

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

Tuesday, May 15, 1956.

The SPEAKER (Hon. B. H. Teusner) took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

**QUESTIONS.****ALLOTMENT OF CROWN LANDS.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH—The last issue of the *Sunday Mail* published an article under the heading "Two hundred and thirty thousand acres of Crown lands May be Opened up Soon." Can the Premier say under what system of tenure the Government proposes to allot this land—Crown leases in perpetuity, Crown leases with right of purchase, or the usual Government policy of disposing of Crown lands? Does the Government intend to survey the lands and carry out initial development prior to allocation?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Government does not intend this year to undertake the heavy commitment of development prior to allocation. If the Government did this out of its Loan funds, the expenditure would be so great that we would have to cut down on most of our essential works, such as hospitals and schools. The heavy finance required would be completely beyond the Government's means at present. I presume the type of tenure will be perpetual lease.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—According to last Saturday's *Mail* the Minister of Lands (Mr. Hincks) said that five properties totalling 17,000 acres at the foot of Yorke Peninsula had been allotted this week, that there had been 20 applicants, and that preference was given to ex-servicemen's applications in all these schemes. Can the Premier say whether any successful applicant already had primary production holdings in the vicinity and under what system of tenure the allocation was made?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—No allocation of Government land can be made except in accordance with the Crown Lands Act, which provides that a recommendation on the allocation must be made by the Land Board. The board investigates each application and having sifted out the pros and cons decides whether it should be granted and on what grounds; it then recommends to the Minister accordingly. As far as I know the Land Board has not yet made any recommendation on these applications and none has been approved. As to the second part of the question, it sometimes happens that a person has less than a living area and the Land Board has recommended an additional allocation. I think, however, the

honourable member was referring to substantial landowners. The Crown Lands Act provides that no person having unimproved land of the value of £7,000 or more may be allotted leasehold land. It has been suggested that with the effluxion of time and the increase in values £7,000 has now become inadequate, but it can be altered only by Act of Parliament and as far as I know there has been no suggestion to alter the Act.

**FOY AND GIBSON'S BUILDING.**

Mr. GEOFFREY CLARKE—Will the Premier suggest to the committee that has been set up to allot shopping space in the Rundle Street frontage of Foy's building, that priority be given to tenants from other buildings whose leases may be terminated as a result of the purchase by the Government of those buildings?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I do not know of any leases that have been terminated as a result of the Government's purchasing other buildings. The Government would not have power to terminate leases. The honourable member may be referring to Ruthven Mansions. If so, the Government is not terminating any leases because it has no power to do so, but in some instances where there are no leases it is requiring occupation of the premises for the purpose for which they were purchased. It would be proper for the persons concerned, if they so desired, to consider shopping space at Foy's, and they could apply to the chairman of the committee. I am not sure whether they have any priority of right, for they did not have any leases terminated.

Mr. Geoffrey Clarke—They are losing their premises.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—There are many persons who, for one reason or another, find themselves dispossessed of premises, but these people could apply to the committee for consideration.

Mr. LAWN (on notice)—Does the Electricity Trust of South Australia intend to use its portion of Foy and Gibson's premises for display purposes only, or for both display and selling purposes?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The trust has made no decision to alter its present practice in regard to the operation of its show room.

**SALK POLIO. VACCINE.**

Mr. HUTCHENS—Many people throughout the world have been perturbed about the dreaded disease known as poliomyelitis. I believe supplies of Salk vaccine have been made available to South Australia, but there

has been some concern about it. Have the supplies made available to South Australia been examined by our scientists and, if so, what were the results, and is the Government investigating the causes of and a possible cure for poliomyelitis?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—As far as I know, no vaccine has been yet supplied to South Australia. The Commonwealth Government Laboratories are producing the vaccine and propose to make it available soon to the various States, but before it is made available it will be doubly checked by the Commonwealth serum laboratory, and we are assured that it will be absolutely safe. The Government will not be using any vaccines except those supplied from the Commonwealth medical sources, and I assure the honourable member that every known step will be taken to ensure that it is absolutely safe before use. Of course, the consent of the parents will be obtained before the vaccine is administered to children.

#### RAILWAY TIME TABLES.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Concern has been expressed to me recently by several people, including a visitor from another State, because they find it is not possible to purchase railway time tables. Will the Minister representing the Minister of Railways ascertain the reasons for this?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—I will do that.

#### MEETING OF LOAN COUNCIL.

Mr. LAWN—Can the Treasurer say whether there will be a meeting of the Loan Council shortly, and whether there will be any cut in the moneys made available to the States this year?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I received a communication yesterday from the Federal Treasurer that the Loan Council meeting which had been tentatively fixed for some time towards the end of May will be deferred until towards the end of June. At present there is a large Commonwealth loan before the public and the Federal Treasurer felt it would be advisable to await the outcome before the Loan Council met because the distribution of the money is one of the matters to be considered. Secondly, the Co-ordinator-General has not yet furnished his report regarding Loan programmes. The proposal to hold the meeting towards the end of June is quite satisfactory to this State, but we would not desire it held later because that would not give the Government sufficient opportunity for preparing next year's works programme.

As to the second part of the question, anything I say will be pure conjecture because I have no certain information upon the matter. However, I believe that the loan programme for next year will probably be equal to what we had last year. That would mean that to equal the effectiveness of the £190,000,000 provided last year we would require £200,000,000. I feel that anything less would not be in the interests of the Commonwealth because there is a general tightening of finance. If the State and Commonwealth Governments tighten up at the same time, unemployment could result, with a recession in business. I know that the States will advocate an effective programme at least equal to last year's and I hope the Commonwealth will accede.

#### TUG ACCOMMODATION AT BIRKENHEAD.

Mr. TAPPING—From time to time I have referred to traffic delays resulting from the frequent opening of the Birkenhead Bridge. As the traffic increases from month to month the position becomes more serious. Last August the Minister of Marine said that the Harbors Board contemplated building a series of pens near Darling's Wharf, Birkenhead, to accommodate tugs. If this were done in the near future it would obviate 20 per cent of the hold-ups to which I have referred. Does the Minister know when the Harbors Board will put this proposal into effect?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—The honourable member, with his usual courtesy, intimated that he would ask this question, and I have been able to prepare a reply. The estimated cost of the proposal to accommodate tugs in a series of pens in the vicinity of Darling's Wharf, Birkenhead, is over £100,000 and would therefore have to be submitted to the Public Works Standing Committee for inquiry and report. The project has not yet been submitted to the Government by the board, because even if reported upon favourably by the committee, Loan funds available to the board for next financial year would not be sufficient to enable the work to be carried out, except with the exclusion of other projects which are regarded as being of a higher priority.

#### MOUNT GAMBIER DISTRICT WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. FLETCHER—Last week the member for Millicent inquired concerning the supply of water from Mount Gambier to surrounding districts. Some time ago I forwarded a request to the Minister relating to the enlargement of some of the mains and the extension

of others in the Mount Gambier district. The Minister said he would have the position investigated. Has he any further information?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—I have nothing further to report, except that the question has not been overlooked. Two issues are involved: supply and reticulation. There is no doubt about the availability of supply in the area, but the people there must be prepared to wait just a little longer because there are some people who have no supply. The Government's approach to this question is to ensure the provision of water to those without any before making perfect the supplies to people who are suffering disability because of an occasional lack of pressure. No part of South Australia has had as much per capita spent on its water supplies as Mount Gambier. That may be reflected in the support the member receives in that area.

#### PORT AUGUSTA HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. RICHES—Last week the Minister of Education promised to get a report on the progress being made with the planning and letting of tenders for the erection of woodwork, domestic arts and sheet metal centres at the Port Augusta High School. Has he that report?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I have received the following report from the Architect-in-Chief:—

Standard plans for woodwork, metalwork and domestic arts buildings are practically complete, but, although these are being planned to a standard, each of the very many sites where these buildings are required has yet to be surveyed before specifications can be prepared and tenders sought. If you desire a first priority to be given to Port Augusta, tenders could be called fairly early in the next financial year.

I do desire a first priority and the matter will be put in hand almost immediately.

#### MANNUM CRAFT CENTRE.

Mr. BYWATERS—Can the Minister of Education indicate when a start will be made on the craft centre for the Mannum higher primary school?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—This project was included in the last loan programme and I imagined it would have been completed in this financial year. Unfortunately, it is one of a large number of works which could not be completed within the time. I hope that it will not only be commenced, but completed, within the next financial year.

#### ROAD HAULIERS' REGISTRATION FEES.

Mr. JENNINGS—I understand that recently a complaint was laid by the police against an interstate haulier for an alleged offence under our Road Traffic Act. The court dismissed the charge because of the provisions of section 92 of the Federal Constitution. Can the Premier say whether the Crown Law authorities have had an opportunity of studying this judgment and its implications and, if so, whether any doubt has been thrown on the legality not only of our laws affecting interstate hauliers, but of our ordinary traffic laws applying to hauliers travelling interstate?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I understand that the effect of the judgment was that, provided a person was engaged wholly upon interstate transport, he did not have to pay registration fees. As a matter of fact, a number of persons in South Australia have already refused to pay registration fees, claiming that they were engaged wholly on interstate transportation. The same thing happened in New South Wales. The authority there has issued them with a registration number at a nominal cost of 25s., merely for identification purposes. It is difficult for the owner of any vehicle to show at law that it is engaged purely on interstate transactions, and I think it would be a matter only of taking a little trouble to watch the operations of these persons to immediately pick them up for infringing the regulations of the State. In connection with cases that have come under the notice of the Government, instructions have been issued to the police to observe whether the gentlemen concerned are wholly engaged in interstate trade or undertake certain transactions in the State which are not of an interstate nature. So far as I know there has been no judgment supporting the statement that an interstate traveller is immune from carrying out normal traffic regulations. All the judgments up to the present are to the effect that in connection with regulations dealing with the safety of vehicle, weight of load and that sort of thing, the interstate operator is just as liable as anyone else. I do not think there is any doubt about that; at least I have not heard it queried.

#### HONEY MARKETING POLL.

Mr. QUIRKE—At present a poll of producers under the Honey Marketing Act is being held, and the interpretation clause in the Act says that a producer is one who keeps 10 or more colonies of bees. Without taking any side in the matter because I am

not concerned with the result of the poll, but as one who was interested in bringing into existence the legislation which set up the Honey Marketing Board I am concerned about what is taking place. I have information that minors, and some of them of comparatively tender years, are being registered in order to obtain votes. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether it is in order for young children to be registered as producers, when their capacity to cast a vote on so contentious a question must be open to doubt? If such registrations can be made it is evident that the Act may need amendment. Will the Minister obtain a report on the roll of producers and the ages of those enrolled, and whether any amendment of the legislation is needed?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will make inquiries on the points raised and should there appear to be any reason for querying the roll on which the Electoral Department has issued ballot papers steps will be taken accordingly.

#### SNUGGERY RAIL SIDING.

Mr. CORCORAN—The following is an extract from the *South-Eastern Times* of May 11:—

A claim, that a landholder had been refused consignment of superphosphate through the new Snuggery rail siding was made at the Millicent district council meeting last week. Councillor G. H. Bird said the ratepayer had told him the S.A.R. would either send his superphosphate "to Glencoe or somewhere else." Although a deputation to Mr. Jude had been told that the Snuggery siding was to be shifted to fulfil all requirements of the area, after closing of Nangula siding, it seemed the siding was not generally available. Will the Minister of Works take up this matter with the Minister of Railways and ascertain whether this is the position and, if so, why the Railways Department adopted that attitude in regard to the siding?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—I shall do that gladly.

#### WOOMERA-PORT AUGUSTA ROAD.

Mr. LOVEDAY—I have been advised that yesterday on the road between Woomera and Port Augusta a large tanker bringing milk supplies to Woomera broke down 70 miles from that village. Can the Minister of Works say to what extent the negotiations with the Commonwealth to make the road a good sealed road have advanced?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—I have no information on the matter. I will get a report.

#### AUTOMATION IN INDUSTRY.

Mr. STOTT—Can the Premier say whether a committee has been appointed by the University of Adelaide to study the question of automation in industry, and if so, will its report be laid on the table of the House? Is a Government officer likely to be appointed to study the question to ascertain its effect on Government industry and employees?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—No committee has been appointed by the Government, and Cabinet has not considered the appointment of one. Automation is undoubtedly a means whereby greater production can be achieved in various industries by the use of modern methods, and whether there is any good reason for a committee to report on what is likely to happen I very much doubt. It appears to me that if there is a way to produce more commodities more rapidly and at cheaper prices, and at the same time assist our standard of living, it is something to be desired. So far as I know it is not the intention of the Government to appoint a committee. We have not had any request for one.

#### RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' PASSES.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Has the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Railways, a reply to the question I asked last week concerning passes issued to railway employees on leave?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—The Railways Commissioner advises:—

It is the practice of the South Australian and Victorian Railways to place restrictions on the use of free passes during the Christmas, Easter, and Melbourne Cup periods, and on other occasions when there is a heavy demand for accommodation. As it is anticipated that rail accommodation will be fully taxed during the Olympic Games, the Victorian Railways requested that free passes would not be available for travel on *The Overland*, or divisions thereof, from Adelaide from 16th November to 21st November, and from Melbourne from 6th December to 12th December. Further, it was requested that advance bookings of berths and seats in either direction should be restricted to seven days for travel from 22nd November to 5th December inclusive. In conformity with established practice, I agreed to this request. The unrestricted use of free passes for interstate travel during these periods, when it can be anticipated that *The Overland* will be fully booked, would prevent many members of the paying public from travelling by rail as well as result in a substantial loss in revenue. The issue of free passes to railway staff is a privilege which, as far as I am aware, is not reflected in the present wages and salaries awarded inside and outside the railway service. I regret, therefore, that I could not agree to remove the booking restrictions as requested.

**KADINA MEAT WORKS.**

Mr. LAWN—I understand that recently the Government investigated the possibility of a company establishing a meat works at Kadina. Can the Premier say when the company is likely to establish it and the estimated number of employees?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—About three or four weeks ago I announced that the company concerned had ultimately decided not to go ahead because of the collapse of the meat market overseas, particularly in Great Britain. It has completely withdrawn from all negotiations. The Government has asked the General Manager of the Produce Department to investigate whether an abattoirs should be set up there as a Government activity, and we are now awaiting his report.

**NEW PORT ADELAIDE GIRLS TECHNICAL SCHOOL.**

Mr. TAPPING—I understand that for some time the members of the Port Adelaide Girls Technical School Committee have advocated the building of a new school because of the inadequacy of the existing one. On behalf of the member for Port Adelaide, who is unfortunately absent through sickness, I ask whether the Minister of Education is aware of the progress of plans for the new school?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—This school is one of a large number—I hope a record number—of proposed new schools that I desire to have included in next year's Loan programme, but until I know the amount of Loan moneys allotted to me and the availability of manpower and materials I cannot give the honourable member any definite information on this school. In the meantime the Architect-in-Chief is preparing sketch plans and doing other preliminary work so that if this school is placed on the programme no time will have been lost.

