

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, June 18, 1958.

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

QUESTIONS.**SNOWY WATERS AGREEMENT.**

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Has the Premier any additional information to give the House regarding the negotiations between South Australia and the other States concerned, and particularly the Commonwealth Government, to ensure that South Australia's rights to her proper quota of Murray water will be retained?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I think there have now been some five occasions when this State has conferred with the Commonwealth Government or with the Commonwealth and other State Governments. Members know that there are two points at issue, which have been to a certain extent clouded by the fact that the other States concerned have desired to bring all sorts of extraneous matters into the discussion; but the present position is that this State has issued a writ in the High Court to restrain the Commonwealth Government from carrying out certain works that we believe to be unlawful, and asked for a declaration of our rights on an interpretation of what comprises River Murray waters. In the meantime, a further conference has been called with the Commonwealth, to be held on July 1 or July 3, and the other States have signified their willingness to be present, represented, I think, by their Premiers, and that they are prepared to confer not only for one day, but, if necessary, longer until either some decision is reached or negotiations finally break down and the matter has to be settled by court action. I think we shall know definitely whether court action is to proceed or not after about July 3.

The Government has held that the two points involved cannot be separated, that they are both essential to the satisfactory performance of the River Murray agreement, and we have also taken the view that we are not prepared to bargain some other right away to obtain these concessions. We say that these two points should be dealt with on their merits without bringing in extraneous matters. One State at one time was proposing to completely re-write the River Murray agreement, of course slightly to the disadvantage of South Australia. That would not have been as

satisfactory as the present arrangement, even without a solution of the present problem. I assure the honourable member that my Government is doing everything it can to protect South Australia's rights. Unfortunately, we lost our Counsel, Mr. Menzies, who has been appointed to the High Court bench, but we have secured another well-known Victorian barrister, Dr. Coppel, to represent this State.

FRUIT FLY CAMPAIGN: DISPOSAL OF FRUIT.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Last Sunday week I was on the Glenelg beach at 8 a.m., and on the beach were hundreds of oranges that had been washed up. I take it that these were from bags of fruit that had been dumped in the ocean somewhere off Glenelg. I suppose they would be left there to rot and become offensive to people in the area. Is it possible for the Government to find some other and more effective means of disposing of this fruit?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—This matter has given the department a great deal of concern for some time. If the oranges did come from fruit which was dumped—which of course, could possibly happen—it seems that the bags, which had stones in them, had burst, perhaps because of the swelling of the fruit in the bags, or for some other reason. The department tries to avoid such occurrences and buys reasonably good quality bags for that purpose and takes the fruit well out to sea. It is apparent that on rare occasions a bag does burst and the contents escape and drift ashore, but there does not seem to be any other way of satisfactorily disposing of the fruit. As the honourable member will appreciate, it would be extremely difficult to destroy the fruit in an incinerator, because most of it is green and of a high water content. By and large, the method adopted is apparently the best means that can be discovered. I have not heard of or seen any other report of fruit being washed ashore recently, though there were reports some months ago. I will ask the department whether there are any further steps it could take to ensure that this trouble does not happen again. I think the department is aware of the problem and does its best to avoid it.

DURHAM COURT FLATS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Recently there was a feature article in the *News* which indicated that flats would be available at Durham Court, which is in the district of Glenelg, and it seems that the cost of the smaller units will be

£2,650, and £3,350 for the larger ones. I understand that legislation prescribes that an allotment must be of at least 7,000 square feet for a person to get a clear title, though under the Building Act the area is about 4,000 square feet if the applicant obtains approval from the Town Planner. I understand that in the Adelaide electorate it is proposed to construct similar flats on areas that would not comply with the provisions of the Act. Can the Minister say whether it is the Government's intention to review the position to permit clear titles to be granted and occupiers to purchase the flats, or will they be occupied under lease?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I shall be pleased to refer this matter to my colleague, the Attorney-General, who is also the Minister exercising control under the Town Planning Act. As member for Glenelg I am personally interested in this matter. If the Attorney-General is in a position to reply I shall communicate with the honourable member. It may be, however, that this matter will be referred to Cabinet.

YEELANNA SCHOOL RESIDENCE.

Mr. BOCKELBERG—The head teacher at Yeelanna is at present residing in a house on a farm, but this building is required for a share farmer. I understand that a teacher's residence has been promised for some time. Can the Minister of Education expedite this matter?

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

FIRE PRECAUTIONS IN SCHOOLS.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Recently I wrote to the Minister of Education on behalf of constituents at Elizabeth who are concerned at the meagre fire precautions in schools there. They claim—and I agree with them—that the provision of sand buckets in temporary buildings is not sufficient protection. My fears have been strengthened by recent fires in schools reported in the press and some of a minor nature not reported. The Minister of Education has informed me that this matter has been discussed by Cabinet and I ask the Premier whether the Government will reconsider its previous policy on fire precautions in schools with a view to providing additional safety measures.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Firstly we have to consider whether timber-frame buildings are suitable for school

purposes. After examining the position in other States we discovered that some States used almost exclusively timber-frame buildings, so they cannot in themselves be regarded as undesirable. Secondly, we have examined the circumstances under which fires have occurred and find that with but two exceptions they took place when schools were unoccupied, and in respect of those exceptions the total damage was about £5. A thorough investigation is being made into this matter. In some instances radiators have been left on when the school has been unoccupied. In new schools additional doors will no doubt be provided, but to provide additional doors in the timberframe buildings already in use would cost about £170,000, and in view of the nature of the risk involved I think that expenditure could be avoided. I assure the honourable member that not only are investigations taking place here but full information is being sought from other States.

Mr. John Clark—Can the doors be made to open outwards instead of inwards?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I think that was one of the most useful suggestions I saw in the press some time ago. I believe it would provide additional safety for a comparatively small extra cost. It is one of a number of suggestions being examined.

KAPUNDA COURTHOUSE AND POLICE STATION.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Can the Premier say whether the Government has decided on a site for the new police station and courthouse to be built at Kapunda and has he any other information on this matter?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The original proposal was that this building should be removed from the main street. Representations have been made to the Chief Secretary, possibly through the honourable member, with which I am not familiar, but this matter came before Cabinet this week and it was decided that the building should be placed in the main street—the most convenient for the public—and, subject to suitable land being available, that decision will be given effect to.

FIRES IN EMERGENCY HOMES.

Mr. JENNINGS—Following a series of questions from me and other members of the Opposition last session, after the House prorogued I received a communication from the Premier indicating that emergency Housing Trust homes were to be altered to minimize the fire hazard in them. Last week there was a

fire in another emergency home and the press reported that the Chairman of the Housing Trust stated that the Government scheme had been proceeding but a few of the houses had not yet been altered. Will the Premier ascertain whether the home burnt last week had been altered?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I believe that it had not been converted. There have been a number of fires in emergency houses, but with few exceptions they have occurred when the houses have been unattended. The fire last week was in an unattended house. The Government has decided that in respect of all fires in these houses a coroner's inquiry should be held into the cause. Up to the present the causes have not been disclosed, and we do not know whether there have been constructional faults or a fault in electrical connections or any such thing. In fact, the coroner's verdicts have shown that there was some neglect, and in one instance wilful destruction, rather than that the fires occurred because of some defect in the houses. I cannot comment on the fire about which the question was asked, but I have no doubt that a report about it will be available.

FENCING OF PITS.

Mr. HUTCHENS—I am asking my question in the fewest possible words so as to do justice to all concerned. Has the Premier been advised, following fatal accidents in the western metropolitan area, that brick manufacturers are taking action which it is hoped will prevent any possibility of accidents of a similar nature in future?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have not been advised officially, but I received a message firstly that the brick manufacturers were concerned just as deeply as others about the accidents that have taken place, and secondly that there was no need for any Government action because they had decided that where their properties adjoined a road or other boundaries cyclone fences would be erected. It is not practicable to erect cyclone fences in all places, because some pits are being used, but they will be erected where practicable and desirable. The association is taking action on its own account without any legal obligation being placed upon it.

