

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

Thursday, July 24, 1958.

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

**QUESTIONS.****MARREE WATER SUPPLY.**

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Last summer considerable difficulty was experienced at Marree in getting water, and on several occasions the supply to the townspeople was shut off entirely. The water is derived from Commonwealth railway sources, and with the greatly increased importance of the town, owing to the completion of the broad gauge line to that centre, the railways' demand has increased materially. It was suggested to me that the Engineering and Water Supply Department might investigate the possibility of using water from another bore which at present is not harnessed. Certain other suggestions were made, but I think it would be advisable for the Minister of Works to get one of his officers to visit the area as soon as possible to examine the position, which is rather complicated, with a view to improving the service to the townspeople next summer.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—When I was at Marree about a year ago this question was brought to my notice. The position was complicated, as the Leader says, because the water supply within the town radius had to water stock travelling down the Marree stock-route as well as stock being entrained, and further complicated when the trans-shipping of stock from the Alice Springs section occurred, for additional water had to be found for those stock. There was a proposal that a bore should be tested some few miles out of the town, the purpose being, I think, to provide a watering point for stock coming down the Birdsville route and thereby relieve the demand on the town supply to that extent. I understand a test was made, but that virtually impenetrable rock was encountered, and I think the test was abandoned, though I am not sure from memory. The Lands Department maintains the bores on stock routes, so this question may come within the purview of the Minister of Lands, but I will get a report for the honourable member.

**ZEBRA CROSSINGS.**

Mr. COUMBE—Has the Minister of Works, as acting Leader of the House, a reply to a question I asked recently about recommendations of the State Traffic Committee on zebra pedestrian crossings?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The State Traffic Committee has furnished a lengthy report, which is available to the honourable member. The relevant extract states:—

The committee has given consideration to a proposal for the better marking of pedestrian or zebra crossings and recommends that the regulations under the Road Traffic Act be amended to provide for the following:—

1. That school crossings and pedestrian crossings be absolutely divorced and treated separately.
2. Where a pedestrian crossing is approved, it would be desirable to include in the regulations the provision of flashing yellow or amber globes, one to be placed at each side of the crossing.
3. Where practicable and essential, refuges be provided and additional yellow or amber globes installed.

I do not think the report has been examined by Cabinet yet.

**CONTROL OF FIREARMS.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Early this year an article appeared in the *News* on the danger of air guns. It stated:—

Doctors and police are alarmed at the number of recent woundings from air guns. An 8-year-old boy may lose some of the sight in one eye.

An exhibition of little Chicago occurred in Rundle Street recently when there was a pistol duel between the police and a motorist. What are the Government's views on the control of the sale of firearms, particularly air guns? It is well known that children much below the age of 15 are able to purchase these weapons at almost any departmental store without the permission of their parents. A comprehensive inquiry should be held, for Adelaide is now a big community, and any relevant laws or regulations should be enforced. Will the Minister of Works bring down a report on the Rundle Street episode and, secondly, what improvement can the Government suggest in the control of firearms, particularly air guns?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will refer the question to the Chief Secretary.

**BUS ROUTES.**

Mr. MILLHOUSE—My question, which is directed to the Minister of Works, arises out of the recent changeover from trams to buses on five metropolitan routes. One is the Mitcham route, and buses now run either right through Mitcham to the former tram terminus or to the Torrens Arms corner with the sign "Lower Mitcham." It has been suggested that the Lower Mitcham bus route be extended from its present terminus at the

Torrens Arms Hotel to serve Clapham, and it was reported in the *Advertiser* of July 14 that that suggestion, with which I entirely agree, has been referred to the Metropolitan Transport Advisory Council. Will the Minister of Works make inquiries with a view to speeding up a decision by the council on that suggestion?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Yes.

#### SCHOOL TRANSPORT OF MENTALLY-RETARDED CHILDREN.

Mr. LAWN—The Education Department provides school transport in certain circumstances, but no provision is made for transporting mentally-retarded children to and from school. At present parents have to transport them and if they do not own a motor vehicle a heavy burden can be placed on a mother whose husband is working. In some instances mothers have to take children up to 14 years of age to school on bicycles in all types of weather. As the number of such children is small, will the Minister of Education consider providing transport for them or, alternatively, will he discuss the matter with the Chief Secretary to ascertain whether some arrangement can be made for the Education Department, in conjunction with the Children's Welfare Department, to provide such a service?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Transport is provided for school children in country areas but only in certain circumstances. Up to the present it has not been the Government's policy to provide free transport in the metropolitan area. Mrs. Wilfred Steele, chairman of the Standing Committee for the Physically Handicapped, has made oral and written representations to me in this matter, as have the members for Torrens and Norwood. I am either receiving a deputation or holding a conference with members of this association within the next week or two, when a detailed case will be presented to me. I shall be only too pleased to inform all members and other interested parties of any Government decision.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCHOOL OF ARTS.

Mr. GEOFFREY CLARKE—Has the Minister of Education had an opportunity to examine the suggestion I made by way of question on Tuesday that scholarships, with living allowances, be made available to the School of Arts?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I have ascertained that in other States diplomas in Art are approved for full-time study by holders

of Commonwealth scholarships. Institutions giving diplomas and degrees must be approved by the Universities Commission. In the two years of the existence of the diploma in Art in this State no applications have been received for use of a scholarship at the School of Arts and Crafts. Consequently, no request has been made to the Universities Commission for approval for the School of Arts and Crafts to be considered as a full time training institution for holders of Commonwealth scholarships. However, as a result of the honourable member's question an application is now being made to the Commission.

#### WATER AND SEWERAGE RATES.

Mr. HUTCHENS—My question relates to charges made for water and sewerage. In order to indicate the increased charges I need only refer to three properties. On one small property outside my electorate the owner in 1954 paid £10; in 1955, £10; 1956, £21; 1957, £24; and 1958, £27. On a vacant allotment with a 66ft. frontage the charge was £6 2s. in 1956 but in 1958 was £6 12s. On another property where no water has been used because no service has been connected the charges have been:—in 1955, £2 10s.; 1956, £4 17s. 6d.; 1957, £5 7s. 6d.; 1958, £6 3s. 9d. Can the Minister of Works explain the heavy increase in charges, particularly as people have been told that there would be no increase in rates and, secondly, can he say whether water and sewerage rates could be applied similarly to telephone, electricity and gas charges, which are not operative until services are provided to the consumer?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I take it the figures quoted are the combined charges for water and sewerage?

Mr. Hutchens—Yes.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—It was stated that there would be no increase in such rates this year. The figures quoted by the honourable member date back beyond this year, when increases were made. The facts are that no increases are contemplated in rates this year, but where assessments have not been recently made, or where there has been a lag in the ordinary process of making assessments; such assessments may be altered this year. A property is assessed and a rating is imposed on that assessment, and it is correct to say that there will be no increase in rating this year but assessments could be altered.

Mr. Hutchens—Are assessments altered annually?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I cannot say how frequently assessments are changed. In respect of other forms of land taxation re-assessments are made every five years, but I do not remember what the practice is under the Waterworks Act. It may be that the water consumption on the particular properties mentioned materially increased.

Mr. Hutchens—Two blocks have no water.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—There is a standard charge for vacant blocks served by water but from memory I cannot recall the basis of that charge because I have not been long enough in charge of this department. If the honourable member will let me know the sections of the places concerned and the owners' names I will have inquiries made to see whether there has been any error in the charges, and endeavour to give him the information he desires.

#### NARACOORTE POLICE STATION.

Mr. HARDING—The old police residence and the courthouse at Naracoorte have been condemned, and as these buildings are situated on a very valuable site, will the Minister of Works ask his colleague whether it is the intention of the department concerned to offer this property for sale, and if so, when and in what manner the sale will be effected?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—One or two similar cases are being dealt with at the moment. I do not remember whether Naracoorte is one of them, but I will make inquiries and inform the honourable member.

#### SUBSIDIES FOR HOSPITAL PATIENTS.

Mr. DAVIS—Before March 1 last the Commonwealth Government paid a subsidy of 12s. a day to each patient in hospital, but after that date the subsidy was increased to £1. The daily rate for a patient increased from 35s. to 36s., but the only people who enjoy the additional 8s. are those who are members of an approved hospital benefits society. Why cannot all patients enjoy the additional 8s. subsidy? Is this to try to force people to become members of some approved society?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—As the honourable member knows, this matter was the decision of the Commonwealth Government, not the State. I think there are very sound reasons for the decision. I shall refer the matter to the Chief Secretary and ask him if he has anything to add in reply to the question.