**BEACHPORT SLIPWAY.**

Mr. CORCORAN—Immediately before the last State election, Mr. Moorhouse of the Fisheries Department visited Beachport at the instigation of the Premier to discuss with local fishermen the provision of a slipway, and I understand he promised to investigate the matter. Can the Minister of Marine say whether any finality has been reached?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I was acting Minister of Agriculture during the period under discussion, so I can tell the honourable member the position. This matter was raised at an election meeting which I attended at Millicent and fishermen came from Beachport for the

purpose. I replied that it was not the practice of the Government at election times to make specific promises on slipways, but that the question would be investigated and, if investigations showed it to be warranted, the Government would proceed with the scheme. Mr. Moorhouse was authorized to investigate it and told that in the future, instead of loan money available for slipways and havens being allocated to the Harbors Board, the Fisheries Department would have a vote of its own for these projects. I told him the amount for this year, and he is now investigating the question and in due course will inform the Minister which works he believes should have the highest priorities and which should be undertaken within the terms of his vote.

**FLORA AND FAUNA RESERVES.**

Mr. JENKINS—Some time ago when I made representations to the Premier about the fencing of flora and fauna reserves he said that moneys had not been appropriated for this purpose. In my district, near Hartley (along Chaunceys Line), there is a flora and fauna reserve of about 2,000 acres from which rabbits come on to the properties of farmers. Will any money be appropriated in the coming financial year to fence this reserve or assist farmers to erect fences?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I will have the matter examined. Some years ago money was made available for fencing Flinders Chase, but I am not sure whether the work has been completed. I believe the reserve the honourable member has mentioned is a mallee reserve which I think does not come under the Flora and Fauna Board. It may be that the supervision of the area has not been sufficiently maintained. I will advise the honourable member in due course.

**STIRLING NORTH ELECTRICITY SUPPLY.**

Mr. RICHES—As a result of the altered railway policy in the north many railway men are being transferred from Quorn to Stirling North. I think about 50 are housed at Stirling North now, and they are feeling the hardship of not having an electricity supply. These men are largely engaged in bringing down coal from Leigh Creek to the power station at Port Augusta, and they think an electricity supply should be expedited. Will the Premier take up this matter with the Electricity Trust?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I will have the matter examined and advise the honourable member in due course.

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

Mr. LAWN (on notice)—

1. What buildings or parts of buildings are rented by the Government in South Australia?

2. What are the annual rentals paid for such premises?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—In the time available it has not been possible to prepare an answer covering the whole of South Australia, but I presume that the information I have obtained is what the honourable member requires. The following is a list of rented premises in Adelaide the rents of which are paid by the Architect-in-Chief's Department:—

	Total Annual Rental.
£	£
Privately owned—	
Simpsons Building—Gawler Place—	
Primary rent . . . . .	4,750
Water and sewer rates ..	261
Corporation rates .. ..	892
Insurance . . . . .	329
	6,232
A.N.A. Building—Flinders Street ..	457
Earl of Zetland—Flinders Street ..	194
Finance Corporation Building—Grenfell Street . . . . .	1,040
Liverpool Building—Flinders Street	900
Register Building—Grenfell Street ..	815
Richards Building—Currie Street ..	5,727
Other buildings—	
Martin Buildings—Rundle Street—	£
Primary rent . . . . .	1,860
Corporation rates . . . .	318
Water and sewer rates ..	176
	2,354
Savings Bank Building—Gouger Street . . . . .	450
Savings Bank Building—King William Street . . . . .	1,948
State Bank Building—Pirie Street .	5,651
Corporation, water and sewer rates, and insurance, where not paid separately, are included in the rental paid on a proportionate basis.	

narration of progress and consolidation. We have kept up with the times through efficiency in our various Government departments. As each year passes some latent resource is uncovered, some disease or pest conquered and some new industry established. Indeed, the rate of progress has been so fast that inevitably some of our services have been hard pressed to meet our immediate and growing needs. I refer particularly to housing and education for which, nevertheless, our record will bear almost any comparison.

The policy which has produced new industries, rapid land development, mineral production, and the expansion of Electricity Trust and Housing Trust activities with the growth of secondary industries, has also created markets for our products and demands for services which together contribute to the general prosperity of the State. With the rapidly growing economy we now enjoy we must expect growing pains. Our present troubles are mainly those of shortages and the resultant frustrations rather than those of poverty. Our living standards are high. We no longer see the itinerant peddler of wire trinkets and cleaning pastes of the depression days. We should work together to see that our present standards are maintained and improved. However, in times of prosperity, there is sometimes a tendency for a slackening of effort, a lowering of standards. In an economic sense yielding to this temptation to take it easy will be reflected in high costs so that in some industries their products may price themselves out of the market.

In his speech His Excellency remarked that seasonal conditions were not favourable in orchards and vineyards. The vine fruit growers in the Upper Murray will consider that an understatement. Towards the end of the vine harvest a succession of rains converted what might have been a bountiful harvest into a disappointment for many, and produced an extremely difficult situation for others. It will be necessary to dehydrate much of the vine fruit that was on the racks, and a considerable proportion of the gordo and doradilla grapes were so badly affected by the rain as to become useless. It is considered that after dehydration at considerable cost a large proportion of the treated fruit will be classed as substandard—fruit for which there is practically no outlet for sale.

The stabilization scheme foreshadowed in the Governor's Speech, if it eventuates, will apply only to saleable dried vine fruits, so no relief for fruit lost can be expected from that

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Consideration of committee's report.

Mr. KING (Chaffey)—I deeply appreciate the honour of being invited to move the adoption of the Address in Reply. Before doing so, I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your election to your high office, the member for Unley, Mr. Dunnage, on having been appointed Chairman of Committees, and Mr. Pearson on his appointment as Minister of Agriculture. The speech of His Excellency the Governor cannot have failed to impress members with its

quarter. However, other fruits have had reasonable harvesting conditions. It is hoped that the turn of the wheel of fortune will bring us conditions which will enable us to gather our harvests without these frustrations.

Through the good offices of the Departments of Lands and Agriculture we now have the means to hand to combat the threats of seepage, frost, pests and diseases. Of the most recent protective actions taken, the fruit fly and grasshopper eradication campaigns were of tremendous importance to our fruit-producing areas. Both pests threatened our districts recently. The fruit fly in particular constitutes a constant threat to our industry. The prompt and effective action taken is greatly appreciated by all who realize that the issue at stake is the survival of a primary production industry, which not only provides a livelihood for so many but is destined to become the "fruit basket" of the State.

In the pattern of plantings in the irrigated areas the wine varieties play an important part. The wine industry is one in which the Government of this State should maintain more than a passing interest. As most people know, over 75 per cent of the wine and brandy of Australia is produced in this State and our cellars are nearly always full. Our wines and brandies can hold pride of place anywhere. I should like to see our Government take an active interest in the marketing of our wines and brandies by using its influence in any way where it can be of the greatest value. In passing, I point out that we have found that variations in the excise duty on brandy can make or break the industry. Any suggestions for an increase in the present rates should be strenuously opposed if this section of our industry is to survive. As production of fruit increases, coupled with a keen demand for canned fruits, there is an urgent need for more cannery facilities at producing centres. A satisfactory canned fruit cannot be guaranteed if the fruit has to be hauled 150 miles in mid-summer. We hope to see the establishment of a cannery at a river centre in the near future.

His Excellency also referred to State forestry undertakings. These forests have played a most important part in keeping pace with the rapidly increasing needs of the fruit industry, as well as in supplying building and other requirements. The Forestry Department has shown an interest in developing reserves for experimental work in our districts. Many of us are of the opinion that much more could

be done with river flats and land adjacent to the river itself. Indigenous trees could be propagated if the young trees could receive protection from stock and vermin. It may not be too much to hope that trees which thrive under marshy conditions in other countries would acclimatize here to our great benefit. We hope, too, that in measurable time, we of the river will have our own forests and mills for box and structural timber. It is a matter for regret that very little use has been made by local government bodies of the interest-free loans which I understand the Government is prepared to make for planting communal forests. Repayment of these loans would come from the sale of the lumber so produced.

I must also commend the Government for its persistence with the tuna fishing industry. This is a case in which patience has been rewarded with signal success. I hope to interest the Government in another branch of the fishing industry: I refer to the potentialities of the River Murray. I would like a thorough examination made of the possibilities of increasing the fish population of the river so that it would support more fishermen and allied industries than it does at present. With modern deep freezing equipment on a powered freezer barge, fish collection and transport would be simplified. With today's handling devices, the freezer, with fish inside, could be detached and sent intact to the market with the fish in perfect condition. Waste through storage and deterioration would be eliminated, and confidence in the article would bring better returns for this food which is now denied to so many. There are many places along the river where fish culture and hatcheries could be established. Lake Bonney, at Barmera, has been suggested as one. There are also creeks and inlets where experimental work could be done. I have no doubt that fish production would respond to careful management, as do other livestock industries. The conditions for fishing along the River Murray for the greater part of the year are ideal and many of the risks and hazards of sea fishing do not exist. The amount of capital required for river fishing is negligible compared with the amount required to fit out a sea fisherman. Perhaps the Federal Government could be persuaded to devote portion of the funds now held in the Fisheries Development Account to River Murray fishing research.

As our urban population increases and garden land near the city gives way to housing, towns and people must go further afield for

their fruit and vegetable supplies. For some years now, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney have been drawing a lot of their requirements from the Murray district in South Australia. So great has this demand become that income from vegetables now vies with that from dried fruits in some of our producing areas, and the demand is as yet unfilled. At Berri this year the Berri Co-op. Packing Union Limited budgeted to process 3,000 tons of tomatoes, and this after growers had also supplied city case market requirements in three States. Vegetable growing is complementary to fruit growing in that it can share the same labour force and provide employment in seasons between the main fruit harvesting operations. By keeping labour in the district it can help in decentralization, and relieve the fruit industry from its dependence on an imported help during harvest periods. Vegetable growers should be given every encouragement under Government controlled irrigation schemes to establish themselves without too great a capital outlay. They should enjoy a safe tenure of their land with the provision of electric power at reasonable rates to enable them to make more efficient use of their land, and enjoy the amenities shared by the city dwellers.

Every district council area in the electorate of Chaffey and neighbouring electorates can show us undeveloped lands above flood level capable of being irrigated either for some varieties of fruit or vegetables, or for raising stock on irrigated pastures. The people of the river know the potentialities of its land. They have gained a lot of useful experience in handling irrigation problems. With improved pumping techniques and the availability of electric power there are thousands of acres which can be turned to better use with the aid of the copious supply of untainted water available. In some outstanding cases growers have put in their own pumping plants. In others it will be necessary for the Government to extend existing facilities.

Despite an acknowledged need for decentralization, our city populations continue to grow. Industries are established near the cities to tap the labour force and to be near to the cheapest sources of power, transport and raw materials. Convenience dictates industrial policy, and the overall effect is the development of a city complex or centralization, a condition which appears to have become common to all Australian States. Centralization brings with it the twin evils of social disease and political danger. The social

diseases are evidenced by the stream of young people passing through our courts. Some of these young people are ignorant braggarts revelling in the membership of an unwholesome cult, which has been encouraged by the notoriety continually given to it. The political dangers are obvious. Centralized industries and services provide ready made pressure points to be exploited by any unscrupulous organization to paralyze the whole State. This city can be reduced to impotence in a few days by a few irresponsible or wicked people dislocating transport, power and water services. Unless the forces which make for centralization are arrested nothing will reduce the flow of people to the cities, and the State will remain at the mercy of those interests which thrive on centralization. It does not pay industries to establish themselves in the country because they cannot compete with the city, where all goods are bought and sold at city prices.

In the country we are almost in the same position that South Australia was in a few years ago when the State was losing population at an alarming rate. The waters of the River Murray have proved a boon to many places and have contributed to a large extent to the development of the State. Now that we have electric power along the Murray, some of it generated at Port Augusta, and be it noted with the help of Murray water, we should have another look at this useful stream. History shows that most civilizations developed on river systems. Rivers provided them with food and transport. With electric power added to natural resources we have all the incentives to take another step forward. With 600 miles of navigable river and a capital investment of nearly £4,000,000 in locks, weirs, and navigation aids, it is time we thought of making more use of this slumbering giant. There are industries which can use water and electric power. The water is to be had for the taking and electric power lines are serving vast areas adjacent to the river. It has often been said that our future security depends on populating this land. Populating means more than adding to the problems and congestion of our capital cities. I would rather see the establishment of a number of smaller towns large enough to be able to afford the amenities now taken for granted by city dwellers, but small enough to afford the pleasures of country life.

Rather than take the water from the river by costly pipe lines to the cities, let us take our industries to the river and build our towns on its banks. If we do not do so, then perhaps other countries whose politics are dictated by



their stomachs may wish to take a hand. On the subject of utilization of the resources of the Murray Valley I commend to the Government and members of this House a most comprehensive report compiled for the Murray Valley Development League by Mr. Ulrich Ellis. The report summarises the findings of a number of inquiries into the resources of the Murray Valley made over a long period of years. It will repay serious study. I suggest that now is the time to look past the hills to the river beyond and to apply our energies to making the best use of this priceless asset. Now that we have electric power available, the door is open and, if goodwill is there too, by using the energy and drive which developed Leigh Creek, Radium Hill, the Nairn pyrites deposits, the Morgan-Whyalla pipe line, the Electricity and Housing Trusts, to mention only a few of our outstanding accomplishments, we could not only make a national asset out of our section of the Murray Valley, but also provide a very pleasant mode of living for a healthy community.

It is beyond the capacity of a single State to halt or reverse the trends which have concentrated our people on the seaboard of Australia. To develop fully the resources and the vast areas of land served by the Murray and its tributaries, and to disperse industries and population, calls for vision and effort of the order which produced the Snowy River scheme in which both State and Federal Governments participated. However, we can make a start. For instance, we could take up the option on the land in the Hundred of Gordon recently rejected by the Federal Government for war service settlement. We could free the Sturt Highway from the outmoded punt crossings by building bridges. We could declare an area a developmental region in which factories, industries, workers and primary producers alike would receive Government services at concession rates for an establishment period of, say, 25 years. There is ample precedent for such a step. To help develop the Northern Territory the Federal Government granted tax reductions, and on income from valuable minerals there is no taxation at all. There are few areas which at one time or another have not enjoyed railway concessions. If for no other reason than defence, the development of the Murray Valley should become a national undertaking. But how much more attractive is the prospect of the full development of this fertile valley and its almost neglected hinterland! I suggest it as the next important step in Government

policy. I thank members for their patient hearing and have pleasure in moving the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. CUMBE (Torrens)—I am sensible of the honour of being invited to second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor, which has been so ably moved by the new member for Chaffey, Mr. King. Being a new member in this honourable House it is my intention, in all humility, to say at the outset very little indeed. Rather I shall watch, observe, and learn the customs and usages of the House so as not to infringe the Standing Orders, and learn more quickly to adequately represent my electorate and the people of the district of Torrens, who, after all, put me here to do just that.

I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on having been elevated to such a high office. Your predecessor, Sir Robert Nicholls, was a gentleman of great attainments, who occupied the Chair for many years with distinction to himself and to the credit of the House. You, Sir, have an unenviable task in following the traditions and standards he set, but I assure you that you have the support of members on both sides of the House, who believe you have the ability to occupy the Chair with credit and dignity.

I congratulate the new Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. G. G. Pearson. I believe that in him Cabinet has gained a very able, capable and practical farmer who will carry out the work of the department as was done so well by the late Hon. A. W. Christian.

