No. 3, and I still hope that at some time we shall receive divine blessing on some legislation. I hope that someone will urge the Government to see the light and put before the House progressive legislation in the interests of the people. The first and most important step is to make this State a democracy.

Mr. Geoffrey Clarke—We did a good Christian act in subsidizing homes for the aged.

Mr. LAWN—Do you mean to say the Government is doing a good job in that direction?

Mr. Geoffrey Clarke—Yes.

Mr. LAWN—I have put several questions to the Government on housing, and it will have something to answer for when I have dealt with the question of homes for the aged.

Mr. Heaslip—The Government will be tipped out!

Mr. LAWN—It would be, but for the gerrymander. I was astounded to hear the remarks

of the honourable member about private enterprise, when he said:—

I have heard it said repeatedly that the Address in Reply debate is a waste of time, but one of the things I have learned to appreciate is that it gives to all private members the opportunity to voice their opinions, particularly regarding domestic problems in their districts.

The honourable member said that the debate on the Address in Reply gives members the opportunity to express their opinions but he did not say they are put on record in *Hansard*, but just before concluding his speech he said:—

I do not, however, agree with hire purchase. All we are doing through hire purchase is mortgaging our future.

Last year the Opposition introduced a Bill on hire purchase. I said it did not go as far as I would have liked, but I supported it. The House divided on the second reading, the member for Rocky River voting against it. He opposed the Bill, yet last Wednesday he said he did not agree with hire purchase. Opposition members wanted to stop big business from fleecing the people, but the member for Rocky River now says he is not in favour of hire purchase. In seconding the motion, he also said:—

The Electricity Trust, particularly in my district, is doing a splendid job. In the Napperby and Nelshaby areas 112 homes have been supplied with power and at Wirrabara over 20 homes have been supplied.

Does this champion of private enterprise believe that if the Adelaide Electric Supply Co. Ltd. had continued in operation those people in his district would have been supplied with power?

Mr. Heaslip—The taxpayers are paying for a lot of that power.

Mr. LAWN—I only asked the honourable member whether he thought the company would have supplied the power. Last year he spoke on electricity supplies and said:—

The electricity reticulation scheme provided by the power house at Port Augusta, although it goes through my district, is of no benefit to country people because all the power will go to Osborne to serve the bulk of the population in the city.

How little do some members know of the subject when they speak about socialism and State enterprise! The member for Rocky River made those remarks on August 4, 1954, yet when he spoke last Wednesday he commended the trust. Last year he said that country people would get no benefit at all, and added:—

This will provide more amenities to attract people from the country. I do not object, because I know we must have secondary industries, but this power house is not the great factor some people think it is in providing electricity for country districts.

Apparently he now thinks that he was mistaken last year.

Mr. Heaslip—I was not mistaken. That was all correct.

Mr. LAWN—The honourable member cannot reconcile what he said last year with what he said this year. Last year he said:—

However, the powerhouse is a wonderful achievement and will do much good for this State. For one thing, it has helped in the development of Leigh Creek. I admit that slowly we are getting electricity services in the country. Wirrabara Forest, which has already waited five years, may obtain it in the next 12 months.

Wirrabara has now been supplied, but the honourable member said last year that the power line would not do any good because it would pass through his district and the power would go to Osborne.

Mr. Heaslip—The Port Augusta power station does not supply all my district.

Mr. LAWN—The honourable member said last year that there were about 85 householders in the Napperby and Nelshaby areas who were hoping to be supplied with electricity in the near future. If the Adelaide Electric Supply Co. Ltd. had continued those people would not now have electric power. As a result of the State Government taking over that company many country districts have now been supplied. The only progress that has taken place in this State for many years under L.C.L. administration has been the result of the Government's adoption of Labor policy. Last week the member for Rocky River, thinking he was condemning the railways, asked the Minister of Agriculture a question about delays in the delivery of superphosphate. He said that many people who had put in late orders had received their supplies, yet those who had ordered months ago were still awaiting delivery. The Minister made it clear that there was no fault on the part of the railways and that if there was any fault it was the fault of private enterprise supplying the superphosphate.

Mr. Heaslip—How much money did you help to vote for country subsidies on electricity?

Mr. LAWN—I was not a member of this House then and I do not know the details but without the support of the Labor Party the Liberal dictatorship would not have got the Bill through.

Mr. Heaslip—Wouldn't this scheme do more than the Electric Supply Company would have done?

Mr. LAWN—The people of South Australia are being provided with electricity at cheaper

rates at a profit to the Treasury, yet the member for Rocky River is suggesting that the company should have been subsidized.

Mr. Heaslip—I am not.

Mr. LAWN—I now desire to mention one or two items in the Lieutenant-Governor's speech. The matters initiated by this Government are always publicized but many of the things put forward by the Labor Party do not come before the notice of the people because the newspapers will not give any publicity to them. For 22 years there has been a hush-hush policy in relation to mental hospitals, and the Government has not been attempting to look after the inmates. I am sorry the Treasurer is not here; I do not know whether he has gone away to the new oil refinery—

The SPEAKER—Order! We do not usually draw attention to that sort of thing.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Your Leader is not here either.

Mr. LAWN—The Treasurer attends sittings of this House probably more than any other Minister when he is available, but he is away on State business. I have been questioning him at length about mental hospitals since the House opened this session, therefore I am sorry he is not here to listen to what I have to say. To show that I am not being unfair to the Government, I desire to quote in full two paragraphs from His Excellency's speech, and leave it to the people and members of this House to say whether any progress has been made in the last 22 years. The Premier might retort that this Government has not occupied the Treasury benches for 22 years and that the Butler Government occupied them from 1933 to 1938, but I point out that a Liberal Party Government has been in power since 1933, and a Playford Government since 1938. Let us see what has been done in that time in relation to mental hospitals. Paragraph 14 of the Lieutenant-Governor's speech is as follows:—

The Government is well aware of the needs of the mental hospitals and is taking vigorous action to meet them. At Parkside the new accommodation for nurses and the admission and treatment block for women has been completed, and a new ward for male tubercular patients is under construction. A tender has been let for an admission and treatment block for men. At Northfield Mental Hospital a block for women tubercular patients, and a new dining room are being built, while plans for four additional wards are being prepared. Numerous improvements in the buildings and equipment of mental hospitals are in course of being made and attention is constantly being given to the introduction of the best methods of treating patients.

That is all the reference that was made to this matter of national importance, the subject of national inquiry. Last year I asked the Premier how many adults were in mental institutions for reasons other than mental ill-health, and I was told there were from 300 to 400. On May 24 of this year the Premier answered a similar question by saying:—

Approximately 670 patients are over the age of 65 years and of these some 300 to 400 could be cared for by their relatives at home or in an infirmary type of hospital.

As recently as last week he said there were 300 to 400 people in mental institutions who would be better cared for in an infirmary.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—He said “could be cared for.”

Mr. LAWN—According to reports made by Dr. Birch for the last 22 years there have been a number of patients at Parkside who should have been placed in some infirmary. Today, on notice, I asked the Treasurer:—

Of adult patients placed in mental institutions since 1932, how many, in each year, were placed there merely because of old age as distinct from mental ill-health.

Last year I was told, in answer to a similar question, that there were between 300 and 400. Earlier this year I was again told between 300 and 400; yet today the Premier's reply to my question was “Nil.”

The Hon. M. McIntosh—It was not a similar question.

Mr. LAWN—It was. It sought similar information for every year since Dr. Birch first drew the attention of the Government to the fact that old people who could be better cared for and should be cared for, in some other institution were being placed in mental institutions merely because of their age. That answer is a deliberate untruth.

The SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member knows he cannot accuse members of uttering untruths; he may accuse them of being incorrect or mistaken.

