

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, July 29, 1958.

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

QUESTIONS.**SUNDAY SPORT.**

Mr. O'HALLORAN—As there has been considerable perturbation recently as to whether charges should be made or collections taken up at Sunday sport, and whether it is unlawful, will the Minister of Works, acting Leader of the Government in this House, consult with the Chief Secretary, who controls legislation on this matter, to ascertain whether fresh instructions have been issued by either the Government or the police on this question and, if so, will he secure a statement clearly setting out the position and indicating whether all forms of Sunday sport are banned or whether ovals may be used for sport provided no charges are made or collections taken up? It was suggested in this morning's press that the laws relating to Sunday sport could apply to halls owned by various organizations—churches, Boy Scouts and welfare clubs—and could preclude their use on Sundays if charges were made or collections taken up. Will the Minister endeavour to clarify the position?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Yes.

DISEASE IN DAIRY CATTLE.

Mr. JENKINS—Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to the question I asked last Tuesday concerning investigations into the incidence of disease in dairy heifers?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—The matter is being investigated by the department in conjunction with the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science and a diagnosis of internal parasites has been made. Further investigations of the extent of losses and contributing causes are now being undertaken by the department and owners are being advised in the methods of treatment and control.

SOUTH ROAD WIDENING.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Will the Minister of Works ascertain from the Minister of Roads when the widening of the north-west corner of the South Road at the turn off to Victor Harbour will take place to make it safer for vehicular traffic? Some time ago some alterations were made—the property then being owned by a Mr. Ragless. Subsequently the land was sold to the Housing Trust, which has

now sold it for industrial purposes. Can this widening be commenced promptly?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will endeavour to obtain the information.

TRANSPORT CONTROL BOARD FEES.

Mr. HAMBOUR—I have recently been advised by the Transport Control Board that 10 per cent of the carriers' fee is retained by the board. I have since discovered that on occasions only 5 per cent is charged. Will the Minister of Works ascertain the circumstances in which the 5 per cent applies?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will endeavour to obtain that information.

SUPERANNUATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. STOTT—The Superannuation Act has been criticized by public servants who claim that as their salaries increase they are unable to take additional units because there is a limit on the number they can hold. This results in a grave anomaly in comparison with facilities for public servants in some other States and the Commonwealth sphere. Can the Minister of Works indicate whether Cabinet has considered this matter and, if so, is it intended to improve our Act by amending legislation this year?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Cabinet has briefly considered this matter and I understand certain recommendations are to come up for further consideration. I cannot say whether it is proposed to amend the Act this session. When Cabinet has further considered the matter I will inform the honourable member.

HEALTH INSPECTORS' QUALIFICATIONS.

Mr. GEOFFREY CLARKE—Has the Minister of Works yet obtained any information regarding the gazettement of regulations providing the qualifications for health inspectors?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—My colleague, the Minister of Health, has forwarded me a report from the Director General of Public Health that a draft of proposed regulations to provide that health inspectors shall hold certain qualifications has been before the Central Board of Health and a revised draft will be considered again shortly.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES: WIDOWS' PRIVILEGES.

Mr. BYWATERS—Recently a railway employee with 43 years' service died three months before reaching the retiring age. His wife has been informed that she is not entitled

to the privilege tickets and passes that the widow of a retired employee receives. Will the Minister of Works take this matter up with the Minister of Railways to ascertain whether an anomaly exists and, if so, whether it can be clarified?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will ask the Minister of Railways to investigate whether an anomaly exists or not.

COCKCHAFER GRUB.