I also pay a tribute to a former member of this House, who for 12 years represented the greater part of my electorate. I refer to Mr. E. G. Whittle, a gentleman who had the respect of both sides of the House and has been of great assistance to me personally.

This is my maiden speech in this House and there are one or two comments I wish to make regarding His Excellency's Speech. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the formation of the Electricity Trust under Act of Parliament. In that time intense effort has built the trust into a sound organization, with both the resources and the ability to meet the extraordinary growth in the demand for electric power. In those 10 years that demand has risen 300 per cent, a great proportion of it being in country areas. Members will recall that one of the objects in the formation of the trust was the taking of power to remote parts of the State, and, as we now see, that has been faithfully carried

out. Last year over 4,000 additional country subscribers were connected to the mains of the trust, and yet I suggest that with all the expansion in generation and distribution the cost rise in this State is the lowest in the Commonwealth, which is to the great credit of the Government.

We were pleased to learn that the Treasurer was successful in his negotiations with the Commonwealth for a reasonable freight rate on the cartage of coal from Leigh Creek to Port Augusta. Through the success of the negotiations the State is now in a position to proceed with the establishment of a second power station at Port Augusta. This should ensure the power requirements for the State for some years to come. The Government is to be commended for its foresight in establishing these additional power facilities. The demand for electric power is growing day by day. New country areas are being opened up and new industries established. New industries require the very latest methods of motivation and the introduction of electronics and nuclear power will help considerably. With the advent of nuclear power in perhaps a few years' time this source of energy will have to be taken to the people, and in this regard the extension programme of the Electricity Trust in regard to its transmission system is to be warmly commended.

The establishment of the Radium Hill mine and the treatment plant at Port Pirie indicate that today we can reap the fruits of many years of persistent development. Already the sale of uranium oxide has brought us the amazing return of £2,000,000, a great deal of it in dollars. This indicates that we have in those establishments a great source of revenue for the future and vindicates the policies of development adopted by recent Liberal Governments. These are a few of the projects that have brought South Australia from the position, before the war, of one of the most backward States; to the proud position of enjoying today the highest per capita production, both primary and secondary, of any State of the Commonwealth. That fine achievement is largely due to the energy and clear thinking of the workers of this State and the energy, foresight and courage of successive Liberal Governments.

It is pleasing to note the amount of money allocated for reconstruction and maintenance of roads during the coming year. Under the programme to be carried out by the Municipal

Tramways Trust some routes are to be converted from trams to buses. Under the old system of trams the trust was responsible for the tracks and 18in. on either side and councils for the maintenance of the rest of the road, whereas under the new system of buses the trust will pay the Highways Department, on behalf of the council, a rate of one penny per bus mile. It may be necessary, of course, to review this rate after some years of running, but this method of payment poses a problem to councils. For instance, in my electorate the conversion of one main route will result in buses traversing roads that were not constructed to carry such heavy loads. Already some of these roads are packing up and the City of Prospect is faced with the entire reconstruction of some of the roads along which these buses travel. The ratepayers should not be called upon to shoulder this extra burden. Further, the council has not the financial resources to undertake the work of reconstruction, especially as it will be called upon in the next 12 months to reform three roads on which trams will be replaced by buses. This problem is typical of that facing other municipal councils around Adelaide, and it may be necessary for the Government to make substantial special grants to many councils during the coming year for the purpose of road reconstruction. Today the problem of financing district council undertakings is very real indeed.

This Parliament differs in one important aspect from other Parliaments of the last decade or so. At the election on March 3 the Playford Government was returned with the same number of members in this House as it had last session. Notable victories were the winning of the Wallaroo seat, held by Labor from time immemorial, and the winning of the Chaffey seat, held by an Independent for 18 years. This session, because of the retirement of older members and the re-alignment of electoral boundaries, seven new Liberal members take their seats. That is a great achievement at any time. I remind honourable members that seven new Liberal members comprise one third of the Government Party, and with this new blood there is an upsurge of spirit and a renaissance of thinking in this already great Party which augurs very well for many future years of sound enterprising Government in this State. It is usually only at an election where there is a landslide to either party that we see so many new members appearing on the one side at the same time, but their appearance on this occasion must

surely indicate that South Australians have the greatest confidence in the Playford administration.

During the life of this Parliament members may well be called upon to consider amendments to the Federal Constitution. Indeed, already in Canberra committees have been set up to consider the subject of Senate reform. The financial relationship between the States and the Commonwealth is another matter that should be reviewed, especially uniform taxation. Whatever our shade of political thought we must always remember our State rights and see that they are not whittled away frivolously. As originally established the Senate was a States' House to safeguard the interests of the smaller States. The Australian Constitution is today almost 60 years old and no doubt some revision of it is necessary because of the conditions of modern living, transportation and faster communications, but whatever we do we must jealously guard our State rights and try to restore to the Senate its rightful function: it should be truly representative of the States and not merely the rubber stamp of whichever political party may be in power at the time.

His Excellency's Speech forecast that next year would be a period of difficulty in the financing of some of the larger State undertakings. Now is the time for members and all citizens of this State to take stock of the position, to keep their feet firmly on the ground, and to rid themselves of much woolly thinking and star-gazing so that we may better approach these important questions with clear thinking and courage. I believe that if we do this these temporary difficulties can be overcome and the people of this State enjoy the prosperity and happiness they have earned and wholly deserve. I have the greatest pleasure in seconding the motion.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Acting Leader of the Opposition)—I join with the mover and seconder in supporting the Address in Reply, and I congratulate them on their maiden speeches. Three years ago I had the privilege of complimenting the former member for Torrens (Mr. Travers), who moved the adoption of the Address in Reply on that occasion, and I remember that the motion was seconded by the former member for Murray (Mr. White), who has now retired following on the election of a Labor member for Murray.

Mr. Jennings—It is all rather ominous.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I would not like to go into details at this stage, but if I were asked

to say anything about Mr. Travers' exit from this House, my reply would not read very well in *Hansard*; indeed, I believe that everything was not fair and above board in the matter. The member for Chaffey (Mr. King) was most outspoken in his desire for a comprehensive policy on decentralization, a subject to which I shall refer later. The seconder of the motion (Mr. Coumbe) reminded members that this session one-third of the members on his side were taking their places for the first time, and I believe this session will provide a golden opportunity for these new members to combine with the Opposition on certain legislation to be introduced for that will give them a chance to implement the progressive policies they have advocated this afternoon. Of course, the whips may crack and they may support the more senior Government members, in which case progressive legislation will be defeated.

On behalf of members on this side, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate you on your elevation to your exalted office. Up to the present you have shown complete impartiality and I trust that you will continue to do so. Members on this side also congratulate the Chairman of Committees (Mr. Dunnage) on his election to that office. Mr. King referred to the problem of high costs, and I have already indicated in another debate the Opposition's attitude on the imposition of high costs on salary and wage earners. I commend him for his reference to the production of brandy in his district, but we should look at the overall picture of overseas marketing. The Agent-General has been in England for a number of years and cannot be expected to keep abreast of modern developments in this country merely by reading about them. The marketing of our primary production is so important that he should be given the opportunity to visit South Australia, and he would then be in a better position to assist in solving the problems mentioned by the member for Chaffey.

Since the last session of Parliament we have had another election. I have never attempted to deny the right of any person to nominate for any Parliamentary district, but I take strong exception to any person endeavouring to usurp the name, or portion of the name, of any responsible political party. It was stated that a certain Liberal and Country League member was to nominate for Parliament as the result of certain allegations on what was going on within the organization. In my district I was opposed by a person who, in support of his nomination, usurped the name

of the Australian Labor Party and allied himself with the Australian Labor Party (Anti-Communist). If he wanted to come out as an Anti-Communist candidate good luck to him, but at least he should have been honourable and left the name of the Australian Labor Party out of it. Every political party should adopt a suitable name and not use any term that has been traditionally handed down to designate a particular party.

Another electoral matter concerns a speech that I made on March 4. My notes indicate I had not seen a more ruthless and ignorant approach to the electors in some instances than that by canvassers for my opponent. I suggested that they could have occupied their time better at the end of the Semaphore jetty, and I am not reflecting on the member for that district when I say that. This afternoon I asked a question following on an article published in the *Sunday Mail*, and I can only assume from the Premier's reply that the Government has not fully considered the allocation of further Crown lands, but that the article was only more propaganda. Unless surveys are made of lands for future allocations and reasonable access is provided for markets, and unless there are sufficient high lands in low-lying districts, the Premier will meet stubborn opposition from this side of the House.

The Governor's Speech indicated clearly that the Government has no planned approach to the needs of the State. We find several new faces in this Parliament, but we are confronted with legacies from the Government's past administration. They must have already found that the Government has no planned approach to the vital needs of South Australia. The Government should try to handle the problems of soldier settlement with greater vigour and vision; it should try to increase butter and cheese production, and fat lamb production for export, and assist the decentralization of secondary industries with a view to creating larger country towns. This afternoon the member for Chaffey referred to the demand from the eastern States for vegetables. He told us that the time is fast approaching when we shall not be able to meet those demands, but people in this State will soon have to depend more on the river towns for their supplies of vegetables in particular. The Broken Hill Proprietary Company has established big secondary industries at Whyalla, which provide the main avenue of employment for people there. Those people are largely dependent on the river dis-

tricts for their fruit and vegetables. Trains run from Mile End to feed the people of Whyalla and Port Pirie and other towns, but they could be supplied through the medium of deep freezing and the canning of vegetables, which could be carried out in the towns requiring fruit and vegetables.

We were told this afternoon by the Treasurer that the Government has not sufficient Loan money to carry out certain developmental work, but since many lands have been developed and allocated in the past the Government should see that they are used for the purposes for which they were allotted. Thousands of acres on Kangaroo Island were allotted to soldier settlers, but I have heard of rumblings of discontent amongst the settlers. If land is allotted for dairying, for instance, it should be used for that purpose. If the settler becomes dissatisfied he should not be allowed to change his type of production, but should have the right to sell his equity to another person who will continue dairying. Many inquiries have been made into schemes for soldier settlement and considerable expenditure has been incurred, and settlers should not be allowed to use the land for a purpose that was not intended.

The decentralization of industries is a question that is not related only to meeting the needs of today. Irrigation is being carried out on many parts of the Murray, and surely the use of deep freezing, or the establishment of canneries to treat vegetables, would help establish secondary industries alongside primary industries. An investigation should be made into the use of water by industrial plants in the metropolitan area. Much of the water that is being poured down the drains could be used again, and this would decrease the expenditure involved in providing pipelines from the Murray or further reservoirs. We should do our utmost to conserve water. Is it necessary, when the boiler of an engine needs flushing out at Mile End, to use a hose with a three or four inch nozzle? Could not that water be re-used? I wonder how many millions of gallons could be saved if we really attempted to avoid wastage. It is all very well for the Government to say that water is a cheap commodity: the State is growing and our water requirements are increasing.

The Government should adopt a more concrete policy in encouraging young people to enter the teaching profession. It should provide better conditions, better salaries, improved superannuation benefits and long service leave, and make better provision for accommodation

in country areas. There should be greater co-operation between heads of schools and the department, with master plans for future school development. When the Forbes primary school was opened it comprised a brick structure of 10 rooms. There are now 33 portable rooms and four more will be required to accommodate the 1957 scholars enrolled. Most schools are sited on areas of about 10 acres, but the present practice is to erect portable buildings which encroach on the playing areas. At least half the Forbes school area is occupied with buildings. There are 1,530 students at that school. Is it right that the headmaster should be expected to know all those children? How can he be expected to appreciate his staff's problems? Even with a motor scooter he still would not have sufficient time to visit all the portable rooms in one day. An investigation should be made of the area to ascertain whether another school is needed to ease the position.

Some years ago, with the approval of the late Dr. Fenner, then Director of Education, I visited St. Marys with an officer of that department. That area developed, but the school there consists entirely of timber-framed portable rooms. The Morphetville Park school, which is in the district of the Minister of Education, was the most modern school in the State when erected two years ago. However, there are now portable buildings there. There should be a master building plan for schools. Instead of scattering buildings over an area it would be better to erect multi-storeyed buildings to accommodate classes as was done at Currie Street, Flinders Street, Sturt Street, and Gilles Street.

The adjourned inquiry into the need for the erection of a casualty block at the Royal Adelaide Hospital is another illustration of the Government's blundering. In that project provision was to be made for a neurosurgical ward, thoracic surgery and the care of paraplegics. The need for a neurosurgical ward was clearly illustrated recently when a young migrant child was sent to Bonn for treatment. I asked the Premier a question on this matter last week and I am interested in his reply. This child's condition was diagnosed by a specialist at the Adelaide Hospital and his diagnosis was forwarded to the professor at Bonn. The professor confirmed that diagnosis when he examined the girl on arrival. I understand that the father of this child would have been prepared to mortgage the very shirt on his back in order to send his daughter abroad for treatment. I understand Pan-American Airways were agreeable to flying him and his daughter

to Bonn, but, to have security, requested him to mortgage his house and sell a certain motor car. However, people who read the facts responded and he was able to send his daughter abroad. It is essential to have a neurosurgical ward of at least 25 beds and all the necessary equipment at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. I doubt whether any private hospital would be able to provide sufficient accommodation and equipment for neurosurgical treatment. If people were obliged to go to the Adelaide Hospital for this treatment some would be prepared to pay for it. There is a need for the Government to step up its approach to the general question of health. It should seriously consider the housing and industrial development that is taking place in the south-western suburbs of Adelaide. The time is long overdue for the establishment of a hospital there where land has been purchased.

During the election campaign the Minister of Roads made so many announcements that I wonder why it is that all roads in South Australia have not been properly constructed and sealed. A department which spent over £6,000,000 last year should be showing better results. We have many new Australians who hold outstanding qualifications in road and bridge construction work, and would gladly hire the equipment that is available and tender for the work, but the department's policy, apparently with Government approval, is to leave the equipment idle. The Treasurer has made special reference to the need to support the Commonwealth loan in order that public works may proceed, but in this connection South Australia should have a Public Accounts Committee. Some sessions ago one was strongly recommended by Mr. Geoffrey Clarke. In order to augment the metropolitan water supply the Public Works Committee in 1948 recommended the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline at an estimated cost of £3,390,000. In the Loan Estimates since that time the following amounts have been voted for the work:—

	£
1949-1950 .. .. .	710,000
1950-1951 .. .. .	950,000
1951-1952 .. .. .	1,500,000
1952-1953 .. .. .	1,414,160
1953-1954 .. .. .	1,805,000
1954-1955 .. .. .	2,012,200
1955-1956 .. .. .	1,300,500

Total .. .. . £9,691,800

I do not know whether all the money voted has been spent on the work. In another debate I mentioned that the Commonwealth

Government had appointed a committee to inquire into the operations of the Bell Bay works in Tasmania. We should have a committee of inquiry in connection with this expenditure. The Public Works Committee in 1948 recommended the construction of the South Para reservoir at an estimated cost of £1,618,700. Amounts voted in Loan Estimates since that time have been as follows:—

Year.	Adelaide Water District. £	Barossa Water District. £	Total. £
1949-1950 ..	200,000	50,000	250,000
1950-1951 ..	250,000	50,000	300,000
1951-1952 ..	344,000	86,000	430,000
1952-1953 ..	155,000	32,000	187,000
1953-1954 ..	124,000	26,000	150,000
1954-1955 ..	138,000	14,000	152,000
1955-1956 ..	490,000	100,000	590,000

Total voted . £1,701,000    £358,000    £2,059,000

Expenditure on the work has far exceeded expectations, yet there is no inquiry into the reason. The Public Works Committee in 1950 recommended the duplication of the Goodwood to Marino railway line at an estimated cost of £146,192. Since that time amounts voted in the Loan Estimates have been:—

	£
1952-1953 .. . . . . .	20,000
1953-1954 .. . . . . .	75,000
1954-1955 .. . . . . .	45,000
1955-1956 .. . . . . .	75,000

Total Voted .. . . . . £215,000

So far the railway line has not been duplicated. Much of the work has been done, but the line is not in operation because of suggested interference with property. I thought that by this time work on the Emerson Crossing would have been completed. A proposal for a grade separation, either below or above ground, was placed before the Public Works Committee, but I do not think there was any submission of a proposal for warning lights. At the moment we have no gates nor new flashing lights at the crossing. The duplication of the portion of the line from Brighton to Marino will be expensive. Work there has not yet commenced. The Government must seriously consider whether we should continue to make money available for public works without our knowing whether it is spent.

