

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

Thursday, October 27, 1955.

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

**QUESTIONS.****PETERBOROUGH SEWERAGE SCHEME.**

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Is it correct that some time ago the Engineering and Water Supply Department made preliminary investigations into a sewerage scheme for Peterborough? If so, were those investigations completed and can the Minister of Works bring down a report on the result, perhaps next week?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I shall be glad to do that, but the first essential for a sewerage scheme is an adequate water supply, and until that can be assured the other would be a futility. With a view to keeping abreast of the times preliminary investigations were made, but I will get more up-to-date information and bring it down.

**TANUNDA TRUST HOMES.**

Mr. TEUSNER—Has the Minister of Lands a reply to the question I asked the Premier last week concerning Housing Trust homes for rental at Tanunda?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—The chairman of the Housing Trust advises as follows:—

The South Australian Housing Trust holds only one rental application from a person employed at Tanunda and he has asked for a house, for personal reasons, at Angaston. If those desiring rental housing at Tanunda would make known their needs to the trust, the trust would be pleased to investigate the matter. If satisfied that sufficient demand exists for a rental programme and if the financial position permits the trust would then endeavour to build rental houses at Tanunda. I would point out that the trust has built or is building 11 houses for sale at Tanunda and would also mention that, under its country house sales scheme it is prepared, in specific cases, to build houses on the land of prospective house purchasers.

**METROPOLITAN STORMWATER DRAINAGE.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH—In his report the Garden Suburb Commissioner refers to the ever-increasing development of residential areas in the foothills and states, in effect, that only a scheme embracing the municipalities of Mitcham, Marion and Colonel Light Gardens can properly deal with the problem of draining the stormwaters from this region. He said that the metropolitan stormwater drainage scheme provides outlets to the sea for most of the

metropolitan area stormwaters and that a plan to utilize these outlets to the best advantage by the abovementioned municipalities should be put in hand. Will the Minister of Works obtain a report from the Minister of Local Government on the drainage of stormwaters, particularly that coming from the higher levels into portions of Marion and Mitcham?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I shall be glad to take the matter up with my colleague. One of the most complex questions is who shall pay for it. Firstly, the people above say that they had natural drainage with no trouble until areas beneath them were built on, and then the people below complain about receiving those waters. The allocation of the cost between the various councils is also a matter of great controversy.

**MOONTA RAIL STOP.**

Mr. McALEES—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked on October 4 concerning trains stopping at Cross Roads to enable mailbags to be dropped there?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Following on the honourable member's representations, as promised I took the matter up with my colleague, the Minister of Railways, who in turn took it up with the Railways Department and postal authorities. Without discussing whether there has been any attempt to pass the buck, it is obviously rather difficult to decide whether the railway time table or the mail time table should be altered. The Railways Commissioner advises that the new schedules for the fast rail car between Moonta and Adelaide provide for stopping to set down or pick up passengers only, as required, at Cross Roads, with the result that mail bags for Cross Roads have to be handled by local transport.

However, arrangements are being made for the "down" mail bag from Adelaide for Cross Roads to be off-loaded at Wallaroo and taken forward to Cross Roads on the following Brinkworth rail car movement, arriving at Cross Roads at 2.15 p.m. instead of 1.46 p.m. if the fast rail car from Adelaide had to be stopped at Cross Roads. On the "up" journey from Moonta, the mail bag from Moonta to Cross Roads, and also from Cross Roads to Adelaide, will be handled by the Brinkworth rail car, departing Moonta at 7.15 a.m. and thence taken to Snowtown and there transferred to the Port Pirie-Adelaide train, arriving in Adelaide at 1.15 p.m. This will be the same service as existed prior to the introduction of the new rail car service

It would appear on the face of it that with the advantage of the fast rail car there is very little difference in the delivery of mails.

#### FLYING TEACHER SERVICE.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—My question relates to a letter published in the October number of the *Teachers' Journal* written by "Diarist," who conducts the column known as the "Diary of a Teacher." I understand that the letter, which is an open letter, was forwarded to the Minister of Education before publication. It began by stressing his known sympathy towards children and his attempt to satisfy their just needs. It stressed the value of the radio and flying doctor service in assisting the medical needs of children outback, and alleviating the anxiety of their parents. Reference was then made to the educational needs, as follows:—

In spite of all that has been done, and done well, for the outback children by your department, there is still lacking that personal touch between teacher and child. Something very vital is gained when teacher and child discuss questions together. It is more than the solution of difficult problems which, at present, either mother or father must help to solve or else shelve until a reply comes from Adelaide; it is more than just the knowledge which a trained teacher can give so easily in person. Education, as you know, is more than the mere acquisition of knowledge. This is important, but of more value to the children would be the stimulating power which a personal visit by a teacher would have. The purpose of this letter is to appeal to you to make this possible by the inauguration of a flying teacher service.

Is the Minister prepared to comment on the suggestion? I understand he has already read the letter.

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I received a copy of the letter and also read it and appreciate the words of commendation from the anonymous diarist. The article has much to commend it, but with the shortage of teachers I cannot see anything being done in this direction at present, but the matter will have my earnest and anxious consideration in the future.

#### DISCIPLINE IN PROFESSIONS.

Mr. TRAVERS—For each profession there is an Act of Parliament which regulates the conduct of its members. For the dental profession there is a provision by which the governing body can discipline any defaulting or delinquent member. That power has not been given to the medical or legal professions, and in each of those professions no matter how venial the disciplinary matter may be, it has

to be left unattended, or sent to the Supreme Court. That seems to be somewhat outmoded in the case of venial sins at all events, and I should like the Minister of Education to ask the Attorney-General whether the Acts relating to the medical and legal professions can be examined with a view to making provision that in minor matters the professional body shall have the power to discipline its own members?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I will be pleased to ask my colleague to have the relevant Acts examined, and then I shall bring down his reply.