Mr. SHANNON—Has the Minister of Agriculture a further reply to a question I asked on July 22 relative to the infestation of a grub similar to the cockchafer in pastures?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—Last week I gave the honourable member some information, but was unable to say anything about costs, and I said I would obtain a report on his question and also that asked by the member for Burra by interjection. The following is the report:—

This pest has caused a lot of damage to pastures in the Lower South-East and Adelaide Hills this year. The severity of damage varies from year to year. Moist summers, an early seasonal break and dry winters are factors which favour the insect. Cockchafer grubs are not serious on the black flats of the South-East. They will attack strawberry clover growing on better drained soils, but perennials like strawberry clover recover more quickly than annual plants do and therefore are less seriously damaged. Two insecticides have been used to give effective control of cockchafer. These are DDT and BHC. BHC may be used either as a mixture of isomers or as lindane which is the pure gamma isomer of BHC. The rate of insecticide required depends very largely on the time at which it is applied. Within a week or two of the opening rains, in late March or April, rates as low as 4oz. per acre of DDT and 1½oz. per acre of lindane have been effective. If affected areas are not treated until June or later, it is necessary to use 1 lb. per acre of DDT or 4oz. per acre of lindane. The cost of lindane, applied as a mixture with superphosphate at 4oz. per acre, is about 8s. per acre. The cost of DDT, sprayed on at the rate of 1 lb. of pure DDT per acre is 18s. per acre. If a BHC spray is used, the cost of treatment is 16s. per acre. The above costs apply to the rates needed for a June or later application. For early treatment—late March or April—these costs could be cut to about one-third.

SECONDARY SCHOOL LIBRARIANS.

Mr. HUTCHENS—If I have been correctly informed, for one to be appointed librarian for a group of secondary schools, he or she must be a qualified teacher. In view of the shortage of teachers, has the Minister of Education considered permitting suitable persons in the Public Service to be appointed lib-

rarians, thus making more people qualified to teach available for employment as teachers?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I have considered this matter: as a matter of fact the Public Service Commissioner raised the subject with me some time ago and made suggestions similar to those made by the honourable member, although his suggestions related more particularly to the chief school librarian. I obtained a report from the Director of Education on these suggestions, which I then referred to the Chief Librarian of the Public Libraries Department (Mr. Brideson), but have not yet received his reply. As this is a matter of considerable importance, I will let the honourable member know as soon as I have any further information.

EYRE PENINSULA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY.

Mr. BOCKELBERG—Can the Minister of Works inform me whether the Government has any plan to extend electricity on Eyre Peninsula, and if not, what assistance could be obtained by district councils in the event of bulk handling coming to Eyre Peninsula?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I have not discussed recently with officials of the Electricity Trust the possibility of extending electricity on Eyre Peninsula, although requests have come to me from at least one township in my district, namely, Port Neill. I have not heard of any proposals to extend supplies north of the main trunk line leading from Port Lincoln to Yeelanna, and consider it unlikely that it would be economic under present circumstances, because the number of consumers who could be served beyond a certain point north of Yeelanna would be few and sparse. Under the Electricity Supply (Country Areas) Act, it is possible for assistance to be given to councils in remote areas to establish their own schemes. Ceduna, which is in the honourable member's district, is an example of that, and so is Elliston. I take it the honourable member's reference to bulk handling is in respect of power required for the operation of a country wheat bin, to be provided either by the bulk handling company or some other body. I understand that negotiations have taken place between the South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited and certain district councils in localities where these wheat receival bins are being established, but I am not aware what arrangements have been made. As far as projected silos on Eyre Peninsula are concerned, certain announcements have been made

by the company, and I think it would be an inherent requirement that at least for the time being provision would be made for them to supply their own power if it is not already available from some local source.

RETIRING AGE FOR CASUAL EMPLOYEES.

Mr. FRED WALSH—About a month ago I was advised that some casual employees of the Department of Agriculture engaged on fruit fly operations who were over the age of 65 were put off, and they complain that, because of their age, there is no chance of their getting other employment. They also state that there is discrimination—although I do not subscribe to this—in that they are being discharged while New Australians are being kept on. Can the Minister of Agriculture inform me whether the retiring age of 65, which is generally applicable throughout the Government Service, applies to these casual employees engaged on fruit fly operations?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I think I can say in brief that the provisions relating to retiring age relate to casual employees, but they can be varied, and I have an idea that they have quite often been varied in certain circumstances. However, I shall take up the matter fully and give the honourable member a complete answer as soon as possible.