Mr. LAWN—I withdraw “untruth” and say “terminological inexactitude.” I had read Dr. Stoller's report and I thought it would be interesting to find out what progress the Government had made since 1932, because it was in 1933 that Dr. Birch drew attention to the fact that some people were being placed in mental institutions simply because they were aged. The Premier did not want to give me this information because he did not want it given to the public, and he knew the newspapers in this State would publish it. They do not publish very much that I say, but one of the things to which they do give publicity is this

question of mental hospitals. The question I had on the Notice Paper last week came out in print before Tuesday and it came out again after the answers given by the Premier. The newspapers are interested in this matter and so is the Commonwealth Government, which is not a Labor Government. That Government appointed Dr. Stoller to carry out an inquiry. This afternoon the Premier deliberately withheld information from me and the people of South Australia because he does not want the public to know how this Government has let the position drift. He perhaps thinks he is smart in answering in the way he did, but there may be other ways of obtaining this information. The Premier has always said that, if a member asks, information will be made available, and he has condemned members for making statements to the press containing information that is only partly correct. I took the opportunity of asking him, but this afternoon he deliberately withheld the information. Now that he has returned to the Chamber I will repeat that his answer to my question on notice was a terminological inexactitude. The answer he gave was “Nil”, yet he told me a few days ago, in answer to a similar question, that the number was between 300 and 400.

The SPEAKER—If the honourable member wants to carry on like this there can be reprisals.

Mr. LAWN—Then I hope that in the event of reprisals the Premier will give the information.

The SPEAKER—We do not allow remarks that are offensive to members. The honourable member can continue.

Mr. LAWN—Are we supposed to be a happy gathering? I am here to do a job in the public interest. I sought certain information and as the Premier came in I said that he had made statements condemning members for making public statements without first coming to him and seeking information. I did the right thing by seeking information this afternoon, but it was deliberately withheld because the Premier knew that the press would publish particulars of the drift that this Government has permitted in mental institutions commencing in 1932. In his 1933 report Dr. Birch referred to the practice which then obtained and which this Government is perpetuating: the placing in mental institutions of people who would be better off in an infirmary type hospital. I have in mind the case of a man who once worked with me and who was employed by his

firm on shift work far beyond the normal retiring age of 65. About two years ago he reached the stage when he would forget his shift and come on at the wrong hour of the day. Although the firm did not wish to dispense with his services it had no alternative when he became forgetful in other ways. When he was put off he had nowhere else to go; he was declared insane and admitted to the Parkside mental institution where he died last year. There was nothing wrong with him except that he became forgetful in his old age. That case is merely typical of many similar cases to which Dr. Birch has referred, but the Playford Government is trying to hush up this matter and will not say what has been done since 1932.

This Government should do something about the Stoller report and appoint a Select Committee to make recommendations on its implementation. The report contains much criticism of our mental institutions and there is so much to be done as soon as possible that improvements will cost millions of pounds. I am fair enough to concede that the lag in accommodation that has built up over the past 22 years cannot be overtaken in the next year or two, but something should be done immediately to implement at least some of Dr. Stoller's recommendations. I do not know what the Government intends to do with Marble Hill where the Governor's residence was burnt down on Black Sunday in January this year, but it would not take long to rebuild the Marble Hill residence so that it could take some of those people who, although not insane, are at present in mental institutions at Parkside and Northfield only because of their age and not because of real mental disability. That suggestion could be considered by the Select Committee to which I have referred.

Recently I wrote to the Premier about accommodation for a married pensioner couple who had been awaiting a trust home for 15 years. In his reply the Premier quoted a report from the Chairman of the Housing Trust, which stated:—

There is no suggestion of delinquency in connection with either of them; they appear to be poor old people who cannot really care for themselves and the premises they occupy. The trust is not indifferent to the sufferings and difficulties of these people and the many others whom it is from time to time unable to assist, but it is not its function nor has it the organization and the experience to care for tenants who are more or less helpless old folk and it has been found that if it is to house such it must accept full responsibility for their care. This is surely a task for other institutions, governmental, religious or philanthropic in the community.

By that statement the chairman of the trust throws back upon the Government the responsibility for the care of such pensioner couples. This couple spend their fortnightly pension on accommodation over the week-ends at a city residential, and, as food for the rest of the fortnight absorbs the rest of their pension; they have nothing over for clothes and must sleep where they can on week nights. Under the policy of the Playford Government those people would have to apply to be declared insane so that they might be admitted to a mental institution such as Parkside. Yet despite this deplorable state of affairs members heard the mover of the motion talking about the progressive Government in office! May I remind members that, if it were not for the gerrymander, the Playford Government would not exist. It has not provided for those old people who in the years gone by worked 50 and 60 hours a week to develop this country. It has nothing to offer such people, but, because the Labor Party has made such a big issue of this subject and because the press has taken it up, the Government has decided to subsidize certain charitable institutions on a pound for pound basis. Last year £312,000 was provided in this way, and this year, according to information given me this afternoon, the amount will be £202,792. Is that progress? Is that the only answer the Government has to the needs of the aged? Certainly the Government does something for those who are declared insane, but even their accommodation is overcrowded and they are sleeping in corridors. Referring to the Enfield Receiving Home, Dr. Stoller said:—

Day room space had been provided by fencing in verandahs with wire, and were poorly furnished and inadequate.

Is that the only type of accommodation the Playford Government has to offer these people? In his comment on Northfield Dr. Stoller said:—

This hospital could be developed as a training centre for staff, and as a training centre for community workers in the field of mental health. More accommodation was needed for physical and social therapy and for outpatient activities. A new ward for an additional 30 patients was projected.

Mr. John Clark—When?

Mr. LAWN—No-one could guess that, not even the Premier. We are told that a new ward is projected. If by a dispensation of Providence the Government of South Australia were to change next March, the project would be implemented, but if the Playford Government is returned we may find a similar reference in another report by Dr. Stoller ten



years hence. If the matter were not so serious members could laugh at the use of the word "projected." Regarding Parkside Mental Hospital Dr. Stoller said:—

The original buildings in this hospital were erected around 1875 and constituted a typical Kirkbride type of institution. It was obvious that patient population had far outstripped remodelling and any new buildings since. Overcrowding, on a conservative estimate was 35 per cent on the male side and 30 per cent on the female side. It was impossible to get the real overcrowding figure, as wards had to be altered so much in function, but one readily appreciated the dormitory encroachment on day and dining space, when one saw the shortage of both on the wards, and the overcrowding of the general dining rooms. One charge-sister, in a ward of 104 patients, with an official overcrowding figure of 26, informed me the ward held 60 patients when she first came, but no beds were in the corridor and there was more space between beds.

In that statement Dr. Stoller refers to the impossibility of getting the real figure; indeed, if I, as a member of Parliament cannot get the real figure, how could he hope to? In the case mentioned the unofficial overcrowding figure was 44 patients. In his comment on the Parkside Hospital Dr. Stoller said:—

Extra-mural activities were very limited. There was no organized out-patient centre. This hospital was in an excellent position to serve the population of Adelaide and it could easily become a more vital centre in the medical service of South Australia. Of prime importance was the need to cut down overcrowding and step up the levels of psychiatric treatment, including social therapy and individual and group physiotherapy. An out-patient clinic was a vital necessity. The hospital could become a training centre for professional staff and for community education. It was close enough to the university to be the obvious mental health research centre in South Australia if its resources were developed.

He again stressed overcrowding and used the word "if" in relation to what could be done with this hospital.

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

Mr. LAWN—Concerning Northfield Mental Hospital Dr. Stoller said:—

The hospital was grossly overcrowded over what was originally intended—90 per cent on the female side and 50 per cent on the male side . . . . Because of the overcrowding, ward facilities were very strained, even though the original design was very generous. Most of the wards were planned in terms of three units, with three lots of services, but some day rooms were taken over as dormitories, dining rooms the same, and the situation existed where, perhaps, 120 patients would have to crowd into two small day rooms, 40ft. x 20ft. Of the three bathroom units, one would perhaps

be taken over for soiled linen and another for storage space—and, so on. The two Repatriation wards were much better off; accommodating 29 and 35 respectively, though, even here, this was above original intentions. Female nursing accommodation was adequate. All males lived out. There was no special sitting accommodation for male staff. Administrative accommodation was markedly inadequate. There was no recreation hall and large dining rooms were used for entertainments; a new recreation hall was to be built, and would be used also as a dining room and day room. Similarly, church services were held in day rooms. There was no canteen, barber shop, or any part of a patient's social centre . . . . The kitchen was now too small for the increased number of patients. No laundry was available and laundry was sent to Yatala Labour Prison (60 per cent) and Royal Adelaide Hospital (40 per cent). This was a great inconvenience. The store was also too small. Maintenance work was tardy.