#### TELEPHONE CALLS AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

Mr. FLETCHER—My question relates to the making of trunk line telephone calls by members at Parliament House. I understand that at present such calls cannot be booked for a definite time. This morning I contacted Mount Gambier for special information and then I informed the switchboard attendant that at 12 o'clock I desired to contact the same person again, but I was told that I could not book a call for a definite time. I do not know whether other members have had this experience, but I have had it previously. I do not blame the switchboard attendant, as I understand the instructions are that members cannot book these calls as they were previously allowed to do. Mr. Speaker, have you any jurisdiction over this matter, or is it entirely a Federal matter? As a country member, I have found that it is very inconvenient and I would like to know what can be done to avoid it.

The SPEAKER—The telephone service is conducted in the best interests of members, within the regulations laid down by the Postmaster-General's Department. If the honourable member has any aspect of this which is personal I will look into it if he lets me have the particulars.

#### PRICES OF HIDES AND SHEEPSKINS.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Today when discussing with South Australian brokers the prices of hides and sheep and rabbit skins, I found that there is a colossal difference between the price of the sound material and that classed as damaged due to ineffective drying and preparation for marketing. For instance, hides of an average 40 lb., in sound country lines, are selling at 1s. a lb., whereas lines ineffectively salted—not necessarily insufficient

salt—are selling as low at 6d. a lb. Sheepskins, sounds, are selling at 34½d. a lb., whereas damaged are selling at from 20d. to 25d. a lb. Most of the damage is caused by incorrect drying, that is by drying in the sun and not having parts properly opened. The difference between the prices is about 12s. a skin. As about 2,000,000 sheep are slaughtered in South Australia during the year one can see the enormous effect this has on the economy of the State. In view of the unsatisfactory supplies of raw materials manufacturers of many goods find themselves in difficulties, and their economy is affected in the same way as that of producers. I ask the Minister of Agriculture what, if anything, is his department doing to advise producers about correct methods of drying?

The Hon. A. W. CHRISTIAN—I assume that the greater proportion of the skins sent in come from country or local abattoirs, apart from those that come from the Metropolitan Abattoirs. The quantities coming from individual producers would be very small by comparison, therefore the damage is not confined only to skins from producers. I am aware that much damage results from poor dressings at slaughter houses and the metropolitan works. Sometimes there has been resistance to new or improved methods of skinning animals, even by experienced slaughtermen, and damage occurs at all those works. The department, whenever its officers are able to contact producers (either directly or through bureau meetings and conferences), tries to educate them in correct dressing and skin drying, but if the honourable member thinks we should do more in that regard I shall be glad to examine the possibilities.

#### HIGH SCHOOL ZONING.

Mr. FRED WALSH—Last week I asked the Minister of Education whether he would exempt children living in the Henley and Grange areas, particularly at Henley South and Fulham, from the high school zoning system so as to permit them to attend either the Adelaide or the Woodville high school, at least until reasonable transport was available. Since then I have had several inquiries from people concerned, and I understand that parents are now required to indicate to headmasters by October 31 which high schools they intend sending their children to when they leave primary school at the end of the year. Has the Minister any further information about this matter?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I have received a report and recommendation from the acting Superintendent of High Schools and the Director of Education, and of course I have had several conferences with the director over a lengthy period on this important question of zoning. The statement about the zones in respect of the Adelaide Boys High School, Adelaide Girls High School, Findon High School and Marion High School was given in the *Education Gazette* of August 15. That was the statement asking parents to elect the high school to which they intend sending their children. The director informs me that it has been ascertained that the zoning is meeting with the general approval of parents and that pupils and their parents are well satisfied with the arrangement. That may be an oversimplified statement, but it seems that most parents are satisfied. The director also states:—

At the beginning of this year the Tramways Trust and the Railways Department considered the transport of pupils from the Henley area to the Findon High School, and the Tramways Trust arranged to co-ordinate their bus time table with the railways time table so as to serve pupils from the Henley area. This is the arrangement to which Mr. Walsh refers when he says that one of the routes that the girls and boys may use from the Henley area is to go by train to Seaton Park and then by bus to a point about two-thirds of a mile from the school.

It is considered that this arrangement is suitable and that there is no hardship involved in asking the children to travel by this route. I feel that it would be unwise to alter the zoning arrangements in respect of the children from the Henley Beach and Grange area.

Later in the report the following appears:—

It is possible for these children to go by train from Henley Beach to Seaton Park and then by bus to a point about two-thirds of a mile from the school. These arrangements were made after consultation with the Railways Department and with the Tramways Trust. The zoning arrangements have been approved in order to ensure that any one school is not unduly crowded and I consider that there would be no undue hardship with the children from the areas in question continuing to attend the Findon high school.

The Education Department is now feeling the full impact of the transfer from primary schools to secondary schools following on the tremendous increase in the birth rate during the last 10 years. We are endeavouring as quickly and as best we can to provide accommodation and teachers for the students at secondary schools, but it has been very largely makeshift in relation to the Findon and Marion schools in order to have accommodation for

them this year. This problem is not one I have created but one I have inherited, and the Director and I are doing our best to alleviate the conditions. I will have the question of zoning considered again and will consider it myself, but it is no use endeavouring to mislead the honourable member, the parents concerned, the House or the public, because I doubt whether it is humanly possible or wise to interfere with it. If there are some very hard cases it may be possible to grant exemptions. I promise the honourable member that I will examine the matter carefully, particularly in relation to the Fulham and Henley South schools, and advise him in due course.

#### LOWER EYRE PENINSULA ROAD WORKS.

Mr. PEARSON—Some days ago I asked the Minister of Works to obtain from the Minister of Roads a detailed report in regard to certain important road works on Lower Eyre Peninsula. Has the Minister that information?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I have a report signed by the Commissioner of Highways which is entirely factual. It consists of two pages of foolscap and I ask permission to have it incorporated in *Hansard* without being read.

Leave granted.

#### THE REPORT.

The following works have been approved for 1955-56:—

Lincoln Highway.

Departmental work.

- (1) Whyalla—2 miles south of Randell Tanks.

Length—17 miles.

Approved expenditure—£6,000.

Complete with a bituminous seal the unsealed sections. This will provide 17 miles of bituminous road south of Whyalla.

- (2) Tumby Bay-Port Neil section.

Length—27 miles.

Approved expenditure—£80,000.