STATION WAGGONS: REGISTRATION FEE.

Mr. KING—My question concerns the registration fee payable on estate cars or station waggons, which are being more widely used throughout the country. They combine the comfort of a motor car with the general use of a utility and are handy on farms. Can the Minister of Works, representing the Treasurer, say whether the Government will consider the extension of the concession on the primary producer's registration fee to the owners of station waggons or estate cars who can comply with the relevant sections of the Road Traffic Act?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The honourable member raises the nice question of whether an estate car is a motor car or a utility. From his question, I infer that the Registrar of Motor Vehicles has ruled that it is in fact a motor car and therefore not eligible for a primary producer's rebate even though the owner may qualify in other respects for such a reduction. If a ruling is necessary on this matter the Government will consider it.

WILLSDEN INFANT BLOCK.

Mr. RICHES—Has the Minister of Education any further information regarding the building of an infant block at the Willsden primary school?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—In view of the promise made and the urgent need for a new infant school at Willsden, I am pleased to inform the honourable member that tenders have been called for the building of an infant school of precast concrete construction, comprising six classrooms, library, activities room, administrative block and shelter shed, and tenders will close on September 24.

ADELAIDE TO WILMINGTON RAIL SERVICE.

Mr. HEASLIP—In June I asked the Premier a question regarding the possible improvement of the Adelaide to Wilmington railway service. I even invited the Minister of Railways to accompany me on a trip over that line so that he might appreciate the disadvantages. Has the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Railways, a reply?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—As the Railways Commissioner's report on that matter covers more than two foolscap pages, I shall not read it but make it available to the honourable member.

MOUNT GAMBIER NORTH SCHOOL.

Mr. RALSTON—The Public Works Committee will visit Mount Gambier next week-end to inquire into the proposed primary school at Mount Gambier North. Can the Minister of Education say whether the Government will place an amount on this year's Loan Estimates if the work is recommended by the Committee?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I hope that such a favourable event will occur, but it is the prerogative of the Treasurer to introduce the Loan works programme and I understand that he will do so as soon as he returns from abroad. Although I do not want to anticipate the details of the programme, I think that every thing points to happiness.

MOTOR NUMBERING SYSTEM.

Mr. COUMBE—Last year the Registrar of Motor Vehicles reported that he had investigated the alteration of the numbering of registration plates from the simple numeral system to the alphabet-numeral system. Will the Minister of Works, representing the Treasurer,

see whether this question has been further investigated and whether any change is contemplated?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I can only say that the question has been considered. I will obtain the information for the honourable member.

HEATERS AT ELIZABETH SOUTH SCHOOL.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Has the Minister of Education a further reply to my question concerning the installation of heaters at the Elizabeth South school?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—There are electric heaters in 18 primary classrooms at Elizabeth South and heating is to be provided in the new quadruple unit. At present the 12 infant school rooms have two kerosene heaters each and these are regarded by the infant mistress and teachers as quite satisfactory. However, plans are now in hand for the provision of electric heater-fans in these rooms soon.

FRUIT FLY CAMPAIGN.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to the question I asked recently about the disposal of fruit from fly-infested areas?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—This matter has been the subject of several inquiries, one from the member for Semaphore, to whom I replied last week, but I have other information for the member for Unley. Following several days of strong north, north-west winds associated with high tides, it was noticed that some fruit was being washed on to the beaches south of Outer Harbour. A small gang of pickers was employed to pick up this fruit for re-dumping at sea. An examination of this fruit showed that a considerable degree of salt water penetration had occurred, indicating that it had been dumped at sea at least a week previously. No bags were washed ashore, indicating that stoning had been adequate. It appears that a number of bags had rotted before the fruit became fully waterlogged and the released fruit was blown ashore. Every care is taken to guard against such a happening and a considerable amount of fruit is re-bagged at Outer Harbour before stoning. This trouble has occurred every year, but has been accentuated this year by the unseasonal north-westerly winds. The recent unseasonable weather has accentuated the problem. I gave an undertaking I would examine any other methods to avoid even the small amount of trouble we have had, but so far, I cannot

take the matter any further. The honourable member also asked whether this fruit could be made into jam, but I have found that it is totally unsuitable for this purpose or for making into any other edible product.