The entire report is a condemnation of the administration of our mental institutions. His comment on Northfield was:—

This hospital had not yet developed an entity of its own, but had exercised a mixed role, devised largely on a custodial pattern. The establishment of a T.B. ward, senile blocks, and mental deficiency blocks might still further affect the lack of definition of role. It was in an increasing centre of population and, if more closely integrated with the community might easily become the mental health centre for the northern suburbs of Adelaide.

Under the heading "Mental Deficiency Programmes" the report states:—

Ordinarily, a western community should make provision for at least one bed per 1,000 population in institutions for mentally defective children. There would be need for some 800 beds in South Australia, and 300 such beds were provided at Minda. Some were in mental hospitals, and the rest were mostly in their own homes or hidden in other institutions.

What a blot on the administration of South Australian affairs! The report continues:—

There was an urgent problem here for the Superintendent of Mental Institutions to tackle. There is no criticism of the Superintendent of Mental Institutions who has been hammering this subject for years. It is surely, criticism of the lack of activity by the Government. Dr. Stoller continues:—

A first step, which had been taken, was to plan 100 beds, in two wards, for Northfield Mental Hospital. The Superintendent of Mental Institutions had informed us that, some years ago, it was decided to build a mental deficiency hospital within a few miles of Adelaide within the next 10 years, and set up a diagnostic and therapeutic outpatient unit for mental defectives in Adelaide, the hospital and out-patient centre to act as one unit.

I do not know what the member for Mitcham now thinks of the projects for the Unley High

School and the Highgate Infant School when he realizes that some years ago it was decided within the next 10 years to establish a mental deficiency hospital, but about which we have heard nothing since. Under the heading "Clinic and Community Activities" Dr. Stoller states:—

The Adelaide General Hospital ran an outpatient clinic for adults, the Adelaide Children's Hospital one for children, and the Education Department ran a psychological clinic for children with learning and behaviour problems. They did not cope with the demand. There were no clinics run by the mental hospitals. Such clinics are very necessary for diagnosis, prevention of admissions by early treatment, and after-care of discharged patients, and it was the eventual intention of the Superintendent of Mental Institutions to provide one O.P.C. at each of his three hospitals. No steps had yet been taken to bring this into effect.

Under the heading "Subsidized Community Programme" he states:—

The only subsidized activity of the South Australian Government, in the field of mental health, was in relation to Minda—a home for mentally defective children. It was subsidized to the extent of £5,000 per annum by the South Australian Government, but most of its funds came from subscriptions and bequests. Older patients had invalid pensions. Younger patients' relatives may have to pay up to £130 per annum. The South Australian Government also paid 25s. a week for those patients who were wards of the State. Minda now restricted admissions to educable children of six and over, a little below "opportunity class" range . . . . An additional ward of 72 was projected.

Dr. Stoller said that 800 beds were required in South Australia but there were only 300. There is a shortage of 500 beds, but the Government only plans to provide an additional 72. A deficiency of almost 500 will still remain. Under the heading "The Senile Problem" the following appears:—

The problem of the senile has been a severe burden to all Mental Hygiene Departments, and was roughly parallel for all States. It is interesting to note that, although the number of seniles had increased from 1948-53, the proportion in the population had remained constant. Senile admissions were appreciably higher in 1951-52-53 than in 1947-48-49, and the proportion under care in mental hospitals was twice that of the proportion in the community. Roughly a third of all admissions were over the age of 60. Many of these were obviously sent in to die, as 40 per cent of the deaths which took place were within a year of admission. We had observed that many senile patients, crowded into mental hospitals, were similar to those held in Old People's Homes, and Victoria had recently sent a number of such patients to Benevolent Homes. That statement supports the example I mentioned earlier of the man who used to work

with me some years ago but who, upon reaching old age, became forgetful. There was no other institution to cater for him and he was one of the senile patients received into Parkside. The tragedy is that it is not simply a matter of taking an old person into a mental institution to provide him with accommodation, but before he is accepted into such an institution he must be declared insane. It means that senile people who could and should be cared for in an infirmary or old folks home must be declared insane to receive some type of accommodation from this Government.

Mr. Shannon—Who takes the steps to have them declared insane?

Mr. LAWN—Either the individual himself or some relation. The fact remains that the Premier told me last year that before these old people were admitted to mental institutions they had to be declared insane.

Mr. Shannon—The children of the person or some relative starts the action.

Mr. LAWN—That is so in some cases, but what about the persons who have no relatives? Many of these people are without relatives. They work and pay board but the time comes when they become forgetful and the landlady cannot look after them.

Mr. Fred Walsh—She probably puts them in.

Mr. LAWN—That could be so. The patient often signs a paper, but what does it mean to a person of over 70 years to sign a paper when it means being accommodated?

Mr. Travers—Do you suggest that the doctor's certificate of insanity is bogus?

Mr. LAWN—I do not know the answer to that. However, I do know that Dr. Birch has said that there are patients in mental institutions in South Australia who should not be there.

Mr. Travers—Who but doctors have put them there?

Mr. LAWN—The Premier has said that they have been put there on the request of a relative and a signed report from a doctor. Dr. Birch contends that there are patients in his institutions who should not be there.

Mr. Travers—There is not only a signed report from a doctor but a certificate that he has examined a person and certifies him insane.

Mr. LAWN—I am not going to criticize doctors, but it may be that they take sympathy upon such persons when they realize they have nowhere else to go. In his report, under the heading "Research," Dr. Stoller says:—

This is conspicuous by its absence—a fact which is not surprising when all mental health resources are being used to maintain the service it is giving at present, inadequate as it is.

In his final remarks he states:—

It has been shown that there is much to be done to (a) overcome years of neglect and inertia in mental hospitals, and (b) bring the standard of Australian psychiatry to a reasonable level of modern practice. . . . . Any programme to remedy matters must take into consideration (1) the remedy of overcrowding in mental hospitals, (2) the improvements of medical standards in mental hospitals, (3) the provision of large numbers of suitably-trained professional staff, (4) an increase in community services, including early treatment services, clinics, training centres, and community education, and (5) a programme of applied and basic research.

There is much in the report that I have not quoted, but it is well worth reading. It is too much to expect Government members to give effect to the recommendations in the report, but they cannot be happy about the position. They are not sincere about adopting the Address in Reply if they are not willing to take notice of Dr. Stollers' recommendations.

Paragraph 17 of the Lieutenant-Governor's speech refers to the housing position. I entered this place in 1950 and on August 29 of that year I asked the Premier the number of applications received by the Housing Trust for rental homes. He told me that as at June 30, 1950, up to 11,000 applications had been received. This year he told Mr. Dunstan that the number of applications now totalled 15,500, which is an increase of 4,500 in less than five years, and the Government stands condemned for it. Is that the progress of which Government members boast? Whilst these applications are still in hand the demolition of houses is permitted. The Lieutenant-Governor also said that the cottage flats recently built for elderly pensioners and other persons of small means had proved very successful and that a contract for a further 100 flats had been placed. I do not know how the Government can say that the provision of these flats has been successful; I can only assume it is because all the flats are occupied. Of course they are occupied. There is insufficient accommodation for aged people. What is the use of providing another 100 flats when many hundreds of pensioners are awaiting accommodation? Paragraph 29 of the Lieutenant-Governor's speech says:—

In view of the recent general increases in salaries of public officers it is desirable that certain salaries fixed by Statutes should be altered, and Bills for this purpose will be introduced.