#### FLUORINE IN WATER SUPPLIES.

Mr. LAUCKE—Yesterday I asked the Minister of Works whether consideration would be given to adding fluorine to suburban water supplies, and he said that the Uley-Wanilla scheme, which supplies water to Port Lincoln, contains about the correct proportion of fluorine, and that for some eight years past the water has been consumed by children there. Will the Minister consider making Port Lincoln a point of research, as it were, into the merits or demerits so far as dental health is concerned of placing fluorine in drinking water?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I think that matter is already in the mind of the Minister of Health. I have not conferred with the Minister of Education, so I do not know whether Education Department dentists can supply information on this subject or have been asked to do so, but I will take up the matter with my colleagues to see whether the water has been used at Port Lincoln sufficiently long to produce concrete results, and if so, whether they will take steps to see what benefits have resulted.

#### METER READING SLIPS.

Mr. BYWATERS—On June 19 I asked the Premier, who then represented the Minister of Works, whether the Engineering and Water Supply Department would resort to its former practice of showing the previous reading as well as the present reading on meter reading slips. Has the Minister of Works a reply?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Engineer-in-Chief has furnished a report in which he makes this comment:—

The basic reason for the present practice of showing consumption only on the readers' slips is to speed up the reading of meters, thereby reducing the cost. Since the present method was introduced in 1952, the department's experience has been that it is only in isolated cases that consumers have requested to be supplied with present and previous readings in addition to the actual consumption.

If the honourable member desires I will show him the statistics on which that statement is based.

#### PAYNEHAM SCHOOL.

Mr. DUNSTAN—As my question relates to the Payneham school, which is in the district represented by the member for Enfield, although a great many children from my district attend, I am asking it with his agreement. When the new Payneham school was built, or about to be built, at Broad Street, Payneham, the local people were informed, and they felt, as I did, that the proposed building was too

small. However, the department insisted that it was large enough, but now that it has been built there are still 280 children in the primary department whom it was intended to accommodate in the new school still being accommodated in the temporary buildings at the old school on the other side of Payneham Road. Toilet facilities at both the old school and the new school are quite inadequate for the children there. At the beginning of 1957 the school committee approached the department seeking additional accommodation at the new school site, and I have a copy of a letter written by the Deputy Director of Education on March 14, 1957, asking what alternative the school committee wanted—the building of temporary classrooms or of additional permanent classrooms—and gave the alternative date for each proposal. It was stated that temporary wooden buildings could be provided by February, 1958, if that was the choice of the parents. In April, 1957, the school committee unanimously asked for wooden buildings, but up to the present no such buildings have been provided and the position remains that the school is still split and there are still insufficient toilet facilities at each site. The parents are very concerned about the position. Can the Minister of Education inform me what indications there are now of additional accommodation being provided at the new site and of additional toilet facilities at both sites?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Although I am not doubting it for one moment, I am surprised that there was a unanimous decision in favour of temporary buildings, because I know there was a difference of opinion among principal officers of the Education Department as to the alternative proposals. I am in the process of preparing the draft Loan Estimates for submission to the Premier on his return, and am not in a position to make any statement, but I shall take up the matter and refresh my memory on the reply to the request. I understood there were still two different sections, one prepared to wait longer for permanent solid construction, the other preferring the easy way of having the temporary buildings.

#### PRICE CONTROL.

Mr. DUNNAGE—In view of the remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition yesterday that the Labor Party is wholeheartedly in favour of the decontrol of meat prices, will the Minister of Works state whether the Government will consider decontrolling all other goods and services?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—That is a policy matter the Government would need to consider and I am not in position to supply an answer at present.

#### WILLESDEN SCHOOL.

Mr. RICHES—Since the Willesden school near Port Augusta was opened negotiations have been taking place for the establishment of an infant department block there. The original plans provided for a block of solid construction and this was promised to the people of Willesden by His Excellency the Governor when he opened the existing building about four years ago. Nothing has happened in the meantime, however, and we have reason to believe that the department is now preparing plans and specifications for the infant block. Will the Minister of Education see that the block is of solid construction, as promised by His Excellency, and can he say when the work is likely to be commenced?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—In reply to the second question, I shall be only too pleased to indicate at the earliest opportunity what is proposed and when it is proposed; but with the greatest respect to His Excellency the Governor, I did not know it was the practice of Governors to make promises about the erection of schools of any class or in any locality. That rather staggers me and, again with the greatest respect, I hope that the practice will not be indulged in in future.

#### KADINA HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. HUGHES—On August 4, 1955, the inadequacy of the lavatory accommodation at the Kadina Memorial High School was brought to the notice of the Education Department. On May 3, 1956, the department acknowledged that the accommodation of three lavatories for boys and five for girls was below the minimum requirement of four and six respectively for the 110 boys and 138 girls. In December 1957 the School Architect, the Chief Surveyor of the Architect-in-Chief's Department and an officer of the Mines Department investigated the position and left the school council with the distinct impression that this work would be recommended. Since then, with an increase in enrolments to 147 boys and 145 girls, the position has steadily worsened. Can the Minister of Education say whether the department intends to proceed with the construction of adequate lavatory accommodation at the school, and if so, can he say when the work will commence or whether the Architect-in-Chief's Department is unable to give the matter attention? Further, does the department intend to obtain quotations locally for the work?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—As the honourable member was kind enough to tell me yesterday that he would ask this question, I have obtained the following information from the Architect-in-Chief:—

The plans and specifications for this work have been completed and tenders will be called in the *Government Gazette* of July 31, 1958, and the *Advertiser* of August 2, 1958.

Local contractors will have the opportunity of submitting tenders for this work.

#### RICHMOND BUS TURN-ROUND.

Mr. FRED WALSH—My question relates to the turn-round of the Richmond bus at the Richmond terminus. After the conversion of the Richmond route from trams to buses about 15 months ago the practice was adopted of turning the buses from West Beach Road to Dover Street and into Leicester Street, the latter two being narrow streets, and then returning along Marion Road; but following on complaints, the practice was changed to turning the bus from Marion Road into West Beach Road, and then into Dover Street, proceeding back to West Beach Road and returning down Marion Road. That practice continued until last week when it was again changed. As the streets are narrow and the buses large it is difficult for them to turn easily and they are driven on to the footpath. Consequently, residents fear accidents to the many children that play in the street. The trust holds an allotment of land opposite Dover Street, which land is at present being used as a market garden. Will the Minister of Works ask the general manager of the Tramways Trust to have drivers revert to the practice of driving into Dover Street and backing on to West Beach Road, which practice has been carried out for many months? Alternatively, could the block of land held by the trust be levelled and made the site for the permanent turn-round at the Richmond bus terminus, which I consider the better course?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will refer the question and the suggestions to the general manager of the trust.

#### VICTOR HARBOUR CAUSEWAY.

Mr. JENKINS—When the repairs to the Victor Harbour causeway had been completed, the Harbors Board placed restrictions on motor traffic over it. These restrictions have considerably inconvenienced a number of fishermen who sometimes have to unload several tons of fish at a time. Therefore, I led a deputation to the then Minister of Marine (the Hon. C. D. Rowe) on the matter. Is the

Minister of Marine able to say whether a decision has been made on this question?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The assistant general manager of the Harbors Board (Mr. Wilson) advises that Victor Harbour fishermen have use of the causeway from 6 p.m. to 10 a.m. and on the odd occasions when they have not finished by 10 a.m. they have been allowed by the Harbour Master to continue between trains. The board intends to visit Victor Harbour to discuss this matter fully with the council. Regarding another matter—the request by fishermen for the driving of two additional piles, one on each side of the spring pile jetty, and the construction of ramps to provide more loading and unloading space—the Harbors Board is now preparing estimates for the additional ramps.

#### COMPULSORY DRIVING TESTS.

Mr. TAPPING—Can the Minister of Works, as Acting Leader of the Government, say whether the Government intends to introduce legislation this year to provide for compulsory driving tests for motorists?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I am not aware of any recent discussions in Cabinet on this question or of any such intention on the part of the Government.

#### CONTROL OF RENTS.

Mr. STEPHENS—Paragraph (d) of section 6 (2) of the Landlord and Tenant (Control of Rents) Act states:—

With respect to any lease in writing of any dwellinghouse the lease of which is for two years or more and which is entered into after the passing of the Landlord and Tenant (Control of Rents) Act Amendment Act, 1954; That section excludes such leases from rent control. Is there any law that compels a lessor or lessee to have leases registered, or is there anything in the Act to prevent lessees from being forced to pay exorbitant rents? Landlords can put a tenant out and then lease the premises at more than double the previous rent. If the prospective tenants do not sign a lease they cannot get into the house. Is there any way the rent control board can deal with these cases?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I think the honourable member has virtually answered his own question, because he said that by using the provisions of the Act the matter is taken out of the control of rents; but it is a legal question and I am not competent to give a firm reply. I will refer the question to the Attorney-General and ask him for a considered opinion.