BURGLARY PRECAUTIONS.

Mr. TAPPING—At the week-end the press reported that a robbery occurred at a jeweller's shop in Adelaide Arcade and that the thieves took the risk of being electrocuted. I do not condone burglary, but I object to shops being installed with electrified wiring. Will the Minister of Works get a report from the Commissioner of Police, through the Chief Secretary, to ascertain whether the press report was accurate and the Commissioner's views on the installation of electrified wiring in shops?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will refer the question to my colleague. Frankly, I do not know why any person desires to risk electrocution in this way because his action is a breach of the law. I understand that various types of burglar alarms have been installed for years. I do not know whether all, or how many, use the electrification method, but I will see what the Commissioner of Police has to say on this matter. I think the only justification for banning such devices is that some person may accidentally break a window and be electrocuted.

Mr. Tapping—There is the danger to Fire Brigade employees.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—They are well aware of the danger and are carefully instructed in these matters. I do not think the public would have much sympathy for a robber who was electrocuted.

RIVERTON TO SPALDING RAILWAY LINE.

Mr. QUIRKE—Has the Minister representing the Minister of Railways a reply to the question I asked recently about the relaying of the Riverton to Spalding branch line?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I have received the following reply from the Minister of Railways:—

The Riverton-Spalding line, which is 52 miles long, is laid with 61 lb. rails which were already secondhand when the line was constructed. The rail joints are worn and are difficult to maintain in good condition. This was one of the reasons leading to the decision in 1954 to replace the passenger service with a road bus service. Only three regular freight trains operate over the line in each direction each week, and the track is maintained in a safe condition for this traffic. It is intended

to proceed with the relaying of the line with welded 80 lb. secondhand rails when other more urgent relaying projects using this type of rail are completed in due course. I am not in a position to say when it is likely the work of converting the Spalding line to standard gauge will be undertaken, but, in any event, the 1949 Standardization Agreement does not provide for the relaying as well as the conversion of this line.

FRUIT JUICE FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Last week I discussed with the Minister of Education the possibility of supplying fruit juice as an alternative to milk to school children in isolated areas. Has he any information to give the House on this matter?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The supply of milk to school children by the Education Department is authorized by the State Grants (Milk for School Children) Act, which is a Commonwealth Act, but it does not permit of the supply of any alternative to milk. The distribution of milk is administered on behalf of the Commonwealth by the Education Department, which is bound by Commonwealth instructions. The Director-General of Health has stated that numerous requests have been received for the provision of alternatives, including fruit juices, to milk and the matter has been reviewed from time to time by the Commonwealth, but no favourable reply has yet been communicated to South Australia.

DESTRUCTION OF RABBITS.

Mr. JENKINS—Is the Minister of Agriculture satisfied with the appointment of inspectors by councils for the simultaneous destruction of rabbits?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—Rabbit destruction comes under the control of the Vermin Branch of the Lands Department, but recently the problem has been considered by the Government and I will get a report for the honourable member. My department, by arrangement with the Lands Department, is appointing two officers to deal particularly with vermin and to assist the Lands Department in its vermin destruction programme. It must be appreciated that unless all efforts are co-ordinated any work done may be valueless, particularly if there is further breeding of rabbits. I will get a reply to the specific question.