Cabinet Ministers, members of Parliament, the Police Commissioner, the Public Service Commissioner, the Auditor-General and perhaps

other high Government officers have to await Parliamentary approval for salary adjustments. I am concerned about the salaries paid to the staff at Parliament House. The Commonwealth Arbitration Court adjusted margins last year and they were to apply as from the first full pay period after December 13. As far as I know, members of the State Public Service have had salary adjustments dating from December 20 last. Up to the present members of the staff at Parliament House have had no salary adjustments. This sort of thing does not show proper activity on the part of the Government. Surely the few employees at Parliament House could have something done for them. I hope it will not be long before the necessary adjustments are made and that they will apply as from December 20. Today the Premier gave notice of legislation adjusting the salaries of several high Government officers. I do not know as from when the adjustments will apply, but it should be from December 20. The adjustments made in the salaries of members of the police force are inadequate, but they apply as from December 20 last. It would be wrong if the Police Commissioner did not have his salary adjusted as from that date, and the same applies to adjustments made in the salaries of Cabinet Ministers. Our Treasurer receives a salary of £3,250 per annum, which is less than the Under-Treasurer gets. I hope this anomaly will soon be adjusted. Our Treasurer is one of the lowest paid Treasurers in the Commonwealth. He under-rates himself and I do not know why. An injustice will be done if all these salaries are not adjusted as from the same date.

Paragraph 30 of the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech refers to the Workmen's Compensation Committee. I hope the Government does not do this session what it has done in the last two sessions when amending the Workmen's Compensation Act. The amending Bill has been introduced in the dying hours of the session and the Government has said to the Opposition that no amendments must be moved to it. As far as I know, this is the only democratic Parliamentary institution where the Government has told the Opposition what to do.

Mr. O'Halloran—The Premier said, "If you want the Bill you must pass it during the current session."

Mr. LAWN—That applies to all Bills introduced in the last fortnight of the session. They must be accepted as they stand if they are to be passed before Parliament prorogues. I hope the Bill amending the Workmen's Compensation Act, and other important legislation,

will be introduced early this session. It should never be said that Parliament must rise on a certain date, say, December 10. We should sit, if necessary, until Christmas, or even come back in the new year. Being a member of Parliament is my sole job. I have nothing else to do. I am employed full-time by my constituents to look after their interests politically. It is a full-time job if a man properly devotes his energies to it. I appreciate the Government's adoption of the Australian Labor Party's policy that Parliament should meet earlier than July. On this occasion the Government has called Parliament together in May. Our policy is two sessions a year.

Mr. Shannon—What is the real virtue of splitting a session in halves?

Mr. LAWN—Many matters arise while Parliament is not in session, and a member is deprived of the opportunity of bringing them before the House. When Parliament is in session and the Government's attention is drawn to anomalies in an Act it can introduce a Bill to remove such anomalies; otherwise they continue.

Mr. O'Halloran—When Parliament is in session it is kept closer to the people.

Mr. LAWN—That is so. If we believe in democracy we should never fear the people. There is no need to have the political gerrymander we have in South Australia. Give the public a free go to elect those they want. If a Government's policy is right it will be returned with an overwhelming majority, but if it is wrong then it will get what the Victorian Government got on Saturday.

When the new Attorney-General was recently appointed he said he intended to carry on his legal business at Maitland. I do not know whether it is Government policy that Ministers should continue their private business, and I should like to know whether the Minister will use the Government car made available to him to travel to and from his district to continue his private practice.

Last session the member for Norwood introduced a Bill concerning petrol resellers and the Premier said he had an assurance from the oil companies that they would not build any more petrol stations. One city petrol and parking station recently received a letter from an oil company stating that its petrol reselling equipment would be removed. It expressed regret for the action, and also thanked him for the business the company enjoyed through their association. The company intended to open another station, but it will claim that it is still giving effect to the assurance given to the

Premier that no new stations will be erected. Actually, it is taking one bowser from these premises, but there is nothing to stop it from erecting 10 bowzers on another site. This petrol station is also a parking place for a number of cars, and on the average sells monthly 1,000 to 1,200gall. of petrol and 25gall. of oil, but the company wants to sell 4,000gall. of petrol. To give effect to the assurance given to the Premier the company is taking petrol bowzers from small places and placing them on another site, and there is nothing to stop it from doubling or even trebling the number of bowzers. Despite the assurance given to the member for Norwood last year, new sites are still being established. The petrol station in question is in a little side street off Grote Street and the principal business is done with people who park their cars. The company is depriving a small man of his living so that it can get greater profits elsewhere. Does the Government subscribe to that policy?

It has been advocated by members on this side that on all boards or trusts like the Tramways Trust and the Housing Trust there should be a representative of employees. However, the Government has shirked its responsibility regarding the Workmen's Compensation Act by passing the buck to a committee. The Australian Labor Party would never do that, but would play fair with the people. It has advocated that a trust employee should be a member of the Tramways Trust, but that has never been accepted. I believe many of the trust's problems could be overcome if an employee were appointed on it. I believe that with such an appointment many matters well worthy of consideration could be placed before the trust of which I believe it has no knowledge at present. I raised one matter by correspondence with the Premier. On Saturday nights some buses on the Adelaide to Port Adelaide route are taken off the road and lie idle in the Port Adelaide depot, whereas private buses are running hundreds of people to the trots. On the other hand I have seen trust buses pull up at a stop on the Port Road when people are about to enter and they have noticed a private bus following. They step back from the trust bus in order to join the private bus. That is an instance of the way the trust is losing revenue. During the school holidays last September I travelled several times on a trust bus from Marion Road to the Adelaide railway station. It was a wet week and mothers and children were using the buses extensively. I

was told by a bus crew that reports had been sent to the depot about over-crowding and people being left on the road, and asking that additional buses be provided. This was not agreed to. On one morning when it was raining heavily the conductor and I counted 50 people who had been left on the road between Marion Road and Adelaide. Before it reached South Road the bus stopped picking up passengers and came straight through. If the trust wants business it must go after it. Members opposite consider they are good business men and say they believe in private enterprise. They will agree with me that if they want business they must go after it. No-one can convince me that leaving passengers on the road will encourage business to the trust. If there were a representative of the Tramways Union on the trust, some of the trust's problems would be more easily overcome.

Mr. WHITE (Murray)—I congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion on their speeches, which were well delivered and most informative. I particularly congratulate the mover (Mr. Millhouse) because it was his maiden speech and I am sure it did him great credit. I believe it will be the forerunner of many more good speeches from him, and I wish him a most successful political career. I join with other speakers in expressing my regret at the passing of our good friend and colleague, Mr. Dunks, and our friend in another place, the Hon. R. J. Rudall. Both these men were in public life for many years and they rendered yeoman service to South Australia. Our State is much the poorer for their passing. I also join with other speakers in congratulating the member for Angas (Mr. Teusner) on his appointment as Chairman of Committees. I believe he will do justice to this important position and carry out his duties impartially and efficiently. I congratulate the Honourable C. D. Rowe on his appointment as Attorney-General and I hope he will know through *Hansard* that I wish him well in his important office.

The Lieutenant-Governor dealt with a multitude of subjects in his opening speech, but I shall confine my remarks to those of particular interest to the people I represent. Paragraph 9 refers to water supplies, the most important item being the Mannum-Adelaide main. This scheme has not been completed, but it was brought into commission last summer to augment supplies. It has undoubtedly averted a great catastrophe in the metropolitan area and in districts served by the Warren reservoir. The pipeline has already been described

in this debate as an engineering feat of great magnitude. Portion of it runs through my district and I have watched its construction with interest. I have inspected the pumping houses and travelled over the road that was constructed to expedite its construction and facilitate maintenance. If one travels over this road he will get a clear conception of the engineering difficulties that have had to be overcome, and the successful completion of the pipeline reflects great credit upon all associated with it. Although I rejoice at this achievement and realize its importance to the metropolitan area I regret that His Excellency's speech did not mention reticulation schemes for my district.