## COUNTRY SEWERAGE SCHEMES.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—The Lieutenant-Governor's Speech contained one paragraph at least that pleased me greatly, namely, that the Advisory Committee on Sewerage, under the chairmanship of the Engineer for Sewerage (Mr. Murrell), has been making inquiries and taking evidence in country towns about their suitability for sewerage. The committee has taken evidence at Gawler, and I ask the Minister of Works whether its report on that town has been received, and will the committee's reports be tabled?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—This committee was set up to visit country towns with a view to making recommendations on which towns should have priority under the country sewerage scheme. I have had discussions with Mr. Murrell on this matter in the last day or two, and he informed me that the committee had practically completed its tour of country towns and investigating the various schemes. The committee is an advisory one and will not be making recommendations on the necessity or otherwise of sewerage any particular town, but rather advising which towns should have first attention. In order that the committee's report may come within those terms of reference it will of necessity have to complete investigations and then tender a composite report containing recommendations. I think it will complete its inquiries in about a week and then compile a report promptly.

## COUNTRY ENGINEERING WORKS.

Mr. LOVEDAY—An engineering works at Whyalla has been employing 24 men, but owing to orders falling off it has had to dismiss nine men. I have found the proprietor could compete successfully for certain Commonwealth work, but he has the impression that he is unable to get any work in relation to competitive State Government tenders. Will the Minister of Works examine the procedure and methods of calling tenders for Government works with a view to making it as easy as possible for small engineering works and other manufacturers in country towns to place competitive tenders for work so as to prevent unemployment in country towns?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—All Government works are determined by tender and it is the Government's practice to give certain advantages, when considering tenders, to industries that are conducted wholly or mainly within the State. Local industries would have a distinct advantage in respect of tenders for

works within their own localities. I am not able to say just how far the Government could go in protecting any particular concern or small industries when there are competitive tenders from within the State. I take it the honourable member was not referring to tenders for local requirements, but for works in any part of the State?

Mr. Loveday—Yes.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—He desires some advantages to small country industries over larger ones?

Mr. Loveday—The size of the job would have some effect on it.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I think the honourable member's suggestions should be discussed in the first instance with the Chairman of the Supply and Tender Board, and I will make inquiries from him.

## METROPOLITAN MILK SUPPLY.

Mr. HAMBOUR—As metropolitan milk suppliers receive a much greater price for their product than those of the mid-North, will the Minister of Agriculture investigate the possibility of admitting milk supplies from the mid-North to the metropolitan market?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—Yes. The metropolitan milk supplying area is always under consideration, and I shall particularly ask to have the honourable member's question investigated. Several factors counsel caution. One is that we cannot keep on expanding the supplying area without careful consideration and upsetting market conditions seriously for everybody already supplying the metropolitan area. These people have gone to great trouble and expense to get licences from the Metropolitan Milk Board, so this is not an easy problem to solve. I cannot give the honourable member a reply to his question immediately, but I will investigate the matter carefully.

PRIMARY PRODUCERS' UNION  
CONFERENCE.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Has the Minister of Agriculture's attention been drawn to a report in this morning's *Advertiser* of two serious statements made yesterday at the conference of the Australian Primary Producers Union? One was from Mr. Dodd, chairman of the barley section of the South Australian division of the union, the other from Mr. Langley, chairman of the poultry section. They both pointed out the great difficulties being experienced in marketing in South Australia barley under the Barley Board and eggs under

the Egg Board because of Victorian competition. If this matter has not been considered by the Government, will the Minister of Agriculture see that it is?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I am naturally concerned about this matter, but at the moment I cannot give a constructive reply. The press article has only been brought briefly to my attention, but by next week I should be in a position to give an adequate reply.

#### NARACOORTE SCHOOLS.

Mr. HARDING—Can the Minister of Education say whether it is the intention of the Education Department to purchase sufficient land in Naracoorte to build some day another secondary school and, secondly, whether any decision has been reached regarding the use or disposal of the grounds and buildings of the old Naracoorte High School which has been virtually unoccupied for several years?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The question of further schools, both primary and secondary, in the area mentioned and, in fact, other areas, is being constantly examined and large areas of land are being purchased for future requirements. I am not disposed to say at the moment what the precise arrangements are for further primary and secondary schools at Naracoorte, but as soon as I am in a position to do so I will.

#### CONCESSION FARES TO PENSIONERS.

Mr. LAWN—On June 18 I asked the Premier whether he would refer to Cabinet the question of providing concession fares to pensioners. Can the Minister of Works say whether Cabinet has discussed this matter and whether a reply is available?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I have a report addressed to the Treasurer which indicates that the trust has examined this matter on a number of occasions but feels that its financial position does not permit issuing concession tickets to this relatively large section of the community. Moreover, the trust considers that it is not its responsibility to subsidize what is in the nature of a social service. That is the text of the reply and I am unable to enlarge upon it.

Mr. Lawn—I asked that it be considered by Cabinet.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I cannot see any reference to Cabinet in the docket. The matter was referred to the Premier, but he has not to my knowledge brought it before Cabinet. He secured a report from the Tramways Trust.

#### FIRES IN EMERGENCY HOMES.

Mr. STEPHENS—Last night an emergency house in my district was badly burnt. A neighbour was called and when he entered the house he found it ablaze and the occupant, an old lady, flaked out. He carried her out, then returned and, after smashing a hole in the ceiling, attempted to extinguish the fire with a hose. The Fire Brigade was called and ultimately the blaze was extinguished. Such fires have occurred in about 20 emergency houses in my district and the man who referred this particular case to my attention is afraid to leave his wife and children alone lest at any time his dwelling should catch fire.

Mr. Shannon—Did your informant state the cause of the fire?

Mr. STEPHENS—He does not know, and preferred to leave that to the experts. Will the Minister of Works inquire whether something can be done to obviate this fire danger before there is a fatality?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I think that whenever such matters have been brought to the Premier's notice he has called for an inquiry into the origin of the fires, and that inquiries have revealed that as far as can be established they have not occurred because of structural defects or faulty electrical wiring. In practically every case some other well-established factor has been the cause. If the honourable member will let me have details of this particular case I am quite sure the practice of making inquiries will be followed.

#### TRAMWAYS TRUST FARES.

Mr. LAWN—This morning I received a letter from the Housewife's Association mentioning four matters relating to bus and tram fares which it desires me to bring before the House:—

1. That mid-city terminals be abolished.
2. The introduction of a terrace to terrace 6d. city section.
3. Concession fares to pensioners—aged, invalid, and others. (We consider that the time is opportune for concession fares to pensioners of all types, many of whom have to attend hospital up to three times per week for treatment).
4. Excessive fares have been reflected in attendances at association meetings, members complaining that they cannot afford to attend as often as they would like.

Will the Minister of Works submit these matters to the Premier on his return for consideration and secure a reply in due course?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—YES.

## ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on the motion for adoption.

(Continued from July 23. Page 136.)

Mr. LAUCKE (Barossa)—The opening of the fourth session of this Parliament on June 17 was marked by the gracious manner with which one of South Australia's most learned and distinguished gentlemen carried out his duties as the representative of Her Majesty the Queen. On the occasions that our Governors have taken well-earned respite from the exacting and onerous duties annexed to Governorship the Hon. Sir Mellis Napier, as Lieutenant-Governor, has rendered service in the very best traditions of vice-royalty. Our pride in state is richly enhanced in that we have citizens such as he. I am sure that the approbation and gratitude he has earned in this place is felt in like measure by both city and country folk, near and far. I have fresh in my mind the charm, dignity and understanding His Excellency displayed when he recently honoured the people of my district at Freeling, receiving, with his gracious lady, debutantes at a local function.

The dignity and high importance of Parliament are, I feel, underlined on the occasions on which we are summoned from this place to another to hear the traditional address that precedes the formal declaration that a new session is duly open. I like this tenor of a deep and abiding respect for the great institution of Parliament. Maybe it is sometimes felt that the formalities we observe are superfluous or outmoded. Let me say that the retention of age-old observance and formalities is a sacred trust. Thank heaven that we are privileged and enabled to maintain as something transcending and beyond petty modern individualism the traditions and tenets of our system of government. As we view the world scene today and note how nations with systems of government other than ours, in many instances masquerading as champions of liberty, are nothing else than ruthless, unprincipled dictatorial regimes, we can give real thanks for our heritage wherein right is might and where the freedoms of the individual are observed and respected. How different from the dictatorial assessment that might is right! His Excellency's Speech, and the atmosphere of the occasion, again brought home to me the importance and responsibilities that attach to Parliament.

