

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, May 22, 1956.

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

### SWEARING IN NEW MEMBER.

Mr. O'HALLORAN, to whom the Oath of Allegiance was administered by the Speaker, took his seat in the House as member for the district of Frome.

### QUESTIONS.

#### PETROL TAX.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Has the Premier been informed of the nature of the legislation passed by the Commonwealth Parliament recently for the distribution of the further road funds that will accrue from the recent increase in the petrol tax, particularly as we learn from the press that the method of distribution is to be similar to that provided in the parent legislation? Is the position satisfactory to South Australia and was the State consulted by the Commonwealth in any way before the amending legislation was passed?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I heard a portion of the debate on this matter but have not had any official information from the Commonwealth about the legislation. I observed that there was an attempt by one member to have the basis altered from the present three-fifths population and two-fifths area basis to one more beneficial to Victoria. Taking it by and large, the present basis is fair and equitable, although we in South Australia do not get any immediate advantage from it. We would get a slightly better return on a population basis or on a usage basis but the latter basis carries this difficulty, that some States supply petrol over the borders and it is not easy to tell precisely the consumption of any State. The South Australian Government does not propose to question the method of distribution, although under the present method we only break even. We get no advantage from it but by and large we consider it reasonable and equitable, and it has the advantage that it is of long standing and has been accepted by all States in the past. Under the circumstances the Government does not propose to ask for any modification of the agreement. We would be pleased to get a larger percentage of the total receipts from the petrol tax, but the problems of the States on the maintenance of interstate highways since the Privy Council decision on interstate transport, and the subsequent High Court decisions, have become increasingly difficult.

Undoubtedly some action will have to be taken on this matter for at present no State has the means to thoroughly maintain them.

#### GARDEN SUBURB.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—The following is an extract from a recent issue of the *Southern Suburbs Community News* under the heading "Future of Garden Suburb":—

It was the unanimous decision of the six Councillors on the committee that at present the council should decline to agree to take over the Garden Suburb area . . . The council passed a resolution that the council should decline to take over the area without considerable financial assistance from the Government. Will the Minister representing the Minister of Local Government say whether the Government intends to prevail on the Mitcham Corporation to take over the Garden Suburb area and whether this would involve the Government in any expenditure? Alternatively, does the Government intend to appoint a successor to the present Commissioner or enable a ballot of Garden Suburb ratepayers to be held to see whether they desire the area to be retained as a Garden Suburb?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—Several queries are contained in the question, and although I am familiar with most of the principles involved I would prefer to take it as a question on notice and reply accordingly. The honourable member and I were on a committee that went into this matter and recommended that the time had not arrived when the area should be taken out of the hands of the Garden Suburbs Commissioner, and that recommendation was endorsed by the House. Since then the Commissioner, after holding office for many years, has indicated his desire to retire. As the whole matter is in a state of flux I will take up the question, as on notice, with my colleagues and give a considered reply as early as possible.

#### PORTABLE SCHOOL ROOMS.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—The so-called temporary or portable rooms used in our schools have a standard outside measurement of 25ft. x 20ft. Can the Minister of Education say how many pupils these rooms were originally intended to accommodate?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Not offhand, but I will obtain the information.

#### MAIN NORTH ROAD.

Mr. LAUCKE—As the volume of traffic on the unduly narrow and consequently hazardous Main North Road between Gepps Cross and

Gawler is rapidly increasing, will the Minister representing the Minister of Roads say what progress has been made in the plans for widening that road and when the plans will be implemented?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—Speaking with some knowledge of past events I know that most, if not all, of the land needed to widen the road has been acquired. The next step is to determine the priority of work, and that involves the fact that any work undertaken today must always be done at the expense of some other work. I will, however, ascertain the order of priority and bring down a reply from the Minister of Roads as early as possible.

#### FLAT IRON POSTS.

Mr. BYWATERS—I have recently been approached by several primary producers in my district who are unable to get flat iron posts. I inquired of several stock firms, but I was told that they had not been produced for the past two years although the demand was exceedingly high. I understand one firm has 1,000 tons on order and another a long waiting list, but unfortunately the Broken Hill Proprietary Company is not at present manufacturing them. Will the Premier ascertain from the B.H.P. Company whether it will manufacture these posts which are so necessary to primary producers?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I understand that some time ago because of greater demand the B.H.P. Company, through a subsidiary, rolled a three-sided or star post.

Mr. Bywaters—It is much more expensive.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Possibly, but it is much more durable and satisfactory. I will get some information for the honourable member.

#### ADULT EDUCATION.

Mr. COUMBE—It was recently announced in the press that a grant would be made by the Education Department to foster adult education. Will the Minister of Education say whether this grant will be made direct to the Workers' Educational Association, and if so, what is the principle of the scheme?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—For some years annual grants have been made to the Workers' Educational Association for adult education and last year the grant was doubled. The W.E.A. is entitled to spend the amount of the grant as it sees fit.

#### DRIVING HABITS.

Mr. TAPPING—I have recently observed that many motorists, while driving, allow their arms to protrude from the vehicle. As this habit is dangerous to the driver of the vehicle and to other drivers, will the Chairman of the State Traffic Committee say whether his committee has considered this matter, and if not, whether it will do so?

Mr. GEOFFREY CLARKE (Chairman, State Traffic Committee)—I agree that this habit is most dangerous from the two points of view mentioned. Further, I believe an equally dangerous practice is to allow small children to hold their hands out of motor vehicles while travelling. This gives false directions to following traffic. As far as I know my committee has not specifically applied itself to this question. I would regard it as a breach of the Highways Code, which is a code of good conduct on the roads, but I am not sure that my committee should move to create a new offence by suggesting legislation to deal with it. I will, however, take up the matter with the committee.

#### WALLAROO BULK HANDLING TERMINAL.

Mr. HEASLIP—Last week the press announced that tenders had been called by the South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited for the erection and completion of a bulk handling terminal at Wallaroo, and that the terminal was to be completed in time for the receipt of wheat this coming season. As under legislation passed last session the handling of the grain from the terminal to the ship is in the hands of the Government, can the Premier say whether the arrangements and facilities to deal with the grain handled in bulk at that terminal will be completed in time to handle the coming harvest?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Some time ago the Government received a letter from the chairman of the Public Works Committee stating that the committee proposed recommending the truck-jetty method of handling the wheat to the ship. That letter was passed on to the Harbors Board, which was instructed to give first priority of all its works to the installation of the necessary equipment at Wallaroo. At that time the board reported that it would take 18 months to install the equipment, and the company, after being notified to that effect, expressed satisfaction with the time the board had stated. As far as I know the equipment will be available in the time specified.

## PORT PIRIE HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. DAVIS—Can the Minister of Education inform me of the programme of renovation, painting and further accommodation for the Port Pirie high school, and whether a new high school will be built there?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The Education Department has on the current Loan programme an amount for additional classrooms for the Port Pirie high school. They will not be completed during this current year, but the work will proceed during the next financial year. The future development of technical education in Port Pirie is now under consideration, and I am awaiting a report from the Director of Education after detailed inquiries have been made.

## PRICE INCREASES.

Mr. LAWN—Can the Premier say what factors have been responsible for price increases during the past two years?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—A number of factors have been responsible: I would not attribute all price increases to any particular one. During the last two years there have been substantial additions to wages as the result of additional margins, and this has had a big bearing on the matter. Another factor is that some States have completely relinquished price control, and that places a State that has price control in a difficult position because it always has to adjust its prices to meet interstate competition. We had to relinquish price control on potatoes because other States relinquished it. If we had a price out of accord with the Australian price South Australia would get no potatoes. The moment New South Wales rejected price control on potatoes there was complete chaos in the market because the law of supply and demand dominated the market. In some instances increases in overseas prices have had an effect on interstate and local prices: in other cases excessive overtime was worked in certain industries in order to secure labour, and many employees have paid wages in excess of Arbitration Court awards to attract labour. All these factors have had a big effect on raising prices.

## STIRLING NORTH ELECTRICITY SUPPLY.

Mr. RICHES—Has the Premier obtained a report in reply to the question I asked last Thursday about the possibility of an electricity supply for Stirling North?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I discussed this matter with the chairman of the Electricity

Trust, Mr. Drew. I think about 57 subscribers are involved in this scheme, the cost of which is about £13,500. Mr. Drew told me that the trust intended to carry out the installation as quickly as circumstances would permit, though I am not sure of the precise date of starting.

## DAMAGE TO VINE CROPS.

Mr. KING—In view of the damage to vine crops by rain and the consequent losses suffered by growers in the Murray Valley areas and the delays in receiving payment for fruit delivered for dehydration, will the Minister of Lands agree, in cases of hardship, to accept procurement orders over fruit proceeds to secure payments due to the Government for water rates, interest on mortgages, rent and drainage charges; where such security is given penalty interest shall not accrue provided the security ultimately realizes the amount of the commitments so secured? Secondly, will the Government consider assisting the Renmark Irrigation Trust to make a similar concession?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—The honourable member indicated to me at the end of last week that he would ask these questions and I have been able to secure information for him. The difficulties which will doubtless face some vine fruit growers in the irrigation areas, as a result of rain damage to their crops, are well understood and all possible consideration will be given to settlers who are not able, for this reason, to meet payments to the Department of Lands on due dates. I have had frequent reports from district officers in these localities, and we realize some of the financial difficulties that may occur. The replies regarding the two questions asked by the honourable member are (1) Yes, insofar as it can be done in terms of the Irrigation and Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts, and (2) the matter referred to is one for attention by the Renmark Irrigation Trust and not by the Government.

## HOLBROOK ROAD BRIDGE.

Mr. FRED WALSH—Has the Minister representing the Minister of Roads a reply to the question I asked last week about the Holbrook Road Bridge?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM MCINTOSH—My colleague, the Minister of Roads, has forwarded the following information:—

This bridge being on a district road, is primarily the responsibility of the councils concerned. Assistance has been given in the past, but at present the programme for main road bridges must take precedence, and there is little prospect of widening in the near future. It is known, because of the large amount of traffic using this bridge, that

hazards for pedestrians are created. The question of a separate footbridge will be investigated as opportunity offers, but in view of the great volume of urgent work in hand, no promise can be given as to when this can be finalized.

The corporations of Woodville and West Torrens have now been written suggesting that they make applications to the Commissioner of Police to apply a speed limit of 15 m.p.h. across the bridge. Similarly they have been advised that, if they wish, the Highways Department will make standard "Bridge" and "Curve Left" signs available for erection at the approaches to the bridge. No reply has yet been received from them, but it is anticipated they will probably give effect to the suggestions.

#### NEW SAW MILL IN SOUTH-EAST.

Mr. CORCORAN—When addressing the people of Millicent during the recent State election campaign, the Premier referred to the possibility of establishing a new saw mill in the vicinity of the property of Cellulose Australia Limited and said that alternative sites were being considered. Has this matter been further considered and, if so, has any finality been reached concerning a site?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Two questions confronted the Government: firstly, whether the Government should install a saw mill of sufficient capacity to accommodate the additional volume of timber coming forward and, secondly, where it should be located. It was decided that the Government would install another major mill after completion of the Mount Gambier mill. It would not accommodate the whole of the increased forestry production, but a substantial amount of it. There would be sufficient left to permit expansion by private saw mills. An investigation was made as to the most suitable area and it was decided that the timber proposed to be milled could be most centrally milled at a site adjacent to the cellulose industry works at The Snuggery. The land adjoins the main road on the Millicent side of The Snuggery factory. It has been purchased and work will commence on the project at a suitable time after the completion of the Mount Gambier mill.

#### EYRE HIGHWAY.

Mr. BOCKELBERG—Has the Minister representing the Minister of Highways and Local Government a reply to the question I asked on May 10 concerning the Eyre Highway?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—The Minister of Roads has forwarded a reply dated May 17th, from the Commissioner of Highways to the effect that funds are provided annually

for the maintenance of all sections of Eyre Highway and for the improvement of sections where necessary. The District Engineer is visiting Eyre Peninsula this week when he proposes to make an inspection of Eyre Highway including that portion between Waddikee and Poochera to determine what funds are required for any necessary improvement. I take it the District Engineer will report to the Minister and I will then be able to reply as to what funds are available.

#### POLICE OFFENCES ACT.

Mr. DUNSTAN—I have previously drawn the Government's attention to the fact that since the enactment of the Police Offences Act in 1953 no offence is committed if a person uses indecent or offensive language in a private place when that language can be heard in a public place or in an adjoining occupied property. I receive frequent complaints from the police that they cannot establish peaceable relations between people while this position continues and offensive language can be used with impunity. Does the Government intend to do something about the matter?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I shall be glad to refer the matter to the Attorney-General and bring down a reply.

#### DIESEL EXHAUST FUMES.

Mr. QUIRKE—On various occasions I have brought up the question of fumes from the exhausts of diesel-operated vehicles. The only information I have received is that if the engines are properly adjusted there are no noxious fumes in as much as they are not discernible to the eye, and this has been used as a reason for not moving the outlet for these fumes from the offside of vehicles; but carbon monoxide must be emitted. The fumes can thoroughly permeate the atmosphere in the interior of a passing vehicle. This is objectionable and recent information from English medical sources suggests that there is good reason for believing that these exhaust fumes—not only from diesel-operated vehicles but from all motor vehicles—are one of the causes of the marked increase in lung cancer. Can the Chairman of the State Traffic Committee say whether the committee has investigated this question from the point of view of public health in view of those overseas reports and, if so, has he anything to report as a result of such investigation?

Mr. GEOFFREY CLARKE (Chairman, State Traffic Committee)—Last session the honourable member asked a question about this matter

and it was referred to the State Traffic Committee. Within the last few days the committee has forwarded a report to the Premier. The committee has thoroughly investigated the question. It has taken oral evidence from diesel experts in South Australia, made inquiries in the motor trade which specializes in diesel vehicles, and received evidence from overseas. It concluded that diesel vehicles, because of their nature, must at some time eject black smoke, particularly when working under stress, labouring on a hill or attempting to accelerate, but the quantity emitted can be considerably reduced if engines are properly tuned. To that end, the various constituent organizations represented on the State Traffic Committee which have some ability to make suggestions to diesel users will prompt them to take care that their engines are properly tuned.

The medical evidence the committee received does not lend colour to the view that diesel exhaust fumes are dangerous. They are objectionable but not noxious. According to reports received, the invisible exhaust from petrol-driven vehicles is infinitely more dangerous because it contains carbon monoxide, which diesel exhaust does not. The committee has examined the suggestion that the diesel exhaust should be placed elsewhere than on the offside of the vehicle. While in some parts of the world there is a limited use of an exhaust behind the cab, that detrimentally affects the performance of the engine and increases the fire hazard to the load. There are grave technical difficulties involved in getting good performances from an engine with a vertical exhaust, and the committee sees no reason to suggest that the exhaust should be in other than its customary place on the offside of the vehicle. I emphasize that there is a responsibility on diesel users to see that their vehicles do not unnecessarily emit objectionable fumes which is, in itself, an offence under the Road Traffic Act.

#### PETERBOROUGH WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Can the Minister of Works say when a start is likely to be made on laying the pipeline from Jamestown to Peterborough in order to augment the water supply at the latter town?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—I will have an inquiry made and bring down a reply not later than Thursday next.