Five such schemes have been brought before the Government during my short term as member for Murray and negotiations are proceeding. I appreciate the courtesy that has always been extended to deputations that I have introduced to the Minister of Works on these projects. Although we have had various assurances on these schemes I take this opportunity to indicate how important they are for the future development of the district. The scheme for the Murray Flats was recommended by the Public Works Committee in November, 1951, and it is a great pity that it cannot be undertaken while men and plant employed on the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline are still at Palmer. It could be argued that the money has not yet been voted for the scheme, but when the project is undertaken those men and the equipment will have to be brought back. The Murray Flats is good farming country, its only drawback being the lack of a good water supply. It seems most anomalous to go through this beautiful farming land in the summer and see farmers carting water to their stock when the best river in Australia is only a few miles away. There are also water schemes for the hundreds of Younghusband, Seymour and Ettrick, which are all on the eastern side of the river. At one time this country may have been regarded as poor, but with improved farming methods and the establishment of better fodder plants, such as ryegrass, lucerne, and evening primrose and the use of topdressings the production of this area has been stepped up tremendously. Unfortunately the farmers cannot develop their land any further because of the lack of a good water supply. Bores supply stock water, but I have been told that since the earthquake last year the quality of the water from those bores has deteriorated considerably.

Mr. O'Halloran—Has the water been analysed?

Mr. WHITE—Yes, and results have shown the necessity for a reticulated supply. My remarks about the scheme for the hundreds of Younghusband, Seymour, and Ettrick apply also to the lands on the southern side of the Monarto South district, where the levels are too high for this country to benefit from the existing Monarto district scheme. The Government is now working out a scheme for these areas, and the results of the investigation are eagerly awaited by local people. The farmers in the Pallamana district have also asked for a water scheme and have stated that they are prepared to pay a rate that would make the project sound financially. I am pleased that this scheme will be placed before the Public Works Committee. The five schemes mentioned would result in extra production and enable the people concerned to enjoy many amenities available to city people and other country districts and also help the progress of the three important Murray towns—Mannum, Murray Bridge and Tailem Bend. Many people have lived in these districts all their lives close to the best water supply in Australia, but they have not been able to use it. They have paid taxes, and have thereby helped to defray the losses incurred on water schemes in other parts of the State. It may seem that I am criticizing the Government, but my constituents are thankful for the progress that has been made in the negotiations for water schemes and they hope that before long some of the schemes will be commenced.

Paragraph 23 of His Excellency's speech referred to the development of the State's mineral resources. It was pleasing to hear of the progress made with the plant for the production of sulphuric acid at Birkenhead and Port Pirie. This plant, and the mining of pyrites at Nairne, will make South Australia independent of outside supplies of sulphur for the manufacture of fertilizers. Most, if not all, of our agricultural country is deficient in phosphates so it is necessary for farmers to use fertilizer. If our farmlands could not be treated in this way they would soon become almost unproductive, and the land being developed today would be almost useless. The tendency in most farming areas is for the farmers to use more and more superphosphate per acre. Therefore, making sure that we can supply at least one ingredient of this commodity is most important to the State's economy. In bringing these projects to fruition the Government has given another indication of its shrewd foresight.

I am pleased at the stand the Government is taking in regard to the establishment of a steel industry in South Australia. This State has the best iron ore deposits in the Commonwealth but they are being carted away to another State to be turned into steel products. We have to use a great deal of imported steel, which is dearer than the Australian article, and even then we often have to wait a long time to get supplies.

Mr. Davis—That is all the more reason why we should have a steel works.

Mr. WHITE—I am saying we should have a steel works. I have no doubt that the Broken Hill Proprietary Company would like to be able to supply the full needs of South Australia, but the transport problem associated with getting finished products from New South Wales is a big one, and it is one reason why we are not getting sufficient Australian steel supplies. I point out that even if suitable arrangements could be made for the establishment of a works of this kind, it would be a number of years before it could relieve the present position. However, the interest that the Government is taking in this matter certainly should be commended.

Paragraph 5 of the Lieutenant-Governor's speech deals with improved arrangements in the Department of Agriculture for the supply of information to the farmer. The honourable member for Gouger touched upon this subject this afternoon, and I support what he said. Information that comes from research in agriculture must be made available to the man on the land as quickly as possible. It is necessary to do this if we are to keep agricultural practice up to date. It is therefore reassuring to know that ways and means of making this information available in an improved manner is receiving the attention of the Government. However, there are two aspects of agricultural education that I am somewhat concerned about. One is the shortage of teachers qualified to teach agriculture in our high schools. From inquiries I have made it appears that some qualified men have been induced to leave the department because of better conditions and salaries offering outside, and for the same reason some have no desire to enter it. Agriculture is the most important industry that we have. I do not intend to qualify that statement because I think every honourable member will agree with it. It is also perhaps the most complex of all industries because those who succeed in it must be business men, scientists, and mechanics, and in many cases must have a good knowledge

of animal husbandry and veterinary science. It is therefore a good thing for the future of this industry for those engaged in it to be sufficiently well educated to absorb and apply in their work the new knowledge that research into agriculture and mechanics is producing. The shortage of agricultural teachers in the department should be a matter of very great concern to everybody. Obviously the solution is to offer inducements by way of better salaries and conditions to those who show interest in this work. Perhaps wages classification boards are the obstacle in the way of doing this, but no matter what the obstruction is, I feel that a more determined attempt should be made to overcome the trouble in the interests of the future of agriculture and therefore of our State.

I was very interested on the opening day of this session to hear a question relating to residential facilities for Urrbrae High School students put to the Minister of Education by the honourable member for Gouger. Urrbrae is the only agricultural high school in South Australia, and it exists to help boys from the metropolitan area and the country who wish to make agriculture their career. In a State that depends so much on agriculture such an institution plays a very important role. I have said before in this Chamber that it is to be regretted that the boys from country areas cannot be boarded there. I hasten to pay a tribute to those good people who come forward and make their homes available, and also to the teaching staff for the supervision it exercises in choosing places for the students to board. However, it would be more satisfactory to the boys and to the parents if the students could live at the school where they would be under supervision all the time, where their time after school hours would be better organized, and where they would derive very great benefit from fraternizing together. The provision of adequate dormitory space would undoubtedly take a great deal of money but I feel that it should be tackled because it would enable this fine institution to perform its function adequately.

Before resuming my seat I would like to thank the Government for the help it has given to my district in local government, electricity, and all the things we expect from a Government. The speech made by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor indicated that there has been a great deal of progress over the past years and that the programme for the future will be to the benefit of this State. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

Mr. JENNINGS (Prospect)—In continuing this debate on the Address in Reply, the motion for the adoption of which was very nicely moved by the honourable member for Mitcham and so peculiarly seconded by the honourable member for Rocky River, I wish firstly to congratulate Mr. Millhouse on having so safely negotiated his maiden speech. Those of us to whom our own maiden speeches are not things of ancient history undoubtedly had much more sympathy with him than others because we know what a nerve-racking experience it is and that the aftermath is often more arduous than the ordeal itself. When a member completes his maiden speech he sits down and hears other members comment on it. He is always praised, a great future is predicted for him and then, as he begins to think he is the answer to the nation's prayer, he begins to be cut to pieces by an expert. I think the honourable member for Burnside knows what I am talking about. I feel that the honourable member for Mitcham must have had some premonition of what happens in these cases because he, apparently designedly, refrained from saying much that was worthy of being cut to pieces. I am glad indeed to have heard some remarks from his own mouth regarding himself because we are always anxious to learn about a new member. We learned that he is singularly single. I do not know whether that is likely to have any nation-wide repercussions; nevertheless, it was an interesting point. I do not know whether the fact that he is in that position is a tribute to his own sagacity or—a gross reflection on the initiative of the young ladies with whom he associates. However, I think that inexorable forces of nature are now at work that will not allow him to claim that distinction very much longer. It was also interesting to hear his admission, unnecessary though it was, that he has a lot to learn. We all have—there is no doubt about that—but it is very stimulating to hear a member on the Government side admit it. Generally we get the impression that these people are the repository of all knowledge and all wisdom, and the fact that he admitted that he had something to learn is probably an indication that he is dissimilar from most of his colleagues in that he has a capacity to learn.