WHEAT STABILIZATION SCHEME.

Mr. HEASLIP—The 1957-58 harvest completed the old wheat stabilization scheme. There is now no stabilization scheme, but I understand that certain investigations have

been made into cost of production and the possibility of bringing about a new scheme. Can the Minister of Agriculture give any information on what progress has been made or say anything else relevant to the future price of wheat?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—It is correct that the stabilization scheme expires at the end of this crop year, which will be October of this year: there is no legislation covering the crop to be reaped during the coming summer. Some time ago the industry requested the Commonwealth Government to undertake a survey of the cost of production on an up-to-date basis, and made suggestions about what items should be reviewed, to which the Commonwealth Government agreed. That survey has been made and its finding circulated at least to State Governments. I have examined the findings, and although Cabinet has not discussed them, I can state that it will be necessary for this House this session to consider legislation on wheat stabilization. In order to obtain preliminary agreement between the Governments of the States and the Commonwealth, the Minister for Primary Industry is convening a special meeting of the Agricultural Council in Sydney early in July in an attempt to draft submissions that will bring all States into line and enable progress to be made on legislation to be presented to the various Houses during the coming spring.

LAND PURCHASES BY MIGRANTS.

Mr. LOVEDAY—Will the Minister of Lands state the policy of the Lands Department and the procedure to be followed by alien migrants who are not naturalized in regard to their applications to purchase blocks of land, including Crown land, for residential and other purposes and applications to lease the same?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—Each application is considered on its merits, and if, after a check with the police and immigration authorities, the migrants are considered suitable applicants, permission is granted for them to lease land. It is not necessary for them to be naturalized.

WATER RIGHTS TO ANGAS RIVER.

Mr. JENKINS—My question relates to a recent Supreme Court writ restraining certain settlers who are not riparian owners from taking water from the Angas River thereby jeopardizing their livelihood to the extent that at least one may sell his property. Will the

Premier state whether Cabinet will look at all the aspects involved and consider proclaiming the Angas under the Control of Waters Act so that settlers may be granted a licence by the Minister under section 15 if he thinks fit?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I am not conversant with the position mentioned, but it appears to me that this particular stream is probably subject to the ordinary riparian laws of the State, and some persons who considered they were aggrieved have taken court proceedings to have their rights established. If that is the case I feel that possibly it would not be a good policy for the Government to take any action until the court decides what the legal position is. If every time somebody took action to establish a right Parliament came in and took some other view we would ultimately constitute ourselves a court, and a court probably quite unqualified to decide legal matters. However, I promise the honourable member that when the legal determinations are made, if the matter requires any legislative action it will be examined by Cabinet in due course.

ELECTRICITY TRUST CHARGES.

Mr. TAPPING—I have received a number of complaints from people in the Semaphore district regarding the payment of consumers' charges to the Electricity Trust. The trust's policy appears to be that, if the account is not paid within 14 days after the date on which it is due, the trust can, and even does, demand a security deposit. In the case I have before me the account was for £2 15s. and the trust demanded £5 as security deposit. The complainant believes this is harsh and I have been asked to see whether the policy can be ameliorated.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I do not know the particulars of the case or the grounds on which the trust has taken the action complained of, so I will not venture an opinion on it; but if the honourable member will give me details of the specific case so that I may see what factors are involved I will have the matter examined by the chairman of the trust.

SOLDIER SETTLEMENT SCHEMES.

Mr. STOTT—Some time ago the Federal Minister for Primary Industry announced that his Government was not willing to go any further with the extension of soldier settlement or other developmental schemes that have been submitted by State Government authorities here. Can the Minister of Lands

say whether his Government has considered going further on its own with developmental schemes; does the decision of the Commonwealth Government now mean that the proposed schemes at Lyrup and Bookpurnong will be abandoned; or, alternatively, can any hope be held out to applicants that those areas, which are excellent for settlement, will eventually be developed in a scheme?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—The Federal Government has indicated that the scheme will cease in 1960, but any scheme that has been submitted will be examined with a view to the land being developed under the soldier settlement scheme. Such land would include the Lyrup area about which the Federal Government has made a statement. Further development will be undertaken under a State scheme, which is under the Crown Lands Act and entirely different from the Federal scheme.

Mr. STOTT—Will it be exclusively for ex-servicemen or open to private settlers?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—Not exclusively for ex-servicemen; applications will be called for and everybody will be entitled to apply for a block. Ex-servicemen who have been approved and classified under the scheme will be given every consideration, but the State Government intends to develop land under the Crown Lands Act.

BUS ROUTES.

Mr. LAWN—Will the Premier convey to the Tramways Trust my remarks of yesterday concerning two bus routes (Colonel Light Gardens-Walkerville and City-Firle) so that the trust may examine the position and possibly agree to my two requests, and will he report back?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes.

FRUIT FLY ROAD BLOCKS.

Mr. KING—Can the Minister of Agriculture indicate the future policy of the Government regarding fruit fly, particularly regarding road blocks on interstate traffic routes?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The question of future action and policy on fruit fly is one to which we have given much thought and a road block has been operating for some time on the main road between Mildura and Renmark. An experimental road block has also been established west of Port Augusta following the outbreak in that area of the Western Australian Mediterranean type of fruit fly earlier this year. I am unable to indicate definitely what the Government's policy will be regarding road blocks, but from information ascertained from road blocks

operating at present it appears that some benefit could be obtained from an extension of that policy. The road block at Port Augusta has intercepted a number of parcels of fruit coming through in motor cars travelling from Western Australia, which have been infested with the Mediterranean fruit fly maggot. That shows that travellers, particularly by motor car or motor truck, carry fruit with them over long distances and that the citrus fruits—in this case oranges—are capable of being conveyed over a long distance and are acceptable to interstate travellers. Although the cost of road blocks is high, the Government may decide to extend the policy in view of the eradication measures necessary at present in the metropolitan area and Port Augusta, and possibly in other parts later. No decision has been made on this matter, but investigations are being made towards a decision.

FRUIT FLY SPRAYS.

Mr. DUNSTAN—I have received many complaints from people in my district whose trees have been sprayed by gangs and who say that, when the trees have been sprayed with what they have been told is a tartar emetic spray, the trees, particularly citrus, have shown signs of burning, have produced dead wood, and crops have fallen off severely. It is said that either little care has been exercised in mixing the spray or that the sprayers have not stirred it and some trees have consequently been sprayed with water and others with an extremely strong solution. Will the Minister of Agriculture have investigations made to see that the tartar emetic solution used is suitable for the trees sprayed so that this sort of thing will not occur in future?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will bring the honourable member's remarks to the notice of the officers of the department responsible.

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION FEES.

Mr. SHANNON—My question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture, but first I compliment him on instituting a programme of artificial insemination for dairy cattle. My question relates to the proposal put forward by private interests in the same field whereby the fee for a first service is 50s., for the second service 30s., and for the third service £1, making a total of £5 for the three services if required. Can the Minister explain the policy of his department in this matter? From these fees it would appear that this method of improving our dairy herds could be seriously retarded, for it is a costly business

to the average dairy farmer. Can the Minister say whether his department has a scale of charges for this service, or whether, as I understand from the press statement by him, the service by his department is to be experimental?

The SPEAKER—The honourable member has not obtained leave. I think he has explained his question sufficiently.

Mr. SHANNON—I ask leave to explain my question. I want the Minister to understand it so that I can inform dairy farmers in my district what is in the mind of the Agriculture Department, for there is some concern whether the service will be as costly as suggested by the fees charged by private interests. Does the department propose to inaugurate a service which will be within the reach of farmers? I know that semen has to be imported from other States until such time as we have a bank here. Can the Minister give more detail than appeared in the press?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Apparently I missed the press report to which the honourable member refers, but the department expects this year that experimental work will probably be undertaken to treat about 700 cows. As the honourable member says, it is necessary to obtain supplies of semen from other States, and it is also necessary to take every care that veterinary hygiene is observed. We have decided to make haste somewhat slowly so that we do not repeat mistakes which have occurred under conditions where more haste has been observed. The costs suggested to me are not nearly as high as mentioned by the honourable member, and I would be seriously concerned if it ever became necessary to impose such costs. I agree with him that high costs would retard what I consider a very important modern development in animal husbandry. The department has certain costs in mind which are probably only one-quarter of the figure mentioned, but that is for experimental work, and may not necessarily reflect the exact cost when the scheme is in full operation.