SEWAGE FARM.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Item 11 of the Governor's Speech refers to important proposals being prepared for improving the sewerage systems of the metropolitan area. Can the

Minister of Works indicate whether it is proposed to transfer the sewage farm from its present site to a new location?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I have received the following report from the Engineer for Sewerage:—

The connected population of the existing treatment works at Glenelg has reached the designed figure and a scheme for additions to the works and pumping station has been approved and is in hand. It is expected that by the end of this financial year the first half of the project will be complete and in use whilst the second half will be in course of construction. A scheme for a new sewage treatment works at Dry Creek in substitution for the existing sewage farm is before the Public Works Standing Committee for investigation. All land required in connection with this proposal has been purchased and further work on designs and plans is being undertaken. The Government cannot, however, proceed with this proposal until the Public Works Standing Committee has reported thereon.

IRRIGATION ON PRIVATE PROPERTY ACT.

Mr. STOTT—Can the Minister of Lands intimate whether the Government is considering amending the Irrigation on Private Property Act to create a trust to collect rates and so forth in respect of the development of undeveloped areas? Will the Minister also consider extending the legislation to include not only undeveloped land, but land already planted with vines?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I will consider the questions and bring down a reply.

FRUIT FLY ROAD BLOCKS.

Mr. KING—Has the Minister of Agriculture any statement regarding the establishment of permanent road blocks to control the entry of fruit fly and infested fruit into South Australia at Yamba, Port Augusta and Murray Bridge? If permanent road blocks are to be established, will the accommodation for the Yamba staff be improved?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—The question of road blocks is being considered at the moment, particularly in respect of the Duke's Highway. I am not in a position to give any information on that today. The road block on the highway west of Port Augusta is proving valuable because infested fruit has been detected. I cannot indicate whether it will be continued indefinitely, but the department is keen to maintain it at present. The question of other sites will be considered and I will supply the honourable with further details later.

ANNUAL LEAVE IN RAILWAYS DEPARTMENT.

Mr. BYWATERS—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked last week regarding the accumulation of annual leave by high-salaried officers of the Railways Department?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I have received the following report from the Commissioner of Railways:—

There are eight officers who have over 48 days of accumulated leave outstanding as at 30/6/58. It is not my policy to allow the accumulation of leave to continue on to retirement and the outstanding leave of the salaried staff as at 30/6/58 is much less than it was in previous years.

WHYALLA WEST SCHOOL.

Mr. LOVEDAY—The Whyalla West Primary School, with 412 pupils, is now full and it is expected that the Housing Trust will build about 300 more homes in Whyalla in the next 18 months. This will probably necessitate the provision of accommodation for at least 300 more children. Approval has been given for the building of an infant school of eight classrooms as an extension to this school. Will the Minister of Education consider securing more land adjacent to the present school area since the existing area may not be sufficient?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Yes, I shall be pleased to do so in relation to Whyalla West school in particular, and other Whyalla schools in general, because I expect a need for much enhanced school accommodation in that area in the near future.

PORT AUGUSTA PUBLIC WORKS.

Mr. RICHES—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked last week regarding the commencement of work on various public works at Port Augusta?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I regret that I have not the reply with me, but will obtain it for tomorrow.

TRUST HOMES AT TANTANOOLA.

Mr. CORCORAN—On July 14 the district clerk, Tantanoola, wrote to me on behalf of the council asking that consideration be given to building trust homes at Tantanoola. He said:—

I am directed to approach you with the request that you will make representations with the honourable the Premier for consideration to be given to the building of at least 50 trust homes at Tantanoola. It has been reported in the press that the Premier has instructed the Housing Trust to erect 80 homes in Millicent,

and as it is understood that at least 130 men will be employed at the new A.P.C.E.L. mill at Snuggery, it is felt that the additional homes which will be required could be built at Tantanoola which is only two miles from the mill site.

You are no doubt aware that the linking up of Tantanoola with electricity from the Electricity Trust in Mount Gambier is included in the tentative plan for commencement during the financial year 1958-59, provided finance is available. Any assistance that you can give to this request will be greatly appreciated.