Striking a more serious note, I meet the honourable member for Mitcham on common ground in expressing regret at the passing of Mr. Steve Dunks. I only knew Mr. Dunks for a comparatively short time and while I sat opposite him in this House I think I might

claim to have been one of his principal antagonists. I know that claim will be disputed, but I think I would be well in the running for that honour. His politics and mine were poles apart but I sincerely admired him, not for his views, but because of the sincerity with which he held them and the fearlessness with which he expounded them. That is a good thing on both sides of the House. I am sure I speak for my colleagues when I say that we frequently respect most those people with whom we agree least. We do not like shandy-gaff people opposite any more than in our own Party. I congratulate the new Chairman of Committees, Mr. Teusner, the member for Angas. I gladly admit that he did not obtain his position with any help from me. I did not vote for him and I would rather have seen my colleague, the honourable member for Adelaide, occupy this exalted position, as I hope he will do yet. However, I think the position will be filled with unobtrusive dignity by Mr. Teusner, who I feel will be neutral for both sides, like the Irishman. I also congratulate the new Government Whip, the honourable member for Burnside, on his appointment. I realize that there is a possibility that a recent turf sensation will cause him some apprehension, but I would be inclined to condone the use of a battery as I realize that he has such sluggish benchers.

I now wish to refer to some of the important things that have occurred since this House met last year. The first is the by-election for the Midland division in the Legislative Council caused by the lamented death of the Hon. R. J. Rudall. On the Assembly roll for those districts covered by the Midland Legislative Council district there are almost 50,000 people; therefore, if the by-election had been conducted on a proper democratic basis 50,000 people would have been entitled to vote, whereas under the restricted franchise for the Legislative Council fewer than 20,000 people were entitled to vote. The winning candidate received only 3,015 votes of a total enrolment of people eligible to vote of almost 20,000 and 3,015 out of almost 50,000 who should have been eligible to vote had the election been conducted on democratic lines. The present position is that this member, after receiving only 3,015 votes out of that number, comes into this Parliament with as much power and responsibility as any other member, and indeed, we might say, he has a job for life. Although I have nothing against him personally—I think he is an estimable young gentleman—my point is that he walks in here although he received only

those few votes and although, on the two occasions he contested a House of Assembly seat, he could not even beat the member for Chaffey! Surely the results of this by-election, more than anything else, shows the absurdity of the Upper House of this State.

The next important thing since the House met last was the interesting appointment to the Ministry of the Honourable Colin Rowe. Some recent appointments by the Government have made it clear that not only the time, but also the talent of the Government is running out. Here we have a man who is appointed to the high office of Attorney-General after it has been vacant for months.

Mr. Geoffrey Clarke—It was not vacant; it was held by the Premier.

Mr. JENNINGS—I accept the correction; it was held by a man who had several other portfolios and it was nearly vacant. No other appointment was made to the office for months. Mr. Rowe cannot be too happy about the confidence shown in him by his leader after the matter was left for so long; and indeed, the obvious inference to be drawn is that alternatives were sought but could not be found. Here again the method of the election of the Upper House enters into the matter. On consulting the records I found that Mr. Rowe, another gentleman against whom I have nothing personally, was elected to the Legislative Council unopposed, has continued to be elected unopposed, has never been endorsed by the people, and has never faced an election. Not one person in this State has ever voted for him, and I believe it is wrong that any member should ever be elected to Parliament without ever having submitted himself to the people.

Mr. Brookman—But no-one has ever voted against him.

Mr. JENNINGS—True, because no-one has had the chance. I believe it is wrong for any man to be a member of Parliament without having faced the people, but how much worse is it for a man to rise to the important position of Minister of the Crown without once contesting an election.

Mr. Macgillivray—Some Labor members in this House have never faced an election.

Mr. JENNINGS—Yes, but they would welcome it, because they do not agree with a system that allows some members to be returned unopposed. Labor members are not responsible for the South Australian electoral laws. I now refer to the desperate housing situation in this State. I believe that all metropolitan members will agree that the housing position is rapidly worsening. Towards the end of last



session the member for Unley said so, and I endorsed his statement. It is not good enough for the Premier, in replying in this debate, to say that the Housing Trust is doing a good job. No one denies that, but the fact is that it is not doing nearly enough. It is no use quoting statistics showing that towards the end of the war there were four persons to every home whereas now there are only 3½. Statistics do not tell the human story in this case; they rarely do.

Amendments to the Landlord and Tenant (Control of Rents) Acts have made it easier to obtain evictions, and those people evicted, particularly those who are evicted unexpectedly, have only two possible courses of action. Firstly, they may join the 4,700 people awaiting emergency homes. That figure was given by the Premier today, and, as it was only 4,000 last year, members will see how the position has deteriorated. Secondly, people evicted may wait six years for a permanent rental home. Those alternatives are not real alternatives, so what do the people do? They move in with their relatives, on to a verandah, or into a sleepout or a caravan. They may even go into so-called holiday houses, which are let at £7 7s. a week. After getting a little more data I intend later this session to give the House information on the atrocious rackets being perpetrated by the owners of these so-called holiday homes who are callously exploiting unfortunate people who have nowhere else to go.

In reply to a recent question the Premier said no people were now living in shacks or shanties, as there were a few years ago, but the Premier is obviously not aware of the true position. Not 300 yards from my home a family of two adults and four children live in an unlined, unpainted garage that is used during the night to house trucks belonging to a nearby factory. There is also in that family a baby that the medical authorities will not allow home from hospital until the family has proper accommodation. Since the plight of the family was made known to me a couple of months ago I have been trying to get them an emergency home, but the trust tells me the old, old story—and it is true—that no place is available.

Mr. Stephens—There are many other such cases.

Mr. JENNINGS—I realize that this case is only one. On a recent evening when I visited the family, the rain was coming in through the roof and running along the cracks of the floor on which the children must walk. These

living conditions are a disgrace to any enlightened community. This is a big problem and our immediate needs are great. Although I realize that temporary homes are unpopular with the community generally, they are certainly not with the people living in them, and I am willing to give the Government every support if it embarks on the expansion of the emergency homes scheme, because that is the only way to get over our immediate difficulties. Later, when the deserving cases have been housed, the rate of building of permanent homes by the trust should be stepped up by direct Government help and even intervention, if necessary, to a rate that would keep up with the increase in population and gradually overtake the back lag.

Throughout the metropolitan area there are many new Housing Trust estates, but, unfortunately, other services have not kept up with the building rate. Earlier this session I raised the matter of roads in some of these areas. At the moment some of these roads are quagmires and footpaths do not exist. Since I raised the matter there has been much press publicity, which inclines me to believe that the areas I mentioned are not the only ones in a similar condition. We are told that this is a matter for local councils, and that is true; but I submit that it is almost time we in this House faced facts and admitted that it is absolutely impossible for the local councils to live up to their responsibilities in this regard. The sooner we admit this the sooner we will be able to accept some other remedy of these deplorable conditions.

I believe that the Premier has some ideas about reintroducing the Town Planning Bill. I agree with the provisions of that Bill, which was knocked out last year by the legislative abattoirs, the place to which I referred earlier in my speech. If that is passed through both Houses it will to some extent provide for future subdivisions, but obviously it cannot affect the suburbs about which I complain, where subdivision occurred some years ago and where the roads are urgently needed today. Therefore, the Government should construct roads in those areas and then, if it is considered necessary, hand back to the local councils the responsibility for maintaining them. It is a matter of either doing something like that, or—and we must not delude ourselves into thinking otherwise—of putting up with these deplorable conditions for many years to come, because the councils today are not only not keeping up with the work, but are getting

further and further behind with each new housing settlement established.

I have frequently referred to prefabricated imported timber homes, so many of which have been erected in my electorate. The rental for the dearest of them is £3 5s. a week and the occupants have told me that such a rent inflicts a tremendous burden on them. I have tried on numerous occasions to get the Housing Trust to reduce them, but without success. I received a petition from 350 tenants of these homes asking me to take whatever steps I could to have their rents reduced. I read that petition in this House and the Premier promised to take the matter up, but I was extremely disappointed with his reply. He did not go into the matter personally, as he had been asked, but merely referred the matter to the chairman of the Housing Trust, with the result that I got the same answer I had previously received. If the trust can let these homes at that rent it is quite prepared to do so.