WHYALLA MAIN DUPLICATION.

Mr. QUIRKE—In view of the very great industrial expansion that will take place in Whyalla, can the Premier say whether the duplication of the Morgan-Whyalla main from Hanson is to be treated as urgent, and has he any proposal as to the route to be considered?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The steel industry at Whyalla will require slightly under one thousand million gallons a year. With the present pumps working to full capacity all the time, the existing main could just meet requirements of the steel industry and the town which will grow with it. Then there is the proposition for the utilization of low-grade ore at Iron Knob, which we hope will be undertaken, experiments for which are going on reasonably satisfactorily. If it is proceeded with, it will involve the installation of a second main from Lincoln Gap to Iron Knob, as a very large quantity of water will be required. With the growing use of water in the north I have not the slightest doubt that the time will speedily arise when the duplication of portion of the main will be necessary. Some estimates have been prepared, and probably an expenditure of £5,000,000 will be involved. As far as I know the surveys are not yet complete and much work has still to be done. It is the Government's desire, which I believe is supported by the Engineering and Water Supply Department, that there should be an entirely different route from the present one so that the benefit will be spread to as many people as possible. I can give no time table, but the matter will probably have to be considered in the next two or three years.

COUNTRY SEWERAGE.

Mr. HARDING—Can the Premier say whether a decision has been arrived at as to the priority for the sewerage of country towns during the current year, and if so, are any of the South-East towns included?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Government appointed a special committee to consider the priority which should be exercised, particularly from a health point of view. In some localities there is a distinct health hazard because of the lack of sewerage where the ground conditions are particularly bad, or the topography makes it desirable that something should be done quickly. One report has already been received, and the Government has requested the committee to forward further reports concerning towns which could be considered in connection with this year's Estimates. I believe these reports will be available in the very near future. As the information is not yet to hand I cannot give the honourable member the programme, but believe it will be available in the next few weeks. Otherwise, the preparation of this year's loan programme will be held up.

HENLEY BEACH-GRANGE RAILWAY.

Mr. FRED WALSH—Much discontent exists in the Henley Beach area because of the discontinuance of the Henley Beach-Grange railway last year as the result of a report in 1956 by the Advisory Transport Council. About six or seven years ago a project was submitted to the Public Works Standing Committee for the acquisition of land for a new line about 30 chains east of Military Road where the railway used to run. This land was to be used as part of the scheme for the electrification of the metropolitan railways. Following the Advisory Council's recommendation protest meetings were held and interested people took the matter up, but the council still adhered to its recommendation. One of the recommendations provided for the retention of the land referred to. Can the Premier say whether it is the Railways Commissioner's intention in the foreseeable future to re-open the railway between Grange and Henley Beach on the land acquired, as recommended by the Public Works Standing Committee and its retention endorsed by the Transport Advisory Council?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have not that information with me, but I hope to let the honourable member have a report tomorrow.

MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN.

Mr. FRED WALSH—Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked yesterday with regard to mentally retarded children?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The answer to the honourable member's question of yesterday is "No." Lochiel Park was established to cater for wards of the State who are difficult or of a subnormal nature, and who are not suitable to be kept in industrial schools or placed with foster parents. As a result of the deputation referred to by the honourable member, arrangements were made by the Education Department to provide for the two children concerned at normal schools. In view of the small number of children involved, no special centre is being provided at present.

POSTAL VOTING IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Mr. BYWATERS—I recently received the following letter from the Corporation of the town of Murray Bridge with regard to postal voting in municipal elections:—

The recent amendment to the Local Government Act No. 54 of 1957 deleted the words "an authorized witness" from section 833 (2) (c) and substituted therefor the words "a ratepayer within the area." This means that

a ratepayer absent or living away from an area would have considerable difficulty in obtaining a person to witness a postal vote application form. . . . This anomaly has been taken up with the Minister of Local Government by the Municipal Association of South Australia. Although some action can be expected in this direction, my council would be pleased if you would raise the matter of amendment, that is, restoring the words "an authorized witness" leaving "a ratepayer within the area" as an alternative, at the next session of Parliament.

Can the Premier say whether it is the Government's intention to bring down an amendment to the Local Government Act this session to rectify that position?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I do not know of any specific amendments that have been approved by Cabinet, but it would be hard to imagine a session of Parliament without some amendment to the Act. I will obtain some specific information on that question for the honourable member.

PORT PIRIE WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. DAVIS—Some months ago I brought under the notice of the Minister of Works and the Engineering and Water Supply Department the question of low water pressure in Port Pirie. I was notified by officials of the department that an inquiry would be made to see what could be done to relieve the position. Can the Premier inform me the result of that inquiry, and say what the department intends doing to relieve the position?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will obtain a report for the honourable member.

LAND FOR SCHOOL EXTENSION AT ALDGEATE.

Mr. SHANNON—The Education Department has secured additional land at Aldgate for necessary extensions to the school accommodation there, and because of the type of land available to the department the local school committee is perturbed at the slowness of the contractor in preparing that land for the erection of additional classrooms which are very badly needed. Can the Minister of Education say whether the department can hasten the work of the contractor so that the new classroom blocks may be erected to relieve the present congestion?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I made some inquiries and found that the contractor had gone off the job but had promised to resume work tomorrow. He has been asked to direct his attention firstly to the construction of a retaining wall at the southern end of the area

to be levelled, and when this has been completed the erection of the two classrooms will be undertaken.

STANDARDIZATION OF NORTHERN RAILWAY LINES.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—In his opening speech the Lieutenant-Governor yesterday stated that negotiations are in progress with the Commonwealth for the conversion of all the narrow gauge northern lines to standard gauge and that the Government has instructed the Railways Commissioner to investigate the laying of a standard gauge line connecting the northern system with Adelaide. Can the Premier say whether the negotiations which are being conducted with the Commonwealth postulate the continuance of the standardization of the Northern narrow gauge railway system in accordance with the agreement which was made, I think, in about 1941, and further, whether any priorities have been considered as to which lines will be standardized first? I am particularly interested in the line from Cockburn to Port Pirie, because I believe the standardization of this gauge would bring considerable benefits to the State, and I am wondering whether that aspect is being considered.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Leader of the Opposition will realize that in His Excellency's Speech it was not possible to go into full details of these projects. However, with the work in the South-East now nearing completion the State has commenced to negotiate with the Commonwealth for continuance of work so that it will be done under the agreement which has already been ratified by Parliament. From time to time there has been some difference of opinion in the Commonwealth in connection with these agreements. What appear to this Government to be essentials are, firstly, that we would have a project for the whole of the work contemplated, so that no one part of the work will be done and the scheme then discontinued, because that would leave our railways in a most hopeless position. If the Commonwealth found the finance, for example, for the portion of the line the Leader has mentioned, which I have no doubt they could, the Wilmington and the Quorn lines would be completely out on a limb if the works were then discontinued. The State has really requested three things. We have stated that we are prepared to go ahead with the standardization agreement forthwith, and in fact we have asked the Commonwealth to provide £50,000 on their Estimates this

year for some preliminary surveys. We requested the Commonwealth to sign the project orders for the whole of the narrow gauge sections in the northern part of the State, to carry out their part of the agreement with regard to the portion of the line at present known as the Silverton tramways, and also to agree to allow the line from Terowie to Peterborough in the meantime to be broadened to standard broad gauge so as to prevent very serious dislocation of the work. On the other hand, we have signified that if the Commonwealth were prepared to accede to these conditions we would be prepared to undertake the work on the priority they desired. We know that the first priority that they will request is a railway as mentioned by the honourable member, but we are prepared to carry out the work on the priorities that the Commonwealth might determine, subject to the project orders being available, as I have mentioned. We are also prepared to go into the question of running an additional line into Adelaide to connect that system with our metropolitan station.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—In the suggested project for building a standard gauge line from the new standardized system in the north to connect up with Adelaide, will the two possible routes, namely, from Port Pirie to Adelaide and from Peterborough to Adelaide, receive the fullest consideration?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—From a financial point of view the additional line is not a good proposition. The honourable member will realize that there will be no additional revenues at all arising from it, except that it would be of great convenience to business firms consigning goods to other States to have a direct line. Further, we believe that this project will be favourably considered by the Commonwealth Government. It seems that the Port Pirie to Adelaide line is the better proposition, but I would not express a hard and fast view until a full investigation has been made.