The many and the differing interests of the State indicate the heavy responsibilities that

devolve upon this assembly, and in particular on the Premier and his colleagues in the Ministry. At no time in the history of our State has Parliament re-assembled to hear a more pleasing and solid resume of past achievement or more exciting and gratifying prospects for the future arising from past endeavours and foundations firmly laid than were contained in His Excellency's Speech. Indeed, a stage unique in the history of South Australia's development has been reached.

Before proceeding to comment on these matters I wish to make one or two personal references. I admired the manner in which the member for Light (Mr. Hambour) and the member for Victoria (Mr. Harding) proposed and seconded, respectively, the motion now before the House, and I warmly compliment them on their speeches. I pay tribute to the selfless devotion to duty in the public interest by Sir Malcolm McIntosh. After 28 years of outstanding service at Ministerial level he has put aside the heavy burden of the Works and Marine portfolios. My best wishes are with him and Lady McIntosh for many years of well-earned leisure.

I was delighted to note the conferment of knighthood on the Hon. Sir Collier Cudmore, a gentleman who has rendered signal service to the State in a very necessary and responsible place. He has through many years of public life given pre-eminence to the maintenance of sound and solid values. I heartily congratulate him on his achievements and on the honour accorded him.

I join with members in extending deepest sympathy to Mrs. Fletcher in the passing of her good husband. He served his district and State conscientiously and well. I compliment Mr. Ralston on his election to this place to fill the vacancy created. I heartily congratulate the member for Alexandra (the Hon. D. N. Brookman) on his preferment to the very important portfolios of Agriculture and Forests. He is one who clearly appreciates that agriculture is the foundation of our prosperity. He has always evinced keen interest in modern approaches to rural production and the transmission of the findings of research to the man on the land. I have no doubt that he will discharge his duties with advantage to the State and credit to himself. The Minister of Works and Marine (the Hon. G. G. Pearson) who proved himself a first class and fearless administrator in his previous Ministerial assignment will, no doubt, excel similarly in his new duties. I warmly congratulate him on



his appointment, as I do the member for Burra (Mr. Quirke) and the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) on their appointments to the Public Works Committee. I regret that the Hon. C. S. Hincks has been ill, but I trust that we shall soon have his cheery person back in the House.

I would now reiterate my previous statement that this period is unique in our history. The past 20 years have seen South Australia progress in a way previously undreamed of, both in primary and secondary industry. This progress has not been like Topsy, who just grew: it is the direct result of sound planning and firm endeavour by a succession of Liberal and Country League Governments of vision and sound administration. A statement made by the Premier after he assumed office on 1938, which was recorded in the *Advertiser* of November 4 of that year is, no doubt, very relevant to today's buoyant conditions. The Premier then said:—

In my opinion there are three matters to which we must give unremitting attention. These are—and I put no one of them in front of the other—to make the most effective use of the agricultural and other resources of the State, to do all in our power to encourage industries, and to administer the finances carefully.

How well this unremitting attention has been applied and how well it has served this State, as is now revealed clearly in His Excellency's Speech. At that time there was a terrific unbalance as between the States in the matter of secondary industry and our rural interests were not enjoying the benefits of modern research that have since so amply and advantageously been provided by an alert Department of Agriculture. The Government has not missed a trick in its drive to attract to this State industry which for many years seemed to be the close preserve and prerogative of the better endowed and more populous States. Herein lies one of the Government's mighty and lasting achievements—the attraction to this State of initial major industry. Industry once acquired was fostered and encouraged. This created trust and faith in South Australia by the captains of industry who, together with a labour force sound and decent and with a record of industrial stability without peer in the Commonwealth, have given South Australia her high degree of industrialization much more rapidly than any other State. This State's productivity per head of population is the highest in the Commonwealth.

It was on this vitally important basic achievement in decentralization of industry—

that is, decentralization as between States—that our secondary industry economy was founded. This fundamental foundation is continually being strengthened and further built upon. At present we are without the company of the Premier, but undoubtedly he will return with some very advantageous thing for this State. Industry gained for a State is not fortuitous: Mr. Cahill returned to New South Wales a few days ago empty handed. I feel that the attraction this State has offered for the investment of overseas capital is due to the increased stability of this State as against the lesser stability of others. We have proved to Australia and to the world, as evidenced by the flow of capital to this State, that we have the prerequisites for a prosperous and complementary primary and secondary economy in a sound, mature and stable Government, the vision to make really effective use of our natural resources, sensible and responsible management, the preservation of high and real living standards, real and sound encouragement and assistance to industry and the proven ability to administer the finances of the State carefully and in a practicable business-like manner.

The stage is now set, with the rapidly increasing provision of water, power and communications, to proceed with further decentralizing of industrial activity. I say "further" advisedly as there is scarcely any district in this State that has not had an industry founded or enabled to continue or to expand operations through Government assistance. Let us be honest in this. Members all know what I say is true. Check the records of the Industries Development Committee if you have any doubts, or make a mental check of activities in your several districts. No decent person will cry from the housetops specific instances of assistance to industry. It would be a betrayal of trust, a trust naturally expected to be inviolate, that we would not divulge the private affairs of firms or individuals. When in the history of this State or any other part of the Commonwealth has there been such a wealth of industrial expansion? When have there been such wonderful portents for the future as embraced in the announcement of the establishment of a £30,000,000 steel industry at Whyalla, the contract for the building of a 32,000-ton tanker at the same country town, a £7,500,000 capital expenditure by General Motors-Holdens at Woodville and Elizabeth, a £16,000,000 oil refinery to be built near Halletts Cove by Standard-Vacuum Refining

Company (Aust.) Limited, and the extension of Philips Electrical Industries to manufacture electronic or television equipment? If one needs reminding that private enterprise has been the mainspring of the progress of our State and is still the driving force in our economy, then a glance at the programme ahead of us should prove a salutary and stimulating experience. The value of production in 1940 was £37,000,000; in 1950, £141,000,000; and last year, £316,000,000, with 93,000 workers employed. I heartily commend the Government for the provision of a political climate conducive to such expansion.

Reticulated water is a most important requirement—indeed, the lifeblood—of this State. After all, only 10 per cent of South Australia enjoys an assured annual rainfall, and water is the limiting factor on the productivity and stock carrying capacity of land. It is also essential in secondary industry. As we have only two sources of supply of reticulated water—reservoirs and dams on the one hand, and the River Murray on the other—I am pleased to see that further storages are to be provided. I believe we must ultimately make full use of every economic catchment available and I keenly await—as I know that you, Mr. Speaker, await—the findings of the Engineering and Water Supply Department concerning the possible damming of Jacobs Creek in the Barossa Hills. Investigations are now proceeding into this work. The creek lends itself admirably to such a project because of the nature of the surrounding country. Further, residents refer to the excellence of the water and the natural springs that have for many years kept the stream moving, even in times of extreme drought. Augmenting the Warren supplies by a catchment on Jacobs Creek would be a boon to the Barossa Valley and the Warren district generally.

I congratulate the department administered by the Minister of Works on again maintaining water supplies through a very dry period without major restrictions, but I consider that catchments such as those to which I have referred will be necessary in the foreseeable future. My friend, the member for Light (Mr. Hambour), recently suggested that a pipeline be laid from the River Murray, at a point near Blanchetown, to the Barossa Valley. The virtue of such a pipeline would be to reticulate water to the Murray Plains, an area that could be transformed by water into a veritable Garden of Eden. Water would indeed be a boon to the people on those plains

and make fertile country that is at present arid.

I often seek your concurrence, Mr. Speaker, concerning matters of procedure in this House, but I know I would have your spontaneous concurrence in advocating such a pipeline from the River Murray to the plains. The Warren Reservoir is linked with the Murray and last year received about 1,000 million gallons through the pipeline. I am delighted with the decision to replace the old 26in. main from the Warren as far as Stockwell with a 40in. main, and thereafter continue with a 36in. main to Yorke Peninsula. I trust that the replacement will facilitate the reticulation scheme to Marananga that I seek, and ensure adequate pressures at Greenock, at Freeling, and on the land west of Freeling where the Warren and Barossa systems meet.

The importance of River Murray water will be acknowledged when it is considered that the Warren receives water from the river, that the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline was designed to deliver 1,200 million gallons to Whyalla and 900,000,000 gallons to northern areas and the Commonwealth Railways, and that the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline discharged over 14,000,000,000 gallons, the latter figure exceeding the combined metropolitan reservoir capacity by about 825,000,000 gallons. One must also consider the irrigation projects along the Murray and one will immediately realize the vital importance of Murray water. If ever a man has earned the commendation and gratitude of his fellows it is the Premier for his dogged determination to ensure this State's rightful share of River Murray waters in times of drought. The seemingly satisfactory outcome of his negotiations with the parties to the Snowy Mountains Agreement redounds most highly to the credit of the Premier.