Mr. O'Halloran—It can fill any home at any rental today.

Mr. JENNINGS—Yes, because so many people have nowhere else to live. The chairman of the trust said that these rents are worked out scientifically to cover capital, interest, administration, depreciation and so forth and no more. I have heard that frequently and I believed it because I had no reason to disbelieve it, but now, quite frankly, I do not believe it. An earlier batch of prefabricated homes were let at £2 15s. a week, but some of the original tenants moved out and those homes were occupied by new tenants at a time when the later batch of homes was being let at £3 5s. and the new tenants too, were obliged, to pay £3 5s. That completely explodes the misleading information we have received from the Housing Trust about the methods of fixing rents, because it is obvious that if the original tenants had not vacated their homes the rents would have remained at £2 15s. Is it that this scientific method missed in those instances or is the Housing Trust losing 10s. a week on all the other places? Why is it that these few tenants who moved in a couple of years after the others are obliged to pay 10s. a week more for exactly similar homes in the same street? I want an answer to that question and I will get it if I have to raise this question every day for the long time I hope to be here. The question needs answering.

Mr. Brookman—What rent do you think should be charged?

Mr. JENNINGS—I will not be pinned down to any figure but I am prepared to say that the rents should be considerably less than they are. The conduct of the Housing Trust recently has illustrated the need for a Minister of Housing. It is becoming increasingly difficult to get any sensible information—indeed, any information—from the trust. I have recently written to the trust in respect of some matters of importance but have received no reply. If I cannot get replies to correspondence I will avail myself of the only other means open to me—asking questions in this House.

I remember the member for Thebarton raising the question of the painting of these imported timber-framed homes while they were being painted. He made statements in explaining his questions that should have put the trust on the alert as he had received information from the trade unions concerned that the places were not being properly painted. That information has proved to be absolutely correct because the painting—if it can be so described—is absolutely disgraceful. Nearly every house is peeling. This could involve the Housing Trust in great expense, and it will involve persons who purchased these homes in great personal expense. After owning them only a couple of years they have found that they need completely repainting. One of my constituents approached me the other day and I inspected his home. It has peeled from stem to stern. It is obvious that no undercoat was put on it initially. After he had been in residence for a couple of months he complained to the trust about the painting and it agreed that the job had not been done properly. The trust said it had no legal responsibility, but it repainted it. The repainting, however, was no more satisfactory than the original painting. The man asked me to take the matter up with the trust but I received a typically unsatisfactory reply. I then wrote to the Premier asking him to take the matter up with the chairman of the trust, which he did, but after six weeks I got exactly the same reply. The trust said it was the man's own responsibility now to paint his own home. The facts are, as the trust admitted in the first place by repainting the house, that the original painting was not satisfactory. What the trust set out to remedy has not been remedied and the house is still bare of paint. The Housing Trust is a law unto itself. The Tramways Trust, Electricity Trust and Bank Board are laws unto themselves, and we have no

control over them whatsoever. A Minister responsible to Parliament should control these organizations. He in turn would be answerable to the people. As soon as possible and I think it will be after the next elections, we should have a Minister of Transport.

Let me tell a story about the activities of the Tramways Trust. A member of Parliament from Queensland was on a visit to South Australia and decided to go to the district of the Minister of Education for a look around. He travelled by tramways bus but on reaching the terminus did not get out because it was raining. When the conductor came for the fare he showed his gold pass, which is recognized by the tramways in Queensland. The conductor said nothing but when the bus reached the terminus he telephoned the Trust. On the return journey an inspector asked him for his fare and again he showed his gold pass. The inspector said it could not be recognised here. On being questioned where he intended to get off the bus he said he would do so at the stop before the Berkeley Hotel. When he alighted he found not only the inspector who had been on the bus but another in a walkie-talkie unit. The man was not trying to dodge paying the fare; he told the inspectors he was willing to pay. They said they could not accept it and that he would have to go to the office of the trust. This cost 3s. 6d. for taxi hire. Whilst being interrogated his *bona fides* were suspected and it was said that he had stolen the gold pass. I think that is going beyond the jurisdiction of the inspectors. It is an example of bureaucracy gone mad and if a Minister of Transport answerable to Parliament allowed these absurd things to happen he would get such a thrashing in this House that he would resign his portfolio. I understand that the trust has a large fleet of walkie-talkie Holden units as well as an army of inspectors, yet it adopts a niggardly attitude towards its employees. All these trusts and boards should be under the control of Parliament. In conclusion, I hope we have heard for the last time a supporter of the Liberal and Country League Party moving the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. DAVIS (Port Pirie) moved for the adjournment of the debate. Negatived.

Mr. DAVIS—I join with other members in expressing regret at the death of two of our colleagues. Although members of a different political Party, both gentlemen, particularly Mr. Dunks, were my friends. Last Wednesday

I listened with interest to the maiden speech of the new member for Mitcham. I thought he did a good job and congratulate him on his honest and frank statements. He said he had a lot to learn whilst in this House. One thing he must learn is that he made a great mistake entering Parliament as a supporter of the Government. If he listens attentively to Opposition members he will learn a great deal. Mr. Millhouse and I have something in common because of our association with Port Pirie. I am surprised that anyone having such an association should not know better than to get on the wrong side of politics. I am sure he will soon see the light and move to this side of the House. The Opposition is always doing something for all the people in the State. It does not cater for only one section of the community, nor does it permit one section of the community to exploit another. Unfortunately the legislation introduced by the Government is always in the interests of a favoured few. I sincerely hope Mr. Millhouse will see the error of his ways and join the Party that looks after all the people all the time. I listened attentively to the speech of Mr. Heaslip in seconding the motion. We have heard him repeatedly in the House and did not expect the same type of speech as from the brilliant young member for Mitcham. He indicated that he was very much concerned about the price of wheat and wool. I am in sympathy with his concern about the wheat position, because I realize, as do other honourable members, the serious position of the overseas wheat market. He complained that the cost of production was becoming too great for the producers to bear. I agree that the cost is increasing and will continue to increase while we have a Government which does not try to control the cost of living. The cost of production must rise when producers have to pay workers sufficient money to live. However, he forgot that workers in this State are living under greater difficulties than primary producers in that during the last few months the Arbitration Court has taken away from them something to which they are entitled. They had been entitled to increases according to increased costs of living, but the court pegged wages and said there would be no further quarterly adjustments. However, the Government has said to the wheatgrower that he should receive a certain price for his product. If overseas buyers said that they intended to pay wheatgrowers something less than they were entitled to, Mr. Heaslip would object more than the workers are doing now.

Those who took away from the workers their right to enjoy quarterly adjustments according to the cost of living have enjoyed enormous increases in their salaries, ranging from £1,000 to £3,000 a year, but they were not prepared to give the worker an additional few shillings a week according to quarterly adjustments. There is no fairness in that. It is time the Government introduced legislation to give the State Industrial Court the right to increase wages under State awards. I know it has no powers over the Federal Court. Some two or three years ago we passed legislation providing that the State basic wage should change automatically with the Federal basic wage. Because wages have been pegged by the Arbitration Court it means that the State Government has allowed the wages of State workers to be penalized in the same way. This is something which the Government should seriously consider. In the last few years primary producers have been enjoying prosperous times, although one section has suffered in the last few months. The workers are just as much entitled to enjoy the prosperity of the country as primary producers, manufacturers or any others in industry. During his speech the member for Alexandra mentioned that he did not agree with the Leader of the Opposition in the establishment of a steelworks at Whyalla. He said:—

I listened carefully to the Leader of the Opposition when he referred to steelworks for South Australia, but I do not share his, perhaps I might say, reckless desire for action. We should not be in a hurry to do anything about establishing a steelworks. We should not urge the Government to do anything more quickly than is being done now. I am not sure whether the Leader of the Opposition hinted that the Government should establish a steelworks.