#### LOWER YORKE PENINSULA LAND ALLOCATIONS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Can the Minister of Lands give any information regarding the

allocation of land in the lower part of Yorke Peninsula?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—In accordance with the statement in the Premier's policy speech that all available areas of Crown lands would be opened at the earliest possible moment this area was gazetted and opened for application. For the five blocks available there were 20 applicants. There were two applicants for some of the larger blocks, so there were eight selected applicants for five blocks. Five of them were returned servicemen and three civilians. Three of the five blocks are under perpetual lease. Two of them will be under annual lease until such time as the fencing programme is finished. Then on application all blocks will be under perpetual lease.

#### MIGRANT DOCTORS.

Mr. SHANNON—I understand that South Australia is about the last State in the Commonwealth to recognize New Australian medical personnel and allow them to practise medicine in their adopted country. From information I have received, and I believe it to be sound, nearly every country, certainly the United States of America and most European countries, have recognized these medical people. I understand Australia has lost a number of highly-qualified people in the medical world because some New Australians have gone to the United States of America and some to Europe. In view of the outstanding need for additional medical services in our growing population, can the Premier say if the Government has considered the desirability of amending our law to permit regulations to be issued providing opportunities for these people to practise? At present they have to undergo a course of three years at the University, which is a great difficulty for the married man with a family, who is prevented almost from taking a University course of even short duration. I believe other States are accepting these people into professional practice. Does South Australia intend to follow suit?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The honourable member is correct when he says that some Governments have passed legislation enabling migrant doctors to practise, but in the main they are allowed to practise in the country where no other person is prepared to go. It is a sort of outback licence. In South Australia a qualified medical man from overseas can be registered provided the University where he was trained has a reciprocity

agreement with our University and it is of the proper standard. The difficulty is with New Australians from behind the Iron Curtain where there is no reciprocity agreement and where the standard of some of the Universities is unknown to us. We have provided a short course of three years for New Australians who come from a University of the proper standard.

Mr. Shannon—It is an absolute bar.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—That is incorrect, because a number of doctors have done it.

Mr. Shannon—Young men.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—It cannot be an absolute bar if some have done it. If the honourable member would like me to investigate a special case I shall be pleased to do so. The Government believes it is necessary that doctors practising in this State be properly qualified. There should be no doubt about the qualifications because it might be a serious matter for a patient if he were treated by an incompetent person.

Mr. Quirke—Could they not undergo an examination before being registered to see if they are properly qualified?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—That is the object of the short course. If that were not done they would have to take the standard course in the same way as Australians. I have not yet seen a case of hardship in this matter. A number of cases have been brought under my notice where the qualifications of the people concerned were not what we would expect from a veterinary surgeon. We should not accept a man haphazardly because he has come from a certain institution. We must see, in the interests of the public, that he has the proper qualifications. I am prepared to examine any case to see if hardship is being inflicted.

Mr. SHANNON—I regret that the Premier used a certain analogy in his reply. One of these so-called New Australian doctors who has not fully qualified to look after our sick lived in Bridgewater for some time, and ultimately found full-time employment in his own capacity in Western Australia. Perhaps our Act could be altered to enable a panel of our own experts to examine or watch some of these men in practice. Will the Government examine this problem to see whether we could make use of the services of these valuable professional people? The Premier said that we cannot afford to take risks with our own people in the field of health, and I entirely agree, but some of our people have no opportunity of getting expert advice because they

live in remote areas. I believe that the people I have in mind would practise in such areas. Apparently the law in other States has been amended, and we are not made of finer material than our brothers and sisters in those States.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—A number of factors are involved. On a number of occasions the Government has examined this problem, but the qualifications of medical practitioners are laid down by Act of Parliament, namely, that they shall have passed the course prescribed by the university.

Mr. Shannon—That is why an amendment of the Act is necessary.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes, but I point out that such an amendment is a question of principle because the University will not consent to bringing down the standard further than it has already done for people who have come here with certain qualifications; so to grant the honourable member's request would mean taking the matter out of the hands of the University and establishing a completely new set of qualifications. That would involve a big departure from a principle. Without altering the law we could appoint some of the people the honourable member has in mind to one of our hospitals, but would he for a moment suggest that we do that?

Mr. Shannon—I would certainly consider it.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The matter has been considered on a number of occasions, and if the honourable member will cite any case in which he thinks an injustice has been done I will have it examined, but I could not accept the proposition that because a person has qualified somewhere else we should accept him, particularly where we have no knowledge of the standards in the countries concerned and where they would not accept our doctors because there is no reciprocal arrangement with them.

#### SULPHURIC ACID PRODUCTION.

Mr. BYWATERS—Last Saturday's *Advertiser* contained a report that a new sulphuric acid plant had been opened at Birkenhead, which would greatly assist in the manufacture of superphosphate. As high wages have been blamed for increased costs and as this plant is semi-automatic and can be operated by six employees on each shift, can the Premier say whether it will reduce the price of superphosphate and so help farmers cut their production costs?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—It will not reduce the price of superphosphate. At

present, I believe, the price of sulphuric acid from this plant will about equal the price of that made from brimstone, mainly because the concern is under-capitalized and has had from the Commonwealth Bank a large advance, the amortization rate on which is high. I believe, however, that as this rate is ultimately reduced the price of sulphuric acid and consequently of superphosphate will be reduced.

#### PORT WAKEFIELD-BALAKLAVA ROAD.

Mr. GOLDNEY—Has the Minister of Works a reply from his colleague, the Minister of Roads, to the question I asked early this session about the sealing of the Balaklava-Port Wakefield road?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—The Commissioner of Highways states:—

The Port Wakefield-Balaklava section of the Port Wakefield-Saddleshworth Main Road No. 24 is an open-surfaced road regularly maintained by the District Councils of Balaklava and Port Wakefield and is usually in a good trafficable condition. The latest traffic count indicates that approximately 200 vehicles use this road daily between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. although this traffic would naturally increase during the wheat carting season. Before the bituminous surface could be provided, additional work would be necessary on the base, and a departmental gang is not available for such work. However, consideration will be given to the possibility of arranging for the respective councils to undertake some of this preparatory work. I suggest that the honourable member ascertain from the councils whether they are prepared to undertake that work.

#### POTATO PRICES.

Mr. LAWN—I understand that earlier today the President of the Housewives Association forwarded to the Premier a telegram protesting against the chaotic position of the potato prices. Can the Premier, as Minister in charge of price control, say whether the price is likely to rise or fall and what steps the Government will take to rectify the position?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I have not seen the telegram, and do not know whether it is coming or not, but in reply to a previous question by the honourable member I pointed out that immediately New South Wales abandoned price control on potatoes South Australian potatoes went over the border by road. Therefore, the chaotic conditions referred to by the honourable member—and I grant they are chaotic—arise from the decision of the New South Wales Government to break away from the other States and decontrol potato prices.

Mr. LAWN—During the referendum campaign you said your Government could and would continue to control prices.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—My Government is one of the few that has effectively maintained price control and that is one reason why it enjoys considerable support from Opposition members.

#### MURRAY RIVER LEVELS.

Mr. KING—Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question concerning River Murray levels?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—I have conferred with the Engineer-in-Chief and am able to say that it is impossible at present to predict with any degree of certainty what effect the water coming down the river will have on levels in South Australia as the water is still rising at Albury on the River Murray, at Hay on the Murrumbidgee, and at Menindie on the Darling. On present indications there is insufficient water in the rivers to cause a level approaching that attained last year. This being the case, the punts at Lyrup, Blanchetown, Cadell, Mannum, Wellington and Narung are not likely to be affected. However, those at Berri, Kingston, Swan Reach, Walker's Flat and Purnong will probably be progressively out of action from early July onwards as the peak of the flow passes down the river. It is rather early to make a precise prediction but I will bring down further details as early as possible.

Mr. KING—In view of the possibility of the ferry at Kingston being out of action as a result of the rising flood waters, will the Minister ascertain from the Minister of Roads whether the sealing of the north of Eudunda road and the remainder of the north of Renmark road can be treated as a matter of urgency?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—I think I can answer in the affirmative straight away, that that has been regarded for a long time as a matter of high priority, but following on the honourable member's question I will ask whether any further consideration might be given to this matter.

#### SNUGGERY RAIL SIDING.

Mr. CORCORAN—Has the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Railways, a reply to my question of Tuesday last concerning the delivery of superphosphate to the Snuggery siding?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—The Deputy Railways Commissioner states:—

With the conversion to broad gauge, Snuggery siding, situated 22 miles, 78 chains, 55 links from Mount Gambier, was closed in 1955, for the reason that Cellulose siding, located at 23 miles, 78 chains 98 links from Mount Gambier, was made a public siding. Obviously, there could not be two railway sidings in such close proximity. Between Tantanoola and Millicent—a distance of 9 miles—there are railway stations as follows:—

	Miles.	Chains.	Links.
Tantanoola . . . .	20	54	66
Cellulose . . . . .	23	38	98
Nangula . . . . .	26	07	58
Millicent . . . . .	29	52	73

It will be seen from the above particulars that there is a railway siding every three miles.

I cannot see that any hardship is involved.

Mr. Corcoran—That does not answer my question.

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—I have answered it in the terms given to me and I think it is an effective answer as it states there is a railway siding every three miles.

Mr. Corcoran—I wanted to know whether the Railways Department would accept superphosphate for Snuggery and deliver it there, not how many miles it is to Mount Gambier.

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—It is not my reply but that of the Deputy Railways Commissioner, who says that the siding at Snuggery has been closed and why.

#### SPEED LIMIT SIGNS.

Mr. LOVEDAY—Has the Minister representing the Minister of Roads a reply to my recent question regarding speed limit signs on arterial roads leading into Adelaide?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—The Commissioner of Highways states:—

The 35-mile per hour speed restriction signs are fabricated and erected in accordance with the Road Signs Code of the Standards Association of Australia. They are clearly visible and should not be missed by a normally observant motorist.

#### MARION ROAD.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—In view of the expansion and future development of the south-western portion of the metropolitan area will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Roads whether the Highways Department will erect a satisfactory bridge over the Sturt Creek at Marion and provide a through road from South Road, Darlington, to Henley Beach Road, and also see whether the Highways

Department will take over control of the Marion Road?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—I will refer the question to my colleague and bring down his reply.

#### PARLIAMENTARY CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS.

Mr. LAWN—I understand that early next year South Australia will be celebrating the completion of one hundred years of Parliamentary government. I am not particularly impressed with our electoral system, but at least we have a Parliamentary system, and I ask the Premier whether the Government has considered arrangements for suitable celebrations?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Empire Parliamentary Association's executive committee has considered this matter and has asked me to see whether it would be possible to have an eminent statesman from Great Britain present at a special opening of this Parliament to commemorate this important event. The Commonwealth Relations Minister was suggested, but unfortunately his engagements do not permit him to come to Australia next year. The Prime Minister of Great Britain will be in Australia next year and it was suggested that it might be possible to secure his attendance, but that has not yet been considered by the executive of the Empire Parliamentary Association. However, it will be placed before the committee in due course.

#### ALLOTMENT OF CROWN LANDS.

Mr. CORCORAN—An article appeared in the *Sunday Mail* of May 12 under the heading "230,000 Acres may be Opened Soon." It stated:—

About 230,000 acres of Crown Lands in South Australia would probably be opened for settlement in the next 12 to 18 months, the Lands Minister, Mr. Hincks, announced today. Forty thousand acres north-west and south-west of Naracoorte, which the State Government had bought for war service settlement but which had not been accepted by the Commonwealth were included in that. This area in the lower South-East consisted of several estates which could be cut in about 22 holdings.

Can the Minister enumerate those estates and say whether Fairview Estate is one of them?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I cannot enumerate the estates offhand, but I will get the information for the honourable member. Fairview Estate is included.



## TRAMWAYS TRANSFORMER STATION.

Mr. LAWN (on notice)—

1. Has the Municipal Tramways Trust ever erected a transformer station in Victoria Square? If so, when?

2. What was the cost of any such station?

3. How long was it in operation?

4. Has it now been dismantled?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Tramways Trust reports:—

1. The trust has not erected a transformer station in Victoria Square but installed rectifier equipment in these premises in July, 1953.

2. £27,600.

3. Two years.

4. Portion of equipment was transferred to another location to facilitate the early closing-down of the trust's power station. It is not anticipated that the Victoria Square converter station will be dismantled until the fate of electric traction is finally decided.

## SUPPLY BILL (No. 1).

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

## WALLAROO BULK WHEAT BIN.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on the Wallaroo bulk wheat bin, together with minutes of evidence.

Ordered that report be printed.

## ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from May 17. Page 135.)

Mr. DAVIS (Port Pirie)—Firstly, I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your appointment. I feel that you will carry out your duties in a most capable manner, although I realize that you have a hard row to hoe in following the footsteps of Sir Robert Nicholls, who carried out the duties of Speaker most capably for many years. I also congratulate the Chairman of Committees and the Minister of Agriculture on their appointments. The new Minister, because of his knowledge of the land, should be well fitted to carry out his duties. I deeply regret the passing of Mr. Arthur Christian and Mr. Don Michael. I held both those gentlemen in high regard. Mr. Christian was a most conscientious Minister who was always helpful to anyone who approached him on matters concerning his department. I was closely associated with Mr.

Don Michael for many years and sat under his chairmanship of the Land Settlement Committee. I became attached to him and it was regrettable that he had to resign from this House because of ill health and more regrettable that he died so soon after his retirement.

I listened with great pleasure and interest to the new members and wholeheartedly agreed with many of the remarks of new members opposite. They eulogised the Government for its activities in connection with uranium production, the Electricity Trust, the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline and the Leigh Creek coalfield, but I remind them that the Government was merely giving effect to Labor's policy. However, after complimenting the Government on its achievements, they criticised undertakings not operated by private enterprise and suggested that nothing was worth while unless managed by private enterprise. Had the Electricity Trust been conducted by private enterprise the country would not be enjoying electricity services to the extent it now does. I agree with some of their comments on the trust's charges, but we must be thankful for the trust's activities in extending its services to country users.

Some of the new members apparently appreciate that the Government is neglecting its responsibilities to the country. I was delighted to hear the member for Chaffey, Mr. King, criticise the Government's policy of centralization. I am pleased that there are members opposite who realize that the Government must change its policy before the city becomes more crowded. I agree with Mr. King's advocacy of the establishment of a cannery on the River Murray. It is wrong to expect people who produce fruit to haul it long distances to a cannery. I also agree with his comments concerning the establishment of forests along the Murray to enable the production of timber for fruit boxes. The member for Light, Mr. Hambour, criticised the Government for many things. I think he will realize before long that he will not be able to express himself as he did in his maiden speech.

Mr. Hambour—Why not?

Mr. DAVIS—Because one must not be a naughty boy in the Playford Government Party. One must do as he is told, otherwise he may be put on the political skids. We saw that happen recently. I have seen other new members come here with good ideas, but within a short time they have had to dance to the tune played by the Premier.

Mr. Fletcher—That applies to both sides of the House.

Mr. O'Halloran—You might remind members that all the old Opposition members are still here, except one member who voluntarily retired.