Will the Minister of Works bring this request before the Acting Premier?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—It is very pleasing to know that a number of new houses are required at Tantanoola because this indicates that at least that part of the State is going ahead. I am not sure whether the Housing Trust has any land in Tantanoola for building houses or whether the implication is that it intended to build in Millicent or some nearby town where it possibly has land for that purpose; but I will refer the request to the trust to ascertain whether it intends to build at Tantanoola. I know that certain land near the mill is available but I do not know whether it is suitable.

Mr. CORCORAN—I am assured by the district council that there is no doubt about land being available at Tantanoola.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—That would be appreciated, and it would also be appreciated if the trust did not have to pay too much for it.

CEMENT ROADS.

Mr. LAUCKE—In view of the plentiful supply of locally produced cement, will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Roads to consider the greater use of cement in building roads, particularly in country areas in close proximity to cement works?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Vast quantities of cement are already being used by the Highways Department for road construction.

Mr. Hambour—Not in country areas.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Yes, cement is being used on the Lincoln Highway, and in the district of Eyre many thousands of tons are being freighted by ketch from Port Adelaide to Cowell for use by Stabilizers Limited, a company that has a large contract for stabilizing some 25 miles of road between Whyalla and Cowell. In addition, the same company, which, incidentally, is the only company in Australia with the necessary machinery to do this work, recently carried out a contract near Tumby Bay and is preparing contracts elsewhere.

Bay in which cement was used. It is not possible to use this method except where the soil is suitable, and this limits its application to certain localities. For instance, in rocky ground where stone is readily available it is cheaper and probably better to use the conventional form of construction, but where stone is difficult to obtain and where, correspondingly, the soil is usually clayey or sandy stabilizing is possible, and its use is cheaper than carrying stone over long distances. In such localities and where soil conditions are suitable the department is using large quantities of cement. However, I will refer the question to the Minister of Roads to see whether he feels that the Highways Department could extend its policy.

WOMEN ON JURIES.

Mr. TAPPING—Last year I asked the Minister of Education whether the Government intended to introduce legislation to provide for women on juries in South Australia, and he said that it was not intended to do so that session. Can the Minister state whether the Government will reconsider the decision it made last year?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—As far as I am aware no further decision has been made by the Government, but I shall be pleased to refer the matter to the Attorney-General, who no doubt will refer it to Cabinet.

BERRI PUMPING STATION.

Mr. KING—Will the Minister of Works obtain a report as to when the new Berri pumping station will be ready for operation? Recently a number of breakdowns have occurred during extensive irrigation, and it is felt to be important that the new station be in operation without delay.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I understand that the plant will be ready for operation about the end of this year or early next year, but I am not able to add anything to that.

FRUIT FLY SPRAYS.

Mr. DUNSTAN—Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my question of June 18 about fruit fly sprays?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—The honourable member mentioned reports of damage to trees, particularly citrus, by tartar emetic sprays. I have obtained a report from the Director of Agriculture to the effect that the amounts of materials for bait spraying are carefully weighed into paper bags, the contents of each being sufficient for one can of water. Each sprayer is provided with a stick to ensure adequate stirring of the mixed

spray. Periodic snap checks are made of canned contents using a hydrometer to check the specific gravity of the spray solution. All sprayers have strict instructions to provide for the correct use of the materials and adequate mixing. Tartar emetic has now been replaced with malathion in the bait spray, and this material is not known to cause damage to citrus trees. Every care is taken to ensure proper mixing and application of the fruit fly baits, and damage to trees is infrequent and of a minor nature. The malathion now being used has replaced tartar emetic as investigation has shown it to be more efficient. No reports of damage from this new material have been received since its introduction.

CONTROL OF RENTS.