I can assure him from members on this side that is just what he did mean. We are of opinion that the Government should establish steelworks at Whyalla; as a matter of fact they should have been established years ago. I do not want to go into the whole story of why water was supplied to Whyalla and an agreement entered into between the Government and the Broken Hill Proprietary Company. The company has fallen down on its job and it is now the Government's responsibility to establish steelworks. I understood the member for Murray to say that we are not receiving sufficient steel for our needs. That is only too true. We are continuing to import supplies from overseas. It is time the Government accepted the responsibility of establishing steelworks in South Australia. I know

that the member for Alexandra does not desire this because he favours private enterprise. The Government has given away the rights of the people and of the State by giving the B.H.P. the right to the iron ore at Iron Knob and Middleback. I have heard people talk about repudiation, and I feel sure there are thousands in South Australia who would welcome a repudiation of the agreement between the company and the Government and would be happy if someone had the courage to give back to the State the rights which the Government sold to the company. Press reports now state that we have not sufficient high-grade ore for the establishment of the steelworks. Instead of importing steel, we should be able to export it. I have read that India is now establishing a steelworks and probably we shall soon hear that Australia will be forced to import steel from that country.

I listened attentively to the speech made by the Lieutenant-Governor in opening Parliament, but I was surprised to hear practically the same things as I heard 12 months ago. Most of the statements in the opening speech have a flowing grey beard. The same items are hashed up year after year, and I would like to know from members opposite what the Government has done in the last 12 months that has not been promised from time to time. I do not know of one new industry in country districts that has been established during the past year. The only thing that the Government has done for country districts is to hinder progress. Time and again I have stressed the requirements of South Australia's outports. Sometimes there is a congestion of shipping at Port Adelaide, but at other times there is not much shipping there and the waterside workers are then idle. Our outports are not being used to best advantage. Our larger country ports could be used for unloading ships that could not be berthed at Port Adelaide. Members opposite say that if Port Pirie were used the commodities unloaded would have to be railed to the metropolitan area, but what is the difference between railing those goods and railing goods to the country? It is time the Railways Commissioner, or the Minister of Railways, realized that if more ships were unloaded at country ports the railways would derive more revenue. In reply to my recent question the Minister of Marine said that there was an elaborate scheme for the improvement of Port Pirie's wharves, but he also said that the revenue from those wharves was not satisfactory. He was right, but it is not the fault of Port Pirie that revenue is low. The trouble is that Port Pirie's

wharves are not in a fit state of repair to handle the shipping available. There is no incentive for ships to go to Port Pirie, which has only three wharves that can be worked safely. If more than three or four ships are in the harbour some of them have to wait up to a week for a berth.

Recently I spoke to the captain of the *City of Poona*. He told me that his ship was tied up for a week, but the ore he had to take away was only a few yards from him. The wharf could not carry the vehicles to load the vessel. The delay cost his company £500 a day while the ship was tied up. How can the Government expect ships to go to Port Pirie under those circumstances? The Government should face up to its responsibilities at outports and improve facilities so that they may have an opportunity to earn revenue for this State. The lack of adequate facilities has caused shipping companies to increase their freight charges.

Some members have praised the Government for its water supply schemes, but it has not done much for some of our country towns. I admit that the Morgan-Whyalla main has rendered a wonderful service to some country areas, but it cannot supply many localities that need water. As the Minister admitted to me this afternoon Port Pirie, like many other towns in the country, has not sufficient water pressure in the event of an outbreak of fire. The pipeline has no bearing on the matter I mentioned today because, although the supply from the Baroota reservoir is sufficient, the pipes have corroded to such an extent that there is not enough space left to take any pressure. Recently, when a fire brigade hose was attached to a hydrant, there was not sufficient water to fill the hose and after the pump was attached the force was not great enough to reach the top of an ordinary dwelling house that was on fire. It was only by a stroke of luck that the whole street was saved. The man in charge of the fire brigade told me that if he had had sufficient water he could have saved the dwelling because, when he arrived, only the back portion was burning. I hope that the Minister will give this matter his immediate attention. I point out to him that a couple of weeks ago a house owned by the railways was lost, so he should realize the necessity for improving water pressures. I hope it is not necessary to burn down half the town of Port Pirie before the Government realizes its responsibilities in this matter.

In the Lieutenant-Governor's speech mention was made of the amount of money that

had been spent on schools, and it is true that some new schools have been built and others have been improved. Port Pirie was in need of another school for some time. Eventually the Education Department decided to build a school at Risden Park, and I thank the Minister for what he did to assist. However, after this was erected, it was found that further money had to be spent because it had been forgotten that our children were the same as all others in South Australia in that they needed lavatories. These have now been completed, but a great deal of work still remains to be done because the area needs a fair amount of filling. However, the department is doing its best to get over the difficulty. I am sorry to say it is a timber-framed building, which we did not expect. In my opinion the school was built in the wrong location in that it was not central enough, unless it is the intention of the department to build another school adjacent to Anzac Road. In the very near future there will be many houses constructed in that area, and a school there would be able to cope with the children from the south and west. I know that a private school will be built there, and such schools in Port Pirie are far superior to the State schools. Most of the State school buildings at Port Pirie are very old; I went to the Pirie school as a boy, and it is the same building to which the Government made additions. I know that this was overcrowded but I hope that the position has been relieved since the opening of the Risden Park school, although I have not yet inquired about it.

Recently, rent control was discussed in this Chamber and I hope that what was said will give the Premier some food for thought and make him realize how some business people, not only in the metropolitan area but in Port Pirie, have been exploited since the lifting of controls. I know of a case in which rent has been increased from £3 10s. to £14 a week because the firm owning the premises desired to get the occupier out so that it could occupy the premises. The man who had to leave had invested his life savings in his business and when he was pushed out he had no chance of recouping anything because nobody desired to buy. Furthermore, the person taking over had no such desire; all he bought was the little stock there was in the place. In view of the enormous increases that have been made in rents of small business premises the Government should consider the reimposition of control over them. The publicans have suffered because of the imposition of certain conditions by the

breweries, and it must be remembered that they also have to pay rates and taxes and furnish and improve their properties. These enormous costs are reflected in the price to the working man of his glass of beer, and his glass of beer is part of the life of the average working man. Recently, as a result of an increase of 3s. in the price of an 18gall. cask of beer, the price of a 6oz. glass of beer was raised by a halfpenny, and proportionate increases were made in the prices of other size glasses. The publican makes his parlors as attractive as possible so that more people will be induced to drink in them and pay the extra charge for service there. I do not apologise for my statements about the brewer because I think the worker should get his glass of beer more cheaply than he does today.

We have been told that more money will be spent on roads. In view of the increased revenue from registration and licence fees and petrol taxation, the Government should spend more money on country roads, and local councils should receive greater grants for road making. Many members who are interested in local government matters will share my views on this subject. Many new housing estates are almost without roads, and I hope the Government will assist local councils to construct roads in these areas. Members receive many letters from people living in these new housing areas, and in the Port Pirie district some people are living in homes to which, in an emergency, doctors have no access. Recently the

Port Pirie council received letters from three expectant mothers who were living under such conditions, and, although they are not within the Port Pirie council area, the council may be called upon to shoulder part of the responsibility of giving them some relief in this matter.

Recently I was asked to raise my voice in this House in protest against some of the conditions I have mentioned this evening, and I trust I have raised it effectively. I realize that one has to raise his voice forcibly before the Government will realize its responsibility towards the people. This Government has neglected the State for years and the only reason for its attitude is its certainty that it is sitting pretty because of the gerrymandered electoral set-up. In the near future, however, I believe South Australians will realize the injustice of the set-up and change the Government. The majority of South Australians have for years wanted a change of Government, but the will of the people has not been implemented because of the gerrymander. With all that, I think that at the next elections there will be a change of Government. I support the motion.

Mr. WILLIAM JENKINS secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 10.01 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, June 1, at 2 p.m.