Mr. DAVIS—I know that men in the Government Party who were not prepared to become "yes" men lost their seats, and that organizers outside this Parliament were responsible for one member's defeat in a plebiscite recently. If the member for Light retains the courage of his convictions, with the help of the Opposition he may be able to convince the Government that it is not properly governing the State. Mr. Hambour realizes that something must be done about country schools. He complained that children had to travel long distances on foot to country schools. That is another indication that the Government has fallen down on its job. For many years there were small schools in outlying districts, but the Government's policy was responsible for their closure, and as a result schools in larger areas became overcrowded. It is only with difficulty that people in outlying districts can educate their children. It is time the Government realized its neglect of the children of outback people. I support Mr. Hambour's comments about the breweries and brewers.

Mr. Fred Walsh—Be careful: he had to correct himself.

Mr. DAVIS—I defend him. I read with interest that Mr. C. R. Aiken challenged the member for Light. He said:—

I am amazed that Mr. Hambour should see fit to abuse Parliamentary privilege for personal reasons. If reported correctly, he is guilty of several errors of commission and omission. No brewery owns anything like 170 hotels in South Australia, but assuming that this figure was correct, I quote from the report of the Royal Commission on Liquor Laws in New South Wales by Mr. Justice Maxwell:

"I am satisfied that with respect to breweries generally, the evidence does not warrant the conclusion that their ownership, financial interest, or control operates to the detriment of the public interest."

I disagree with Mr. Justice Maxwell's statement. It may be correct that the brewers do not own 170 hotels in this State but they control practically all the hotels here. In addition to withholding rebates if the orders of the Brewers Association are not carried out, they control the supply of liquor. Mr. Aikens said the association had a right to say what prices should be charged for liquor. For many years the prices of beer and whisky have been excessive.

Mr. O'Halloran—The Federal Treasurer controls the price of beer.

Mr. DAVIS—No, although the excise on beer is heavy. Publicans have to pay many thousands of pounds for short leases of hotels and in addition meet the cost of repairs and in some instances rates and taxes, so if consumers do not pay excessive prices for their liquor these people will not be able to meet their financial commitments. Recently one man borrowed and paid £18,000 for the lease of a hotel for three years. The consumers have to help him repay the £18,000 and the interest, and at the same time provide him with enough for a reasonable living. I have a lot to learn if it is true that our liquor prices are reasonable. Mr. Fadden also put an extra penny on a nip of spirits.

Mr. Fred Walsh—The excise was increased, not the price of a nip.

Mr. DAVIS—It was worked out at a penny a nip. Then the Licensed Victuallers' Association added another 2d. a nip. I am not at all sympathetic towards the brewers. Last night I heard that winemakers are not getting a sufficient return and are increasing the price of wine by about 6d. a bottle. Many people who thought the beer price was too high switched to wine, but now the wine-makers are increasing their price. By the time the wine is sold over the hotel bar or in the wine shop the price will be increased a further 6d. a bottle, so soon we will be paying 1s. a bottle more than we pay now. Of course, the winemaker is entitled to more than he is getting, but as soon as the price to the public was increased Mr. Max Flannagan, of the association, protested because it had been done without his knowledge. How often has the price been increased without the consumer being told about it? I support all Mr. Hambour said about the brewers who have been exploiting the people for some time. When a person buys an article he should be allowed to sell it at what he considers a fair price, but publicans cannot do that because it breaks rules fixed by the brewers.

I was surprised to hear the new member for Torrens say the Playford Government had achieved great things. He referred to the last election and said notable victories by the Government were achieved in Chaffey and Wallaroo. He pointed out that Wallaroo had been held by the Labor Party for many years, but Labor has never held the present electoral district. A large portion of another district was attached to the old Wallaroo electorate and it became a borderline seat. Probably at the next election Labor will again win it. The winning of Chaffey was no achievement;

indeed, if Labor supporters had given their second preference votes to the Independent candidate he would have won just as easily as the present member.

Mr. O'Halloran—It was an alphabetical decision.

Mr. DAVIS—Yes, the Liberal candidate was lucky, and the same thing might have happened in other districts had Labor supporters cast their second preference votes differently. The member for Light (Mr. Hambour) said he hoped the new blood in his Party would not thicken too quickly, and I support that sentiment so long as he sticks to the principle of decentralization enunciated in his maiden speech. Two months ago in the Federal House Sir Arthur Fadden introduced a Budget that has been correctly called the Horror Budget because never before in the history of the Commonwealth has such a Budget been introduced. It has hit the man on the bottom rung very hard although it has not hurt the wealthy friends of Sir Arthur Fadden and Mr. Menzies. It has affected the home builder and the worker hardest of all. The Federal Government has increased sales tax on many items and restricted credit with the result that the worker now finds it impossible to build or buy a home. I suppose all honourable members know people who have struggled for years to save a deposit on a new house, but now the banks will not lend such people the balance necessary to buy a home and consequently they must go without one. Indeed, many men who have already started the erection of a home cannot borrow sufficient money to complete it, and I foresee the day when, because of the Horror Budget, many people will be driven from their homes because they are unable to meet their commitments. Many thousands of men have already been thrown out of employment because of the introduction of the Horror Budget. All members know from previous experience that when a Government creates an unemployment pool the effect rapidly snowballs, and that will probably happen in this case. The number of unemployed is increasing daily. The Governments are responsible to see that every Australian is fully employed, but instead the Federal Treasurer has introduced a Budget that will increase unemployment. I am sure that all other members will agree that the position is serious.

Many of our schools are overcrowded yet the Government is not building enough schools to provide for the needs of the increasing number of children reaching school age. The Port Pirie High School accommodates more

than 600 children but it is expected that by 1960 about 1,200 will attend. I understand that the Government intends to build a new high school there; if it does not the educational needs of the children in the district will be neglected. The type of timber-frame school being built today is not satisfactory and will deteriorate rapidly.

Mr. Quirke—Why?

Mr. DAVIS—It deteriorates far more rapidly than a stone building. Recently I attended the opening of a new private school in Port Pirie and was able to compare it with the type of school being erected by the Government in many country centres. The private school cost £20,000 and I feel proud of the people who from their own pockets were willing to build such a school, especially when I remember that the Government may call on all South Australians to provide revenue with which to build schools. I trust that officers of the Education Department will visit Port Pirie soon so that they may see the school and follow the example provided there.

I now turn to the wages paid to South Australian workers. Today's press reports that Victorian judges are to receive an increase of £1,000 a year. These men were getting large salaries before and I cannot see the justification for these increases when the basic wage of the worker is frozen. The worker has been denied cumulative quarterly adjustments totalling 15s. a week and no attempt has been made by the Playford Government to rectify the position. Recently, in reply to a question, the Premier said that workers should go to the Arbitration Court and seek increases, but if his Government decided to restore quarterly adjustments the workers would not have to go to the court. South Australian workers in particular are losing faith in the arbitration system and are starting to revolt against the court's decisions. One can expect nothing else when the Governments and the court are prepared to give huge increases to highly paid public servants while ignoring the claims of those on the bottom rung. I sincerely hope this Government will realize its error. Recently men working at the Government operated uranium plant in Port Pirie went to the court for an award. I believe that men brought from Adelaide to work in Port Pirie had been told that they would receive a reasonable increase in their wages together with certain allowances for living in Port Pirie.

Mr. Quirke—That would be their due for working in Port Pirie.

Mr. DAVIS—It was for working in an industry of that nature, whether in Port Pirie or Clare. Those people were misled. They were told by Government officials that if they went to Port Pirie they would get increased salaries, but the court gave them very small increases. The court should seriously consider house rents because maintaining a home is vital to every married man. Some of these men who went to Port Pirie had been paying £2 5s. a week rent, but when they got to Port Pirie they were placed in houses built by the Government and had to pay £3 a week. Therefore, they, in effect, suffered a reduction of 15s. a week in their wages. It is generally accepted that living in the country is more expensive than living in the metropolitan area. Because the Arbitration Court does not recognise this the workers are losing faith in the arbitration system. I hope the Government will realize the injustices that have been imposed on workers in South Australia and have them rectified. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

Mr. HEATH (Walleroo)—In supporting the motion I associate myself with previous speakers in expressing loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen. I congratulate you, Sir, on your elevation to the Speaker's Chair, and feel confident that the dignity and decorum of this honourable House will not suffer during your term as Speaker. I take this opportunity of expressing the appreciation of electors in Wallaroo for the fine services that Sir Robert Nicholls rendered this State. I congratulate the member for Unley on his appointment as Chairman of Committees, and I pay my tribute to the memory of the late Hon. A. W. Christian and the late Mr. Don Michael.

I greatly appreciate the honour conferred on me by the electors of Wallaroo in granting me the privilege of being a member of this House supporting this Government which has done so much for the advancement and security of our State. The Governor's Speech was a resume of the achievements of the Government and also a summary of what it hoped to attain. This naturally gives one the opportunity of speaking on many subjects but I will confine my remarks to subjects of interest to the State generally and benefit to my electorate in particular. During the past few years there has been much discussion about the establishment of meat works in the Wallaroo electorate, but unfortunately the firm that was interested has decided to drop its proposals. However, it is gratifying to know that the Premier has asked Mr. Rice, of the Govern-

ment Produce Department, to investigate the position and see whether something can be done to establish an abattoirs in my electorate. If one could be established it would greatly assist the district.

I am pleased that the Commonwealth Government is taking a greater interest in the fishing industry, as indicated by the appointment of the Hon. William McMahon as Minister for Primary Industry, and that our fishing industry resources will be investigated. I am sure that the Government could do much to help the industry in my electorate, for a market could be found for all the fish caught off Wallaroo. In the last 12 months 57,000 tons of fish was exported from Australia and returned 5,000,000 dollars, and dollars are urgently required. The fishing industry is one of national importance. Fish is a commodity of great value to many of our institutions, for it has great nutritional value and many physicians prescribe it for invalids. I understand that during the past 12 months the Government has had surveys made of Spencer Gulf for the benefit of the fishing industry, but the provision of a boathaven in the Wallaroo electorate is a question of the greatest importance to fishermen there. This matter has been raised in this House over the past 40 years, but so far nothing has been accomplished, though I understand the Government is considering a line in this year's Estimates for a boathaven and the reconditioning of the old jetty at Wallaroo, known as Price's Jetty.

The Hon. Sir Malcolm McIntosh—There is a proposal before the Public Works Committee for such a scheme.

Mr. HEATH—I understand the scheme will be submitted to Parliament this session.

The Hon. Sir Malcolm McIntosh—We cannot do anything until the committee has furnished its report.

Mr. HEATH—I hope the report will soon be received and that something will be done in the interests of fishermen at Wallaroo and Moonta. During the past 12 months the fishing industry has returned £76,000 at Wallaroo and Moonta, which is a considerable sum. It is essential for the waterside workers in my electorate to have a pool of labour available for shipping, but this pool could not be maintained if the men did not supplement their income by part-time fishing. Ships do not call regularly at Wallaroo, and the Government must realize that many waterside workers there must carry on part-time fishing for their livelihood. A report by the Public

Works Committee on bulk handling of grain at Wallaroo was tabled today, but I will not say any more on this subject until the necessary Bill has been introduced.

I congratulate the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. G. G. Pearson, on his appointment. I am sure that he will carry out his duties ably because he is a practical farmer. I have already paid a tribute to the late Hon. A. W. Christian, who had a fine record as Minister of Agriculture, and I also pay one to the Hon. Sir George Jenkins, who held that portfolio for many years. He did a great deal for South Australia, and in 1937 it was my pleasure to tour New Zealand with him. He was a great ambassador for South Australia, and toured both islands to obtain as much information as he could that would be of assistance to his department and to the State. Our farmers have been growing many types of wheat, but unfortunately for South Australia they have grown more of the soft varieties, which do not help our f.a.q. standard, and the Department of Agriculture should carry out further scientific investigations into the values of various wheats. Seasonal conditions have a great effect on the protein yields of wheat, and some years ago the Insignia variety was frowned upon by the department and farmers were asked to stop growing it because it was poor in protein. However, this year this variety has improved. It still does not measure up to overseas protein requirements, but it has improved 15 per cent. Many farmers say that the hard wheats do not give as great a yield as the soft wheats, but they should be urged to grow hard wheats because if the market is flooded with soft varieties the price of the Australian commodity will fall.

The Roseworthy Agricultural College has done fine work in developing and breeding various types of wheat, but there is not sufficient control over the sale of seed wheat from that institution. Recently a farmer in my electorate obtained from the college a new seed wheat that had been evolved, and I was asked to inspect the bags. Unfortunately I found that the wheat was contaminated with three-cornered jacks, and this should not happen. Stricter supervision is essential in the sale of seed wheat. In the past the Education Department, in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, has conducted agricultural science classes at country high schools. When war broke out the agricultural science teacher at Kadina enlisted, and we have not had a replacement since. Agricultural scientists have

done much good work, and those who were taught at Kadina by Lieut-Col. McCarter have taken charge of the bureaux and are doing remarkable work. The unfortunate aspect is that children from farming areas who should be receiving agricultural instruction are unable to do so because there are no teachers to advise them. The Ministers of Education and Agriculture should confer and if the Department of Agriculture is unable to send competent officers to country schools to educate children in farm practice the Education Department should attempt to appoint agricultural science teachers to the schools.

Country roads are in a dilapidated condition. Most roads in the metropolitan area are bituminized, but country roads are constructed of rubble and contain many bad potholes. The Port Broughton-Alford-Kadina road carries some of the heaviest traffic in South Australia, but it is most difficult to drive a vehicle along it. The Highways Department should give more assistance to district councils. The department has assisted councils to purchase some machinery and made grants for road works, but the grants are insufficient to meet requirements, and councils are unable to purchase necessary and expensive machinery because they have no assurance of continuity of grants from the department. If councils were assured of payments over a five-year period they would be able to do so and proceed with essential work. Certain roads could also be bituminized. At the moment some councils have to enter farmers' paddocks and deface them in an attempt to obtain sufficient metal to maintain their roads. Rubble deposits by the road sides have been almost exhausted. I hope the Minister of Roads will do something to enable the bituminizing of the Port Broughton-Alford-Kadina road.

The Government hospital at Wallaroo is rendering wonderful service to the district. Last year the Government subsidized certain hospitals, but unfortunately community hospitals received no assistance. Many of these hospitals urgently require maintenance work. Various local organizations—women's and men's auxiliaries—raise finance for community hospitals and if the Government subsidized their efforts on a pound for pound basis it would greatly assist.

One of the most retrograde steps taken in South Australia, and one that retards the State's progress, is the limitations placed on road transport. In 1934, section 88(c) of the Road Traffic Act was passed limiting the carrying capacity of a vehicle to eight tons

per axle. Our roads were not constructed to carry the weight or to cope with the speed of modern road transport. In 1936 the Act was amended in respect of the speeds at which vehicles equipped with solid rubber tyres could be driven. In 1939 the limits were fixed as 20 miles an hour for a vehicle exceeding 11 tons, 25 miles an hour for one exceeding six tons but not exceeding 11, and 30 miles an hour for a vehicle exceeding three tons but not exceeding six. Those limits related to vehicles with trailers; those without trailers could travel an extra five miles an hour. In 1955 the Act was further amended and a vehicle with or without a trailer, weighing up to seven tons could be driven at 40 miles an hour, one between seven and 15 tons at 30 miles an hour and if over 15 tons at 25 miles an hour. Road hauliers are confused because although that was assented to on December 8, 1955, the Act has not yet been proclaimed. That rather leads me to believe that the Highways Department does not want it to be proclaimed. Speed limits should be increased by at least 10 miles an hour. Two-thirds of the transport vehicles on our roads would have to travel in second gear at 25 miles an hour. Most of them must be driven at 27 miles an hour before they can be taken out of second gear.