It is anticipated that an additional 8 miles will be sealed during this year, making a total of 20 miles of bituminous road north of Tumby Bay.

- (3) Bridge over River Dutton, 4 miles north of Port Neill.

Approved expenditure—£8,000.

This work will probably be carried out by contract.

Work to be carried out by district councils.

- (4) Cowell-Salt Creek Deviation of Lincoln Highway.

Length—30 miles.

Approved expenditure—£25,000.

Completing the earthworks and rubbing of the northern half of this deviation by contract through the district council of Franklin Harbour.

- (5) Coast Road Deviation in the district council of Franklin Harbour.

Length—8 miles.

Approved expenditure—£15,000.

Earthworks to be constructed by the district council of Franklin Harbour.

- (6) Coast Road Deviation in the district council of Cleve.

Length—7 miles.

Approved expenditure—£20,000.

Earthworks and rubbing to be carried out by the district council of Cleve.

- (7) Port Neill-Arno Bay.

Length—10 miles.

Approved expenditure—£8,000.

Earthworks construction to be carried out by the district council of Tumby Bay.

Port Lincoln—Cummins Road.

Work to be carried out by district council.

- (1) Uley-Wanilla section.

Length—5½ miles.

Approved expenditure—£70,000.

This length to be constructed by employing either the bitumen stabilization or cement stabilization method, dependent on tests of the available material. This section to join the bitumen stabilized section between Wanilla and Warunda Creek completed during 1954-55. When completed a length of approximately 12 miles from the Flinders Highway towards Cummins will have a bituminous pavement. The earthworks to be carried out by the district council of Lincoln; stabilization and sealing by contract under departmental supervision.

- (2) Warunda Creek-Pillana section.

Length—9 miles.

Approved expenditure—£4,000.

Formation, rubbing, etc., to be carried out by the district council of Lincoln.

Departmental work.

- (3) Pillana-Cummins section.

Length—6 miles.

Approved expenditure—£6,000.

Sealing with bitumen the unsealed sections.

#### ALLOTMENT OF BLOCK.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—Yesterday the Minister of Irrigation promised to bring down a report on the points system whereby a block in the soldier settlement of Cooltong was allotted. When the Minister is replying would he elucidate his remark that he felt that perhaps certain points raised by me were not correct? I made a statement in good faith on the information supplied to me, and if anything I said was incorrect and the Minister tells me what it was, I shall have a chance to check it.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I have received a report on the matter raised by the honourable member, and as he said that he did not wish to mention names, I will call the applicant with overseas service "A" and the other applicant "B." The report states:—

A—Application lodged in 1946—appeared before classification committee on April 10, 1946—although fully credited with his experience, he did not impress the committee, which graded him in such a manner that he just fulfilled requirements as regards suitability—appeared before Land Board on May 31, 1948, at which time he was employed with Kelvinator Ltd. in Adelaide and living in a trust home—he was receiving 40 per cent pension at that time—returned to River district in 1952—family of two sons and two daughters—war service, 21 months overseas, 28 months in Australia—aged 43 years.

B—Aged 35 years—married—no family—war service, 61 months in Australia—classified as suitable on February 2, 1949—enlisted at age 20, prior to which he had experience on his father's orchard and vineyard at Reynella—classification committee considered he needed additional training and he accordingly worked as a rural trainee at Winkie and Barmera for two years, at the end of which time he gained his qualifications—he received a good report and a high grading with the classification committee.

Taking all reasonable factors into consideration, including war service and marital status, the standing of B is in advance of A, hence his selection for a holding at Loxton in advance of A. B's allotment of sections 304/5, Cooltong division, came about as a result of his unplanted holding at Loxton (due for planting 1955) having become frost suspect. Two other Loxton allottees, whose holdings come into the same category, have likewise been transferred to other holdings. One other remains to be transferred for similar reasons and has, therefore, a priority over A and others not yet allotted land.

I told the honourable member previously that apparently some of his facts were not correct, because I thought he said B had not had previous experience before the war, whereas he had had such experience.

#### BRITISH INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked on Tuesday last regarding the British Institute of Engineering Technology?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I have examined the advertisement which says in very large type "We definitely guarantee no pass no fee," which seems to me, to say the least, a rather flamboyant type of advertising which would, I think, hardly conform to the ethical standard of truth in advertising. However,

that is a gratuitous opinion of my own. I have ascertained from the Deputy Director of Education (Mr. McDonald), who was, prior to receiving his present appointment, Superintendent of Technical Education, that the institute has no standing with the Education Department or the University of Adelaide, but he understands that a number of manufacturing firms have encouraged their employees to take its courses. Neither he nor I have any knowledge of how many have done so. Mr. MacDonald says that the B.I.E.T., as it is known throughout the British Commonwealth, is an old and reputable coaching institution, and many hundreds of students in Australia have done its course and many large firms, including the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, encourage their employees to take the course when technical colleges are not available to them. I lay emphasis on that point. Mr. McDonald also advises that he has seen no claim that the company has the support of the Education Department or the University, but it may well be that some salesman has made that claim on behalf of the company. Although I do not wish to say anything in criticism of this company, I think that is a practice that is to be deplored. Too many reputable firms and companies claim that their particular product, book or commodity has the support of the Education Department, and it seems to me that many people in various walks of life in this State are attempting to ride on the back of the department.

Mr. Jennings—You are issuing a warning?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—No, but I would like to say as emphatically as possible that I deplore this attitude. Those who are claiming to have the authority of the Education Department to sell their books or other commodities and using the department as an advertising agency are doing so entirely without my knowledge or approval.

#### DIESEL ENGINE EXHAUST FUMES.

Mr. QUIRKE—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked some time ago regarding the exhaust fumes from diesel-operated vehicles?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—This matter does not exactly come under the jurisdiction of any department for which I am responsible, but I took it up with the Premier and he, in turn, referred it to the State Traffic Committee. The latest information I had was that the committee expected to deal with it within a fortnight and that period will expire tomorrow.

Therefore early next week I may have something more definite to give the honourable member.