Now I ask the Treasurer when Parliament will act in the best interests of its members. Of course, we have a Speaker, and I do not reflect upon him in any way. In the Commonwealth Parliament, or any other State Parliament, there is no trouble in having a motor

car available for the use of the Speaker, but in South Australia he has to go along with his hand in the air and ask the Minister in charge of vehicles whether he can have one for his use. Such a thing belongs to the days of the past. We have Public Service Regulations which provide for higher duty pay being received by public servants when they perform higher duties, and I believe that principle should apply to members of Parliament. We have various committees and their members are expected at times to travel to the country on important business, but in many instances they have to accept accommodation of a very low standard. That is not good enough. I am not now a member of any Parliamentary committee: I speak from information supplied by members from both sides of the House who are, or have been, members of such committees.

You, Mr. Speaker, and your wife, the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, together with their wives, received an invitation to be present at the opening of the New South Wales Parliament on May 22, but unless the Premier can arrange a conference in that State on matters over which he has control I doubt whether he will be able to claim travelling and out-of-pocket expenses, and I am certain that no provision exists for the payment of such expenses to you, Sir, or the Leader of the Opposition. Those invitations have been extended to foster inter-state relationships, yet no provision is made to meet the costs of such a visit from the public purse; they must be borne by the individual men. That is not good enough and I hope the position will be rectified.

The member for Chaffey (Mr. King) had much to say about decentralization, and the Opposition believes that this matter should be proceeded with together with water conservation, education, and highway projects. No doubt members of my Party will have more to say on these matters during this debate, but I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without saying a few words on matters affecting my district. I am far from satisfied that all has been done that could have been done to compensate adequately land owners along the Tonsley spur line. When the relevant legislation was before Parliament last session I was informed that compensation would be payable to landowners on a basis other than broad acres. On Sweetman's Road a migrant tried to build his home but received a notice which he accepted, believing that the Railways Department desired to acquire his land. He immediately stopped building his home because

he read in the newspapers that the Government would compensate landowners. After the passing of the legislation the Railways Department had to undertake the responsibility in this matter and the Minister said full compensation would be paid, but this man, after obtaining legal advice, found that his compensation had been reduced to less than the cost of the timbers for his new home. This matter should receive immediate consideration. When I got in touch with the Minister of Railways, I found that apparently his correspondence was so out of date he had forgotten my representations.

Land tax assessments recently issued will result in hardship on home owners and prospective purchasers, particularly as district councils accept land tax valuations as a basis for their rating. Members have often been told that water and sewerage rates have increased only slightly over the years but I know of cases in which these rates have been increased enormously over the past year. About six years ago a landowner in my district received the district council's permission to build a home. He put down the foundations and erected part of the home containing the laundry, shower recess and lavatory. He then received permission from the local council to erect temporary living accommodation and that has been used for six years during which he has paid £3 15s. a year for water and sewerage rates, receiving the benefit of the full use of those facilities. The moment his house was completed he was assessed at £19 15s. a year. Does that seem a fair assessment for a man trying to build his home?

Another man in my district paid £7 10s. a year water and sewerage rates in 1953-54 and 1954-55, and after the department fixed his new rate at £14 5s. he appealed and it was reduced to £12 2s. 6d. I know of a street in my district where the average water and sewerage rate on homes built since the war is about £14, but some rates are as high as £18. Is there any consistent basis for such rating? My information leads me to doubt whether this rating system is fair and above board. Under it a financial hardship is being imposed on home owners and purchasers, and this hardship is accentuated by the freezing of the basic wage, because in most cases these landowners are either salary or wage earners.

All members are delighted to see industrial plants established for these give employment and prosperity to the country, but such plants, especially the bigger ones covering many acres, create a storm water problem. The water from

the roofs must be drained away and this can be a serious problem, particularly in low-lying areas where the district council must provide storm water drains. This matter will have to be carefully considered by the Government before any improvement can be expected. I do not know whether the Government intends to introduce an amendment to the Local Government Act, but cognizance should be taken of the difficulties associated with the establishment of drive-in theatres in certain districts. The member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) advocated Government assistance to councils faced with heavy road reconstruction and maintenance programmes, but I go further and say that roads leading to holiday resorts should be improved.

Mr. Lawn—What about Marion road?

Mr. FRANK WALSH—That may lead to a holiday resort, but at the moment I am more concerned about the South Road which runs through my district from Anzac Highway to the Sturt Bridge. I know the requirements of the road and the need for widening the bridges on it. The people paying heavy motor vehicle taxation are entitled to more consideration when they desire to use the Main South Road on public holidays. They should be able to proceed from the Anzac Highway to the top of Tapleys Hill in much less time than it took them on a certain holiday earlier this year. It took them about 40 minutes to get from the bottom of Tapleys Hill to the top. The Highways Department should widen this stretch of road for the benefit of people who want to get to holiday resorts farther south.

The question of improving Marion Road is a hardy annual. This is the sixteenth year that I have brought this matter up with a view to placing it under the control of the Highways Department, which used to be known as the Main Roads Department, but excuses can always be found for not improving Marion Road. It should be straightened and improved so as to give direct access from South Road to Henley Beach Road. It must be made safe for traffic, and the Marion Corporation will not be able to proceed with its drainage schemes in this area until it gets the necessary finance. Until the drainage works have been undertaken the council will not be able to carry out any work on Marion Road.

Australia has been going through a period of intense competition between the Government and private enterprise, each bidding for public money. Commonwealth loans are facing great competition from hire purchase companies, and this has greatly affected the economy of the

country. The Federal Government, with the acquiescence of other Governments, has bowed its head to vested interests, resulting in increased costs to the salary and wage earner, whose income is pegged at the 1953 level. Some time ago the loan market was affected by the provisional tax levied by the Commonwealth Government, and even now potential investors for the present Commonwealth loan may think twice before subscribing. However, notwithstanding the success of General Motors-Holdens, the Broken Hill Pty. Company, and other large companies, and although I realize that shareholders have paid considerable sums in taxation, what provision has been made for some of the profits of those companies to be paid into the new Commonwealth Security Loan? After all, the success of these companies is dependent upon an adequate programme of public works. I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. HAMBOUR (Light)—I promise to do all in my power to serve Her Majesty the Queen, and I will serve the Commonwealth and the State to the best of my ability. I will do my utmost to serve the interests of my electorate, but I hope I shall not be too parochial in doing so. I thank members on both sides of the House and the Clerk and his staff for the kindly reception they gave me on my coming into this Chamber, for they made me feel comfortable and removed the strain that I would otherwise have felt in coming here.

My pleasure at being elected to this House was marred only by the ill-health and subsequent death of my predecessor, Mr. Don Michael. We were close friends for over 30 years, and when he decided not to stand for Parliament again I allowed myself to be nominated and was successful in becoming the representative for Light. Perhaps the best tribute I could pay to the late Don Michael is to say that I hope when I am no longer member for the district I shall be held in the same high regard as he was at his retirement. I congratulate you, Sir, on your elevation to high office. I congratulate the Chairman of Committees on his appointment, and the Hon. G. G. Pearson on becoming Minister of Agriculture. I would be remiss if I did not pay a tribute to Mr. P. H. Quirke, who represented part of the district I now represent. I have heard nothing but high praise for the services he rendered.

I believe I can justifiably congratulate the Government on its excellent record over the past 18 years. I have always been a proud admirer of the efforts of successive Playford

Governments. My every acquaintance with the Premier has raised him in my esteem and increased my admiration for him. The member for Torrens mentioned that a considerable amount of new blood has entered this Chamber. I hope that the new blood will not thicken too quickly and that before the tide thickens the new members will express their feelings which at this stage must surely be still uninhibited.

I desire to give my views on the question of decentralization. Much has been said by many learned people on this problem, but unfortunately the drift to the city continues. This drift will be accelerated if the present policy is not changed in many respects, for the increase in the surge to the city is only increasing the cost of production to the people on the land, who today are confused in many ways. They are told in some quarters to grow more; in some to grow less; in others to reduce their costs. It may be possible to reduce costs by greater capital expenditure and by harder work, and I think primary producers will do this if they can be assured of a stable cost of production, but what has happened? Every day appliances and machinery necessary for primary production are increasing in cost, thus increasing the concern of primary producers. These words may be harsh, but if manufacturers and all people in control of secondary industries applied themselves as diligently and worked as hard as the man on the land our costs would not be nearly as high as they are today. Their profits are assured because they sell their production on a cost plus basis, whereas the primary producer has to sell on world parity.

There are three main factors which concern people in rural areas more than any others—water, power and transport. If we can make conditions in the country as much as possible like those in the metropolitan area we shall encourage people to go out and enjoy life as they enjoy it in the city. I disagree that the city has any great lure, but the comforts of life in the city are certainly a big consideration with younger people. We must improve conditions in the country if we hope to hold this and future generations on the land.

I do not agree altogether with the Government's policy on water reticulation. I give the Government full credit for endeavouring to supply the needs of people in many country districts, but I am very concerned about the cost of water. Water will be supplied to country districts prepared to guarantee 2½ per cent of the capital cost, but that can be a severe imposition and beyond the capacity of



many people, with the result that they cannot have a water supply. A township of 70 families is only six miles from a water main, but it has had to rely on its own purposefulness to have a water supply. That indicates that the old is being sacrificed for the new, and I hope the Government will consider treating water supplies for the country on the same basis as it treats tramway services in the city. No-one denies the right of city people to ride in tramcars. The Government has made up tramway deficits and thereby enabled metropolitan workers to ride in comfort to and from their work or elsewhere, but the same consideration is denied people in the country.

Many children in the country have to walk three or four miles to and from school. No-one suggests that we should supply them all with free transport, though I commend the Government for attempting to provide free transport. The provision of water to country districts should be treated in the same way as the provision of transport in the city, and the guarantee required of 2½ per cent on capital cost should be abolished. Every application for a supply should be treated on its merits, regardless of the financial return. If the Government were embarrassed financially water rates should be increased throughout the State instead of penalizing any small community by making it go without a water supply.

Before I criticize electricity supplies I wish to congratulate the Electricity Trust on its efforts to transmit power to many outlying areas. However, I do not agree with all the trust's charges. In Eudunda the lighting rate is about 1s. a unit, but three or four miles away consumers have to pay 85 per cent more than that. In the metropolitan area the charge is about 6d. a unit. Are not the needs of people in the country just as great as those of people in the city? Perhaps people in the metropolitan area will say that if we equalize electricity charges throughout the State some secondary industries will be put out of business. If those industries rely so much on cheap power the best thing for them is to get out of business, because if an increase in the charges would be so disastrous for them I am sure that what will happen in the near future will put them out of business in any case. The Port Augusta power station supplies about 20 per cent of all the power consumed in the State. Most of the power generated there is transmitted to the city at metropolitan rates. In the past the price for power was fixed on the basis of distance from source of supply. That basis does not apply today. No doubt

Crystal Brook will be in zone 2 and Elizabeth and Gawler in zone 1. If Elizabeth and Gawler have the right to be in zone 1, so should Crystal Brook.

I suggest that an equalization of charges throughout the State would eliminate all causes for argument. The amount of power used outside the metropolitan area is relatively small and to even it out would mean only a small addition to the cost of power in the metropolitan area. Last session the Treasurer made available finance to the trust to subsidise the cost of power to small rural communities. Why didn't the trust use that money? Rural communities had to pay the full amount. If the Government advances money for a specific purpose the trust should use it for that. Any assistance would have been gratefully received by those people who had to pay such a high rate. As a result of the operations of the Port Augusta power house last year the trust was able to reduce the cost of power by .10d. That reduction was made possible by the efforts of a country area and surely country people should be entitled to some benefit. In my district there are some small industries which I hope will grow bigger, but power is a major item in their cost. They have to meet rail freights to and from the city and must pay additional power costs. They can only do so by additional exertion, but I can assure members that they are working hard in an attempt to expand.

I congratulate the Minister of Roads and the Government on the policy that enables district councils to purchase machinery and perform road work. This policy enabled councils last year to undertake £767,000 worth of road work in addition to their normal operations. That policy should be extended. There is only one deterrent to it, namely, that councils do not know whether they will receive a continuity of grants. If councils knew they would receive certain amounts over a period of five years, I believe many of the smaller councils would purchase bigger plant and thus be capable of undertaking additional work.

Mr. Davis—And they would be very happy about it.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Yes. One council last year spent £88,000. That was a boost to the district and the council was the biggest industry in the area. Serious consideration should be given to developing council work so that a council really means something to a community. The district council in my area has the capacity to undertake between

\$30,000 and £40,000 worth of work each year. Notwithstanding that, Highways men have travelled 36 miles to within three miles of our council boundary to do shouldering work. The department should be instructed that shouldering work, which requires a minimum of plant, should be left to councils. I have heard people ask whether it is not possible to get portion of the unspent defence vote for the construction of country roads, and I agree.

I have with me a copy of an article published in the press and attributed to the member for Norwood, Mr. Dunstan. He wrote about hospital services and I seriously suggest he knew little about his subject. I was puzzled as to how he proposed performing the miracles he suggested. I do not know whether he wrote this article with the full knowledge of members opposite, but I suggest that in future he collaborates with someone who knows something about the subject. I believe the Government has been over-generous in its provision of hospital services in the metropolitan area. Mr. Dunstan outlined what he proposed to do. I presume that he was going to obtain the necessary finance from a State lottery. I examined the position in Western Australia and Victoria where lotteries are conducted. In Western Australia there is a means test regarding hospital charges. A person can pay up to £30 a week in public hospitals there. In Victoria, until recently, the minimum charge in the Royal Melbourne Hospital was 18s. a day: the Bolte Government proposes increasing that to 36s. a day. Incidentally, that is still lower than the amount charged in rural areas in South Australia. If the Royal Adelaide Hospital were to charge what Mr. Bolte proposes, it would return £560,000 less the Commonwealth contributions annually to the State. If only 9s. a day were charged—and that is the lowest amount accepted from old age pensioners in country areas—it would return £140,000. I might mention that those pensioners are happy to pay that charge because they get well cared for, enjoy full board and lodging and receive nursing attention. I wondered, when reading Mr. Dunstan's article, whether he may have had such a scheme in mind.