Mr. O'Halloran—You can go *via* Quorn to Port Augusta.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes, but I do not think that would be practicable.

KOONIBBA MISSION STATION.

Mr. BOCKELBERG—Has any conclusion been reached for a water supply to the Koonibba mission station? I was there in the course of my duties recently and conditions are not good at this mission station, largely owing

to the water supply. Also is any move being made to provide better housing conditions for the natives?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—A substantial sum was approved recently on a request from the Aborigines Protection Board for better housing for natives in the various mission stations. One of the problems associated with the mission stations is that the Government does not own the land. Building on other people's land raises a problem, but negotiations are proceeding and I think that satisfactory arrangements can be made. Speaking from memory—I do not want the honourable member to take this figure as completely accurate—some £30,000 was made available recently for additional houses in this connection. Incidentally, some of them are also for the up-river area mentioned by the honourable member for Chaffey and some for an area in the district of the Leader of the Opposition at Marree and east of Copley. There has been a fairly wide distribution, and that was part of the plan that the Government has been systematically undertaking.

With regard to water supply, I know that Sir Malcolm was doing a considerable amount of work on this. It is a difficult place to provide adequate water for with reasonable finance, but I will get for the honourable member a report from the Engineer-in-Chief on the present position and what can be done to alleviate it.

METAL FOR ROAD WORK.

Mr. J. CLARK—Is it a fact that metal for use in road work between Adelaide and Gawler is in future to be supplied direct to the job by the quarry supplying the metal instead of its being carted, as formerly, in trucks owned by drivers of the Highways and Local Government Department?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I do not think any Minister would have that detail now. I will get it for the honourable member.

BLANCHETOWN BRIDGE.

Mr. KING—Is the chairman of the Public Works Committee in a position to announce its findings on the Blanchetown Bridge?

Mr. SHANNON (Chairman Public Works Committee)—I am not surprised at getting a question on this matter. The inquiry has taken some time. I make no apologies for the fact that the committee has carefully reviewed this project. The evidence taken is voluminous and is now being considered by my committee. The evidence tendered by the honourable member

himself was a comprehensive statement on various aspects of the development. We hope to be able to present a report in the very near future.

SEWERING OF MANSFIELD PARK.

Mr. JENNINGS—I should like some information concerning the extension of the sewers to Mansfield Park in my electorate. This area is unsewered at the moment but it is close to the Islington Sewage Farm. The area is low-lying but thickly populated. Also, in one corner an area has been set aside by the Enfield Council as a noxious trades area, where the skin firms and wool scourers can be congregated, but they cannot take advantage of this area being proclaimed until sewerage is laid on.

The SPEAKER—The honourable member has not asked leave to explain his question.

Mr. JENNINGS—I ask leave to explain my question. In addition to the points I have already made, there is a large Housing Trust emergency scheme in the area through which run several open drains to carry away the effluent from septic tanks, which is most unsavoury. I know there are grave technical difficulties about sewerage this area but once again I ask if the Minister will take that up with his department to see if something can be done.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes.

CONCESSION FARES TO PENSIONERS.

Mr. LAWN—The Victorian Bolte Government has recently introduced concession fares to pensioners following the example set some years ago by the New South Wales Government. In view of the fact that there are now two Governments providing pensioners with concession fares on public transport, would the Treasurer now submit this matter to his Government for consideration?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—There was a deputation in this connection. I made a fairly close study of what had been done in other States. The statement with regard to Victoria is entirely new to me.

Mr. Lawn—I learnt about it only a few weeks ago.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Was it made before the election?

Mr. Lawn—Yes.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—That probably accounted for my not having heard anything about it. However, it is something that causes concern. Free transport and alternative concessional transport rates for

pensioners have been suggested, but there are many elderly people, in some instances no better off than pensioners, who do not receive a pension, so by singling out a class in that way, quite apart from anything else, we can create serious anomalies. Having studied closely what was being done by other States, the Government decided not to take any further action. However, in view of the new ingredient which the honourable member has introduced into the matter—namely, action by the Liberal Government of Victoria—I will have it investigated further.

NEW ERA PRISON FARM.

Mr. HAMBOUR—I should like some information about the New Era prison farm project which I believe was referred back to the Public Works Committee. Will it be necessary for evidence to be taken at the site or only in the metropolitan area, and will it be a prolonged inquiry?

Mr. SHANNON (Chairman, Public Works Committee)—This is another project which has been referred back—we have had a number in recent years—for further inquiry and report because of alterations to departmental plans in the field. On this project the committee will take further evidence, mainly from departmental officers. The principle involved remains the same. There is no necessity to take any further evidence from people in the area concerned, at Morgan or Cadell, but we propose to visit the area again to consider what the amended plans will involve the State in. I am of the opinion that this project should be carefully examined for it is important to the State. We do not want to make a mistake if we can avoid it. I would not suggest exactly how long the inquiry will take, but if the Government is urgently needing a report from my committee to put this matter on the coming Loan Estimates, we shall not delay it unnecessarily.

SLAUGHTERING OF LAMBS.

Mr. STOTT—The Minister of Agriculture will realize that we are rapidly approaching the lamb slaughtering season and he will be aware . . .

The SPEAKER—Does the honourable member propose to ask leave to explain this question? There has been a tendency today for members to rise and debate or discuss a question at length. I should like honourable members either to ask a question or ask leave to explain the question that they propose to ask.

Mr. STOTT—With your permission, to make the question clear, the Minister will be aware that there has been an agitation for increased slaughtering facilities of lambs and other stock in South Australia and that there is an increasing bottleneck appearing at the Adelaide Metropolitan Abattoirs. Requests have been made by private people who have facilities for the right to extend their works provided they can dispose of their reject export lambs within the metropolitan area. As this matter will become urgent in the coming season, can the Minister tell me what the Government's decision is? Can we look forward to some early statement or action by the Government on this matter?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—This matter has been the subject of representations by various interested people for some time, including a deputation which the honourable member organized comprising various primary producing interests that waited on me some time ago. This matter has been considered, but is not easy of solution. If the honourable member refers to the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech he will see that the legislative programme for this year cites an amendment to the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Act. The exact terms of the proposed legislation are not yet defined, but Cabinet has gone a long way with this matter and I expect a Bill will be forthcoming in the near future. It is necessary for the House to consider this matter as it cannot be dealt with by regulation in a way that would permit the change which the honourable member and others seek. I do not think it possible for the House to deal with this legislation in time for advantage to be taken of it during the current season, but that depends on how the programme goes and also on what preparations the interested slaughtering companies may have to make for carrying out lamb slaughtering in the export season, subject to the passing of the legislation. If they are ready to go into operation speedily it may well be that some advantage can be taken of those facilities in the present lamb season.

IRON ORE DEPOSITS.

Mr. LOVEDAY—Can the Premier say whether any further substantial bodies of high grade iron ore have been located as a result of the exploratory work of the Mines Department in the Middleback Range, apart from the body of ore adjacent to Iron Knob estimated at 30,000,000 tons and, if so, what are the departmental estimates of the tonnages in those additional bodies?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The department undertook investigations in a number of places where it seemed there was some chance of success. Generally speaking, all the attempts to locate any reasonable tonnages of ore in the southern and eastern part of Middleback Range were not successful. On the western side there is one area where investigations have not been completed, but they show some signs of success. There was no success in the Cooyerdoo area, but investigations in the race-course area showed substantial possibilities. Some of the bores that the department has put down have been promising, but I do not think any estimate has been made of actual tonnages.