The development of this State depends on the efficiency of road transport. Unless commercial vehicles can be driven at suitable speeds they are too costly to run and if the Government limits their use it retards the State's progress and increases handling costs. Last year road transport carried 115,000 tons of wheat to the Ardrossan silo on behalf of the Australian Wheat Board. When a boat loads at Ardrossan it is only in port for two days and it is essential that the silo be loaded. If the Government insists on the present speed limits, the cost of loading the boats and handling the grain will be increased and that is detrimental to the farming community.

I was pleased to read in this morning's *Advertiser* the Minister of Education's announcement that he intended to utilize technical schools throughout the State for adult education. I think he has realized that with the advent of automation many adult people will be obliged to enter other avenues of employment with which, at present, they are unfamiliar and it will be essential for them to be adequately educated. The proposal will considerably aid the State's progress and I commend the Minister for it. I greatly appreciate my election to the Wallaroo district. I feel that it is an indication of the public's

appreciation of this Government's record during the last 18 years. No other State can compare with our progress. We have developed beyond all expectation and that must be attributed to the successful administration of affairs by the Playford Government. The Opposition has criticized certain aspects of the Government's policy, but the Government cannot do everything it desires, but must do what it believes will confer the greatest benefit on the greatest number. The Government has provided a wonderful housing programme. In my electorate 105 homes have been built for workers. While I am a member of this House it will be my earnest endeavour to assist the Government in its administration of the State's affairs and to do everything I can for my electorate. I thank the staff for the way they received me and I express pleasure to all members at being associated with them and trust that the friendly atmosphere I have encountered will continue.

Mr. CORCORAN (Millicent)—I support the motion and, like other members, congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your appointment to such a high and important office. I have no doubts at all about your ability to carry out the duties as ably as your illustrious predecessor, Sir Robert Nicholls. You are endowed with the necessary qualifications. By my behaviour I shall assist you at all times. I congratulate Mr. Dunnage on his appointment as Chairman of Committees. He will have no easy task, but I feel that this session Opposition members will not cause him any concern. I pay my respects to the families of the late Mr. Christian and the late Mr. Michael. I had a great regard for these two gentlemen and their passing left us with vacancies not easy to fill. They both served their country in peace and war and I pay a tribute to their memories. I congratulate Mr. Pearson on his appointment as Minister of Agriculture. He has the necessary background for the position. He has had much practical experience, and there is nothing better to enable the many responsibilities of the office to be carried out successfully. We hope that during his term everything will go well with the Department of Agriculture. I compliment Mr. Bywaters and Mr. Loveday on their election to Parliament.

I commend the mover and seconder of the motion for their splendid contributions to this debate. I point out to them that the Opposition side of the House has always been on top in debating matters, but the new Government members who have spoken have shown that they will add to the debating strength of this

place, although they will not have an easy row to hoe when it comes to debating with members on this side the Bills introduced by the Government. I am delighted to be in this House once again. There was a period when I did not know how things would go. I have been in and out of this place several times and I did not build up any great hopes about the result of the election. No-one can charge me with being conceited about my ability, but I do congratulate the people of my district for returning me.

Millicent was first surveyed in 1871 and the district got its name from Millicent Short, the daughter of the first Anglican Bishop of Adelaide. She first settled in Millicent in 1846, 10 years after South Australia established a Parliament. When history is written in the far distant future the writer will wonder who was the first member for Millicent in the South Australian Parliament and he will be told that it was Jim Corcoran, the man from Tiger Town. The district of Millicent now includes a large portion of the previous Mount Gambier district. Prior to the readjustment of boundaries there were about 20,000 electors in that part of the State and the commission realized the difficulty by giving them an extra member. The South-East now has three members in this House and each of us has a big job ahead. I do not envy the new member for Victoria his task. More developmental work is taking place in his area than in any other part of the State. I have many good friends there and from many of them I received telegrams congratulating me on my work. I believe they have passed on their opinions regarding my ability to the districts I now represent because I have already been commended by people there for what I did in the Victoria district.

Included in my new electorate, which covers a distance of about 120 miles, are many fishing centres—Kingston, Robe, Beachport, Southend, Carpenters Rock and Port McDonnell. With the exception of the last two, which I have not represented previously, the Government knows what the fishermen require. There have been constant representations for increased amenities, but the fishermen are still waiting. I heard Mr. Heath urge the Government to consider the preservation of the Wallaroo jetty. The Kingston people want their jetty up to the second landing portion to be put in a state of good repair. When I see money being spent elsewhere I feel that I would be failing in my duty if I did not press for money to be spent on the Kingston jetty. I am not concerned about

the view of the Harbors Board on the matter. We now have a new Parliament and we should have a new outlook on things. The position at Beachport and Robe has improved but there is room for further improvement. I have not heard from Robe recently so I assume that things are going along as planned. Recently I asked the Premier for information on the result of the visit to the district by Mr. Moorhouse and he told me the representations by the Beachport fishermen were still under consideration. When finality is reached I hope the decision will be in their favour and that a slipway, which has been advocated for a long time, will soon become an established fact. The following is an extract from the *South Eastern Times* of May 18 under the heading "Beachport Slipway and 'Unanimity'":—

On the subject, Minister of Local Government (Mr. N. L. Jude) wrote to the council that he had consulted his new colleague the Hon. G. G. Pearson, Minister of Agriculture. Following the Premier's statement that a special allocation would be made for boat havens a comprehensive report was being prepared for the whole of the State, including Eyre Peninsula. Actually, construction could not begin until Parliament had approved the Loan Estimates, but preparatory work was being actively done. A decision regarding Beachport would be sent at the earliest possible moment.

So far as I know, the representations to the Premier did not deal with a boat haven. A slipway is urgently needed, and in that regard I cannot see there is need for unanimity because it is already there. The report also said:—

Continuing Mr. Jude said, "One point with which the Minister of Agriculture is concerned is the apparent lack of unanimity specifically between the fishermen of Robe and Beachport as to where the facilities should be provided." With reduced finance it was possible that full facilities could not be provided at each port for the present and where the facilities should it was very desirable for Beachport and Robe fishermen to present a united view, if possible. Mr. Jude concluded. "I would be grateful if you would make a point of airing this matter generally within the district and at Robe."

There is no need to air it because the Robe and Beachport people know what this means and it is no good trying to sidetrack them on to something they have not asked for. Where is the necessity for unanimity? The Minister of Marine has said that because of the inadequacy of funds a slipway cannot be constructed at Beachport, but there is no real argument against it. Fishermen frequently have to sail around to Robe merely to clear some propellor

obstruction and that trip may cost them three or four hours' delay in weather favourable to fishing. Before the recent elections the Labor Party said that on its election to office Beachport would have a slipway within 12 months, and I trust that now a Liberal Government has been returned the Premier will show his appreciation and do something in this matter. The report continues:—

On the question of a boathaven at Southend, Mr. Jude pointed out that he must be satisfied that access roadwork would substantially benefit Beachport Council.

The Premier was on his way to inspect the Southend area, but was recalled to Adelaide because of the death of Mr. Arthur Christian. I remained on board the tug *Tancred* which took soundings in the locality that was considered the correct site. We went back and viewed from the deck of the *Tancred* the site suggested by a deputation I introduced to the General Manager of the Harbors Board (Mr. Meyer). Before the Premier was recalled from Robe he authorized the Harbors Board officers on board to inspect the Southend locality and report to the Government. Can the Premier say whether that report has been forwarded and, if so, what are its contents? On that trip we viewed the site for a jetty and the General Manager of the Harbors Board said he would send an officer to inspect and report on a certain site, which led me to think there were bright prospects for a jetty for the Southend fishermen. A casual glance at the Port Macdonnell jetty reveals that it is in a bad state of repair and, although I do not wish to incite the Port Macdonnell people to do anything they should not do, I expect that some representations on the subject will soon be made.

The South-East has a great potential, but money and labour must be used to exploit it, and drainage, roads and railways must be provided. Much money has already been spent on drainage facilities, but vast areas still remain to be drained. Some landholders have suffered because of the effects of drainage that has benefited their neighbours and such troubles should be eliminated. One railway runs from Wolseley to Mount Gambier, another from Mount Gambier to Millicent and Beachport, and another, which is under reconstruction, from Naracorte to Kingston. These railway facilities are not adequate for the area and more roads or railways must be provided. A railway from Millicent through Lucindale to Keith has often been mentioned in this House and I have been told that the Government was considering it, yet nothing

has been done. I support the remarks of the member for Murray (Mr. Bywaters) about decentralization and I was sorry to see the establishment of the new satellite town at Elizabeth, because I considered it should have been located on the banks of the River Murray. The South-East provides the means of easing congestion in the metropolitan area where 62 per cent of the people now live.

The remedy of many developmental problems now facing the State is decentralization and the full use of our land resources. The South-East still contains vast estates held by one or two people and although in some cases they are being used to a reasonable extent, in the main they are still producing less than what would be produced if the Government took them over and threw them open for closer settlement, as has been done in Moorak and Glencoe. I realize, of course, that the Moorak Estate had a high production, when it was held by Colonel Percy Brown and that Mount Schank was well developed by Mr. W. T. Clarke. Such men played their part in the early days and we respect their memory, for they were the pioneers who took up their land when conditions were much less favourable than they are today. I have nothing against the present occupants of the big estates, but the Government should eliminate sentiment and have regard only to the future welfare of the State. How is the problem of decentralization to be solved if land resources are not exploited? About 400 ex-servicemen are still waiting for non-irrigable blocks and a considerable number for irrigable blocks, and although, generally speaking, the soldier settlement scheme has been successful, not enough men have been settled.

We have waited for a long time for those owning these big estates to do something with them, and if they continue to refuse to recognize the future interests of this State and by their selfish attitude to restrict production, on them will rest a grave responsibility. They hold the future of the country in their hands, and if they do not achieve full production we will not be privileged to hold this country for somebody else will take it and develop it. Last session the Opposition introduced legislation, but none of it was accepted by the Government. I have the welfare of this country at heart, and I know where we are heading. We know the experience of other countries that did not carry out an adequate policy of decentralization. We must be fearless and take all steps necessary to use our land to the best advantage. We



should say to those who hold the land "If you will not yield to Government persuasion and hand over all land that you do not use to the best advantage it will be taken over by the State." Of course, we should not rob people of their land but take it over at a fair price. We must push on with land development, and then we could establish industries in the country in keeping with the production of the area. When I travel the road from Beachport to Robe I see vast areas used for no purpose other than to dispose of the flood waters from around Kalangadoo, Robe and Kingston. I do not know whether that vast area could be drained and brought into production.

Mr. Quirke—It could be done.

Mr. CORCORAN—There are many lakes in that district, such as Lake George, Lake Clare, Lake Eliza and Lake Robe. I think that hundreds of thousands of acres could be drained and settled. Drainage should not be a great problem because the sea is not far away. The land may be as fertile as the Murray Valley, and I want to know whether the Government has any scheme to drain and bring the area into production. The rainfall is adequate and much of the surrounding country is being worked most successfully. The Eight Mile Creek soldier settlement has been giving me much worry. I do not say that the Minister or the Lands Department has not done anything to assist settlers there, but I am convinced there is something wrong with that scheme. I told the settlers before the State election that if I was returned to Parliament I would discuss their problems with them. I am not stupid enough to imagine that every land settlement scheme will be one hundred per cent successful but of the 16 settlers placed on the Port Macdonnell side of Eight Mile Creek eight have left. I do not say that they were pushed off by the department, but it seems to me that the Eight Mile Creek settlement was a boom place. It was boomed from the start, for the department expected it to produce far more than it has so far. It may come up to expectations in 20 years, but mistakes have been made. I am not blaming anyone for those mistakes, but the Government should not ask the returned soldier settlers of Eight Mile Creek to bear the burden. If it is established that these holdings are still in the experimental stage the Government should act accordingly and assist the settlers.

Mr. Hutchens—The settlers should not be the guinea pigs.

Mr. CORCORAN—I agree, but I do not imply that the Minister thinks they should be the guinea pigs. My idea is that we could

get a more impartial and realistic approach to the problem if the Government appointed an independent committee with all the powers of a Royal Commission to investigate every holding there. I believe that every holding has its own peculiar problems. An independent committee would probably be more impartial than a committee from the Lands Department, which had great hopes for Eight Mile Creek, and might try to justify its expectations of it. A committee may find it is not possible to improve on what has been done for the settlers, but such a committee should be appointed to satisfy the settlers and see what should be done to help them. However, the Government said that a committee could serve no useful purpose. There is still a vacant block in that settlement, and I think that if the land will do all the Lands Department claims it can do the department should set up an experimental block. As things are, the soldier settler is more or less the medium whereby the department tries experiments. I do not think the holdings can be profitably depastured during the wet winter period because that destroys much of the growth. The land becomes boggy in the winter, and if there were sufficient dry areas the settlers could take their stock off their holdings in the wet periods. They cannot do that now because they have not sufficient dry areas.

Mr. Quirke—Could the water table be lowered another foot?

Mr. CORCORAN—I do not know, but I want to know whether the land can be effectively drained. The drainage problem is not easy to solve because the drainage must be controlled in the summer, otherwise the peat land becomes dry on top. It must have a certain amount of moisture in the summer. I do not agree with the clearing of the scrub land on some of the holdings. The Government offered to assist the settlers by advancing them money, but that would not be wise. It would be more economical for the Government to use its own equipment on such work. If the suggestions I have put forward do not contain any logic the Government should tell me where I am wrong. I am not asking for anything for the settlers to which they are not entitled. They are not entitled to something for nothing, and they do not expect it; they only want justice. I have met these men and believe that they are fine types of settlers. I found a great deal of public sympathy for them, and where you find public sympathy there is generally good reason for it. A few people have said hard and cruel things about the settlers, but I do not think they would say

them publicly. The settlers' houses are exposed to the strong south-west winds that blow off the ocean, but no trees have been planted for protection. We must not dwell too long on what has not been done for the settlers, but should do all we can to assist them.

I hope the department will approach the problem of the settlers of Eight Mile Creek realistically and establish an experimental block there to see what can be done for them. I have asked them what grass they cut, but I was told they do not cut grass because it cannot be done. The land becomes very boggy during the winter and it is impossible to put a machine in to cut grass. As a result, they have to buy feed elsewhere. I have been told that officers of the Lands Department visited the settlers with a view to helping them overcome their problems and that the settlers refused to give them details of their financial position. When I told the settlers of this they replied they were not impressed with the necessity of stating their financial position. I am not attempting to harass the Government, but bring this matter forward to satisfy my own conscience and to give effect to the promises I made these people. I told the settlers that if they had exaggerated the position that would soon be proved, but that if they had something to fight for and were unjustly treated they would be neglecting their obligations to their wives and children if they did not fight. I remember when this area was considered for subdivisational purposes. High hopes were expressed for its future. At that time I thought that a man getting a block at Eight Mile Creek was lucky, but I do not think so today. If I were a young man and had the opportunity of settling there I would refuse it. Some settlers may be doing reasonably well but they have larger drier areas. If the Lands Department has made a mistake it should admit it. Let the department say that it over-estimated the carrying capacity of the land and admit that it thought the land could be grazed in the winter as well as in the summer. I have had some experience in working ti-tree land where there have been bogs. I have driven cows home to be milked and have spent more time on washing their udders than in milking them.