#### GRASSHOPPER MENACE.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—Recently I drew the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to a letter I received from one of the district councils in my constituency suggesting that aeroplanes should be used to control the grasshopper plague and pointing out that this had been done successfully in Victoria. Since then the Victorian authorities have come out with a full statement of what has been done and claiming that the plague of grasshoppers has been stopped. In answer to that a statement appeared on behalf of the Department of Agriculture claiming that Victoria was better placed to use heavier type planes than the Moth, but I point out that the Renmark aerodrome will carry planes of any size and I am wondering whether it would not be possible to co-operate with Victoria by arranging that Victorian planes could use the Renmark aerodrome if necessary with a view to protecting our irrigation areas. Will he take up this question as a possible way of solving the problem as regards one particular area?

The Hon. A. W. CHRISTIAN—One of my departmental officers visited Victoria some time ago to confer with their authorities and to ascertain what their experience was. He is thoroughly conversant with what was attempted and what has been done, and advises that our conditions are totally different from those in Victoria in a general way, apart from the question of aerodromes and the type of aircraft which could be used. Nevertheless, we have not lost sight of the possibility of using aircraft in this particular area if it is found they can be effectively employed in combating or mitigating the pest.

#### WHYALLA HOUSING.

Mr. LAWN—Has the Minister of Lands a reply to the question I asked last week concerning housing at Whyalla?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I have received the following reply from the chairman of the Housing Trust:—

The opinion of the South Australian Housing Trust is that, at present, there is no necessity to carry out further building at Whyalla. The trust has now about 550 rental houses at Whyalla in which vacancies frequently arise. During the last six months there were about 40 vacancies. Consequently, the trust is able to cope with the present housing demand in Whyalla by re-allotting the vacated houses.

#### METROPOLITAN MILK SUPPLY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 26. Page 1262.)

Mr. QUIRKE (Stanley)—I have carefully examined this Bill and whilst I am happy with certain provisions there are some that leave me rather unhappy, particularly those concerning milk deliveries, suppliers of milk and vendors. There can be no disagreement with the provisions of clause 3, which relate to maintaining good conditions under which milk is produced. In the production of milk nothing can be too clean or hygienic. Milk, which is produced in a warm state, is an extremely fertile breeding ground for any form of bacteria. Extreme hygiene is necessary to ensure that the product reaches the consumer with as low a bacteria count as possible. In the past I have seen some frightful conditions in milking sheds. I know that in relation to the supply to the metropolitan area, because of the laws governing the conditions under which milk is supplied, such shocking conditions no longer obtain.

There is one feature regarding milk supplies in the metropolitan area that should be taken in hand as quickly as possible. I refer to the practice of placing money in billycans that are left out at night. There could be no more fruitful source of filthy contamination. One needs only to consider how money travels. It is possible for money to be in a till in Queensland this morning and in Adelaide this afternoon, after passing through 50 or 60 hands and being carried in pockets. Any form of disagreeable contagious disease could be associated with that money—particularly coins. It is a dangerous practice for people to put money into cans into which vendors deposit milk. The vendors, in some instances, drive horses and the reins would certainly not be clean, and when one realizes that frequently the vendors must scrape around in the bottom of a container to get the last three-penny bit one can appreciate the danger.

What is the use of prescribing hygienic conditions if in the final analysis their effect is completely destroyed? I know perfectly well that milk is scalded and in these days of refrigeration, if a housewife knows her job, she scalds the milk and cools it rapidly and endeavours to keep it at a temperature at which the bacteria count cannot rise. However, like pasteurization, that does not clean milk. If it were dirty the scalding would probably kill some of the bacteria, but not necessarily

all, and if there is carelessness in handling that milk subsequently—such as, for instance, permitting its temperature to rise—the bacteria count increases and from that infantile stomach complaints can rise, particularly in summertime. There is a possible source of contamination from depositing money in cans left out overnight.

Mr. Tapping—That practice is disappearing.

Mr. QUIRKE—I hope it will soon completely disappear. One frequently hears of pilferers removing money from billycans.

Mr. Travers—That is possibly the cure to the practice.

Mr. QUIRKE—If any man, out of regard for the well-being of the community, goes out and removes money from billycans, he should not be punished. Of course, in order to entirely eliminate the practice, milk should be supplied in bottles. People must be taught how to handle milk. Frequently, early in the morning one can see an array of milk bottles left on a doorstep. That milk is not bacteria-free and if it is warmed by the sun the bacteria count increases. Dairy men have been knocked around sufficiently in most cases to have an interest in what they are producing.

I can see no objection to reconstituted milk, although I refuse to accept the statement that it is as good as fresh milk. I cannot see how it can be, but it is still a good and priceless product where fresh milk is not available. However, we should not boost it by saying it is as good as fresh milk. It has the advantage that it can be kept without contamination, which is something very much in its favour.

I am not happy about the zoning of milk deliveries. There are six big suppliers of wholesale milk operating in the metropolitan area. They are the South Australian Farmers' Co-op. Union, Jacobs Dairy Produce Co. Ltd., Amseol, Harrison Bros., Myponga Co-operative, and Jervois Ice and Cold Stores, which I understand does no city trade in fresh milk. Myponga Co-operative does, but it does not belong to United Co-operative Dairymen Ltd. It is on its own, and so is the Jervois Company and they prefer to remain as individual co-operative organizations. Under the equalization scheme a levy is put on milk supplied to the metropolitan area and the product is equalized and a credit is given at the end of the month to the people supplying the milk.

The most profitable outlet for whole milk is the metropolitan area. The scheme is simply a method whereby some of the money accruing from the most lucrative part of the trade is distributed to the milk producers. In the

early days of zoning there was much changing round, and wholesalers possibly found it a little difficult to keep things going when there were such rapid changes in the allegiance of vendors, so it was arranged that a vendor who was obtaining milk from one wholesaler could not change to another except in the month of October. Then for some reason that did not work so well, against whose interests I am not prepared to say, and then came the 12-month idea. The position today is that once a vendor starts with one of these wholesalers and then wishes to leave, none of the others will supply him with milk unless he gives 12 months' notice of the intended change.

Mr. Shannon—That is not in accordance with fact.