MAIN ROADS PROGRAMME.

Mr. QUIRKE—My question concerns two roads that are under the main roads programme. The first is the one from Manoora and Hanson to Burra, which has to be sealed. Can this work be expedited, and will the Minister representing the Minister of Roads obtain information as to the defined routes for this road approaching and passing through the town of Burra? At last the sealing of the road between Spalding and Jamestown has been completed, but the sealing should be continued north of Jamestown at least as far as Mannanarie, and I hope eventually to Peterborough. Is this sealing on the programme for this year?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will get a report on those roads.

DUTY STAMPS ON RECEIPTS.

Mr. BYWATERS—It has been brought to my notice that certain business houses and others are not issuing receipts for payment of money but are issuing monthly statements instead. As a result, they do not have to use duty stamps. Some insurance companies are sending out accounts in two parts with a notice saying in effect that by tearing off the lower part it will serve in place of a receipt. Does the Premier consider that this defeats the purpose of the Stamp Duties Act, and does this practice represent any contravention of the Act?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—There is no contravention of the Act if no receipt is issued. The Act provides that if a receipt is issued it must bear a duty stamp if it is over a certain amount. A number of firms have discontinued issuing receipts, as the honourable member said, and are issuing monthly statements. This has not escaped the notice of the Government, but it is debatable

whether, in view of the cost involved in issuing a receipt, it should be necessary to provide by law that every firm in all circumstances shall post a receipt for every amount received.

Mr. O'Halloran—The Commonwealth Government gets more revenue than the State because of postage charges.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes. It probably costs a business house about one shilling to send out a receipt. I think that if we can avoid loading business houses with costs the consumer and the community will ultimately benefit. Some time ago the stamp duty on cheques was increased slightly, and that was one way to protect the State's revenues.

Mr. Bywaters—It is the purchaser who has to bear all these costs.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The purchaser pays anyway. The Government considered it was a simpler matter to slightly increase the stamp duty on cheques than to make it unlawful to receive money without issuing a receipt. I understand that firms will issue a receipt if a person requires one. Taking everything into account, including the high cost that would be involved in insisting upon receipts being given, the matter is probably best left lying where it is.

Mr. GEOFFREY CLARKE—Is it not a fact that insurance companies are not obliged to put duty stamps on their receipts, and do they pay duty to the Government on the basis of their premiums?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—That is a technical matter and I would like to examine the question before giving an answer.

BERRI PUMPING STATION.

Mr. KING—Can the Minister of Irrigation say when the new Berri pumping station will be ready for work, and after it has been electrified and in use will any of the old buildings be available for community use for the purpose of sport or recreation?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—There was a slight delay earlier in the construction of the pumping station, but after that the work proceeded rapidly, with the result that I hope the opening will take place at the end of this year or early next year. I have recently been making inquiries about the old steam pumping station and buildings nearby, and I am pleased that my latest report shows that a building will be available and, if that is so, I shall be happy to assist any community effort, such as the one mentioned by the honourable member.

LOXTON SOLDIER SETTLEMENT.

Mr. STOTT—Can the Minister of Repatriation say when the Loxton soldier settlement valuations will be completed and when they will be submitted to the settlers? In Loxton there has been some talk and some guesses on the matter.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—For some time State and Commonwealth officers have been making inquiries with the result that at Loxton within two weeks, certainly no later than a month, a number of valuations will be released.

FLINDERS RANGES TOURIST ATTRACTIONS.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—The Premier will recall that when improved tourist facilities were being considered last year, and the question of popularizing the Flinders Ranges was in the public eye, the suggestion was made that one or two new tourist roads should be constructed to give access to some of the beauty spots in the ranges not now easily accessible by road. I have in mind the beautiful scenery north of Blinman. Can the Premier say whether further consideration has been given to this matter and whether money will be made available to the Engineering and Water Supply Department, which is the body responsible for the construction of roads in this area, so that work may be done as soon as possible?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Only last week this matter was the subject of a conference between myself and the new Director of the Tourist Bureau. Several suggestions were specifically examined and one or two are being further examined. One project that appeared to contain much merit was to take a road into Wilpena Pound. At present few tourists see the beauty of the Pound because the existing road takes them only to the inlet into the Pound. The Flinders Ranges are becoming more and more a favourite with tourists. There is a magnificent climate in the winter and there is available everything sought by a tourist. Within the limits of the money that can be made available for this purpose, investigations are being made into the matters raised by the honourable member.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR VETERANS.

Mr. DUNSTAN—Last year I led a deputation from the South African War Veterans' Association to the then Minister of Works seeking the granting of free tramway passes

for South African War veterans, who were service pensioners. The basis of the application was that these veterans, unlike veterans of World Wars I and II, were peculiarly the concern of Governments of this State. They were, in fact, State troops. The veterans are a small class of people who are declining steadily because of their age. This concession to them would be a valued one, because they rendered great service to the State many years ago. The Tramways Trust agreed to grant free passes to service pensioners and about 50 passes were issued. The original estimate by the association of the number of people who would need passes was between 80 and 100. Passes were not issued to members of the association who had joined the forces at the time of the South African war but who had not gone overseas. A number of those concerned are aged pensioners. Many of them are in considerable difficulties because of their advancing age and the association has asked that the concession be extended to them, as they have the special qualification that they joined up for service in the State forces at that time. The matter was put again to the Minister of Works who passed it on to the trust, which has indicated that it feels it cannot grant the extra passes because it would be inconsistent with the granting of passes to incapacitated personnel of World Wars I and II. Will the Premier take up with the Tramways Trust the further points that the granting of this concession is peculiarly a State and not a Federal responsibility, and that there is a difference between the principle of passes being granted for them and for personnel of World Wars I and II?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes.

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD moved:—

That during the present session, unless otherwise ordered, the House meet on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in each week, at 2 o'clock.

Motion carried.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD moved:—

That during the present session, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and after the 6 o'clock adjournment on Wednesdays, Government business take precedence over other business, except questions.

Motion carried.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD brought up the following report of the Committee appointed to prepare the draft Address in Reply to the Lieutenant-Governor's speech:—

May it please Your Excellency—

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

2. We assure Your Excellency that we will give our best attention to all matters placed before us.

3. We earnestly join in Your Excellency's prayer for the divine blessing on the proceedings of the session.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

(Continued from June 17. Page 31.)

In Committee of Supply.

Grand total, £627,339.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition)—The total amount of these Supplementary Estimates is £627,339, which has been divided into five different amounts for various departments and services. The Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department is to receive £72,000 in addition to the £138,000 provided last year. This shows that the estimates made last year covered 40 per cent less than the actual amount considered necessary. I assume that this is due to the deterioration of the employment position in the various States. We are now supposed to be enjoying wonderful prosperity in South Australia and we expect a good season, but the way things are shaping, particularly in the north, unless there is a material change for the better in weather conditions in the near future this amount of £72,000 will be inadequate to meet the requirements of people who are in necessitous circumstances, and whose position is so peculiar that they cannot get adequate aid under the Commonwealth scheme. I regret the need to place the amount on the Supplementary Estimates, but there is no recourse but to support it. The money is urgently needed to meet the plight of many of our unfortunate fellow citizens.

An amount of £368,019 is being provided for the Housing Trust. This represents a special grant made to the State some time ago by the Commonwealth Government. The money has been handed over to the Housing Trust, as explained yesterday by the Treasurer, in order to facilitate the erection of houses in country areas for pensioners and other persons with low incomes. The scheme is highly commendable to Opposition members generally, for

in season and out of season over many years they have been urging that something be done along these lines. It is gratifying to know that the Government has after mature consideration—I could say a very long delay—decided to adopt another part of the policy of the Labor Party. I can assure members that the expenditure of this money and the rotating fund which will accrue from the collection of rents for the houses now being built will prove a great boon to the folk who will be accommodated in country districts.