If more hospital services are required in the metropolitan area they should be provided on the same basis as country hospitals. In the country we have to find 50 per cent of the capital cost—the Government provides the other 50 per cent plus a grant for indigent patients—and look after it for ever after. It is not easy in the first place to raise the

money and secondly money must then be raised to keep the hospital solvent. However, it is amazing what a little self help will achieve. If residents of the metropolitan area and Elizabeth had to do what is required of country people our hospital services would cost much less. The Royal Adelaide Hospital charges nothing, applies no means test, and its total revenue for the year before last was £9,227. I do not know how that revenue was made up: it must have been from the sale of chocolates.

The Hon. Sir Malcolm McIntosh—Out-patients are charged 2s. each.

Mr. HAMBOUR—That hospital costs this State over £1,000,000 annually, and the only compensation the Government receives is the Commonwealth contribution. If more local interest were displayed in the hospital, it would be more efficient. I thank the Minister of Health and the Director-General of Health and his staff for the services they have given to rural areas in the past and which I am confident they will continue to render. On occasions requests for financial assistance have been refused, but in every case those concerned have been satisfied that the department has done its best.

All my life I have been a firm believer in freedom in all things possible. I have been where there have been practically no controls and at first glance it appeared quite Utopian, but on delving deeper into the conditions I found that it was Utopian for only a few. In a land of plenty, as Australia is, I believe we have become control-happy or, should I say, control-unhappy. Nevertheless, I do not think any member would say that he has not in some way been responsible for our present position. It has been brought about by all sections of the community wanting and getting more than they rightly deserve. I refer to both employer and employee. Whilst items are in short supply I shall support controls wherever necessary. Whilst there are import restrictions there must be price control on goods in short supply, but a more detailed investigation should be made into the application of control because many of the lines in abundance should be decontrolled so that lines in short supply can be better controlled. As an example, woollen goods are almost off the shelves because the price margin to the distributor is too low. The merchant is a selfish individual, whichever way we look at it. He will do what he thinks will return him the most, and that can be applied also to the laborer. I am an ardent supporter of private enterprise provided it

serves the people well. I have a distinct aversion to monopolies and no action can be too strong to control their activities.

I want now to refer to the sale and distribution of liquor. I was involved in an unpleasant experience recently. The Licensed Victuallers Association fixes prices, but unfortunately it fixes minimum and not maximum prices. It also fixes rules for its members, which it is entitled to do, but it has no power to see that those rules are carried out, so the Brewers' Association is called upon to help in the enforcement of prices. The association sends a letter saying that if the prices are not accepted there will be no rebates. The rebate on a bottle of beer is 2d. and on a kilderkin it is 13s. 4d., which is no mean thing. In my home town there is a club that has had a clean record for 68 years. Throughout that period it has managed its own affairs and conducted them well. There has been little interference with its activities. Last year an ultimatum was issued that if it did not conform to the dictates of the L.V.A its rebates would be withdrawn. The challenge was accepted over a period of three months. I then discussed the matter with the Government and I have a pile of correspondence that can be checked. Up to December last the rebates amounted to £50. Then the people concerned decided to call a halt and obey the Brewers' Association, which wrote back saying that if the club would nominate certain charities the money concerned in the rebates would be paid over to them. That is all very well, but will this Parliament continue to allow the Brewers' Association to dictate liquor policy in this State? We believe in free enterprise and control in some respects, but it must be controlled by us and not by outside interests. The brewing people have purchased 170 hotels in this State. I am not concerned about the number so long as they are conducted well, and I believe they are, but I object to the brewing people telling other people what to do. It is strange that the club I mentioned is only 50 yards from a hotel recently purchased by the S. A. Brewing Co. That is all I intend to say on this matter. I will not labour it further now.

I congratulate the Minister of Education on the work he is doing in trying to extend educational facilities to the country. His efforts are greatly appreciated. I understand it costs between £30 and £40 a year to provide primary education for each of our young children. The State would be doing a service to the people concerned if consideration were given to financially assisting private schools in the

giving of primary education. We hear much about congestion in primary schools in the metropolitan area and there is also congestion in rural areas, but there are schools which help themselves and do not get any financial support from the Government. Has the Government considered the possibility of subsidizing primary schools conducted by outside organizations? Of course, before getting a grant these schools would have to be approved but assistance in this way would make the financial pressure on the State easier and provide the religious organizations with the opportunity to extend their religious doctrines as they think they should be extended.

Insurance companies conduct their business as they think it should be conducted and people can either accept or reject the policies offered. Some two years ago an endeavour was made to get a cheaper rate for country subsidized hospitals. After several months one company broke away from the Underwriters' Association and agreed to allow a 20 per cent rebate to country subsidized hospitals. I think that could be taken further. The amount of risk with a hospital is small seeing that there is a 24 hour service on seven days a week, and fire extinguishers are always available. In many accident cases payments are held up for three years. Will the Treasurer see that something is done in this matter so that the insurance companies will make the payments more quickly? We could ask the companies to create a common pool so that amounts could be paid quickly, leaving the companies to sort out the responsible one after the court has given its decision. If that is not workable let the insurance companies do what is expected of other people—pay interest on the money owing. If they hold money for, say, six months let them pay interest on the money for that period.

The Hon. T. Playford—Do the people concerned ultimately get their money?

Mr. HAMBOUR—Yes, but the insurance companies are loth to part with it. They work on the premise that the longer they can hold the money without having to pay interest on it the longer they will hold it.

Mr. Corcoran—The Hospitals' Association has suggested something in the matter.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Yes, but I hope the Treasurer will take it up.

The Hon. T. Playford—Is it money in connection with workmen's compensation or a civil claim?

Mr. HAMBOUR—It mostly concerns accidents where two motor cars come into collision.

The Hon. T. Playford—It is not workmen's compensation?

Mr. HAMBOUR—No. I will produce documents for the Chief Secretary and I hope the Treasurer will help in trying to sort out the difficulty. The matter of inflation is tremendously important, because it affects our exports, which are in the main primary products. I doubt the sincerity of certain people when they say they want to remove the present inflation. We have these people hoping that inflation will continue because it helps them to wax fat. To overcome inflation we must reduce the demand for goods. Members opposite may not like the medicine but in order to get a cure we must do something. There are two possible cures that would not create much injury or raise much protest. One is that capital control should be referred to the Commonwealth, because it could then divert money into desired channels. Does any member think that in the next financial year taxation will not be increased? If we want the money, and we certainly want it, we must do something. Let us do it this way. Let us have compulsory loans at a rate of interest of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. That would enable money to be lent at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Brokerage must take 1 per cent. Money lent at this rate could assist in the building of cheaper homes. If we could have cheaper rents for our homes we would steady the inflationary spiral, because the home is possibly the most important item not only in the cost structure but in the happiness of people. I feel that the public generally would accept this proposal because it would meet something greatly desired by them. I feel that there would be no impact on employment because the money would be simply diverted and spent in the most desired channel. I doubt the sincerity of those people who wax fat on inflation, and if anyone wants a clarification of that statement I shall be pleased to give it outside. Inflation is charity to those who will take advantage of it.

I am very concerned about secondary industry, which, with its usual disregard of costs, has the knowledge that its profits will be forthcoming under the system of cost plus. I know that they are very hard words. In many cases they are protected by too great a margin. We have plenty of work in this country without setting up uneconomic industries. Many seem to favour the setting up of a new industry, but they do not always think of the impact of overseas prices. Whenever an industry is set up here so much less is bought from outside. Do we want to drive our primary industries out of production? At one stage

our farmers were told not to produce so much wheat, yet not so long ago they were told to produce more. Let us look at the situation in three other countries. The United States of America has a real financial embarrassment and is providing an amount equal to £526,000,000 sterling so that people will not grow so much. That is a lot of money in any language. Primary production in West Germany has grown so much that it is endangering the exports from secondary industries, which are the life blood of the country. Today Japan cannot compete in many items because she is being priced out by rising costs by trying to encourage uneconomic industries; and we are doing the same thing here. I believe we are really trying to accomplish too much. We should try to do only what we can afford to do with the money and manpower available. What is the logical conclusion as regards manpower? When a man knows his services are wanted by so many, is it not logical that he will ask for more and get more? That is happening. When the Chrysler Dodge people want 7,000 men where will they get them? They will take a lot of them from Holdens. A motor body builder cannot be created overnight. We are trying to race one another in the inflationary spiral and produce from uneconomic secondary industries.

One of our greatest weaknesses is our selling potential overseas. We follow the American practice in so many things, but do not seem to follow them in selling their wares. We have surplus commodities. For instance, we have a surplus of 94,000,000 bushels of wheat, which is sufficient to feed one little island I have in mind for about two months. We must get out and sell, and the men we employ for this purpose must be given power to negotiate. Here again we can follow the American line. That country is accepting foreign currencies for its exports, and furthermore is giving away some of its produce. To me that would be as good as the Colombo Plan. It is no use appointing men to go out and sell our wheat or butter without giving them the power of negotiation. We should not work our Ministers to death. I think that is happening to our Trade Minister (Mr. McEwen), in Canberra. We have to delegate power to men who really know their business. I do not know how many members in the Chamber are experienced in selling, although most of them are experienced in buying and have bought things they did not want to buy. The Americans will sell their primary products while we sit here wondering what we are to do with our surplus.

I urge a continuity of supply. Do not let us produce a product one year and none the next. We have had a surplus of brandy one year and none the next. To those representing the fruit growing districts, I say that there is a market for our brandy in Singapore, where I could not buy a bottle of the Australian product when I was there. Let us sell them brandy.

Our primary production costs are the lowest in the world, and that should give us an edge. Last August Hongkong bought 500,000 lb. of wool tops from Australia and 4,000,000 lb. from England. Does that put us in a very good light? Have we not the wool to sell? That is an avenue we can exploit. I should like to know who is kidding who on the question of trade with Communist China. In the very near future I think the doors will be open for us to trade with that country. The fact is that we have been able to buy over the last 12 or 18 months. Why has not the world been told about it so that we can build up friendly relationships with China. That country is the greatest potential danger on the face of the earth, and that position has developed year by year. There is only one way to do any good with China and that is to have friendship and trade. I said that our economy is inflated. Unfortunately, our ego is also inflated. A little humility and understanding are required. I hope that the House has been appreciative of my sincerity. I am critical because I remember only too well that our country is the envy of so many, and so many who are so near. Our country is so sparsely populated that we cannot afford to quarrel among ourselves. We must be prepared to make sacrifices, which each and every one of us could do. Let us show our loyalty by our intense application to our individual tasks.

Mr. JOHN CLARK (Gawler)—I find myself in a slightly different position from that of 12 months ago when I spoke on a similar motion, because at that time I was representing a district which could be described as old. It had old and established towns, but now I find myself in the happy position of representing not only the old and long established town of Gawler and the old towns of Salisbury and Smithfield, but the new suburb of Salisbury North and what is to be the new city of Elizabeth. Other members find themselves representing areas rather different from those they represented before.

I was interested this afternoon to hear three of the new members speak. We have many new faces in the House this session,

and from what we heard this afternoon we should have some good entertainment. I should like to be biased on this occasion and extend a welcome to the two new members on this side and wish them a long, successful and happy career in this House; and I should also extend a welcome to the new members opposite and wish them a happy period here, if not a long and successful one. I congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion, even if I could find myself agreeing with them only at irregular periods. They gave a thoughtful contribution to the debate, and that is what I want to hear. I heartily congratulate Mr. Hambour on his confidence. I was in agreement with his remarks on the question of electricity supplies for the country, and was interested to hear what he had to say about controls, and that he did not like them, but he immediately proceeded to advocate compulsory loans. He will find before very long that in this House there will be a certain amount of control as far as he personally is concerned.

With other members I sincerely regret the loss to this House through death of Mr. Christian and Mr. Michael. Other members unfortunately lost their seats by defeat. That is no disgrace and might come to any one of us. We have also had the loss of two members through extinction. Apparently, they were considered to be expendable. I have a certain amount of sympathy for them. I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your election to your high position, and also the member for Unley on his election as Chairman of Committees. I admit frankly that neither of you gentlemen received my vote, but you have my best wishes in your new positions, which I know will be efficiently filled.

I read the Governor's Speech carefully and could find very little new in it, but there was a good deal which was very old; and it will be agreed that there were some notable omissions. Generally, it was the same old story, which should have begun "Once upon a time," but did not, but I am afraid that the end of the fairy story will, unlike many fairy stories, not be a happy one. I was interested in one of the paragraphs which stated that the cost of living in this State had been about 16 per cent less than the general rise throughout Australia. Even if this very questionable statement could be substantiated, we want to remember, as we have already been told this session, that because of pegged wages employees are losing at least 15s. a week. That has not kept prices down. It was introduced as

a so-called anti-inflationary measure, and we find ourselves recently having what is known as the Little Budget introduced as another anti-inflationary measure. I notice that the press has called it the "Little Budget," and it is obvious why it has been so called—because the little men will have to suffer under it. As usual, it is mostly the little men who suffer, and that seems to be the keynote these days of the so-called Liberal policy.

Paragraph 4 of His Excellency's Speech states:—

My Government is faced with an urgent need for additional capital expenditure. For example, increased expenditure on school buildings is unavoidable because of the rapid growth of school population.

That is true, and I was interested to hear the remarks of the acting Leader of the Opposition this afternoon because he put the matter of school buildings so plainly. Additional capital is necessary for new school buildings and many other educational facilities. Although the Premier will not have it, I have often advocated a Federal grant specifically for education. Most of the previous speakers in this debate have referred to education and all members should be interested in educational problems. In this regard an illuminating advertisement on the educational necessities of this State was published by the South Australian Institute of Teachers during the recent election campaign. This advertisement was a bold call for a new deal for children in our schools and sought major improvements not for the teachers, but for the scholars under their care. It called on South Australian parents to demand a better educational deal. It did not take political sides but simply asked electors to seek an assurance from candidates in their districts to support essential school reforms.

Mr. Riches—But they could get that from only one side.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—That may be so. I understand that Government members, particularly the Minister of Education, took the view that as the tone of the advertisement seemed to be anti-Government its sponsors must be pro-Labor, but that was not the case. Possibly Government members could hardly be blamed for taking that attitude because on reading the advertisement they must have felt a sense of guilt, particularly as the House during recent sessions had called attention to a number of things that were brought to the notice of South Australians by the advertisement. It stated that conditions in many of our schools were appallingly bad, and that was true. It mentioned the acute shortage of properly-trained

teachers that had resulted in many classes being far too large and referred to the many outmoded and overcrowded buildings. It said that many temporary rooms had become permanent. I have no grave quarrel with temporary rooms because they proved a successful expedient when it was difficult to erect more substantial structures.