Mr. QUIRKE—It is. In one of the organizations referred to by the honourable member there is a small clique standing out, and because this small clique will not conform to the idea which I have related the whole equalization scheme has been placed in jeopardy.

Mr. Shannon—I think they are in now.

Mr. QUIRKE—I think they will be forced in.

Mr. Shannon—The honourable member is still a long way from the facts.

Mr. QUIRKE—The small clique is the United Co-operative Dairymen Ltd. It is so small that it has 800 suppliers and 700 shareholders. They supply 18 per cent of the whole milk to the metropolitan area or 8,000 gallons per day, and their daily intake is 30,000 gallons. I would not say it was a small clique, but it consists of people who have been desperately anxious to maintain their own conditions. Assuming that the United Co-op. Dairymen Ltd. come into it, the last avenue will be excluded from the vendor of getting milk from someone outside the ring. At present he can obtain milk from them. However, if he were buying from the Farmers Union he could not get supplies from Amseol and could not go to the United Co-op. Dairymen. That is the fly in the ointment. They are possibly going to be forced into the picture, and if a vendor is dissatisfied with one wholesaler he will have to give notice that in 12 months he intends to change. However, there is no guarantee that in 12 months anyone will accept him.

The Hon. A. W. Christian—You are referring to the dairymen and not the vendors.

Mr. QUIRKE—I am referring to those who will have a licence to deliver milk around the town.

The Hon. A. W. Christian—That is not under that agreement.

Mr. QUIRKE—Then the Minister has something to learn.

Mr. Shannon—The honourable member has a lot to learn.

Mr. QUIRKE—The vendor who buys from, say, the Farmers' Union has to give 12 months' notice of his intention to change his wholesaler.

Mr. Shannon—You have it back to front. The 12 months' notice has nothing to do with the vendor, only the producer.

Mr. QUIRKE—I checked on the position this morning with two parties and both told me precisely the same thing.

The Hon. A. W. Christian—Neither of them knew what he was talking about.

Mr. QUIRKE—I was told that if a vendor wanted to change his wholesaler he had to give 12 months' notice. Is that correct or not?

Mr. Shannon—It is quite incorrect.

The Hon. A. W. Christian—I think the honourable member is confusing that position with something quite different—between the dairyman and the wholesaler.

Mr. QUIRKE—I know how that operates. The United Dairymen's Company has a 12 months' agreement, but there is no contract associated with the matter I have raised. The dairyman who signs a contract knows that he must supply milk for 12 months. I do not know that the contract will hold at law, and I would like to have the whole point cleared up. There is no agreement with the vendor, who cannot change from one wholesaler to another as he wishes.

The Hon. A. W. Christian—That is under the control of the Milk Board.

Mr. QUIRKE—It is not. If it is, the board should be taken to task, because the position I mention is operating today. Am I right in that?

The Hon. A. W. Christian—No.

Mr. QUIRKE—I am right and I stand by what I said. If it is correct, there is a danger to the vendor in this proposed zoning. The vendors are to be licensed, but is there anything in the Bill to guarantee them supplies of milk?

The Hon. A. W. Christian—Yes. Read clause 5, and also the regulations now in force.

Mr. Shannon—Ask the Milk Board and they will tell you many things you do not know.

Mr. QUIRKE—I have been told what is going on in the milk supply business and it is time we gave everything to the Milk Board to handle. I do not believe the people I approached this morning gave me wrong information, but I will check on it before very long.

The Hon. A. W. Christian—As a first check, look at paragraph (d) of clause 5.

Mr. QUIRKE—That refers to adequate supplies. Will the Milk Board have power to issue regulations?

The Hon. A. W. Christian—The Bill gives it that power.

Mr. QUIRKE—It is time the board had control of everything. I do not say now that the people I approached gave me deliberately false information. They are in opposing camps.

Mr. Shannon—They may not have known the answers.

Mr. QUIRKE—They knew the answers, and I am firmly convinced that the information given to me was correct. The honourable member knows the position from the suppliers point of view. He is trying to sidetrack the main issue and to confuse the position. His remarks do not convince me that the milk vendor can change from one wholesaler to another without giving 12 months' notice. The United Dairymen's Company was the odd man out. If there is any compulsion in this matter, it is on that company. I always favour the man who stands out against coercion. Once this company is included in the organization the last resource of the vendor will be closed. I am assured that pressure was brought to bear. Why bring the company into the picture? It is doing no harm by staying out.

Mr. Shannon—It does not have to come in.

Mr. QUIRKE—It will be forced in. At present there is a loophole but as soon as the company is inside the organization that loophole will have gone, and then the Milk Board should be able to take over the whole of the administration, and we will have a position similar to that in Victoria. I believe in individual enterprise, but countries like America had to bring in legislation to curb the activities of combines and cartels. From my information, this looks suspiciously like the creation of a combine here. As soon as possible I will check up on the information given to me this morning and seek the permission of those who gave it to me to quote them. I will not do it now, because they may be wrong. If they have misled me I will quote their names, but I do not think they have. I believe that they are completely honourable men and there could be no mistaking the question I asked them.

Mr. Shannon—The honourable member knows that some wholesalers also own rounds. They may be the people to whom your informants referred.



Mr. QUIRKE—No. There are only a few large firms; most of the vendors are in a small way, and I cannot see any objection to that. However, I would object to the big organizations gradually building up rounds until they controlled all milk rounds, just as in the liquor industry the wholesalers can control the retail distribution. I cannot see anything to prevent that happening under this legislation.

Mr. Shannon—Except that the largest wholesale supplier does not own one round, and never has.

Mr. QUIRKE—That is correct, and probably that firm does not want to own a round now, but if conditions change later it may alter its policy, and then milk supplies may become a wholesale and retail monopoly.

Mr. Macgillivray—Such as we find with the distribution of petrol.

Mr. QUIRKE—Yes. Everyone knows what has happened in the liquor trade industry in New South Wales. There is as much skulduggery there as in Chicago. I support the second reading.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 4 passed.

Clause 5—"Zoning of milk deliveries."