I congratulate the chairman and members of the Public Works Committee on the thoroughness of their inquiry into a site for a bridge over the Murray and on the decision arrived at. I trust that the bridge will be constructed with the greatest possible expedition. The loss of man-hours at the Blanchetown crossing, particularly at vintage and fruit season, is considerable and adds to production costs of many commodities.

I commend the Government for its policy of preserving our important fruit and grape industries and protecting them from the deadly scourge of fruit fly. I have no doubt that but for the Government's persistent and unflagging efforts to keep this State free of the fly, calamity indescribable would by now have befallen

those industries. The co-operation of city folk in whose areas the fly has been discovered is most praiseworthy and keenly appreciated by those who depend for their livelihood on produce that could be a host for the fly. The cost of eradication so far has been infinitesimal compared with the recurring annual value of the industries preserved.

By courtesy of the Minister of Agriculture I am able to say what the eradication campaign has cost up to the present. The total cost has been £1,608,284 and during the year ended June 30, 1958, payments amounted to £302,086. Stripping and disposal of fruit, spraying, etc., cost £213,225; compensation to owners of fruit destroyed, £88,335; fruit fly eradication general expenses, £526. When we consider that the fruit industry is worth £10,000,000 at least to this State every year, then we must realize that the expenses incurred during the past financial year are indeed a life insurance premium against the future. I point out, too, that this State is the only remaining citrus-producing State that is able to export its product to New Zealand. The eradication work has therefore meant a saving of much money to citrus growers as there has not been a flooding of fruit on to the local market because it could not be sold overseas. This trade is, therefore, a national asset to growers and the eradication campaign has been of great benefit as local growers have been able to export their fruit in a way not enjoyed by growers in other States.

I am delighted to hear that meat prices are to be decontrolled. There should be more such announcements when the supply of a commodity is such as to meet the demand. Continuation of control beyond this stage leads to anomalies and injustices. The producer of choice meats will receive the premium due to quality while the person who desires to buy meat of lesser quality will benefit from a lower price. The removal of a common price tag for varying grades of meat—and for that matter of any other products—is a step in the right direction.

Earlier in this debate Mr. Hambour said that the high recurring cost of maintaining loose surface roads is bad business in the long run, and I concur in that statement. I have previously referred to these high recurring costs associated with loose surface roads as something akin to breaking window panes. Much money is spent with no corresponding lasting asset being created. I hope that with the advent of the oil refinery and the ready availability of the by-product, bitumen, we

shall see a major stepping up in the road sealing programme.

The Minister of Education continues to do magnificent work on the many and difficult problems associated with the provision of facilities and staff to meet the pressing demands of a rapidly rising school population in all grades—primary, secondary and tertiary. I compliment him on his praiseworthy administration of what undoubtedly is one of the most demanding of all departments. I am concerned that adequate provision be made at schools for playing areas. Sports at schools is important because, apart from the physical wellbeing, there is the aspect of character building inherent in a correct approach to sport. If a youngster learns to take defeat on the football field in the right way, he will be able to take defeat later in the game of life. I attach much importance to school sport because it is a wonderful training ground of character and in teaching our boys and girls to become good citizens of the future. That is why I am concerned that where playing areas are required they shall be acquired as soon as possible. With the passing of time it is becoming increasingly difficult to purchase suitable land near our schools. I appreciate the financial difficulties involved, but deferment of purchase in many cases could well preclude a school from any chance of ever having the necessary playing areas. Such a condition exists at Birdwood High School where there is an urgent need for a favourable conclusion of the negotiations now being undertaken.

It is good to see that over the past year the Electricity Trust has added 4,000 country consumers to its list of clients. The recent reduction in surcharges actually amounted to granting each consumer a capital rebate amounting to, in effect, £16. That is a great step towards the equalization of charges as between city and country. These allowances have cost the Electricity Trust £70,000, but they have given country consumers a much better deal than hitherto.

I am pleased with the extension of single-phase routes in the country, which is much less costly than the three-phase system. The single phase gives most country consumers sufficient power for normal requirements of shearing, milking and household needs, though grain-crushing and wood-cutting must still be left to the tractor.

Mr. Lawn—Is the Electricity Trust extending services in the country to a greater extent than the Adelaide Electric Supply Co. Ltd. would have done?

Mr. LAUCKE—The trust has done a remarkable job in taking power to the country in a way unprecedented anywhere else in Australia. The introduction of single-wire transmission lines with earth return will assist farmers in many areas to get power at a reasonable cost. It seems that many rural areas will get power at a cost well in keeping with consumers' ability to pay. A man who wishes to set himself up in business in the country can do so much more cheaply if he enters the poultry industry, for the capital cost is not nearly so great as with other forms of primary production.

Mr. Quirke—If he keeps fowls he will never be his own boss.

Mr. LAUCKE—A poultry farm can be laid out in such a way that most of the drudgery is taken out of the business.

Mr. Quirke—But the fowls are always the boss.

Mr. LAUCKE—So are all farm animals. The poultry industry is important to this State because annual production is worth £4,000,000. I pay a tribute to the excellent advisory department in the Department of Agriculture. I regret that Mr. Anderson, Chief Poultry Adviser, will retire later this year. He has done much to place the industry on a sound footing, but we also have Mr. McArdle, Senior Poultry Adviser, who is one of the most able poultry men in Australia. In collaboration with Mr. A. G. Bollen (Principal Research Officer, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Canberra), and Mr. R. H. Morris (Officer in Charge of the Poultry Branch, Agricultural Department, Western Australia) he wrote an excellent treatise, and he will be a worthy successor to Mr. Anderson.

I am pleased that the Government is becoming more interested each year in the welfare of the aborigine. If the native is not encouraged to build up his self-respect he cannot be assimilated or happy in the community. The church missions are grateful to the Government for its assistance in building homes and providing vocational training for natives. The member for Eyre (Mr. Bockelberg) and I keenly await further information about a water supply for the Koonibba Mission Station. I have been glad to see so much being done by various church organizations for the welfare of aborigines, but I am concerned at the

indifference of people and Governments generally for the preservation of native music, art and languages. Mr. T. G. H. Strehlow, reader in linguistics at the Adelaide University, is one of Australia's greatest authorities on native arts. He was born in Central Australia and lived his first 12 years among aborigines. His school friends were 40 full-blooded natives and he gained a remarkable insight into the mentality of aborigines. He is particularly keen to preserve evidence of ancient native culture.

It is regrettable that lack of money has hindered the preservation of native arts. I hope that the Government will consult the Commonwealth Government with a view to ensuring that adequate finance will be provided for people like Mr. Strehlow to enable complete records to be made before it is too late. With tribal chieftains dying year by year we are losing knowledge that perhaps they alone have. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

Mr. HUTCHENS (Hindmarsh)—I rise in a state of nervousness after hearing such a well-prepared speech. I am sure the member for Barossa (Mr. Laucke) went to great trouble to stress what he considered the praiseworthy actions of the Government. I am worried that such an honourable, forthright and sincere member should appear to believe everything he said. I shall now refer to the death of a man who was a great South Australian. He did not subscribe to my political views, but Sir Wallace Sandford did a great deal for South Australia. He was my co-delegate at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference in 1953. In the early days of the dairying industry in South Australia there were only two butter factories, one run by Sandford's, the other the Government butter factory, which later closed, and this was a great loss to the State. One must give credit to the Sandford family for its contribution to the advancement of South Australia, and I express sincere sympathy to those who mourn the passing of Sir Wallace.

I join with others in expressing sympathy to the relatives of the late Mr. John Fletcher. All members soon learned to regard him with affection and admiration for his kindly outlook and devoted attention to the welfare of the people he represented. I congratulate the new member for Mount Gambier (Mr. Ralston) and I am confident he will acquit himself creditably and be a worthy representative of his electors. I wish to make some comments

about the Mount Gambier by-election, for I was there throughout the campaign. I join with the Leader of the Opposition in expressing appreciation of the clean manner in which the election was fought, and I was glad the Premier himself visited the town. It was obvious that after his first visit the popularity of the Independent candidate increased, and after his second visit it increased even more. I am sure that Mr. Ralston will be able to hold the seat without difficulty as a result of the excellent service he will render.

I join with other members in expressing regret that the former Minister of Works (Hon. Sir Malcolm McIntosh) has been so ill that he has had to resign from the Ministry. While we differ politically I must acknowledge that Sir Malcolm McIntosh has rendered great service to this State and I wish him and his lady good health for the remainder of their days. I am aware that the Minister of Lands is not as well as he would like, but it is pleasing that he has sufficiently recovered to return to this House. One cannot help admiring the friendly spirit of this gentlemanly Minister and I hope he is soon restored to full health. The activities of the new Minister of Works will be watched with interest. We watched him during his period as Minister of Agriculture and are hopeful that he will continue his work as Minister of Works with the same humility that he revealed as Minister of Agriculture. However, there is some reason to doubt that.