I realize that the Lands Department has to secure its pound of flesh, but I am told that many of the settlers have given procuration orders to the Lands Department to collect their milk cheques in order that they may pay their debts. That is not right! A man should be satisfied, before everything else,

that the needs of his wife and children are catered for. The member for Mount Gambier knows more about this problem than I and has been an ardent fighter for these people for years, but the problem has not been overcome. I hope I have not exaggerated the position. I do not doubt that in 20 or 30 years' time Eight Mile Creek will be regarded as one of the best centres in that area, but I am concerned with what happens in the intervening period. Are we to persecute and crucify the men there? I hope the Government will treat this problem with the seriousness it deserves and attempt to solve it. When this land was first under consideration the Leader of the Opposition suggested that a house should be only built on every second holding. His advice should have been heeded. I think that in certain cases the holdings will have to be increased and some settlers will be asked to leave. If that happens they should not be expected to leave until they are allocated another place. There are two large estates nearby where a man, if given 300 acres, would never look back. I will not mention those estates by name, but the Minister of Lands knows the land to which I am referring. The settlers at Mount Schank and Coola are doing well, but when the settlers of Eight Mile Creek see the conditions they enjoy and gain some realization of the rewards they are getting, they find it hard to reconcile their position.

I, too, congratulate the Minister of Education on his proposal in respect of adult education. I was browsing through the 1947 *Hansard* recently and was impressed with the remarks of Sir Shirley (then the Hon. S. W.) Jeffries on the Education Act Amendment Bill. He said:—

Years ago a British Educational Code was drawn up setting out a number of matters which affected education in the British Isles and at the commencement of the code they set out what they believed to be the objects of education. It was put very plainly and briefly that the objects of education were, first, to strengthen character, and secondly, to develop the intelligence. I suggest that it was not a haphazard way in which they arrived at those objectives or the order in which they put them. The first objective of education is to strengthen character and the second to develop intelligence, and if the first is missing the second can become a menace.

Somebody has well said that the mind of a child is wax to receive, but marble to retain. I think that fact is recognized by many organizations in existence today, including some very unworthy ones. I refer to the Communist organizations which are doing all they can to get the child mind influenced at an early age, so that when the child grows

to manhood or womanhood he or she will be imbued and completely captured by the aims and objects of the Communist Party to the undoing and danger of the community at large. Other organizations have the same object in view for very worthy ends, and I suggest we should note this fact very carefully in dealing with educational matters. I suggest, too, that it might be an aftermath of the war or it might not be, but the war has laid emphasis on it, that there is a new paganism abroad in the world today, a paganism which is encouraged by and which feeds on the wave of materialism sweeping over the whole world. There is only one movement which can counter Communism—which is entirely, absolutely, and completely materialistic—and that is the movement of religion.

In respect of private schools the member for Light, Mr. Hambour, said:—

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.

I wholeheartedly agree with that. The State should assist private educational institutions. In the 1954 report of the Minister of Education some interesting figures concerning private schools were detailed. It is obvious that private schools must ease the position of the Education Department and relieve it of providing additional accommodation to cater for those attending private schools. I remind the Government that private schools are maintained by a section of the community which is also required to contribute to the general taxation from which funds are obtained for our State education system. In 1953, there were 95 private schools in the metropolitan area and 56 in the country. The gross number of children receiving instruction was 16,893 in the metropolitan area, and 4,283 in the country. The number attending more than one school was 1,049 in the metropolitan area and 269 in the country. The net number of children instructed was 15,844 in the metropolitan area and 4,014 in the country. In 1954 the net numbers were 16,579 and 4,380 respectively. Those figures convey some indication of the relief that is afforded to the

State Government by virtue of the operation of private schools. The practice of giving assistance to private schools is not unprecedented and the Government should seriously consider assisting these institutions which play such an important part in educating the minds of children and fitting them for their place in the national life.

I hope I have not wearied members, but I have attempted to refer to matters which I considered of vital urgency. I hope that the State will be blessed with good seasons, for without them we cannot get far. Unless seasonal conditions are kind and favourable we shall not achieve much. I hope all members will work together harmoniously in the best interests of the State. I thank all Minister for what they have done for me and my district, although on many occasions I have been a pest to them. I hope I shall be able to lend my little bit of wisdom to the consideration of legislative matters. I shall support any move for long service leave, the re-introduction of cost of living adjustments, improved conditions for old-age pensioners, and better workmen's compensation. I hope there will be more concentration on housing in country districts.

Mr. FLETCHER (Mount Gambier)—Mr. Speaker, I congratulate you on your appointment to such an important office and feel sure that at all times you will fill the position as ably as your predecessor, Sir Robert Nicholls. I congratulate Mr. Dunnage on his appointment as Chairman of Committees. He was an able member of the Public Works Committee. I have previously referred to the passing of Mr. Christian and Mr. Michael and there is no need to say more today. Mr. Pearson will make a worthy Minister of Agriculture. He has a wonderful agricultural background and, in gaining it, has had to be a keen student and hard worker. There is plenty for him to do as Minister. I commend the mover and seconder of the motion for their splendid efforts. I have been a member for 18 years and cannot remember a time when the new members have added so much to our debating strength. Each new member who has spoken has given us something to think about, and I look forward to further splendid speeches from them. I am proud that I was returned to this place with a majority greater than ever before. Without patting myself on the back, it seems that my efforts have satisfied the electors and I thank them for their faith in me.

I shall refer to the members of the last Parliament who fell by the wayside at the last

election. First I mention Mr. Macgillivray, the former member for Chaffey. He always was a fearless debater and always advocated the rights of individuals. When the two big Parties put their heads together things must happen and it is a pity that on this occasion it resulted in the defeat of Mr. Macgillivray. When the strong get together in a huddle the weak must suffer. I point out that last session the Independents supported 15 divisions sought by the Labor Party. Mr. Coreoran referred to legislation that he hoped would be introduced. Much of it has been introduced in the past and regularly supported by the Independents. During the election campaign at Mount Gambier Mr. O'Halloran gave the Independents credit for supporting many of the reforms introduced by the Labor Party. Afforestation in the South-East is a growing industry. If it is not our largest industry at present, it soon will be. We have fine sawmills at Mount Burr and Nangwarry and are now constructing at Mount Gambier a mill which is claimed will be the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. I have been told that the rebuilt mill at Nangwarry has never produced as much timber as is should because of the shortage of manpower. We are building a larger mill at Mount Gambier, but where are we to get the necessary manpower? Private enterprise is also increasing the output from its mills. What is the Government's view in connection with manpower? It is a matter to be considered seriously.

Closely connected with afforestation is the subject of housing in the South-East. I understand that at Nangwarry and Mount Burr homes have been provided by the Woods and Forests Department whereas at Mount Gambier the Housing Trust provides homes for forestry employees. The position in the town is serious because as the mill nears completion there is a greater demand for homes and this is having an effect on the supply of trust homes generally. In this respect applicants of long standing, including key men in the milling industry and the Electricity Trust, are affected. A man is taken on at the new mill and granted a trust home; he may remain for a month or two and then leave the mill for other employment in the town, yet he still retains his home.

Mr. Riches—What's wrong with that?

Mr. FLETCHER—What is right with it? If he goes to Mount Gambier as an employee at the Government mill and gets a house because of that, in fairness to the Government he should vacate the house if he leaves the Government service.

Mr. Riches—Do you think that no one working for private enterprise should get a trust home?

Mr. FLETCHER—No, but a Government employee may get a home and then immediately transfer to private enterprise. All South Australians are proud of the achievements of the Housing Trust and of the work done by most occupiers of rental homes in laying out gardens, but recently I saw some trust homes where gardens and yards were in a worse condition than they were in when the homes were first occupied. Although I do not say the houses let departmentally are any more neglected than those let to private individuals, I maintain that in fairness to the trust and its policy, which has been endorsed by Parliament, a tenant who has not treated his home as he was asked to do should be evicted. I have nothing but admiration for the way in which the trust is doing its job, which is big and often thankless. In Mount Gambier it has built more than 500 homes and a fortnight ago had a waiting list of 250 private applicants. This indicates the big demand for the homes. The rental of trust homes is too high in many cases for the average worker on his present wage and I have been told by a high official of the trust that any increase in the rate of interest under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement would result in an increase in rentals of between 7s. 6d. and 10s. a week. I hope that imposition will be avoided because it would make the rent uneconomical for the average worker.

The member for Millicent (Mr. Coreoran) does not seem happy about the Eight Mile Creek settlement, and I support him in this matter. He spoke both ably and forcibly on this subject this afternoon and everything he said was true. This settlement was a headache to me and it will be a headache for the member whose district now includes this area. Promises have been made from time to time but they have never been honoured. The time will come when the area will be looked on as one of the best agricultural districts in the State. The honourable member suggested the inauguration of experimental work there, which I have advocated for years. Men have left the area because of the difficulties they have encountered; they were not inferior to the men who were allocated land at Mount Schank, Pareen and other dry areas in the South-East. The simple fact is that the Eight Mile Creek area has not stood up to production as it was expected to; it has been only partially developed and some of its problems will take

years to solve. I trust the department will pay more attention to this district than it has in the past. I have been disappointed at the lack of success attendant on my efforts in this matter. I have heard the Minister and departmental officers say what would be done, but nothing has been done yet. Some men, after spending the best years of their lives on the blocks, are leaving broken hearted. I trust that surveys and soil tests will be made in an effort to determine why milk cannot be produced on some of the blocks, because although the feed is there and one would think the area ideal, some deficiency still exists. Although I now have only four ex-service settlers left in my new district, I support the honourable member in his remarks about the Eight Mile Creek area.

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

Mr. FLETCHER—Recent high tides banked up the water in Eight Mile Creek and flooded the drains, and until the tide subsided settlers were more or less flooded out. When Nature gets loose and shows her fury, the human element can do very little about it.

Much fear has been aroused in Great Britain by the introduction of automation, but I consider it is something which has been approaching for as long as I can remember. We in Australia need not have the same fear, and I am at a loss to understand why that fear should exist. As the world progresses, so does science, and with all our automatic set-up, we are still short of skilled men. I do not fear that automation will eventually be the downfall of the human race, but will mean progress; the more progress made, the greater the number of men employed.

We are continually being advised, by those who know, of the benefits of the tourist traffic. I have the honour to represent one of the most popular tourist districts in the State, and consider that the new saw mill at Mount Gambier will be a tremendous attraction, because no doubt people from all over the Commonwealth will go down there to see it. Nearby is what is known as the Umpherston Caves. It is a real beauty spot and well worthy of a visit. The old homestead adjoining has some of the rarest and most beautiful trees and shrubs to be found anywhere in the State, if not in the Commonwealth. I understand it is owned by the Woods and Forests Department. I would recommend to the Government that it protect the caves and if possible renovate the homestead. I am sure that the double attraction of the milling industry and the caves, with the old homestead, would

be a great tourist attraction, with consequent benefit to the town and district. The old homestead should be set aside as a chalet for the convenience of members of the Forestry Board, Government committees and Ministers, because at times it is difficult to get accommodation in Mount Gambier. Victoria has such a chalet, known as the O'Shaughnessy Lodge, at the headwaters of the Yarra. It has been built for the convenience of committees and commissions. With other members of the Public Works Standing Committee I have stayed there. Such a chalet would be of tremendous value to South Australia, and I commend the project to the Government, more particularly to our new Minister of Agriculture, who is also Minister of Forests.

Only a few weeks ago an old folk's home was opened at Mount Gambier. It will fill a long felt want. It has been established as the result of the generosity and energy of Mr. A. F. Sutton, the sponsor of the scheme. Twelve old people of both sexes are already housed there. The appeal for financial assistance was outstanding, and the home is an indication of what can be done in any centre where the residents pull together in aid of something to help the old pioneers, who have borne the heat and burden of the day and now require a little attention. I commend the Government for its generous support of this institution. It is not nearly big enough and I understand that tenders are being called to enlarge it. It is confidently felt that the income will be sufficient to support the institution. I support the motion.

Mr. BOCKELBERG (Eyre)—I join with previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, on your appointment to your important office, which I have no doubt you will fill with dignity. I also congratulate the member for Unley on his appointment as Chairman of Committees and the member for Flinders on his selection as a Minister. I also pay a tribute to the mover and the seconder of the motion. Other speakers have already referred to the prosperity of the State. I commend the Government, which over the last two decades has been responsible for the healthy economic state of South Australia. This no doubt has been brought about by good Government and by the constructive criticism of the Opposition.

I was pleased to hear Mr. Laucke in his speech refer to the various types of wheat required for the milling industry, and as I am a practical farmer I can tell him that farmers have been giving this matter every consideration. They realize they must grow good milling quality of wheat, but when a grower has

been getting good returns from other kinds of wheat it is difficult to switch over in one or two seasons. In my district there is a very up-to-date Government seed wheat farm, and farmers receive much advice and encouragement from its officials as to the milling qualities of wheat. However, to date farmers have not been instructed to stop growing such wheats as *Insignia*, but I think most young farmers realize it is a very poor milling quality wheat. During the last few years the yield in most districts has increased considerably. Governments are now worried about finding markets for our products, but instead of looking to our old markets we should look to markets nearer home. A credit system should be evolved to finance people who wish to buy our products. It is understandable that the man who grows the wheat is not in a position to stand credit or wait too long for payment. During the last few years soil fertility has been increased, enabling us to carry many sheep where previously only small flocks were carried. In the electorate of Eyre the total output of nine counties in 1952-1953 was about 6,750,000 bushels of wheat, 2,500,000 bushels of barley, almost 2,000,000 bushels of oats, and 15,000,000 lb. of wool shorn from 1,500,000 sheep.

My point is that that enormous quantity was produced in the electorate of Eyre, and sometimes I think that some members connect Eyre with that well-known song "Far Away Places." My electorate starts halfway between Cowell and Whyalla and continues westward to the West Australian border. The Eyre Highway, named after an eminent surveyor of the early days of this State, runs through that country. I do not wish to offend the members of any previous Government, but I believe the Eyre Highway to be one of the worst I have seen in the world. I travelled extensively last year and saw only one worse road, that between Ekebart and Cape Helles on Gallipoli. In view of the production of central and upper Eyre Peninsula I believe my district should be given greater consideration for the maintenance of roads. We often see heavy transports carrying loads from the eastern States through our territory into Western Australia. They may remain there for a day or two and then return with other heavy loads. We are expected to pay council rates to keep our roads in good repair, but they are destroyed by these heavily loaded vehicles.