Mr. Fred Walsh—But many have become permanent.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Yes. The advertisement stated that toilet and washing facilities were often unhygienic and inadequate; schools were provided with insufficient teaching aids; new schools waited months for essential maps; wireless and film projectors could not be purchased until the local parents' associations had raised half the cost and then long months must pass before the department made its subsidy available. The advertisement concluded by requesting voters to ask their candidates what they would do to remedy the situation. Obviously, the advertisement did not advise anyone to vote for a Party or person, but apparently the cap fitted so well that some Government members were reluctant to wear it. Over the last few years I have advocated every feature mentioned in the advertisement. Although the education grant has risen steeply, I believe it is still completely unrealistic in the light of modern times. We have been told that more cannot be offered, and I believe that under the present set-up that is true; but the huge increase in the school population necessitates an intense building programme and recruitment of teachers. At present the annual intake of teachers only just exceeds the annual wastage, and the only answer is a Federal grant specifically for education. The Premier has told us—I believe sincerely—that this grant cannot be made. The point of view of the Prime Minister (Mr. Menzies) has varied according to whether he is in office. For instance, in 1945, as Leader of the Opposition, referring to this issue, he said:—

The Commonwealth should make available to the States substantial sums in aid of educational reforms and development.

In 1955, however, as Prime Minister he said in response to a query:—

I may say that no kind of pressure will persuade my Government to make a decision which it considers to be basically wrong.

No reason seems to be given by him why something considered so necessary in 1945 is basically wrong in 1955. Apparently from the eminence of his Prime Ministerial position he considers no explanation is needed, but I would

still like to hear one. Such a grant could and should be made from our present rapacious Federal Treasury. Let me briefly detail a few things that possibly could be done if we were assured of additional grants for education. Our schools could have better amenities instead of having to rely on the peculiar system of pound for pound subsidy in vogue today. Much credit is due to parents and their organizations for raising money to obtain other money from the Government by subsidy, but obviously most of the things they work for are necessities in modern education and should be paid for wholly by the Government. In these days we hear much about free education, but if you were to ask a parent, particularly one with children in the older grades, who faces a long book list each year, what he thought of free education, I do not think you would get any reply other than a rueful smile. There is no reason why Commonwealth grants for education should not enable us to a much greater extent to provide free education in this State rather than the sham at present masquerading as free education. Teacher recruitment would be greatly assisted if more amenities were installed in school residences. Any country member who has gone into a country teacher's residence will realize the truth of that statement. At present many teachers occupying country residences must literally beg for some amenity that should be in any reasonably modern country home. If the additional money were made available departmental officers would not be reluctantly forced to engage in the cheese-paring that is frequently practised today.

I was interested to hear what the member for Light (Mr. Hambour) had to say about the cost of electricity extensions in country areas and although I do not know that I would go the whole way with him in his argument, I agree with him to some extent. This afternoon the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) spoke with some pride about the extension of electricity supplies to the country and quoted paragraph 9 of His Excellency's Speech, which states:—

A particularly gratifying feature is the great increase in the number of country consumers, of whom there are now 44,000. Last year alone no less than 4,000 additional country consumers were connected to the trust's mains.

In quoting that passage Mr. Coumbe had an intention far different from mine for I point out that His Excellency's Speech contained no reference to the amount paid by consumers for the electricity; in fact, one might well

believe that a uniform rate was being charged all over the State, whereas I know of consumers living not more than 20 miles from Adelaide who must pay a 70 per cent or 80 per cent surcharge. Therefore, I believe there is some force in Mr. Hambour's argument about the location of power houses. Although many consumers who are faced with these surcharges and who were previously in my electorate are now in the electorates of Barossa and Light, I believe that something should be done to lessen their burdens because surely it is wrong that they must pay such a high rate merely because they want to live and work in the country.

After a member has been in this House for a while he often feels like a football team that has no score on the board and a big score against it: he is kicking against the wind. Paragraph 14 of His Excellency's Speech refers to the "Government's vigorous road policy." I have looked hopefully but in vain for some reference to the widening of the Gawler road. Extra land has been bought for widening but the widening is not to be proceeded with yet. Once more I point out the danger of this road. With the growth of Salisbury and Elizabeth this danger increases daily. Surely we do not have to wait for a series of fatal accidents before something is done in this matter. I invite any honourable member who has not had the pleasure of driving along the Adelaide-Gawler road between 5 and 7 p.m. to come with me and experience the appalling traffic congestion.

Mr. Frank Walsh—How about after a country trotting meeting?

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Yes, it is a wonder there are not more accidents after a trotting meeting at Gawler.

Paragraph 18 of His Excellency's Speech mentions the rapid progress in the building of the new town of Elizabeth. A very commendable job has been done there; over 2,000 people now reside there, and it is expanding rapidly. It was also stated that 230 acres in the vicinity of that town has been purchased for use as an industrial site by General Motors Holdens. Although I welcome the advent of that company to my district I was somewhat disappointed at the site chosen, because it appears that the green belt that is so necessary around the new town will be missing in the area between Philip Highway and the railway. I hope that the consequent closing of portion of the Philip Highway will not jeopardize any possibility of eventually linking this highway with

the Salisbury highway and thus providing a direct route from Adelaide to Salisbury and Elizabeth. If this happens there will be more congestion on the Gawler Road than ever. I do not want anyone to think that I am not happy about the company coming to my district, but I would have preferred it put somewhere else in the area.

In the same paragraph some very interesting information about Elizabeth was given. I am sure the honourable member for Light (Mr. Hambour), who showed his knowledge of certain aspects of hospitalization, was interested in this, as I gathered from his remarks that he might not have agreed with the statement. His Excellency said:—

Discussions are proceeding with the Salisbury District Council for the erection at Elizabeth of a large community hospital to serve the Salisbury-Elizabeth area.

This is good news, but I hope the existing Salisbury Hospital will not be forgotten in the process, because it has fought against many great difficulties over the years to provide good service to the district. The new hospital should give the Government the best chance it has ever had to construct a perfect hospital. I believe that the original suggestions relating to this hospital were transmitted to the Salisbury District Council a month ago in a letter from the chairman of the Housing Trust, some of the details of which were most interesting. The chairman suggested one large hospital, probably of about 200 beds, at a suitable site at the southern end of Elizabeth. I believe that site is to be changed and that the new site may be more evenly between Salisbury and Elizabeth, although I am not sure of that. The chairman of the trust also said that if the council was prepared to establish a community hospital the Government would subsidize its capital cost on a liberal basis. I hope that it will indeed be a liberal basis because, as everyone knows, the resources of a council are not unrestricted, nor are its borrowing capacities. The letter also stated that the balance of capital cost would have to be found by the council by loan, that the liability of the Government would be limited to its capital subsidy and the hospital would be expected to pay its own way. Also, the trust is prepared to make the land available free of cost and to undertake the work of designing and securing the building and equipment of the hospital. If the people of Elizabeth and Salisbury approve of the type of hospital suggested, the trust will undertake that within 12 months of the time it is given the signal to proceed it will have a 50- to 60-bed hospital ready.

I understand that a further conference has been held, that further meetings are to be called consisting of delegates from the council, the Housing Trust, Chief Secretary's office and the Salisbury Hospital—which I am glad has been included—to clarify certain points, after which a ratepayers' meeting will be held to decide whether the hospital shall be erected. I hope that meeting will be successful and that all details will be provided for the ratepayers, because it will be a big undertaking serving not only the new town, but the old town of Salisbury and the new suburb of Salisbury North. I am told plans are well in hand for a modern hospital. In such planning many things must be kept in mind. I was interested in a letter in the *Salisbury News and Elizabeth Times* of Friday, April 20, because so many of the things the writer mentioned are matters that have been running through my mind. Strangely enough, he is not a political supporter of mine; in fact, I think he is an office holder in a Liberal organization in Salisbury. However, that does not mean that the letter is not sound, and I think he raised some interesting questions that should be answered. Under the heading "What is Needed for One Big Hospital" the following appeared:—

The announcement of the proposal to build one big hospital to serve both Elizabeth and Salisbury is welcomed. While the decision is a blow to the Salisbury Hospital Board, the needs of the patient and the community should be put in the forefront of the picture. The community requires of the hospital at least three things—efficient medical service, economy of constitution and administration and a reasonable measure of comfort for patients and their friends. One well-equipped and well-managed general hospital in the community is better than two inadequate institutions. A large hospital means that adequate technical treatment becomes economically possible and aids the development of the highest medical skill. If the authorities want the fullest co-operation of the community—this will be very necessary in view of the obvious technical and financial problems attached to the venture—the public should be kept fully informed of the plans and needs of the hospital.

Of course, that will be done at the ratepayers' meeting. The letter continued:—

An authoritative statement should be issued regarding plans and organization and could answer the following points:—

1. The location of the hospital in relation to the needs and convenience of the population.

2. Have plans been formulated for the logical development of the hospital? Here the existing Salisbury Hospital could play an important part catering for particular classes of patients at least for a number of years.



3. Press statements have quoted a figure of 200 beds. In view of statements by medical authorities that the number of beds in proportion to population should be 10 per 1,000 and assuming a population of 35,000 giving a total of 350 beds, has provision been made for adding to the hospital if necessary?

Since this letter was written the future population of Elizabeth alone has been given in a Housing Trust report as at least 42,000 which, of course, would bring that figure a little higher. Other points in the letter were:—

4. Do the facilities to be provided by the hospital correspond to community needs: particularly outpatients departments, X-ray departments, physiotherapy departments, operating theatre, pathological laboratory and a well-equipped emergency department?

5. Is ample storage place provided for storing supplies that can be most advantageously bought in bulk?

6. How will the hospital be managed?

I hope that at the ratepayers' meeting detailed answers will be ready to questions such as those, because this matter is too important to be entered into without a complete knowledge of everything about it.

In paragraph 21 of the Governor's Speech the following appeared:—

Last year, primary school pupils increased by about 6,200, and secondary school pupils by 2,500. Similar or even greater increases in future years must be prepared for.

It is very obvious that more teachers must be obtained. In another debate the other day I mentioned some of the chief reasons why it is difficult to get teachers. They did not arouse much interest, so I will give them again, because I think they are worthy of more consideration than the Government gave them. I hoped for a reply from the Minister concerned or the Treasurer but, as usual, I was singularly unsuccessful. They sat tight and I am not sure whether they realized what I was saying. I do not have to tell anyone that we have to get more teachers. I do not condemn the teachers brought here from overseas who had a working holiday for a few years and then returned, because they were perfectly entitled to do so.

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

Before the tea adjournment I was dealing with paragraph 21 of the Governor's Speech with regard to the certainty of increases in school numbers and the consequent requirement of more teachers, and I stated then that it was obvious that more teachers would have to be obtained. We know that vigorous recruiting drives have been carried out and more teachers have been obtained, and I commend the Government for that, but I say emphati-

cally that such drives cannot be completely successful while basic grievances remain which hinder recruitment.

I suggest in all sincerity that the Government give consideration to the following four points. Firstly, it should investigate the possibilities of making more opportunities for promotion in the Education Department. I refer particularly to creating more senior positions which are urgently required. In any occupation or profession the ambition of men or women will be to some extent stifled if opportunities for promotion are lacking. It is not because they cannot obtain a senior position through lack of ability but because the number of positions are simply not available. Secondly, let me suggest for the Government's consideration that the amount of long service leave for teachers be brought into line with the Commonwealth average for teachers. At present it is well below the average. Thirdly, that conditions for long service leave be brought into line with other States, because at the present time they are much below other States. I have given these figures in another debate and will not repeat them. Fourthly, let me suggest that the Government bring teachers' long service leave up to the same level as for the Public Service, which is the case in other States. We must realize that we are competing with the Public Service when we want teachers, because both professions attract a similar type of recruit.

For these reasons I make a sincere appeal to the Government to remove those hindrances which influence young people and their parents in the choice of an occupation. We do not want to lose potential teachers, and I believe we are losing them. It is possible that many of those we are losing are the best recruits we could possibly get.

Mr. Quirke—What is the difference between the teaching profession and the Public Service with regard to long service leave?

Mr. JOHN CLARK—I quoted the figures the other day. I will refer them to the honourable member privately, or he can look them up in the debate on the Supplementary Estimates. It may be said that if the Government agreed to do these things we would still be short of teachers, and quite frankly I am afraid that would be so; but I am prepared to say that we would have many more than we have now, and that would be a step in the right direction. The young people in our schools are the people on whom the future of

our State depends. The knowledge that is imparted to them and the breadth of their outlook when they leave school is going to affect our State as a whole, because these people are the ones who are going to sit in this Chamber and take on other occupations and professions which are necessary for the welfare of the State.

I searched diligently through the Governor's Speech for some reference to country sewerage, but I could find nothing about it. I recently came across a report of the Premier's policy speech in the *Advertiser* of February 16. Under the subheading "Progress" the following appeared:—

Progress in waterworks had been so satisfactory that the Government was now in a position to proceed with its country sewerage plans. I can quite appreciate that that was said during the course of an election campaign.

Mr. Lawn—We had a lot of such promises then.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—During the course of an election campaign things are sometimes said which could be regarded as promises, but apparently we have to wait longer than we were led to believe in reading the article or hearing the Premier's policy speech. The matter of country sewerage has been brought to my mind again during the last few weeks, and I have heard a great deal about it from an entirely different angle. Ever since I have been a member in this House I have advocated the importance of sewerage being extended to country towns, because I believe these towns cannot prosper and cannot attract the industries they are entitled to unless sewerage is provided for them. I have advocated that particularly with regard to the town of Gawler, which I believe is to some extent being ruined because it has waited so long for sewerage. However, during the last few weeks I have been wondering whether it would be such an asset as I first thought, because I have had many reports from my constituents in the Salisbury area who are dissatisfied. They have received their accounts for sewerage and water rates and have found that, in many cases, they have doubled or trebled. We were told last year to expect increases, because legislative provision was made last year for increased rating in country areas; but allied to that we have a new assessment, and although the rates for water have not gone up the assessment has. With sewerage, the assessment and the rate have both gone up, with the result that these people are finding they have a very heavy bill to pay.

I have addressed a question to the Minister on this matter in the present session, and he has promised me certain further information. I do not think this huge jump was anticipated by anybody.

Mr. Riches—There are some towns that cannot afford it.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—I know the honourable member has made that remark in the House on several occasions, and I am wondering if there is not a great deal of foundation for his statement. In common with many people in the Salisbury area I had the idea that because of the proximity of the Weapons Research sewerage farm the expense of the sewage treatment for that particular area would be lessened. However, it is obvious from the figures that that is not so. Residents have pointed out to me that the distance sewage has to be pumped is much less than in a good many cases in the city, where the rate is only 1s. I am sure the honourable member for Light, who was speaking this afternoon on some form of equalization for country and city areas with regard to electricity, will be sympathetic. I would like to know just how these new assessments have been arrived at, because it seems a puzzle at the moment. There is a wide variation in respect of similar houses on similar blocks, even in the same street, and naturally it has everyone puzzled. The following figures relate to three houses next to each other in Murray Street, Salisbury:—A brick house, combined sewerage and water rates, £30 16s.; the next one, a very similar house but timber-framed, £18 10s.; and the next, a brick house, £24 10s. I repeat that these houses are next door to each other, and are on exactly the same type of block.

Are we to assume that it is generally considered that people living in timber-framed houses make only half as much use of their septic tanks as people in brick houses? It does not seem logical to me, but that appears to be the case. I want to know the cause of these variations. I shall give a few instances of variations in the town of Salisbury. Similar houses on blocks similar in size pay £26, £28, £31, and £24. The owner of another house has to pay £15 7s. 6d. How lucky he is! The Highway Service Station at Salisbury pays £37; the Church of England £41 (though I think that includes the rectory); but the charge for a detached Housing Trust unit is only £14. That makes one wonder whether there is some agreement with the Housing Trust under which its homes are assessed

lower. I shall now give the combined sewerage and water rates for four small holdings in Salisbury, three being in the same road. For one 5-acre holding the rates are £36, for another of the same size £39 18s., for a 6-acre holding £50, and for a 3½-acre holding £26 15s.