I congratulate the new Minister of Agriculture on his appointment. He is an extremely honest gentleman, which leads me to believe that politically he is hopeless; but I believe that, irrespective of a man's political colour, his virtues are worth acknowledging. I feel that the new Minister in the ocean of politics will be likened unto a neglected windjammer.

Mr. Coumbe—At least he is not a windbag.

Mr. HUTCHENS—He will be bogged down by capitalism and riddled with conservatism and become a real menace to progress. If, however, he makes honest attempts to be progressive he will undoubtedly have the Opposition's support. The Government has a peculiar habit of trying to select members to perform certain duties in the session immediately preceding an election and, as a result, a bee man was chosen to second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply and a shopkeeper to move it. No doubt the shopkeeper was chosen to put on a display, and what a display it was! In the opinion of most it was an outstanding display of political neurosis: a display of real

nervous anticipation of the future of the present Government. The member for Barossa (Mr. Laucke) revealed a somewhat similar complex this afternoon. He made the peculiar assertion that the New South Wales Premier had returned from overseas empty-handed, but predicted that our Premier would return with something worthwhile.

Mr. Laucke—According to usual form.

Mr. HUTCHENS—I welcome those words because I read recently in *The Observer* that since 1949 New South Wales, under a Labor Government, has obtained 40 per cent of the new industries established in Australia. Notwithstanding this achievement the New South Wales Premier is regarded as chicken feed by Mr. Laucke when compared with our Premier.

Mr. Jennings—They pay a higher wage in New South Wales.

Mr. HUTCHENS—That is so.

Mr. O'Halloran—They get better long service leave conditions.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Yes, and better industrial conditions.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman—What is this 40 per cent you mentioned?

Mr. HUTCHENS—Industries brought into Australia.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman—Is it the number of industries or their value that counts?

Mr. HUTCHENS—I would be pleased to let the Minister read the article. Mr. Laucke referred to water as the life blood of this State and commended the Premier for his efforts to secure our rights, but I remind him that on September 19 last, in a question, the Leader of the Opposition said to the Premier:—

How does he view the situation and what further action, if any, does he propose to take in order to safeguard the rights of South Australia? I assure him that he will have the unanimous support of the Opposition in any steps he might take.

It is obvious that the Premier had the support of my Party. I regret, however, that he did not have the support of members of his own Party in the Federal House. When consideration of the Snowy Waters Agreement was before the Federal Parliament and the South Australian members could have done much to defend our interests they condemned the Premier and those who were fighting for the State's rights. Senator Buttfield said:—

I have studied the legislation and done a great deal of research upon the Snowy Mountains hydro-electric scheme; because I realize that my State is very much concerned with what is being done there, I have visited the project on several occasions. I consider it

impossible for anyone, particularly South Australians, if I may say so, to understand just what it is all about without visiting it. There is altogether too much uninformed comment in South Australia, by people who know nothing about the scheme, or what is proposed under it, and who are influenced by one-eyed views expressed in newspapers which also know little but are willing to criticize this Government . . . I am satisfied that negotiations are proceeding in a way that will protect South Australia. For that reason I support the Bill. . . . I agree that the chances of South Australia being in any difficulty are remote. The matter did not end there because, to my amazement, Senator Buttfield was supported by Senator Pearson, who said:—

I indicate now to the Senate that I support the Bill. . . . I have seen legal opinion to the effect that at law South Australia is entitled to that water because, in fact, when the Snowy water joins the Murray, it will be defined as River Murray water. If that legal opinion is upheld, South Australia will be entitled to share in that water. If it is not upheld no doubt it will be further tested in a court of law at some time and everybody will be bound by the ultimate decision. I think that the Minister will agree, however, that that problem will not arise for six or seven years, because at the present rate at which the work on the Snowy scheme is being carried out the Snowy water will not reach the Murray before then. . . .

Senator Spooner then interjected:—

It will arise only during a drought and after the expiration of six or seven years.

Senator Pearson replied:—

That is quite true.

Obviously the concern of the Liberal Senator was so great that he thought we could fight a court case in a period of drought and we would be all right. That is how much he was concerned and how much support he gave to the Premier of this State and the Opposition, who were united in this matter despite what the member for Barossa said. Senator Mattner then said:—

The Bill is most important because it establishes the fact that New South Wales and Victoria pay for all the work that is going on—no honourable Senator can deny it—then we can say that the Commonwealth Government is the accredited agent of those States and is carrying out the work on their behalf. On that basis any diversion of the water of the Tooma River, or any other tributary of the Murray, must be considered a diversion made by either New South Wales or Victoria.

South Australia never got a thought from him. Senator Laught said:—

I join with Senator Mattner in supporting the Bill. From an examination of the position I believe that South Australia's rights are protected.

That is the attitude of a Liberal member—one of defection. Liberal members were divided in their opinions. It is interesting to note from reading *Hansard* that the only people who moved in the Senate and the House of Representatives to ensure that South Australia would be brought into the agreement and have its rights protected were Labor members. Every Liberal senator and member of the House of Representatives voted against South Australia's interests, although the Labor Party unanimously supported South Australia's move to obtain justice. To establish this point I shall now quote what Senator Toohey said. Speaking about a foreshadowed amendment by the Minister in charge of the Bill, he said:—

I have read the amendment very carefully and have tried to reconcile it with the statement by the Minister early in his second reading speech that the agreement provides for the sharing between New South Wales and Victoria of the additional irrigation water which will be made available in the Murray and Murrumbidgee Valley by the operation of the scheme.

That indicates clearly that the agreement provides that this water will be shared only between Victoria and New South Wales. There is no third State mentioned. It says that there shall be an equal sharing of the additional water by the States of Victoria and New South Wales. . . . I am completely satisfied in my own mind that the proposed amendment means nothing at all.

Later, he said:—

I remind the Senate that in this very Chamber questions have been addressed to the Minister as to whether South Australia's interest had been or would be threatened in any way by the ratification of the agreement. If my memory serves me correctly, on each occasion the Minister said that South Australia's interests were not threatened. In direct contradiction of his statements on those occasions, the Minister has foreshadowed an amendment which not only suggests but proves conclusively that the information he gave us was not correct.

In another part of the debate he said:—

Before I support the measure now before the Senate I desire further information in relation to South Australia's position. The Minister has had several opportunities to satisfy the legitimate curiosity of Senators from South Australia but he has failed to do so.

A gallant attempt was made by the Senator to get the Commonwealth Government and Parliament to include South Australia in a three-party agreement in order that South Australia would get its just rights. Senator O'Flaherty, who we know has been a great fighter and who is always for the rights of the people and the State, said:—

We object strongly to the hole and corner tactics the Minister has been adopting during the last couple of months, and even earlier. When we have asked questions, prompted by a genuine desire for information, the Minister has snarled and barked at us for doing so. He snarled and barked at me and condemned me out of hand because I asked for certain information, yet when an honourable Senator on the Government side asked an almost identical question the following day, the Minister answered it. Had that water been diverted this year—a dry year—there would have been a grave shortage of water in South Australia. Let nobody have any illusions about that. But South Australia is not to get a drop at any time under this agreement. The flow of water in a river is determined by what happens at its upper reaches. Senator Gordon himself admits that even when the Murray River is flowing at its greatest height, the amount of water in it will be halved before it reaches its confluence with the Murrumbidgee. Is that not an admission that at some time in the future all the water may be used before it reaches South Australia and that South Australia will be left high and dry? There is no question about that.

Liberal and Country League members in both Houses left the interests of South Australia high and dry, yet the Labor Party stood up for this State's rights, as the Opposition in this Chamber was prepared to stand behind the Premier. However, it seems that all this generosity and interest in this State is forgotten.

Mr. Hambour—But you are proud of our Premier for his fight, aren't you?

Mr. HUTCHENS—When the Premier returns from his little respite I will tell him that I do not wish to take any credit that is due from him. In paragraph 5 His Excellency said:—

The dry conditions of last year had unfavourable effects on the production of cereals. I took this to refer to the cereal crop for 1956-57, and I believe it to be a very true and forthright statement, but let us go back to His Excellency's Speech of June 25, 1957, in which he said:—

In primary production the season of 1956-57 was notable for a number of remarkable records, some of which are these:—A record harvest of grain (73,000,000 bushels). Of course we all know that the Governor's Speech is prepared by the Government and that he is its mouthpiece. I join with the member for Barossa (Mr. Laucke) in expressing appreciation of the public service rendered by the Lieutenant-Governor. However, that was talking about last season, and members well remember that in the last Address in Reply debate I challenged the

statement, wondering whether the Premier or the Minister of Agriculture had x-ray eyes and could see into the future. The figures were not available when I tried to check them, yet we had thanksgiving for a record harvest that did not come. I can come to only one conclusion: that these figures are given without authority and designed only to give an incorrect impression.