Once a year contestants in the Redex trial travel the Eyre Highway, usually about July, in

the wettest part of the year. After they have been through we dare not use the road for days. I have heard some members opposite complain about the Marion road. I live in the southwestern suburbs now, and I say that if we had the Marion road in central Eyre Peninsula we would consider we had another Anzac Highway there. There are a few potholes on Marion road, but we have potholes all along the Eyre Highway.

For a number of years there has been a drift from the country to the city, but much of this is the result of little consideration being given to young men on the land. We have provided most of our own amenities. After a storm some time ago there was a great hue and cry in the city for the Government to re-build the foreshore at Glenelg, but if our golf links or tennis courts were washed away we would repair them ourselves, not cry to the Government. The lack of amenities in the country has accounted for many young men leaving the country and going to the city, and we can't blame them.

I commend the Minister of Education for the standard of education provided in the district of Eyre. During the last few years this standard has improved considerably, but there are still some problems about the transport of school children. These problems are not understood by many city members because they have trams and trains passing their doors. If a small country school is closed the children have to attend a consolidated school and must be transported. It is sometimes a problem to get drivers and transports, but the Minister is doing everything he can to provide transport. I also commend the Minister responsible for our hospitals. The hospitals in my electorate have received generous consideration from the Government in the past few years.

The general problem of transport on Eyre Peninsula is causing some concern. If a carrier wishes to bring livestock to the mainland he has to get written permission from the Transport Control Board. During the summer he may be allowed to transport to the city, but during the winter he must stop at Port Pirie. Why, I do not know. I have recently tried to get permission for a carrier to bring over a number of pigs and calves and make up his load with fat lambs, but I was unsuccessful. If people are to prosper and remain in the country we must allow unrestricted transport between the city and outlying areas, and as long as I am here I will do my best to see they get it.

I pay a tribute to my predecessor, the late Hon. A. W. Christian. For many years he was a close neighbour and friend of mine, and the electors of Eyre were grieved to hear of his death. I hope that I shall be able to serve the district capably and emulate Mr. Christian's example in this House. I thank the staff of the House for the courteous manner in which I was received when I came here, practically as a stranger; they have given me every assistance. I also thank members on both sides of the House for the kindly manner in which they received me. I support the motion.

Mr. LAWN (Adelaide)—I oppose the motion. There are three paragraphs in the draft Address in Reply. I have no complaint about the second and third, but the first states:—

We, the members of the House of Assembly, express our thanks for the speech with which Your Excellency was pleased to open Parliament.

I have hardly the words with which to express what I think of that document. The Government has wasted the taxpayer's money in bringing printers from England to print it. During past sessions I have not heard such a puerile, purposeless, or pathetic Speech.

Mr. Quirke—Who put the Government in office?

Mr. LAWN—I will have more to say about that later, but the Governor's Speech, of course, was prepared by Premier Playford. I have not heard one member on the Government side mention any of the items contained in His Excellency's Speech. Every Government member who has spoken supported the motion, but by doing so they were supporting the first item of the draft Address in Reply. The members for Light, Chaffey and Eyre were most critical about the Government's activities, which made me have a look at the Premier's policy speech that he delivered prior to the elections. He said that South Australia has reached the stage when great benefit was apparent from the developments his Government had inaugurated, but that even greater benefits could be achieved. He also said that we must not rest on past achievements, but go forward, yet Government supporters have been saying they have bad roads in their districts and cannot find markets for their products. If I were Premier and my supporters said that my ears would be burning. If the Premier did not blush he should have.

Since last session there have been two elections—a Federal and a State election. As a result of the *de facto* marriage between the Liberal Party and the Country Party,

just prior to the Federal election birth was given to an illegitimate child—the Liberal Anti-Communist Party. The Liberal and Country Party would not admit paternity and they christened it the Labor Anti-Communist Party. Through the agency of various firms the L.C.L. made donations to that Party whose sole object in South Australia was to ensure the return of Senator Nancy Buttfield. I do not know how much financial assistance was made available to that Party by the L.C.L., but it would run into some thousands.

Mr. Heaslip—How many?

Mr. LAWN—I just said I do not know the full amount.

Mr. Heaslip—You must know some of the amounts.

Mr. LAWN—I do, and I know some of the firms it was paid through. To some extent this new Party was cast aside by the Liberal Party after it had achieved its purpose, but the L.C.L. did not object to its contesting the State elections. However, by this time, that Party was able to obtain finance from the McCarthy-ists of America as did its counterparts in other States. It is well-known that the Party in Victoria not only received financial assistance from the Liberal Party, but also from McCarthy-ists in America. Some members of Parliament have even admitted making donations to that Party. I remember that when a past Victorian Government attempted to enact legislation the Minister in charge of the Bill resigned during its passage through Parliament claiming that pressure had been brought to bear by the so-called Anti-Communists. He said he was instructed to have this Bill passed to enable land to be made available for the settlement of certain migrants. It is interesting to note that in paragraph 12 of His Excellency's Speech the following appears:—

The Government is giving careful attention to the problem of extending closer settlement on Crown lands and other areas which are at present not fully productive. Extensive investigations are being made and already 17,000 acres on southern Yorke Peninsula have been offered for application and 15,000 acres on Eyre Peninsula. Much larger areas in the Upper South-East will be offered when the investigations are complete.

I hope this Government is not making an agreement with the Anti-Communists similar to that made by the Victorian Government. However, it could be part of the price for the alliance formed last year.

During the last Federal elections I was on duty at the Adelaide Town Hall handing out

‘How-to-Vote’ cards. The Assistant Returning Officer has made quite clear to canvassers the distance they must remain away from the Town Hall, and whether it is 100deg. in the shade or whether it is raining the canvassers of the Liberal, Communist and Labor Parties keep beyond the boundary. However, on this particular occasion a lady canvasser for the Anti-Communist Party not only went within the prescribed boundary, but entered the Town Hall and handed out cards. When she did that one of my colleagues said, ‘If it is good enough for her, it is good enough for us,’ and went inside. When the Assistant Returning Officer ordered them away the lady refused to move. That happened in the morning and in the afternoon the Assistant Returning Officer made a similar request. The lady again refused and the officer then got a policeman to remove her. Why do Assistant Returning Officers accept defiance from anyone, no matter what Party they represent? If canvassers hand out cards within the prohibited area action should be taken against them. Electoral officers should be instructed to enforce the law.

During the election campaign the Premier, as usual, made many promises about which no mention is made in the Governor’s Speech. I noted some of the Premier’s promises in his policy speech. I do not claim to have noted them all because one would not be in the race to keep up with them. He promised deep-sea ports, fishing havens, bridges, and everything else. For many years the member for Ridley and the ex-member for Chaffey have advocated the provision of a bridge across the Murray at Blanchetown, but neither the Premier nor the Minister of Works would have anything to do with such a proposal. However, during the election campaign, in the hope that Mr. King would be returned, the Premier promised such a bridge. The Premier also promised that the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline would be duplicated in the £30,000,000 water supply programme and that country sewerage would be proceeded with. There was no mention of those items in the Governor’s Speech. No doubt when the Government faces the electors again similar promises will be made. I can remember the Premier coming to Gawler in 1951 in connection with a by-election campaign and he promised the district a swimming pool and sewerage as well as other things. Indeed, about the only thing that he did not promise Gawler was a deep-sea port.

In his policy speech the Premier promised roadworks costing £20,000,000 during the next three years and referred to important proposals for improving the metropolitan sewerage works which were before the Public Works Committee. I do not know how long that project has been before that Committee or how long it will be, but there is no mention of it in His Excellency’s Speech. The Premier also said that £4,000,000 was to be spent on bridge reconstruction, that the beef cattle industry would be extended and that there would be a campaign to improve the quality of barley. There is mention of improving the quality of barley in His Excellency’s Speech, but there is no reference to the beef cattle industry. He said that the output of our forests would be trebled and he referred to the supply of electricity to the country. Members opposite have commended the Government for making electricity available to the country, but I remind them that the Government is merely giving effect to Labor’s policy. These things have been advocated by the Labor Party for many years. We believe they should be worked in the interests of the people. I hope the new Government members will help the Opposition to retain the uranium project for the State and not hand it over to private enterprise. We all remember that years ago most of our iron ore deposits were handed over to the Broken Hill Pty. Company. In his policy speech the Premier also referred to a new Royal Adelaide Hospital casualty building for over 200 patients to cost £1,000,000. That matter has been before the Public Works Committee. How can the Government promise these things when it knows that the projects are subject to inquiry by the committee and cannot be proceeded with unless recommended? At times the Premier has hidden behind the fact that projects have been reported on unfavourably by the committee. Despite all this, he continues to put forward various projects. How often has he suggested a deep-sea port for the South-East? He flatly rejected a suggestion by Mr. Corcoran for a site for a deep-sea port, and then went to the South-East on a Harbors Board boat to investigate a plan that had been previously turned down by the Public Works Committee. In his policy speech he also said that a women’s hospital would be included in a new £600,000 radiotherapy department building, that an additional wing would be built at the dental hospital costing £330,000, and that houses would be built by the Housing Trust on owners’ blocks of land. The latter was referred to in the Governor’s Speech. The



Premier did not tell the people that in addition to holding a block of land £1,000 in cash had to be found. He said:—

A person who owns a suitable block will be able to arrange through the Housing Trust to have a house, either of timber frame construction or of mixed brick and timber, built to one of the many suitable designs prepared by the trust.

We have heard him on innumerable occasions say that the trust is a separate entity and can do as it likes as the Government has no control over it, yet in his policy speech he sets out what the trust will do.

Mr. Jennings—It is using a State instrumentality for fraudulent purposes.

Mr. LAWN—Yes, and the Premier would not be backward in doing it now or on any other occasion. It is not possible for these people to build timber frame houses as mentioned by the Premier. Councils have certain rights and many of them say they will not allow the trust to build such houses in their areas. The Premier's proposal, because of the need to find the £1,000 in cash, will be of little value to the people. Referring to the basic wage he said:—

It was beyond doubt that automatic adjustments led to automatic price increases.

There has been no automatic adjustment since July, 1953, but there have been automatic price increases. In May this year there should have been another two shillings increase in the basic wage. According to the Commonwealth Statistician "C" Series Index prices have increased 15s. since July, 1953, so how can the Premier say it is beyond doubt that automatic adjustments lead to automatic price increases? It has been made clear by us that the index compiled by the statistician reflects only price increases that have already occurred, and then the basic wage, as directed by the Court, is adjusted to meet the cost of living increases. Government supporters say that is a fallacy and that the basic wage increases come first and then the price increases. Also in his policy speech the Premier referred to oil exploration, and that is mentioned in the Governor's Speech. Then he referred to the agreement for the establishment of meat works at Kadina, but after the elections he said the agreement had fallen through. He said also that the Government wished to have a similar agreement for a freezing works in the South-East. This session he told Mr. Corcoran, in answer to a question, that the matter was bound up with the establishment of a deep-sea port in the South-East. That was not mentioned by the Premier in his policy speech. If it had been the people would have known how to deal with it.

His policy speech also mentioned schools and the erection of an additional power station of 180,000 kilowatt capacity at Port Augusta. Later he said the Commonwealth Government made this impossible because of the Commonwealth's action in increasing freight rates on the carriage of coal from Leigh Creek.

Now I come to the recent election results. We have no official voting figures yet, so I can only take the figures given in the press. For some time past the *News* has mentioned the electoral gerrymander in this State since 1938. About three years ago the *News* published a cartoon depicting the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition trying out their strength with hammers. The cartoon showed that Mr. O'Halloran rang up 156,000 votes and the Premier 105,000, yet the Premier's Party was returned.

On March 6 last the *News* also included a cartoon showing that Labor had polled 123,000 votes and the Liberal Country League 93,000 votes. On the bottom of the cartoon were words to the effect that Joe Cahill (Premier of New South Wales) wanted the perpetual pie recipe that our Premier used. In an editorial under the heading "Vote values", the *News* said:—

It is apparent from the figures that a majority of people who went to the polls on Saturday still voted for the beaten Party—Labor. While many will be ready to concede that some loading in favour of country districts is desirable, honest democrats will question whether the disproportion should be as great as it is. Under the present distribution, while nearly two-thirds of the people of the State live in the city, this city majority elects only half as many members as the country minority. Three city votes have the same value as one country vote. The revealing voting figures in the 23 seats contested are these—123,331 Labor votes elected nine members, 93,399 Liberal votes elected 11 members, 17,424 Independent votes elected three members. Six Labor members were returned in uncontested seats with 72,505 enrolled and 10 Liberals were returned in uncontested seats with 96,750 on the roll.

A perusal of the enrolments in the various districts on the day of election showed that if the card vote were used in divisions in this House the Government Party would be well down. The enrolments for each district at the recent election were as follows:—

Seats won by the Liberal and Country Party: Torrens, 22,440; Burnside, 23,021; Glenelg, 23,362; Mitcham, 21,001; Unley, 22,140; Albert, 6,633; Alexandra, 6,711; Gumeracha, 6,762; Onkaparinga, 6,638; Stirling, 7,003; Victoria, 6,711; Angas, 6,418; Barossa, 6,562; Gouger, 6,671; Light, 6,601; Wallaroo, 6,601; Yorke Peninsula, 6,537; Chaffey, 7,122; Eyre, 6,809; Flinders, 6,313; Rocky River, 6,368.

Seats won by the Australian Labor Party: Adelaide, 22,482; Enfield, 22,728; Hindmarsh, 22,809; Port Adelaide, 23,366; Semaphore, 21,059; West Torrens, 22,921; Edwardstown, 23,012; Norwood, 22,974; Millicent, 6,468; Murray, 7,263; Gawler, 8,307; Frome, 6,156; Port Pirie, 6,951; Stuart, 6,534; Whyalla, 6,845.

Seats won by Independents: Mount Gambier, 7,271; Ridley, 6,467; Burra, 6,266.

These figures prove that if a division in this House were taken on a card vote principle and if members voted according to Party dictates, Liberal and Country Party members would be able to cast only 218,424 votes against Labor's 229,875, which would give a majority of 11,451 to Labor. Further, this would mean that the three Independents would have the balance of power as they would have between them 20,004 votes, but only one Independent would have to vote with the Opposition to defeat the Government. Although these figures prove that South Australians generally overwhelmingly favour the election of a Labor Government in this State, the Labor Party has only 15 seats out of 39. Paragraph 4 of His Excellency's speech states:—

Notwithstanding the prosperity enjoyed by our citizens, my Government is faced with heavy financial commitments, for which money is not readily available.

Where is this alleged prosperity? I meet ordinary people every day on buses and trams and I would like Tom Playford and Bob Menzies to be with me when I hear these people speak because I have heard many complimentary remarks passed about the Australian economy. I meet many women travelling to town in the bus but I have yet to find any prosperity among them. Once or twice a week I meet trades unionists at the Trades Hall and I find no prosperity among them. Last night I was at a meeting attended by 25 workers and they told me about the hard job it is to scratch through on today's wages. The ordinary people consider that prices are abnormally high; they know nothing of this so-called prosperity. This evening the member for Eyre (Mr. Bockelberg) said that if our country districts were to be prosperous certain things would have to be done, but such things cannot have been done because we are not prosperous. If country people and the city workers are not prosperous, to whom could paragraph 4 in the Governor's Speech have referred? Probably the Premier in drafting the speech had in mind the shareholders of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company and General-Motors Holdens with its £9,750,000 profit. When a company makes so much profit

in a year and looks like doing the same thing again with State and Federal Governments to look after its interests, it is certainly prosperous!