Mr. FRANK WALSH—This clause provides power to make regulations for the zoning of milk deliveries, the main provision being that there shall be at least three vendors for each zone. I cannot see any necessity for paragraph (b) of proposed new section 46a if the vendors must be licensed. The gallonage of each round is the most important factor, but that is not mentioned. At one time it was considered that a round of 40 gallons would provide a reasonable living, but a round of about 80 gallons is needed today, and some vendors have rounds of up to 130. Will the zones be defined by naming the streets or roads forming the boundaries? I think the zoning system may increase costs of delivery, but I do not know who will have to meet that. I think some attempt should be made to fix a finishing time of delivery, though some allowance should be made if the vendor had an accident or a breakdown. This should be considered on the broad principles of zoning. The number of gallons that a vendor must sell to give him a reasonable standard of living should be considered, not the number of customers. The vendor should be protected by knowing that, if he is granted a licence and operates it to the required standard, there is no reason why his business should fall off. However, it is possible for the best of rounds

to fall off over a period of three to five years, because some tenants may move from a zone and the incoming tenants might take less milk.

Mr. O'Halloran—A great deal depends on the prosperity of the customers.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I agree with that. With a family of school children extra milk would be required, but when those children are absorbed into industry there would be a falling off in the demand.

The Hon. A. W. Christian—That would be counter-balanced by an increase in another family. That sort of thing is going on all the time.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I could take the Minister into some built up areas that have been settled for 30 years, where people have had their families, and the children have moved out of the home leaving only the parents in the area. There is very little vacant land in those areas to compensate for this movement of people. Will the zoning be on a gallonage basis, on the number of customers, or what? This clause also provides that the board can withdraw a zone from a retail vendor who has been guilty of any breach of the regulations. If that is done, there must be some equity to the vendor. If he had an 80 gallon round at the start but became too tired to conduct it to the required standard he would lose his licence. His round might then be only a 40 gallon round. Would the incoming vendor be compensated, or would he be able to purchase from the other two vendors the gallonage that presumably they had taken from the vendor whose licence was withdrawn? If an attempt is made to define in an Act of Parliament what a vendor should or should not do, the fullest information should be given to members. I would be pleased if the Minister would reply to the points I have raised, because I can assure him that I require some explanations.

The Hon. A. W. CHRISTIAN (Minister of Agriculture)—Practically every contingency that could arise is provided for in clause 4. Naturally, they are not set out in so many words, nor could they be, but every paragraph contains powers for making regulations to cover the particular subject matters it deals with, and they have been very carefully thought out. The boundaries of the zones are not immutable; they will not be fixed in perpetuity without being capable of alteration. If it so happens that the gallonage in any particular zone has shrunk because of a lessening consumption due to population movements, obviously the boundaries of that zone can be altered, and there

are all the powers necessary to do that. I know that the Milk Board has very definite ideas about the gallonage a retailer should have because it has the responsibility of determining prices, and is very loth to increase prices to the consumer. Furthermore, it knows that if the gallonage is of a certain minimum the retailer has a good chance of making a living without prices having to be increased. I do not know, and I am not prepared to pose as an authority, as to what the gallonage should be for any retailer, but I believe the average operating in the metropolitan area now is about 50 to 55. I also know that in some other States, mainly the eastern States, an average of about 80 gallons has been aimed at. Circumstances and costs in South Australia may be different from those in the eastern States, and it will be for the Milk Board to determine the profitable gallonage and fix the zones accordingly. It has complete authority and discretion in that matter. The fact that at least three vendors must be maintained in each zone indicates that the boundaries cannot be permanent. Regarding the service the vendor is required to render, paragraph (f) gives the board complete power to determine the reasonableness of the service. If as the member for Goodwood (Mr. Frank Walsh) suggests, a customer has cause to complain about late delivery and generally lackadaisical service, the Milk Board has full power to require a proper standard of service. Further, if the vendor does not comply with that request he runs the risk of losing his permit. It has been said that because of a fall in his gallonage or the loss of his permit a vendor may be forced out of business, but I would assume the board would permit him to sell his round. The board may be faced with a number of difficulties in working the zoning system, but that system is a genuine attempt to meet the consumers' requirements.

The Government has received complaints from time to time over a long period about the poor service and quality of the milk served by some milk vendors who know that the customer has no alternative sources of supply. When an organization runs a business on its own terms, as the vendors are at present doing by agreeing not to encroach on each other's zones, the best way to deal with the problem is to set up a zoning system as this Bill does. It ensures competition within the zones as customers will have the opportunity to change from one vendor to the other. This will keep the retailers on their toes, trying to render the best possible service.

The great majority of vendors maintain a high standard of service, and as a community we are fortunate in having people willing to get up early to deliver milk, but as in every other business there are always a few black sheep who are lazy and not willing to observe the highest standards of hygiene and service; therefore, we must have a police force and legislation requiring people to keep the law. Under the proposed zoning system competition will be restored and some incentive given to provide a reasonable service. The Government has examined every possible alternative. The restoration of completely free conditions is out of the question; indeed, it may not even be desirable. All members will recall the chaotic conditions existing before zoning operated; half-a-dozen milkmen served customers in the same street, and that must have resulted in increased costs to the consumer. Zoning resulted in a reduction in distribution costs by about 2d. a pint.

Mr. Fred Walsh—The consumer has not received the benefit.

The Hon. A. W. CHRISTIAN—I think he has. Since the Milk Board took over the administration of the metropolitan milk supply it has closely checked costs, and no increase in the retail price can take place without its approval. The retailer's finances, costs and profits are closely examined by the board before any increase in price is sanctioned. The block zoning system should be tried. If we go back to the old chaotic conditions, the cost of milk to the consumer may be increased steeply. Under the present arrangement the Government cannot control milk vendors unless, by drastic legislation, it prohibits what they are now doing. I very much doubt whether that could be done effectively, but what we are proposing could be, and could result in a reasonable measure of competition within the zones. Someone suggested that there should be provision for more than three vendors in one zone. The clause lays down that there shall be at least three; there may be more. I do not know which number would be ideal and I think we could ascertain that only by trial and error. The Milk Board will be able to determine, after some experience, whether four or even five would be a better proposition. This is experimental legislation and we can find out which is best only by trial and error, and I suggest we give it a trial.