There is no denying that the primary producer is in real trouble today, and that many of them are suffering from reduced prices. According to the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech the price of wool has fallen by 16d. a pound, and I would think this is rather a conservative estimate. Even at that figure, however, producers will have a difficult time, particularly those who bought land recently at high prices. Anyone can see that this is happening but it is more convenient for the Liberal and Country Party to give a wrong impression than to limit the profits of big investors in land. When real difficulties are evident they refrain from giving a warning and indulge in high sounding phrases such as contained in paragraph 5:—

The outlook for primary production has been greatly improved by the widespread rains of recent weeks, which have brought immense benefits to most of the settled areas. Cereals crops and pastures have started well and there are now prospects of a bountiful season.

I have not seen any great prospects of a bountiful season. I wish to goodness there were but in the most prosperous areas I have seen with regret poverty making a mockery of people who paid high prices for land and who are working to try to overcome their difficulties. What the primary producer needs more than ever is a Government that will display some degree of statesmanship and give him a lead. A lead is required to encourage primary production and gain their co-operation in a real endeavour to stabilize primary production so that in time of low world prices and poor seasons, as in time of high world prices and good seasons, that very important section of the community, the primary producer, may have security.

Mr. Quirke—What do you mean by "stabilize production?"

Mr. HUTCHENS—I do not mean limited production. I think the honourable member heard me say last year that at no time should production be limited; I said "stabilized."

I turn now to paragraph 9 of the Speech, which appears to imply that the Government

has made a start with the Myponga Reservoir after nine years of talking. I notice also that the Government has again shaken the dust off the Clarendon and Kangaroo Creek reservoir proposals which have appeared in each Governor's Speech since 1955, but of course it could be like the Premier's portable port and go out of existence; or be like country sewerage, just something that is talked about. I wish to warn those who will determine who shall govern in this State and the Commonwealth before long. I suggest that they do not permit the return to a Federal Parliament of those who are the accredited representatives in New South Wales and Victoria, with support from South Australia, who are prepared to deny her established rights, and have coupled with them in the State Parliament a group of confidence men who talk loud and fast. The citizens pay dearly when that happens. This talking loud and fast has resulted in country stagnation, financial difficulties for the primary producer and unemployment for the worker.

We have heard a great deal about unemployment being very low in South Australia, but it is no consolation to the poor fellow who is unemployed. How many married women have lost their jobs in South Australia since the beginning of the year? There is no means of finding out, but I have been able to obtain reasonable figures and I can assure members that the number is large.

Mr. Hambour—Does the honourable member contend that a married woman should go out to work?

Mr. HUTCHENS—I contend that to say there is no unemployment, that industry is as good as ever it was, is incorrect, because industry in the past was so fluent and progressive that married women had to go out to work. Press propaganda and the Liberal and Country Party would have us believe that this was continuing, that there was no need to fear a slackening of industry, but so many breadwinners have lost their jobs and development in this State has slackened. It is the nation which pays dearly for these incorrect statements by the Liberal Government. It is easy to establish here that the workers in this State and their families receive less justice than those in other States. So rapid has been their decline in recent years that they find they are not so far removed from the depression period.

Mr. Quirke—That is not right.

Mr. HUTCHENS—The honourable member's lack of experience does not give him the right to make an analysis of the situation. It is all very well for the member for Burra to say it is not right, but day after day people are asking for assistance in finding jobs. If that is incorrect, let him deny it.

Mr. Quirke—Why are you advocating married women as opposed to men?

Mr. HUTCHENS—Do not put words into my mouth.

Mr. Quirke—The honourable member said there was unemployment because women were being thrown out of jobs.

The SPEAKER—Order!

Mr. HUTCHENS—If the honourable member has finished making his Address in Reply speech, I will continue. It is well established that many in work are finding it difficult to obtain the essentials of life, being denied as they are in South Australia the wages that are justly theirs due to the fixation of wages.

Mr. Hambour—Did you read what the Labor member for Fremantle said in the Federal Parliament about the standard of living of Australian people?

Mr. HUTCHENS—If I were a member of the Liberal Party I would not hold myself responsible for some of the statements made by the member for Light. Members of the Labor Party in this House are responsible for what they say.

Mr. Hambour—It was a Labor member in the Federal Parliament who said it. You are supposed to be loyal together.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Fancy having the audacity to talk about unity! Most members opposite do not realize that there is such a thing; the spirit has never existed with them.

Mr. Hambour—We prefer independence; we can say what we like.

The SPEAKER—Order!

Mr. HUTCHENS—I do not wish to cast reflections upon the Housing Trust, for which I have a high regard, speaking generally. If I were in control of the Housing Trust, things being as they are I should want to do just as they are doing. Perhaps I should say that for once I agree with the member for Light when he made some comments about housing. He said there were many houses blown out of the exhausts of motor cars. He used that phrase in condemnation of people spending money on unessential things and neglecting the essentials of life. I agree with him heartily that there is too much of that going on, but I will remind him that that is



due largely to the actions of the Liberal Party in Australia.

In 1948 we had a Labor Government which was conscious of maintaining and improving the economy, to see that we had a sound economy in Australia. Because we then, as a Party, wanted to control prices effectively and because we were in office and the Liberal and Country Party wanted office at any cost without concern for the welfare of the nation, they told the people that we were restricting the supply of petrol and they would give them plenty of petrol to blow houses out of the exhausts of motor cars. It was the Liberal Party that misled the people by false propaganda, to the detriment of the economy of Australia. They encouraged the people to waste money by spending it on petrol.

I will now quote a few figures in connection with housing, because we hear so often that all is well with housing here. These figures are approximately housing statistics. It is interesting to note that in 1952-53 the Housing Trust had 7,904 applications; they built that year 4,126 units. In 1953-54 they had 9,807 applications and they built 3,555 units. In 1954-55 they had 10,806 applications for housing, and they built 3,268 units. In 1955-56 they had 11,751 applications for housing, and they built 3,238 homes. In 1956-57 they had 9,684 applications, and they built 3,140 units. For the years referred to, applications totalled 49,952 and the units built totalled 17,327, representing 35 per cent of the applications, and it has been said that all is well. During 1956-57, 2,547 applications were received for purchase homes, but only 1,756 units were built. For rental houses and flats 5,417 applications were received and only 1,384 units built. From people in sheer desperation 1,720 applications were received for emergency homes, yet not even one unit was built.

Mr. Dunstan—The last figure was in addition to the 5,500 applications received earlier.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Yes; my figures relate only to the number of applicants during 1956-57.

Mr. Jennings—No more emergency homes are being built.

Mr. HUTCHENS—That is so. Yesterday, when the Leader of the Opposition referred to the necessity for using national credit, a member opposite asked what would be the end of that practice, but I say that if it were not better than the ultimate result of State capitalism it would be very poor. Last year the Housing Trust built 107 units less

than the year before. It is interesting to see—

Mr. Jenkins—It is interesting to look at the record of the Labor Government when it built none at all.

Mr. HUTCHENS—How ridiculous can we get.

Mr. John Clark—Ask him if he ever heard of the Thousand Homes Scheme.

Mr. HUTCHENS—No, he's too young. From a reply given by the Premier we are led to believe that the Housing Trust will build no more than 3,000 homes a year. I remind members that the most recent report of the Housing Trust states that the population of Elizabeth is expected to increase by 24,000 by 1963. This means that the trust will build 2,000 homes a year in that town. Further, we have heard much about the trust homes to be built in the area between Morphett Vale and Christies Beach and also of the development at Whyalla, so very few homes are to be provided for workers in the metropolitan area.

Mr. Coumbe—But you believe in decentralization?

Mr. HUTCHENS—Of course we do and there should be no doubt about it. We hear so much talk about the development of secondary industries in this State, but very little about what should be done for the pioneers of secondary industry who reside in my electoral district. What are these people to get from this housing programme?

Mr. Hambour—You want homes built in your district?

Mr. HUTCHENS—I want to draw attention to my district and have homes provided there for the workers. As the representative of my constituents I am making a just claim on their behalf. Some of them are living in humpies, cellars and hovels. They have had applications with the trust for five or six years and have been led to believe that the allocation of their home is just around the corner; yet now we learn that no homes, or very few homes, are to be built by the trust in the metropolitan area. It is a crying shame that these pioneers of secondary industry should be neglected. In the Hindmarsh municipality alone 120 industries employ thousands of employees, to say nothing of the industries in that section of the Woodville and Enfield corporation areas that I have the honour to represent.