An amount of £77,000 is provided in connection with the Morgan-Whyalla water main. In respect of this item there has been an underestimate of almost 40 per cent on the original estimate. We have no details concerning the purpose of this additional expenditure. I assume it is necessary and I am not prepared to oppose that line at this juncture. Under “Minister of Education,” £320 is provided as an *ex gratia* payment to a widow and this item and the further item of £110,000 as a grant to the University will be commended by members. The Opposition has always urged the extension of secondary education and University facilities and it is gratifying to see that provision is being made to enable our young folk to take their place in the competitive world with the highly educated students being turned out by universities of other countries. I support the first line.

Mr. TAPPING (Semaphore)—I understand that in recent weeks the Welfare Department has altered its policy in respect of issuing relief. Whilst it used to be the policy to issue coupons for groceries, milk, meat and other necessities, the department is now making cash payments. I believe this system is designed to obviate the bookkeeping that was necessary when coupons were used extensively. I point out for the department’s consideration that there are some irresponsible persons who may not use the relief money properly and as a result some children may suffer. The department should be able to depart from its new policy in such circumstances.

Whilst I commend the scheme to provide homes for people in country areas, several of my constituents are concerned at the slow rate of home building for pensioners in the metropolitan area. According to the Housing Trust reports, at April 1, 1957, 264 homes had been built for pensioners, whereas at April 1, 1958, 336 such homes had been constructed. That represents an increase of only 72 in 12 months, and that is not good enough,

particularly as our population is increasing and the span of life is increasing. Many eviction orders are being issued by courts against old people and the Government should expedite the building of homes to accommodate them. I support the first line.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Edwardstown)—The Treasurer said that the provision of £72,000 for the Children’s Welfare and Public Relief Department arose partly from the influx of unemployed persons from Western Australia and partly as a result of the time lag between the moment of unemployment and the receipt of Commonwealth benefits. Figures released a short time ago revealed that there were 1,800 people receiving Commonwealth unemployment benefits in April. I do not know the position at the present time, but the Government should indicate whether there are prospects of improving our unemployment position. It is known that a contract has been let for the construction of the Myponga reservoir and that it is proposed to increase the capacity of the Mount Bold reservoir. I understand that work will soon commence on the unification of our railway system. Will these various projects provide employment for those at present receiving relief benefits? The fact that people are coming here from Western Australia tends to indicate that they believe our State is prosperous and that employment is available. Can the Treasurer indicate when it is proposed to commence work on the Myponga and Mount Bold reservoirs and can he say whether those projects will offer opportunities for employment?

We have been told that legislation will soon be introduced relating to the establishment of an oil refinery here. Everyone is anxious to know when that work will commence, but all we have been told is that we can expect a big works programme. Will that provide employment? From reports it would seem that the Whyalla steelworks project is still far distant and will not affect the employment position there for some time. The Broken Hill Proprietary Company controls the employment position at Whyalla and the family man with daughters is confronted with two possibilities: either he must remain in Whyalla while his daughters become skilled in household duties, or he must provide for their upkeep in Adelaide where they may obtain employment. If Whyalla families come to the city they may not find employment and may require relief benefits. The Government must have enough officers to make an estimate of the

immediate possibilities of obtaining employment. People engaged in industry seem to be remaining in their jobs now because they know that once they leave them there are not many opportunities to obtain new employment.

Mr. Hambour—What does that prove?

Mr. FRANK WALSH—That there are fewer opportunities to obtain employment now than for a long time. Although the construction work to be carried out on the Myponga reservoir and on enlarging the Mount Bold reservoir will require labour, the numbers to be employed will not be very great because of the great amount of work that will be done by machines. The Government, if it wishes to assist in this matter, should make a survey of the work force available in this State so that when the Estimates are produced there will be a much larger amount to cover this department. I do not know when the Mount Bold enlargement will be commenced, but if the Government acknowledges its responsibilities to the people it will consult its engineers and draw up a programme so that it will know what work force is likely to be needed under the day labour system. It is no use telling me that that system cannot be used, because buildings have been constructed by the Architect-in-Chief's Department in my area under it. The work force should be the first responsibility of the Government so that employment could be found for those now unemployed, and there would not be any need to ask Parliament to approve this further sum for unemployment relief.

Later this year we will be asked to pass the Budget and the Loan Estimates, but the Government has not done anything concrete to find extra employment, although it has probably consulted its engineers about the Mount Bold reservoir. It has the necessary equipment for the work. Certainly the labour force is available. As Parliament will be asked to pass legislation to permit the Treasurer to spend money on certain works, he should say "Here is the work force and these are the requirements" so that Parliament would be in a position to say that the expenditure would reduce unemployment.

Mr. JENNINGS (Enfield)—My innate modesty and natural reticence compel me to speak very briefly on these Estimates; the fact that my voice would not stand a very long speech has nothing to do with it. All of us must regard the additional £72,000 required for the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department as particularly significant because the

amount sought by the Government last year was £138,000 and now, only a few days before the end of the financial year, we are asked to pass an amount that is more than half the original estimate. The Premier was candid enough to say that one of the reasons the extra amount is required is the tragic unemployment that has affected South Australia, together with the rest of Australia. I feel quite certain that if other States are affected more than South Australia the position must be more tragic in those States because, apart altogether from statistics, I know as a representative of a metropolitan electorate that a tremendous number of employable people are unemployed and have no possible chance to obtain other jobs. They are not deadbeats or hoboes, but people you and I would be glad to call friends, who last week or last month might have had good responsible jobs, but who, because of economic circumstances, find themselves no longer in jobs, and have no chance of being re-employed until economic conditions change drastically.

For a number of years we have been led to believe that the Commonwealth Parliament has assumed full responsibility for social services in this country and that we are completely covered when we get to an age when we can no longer work, when we are invalid and when unemployed or sick, but that, of course, is not true. Let us take the case of an invalid pensioner with a wife and four children. The pensioner gets £4 7s. 6d. a week, his wife £1 15s., and he is allowed 11s. 6d. a week for the first child and 10s. a week for the others—a total of £8 4s. In addition, his wife gets child endowment of 10s. a week for each child, which makes a total of £10 4s., on what a family of six is required to live. I think we all realize it is quite impossible to maintain a decent standard of living for six people on that amount. What the Welfare Department does is to build that up so that each member of the family unit receives £2 a week, and in this case it would mean that the State has to make up an extra £1 16s. a week. There are numerous cases such as this where the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department is helping all the time. The Commonwealth is not doing its job in the matter of social services. Many figures I have quoted have remained unchanged for the past five years; indeed, the allowance for a pensioner's wife has remained unchanged since 1952. I realize that the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department is doing a necessary job. True, it may administer its policy harshly in

some respects but, no doubt, in certain circumstances it must. I wish, however, that it was more clearly understood by the community that the much vaunted Commonwealth social service scheme we hear extolled over the air by the Prime Minister is not as good as we are led to believe, for the people then would not feel they were living in a welfare State.

I now refer to the provision of £368,019 for the erection by the Housing Trust of houses in the country. I have nothing to complain about this scheme for it is really good and I do not think the Government could have put the additional funds received from the Commonwealth to better use; but I hope that the press reports of the scheme will not incline South Australians to believe that all their housing problems are over. At most this amount can provide only about 140 homes, whereas more than 20,000 families still require homes.

Mr. Quirke—These homes will be for a particular group in country towns.