Mr. Fletcher—Are those holdings connected with the Salisbury sewerage works?

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Yes.

Mr. Fletcher—And the same applies to houses in Elizabeth?

Mr. JOHN CLARK—I understand so, but a good many houses there are not connected yet. I have always advocated country sewerage schemes, but I want to know the reason for the variations instanced. Neighbours naturally talk to each other about water rates and cannot understand why there is a difference of £8 or £9 in the rates on houses of about the same size on blocks of similar size.

Mr. Quirke—Are they on annual values rating?

Mr. JOHN CLARK—I have no idea. As one member on the other side of the House remarked this afternoon, it looked as though, as with country electricity extensions, amenities are being brought to the country, but at a price. I appreciate that it is hardly possible for charges to be the same in the country as in the city, but I cannot understand the wide discrepancies disclosed by the figures quoted. Apparently country people must continue to suffer for those things which they must have to bring them modern standards. I regret that this state of affairs will probably continue as a normal consequence of the Playford Government's policy. I support the motion.

Mr. JENKINS (Stirling)—I add my congratulations to those of previous speakers to you, Sir, on your attainment of high office. I also congratulate the Chairman of Committees and Deputy Speaker and the Minister of Agriculture on their appointments. At the same time I deeply regret the passing of the Hon. A. W. Christian. His death is a great loss to the State and to Parliament, and I am sure he will be greatly missed by every member.

Paragraph 12 of the Governor's Speech deals with the extension of closer settlement on Crown lands and other areas which are at present not fully productive. It refers to 17,000 acres on southern Yorke Peninsula and 15,000 on Eyre Peninsula. It states:—

The War Service Land Settlement Scheme continues to progress as a highly successful undertaking. It has now provided holdings

for about 900 settlers and a substantial number of additional blocks are being developed for allotment.

Recently the Minister of Lands handed me a comprehensive report on the activities of his department over the past few years. It deals at considerable length with many soldier settlement schemes that have been undertaken, fruit blocks in the river areas, and irrigation development. Without perusing this document it is hardly possible to gauge the scope of the department's activities under the direction of the Minister. I shall refer to some of the many areas that have been investigated or are under consideration. One of 48,000 acres is in the hundred of Jeffries, and another of 120,000 acres is in the hundreds of Field, Colebatch, and Messent. The hydrological survey and other investigations on the land in county Cardwell are in hand. Assistance by Commonwealth rehabilitation loans and under State legislation, has also been granted to about 1,000 ex-servicemen to establish themselves on the land.

I now refer to the debate on the Crown Lands Development Bill, introduced by the late Hon. R. J. Rudall in 1943. In his second reading speech he said:—

By clause 3 the Commissioner is empowered to prepare any Crown Lands for settlement by clearing, draining, cultivating, subdividing, fencing, providing water, erecting buildings, and doing any other thing which he considers expedient. This power extends to all Crown land within the meaning of the Crown Lands Act, i.e., lands of the Crown not subject to agreements, leases, or licences, and not reserved or dedicated. Clause 4 prescribes the tenure on which land prepared for settlement under the Bill may be allotted. The proposal is that all the pre-developed lands will be allotted in the first instance on perpetual lease. The lease will be in such form and contain such terms and conditions as are recommended by the Land Board and approved by the Commissioner. The terms and conditions will not necessarily be the same as those of perpetual leases under the Crown Lands Act. It is provided, however that the machinery provisions of the Crown Lands Act as to the granting, transferring, mortgaging, and surrendering of Crown leases will apply to leases under the Bill. The Commissioner is also empowered on the recommendation of the Board, to modify the terms and conditions of any lease and to grant concessions to lessees.

The Minister also said that the land would be opened up by the Government and cleared and the Government would carry out certain work to make it ready for allotment, and the cost of the development would be charged to the settler when he took over. The document I recently received from the Minister of Lands

indicated that the War Service Land Settlement Scheme will die out before long for want of further applicants. I do not want anything to jeopardize the chances of the last applicant under this scheme, but in about five or seven years probably all ex-servicemen applicants will have been placed on the land and then the Government should consider implementing the provisions of the 1943 Bill and open up further Crown lands under a system similar to that of the War Service Land Settlement Scheme. Many farmers' sons who could not go to the war and others who were fully qualified to go on the land and who could pass a rigid test set by the Land Board could take over land.

Mr. Fletcher—Soldier settlers do not know what they have to pay for their land yet.

Mr. JENKINS—Many of them have been suitably settled and many, particularly on the river blocks at Loxton and Cooltong, have excellent holdings. Most of them are not troubled greatly by frost, especially if they grow peaches, apricots and oranges, and peas have proved very profitable.

Mr. Quirke—Many of them are not yet on a good wicket.

Mr. JENKINS—Many think they are on a good wicket, and I have not heard one complaint from a river settler. Another part of the Governor's Speech states:—

The Government has given special attention to the possibilities of the fisheries in South Australian waters.

I am pleased that the Commonwealth Government will be making some money available for fisheries research, and I am also pleased with the result of the State Government's enterprise in bringing the Jangaard brothers here from America to teach the pole method of catching tuna. I do not know whether the Government has been fully reimbursed for bringing them from America, but I believe the expenditure should have been practically recouped. Undoubtedly, there is great scope for tuna fishing. If more boats are engaged in catching tuna I think further shore installations will have to be established, though not necessarily at Port Lincoln only. I think that tuna are to be found along hundreds of miles of our coastline. Last summer I caught several small tuna at Victor Harbour, and in previous years I caught some weighing 40 lb. The *Weerutta*—now on experimental work—will probably ascertain the extent of the tuna along this coast. Last year I advocated persuading experienced men in England to come here to investigate our off-

shore fishing resources. In his speech His Excellency also said:—

It is the policy of the Government to give further assistance to the fishing industry by arranging additional expert technical advice, and by providing improved shore facilities.

I hope that means that an investigation will be made into the possibility of what is known in England as "drift fishing" for pilchards, sardines and salmon trout. I have been fishing six to eight miles off the coast from Normanville and come upon acres of fish of the pilchard variety. The Government could not do better than to bring out two men from Grimsby whose families have been engaged in drift fishing for almost 200 years. In drift fishing, when a boat chanches upon a school of pilchards it drifts with the school and loads them by the ton. Such fish are good food for pigs and poultry, quite suitable for human consumption, and excellent for canning. Such an industry would require good shore installations, with deep freeze devices for quick handling. The *Weerutta* should be fitted with echo-sounding devices for charting the bottom of the sea. The Minister, in reply to a question I asked, intimated that the boat had not yet been fitted with such devices, but for trawling it is necessary to know the nature of the sea bed. Trawling is only effective when undertaken on a smooth bottom. If one trawls on a rocky bottom he is likely to lose expensive gear.

We have no idea of what may be found in our offshore fishing grounds. A friend of mine—Mr. George Hayward, an amateur fisherman—went four miles outside his normal schnapper fishing grounds off Sellicks Beach and discovered a fresh area and landed about 700 schnapper within three weeks. That indicates an extensive area of schnapper grounds. Inside one of the fish he found a 7-in. prawn. Where there is one prawn there must be a school and if we can discover sufficient schools they would be worth a small fortune to this State. In a fisheries news letter a month or two ago it was reported that Americans would be prepared to purchase millions of dollars' worth of prawns of the Tiger, King and other varieties from Australia.

Mr. Lawn—Are there any prawns down your way?

Mr. JENKINS—I have not seen the honourable member down there lately. I commend the Premier for his personal activities in the tuna fishing industry. That industry can be worth many dollars to this country.

The Minister of Works has intimated that steps are being taken to provide water supplies in my district for Goolwa, Port Elliot, Victor Harbour, and Encounter Bay. I understand that my district was the only one that suffered water restrictions last summer. The reservoir got so low and the water so bad that restrictions had to be imposed and a booster pump fitted to pump water to the mains. I believe an investigation into a new reservoir in the area has been discontinued in favour of a pipeline from Goolwa to the hills to serve the area. It will be welcome and I hope the project will be referred to the Public Works Committee as urgent. For the last three years the district has been on the verge of severe restrictions when rain has eased the position.

The Public Works Committee recently investigated a water scheme for Monarto, but it was not approved because it was too costly and served too few people. The people of the area are combining to petition the Minister to investigate a comprehensive scheme to serve Callington, Kanmantoo, Hartley, Monarto, and surrounding areas. It is good country, excellent for dairying and sheep carrying, but the water supply is salty to the degree that stock will not live on it. I hope the Minister will closely examine the possibilities of providing an adequate water supply.

Several members have referred to the state of roads in their districts. I am not happy with the progress of road works in my own district, but was pleased to read a statement by the Minister of Roads recently that it was intended to reconstruct the Mount Compass-Victor Harbor Road and that such work might be started in 1957-58. It is a big task, but is vital to the towns on the South Coast. There have been a number of accidents on that road in the last few months. Money was granted three years ago for the construction of a road between the double bridges and the Milang turn-off to Goolwa and Strathalbyn, and work proceeded to the extent that a road was formed and a topping material put on it. The portion in the Strathalbyn district council has been completed and bituminized, but inquiries have revealed that the Highways Department considers that the material on the three-mile section in the district council of Port Elliott and Goolwa is not suitable for bituminizing. That material was put on the road with the approval of the Highways Department and I cannot understand why the department did not realize that it was not suitable for bituminizing. The Min-

ister said that it was a plastic material and would ultimately have to be concreted. I think that is a pretty poor show and the Highways Department should have made sure that the material was suitable for bituminizing before approving its application to the road. I support the motion.

Mr. JENNINGS (Enfield)—Firstly, I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your election to your high office. I remind you, Sir, that you were not so elevated by any support of mine. I would have much preferred to see my colleague, the member for Adelaide, in the position; but as you won the battle I congratulate you. I might add that had the position been decided on preferential voting I would have given you my No. 2 vote. I wish you a hectic term of office and trust it will be very limited. That is not meant as a personal reflection on you, Sir, because I assure you all members of the Opposition will treat your position with every respect. I congratulate you on your remarks about your predecessor, Sir Robert Nicholls. You revealed a fine spirit when you paid such a handsome tribute to the gentleman who presided over this Parliament for so long. He was an outstandingly good Speaker. I was going to say that as a younger member I valued his guidance, but I suppose most of us—apart from a few hoary heads—came into this House under his guidance as Speaker, because he was such for so long.

In the few years I have been able to do so, I have criticized the Government on its appointments to Ministerial vacancies. In respect of the vacancy created by the death of Mr. Christian, I can only say that I congratulate Mr. Pearson and I hope he will be as good a Minister as his predecessor. The Premier, however, could not have chosen anyone else. I join with other members in expressing regret at the death of Mr. Christian and Mr. Michael. Irrespective of Party policies we cannot live and work with such people day in and day out without gaining a deep affection for them. I congratulate the mover and seconder of this motion. They did an excellent job. Whilst they may not at the moment appreciate what I am saying, tomorrow when they read *Hansard* they will see that I truly congratulate them. Apart from the merits or demerits of what they said, they expressed themselves properly. When I entered this Chamber I looked forward with apprehension to my maiden speech. I had to listen in the first place to Mr. Travers, the then member for Torrens, move the adoption of the Address in Reply, and to Mr. White,

the newly elected member for Murray, second it. They did so very well, but neither of them is here today. Whilst Mr. King and Mr. Coumbe may benefit from my personal regard, I think they will not believe I am unkind when I hope that things will take the same trend as on the last occasion and that their places will soon be taken by Labor members.

I come now to the Governor's Speech. We come to it and then we are past it, for there is nothing in it. Traditionally the Governor's Speech is an explanation of what the Government intends to do, but there was nothing on that subject in the present Governor's Speech, and there was nothing about it in the previous Speech. We realize that the Governor does not compose his Speech, but merely reads what is prepared for him. We were glad to hear why the Government had called Parliament together, but all we had was a recital of what the Government claimed to have done during the last couple of years. Nothing was said in the Speech that should interest Parliament for very long. We should be more interested in what was not said. All the important things we should be considering were not mentioned. No mention was made of the many extravagant promises made by the Premier during the election campaign, or of his wild and hysterical statements. He said that millions of pounds were flowing into the Treasury every day, yet when a member on this side asks for something to be done he says he cannot commit the Government to the expenditure of millions of pounds without the matter being considered thoroughly. He was not honest in his pre-session announcements. He said for one thing that a deep sea port would be established in the South East. He did not point out that any expenditure over £100,000 on public works had to be referred to the Public Works Committee. That committee now has a new member, but I do not think that will make any difference. If the committee does not recommend a project that is the end of it. The Premier says after the committee has turned down a proposal that he introduced the matter in good faith, but the committee would not agree to it, so what can he do about it? The committee is used as a political hobby horse by the Premier, and I say that with all due deference to the committee members.

Mr. Shannon—I hope you are referring also to your own Party colleagues on the committee.

Mr. JENNINGS—I wish the honourable member had listened to what I said.

Mr. Shannon—I did. I would not consider it flattering to any of your Party members on the committee.

Mr. JENNINGS—What the honourable member has read into what I said is completely wrong. The committee does its job, but the Premier uses it as an excuse when he makes all sorts of public pronouncements about intending to do this or that. He does not say then that all these things have to be referred to the committee. If Mr. Shannon takes umbrage at what I have said he should be at odds with the Premier, and not with me. The Premier does not publicly acknowledge that the Public Works Committee has the say in all these matters. This all goes to show what goes on during election campaigns. The last campaign was one of the worst from the point of view of the public that anyone could possibly conceive. The Premier conducted the campaign for his Party and engaged in a diatribe of deceit right through.

The SPEAKER—Order! Standing Orders provide that no member may make unbecoming or offensive remarks about another member. I ask the honourable member to withdraw.

Mr. JENNINGS—I withdraw. The Premier indulged in an orgy of half-truths throughout the campaign and engaged in the most amazing sort of glamor-boy programme. He went on a boat to the South-East to decide where a deep-sea port could be established. I ask members to envisage the Premier looking over the side of the boat and deciding where a port could be established. There was a picture in the press of his getting into his bunk; surely that was appropriate because it was all bunk. I think it was a matter of his getting into his natural state—a matter of bunk.

The SPEAKER—I will not allow the honourable member to proceed along those lines. Standing Orders provide that no member may use unbecoming or offensive words about another member. I ask the honourable member to refrain from using unbecoming words.

Mr. JENNINGS—I thank you, Sir. I did not realize that I was doing it. The same tendency was followed when the Premier went and knocked off little bits of granite or marble or iron ore at Iron Knob. There was a picture in the press of the Premier, with all his experts behind him, as they have to be, like all the members of the Government Party, while he, with a pick in his hands, was knocking off bits of granite, marble or iron ore. The headlines in the press said there might be 300,000,000 tons of iron ore available at that spot. That is the sort of publicity we are getting.