Mr. TAPPING—Last evening, speaking on the second reading, I expressed my opposition to clause 5, and do so again today. It is unwise to alter a system that is giving satis-

faction. I have made inquiries in my district and can find no complaint against any vendor, so I say it is a retrograde step to throw overboard a system that has proved satisfactory. The Minister said that the consumer has no alternative today, but I say he has. In my district there is a gentlemen's agreement between the seven or eight vendors and if a customer objects to one another can take his place.

The Hon. A. W. Christian—You virtually have what we are proposing.

Mr. TAPPING—Not at all. The Minister said that it could mean five vendors running down one street. That would increase the price as the Minister fears.

Mr. JENNINGS—I, too, oppose this clause and my reasons are the same as those advanced by Mr. Tapping. I believe the present system is almost completely satisfactory. I can speak only from my own experience, but I have never had one complaint about it and I think that is significant when we know how many complaints members of Parliament get on all sorts of subjects. The Minister said that the former system was chaotic because of the number of vendors running down one street, and we know that that must have been reflected in the price of milk. We know also that the present system is much more economical, so what the Minister is suggesting now is, not to go back to a system of complete chaos, but to a system of half chaos. I can see no need for block zoning, and those very rare cases where the vendor is not doing the right thing should be dealt with by the Milk Board in whatever way it deems necessary.

Mr. QUIRKE—I am not satisfied with this clause or with certain parts of the previous debate and I want an opportunity to clarify the position. I now formally ask the Minister if he will report progress.

The Hon. A. W. CHRISTIAN—No.

Mr. QUIRKE moved:—

That progress be reported.

The Committee divided on the motion.

Ayes (15).—Messrs. John Clark, Coreoran, Davis, Dunstan, Fletcher, Jennings, Lawn, Macgillivray, McAlees, Quirke (teller), Riches, Stephens, Tapping, Frank Walsh, and Fred Walsh.

Noes (17).—Mr. Brookman, Hon. A. W. Christian (teller), Messrs. Geoffrey Clarke, Dunnage, Goldney, Hawker and Heaslip, Hons. C. S. Hincks and Sir George Jenkins, Mr. Jenkins, Hon. M. McIntosh, Mr. Millhouse, Hon. B. Pattinson, Messrs. Pearson, Shannon, Travers and White.

Pairs.—Ayes—Messrs. Hutchens and O'Halloran. Noes—Mr. Michael and Hon. T. Playford.

Majority of 2 for the Noes.

Motion thus negatived.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—During the second reading debate Mr. Quirke made certain assertions that were challenged by the Minister. Mr. Quirke admitted that the people he had consulted may have misunderstood the questions and he sought an opportunity to ascertain whether that was the position. We all appreciate the thoroughness with which the member approaches subjects on which he speaks and I am surprised and disappointed that the Minister of Agriculture did not accede to his request to report progress. There is no particular urgency about this Bill. The Notice Paper contains a number of measures with which we could proceed. The Minister could have adjourned this matter on motion to enable Mr. Quirke to check the position and be able to inform us of the true state of affairs.

Mr. Travers—What is this—an appeal against the decision of the House?

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—I regret that the Minister was not big enough to grant to a member one of the privileges he is entitled to. This is not a legal position. Lawyers do not count in this House—only members of Parliament do.

Mr. TRAVERS—On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. May I ask on what issue any of these remarks are relevant?

The CHAIRMAN—I ask the member for Chaffey to come back to clause 5.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—In that case, Mr. Chairman, I ask your protection from the ineane and stupid interjections coming from the Government benches.

The CHAIRMAN—Will the honourable member proceed with clause 5?

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—Mr. Quirke cast grave doubts about certain aspects of this clause and, as it vests the Milk Board with tremendous powers, in justice to dairymen, wholesalers, retailers and consumers, we should thoroughly understand what it proposes. The clause enacts new section 46a of the principal Act and subsection (1) states:—

The power conferred on the Governor by the preceding section to make regulations on the recommendation of the board shall include power to make regulations for the zoning of milk deliveries, that is to say, regulations for the following purposes:—

That confers all possible power on the board. The board will report to the Government

whether the supply to consumers is satisfactory, whether the wholesaler is treating the retailers and dairymen properly. Subsection (a) states:—

For empowering the board to define and alter retail milk distribution areas (hereinafter called "zones") within the metropolitan area or any part thereof:

A few moments ago the Minister referred to housewives. Housewives generally object to the principle of zoning whereby one or two vendors are able to supply milk to all housewives in a particular zone. If a housewife is dissatisfied it is true she can purchase from another vendor, but she can only deal with the retailers who are permitted in that zone. There are some people who believe that the zoning system should be abolished. It is an important matter to consumers and should be closely examined. Subsection (b) states:—

For empowering the board to allot to any person a zone or zones in which he is permitted to carry on business as a retail vendor of milk and cream, and forbidding any person to carry on such business in the metropolitan area except in a zone allotted to him by the board:

Under this clause the board will have the right to say who is to retail milk in a particular area. Such boards do not like to give up their control lightly; that is the history of all boards. They tend to become autocratic and the longer they are in power the more autocratic they become, and any challenge is considered a reflection.

The Hon. A. W. Christian—I think this board has done a very good job both for producers and consumers.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—I am not attacking the board. Before we pass the Bill we should realize the tremendous powers proposed to be given to the board. Under new section 46a (1) (c) every person to whom a zone has been allotted must supply and deliver milk or cream to all persons in the zone desiring such supplies. When there were complaints by housewives, the board will have to examine the position to ascertain whether those complaints can be substantiated. I can see great difficulty in such a provision being implemented. Paragraph (f) deals with the regulation and control of the supply and delivery of milk to retail consumers in the metropolitan area. Regulations made under this paragraph could make it a dragnet provision.

Mr. QUIRKE—Having checked the position, I find that Mr. Shannon was right concerning one phase and I was right on another. The misunderstanding arose from both ends of the supply. The 12-month condition I referred

to applies to the notice a dairyman must give if he wishes to change his wholesaler. The vendor is pegged to one wholesaler, and that makes the position even worse than the first proposition I put forward. I regret that part of my statement was incorrect. It was accurate in the matter of a dairyman supplying milk to a wholesaler, and he must give 12 months' notice if he desires to make a change. Is that correct?