Mr. JENNINGS—Yes, but whether they are for a particular group or not, the extra 140 homes are acceptable because they will house 140 more families. Although I do not deny that the scheme is good, I am concerned that it should not be treated publicly the same as other schemes announced by the Government on behalf of the trust. For instance, one hears an announcement that flats are to be built for pensioners who will be charged only £1 a week rent and looked after. Every pensioner in the State hears that announcement and sees his great opportunity to get what he wants. He does not realize that only 100 may be built whereas 1,000 will be required. A similar announcement will later be made regarding pensioner couples' homes but, here again, only a fraction of the number required will be built. True, the number being built may be as many as can be built at the moment, but I criticize the way these things are given to the press by the Government and written up to incline the people concerned to believe that all they need do is to go into the trust's office, put down their names, and they will automatically get such a place. It is saddening to see the disappointment of some of these people—the most deserving in the community—as a result of this practice; therefore, while I commend this scheme I hope that the section of people referred to by Mr. Quirke will not believe they will be housed immediately as a result of it. Apart from these reservations, I support the Estimates.

Mr. DUNSTAN (Norwood)—I wish briefly to refer to the first line, under which £72,000 is to be provided for additional special monetary relief, etc., administered by the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department. Compared with similar expenditure in other States, the expenditure by the South Australian Children's Welfare Department is very low in relation to population. Our general expenditure on social services has been very much less than that of other States and; indeed, in the submission the Government made to the Grants Commission recently attention was called to this, the inference from the Government statement being that we should have a better claim to Federal subsidy because our belts were pulled tight on social services. The Commission, however, has made it clear that we will not be penalized merely because our social payments equal those in other States. The additional amount of £72,000 is to be spent on the provision of relief for people who are in an unfortunate position largely because of the present unemployment situation.

Mr. Jennings—The fact is that it has been spent.

Mr. DUNSTAN—Yes. I deplore the fact that money is not being spent for the general provisions of the department because, although there are some features of its service that are functioning effectively, some other features are not. I refer particularly to the Prosecutions Branch of the Maintenance Section. So overloaded with work is that branch that I have found, on trying to get appointments for women in my district who have been deserted without maintenance, that the earliest appointment I can arrange is from six weeks to two months ahead. The purpose of that appointment is to commence giving instructions to the department so that it can get after the deserting husband.

What is the alternative for such women? They may go to the Law Society, but that body will tell them to go back to the department because that is the provision in this State for women to be assisted, without cost, to receive maintenance. Alternatively, they may go to a solicitor and pay, but the amount they are usually able to pay in their unfortunate circumstances is very little, so they must go back to the department.

Occasionally, when the department is pressed on this matter it says, "We cannot give the lady an appointment immediately, but send her in and we will try to give her a little relief for a while until we catch up and take instructions on maintenance." When the lady receives her maintenance payment, however, she must

repay her relief payments, so that is not satisfactory either. I pleaded in this House two years ago for an increase in the number of prosecuting officers and an alteration in the basis of collection of maintenance and in the court procedure to ensure that recovery of maintenance was a quick business, but unfortunately, that plea has not been heeded and nothing has been done. The recovery of maintenance payments is as involved a procedure as it has always been: the Maintenance Court is chock-a-block with work; it is still tied to the Juvenile Court; to get a contested maintenance case through takes weeks and sometimes months after one gets to the court for the first time.

Even to get instructions to the department for the first time will take six weeks or two months. That is a most unsatisfactory situation from the point of view of a deserted wife. It gives the husband time to get away and disappear in another State under an assumed name, and the chance of catching up with him is Buckley's. It is time something was done about this issue for the time lag has been too long. The position is getting worse, not better. I am sure the department would welcome the appointment of additional officers to cope with this great problem and I hope the Government will do something about it.

Mr. QUIRKE (Burra)—I wish to comment briefly on the provision of £368,019 for a country housing scheme. Although I appreciate what is being done in this regard, I wish to make a suggestion regarding it. Firstly, most country towns will not require many such houses. A town such as Clare may require a dozen eventually. They are for a particular group of people who may urgently need housing. Three such homes are to be built in Clare under this scheme, but I suggest that when the trust purchases land it purchase enough for more than three homes at Clare: it should purchase land for future building. Although country towns are surrounded by vast spaces, it is not easy to buy building blocks for homes in country towns. In the main the trust does not look favourably on building homes in corporation areas: it likes to get on the fringes of a town. That policy may be all right, but on the fringes you still have difficulty in obtaining building blocks.

Further, these homes for elderly people should not be so far away from the centre of the town that the journey to the shopping centre imposes a burden: they should be as close to the shopping centre as is practicable.

Where land is available I suggest the trust purchase it, because country towns are growing and you do not want homes too far away or in isolated blocks where they are extremely expensive to service by roads and other facilities. Therefore, if the trust decides that 12 such homes will ultimately be required by people in Clare, it should acquire the necessary land for them so that the same roads, footpaths and other amenities may be provided for that block of houses instead of what may ultimately happen if they are situated in widely separated areas and the means of communication with the centre of the town becomes a problem doubly difficult. Now is the time to take action. In every country town I know it is becoming increasingly difficult to buy land for housing because, owing to the extension of water and electricity supplies, they are now highly desirable places for those who no longer live on their farms. Literally thousands of houses have been built in country towns since the close of the war by those who retired from their farms, and that is desirable. We do not want them to come to the city and uprooted from their environment, as it would possibly take the remaining years of their lives to become acquainted even with their next door neighbour. Wherever practicable, the trust should acquire land for building purposes as soon as possible.

Mr. LAWN (Adelaide)—But for the Treasurer's remarks when introducing the Supplementary Estimates I would not have participated in the debate. He said:—

It has been found, due to circumstances over which the people concerned have had no control, that a further £72,000 is required so that those persons who through no fault of their own find themselves temporarily out of employment and in need of assistance can be helped by the Government. Although the Commonwealth Government provides assistance for persons unemployed its policy is that cash relief is not available until the applicant has been registered for employment for two weeks. My Government has found that in many cases persons require some assistance during that two weeks and our policy is to assist them. Earlier in the year there was an influx of transient labour from interstate, especially Western Australia, to this State, attracted by the favourable conditions applying here, and these people needed some relief during the period which elapsed between their arrival and when they could find employment.

It is a shocking thing for the Treasurer to make such a statement in the year 1958. The Labor Party has promised a policy of full employment, because there is no need for unemployment, but the Liberal Party has

boasted about providing a high level of employment. In his statement the Treasurer proves exactly what the Liberal policy was designed for. Professor Hytten, of Tasmania, was more outspoken when he said that there should be 7½ per cent of people unemployed so that the employers could use the whip with the object of forcing them to produce more, with the fear that otherwise they may be outside the gate where others were waiting to take their jobs. The Liberal Party has boasted its policy is a high level of employment, but the policy of the Australian Labor Party is full employment. It is a policy which we can prove can be fulfilled. From 1941 to 1949 there was not a single unemployed person in Australia except those who were unemployable.

Mr. Shannon—There would not be any unemployment in New South Wales now under Mr. Cahill!

Mr. LAWN—The honourable member's interjection is not pertinent to the position. The policy of the Liberal Party in Australia is to have unemployed persons. There has been no more damaging statement of that Party's policy than that of our Treasurer yesterday. Of course there is unemployment in New South Wales. The Treasurer admitted yesterday that unemployment applies throughout Australia and that people are going from State to State looking for jobs. They do not want to loaf, but are prepared to travel from State to State looking for work in order to provide living requirements for their wives and children. We are driving people interstate looking for jobs, but the Labor Government provided employment throughout Australia when it had control of the Federal Treasury benches from 1941 to 1949. The banks had control of the Treasury benches in 1930. The Liberal Party had control of the Senate and the banks control of the Commonwealth Parliament.