We have seen steep increases in the cost of living of the ordinary citizen but his wages have not been automatically adjusted to meet these increases and his real wage today is less than it was three years ago. Only this morning the Housewives' Association sent telegrams to the Premier and the Prime Minister and later sent a letter to the Premier, protesting against the recent increase in the price of potatoes. It is a crying shame that housewives who are forced to buy potatoes and other commodities at rapidly rising prices have no increased income to meet these increased prices. The prices of these commodities are rising from week to week, yet the basic wage is still frozen and these people are understandably bitter about it all. In 1948 during the prices referendum campaign the Premier said, "My Government can and will control prices"; yet today in reply to my question he said that price control had broken down because one State had decontrolled the prices of potatoes. Naturally, when one of the Eastern States decontrols the price of potatoes, onions or any other commodity, supplies flow from South Australia to that State, and some have even returned to be sold on the South Australian market because they have become surplus in the eastern States.

I emphasize the necessity to continue price control legislation. Although it has not proved as effective as the Premier said in 1948 that it would, the public will be protected to a certain extent if it is kept on the Statute Book and some future Government may use it to better effect. The *News* of Thursday, May 17, contained the following report of a statement by the Prices Commissioner, Mr. Murphy:—

An average reduction of 10 per cent in charges for terrazzo flooring was ordered today. This was announced by the Prices Commissioner, Mr. Murphy. He said that a new schedule of maximum charges had been fixed following an investigation of the terrazzo industry. The new rates would result in an appreciable saving for homebuilders, where this type of flooring was laid. For example, the new maximum cost for a bathroom floor of five square yards would be £29 5s., compared with previous prices of up to £33 15s. A similar floor with 4in. covering would now cost at most £42. This compared with previous charges of up to £47, or higher. Mr. Murphy said the laying of terrazzo flooring for bathroom floors, shower alcoves, lavatories, and verandah porches was becoming standard practice in new homes. The new rates would be closely policed by the department.

That is a clear indication of how, in the absence of price control, private enterprise would take advantage by over-charging home-builders for terrazzo floor work, and that is typical of many such instances. Last week I asked the Premier a question about an item "Salaries and Wages" in the Supplementary Estimates, and he said that many works had been delayed because of labour shortage, but that recently more had become available, some of it from other States. I asked the Treasurer if that had occurred during the past couple of months, or whether it had been spread over the last financial year, and he said this:—

I cannot give the precise information, but more labour has been available in the last two months, including workers from other States.

It is evident that we are obtaining a greater number of workers from other States, particularly Victoria and Western Australia. I have met motorists who have travelled on the south-eastern and the northern roads, and they have told me they have met a number of men in the past three weeks who have asked for rides to other States because they could not find employment here. Some hundreds have been displaced in the motor industry alone in South Australia, and 1,000 men have been displaced in Victoria. I do not want to be an alarmist, but the position does not look good to me. Last week I asked the Premier a question as to what this State expected to receive at the next meeting of the Loan Council, and he seemed very doubtful whether the States would be able to obtain the same amount from the Commonwealth Government as they did last year. As he pointed out, the outlook would not be good if that money were not forthcoming.

I was alarmed when I read the heading in the *News* of May 15, which read, "Russia to slash her Armed Forces." One should not be alarmed to know that the countries might begin to disarm, because it would be a good thing if countries could agree to live in peace and save that heavy expenditure on defence each year. I know what will happen in countries where Liberal and Conservative Parties control the Government benches if those countries should disarm. Liberal Parties cannot give the people a good economy and a high standard of living together with full employment. They can give a good standard of living to a section of the community while they have another section out of work. While they spend £200,000,000 a year on defence purposes they can keep full employment, but at the same time the value of money has

decreased. I know what will happen in Australia if less is spent on defence. When countries do not want wool and other things for their armed personnel there will be a fall in prices and retrenchments in industry, and neither the Commonwealth nor the State Liberal Party Governments will be able to halt that retrenchment of labour. The Premier has admitted that this retrenchment has started during the last two months since the Budget presented to the Commonwealth Parliament. I mention that it had been stated that the State elections were to be held in April this year. If one looks at statements in the press it is obvious that some of the Liberal Party pre-selection ballots were not to have finished until some time in March, but the elections were held on March 3. The reason for that is that the Premier knew what was contained in the "horror" Budget. That information was made available to him by the Commonwealth Liberal Party Government, and the election in South Australia was brought forward to March so that it would be over before the Federal Budget became known. Even allowing for the gerrymander, the same thing would have happened as happened in Western Australia, where the people not only returned a Labor Government but created an all-time record for the number of seats won, quite against the expectation of all political parties including Labor itself. This would have happened here, and the Government would have been swept from office, despite the gerrymander, if the election had been held in April as originally planned.

I wish to make a reference to the question of hire purchase which is wrapped up in this question of prosperity. I refer to the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* of January, 1956, No. 220. On page 14 the quarterly figures for December, 1954, show 250,973 hire-purchase agreements in the Commonwealth, with the total sum of £64,002,000 involved. The average amount per agreement is £255, and the amount financed by hire-purchase firms is £40,505,000. The average amount financed for each agreement is £161, and the percentage financed by hire-purchase companies amounts to 63 per cent. I am not going to give the figures for the intermediate quarters, but I will quote the figures for December, 1955, just 12 months later. The number of agreements in operation then was 262,339, and the total value of goods was £72,308,000. The average value of those goods per agreement was £276, and the amount financed by the companies was £46,319,000. The average amount financed per

agreement was £177, and the percentage financed by hire-purchase companies was 64 per cent. These figures show that in 12 months the number of agreements and the amount of money borrowed had increased, which indicates that our people are getting further and further into debt and that it gives the lie to the idea that they are enjoying prosperous conditions.

In the White Paper prepared by the Commonwealth Statistician on national income and expenditure, are some interesting figures. A section of the community might be prosperous, because we find that for 1952-1953 for rent and interest £133,000,000 was received, £150,000,000 in 1953-1954, and £165,000,000 in 1954-1955. Those receiving dividends received £92,000,000 in 1952-1953, £104,000,000 in 1953-1954, and £117,000,000 in 1954-1955. While rent, interest, and dividends have increased over those years the basic wage earner is still on the same wage as he was at July, 1953.

I made a note of some references by the member for Light (Mr. Hambour) who was very critical of the Government's hospitalization policy. He stated that the Government was over-generous to hospitals in the metropolitan area. I do not know if he supports the policy of the Australian Labor Party with regard to hospitals.

Mr. Hambour—What is it?

Mr. LAWN—We believe that instead of building all our large hospitals in the metropolitan area we should establish large ones in country areas. We believe in decentralization, and in giving amenities to country people. We also think that if more hospitals were built in the country it would relieve the demand for hospitalization in the city. It seems to me that the member for Light was demanding of this Government the very things we have been demanding from it for years with regard to hospitalization. I commend him for that, but I ask him how long will he go on making those demands upon the Government. He will not be allowed to think for himself later, because the master will crack the whip and the honourable member will become as silent as all the other members of the Government Party. We have heard more from the new members on the Government side this year than all the rest of the members of the Government put together during the last six years. I have referred time and time again to the silence of Government supporters. The reason for the silence is that when the master speaks the others have to agree. I hope the member

for Light will be a bit different from the others. I also hope that the members for Chaffey and Eyre will say the things they believe about this Government and not be silent supporters in the future. I urge them to continue saying the things they have said in this debate, because they are true.

Mr. Hambour—I said they were over-generous to you.

Mr. LAWN—I hope that when you get an opportunity to cast a vote along the lines you have expressed you will vote the way you think. I have said in the past that the worker is condemned for asking for more wages, but he is copying the mentality of his boss. His employer buys his labour on the cheapest market and sells his goods on the dearest market. All the employee seeks to do is to sell his labour in the dearest market and buy his goods in the cheapest. The member for Light said that a business man buys on the cheapest market and sells on the dearest. He went on to advocate de-control of prices, and in the very next breath, after asking that all price control should be abolished—

Mr. Hambour—I did not.

Mr. LAWN—You advocated the abolition of all controls.

Mr. Hambour—I did not. You can read what I said.

Mr. LAWN—I am sorry if I have misunderstood the honourable member, but I remember his advocating decontrol. The honourable member probably does not know what he said. After advocating decontrol, he advocated compulsory loans. In effect he said that those who lived by returns from rent and interest should have their operations decontrolled so that they can get bigger returns.

Mr. Hambour—I never mentioned rents.

Mr. LAWN—You advocated the abolition of rent control.

Mr. Hambour—I did not.

Mr. LAWN—The honourable member has to remember that his remarks are recorded in *Hansard*. He advocated decontrol, which means the abolition of price control and other controls, and then he went on to tell the Treasurer how to find the money. He said that we could finance all our public works by compulsory loans. He would tell the workers, who are receiving 15s. a week less than they should, that they should have other moneys taken from their pay by way of compulsory loan. Therefore, their wives, who have not enough money now to buy the things they need and pay

their rent, would have less to spend. I hope the honourable member will stand up to the Premier and answer him as he is answering me now. If he does he will be the first man on that side who has done it. The same will happen to him in three years as happened to Sir Robert Nicholls and Mr. Travers. The *News* came out with an article under the heading "Whose head will be next?" This was before the pre-selection ballots closed. When I think of the member for Unley my mind goes back to the years since 1952. I know of no greater "Yes" man on the other side of the House than he is. All on this side said that the *News* made a big mistake and the honourable member would be returned at the pre-selection ballot because he was a "Yes" man to the Premier. In the 1952 session, the last before the 1953 election, the member for Unley, who had not spoken in the House for three years, got up and waxed eloquent about the virtues of the Premier, and at the same time patted him on the shoulder. At the time the pre-selection ballot was open, with the closing date only a week or so away. The member for Light (Mr. Hambour) will be in the same position in three years. I am giving him some friendly advice. I hope that in three years he will be prepared to get up and criticize the Government the same as the members for Chaffey and Eyre have done, but I have very grave doubts. No-one has done it before and got away with it. A copy of *Hansard* has just been handed to me which includes the speech of the member for Light, who said, "In a land of plenty as Australia is, I believe that we have become control happy, or should I say control unhappy". Then he went on to advocate compulsory loans, as I have already said.

The Opposition has given much thought to the question of hospitalization. Mental patients are being brought from all parts of the State to the Parkside institution. We say there should be provision in country areas for some of these patients so that their friends and relatives can visit them. If we had occupied the Treasury benches half as long as the Government has, most country centres would have been sewered before now, and yet the Government is still only talking about it.

Mr. Hambour—What are you going to use for money?

Mr. LAWN—The member was very critical of the Labor Party's views on money. In America they have what they call a soil bank.

The honourable member said that £5,000,000,000 sterling was being provided to keep land out of production, and that the same thing was occurring in Germany, Japan and Australia.

Mr. Hambour—I said about £500,000,000.

Mr. LAWN—The member is supporting my contention that his Government is unable to finance the country economically for the well-being of the people, although it tries to make it appear it is meeting the situation. It is not the proper thing in a Christian world to keep land out of production. There are millions of people in the world not far from this continent who are underfed. Whether the practice to which the honourable member referred is to be found in America, Germany, Japan or Australia, it is wrong. That is all we can expect from a Liberal Party administration. The Liberal Party has not the gumption to implement a proper financial policy to give the people what they are entitled to. The Party cannot even evolve a system to ensure adequate distribution of production. It can only tell the people to grow less, otherwise it has to dump products it cannot dispose of. Retrenchments would help solve the problems of the Liberal Party and arrest inflation. That Party's policy is to have an unemployment pool of 7½ per cent of the working population.

I draw special attention to a weakness in legislation passed last session. Under the amending landlord and tenant legislation agreements can be made between landlords and tenants so as to ensure that the premises are free from rent control. Last year a metropolitan council bought a number of homes and called for tenders for the tenancy of one of them. Tenderers had to state what rent they were prepared to pay, and the successful tenderer had to paint the house inside and out. The amounts offered varied considerably, and when the tenders were placed before the council a committee was instructed by the council to discard all tenders below £5 a week. Finally, the successful tenderer had to pay a rent of £12 a week, yet the house was built 40 years ago and required considerable repairing and painting. The council has withdrawn the condition that the house must be painted on the outside, but the tenderer still has to paint it on the inside, and he has been given a lease for three years.

I shall quote another instance of what has happened under landlord and tenant legislation. I received a letter from a tenant in Bank Street, Adelaide, and sent a copy to the Premier to see what could be done. Prior to coming to me this person approached

another member of this House, who advised him to see me as member for Adelaide. This tenant had to pay £5 key money, and then had to spend £373 10s. on improving the shop. The rent was £8 a week and he also had to pay part of the rates and taxes amounting to £49 per annum. When his lease was renewed the tenant had to pay £16 a week rent and all rates and taxes. I stress that business premises are exempt from rent control. Despite all the improvements he had made to the front of the shop, this tenant now has to alter it again at his own cost. When Bank Street is widened he has to erect a cantilever verandah 15ft. by 8ft. 6in. and pay all the costs. He objected to these additional costs and saw the Australian Mutual Provident Society about it. He was told to see a certain land agent, but when he did so he was told to be quiet about the rent and other costs, and that advice was given following the interviewing of another member prior to seeing me.

The additional alterations will cost him £372 13s. 4d., but he could get the work done much more cheaply by another contractor. The tenant wants to get another contractor, but the landlord wants the work done by a contractor named by him. That is an example of freedom of private enterprise which is advocated by Government supporters. The tenant and his wife mortgaged everything they had in order to take over this shop. They raised £1,200 and spent it on this place, but now, after only a couple of years in the business, they will be forced out. I sent a copy of this letter to the Premier who forwarded it to the Land Agents Board. That board, without reference to the tenant, replied to the Premier and concluded by saying:—

The board does not consider that there is any matter disclosed at present which calls for inquiry by it.

I had not asked for an inquiry by the Land Agents Board. I was drawing the Premier's attention to what is happening and was asking whether anything could be done.

In his policy speech the Premier stated that £4,000,000 was to be spent on the reconstruction and maintenance of bridges during the next 12 months. The Government should seriously consider improving Morphett, Hindmarsh, Hilton and Keswick bridges. The member for West Torrens (Mr. Fred Walsh) has repeatedly drawn attention to the shameful condition of the Hilton bridge. It not only requires rebuilding but widening to cope with increased traffic. The Keswick bridge has a four-way

approach and carries private buses, tramway buses and private vehicles in addition to cyclists and pedestrians and needs attention.

I hope the Engineering and Water Supply Department will consider improving the water supplies in their districts of Thebarton and Mile End. Last year the Hon. Mr. Bevan, M.L.C., referred to the condition of his own water supply and the next day the Minister of Works sent departmental officers out to make an inspection. He subsequently told Mr. Bevan that the fault lay in his own water system. Mr. Bevan installed a complete new system but there was no improvement. The department then said that the fault was probably in the lead in from the main. A new connection was installed but there was still no improvement. I have received numerous complaints about the water supply in that area and only last Sunday it was alleged that the water was extremely muddy. I hope the Minister of Works will inquire into these matters to see if anything can be done.