Mr. STEPHENS—Has the Minister of Works, representing the Attorney-General, a reply to my recent question concerning the control of rents charged under an agreement to lease?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I have received the following report from the Attorney-General:—

Section 6 (2) (d) of the Landlord and Tenant (Control of Rents) Act, 1942-1957, provides that the Act shall not apply to a lease in writing of a dwellinghouse where the term of the lease is for two years or more and the lease is entered into after the passing of the amending Act of 1954. Thus, the provisions of the Act relating to the control of rents do not apply to such a lease and the rent will be that agreed between the parties. There is no provision in the Act requiring such a lease to be registered.

PAYNEHAM SCHOOL.

Mr. DUNSTAN—Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question concerning toilet accommodation at the Payneham school?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The Payneham School Committee in its first approaches concerning additional accommodation asked for the provision of extra rooms in solid construction at the Briar Road site. Later, a request was made that wooden rooms be provided; presumably in the hope that they would be available soon. I express my personal regret that their hope has not been realized. It is intended to provide six wooden rooms at the Briar Road site as soon as possible after the additional lavatories required have been erected. Working drawings for these lavatories have been prepared and estimates are being obtained at the moment. When these toilets and the additional rooms are erected at Briar Road there will be adequate accommodation for all the Payneham Primary

School children there. There is not adequate toilet accommodation available at the Payneham Road site at the moment, but ample toilet facilities will be available when the remaining primary school children are moved from this site to Briar Road. If any temporary difficulty is experienced I shall be pleased to take up the matter again in association with the members for Norwood and Enfield.

Mr. DUNSTAN—The Minister indicated that the department considered that once the children were removed from the Payneham Road site there would be adequate accommodation there. I do not know whether the Minister has seen a letter written recently to the department by the Payneham school committee, but the committee pointed out strongly that the toilet accommodation at the Payneham Road site is most unsatisfactory and that this has been accentuated during the past week by an epidemic of gastro-enteritis. The teachers have been extremely upset at the bad conditions in the toilet block, where the water pressures are quite inadequate. The committee asks, in addition to the toilet accommodation at the Briar Road site, for a new toilet block with more cubicles at the Payneham Road site. Will the Minister take up that matter?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I relied for my reply on the information supplied by the Superintendent of Primary Schools (Mr. Paull) and the Acting Deputy Director of Education (Mr. Walker), two highly competent and reliable officers. I have not seen the conditions myself and it is impossible for me, with more than 700 schools under my jurisdiction, to do so. I shall be pleased, however, to have further investigations made as early as possible to remedy the deficiencies referred to by the honourable member.

COAL AT CRADOCK BASIN.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Has the Minister of Works a report from his colleague, the Minister of Mines, concerning the search for coal in the Cradock Basin?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I have received the following reply from the Minister of Mines, based on information from the Director of Mines:—

Drilling to date in the Springfield basin has indicated a thickness of more than 700 feet of coal bearing strata. The coal seams are mainly very thin, varying in thickness from a few inches to two feet, and also varying widely in quality. Although no economic coal has yet been indicated, results are considered sufficiently encouraging to undertake

exploratory drilling throughout the basin. A geological search for other possible basins in the Quorn-Hawker area is proceeding.

RETRENCHMENT OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

Mr. LAWN (on notice)—

1. How many Government employees have been retrenched during the past two years?
2. In which departments did these retrenchments occur, if any?
3. Does the Government expect to retrench any more employees in the near future?

Th Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The number of Government employees is higher now than two years ago. The Government confidently expects to maintain the same level of employment in the future as in the past.