The Treasurer admitted yesterday that we have unemployment in South Australia to such an extent that his Government was forced to provide a line for £72,000 on Supplementary Estimates to provide unemployment relief over and above the amount supplied by the Commonwealth Liberal Government. He drew attention to the fact that the social services provided by the Commonwealth Government were not designed to meet the present position, and said that that Government was not paying unemployment relief until at least two weeks after a person became unemployed, and he admitted that the unemployed in this State during those two weeks needed assistance. He

also said that what was happening in South Australia was happening in the other States as well. He agreed that the position here was so serious that he was asking Parliament to provide £72,000 solely for the purpose of assisting the unemployed. On more than one occasion the Treasurer has said that the production per head in South Australia was the highest in the Commonwealth, and yet all he can do for them now is to supplement the Commonwealth's unemployment relief. He has condemned the Commonwealth Government's financial relief to these people by saying that they cannot afford to wait for the two weeks referred to. I think I have heard the Treasurer say that the Savings Bank deposits in South Australia were the highest in Australia, and therefore our people are saving more than those in other States. That is no criterion, because here we have concrete evidence that the ordinary workman has not the money in the Savings Bank, because when he gets out of work owing to the high cost of living in this State, and because wages are so low, he is forced to use every penny of his income to live from week to week, and when unemployed is unable to wait the two weeks to receive financial assistance from the Commonwealth Government.

The South Australian Government since 1953 has refused to alter the Industrial Code to enable a continuance of quarterly wage adjustments. Wages were frozen by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court, and millions of pounds were thus taken out of the pockets of South Australian wage earners from 1952 to 1957, to such an extent that today this House is being asked to vote £72,000 to help those who gave this State the valued production to which the Treasurer has referred. We find that the position is not much different in the other States, because workers are seeking employment elsewhere. Last year I told the House that I knew of people from Western Australia who had come here to find work, and many were continuing on to the eastern States. What the Treasurer has said is perfectly true—that working people are being forced to shift from State to State looking for jobs. This is not the only matter on which he has condemned the Commonwealth Government. He has condemned it for its action in connection with the Snowy Waters Agreement, and yet during the approaching Commonwealth election campaign he will ask the people to perpetuate the very things he has condemned in this House and return the Menzies Government. The Treasurer and his supporters boast of what

he has done for South Australia in attracting industries here.

Mr. Hambour—And so do you here.

Mr. LAWN—The honourable member has never heard me boast about that. What I have always said is that the Treasurer is not responsible for half the industries with which he is credited. He himself has said in the House that the Chifley Labor Government was responsible for some of those industries, including the British Tube Mills. What about the work he has lost to the State because of industries we had here but could not keep! In 1918 the motor body building industry of Australia was founded in South Australia. The continual interjecting from members opposite is evidence of the democracy his Party preaches but will not practise. Its members do not want democracy in South Australia, but an electoral system which will prevent the people from changing the Government. From 1918 until the beginning of the Treasurer's term the motor body building industry employed more people in South Australia than in any other State. This Premier has driven it to other States.

Mr. Hambour—Rubbish!

Mr. LAWN—It is true. The branch of the Vehicle Builder's Union in South Australia was as large as those of all the other States put together for many years after 1918, because the whole of the motor body building industry was here.

Mr. Hambour—How did he drive them out? You know that is not true.

Mr. LAWN—He let them go.

Mr. Hambour—That is a lot different.

Mr. LAWN—I referred earlier to the industries he has let go out of the State. Members on the other side boast about the industries he has encouraged here, but we could have kept one which employed thousands. When the motor industry started to build the complete Australian car the whole of the manufacture of the engine was diverted from South Australia to Victoria, and even in the motor body building section of the industry South Australia is today a poor third, both New South Wales and Victoria being ahead of it. That position has only come about in the last two or three years during the tenure of the present Premier. When members of the Government boast about the industries we are getting here, they should mention those we are losing to other States.

Much of this amount of £72,000 is going to the homes of people who have previously been employed in the motor industry in South Australia. Chrysler's have put off over 2,000

workers. Many of the smaller firms who supplied to General Motors-Holdens and Chrysler's and employed 20 or 25 people have reduced their staffs, and many that had been supplying Chrysler's have closed down altogether. The Prime Minister, referring to the "Horror" Budget of March, 1956, admitted that so far as the motor industry in South Australia is concerned that Budget of 1956 did what it was designed to do. The Commonwealth Government was also responsible for unemployment in the textile industry, and it did not have another industry to absorb the army of workers who were thrown out of the motor and textile industries. The result is that there are thousands of unemployed in this country today, a fact which cannot be denied because the Premier admitted it in the House yesterday and is asking us to vote £72,000 for the relief of these people.

Mr. Hambour—You can vote against it.

Mr. LAWN—If that is all the member for Light can offer to the people of South Australia, then I say he is offering them nothing. He can go to the unemployment bureau tomorrow and tell the unemployed that he has nothing more to offer them than that. All the honourable member is prepared to do is to vote in this House for an additional £72,000 for this department. I suggest he should rise in this House and protest against the Liberal Party policy of high levels of employment and demand full employment, and if he will do that he will be at one with me. I did not hear the Treasurer's statement but I have read it and I have nothing to say on any part of it except the admission that there is unemployment in this State, and all the Government can do about it is to vote a sum of £72,000 to help the unemployed until they have been out of work for two weeks. That is in direct keeping with their policy to have this army of unemployed so that they can crack the whip on those in employment and tell them to keep up the production, "or else."

At the same time as we have this unemployment we find on the other hand that companies are making record profits. The Broken Hill Proprietary Company and many others are in that position. General Motors-Holdens made £11,000,000 profit last year, and it has already stated that it is not satisfied and wants to make £15,000,000 next year. This profit is to come from the work of those who are inside the factory, and if they do not make it there are plenty outside to take their place. That is the policy which is supported by members of this Government. Those members have gone a bit

quiet now, because these home truths are hitting home. I challenge members opposite to get up and answer the charges I have made this afternoon, deny the fact that there is unemployment and that the Government is asking for £72,000 for a special grant for that purpose, and that the motor industry has gone to other States. General Motors-Holdens are pressing panels and transporting them by rail to Sydney and Melbourne. They have big assembly plants at Dandenong and Sydney where they are doing the assembly work which had always previously been done in South Australia, either in King William Street or at Woodville. We have lost work which would have employed thousands of people, and these people are now drawing unemployment benefit from the State Government.

I have gone to various parts of South Australia, and when talking with people about the millions of pounds' worth of industry that the Premier claims he has encouraged to South Australia they have asked me where those industries have gone because they say they never see them. Whatever industry the Premier gets goes to a district already represented by Labor because he does not want industries to go to other districts. The industry which is going to Christies Beach is not going there at the wish of the Premier but because the company itself does not wish to go anywhere else. It is therefore unfortunate from the point of view of this Government.

I am very perturbed about that statement of the Premier, because unless the position is corrected it will get worse. Every hundred men put into employment creates employment for an additional ten men, and when one hundred men lose employment ten more are automatically sacked. That is a fact which is generally accepted throughout the Commonwealth, irrespective of Party politics. I earnestly urge that we should not treat this line of £72,000 lightly and say that because the Government has asked for it we will support it without looking at it very intently. I rose to draw attention to the fact that the Government is admitting, despite the statement by the Federal Minister for

Labour that unemployment is not getting worse or that it is seasonal, that we have a serious problem of unemployment on our hands, and unless we set out to correct that position it will drift. It cannot be said that the Government can do nothing about it, because the Curtin-Chifley Government proved that we in this Commonwealth can have full employment.

First line—Chief Secretary and Minister of Health—Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department, £72,000—passed.

Treasurer—Miscellaneous, £368,019—passed.

Minister of Works—Engineering and Water Supply Department, £77,000—passed.

Minister of Education—Education Department, £320; miscellaneous, £110,000—passed.

Grand total, £627,339—passed.

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1).

The Supplementary Estimates having been adopted by the House, an Appropriation Bill for £627,339 was founded in Committee of Ways and Means, introduced by the Hon. Sir Thomas Playford, and read a first time.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It is founded on the Supplementary Estimates which have been dealt with by the House. Clause 2 provides for the further issue of £627,339. Clause 3 provides for the appropriation of general revenue to the purposes set out in the Supplementary Estimates. Clause 4 provides for the Treasurer to make payments as directed by the Governor's Warrant and to be allowed credit for the amounts so paid. Clause 5 authorises the issue of money other than revenue or money received from the Commonwealth to make good any deficiency out of loan funds or other public funds.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages without amendment.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.6 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, June 19, at 2 p.m.