The Hon. A. W. Christian—To a degree.

Mr. QUIRKE—To a marked degree, I think. The law of the Medes and Persians applies in connection with the vendor. Will the Minister indicate how the clause will overcome the objection I have in this regard?

The Hon. A. W. CHRISTIAN—The Milk Board has power to see that the retailer gets adequate supplies of milk. It is covered by paragraph (d). If a vendor cannot get adequate supplies from the wholesaler with whom he has been dealing for a long time the board can arrange for him to get his milk from another wholesaler. A regulation gives the board power to see that a vendor gets adequate supplies, and this protects the retailer. The other matter raised by the honourable member is not related to this Bill. The position has been in operation for only a few months and negotiations are still going on between the wholesalers and myself. It is too early to say that the vendor has no protection.

Mr. DAVIS—If a dispute arose between a vendor and a wholesaler, and the vendor desired to transfer to another wholesaler, could it be done without an approach to the board?

The Hon. A. W. CHRISTIAN—I think that position is covered by paragraph (d). If milk cannot be obtained from one wholesaler the board can see that the vendor gets it from another. No regulations have been made under this Bill, but they will be made in due course to cover all aspects and will be sufficiently wide to provide for the contingencies mentioned. The regulation now in existence, assented to on December 18, 1952, reads as follows:—

Every holder of a milk treatment licence shall to the extent that he has milk or cream available therefor supply milk or cream to any vendor of milk in such quantities and at such time or times as may be specified by an order of the board.

That power has been used on two occasions. The regulation gives the board the power to deal with the matter.

Clause passed. Title passed. Bill read a third time and passed.

## SEWERAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 26. Page 9.)

Mr. DAVIS (Port Pirie)—I emphatically protest against the rates proposed to be charged to country people for sewerage. They are extremely high because the Government has delayed carrying out country sewerage schemes. I doubt whether country people will be able to afford deep drainage. I understand that householders in Port Pirie would have to pay about £17 a year for sewerage and some business people up to £500, and I am sure no-one will want to pay such high charges. I agree with the member for Stuart (Mr. Riches) that the Minister should find other ways of providing sanitary services in country areas. I think septic tanks would be a good substitute for deep drainage, but the Minister said that in a short time they would get rid of only about 10 per cent of the water.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—I said sometimes only 10 per cent, but that it would range between 27 per cent and 10 per cent.

Mr. DAVIS—The Central Board of Health does not agree with that opinion. In Port Pirie we have been compelled to force some people to install septic tanks, and if there is any further delay in sewerage the town we shall have to make the whole of Port Pirie a septic tank area. Before we can do that it will be necessary to apply to the Central Board of Health for permission. My local board of health is most concerned about the position. It has approached the Municipal Association to have dissolvenators installed in certain areas because some parts of Port Pirie are not suitable for septic tanks. We asked a surveyor to survey the whole of Port Pirie to ascertain what areas were suitable for septic tanks, and he reported that certain areas were not favourable, but I have found that septic tanks have been installed in soils similar to those areas and they are working satisfactorily. In similar soils at Port Augusta septic tanks are working satisfactorily. I stress the urgency of adopting Mr. Riches' suggestion.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—We have not seen it yet.

Mr. DAVIS—But you will. The people of Port Pirie want to know what deep drainage will cost them. Originally, the local board of health at Port Pirie was told a scheme for Port Pirie would cost about £500,000, but today it would cost about £1,000,000. The people of Port Pirie should be allowed to decide whether they want deep drainage. I hope I

shall be able to get that information from the Minister soon because Port Pirie now has the pan system, which is not satisfactory. The rate proposed for country districts is 2s. 6d. in the pound, but it is only 1s. in the metropolitan area. The reason for the high rate is that the Government did not carry out its promises made years ago to install deep drainage in country areas.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—The rate fixed by the Act was 1s. 9d., not 1s., and the Government was told that the people could not afford that.

Mr. DAVIS—In other words, country schemes have to carry the cost of the metropolitan scheme. In all things the metropolitan area is riding on the backs of the country people. The Government has never given my area any consideration; it is always penalized in some way or other. If the Government is not prepared to give us sewerage it should decide what it is prepared to give. I do not think anyone in Port Pirie would object if the Government said it was unable to give us sewerage but could give us septic tanks. The Government would be able to install such a system and it would not cost it one penny, because the tanks could be installed, charged against the ratepayers and the ratepayer could pay it back at the same rate that he is paying today, which is £5 10s. in Port Pirie. Surely that is a reasonable request. We in Port Pirie want to know when we are going to get some scheme so that we can do away with the antiquated service we have today.

Mr. JOHN CLARK secured the adjournment of the debate.

## PHYSIOTHERAPISTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 30. Page 654.)

Mr. HUTCHENS (Hindmarsh)—I feel that this is a desirable Bill and one which does not require much comment, but as it is some time since the second reading was given it may be well to run briefly through its provisions. It provides for the Physiotherapists Board to impose penalties of varying kinds and values. Previously the board had to impose maximum penalties, and this was sometimes unjust. Accordingly, clause 4 sets out what penalties can be imposed. A member of the profession can be censured by the board, suspended or deregistered, and may be ordered to pay a fine not exceeding £20. In new section 32(c) it is provided that the board can deregister

“him”, and although I have no knowledge of legal phraseology, it appears to me that it should read “him or her.”

Mr. Travers—The Acts Interpretation Act says that it does.

Mr. HUTCHENS—I thank the honourable member for advising me. New section 32 provides that where a person has been guilty of unprofessional conduct the board may impose a fine of £20. At first glance, that does not seem much, but when one considers the other penalties provided in the Bill it can be seen

that it is quite adequate to meet all requirements. I believe the Bill is an improvement, and that it is necessary not only to protect the interests of the profession but also to safeguard the public. I therefore support the second reading.

Bill read a second time and taken through Committee without amendment; Committee’s report adopted.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.46 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, November 1, at 2 p.m.