It is publicity which I believe is put out merely to mislead the electors and show what a wonderful man the Premier is. It is easy enough to do when there is a gerrymandered electorate, and the Premier has behind him "Yes" men, and noddies who have not yet reached the stage of "Yes" men, and a press which plays up everything he does and every stunt he likes to put on for its benefit. For instance, recently when in his electorate compulsory X-ray tests were started the people turned up when the depot was ready to open, but were told they would have to wait for a while because it was not ready. Shortly afterwards, a car pulled up and the Premier got out and he was the first X-rayed and the photograph appeared in the *News*, whereas the other people had to wait. How long can this completely phoney principle of a superman continue, apart from in the comics?

Mr. Jenkins—If you are ever a quarter the man he is, it will be all right.

Mr. JENNINGS—I hope to be some day, but not by the same methods. We have heard and read much about the prosperity in South Australia. Who shares this prosperity? I do not think the ordinary people share very much in it. We are told that in South Australia the Savings Bank deposits per capita are higher than in any other State. That is not true. The figures mentioned deal only with the State Savings Bank, and the Premier conveniently forgets that in other States there are agencies apart from the State Savings Bank.

Mr. Dunstan—They are not called Savings Banks.

Mr. JENNINGS—The point is that the average deposit of Savings Bank accounts in any State does not necessarily portray what the savings of the average person are. You could have a number of top line savings bank accounts and a great number with a much smaller amount, and the average might be greater than the average in another State, but that does not mean that the average of the average person is more or less in this State than in any other State. It is another case of figures not lying, but lies figuring. Even if we could establish that we have a greater average per person in South Australia, that would still not be an indication of the prosperity of the State. In South Australia of all States there are fewer avenues for spending those savings. I am not talking about the things the member for Light spoke about—

the things a person saves up for, such as a home and furniture. Apart from what has been said about housing in this State, any one who chooses to look at the figures can ascertain that in South Australia our house building rate over the last few years has been less than in any other State of the Commonwealth. We will be told that the Government house building rate in South Australia is greater than in some places, and so it is, but that is not the point. There are fewer homes per head of population being built in South Australia each year, and no-one has ever endeavoured sincerely to controvert that.

Mr. Brookman—Have you any figures to support that allegation?

Mr. JENNINGS—I gave them to the House at the end of last session and the honourable member was remiss in not taking me up then; no-one has challenged them or seriously doubted them. The Premier himself admitted that they were correct. The most sincere way he can ever commend anyone is by trying to get around a statement in another way, and that is what he did. He pointed out to the House that even if the figures I gave were correct they did not portray the only story, because the Government building rate, he said, was greater in South Australia. No-one denied that, because here the Government builds through the Housing Trust, which acts as its agent. I think it would be agreed that the case made out that our house building rate is considerably less cannot be disputed. Ever since, the Premier has been trying to controvert what was said, but has been unable to do so successfully. On the opening day he went to great pains to try to convince the House that there were more people per house in Queensland than in any other State. He mentioned only one State. That has nothing to do with the problem of housing. The point is how many people want houses. It could easily be that in a State like Queensland, where for so long they have been blessed with a Labor Government, many more homes have been built, and probably the people have been encouraged thereby not to bring in outsiders into the homes, but to increase their families so that there might be more people in each home. I do not know whether that is quite the case or not. It does not matter. There is a large Italian population in Queensland, and these people are used to living in circumstances like that. However, the real measuring stick is how many people want homes. Of course, the Premier forgets that the great press liaison he has sometimes brings him into difficulties,

because shortly before he endeavoured to contradict statements made here about the housing position. He went to the Adelaide Town Hall and addressed a dinner of the Young Liberal League and told them that housing was a very pressing problem in South Australia, where we were faced with a very grave shortage, but in Queensland the housing position had been virtually solved. That is completely at variance with the statistics with which he tried to mislead us the other night.

The SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member is out of order when he says that another member tried to mislead the House. I ask him to withdraw that remark. I heard the honourable member use the word “mislead.”

Mr. JENNINGS—I said he tried to.

The SPEAKER—I ask the honourable member to withdraw the remark. It is unbecoming of another honourable member. I pointed out earlier that the Standing Orders provide that no unbecoming word or language shall be used in referring to another honourable member, and I rule that the words used are unbecoming. I ask the honourable member to withdraw those words.

Mr. JENNINGS—Certainly. I think the Premier tried to encourage us to believe something which was not in accordance with fact when he said that the housing figures were as he said they were. All this talk about prosperity in South Australia is purely a figment of the Premier's imagination. I should like to congratulate my Acting Leader, Mr. Frank Walsh, on his outstanding contribution to the debate today, and the splendid way in which he has led the House during the regrettable absence of our Leader, Mr. O'Halloran. I should also like to mention the member for Light. I think a great light will be shed on this place until it is finally extinguished by its own vapour. Sometimes great truths descend suddenly, and it struck me on listening to the member for Light (Mr. Hambour) this afternoon that the other 38 members were not needed because we now have a latter day Solomon, a man who has the solution to all our problems.

Mr. Lawn—They are problems no more.

Mr. JENNINGS—That is so. Whether it is the sale of brandy, the financing of Government works, the running of hospitals, or any other problem, there is no problem that has not already been solved by the honourable member. A great light now shines upon us.

I sincerely hope this session will see the same amicable relations between members with less reason than we have had before.

Mr. TAPPING (Semaphore)—I support the motion and commend the mover and seconder. In the last 10 years I have heard many speakers move or second the adoption of the Address in Reply, but never have I heard better speeches than those delivered this afternoon. The member for Chaffey (Mr. King) made some remarks that were most enlightening and as he spoke I felt he should be on this side because he expounded a policy that has generally been expounded by the Australian Labor Party. He referred to decentralization, which has been advocated by my Party for many years. No doubt he will help members on this side to ensure that the Playford Government does more than it has done to bring about decentralization.

The member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) did an excellent job this afternoon; his delivery was excellent and I believe he will be an acquisition to this Chamber, at least for the next three years. He was fair enough to give credit to the workers of South Australia for the progress made over the last 10 years. That credit is sometimes withheld by Government members. He also said some of the powers of the Federal Parliament should revert to the States. He cited uniform taxation, but my Party believes that Federal Parliament should retain income taxing powers so that everybody in Australia will be taxed on the same basis. Since the introduction of uniform taxation South Australia has gone ahead by leaps and bounds. Prior to its introduction each State had its own tax rate and South Australia very often had the highest rate with the result that industries did not come to this State, whereas industries have come here since the introduction of uniform taxation.

Mr. Geoffrey Clarke—Industries came to South Australia long before uniform taxation was introduced, because we had a lower rate of company taxation.

Mr. TAPPING—Although the honourable member and his leader have advocated the reversion to the States of income taxing powers I believe they have never been sincere in doing so. I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your elevation to your high office. For many years I have had the privilege of working with you in this House, for a term as Government Whip, and I believe your elevation is well merited. I congratulate, too, the new Chairman of Committees (Mr. Dunnage) on his promotion. I believe that because of the service he has rendered to the Government, to Parliament, and to his constituents, his



appointment is highly commendable. While a member of the Public Works Committee he gave excellent service and his advice will be missed on that committee. I believe, however, that his successor on the committee (Mr. Brookman) will keep up the standard set by Mr. Dunnage. I congratulate the two new Labor members (Mr. Bywaters and Mr. Loveday) on their election to Parliament. They are acquisitions to this House and I believe will prove themselves worthy members for their respective districts. I am particularly proud to welcome Mr. Bywaters because at one time he was a member of the Semaphore electorate committee and performed yeoman service for the people in that district; and on being transferred to the Murray district he performed similar service for the people there.

I join with previous speakers in expressing regret at the death of the former Minister of Agriculture (the Hon. Arthur Christian). No member of this House worked harder than he, not only as a Minister, but as a private member and chairman of the Public Works Standing Committee. Mr. Christian made many sacrifices and no doubt these resulted in his early demise, but he made his mark in this State and his name will never be forgotten. I also join with previous speakers in referring to the passing of Mr. Don Michael (former member for Light) who performed sterling service in this House. I was honoured to be asked by his relatives to act as pallbearer at his funeral in Eudunda.

His Excellency's Speech contained a reference to harbours. This afternoon I asked the Minister of Marine a question about the construction of pens to harbour tugs in the Port River. This project is an urgent one because since the construction of the Birkenhead Bridge in 1941 traffic and pedestrians have frequently been held up and as traffic increases the position becomes more acute. I claim that 20 per cent of the hold-ups have resulted from the fact that 12 or 14 tugs are berthed between Birkenhead and Jervois Bridges, which means that when a steamer requires a tug, the tug must go through the Birkenhead Bridge and then return. In such cases the bridge must open, and this occurs many times a day. Even small vessels hold up traffic. Indeed, I have seen traffic queued up for 100 yards or so because of the opening of the bridge. This afternoon the Minister said that although the matter was regarded as urgent many other matters were considered more vital and therefore must take precedence, but I remind him that this is

an important matter because the opening of the bridge causes delays to transport vehicles and workers, which cost much money. Further, this cost must be passed on to the consumer. I appeal to the Minister of Works to expedite this matter and refer it to the Public Works Committee because once the tugs are harboured in the pens much time will be saved as the bridge will not have to be opened so often.

Members on both sides have often commended and criticized the Housing Trust. I have often given it credit when I thought it was deserved but this evening I desire to criticize it because I feel that each member has a duty to say when he considers the trust is not working as it should. Possibly the remarks I make will be a reflection on Government policy rather than on officers of the trust. His Excellency's Speech states that during the next financial year the trust will build about 3,000 homes and that there may be a reduction in the number of rental homes built. The latter is bad news for the people of South Australia. Because of the high cost of home building today we should increase rather than reduce the number of rental homes built. Every session the Landlord & Tenant (Control of Rents) Act is amended so that the landlord can the more easily secure possession of his house, which means that the stronger becomes the pressure on the Housing Trust for the supply of rental homes. The number of approaches made by constituents to members is increasing daily and is now greater than at any time over the past eight years. By building fewer rental homes this position will be aggravated. I appeal to the Premier to change the building policy of the trust because, although many people desire to own their own homes, they cannot find the deposit because the capital cost is too high. I believe the time is opportune to build more rental homes.

According to the April report of the Housing Trust about 130 cottage flats have been built for elderly persons. Although this means that the position is better than it was 12 months ago, we should step up the building of these cottages, for there is a greater demand for them than ever before. I admit that this demand is Australia-wide, but it is our job to improve the position in this State. People are living longer and therefore we have a greater obligation to find accommodation for aged people. In this regard 130 cottages in the last 12 months is not good enough. I appeal to the Premier to extend this programme of building cottages so that more aged people may be accommodated. It is a

tragedy, but nevertheless true, that although some old folk have sons and daughters they are not always very welcome. I realize there may be faults on both sides, but old folks desire to live on their own, and the State has a responsibility to provide homes for them. In this morning's *Advertiser* under the heading "Help for the Aged" in an article entitled "Perth Letter" the following appeared:—

Increased concern being shown over here for the plight of the aged is finding expression in a score of ways. Suddenly people seemed to have realized that the aged are the most neglected section in our welfare state. Country centres are arranging community housing schemes—with central service blocks but separate rooms—for the aged of their district who need housing, and district bush nurses are caring for the sick aged in their homes. The State is expanding the aged women's homes and improving "Sunset," where old men are looked after.

It is realized throughout Australia that more attention must be given to the welfare of old people. We cannot do too much for them, because they are the pioneers. I congratulate the institutions that have done so much. I could refer to many, but thinking of my own district I will mention Wesley House, conducted by the Port Adelaide Methodist Mission. Although such homes are helped by the State and Commonwealth Governments, we cannot let them do all the work. They have some responsibilities, but the main responsibility is on the State, and I hope that the Government will see that most old people who require homes will be provided with them by the trust.

I know that some of my colleagues disagree with me, but I have always felt that temporary homes have served a useful purpose and are still doing so. They have been the only means of providing accommodation in many cases because of the lag in house-building since the end of the war. When they were built six years ago the position improved overnight, and people in dire circumstances were housed.

Mr. Fred Walsh—They are more vital now because of the number of houses being demolished.

Mr. TAPPING—I agree with that. These temporary homes helped solve a problem. The capital outlay was not very great and probably would be repaid over a period of 10 years. Bad living conditions in South Australia and some other States have caused an increase in divorce cases, but if temporary homes were built they would certainly assist in this matter. At least seven temporary homes in Largs North have not been inhabited for six to eight months because adjacent land becomes inundated with

tidal waters and causes seepage. If the Premier visited them he would be surprised to see that windows have been pulled out and the doors smashed. It is a pity this should have been allowed to happen, because the damage amounts to hundreds of pounds. The trust should rebuild these homes in another part of the area to provide more accommodation.

The legislation dealing with people who die intestate has not been overhauled in the last 40 or 50 years. Recently it was brought to my notice that a man died intestate, leaving an accumulation of about £2,500 in the Savings Bank, made possible because he and his wife had both pulled together. Because of the law the widow obtained only one-third and the child two-thirds. Nobody can convince me that is democratic. I got in touch with the Public Trustee's Department to find out the position in other parts of Australia, and although it does not vary very much, I feel we should put the matter in order in this State. The legislation in Victoria and New South Wales is similar to that in South Australia. In Queensland it is similar except that if there is only one child the widow and the child have equal shares, which is an improvement on our law. In Western Australia and Tasmania the widow gets the first £1,000, the residue being divided between the widow and child or children in the proportion of one-third and two-thirds. That is an improvement on the South Australian law because the widow is assured of at least £1,000. This matter is most vital because in some cases the children are at variance with the parents. They may not have contacted them for years nor have done any work in the home, yet they still get two-thirds of the estate. I hope the Premier will consider this matter, because it is most unfair.

I have no desire to cover the ground already covered by the member for Gawler (Mr. John Clark) in relation to education, because he is an expert on that subject. My concern is at the lack of expedition in the building of schools. I refer the House to the May, 1956, issue of *School Post*, the official organ of the South Australian Public Schools Committees Association. I notice in this book that the Minister of Education has commended the journal and the association which publishes it. With regard to the building of new classrooms, the following appears in the editorial on page 3:—

The building of new classrooms and schools has made slow progress compared with school

enrolment and the time is overdue when a new approach is necessary to meet the need. A building department, under the direct control of the Minister of Education, with power to co-opt private architects and designers would relieve the overtaxed Architect-in-Chief's Department and, we believe, speed up building generally.

It is no secret that the Architect-in-Chief's Department is short of something like 30 or 35 architects. Although efforts have been made to obtain the necessary officers they are not coming forward in great enough numbers because private enterprise is offering greater inducement. The building of hospitals and schools is delayed because architects can only do a certain amount of work in a certain time, and schools which should be built in two years might be delayed as long as three years. We know that the services of private architects were engaged for the building of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital at Woodville, and because of those services it is estimated the hospital will be completed by about the middle of 1958. I think the Minister of Education will agree that if this system were adopted in the Educa-

tion Department the building of schools in South Australia would be considerably expedited. This would be a great relief to teachers, and also make the parents happy because they dislike classes comprising 48 scholars. It is not fair to the children nor to the teachers.

I trust the remarks I have made during my speech will prove beneficial, and that the Ministers concerned will take heed of what I have said. I support the motion.

Mr. LOVEDAY secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

The Legislative Council notified its appointment of sessional committees.

#### APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1).

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 9.17 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, May 17, at 2 p.m.