Before concluding, I desire to refer to the Government's action in the application before the Arbitration Court by the trade union movement for the restoration of quarterly adjustments and for an increase in the basic wage. I have before me a copy of the transcript of the submission made on behalf of the State Government by Mr. Gordon which discloses the Government's attitude. On page 447 Mr. Gordon said:—

The State contends, amongst other things, that the capacity of the economy to pay, and the probable effects of any change should be considered. The State therefore submits that in order to ensure that these matters are taken into account before any alteration is made, the reintroduction of cost of living adjustments upon a purely automatic basis is opposed.

He made it quite clear that the Government opposed the restoration of quarterly adjustments. On page 478 he said:—

The State further submits that there are grave doubts as to whether the increased basic wage to the extent asked by the applicant could be granted without serious damage to the economy. I might mention to the court that so far as the State of South Australia is concerned, the amount asked would, if granted, result in an increase of 35s. per week in the basic wage in South Australia . . . . With regard to provincial differential rates, I am instructed to submit to the court that these should be maintained as a general principle and that if any particular case arises where it is contended that a particular firm should be bound to an amount above or below the provincial differential rate, or any particular area, that each case of that nature should be treated on its merits.

On page 479 the following discussion appears:—

Wright, J: Mr. Gordon, so far as the areas in South Australia outside the metropolitan area are concerned, if they are under State regulation they have the Adelaide basic wage?

Mr. Gordon: That is so, Your Honour. There is provision in the Code to fix a differential, but it has not as a matter of fact been fixed, except for Whyalla, which coincides with the Commonwealth basic wage.

Wright, J: Plus 5s.

Mr. Gordon: Yes, Your Honour.

Dunphy, J: There is a uniform basic wage throughout the State except at Whyalla?

Mr. Gordon: Under the State, yes, Your Honour.

Kirby, J: Which at the moment is the same as the Federal basic wage in Adelaide.

The Government asked the Federal Court to continue its policy of fixing lower rates for country areas so that in future, if it so desired, the Government could pay lower rates in country centres in South Australia. Mr. Gordon called Mr. Seaman, Treasury economist, who in evidence claimed that the basic wage regimen reflected or portrayed the cost of living. The Commonwealth Statistician was called to give evidence and he denied Mr. Seaman's claim and said that all the C series index attempted to do was to portray adequately the differential as between capital cities and did not attempt to portray what the cost of living was from time to time. Mr. Seaman was recalled by Mr. Gordon. The Government wanted the court to hold up proceedings whilst a full inquiry was instituted as to the adequacy or otherwise of the C series figures. The following extract shows that there would have been a lengthy delay if the wishes of the South Australian Government had been acceded to. On page 566 Mr. Gordon is reported as saying:—

The court admitted his evidence and the court may remember that in answer to His Honour Mr. Justice Wright I submitted that the court should deal with that matter during these proceedings. I would ask the court if it would intimate whether it proposes to cause an investigation to be made upon the lines suggested by Mr. Seaman and if the court considers such an investigation should be made and directs it should be made will the court intimate at what stage of the proceedings the investigation will be instituted? Just to remind the court, the suggestion by Mr. Seaman in his evidence was that the Commonwealth Statistician, Mr. Carver, was the only man who is in a position to give expert evidence along those lines. I think in answer to His Honour Mr. Justice Wright I suggested the evidence should be obtained through the Commonwealth. So that there should be no misunderstanding my application was that it should be obtained as soon as possible and not necessarily when the Common-

wealth was presenting its case. As my learned friend Mr. Eggleston has pointed out, it would involve some lengthy investigation, although I suggest not quite as lengthy as he has submitted and I do ask the court if it proposes to conduct such an investigation that it should be done at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. Eggleston, at page 1291, said:—

As I understand it, Your Honours, what is now being done is to present a completely new plan for a court index. Mr. Aird and I objected throughout on the basis that neither of the main parties is asking for any change. My friend is free to criticize the present index in its results but he does not ask for any other to be substituted, and we do not ask for any other to be substituted. This kind of thing could go on interminably. We could easily spend a year discussing the merits of different cost of living indexes and measures of differential indexes. In our opinion it should be ruled on before this evidence goes any further because it is apparent from what Mr. Seaman has said that he has already raised 10 or a dozen new questions. The court should rule now that it is not interested in a new index at this time and that in the interests of this case it is going to exclude all evidence as to how an index or some new method of measuring should be constructed, and should proceed to determine the application for a restoration of the existing system.

Then Mr. Justice Kirby, on behalf of the court, said:—

The court unanimously takes the view that it should not on the information now before it take any further step in this hearing to obtain any further data or other information on the questions raised by the evidence presented by Mr. Seaman, a witness called by the State of South Australia, in particular as to the inter-relationship of the basic wages or the effect upon that inter-capital relationship of the C Series price index numbers or the absence in the compilation of those indexes of data relating to the rents of houses owned by Governments or governmental authorities. Upon the evidence as it stands in these proceedings the court by a majority, our brother Morgan dissenting, rules that it will not call upon Mr. Eggleston or Mr. Aird to deal with Mr. Seaman's suggested modifications of the C Series index numbers.

It is clear that the South Australian Government sought to hold up the inquiry for another year or so, yet it is not opposed to fabulous dividends being declared by various companies. It wants to prevent the workers from getting the 15s. a week of which they have been robbed for some time. I condemn the part of the motion that says we are pleased with His Excellency's Speech, for I certainly am not.

Mr. HARDING (Victoria)—I join with other members in congratulating you Mr. Speaker, the new Minister of Agriculture, and the Chairman of Committees. I appreciate very much

the great cordiality which exists amongst members in this place. There is a great fellowship and it is something that I shall never forget. I also extend my thanks to the members of the staff for what they have done for me. It has been said that there is nothing in the Governor's Speech, but there are such things as population increase, cereal production, sheep, wool, fat lambs, beef cattle, milk, butter, dried fruits, Government assistance to producers in the eradication of foot rot and pleuropneumonia; noxious weeds, water supplies, Electricity Trust achievements, Leigh Creek coal, Port Augusta power house, railways, broadening of the gauge to Kingston, drainage in the South-East, war service land settlement, improved harbour facilities, bulk handling of wheat, improved roads and bridges, motor and petrol tax, State forests, sawmills, fisheries in South Australian waters, Government assistance for homes, State Bank loans, Housing Trust achievements, public health services, Government hospital programme, Education Department, mineral resources, production of oil, iron, pyrites, coal, etc. These are some of the things mentioned in the Governor's Speech. Although the red warning light is flashing on the subject of decentralization I must endorse the remarks of previous speakers on the need for further decentralization for I believe it is important and in line with the programme pursued by the Playford Government. Cheaper electricity, water for country townships, better schools and hospitals are the forerunners of decentralization, and the same could be said for such developmental schemes as afforestation, war service land settlement and closer settlement schemes.

Although I am not fearful for the future generally, I am anxious about the future of great city areas. I am particularly anxious about our non-essential industries because, although our major industries, such as engineering and agricultural machinery plants, mining and railways must survive for they are vital to the welfare of the country, the minor and non-essential industries will probably be forced out of business. All members must realize that the position of overseas manufacturing concerns is becoming sticky. In overseas countries huge numbers of motor vehicles are piling up and men are out of work. Only today the press reports the reduction from £1,650 to £1,150 in the price of an English motor car (the Super Snipe). That indicates the writing on the wall, and non-essential industries producing trash such as Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts under conditions of labour

shortages and high costs will probably have to go. For instance, I have in mind that instead of a cigarette lighter (the Ronson) imported from England and selling at prices from £2 10s. to £5, one can buy for 6s. an article which is imported from another country and a complete replica of the Ronson and identical in performance. To me this indicates a red light. Whether we want decentralization or not we will be forced to accept it and it behoves us to prepare for more homes and industries in the country. Afforestation is a vital matter in my electoral district of Victoria. We have heard much of the great need for afforestation, and as the member for Mount Gambier (Mr. Fletcher) said, the Nangwarry mill, although a fine one, has never been worked to full capacity, probably because of the labour shortage. The honourable member mentioned the new Mount Gambier mill, and I consider that that mill will be a great asset to this fine country city.

I now turn my attention to war service land settlement in non-irrigable areas, particularly in my district. The Federal Congress of the Returned Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia, representing a membership of more than 250,000, agreed that of all the Australian war service land settlement schemes the South Australian scheme stood out. That is a great compliment, representing as it does the unbiassed opinion of such a huge body of men. Although the scheme has been slow, it has been sound and the taxpayers should be happy about it. For a number of years I have been closely associated with the scheme; in fact, in a voluntary capacity I was one of the original members of a regional committee appointed by the Minister of Lands to work in association with the scheme. At that time I was president of the Naracoorte Branch of the R.S.L. and I said then that I thought it was a wise thing, but that I believed that the committee would be one in name only, as I remembered what had happened immediately after the first World War when repatriation committees were appointed but their advice never sought. Possibly that has been the case in this instance, but I realize it was impracticable for the Minister to ring up a person acting in an honorary capacity and ask him to inspect or report on a property, because only a salaried man could be expected to do such work. The regional committee members, however, were of some use in low-lying areas and were consulted, particularly concerning house sites, so they were not brushed aside.



I congratulate the Minister and all his officials who formulated the plan in South Australia. During the period 1918 to 1920 many single unit farms were offered to the Government at current land prices, and history has repeated itself since the second world war as there have been tremendous increases in the price of land, stock and wool. We were therefore keen to see the Government acquire and develop land suitable for allocation to ex-servicemen settlers. Had we been able to acquire, say, 100 farms or even fewer and settled the boys immediately, they would have been on the pig's back, but the areas offering were too limited to meet the demands of such a huge scheme. I congratulate the Land Board and its officials on seeing that the scheme was a very much larger one than just settling a few men. They bought portions of large properties in good rainfall areas with a terrific potential. I compliment them on the purchases which were made at low prices. This country was what we call developed under-developed land and undeveloped or virgin country. We know of the delays in obtaining machinery, which was a big factor in the early days when the whole scheme was held up on account of that shortage. As the machinery became available the men were selected to use the machines, and in the areas where there were eight, 10, or 12 blocks to be allotted that number of selected men went to work like niggers under very bad conditions. They had temporary homes or shanties in which they camped while they were bringing the land into production.

The Premier and the Minister for Lands will recall that on one occasion they met delegates of South-Eastern sub-branches from Tintinara, Naracoorte, Penola, Mount Gambier, and places along the coast. The deputation asked the Premier and the Minister for Lands whether early allocation could be made. This was promised, and I remember the Premier's words at that time. He said "Now gentlemen, you have been promised early allocation, let us not hear any squeals about it." I remember that clearly. I remember that men were selected as allottees and placed in the employment of the Lands Development Executive. They worked on these blocks until the land was brought to a carrying capacity, and then they were placed on blocks. From there they went on and on until blocks were finally allotted to them under perpetual lease. A tentative rental was arranged and there was a zoning system which caused quite a lot of criticism. The men and their friends were always criticizing the scheme

because the settlers who had been on the blocks for years did not know what their commitments were.

I am pleased to know that the men who have been on blocks at Wanilla for some time have finally had their rents fixed; they are less than the tentative rentals fixed originally. This scheme is still going on but it is tapering off. The men are still living in temporary flats, going to work on Monday morning camping on their job and coming back on Friday night. I do not give all the credit to the Minister for Lands or the Lands Development Executive. I give almost 50 per cent of the credit to the men who went on this land and actually brought it into production in order that they could keep it and live on their blocks. I have visited scores of these soldier settlement homes, and I have found that the men and their wives are happy and have very fine families. I claim that in my electorate the scheme is 95 per cent successful. Some of the people amongst the other 5 per cent have had trouble or sickness, or their blocks may have not been as productive as the others. In those instances their needs are being attended to, and I feel that in time they will measure up because the Minister will see to it.

In my electorate of Victoria there has been a tremendous increase in the production of beef cattle, which I estimate to be 500 per cent in the last 10 years. I claim that the quality has also increased to the same extent. It is my opinion that in the next 10 years that same increase will continue. With regard to the controversial question of price control I maintain that if beef is subject to price control there is no incentive to produce quality beef. I stress the advisability of removing price control from beef.

The position with regard to honey was very difficult when it was under price control. There was a shortage of first quality honey and the Honey Board placed an embargo on its export. They did that in order that the local market would be supplied. The overseas market rose steeply because of a world wide shortage, and subsidized honey from America became exhausted. Australia had a poor season, with the result that the price rose very steeply to an all time world record. Unfortunately, price control still remains. A deputation waited on the Premier and it was pointed out that the board could no longer place an embargo on overseas exports. It was suggested that relief should be given to the

producers by the provision of an increased local price, otherwise there would be no option but for all the honey to be sent overseas. The Premier saw that it was a reasonable request and the price of honey was decontrolled, and now the price is the same as the world parity price. I believe that the control of a commodity in one State, when there are producers just over a border, will not work; potatoes, for instance.

I have heard no mention during the debate of the need to expand our markets. We all realize the importance of primary products and foodstuffs. We read of the fear of many people concerning sufficient foodstuffs being available to meet world demands because of the increase in population. I am strongly of opinion that the correct and careful marketing of our products must take place. The Department of Commerce will always play an important part in policing products which are exported. I hope that the laws will be so tightened that there will be no evasion as to the quality of our produce exported. Germany has now become Australia's best buyer of honey, whereas England had been practically our only outside buyer. There is a great difference in the demands of England and Germany for honey. In England only 25 per cent of the Australian import is used on the table, the other 75 per cent being used for manufacturing purposes such as for biscuits and confectionery, and even for beer. At a recent world fair in London the winning sample of beer was manufactured from sugar extracted from South Australian unpalatable or low quality honey. In Germany the picture is entirely different, 75 to 80 per cent of the honey imports being used as food. They are very particular of the medicinal value of honey, which can be spoilt by over-heating; and therefore the Germans are very anxious that the honey should measure up to its appearance. We must be very careful that in processing honey for export it is not over-heated.

I have always been opposed to large areas of land being held out of production, and for this reason I am opposed to the State Government holding out large areas unnecessarily for a long period. I was pleased to hear that thousands of acres of Crown lands are to be allotted as soon as practicable for closer settlement. That is a wonderful thing when one remembers what has happened in the South-East with the A.M.P. scheme and with private operations. I take my hat off to those responsible for these schemes. I believe the acreage developed by private enterprise is greater than that developed by any single organization. Under Crown lands closer settlement schemes, I can visualize that many settlers will require some financial assistance. I am pleased that last year's Loans to Producers Act was amended to make available to the State Bank for 1955-56 an amount of £960,252 for loans to producers. I understand that the loan money has become exhausted and that no further help can be given from this source for the current year, but I hope that during the ensuing year further serious consideration will be given to the matter so that closer Government settlement schemes can be undertaken, not only to help those who can do the work and finance themselves, but also those who, although they may have less money, probably have more ability. I have no fear of what the future holds in store. I am sure that if members emulate you, Mr. Speaker, and treat these matters impartially and with patience and determination, and with the same dignity you give to your office, we will achieve the objects for which we were elected, and that will be for the betterment of this grand country and the people as a whole.

Mr. RICHES secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 10.10 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, May 23, at 2 p.m.