Mr. Hambour—I thought you wanted to decentralize the people?

Mr. HUTCHENS—Whether we decentralize or not, no person should be denied justice.

Mr. Hambour—Let them live where they want to live?

Mr. HUTCHENS—I say that; indeed, that is the point I am trying to make. I thank the honourable member for his interjection; let them live where they like. If the pioneers of secondary industry want to live in the Hindmarsh district let them live there; do not compel them to go elsewhere by limiting the building of homes by the Housing Trust. If they are compelled to go to Elizabeth they will have to spend over £1 a week in fares. Many people want to live in Wallaroo, others at Murray Bridge, but the Playford Government will not establish the industries necessary in those towns.

I draw members' attention to a report tabled in this House on December 12, 1940. That showed there were 3,000 people in my electorate, mainly associated with pioneering secondary industries, who were forced to live in 993 substandard homes. Let us analyse the figures in that report, which was made in all honesty and with much thoroughness. Of the 993 substandard homes, 804 (81 per cent) were affected by dampness; 472 (47.5 per cent) had inadequate lighting; 846 (85.2 per cent) had unsound floors; 179 (18 per cent) were vermin-infested; and 767 (77 per cent) had no wash houses.

Mr. John Clark—Has the position improved?

Mr. HUTCHENS—No, it has not improved in 18 years: it has deteriorated and will continue to deteriorate whilst the present Government remains in office. These people have done a wonderful job for secondary industry in this State and should be looked after. Recently I had a shocking experience when my attention was drawn by a police officer at Hindmarsh to a consumptive family living in one of these terrible houses. They had been living in it for 18 years before being evicted by an order made in favour of a New Australian who, with his robust wife and young family, intended to move into this hovel, which he had purchased for £1,000. He would have moved in without having it fumigated had I not requested the Local Board of Health to take action.

Did this fine New Australian find any pleasure in taking his family into that home to be subject to possible tuberculosis? Did he find pleasure in taking them into a vermin-infested house, into a place so damp, with unsound floors and ceilings? No! There was, however, nowhere else for them to go, and many others are experiencing the same difficulties today because they have been misled. Some people

say that the housing programme in South Australia is a form of Socialism, but that is ridiculous. I suggest they should have another look at it, for there is nothing Socialist about it at all: it is the most vicious form of State Capitalism I have ever seen. Members have to go cap in hand to the trust and bend the knee in order to get a house for a constituent.

Mr. Geoffrey Clarke—You said earlier you would do exactly what it does if you were in charge of the trust.

Mr. HUTCHENS—I said, "Things being what they are," and if I lived under a dictatorship I might do the same.

Mr. Hambour—You might as well say that people who have false teeth do not like raspberry jam.

Mr. HUTCHENS—That interjection amazes me and shows the callousness and the cold-bloodedness of some members opposite.

Mr. Hambour—Don't be so unctuous; hold up your hands a bit higher.

*Members interjecting:*

Mr. John Clark—The member for Light wouldn't know what "unctuous" means.

Mr. Hambour—I know what it means.

Mr. HUTCHENS—It amazes me how people who have had no education can know what other people mean.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson—That remark is unwarranted and you know it. I didn't think there were intellectual snobs in the Labor Party.

Mr. HUTCHENS—The Minister is awake.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson—Yes, and I don't think the remark was a fair remark: it was most uncharitable.

Mr. John Clark—I believe the previous interjection was.

Mr. HUTCHENS—As thou judgest so shalt thou be judged. One cannot help feeling strongly about these things and expressing concern about the State of South Australia. Under this system I claim that we make Parliament a mockery, and it appears to me that it has become nothing but a veneer for a capitalistic State enterprise and dictatorship. Under those conditions we find all types of unpleasant things happening; things I will not talk about at length. I now refer to unsatisfactory conditions in the Railways Department where, because of the economic position and the number of unemployed, many railwaymen have been fined for alleged breaches of regulations, another man being the prosecutor, judge and appeal judge all in one. We find that the accused person seems

to have no rights whatsoever. I shall deal with that matter more fully at a later date.

I now wish to deal with what I consider to be most unsatisfactory methods indulged in with regard to the mail order trade. I think the practice may be unlawful, but I am convinced that it is not policed. I would like the appropriate Minister to examine this matter and let me know what can be done, if anything, to rectify it. These mail order firms advertise certain articles in the press, and advise country clients that if they send in the money they will be sent the article that is advertised. If the customer writes in and the article is as advertised, everything is all right, but the retailer sometimes sends something different and the customer finds it impossible to get a refund. I have had some dealings with such a case, and I regret that I am compelled to bring the matter before the House in an endeavour to have it finalized.

I will outline the case by reading a letter which I am prepared to make available to the Minister, together with further details. A country lady, whom I will refer to as Mrs. X, sent in an order in reply to a press advertisement by a firm known as Mylady's Dainties, of 154A and 160 Rundle Street. She ordered a cardigan at the cost of £3 4s. 11d. The article came but it was not the size she specified. She wrote to the firm and returned the cardigan, and in reply received the following letter:—

Your letter to hand, for which we thank you. We regret that cardigan was not suitable, but money is not refundable on mail orders. However, we would like you to accept this letter as a credit note for the amount of £3 4s. 11d. with which you may purchase at any time any of our national lines of skirts, knitwear, toppers, blouses, underwear, etc. Thanking you and assuring you of our desire to be of service at all times.

The lady was brought to me by one of my constituents, and I wrote to the establishment concerned. She then visited the establishment, and on searching the store was unable to obtain anything of value to herself to use up the money involved. She then applied for a refund, but the proprietor turned his back and would not listen. I wrote on February 26 asking that the refund be made, but I received no reply. I wrote again on April 30 in very definite terms, saying that I would have to seek amendments to the legislation, using their methods of trading as an example of the necessity for such action. It was then that I learned to my amazement that this gentleman had sought advice from a member of

another Parliament, and that member had seen fit to give him certain advice as to how he might fix it. I do not want to name the member.

Mr. Hambour—You named the firm; you may as well go on with it.

Mr. HUTCHENS—I do not wish to do that, but I say with some feeling, and as a warning, that if this member makes a suggestion along those lines at any other time I shall name him. Whatever our political views, a reflection upon the honesty and decency of any member of this House can only be made by an unscrupulous and unworthy citizen.

Mr. Hambour—You made a statement about a member of this House.

Mr. HUTCHENS—I will leave it at that. The people of this country should be protected against this practice. There was no contract and the money should be refunded. I found myself in a very delicate situation and that is why I ask the Minister to take some action in the matter.

I was very interested in that part of the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech dealing with education. I appreciate the fact that there are two new schools to be erected in my district; one is in course of erection and the other has been approved by the Public Works Committee. I know that the Minister is doing everything possible in this regard; with limited provision, he is trying to overcome the difficulties associated with what is probably the most difficult period education has ever had. Education should be far beyond Party politics—something in which we all co-operate. I note with regret that with twice the number of scholars that we had in 1948 we are 400 teachers short of double the number we had then. With the increase of secondary schools this is all the more serious, because it means that a great deal more time is required of individual teachers. A scholar is required to gain all the knowledge that modern society, industry and commerce demands, and that scholar must be given more time to study, which means more homework.

I noted with concern the Premier's announcement that there are more important things than education. How is an uneducated person to deal with the important things of life? How is a scholar today going to learn more than scholars of 1948 with less time from teachers and less homework? With a complete lack of appreciation of what the Minister of Education is endeavouring to do, the Premier set out to tickle the ears of the

unthinking electors without the slightest concern for the detrimental effect it will have upon future citizens of this State.

Apart from the limited provision made for education in what is probably the State's most difficult education period, the Minister has failed to obtain co-operation from the quarters where it should be most expected. Last year the Minister of Education, in all sincerity, believing and convinced that it was so, announced that scholars in technical high schools would have the same opportunity to matriculate as scholars in high schools. Many parents who took their children to enrol them at technical high schools at the beginning of the year were most disappointed when they found that this was not possible. It appears to me that the Minister was over-ruled. Any Minister has the right to expect the loyalty and support of every officer of his department. This sort of thing must not happen again.

Whoever the Minister may be he should have the full support of this House in taking the strongest action against anyone who acts as apparently someone did on this occasion.

I am ever ready to give co-operation where it is warranted, and to criticize where I think criticism is warranted. This State has great possibilities, but great difficulties lie ahead. I look forward to the remainder of the session, which I believe will be a long and heavy one, and I am confident that every member on this side of the House will lend his energy to provide greater security for the people. I support the motion.

Mr. BOCKELBERG secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 5 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, July 29, at 2 p.m.