SOOT FROM OSBORNE POWER HOUSE.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice)—

1. Has the Electricity Trust sought quotations for installation of a precipitator at Osborne power house for the purpose of combating soot emission?
2. If not, what is contemplated by the trust to reduce the soot nuisance in the Osborne area?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The chairman of the Electricity Trust of South Australia reports that the member for Semaphore was advised by the Premier on January 29 last that the trust had carried out during last summer an extensive survey of the coarse grit arrestors, multi-cyclones, hydrovac equipment, and other plant associated with the dust collecting system at Osborne power station. The equipment was thoroughly overhauled and improved. Since that time better quality coal has been used and the overall result has been a very marked reduction in the amount of dust emitted from the power station. Furthermore, since the Port Augusta "A" power station has been completed, Osborne is not being used as a base load station and, despite the increase in the amount of plant installed in the Osborne power station, the total quantity of coal burnt at Osborne is now only half what it was a few years ago. It is not feasible, except at prohibitive cost, to install electrostatic precipitators in an existing power station and it is not proposed to call tenders for precipitators at Osborne. The mechanical dust collection plant is now working efficiently in conjunction with the reduced quantities of coal being burnt. With the commissioning of the Port Augusta "B" power station within the next two years the quantity of coal burnt at Osborne will be further reduced.

FIRE BRIGADES LEGISLATION.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice)—

1. Is it the intention of the Government to amend the Fire Brigades Act this session to provide for—(a) one metropolitan fire district; (b) contributions based on water works assessment?

2. If not, what is contemplated by the Government in these matters?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—It is not the intention of the Government to vary the present system this session.

SCHOOL RESIDENCES AND SEPTIC TANKS.

Mr. JOHN CLARK (on notice)—

1. Are rents of school residences increased if septic tanks are installed?

2. If so, by how much per week are such rents increased?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The replies are:—

1. Rents for school residences are increased when septic tanks are installed.

2. The additional rent to be charged is fixed by the Housing Trust. Any increase is related to the cost of the particular installation concerned.

TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS.

Mr. DUNNAGE (on notice)—

1. What is the number of technical high schools in the metropolitan area?

2. How many scholars attend each of these schools?

3. How many technical high schools have full time or part time secretaries?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The replies are:—

1. There are seven boys' technical high schools, and seven girls' technical high schools established in the metropolitan area.

2. The enrolments are as follows:—

Croydon Boys' T.H.S.	516
Goodwood Boys' T.H.S.	510
LeFevre Boys' T.H.S.	556
Mitchell Park Boys' T.H.S. . . .	172
Nailsworth Boys' T.H.S.	605
Norwood Boys' T.H.S.	466
Thebarton Boys' T.H.S.	517

3,342

Croydon Girls' T.H.S.	441
Nailsworth Girls' T.H.S.	658
Norwood Girls' T.H.S.	442
Port Adelaide Girls' T.H.S. . . .	370
Thebarton Girls' T.H.S.	488
Unley Girls' T.H.S.	604
Vermont Girls' T.H.S.	150

3,153

Total (boys and girls), 6,495.

3. Full time clerical assistance is provided at Thebarton Boys' Technical High School and Thebarton and Unley Girls' Technical High Schools. No part-time assistance is provided.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION: PRICE CONTROL.

Mr. DUNSTAN—I ask leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr. DUNSTAN—My attention has been drawn to a report in last Friday's *Advertiser* that a certain question was asked by me in this House, the tenor of which was to seek the abolition of price control on all items by the Government. That question was not asked by me, but by the member for Unley (Mr. Dunnage), and I make it perfectly clear that my sentiments on this question are not those expressed by the honourable member.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on the motion for adoption.

(Continued from July 24. Page 169.)

Mr. BOCKELBERG (Eyre)—I join with previous speakers in praising His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor for the way he carries out the duties of his high office during the absence of the Governor with great credit to himself and to the benefit of the State. I add my words of condolence to the family of the late John Fletcher. During my short period in this House I learned to respect Mr. Fletcher's views. He was a sincere worker for his constituents. I congratulate his successor and wish him well during his term in this House, however long that may be. I also congratulate members who have been promoted, particularly the Minister of Agriculture who, I am sure, will do all in his power to carry out his duties efficiently.

During the past 20 years South Australia has been well governed by the Playford Government and we have seen many improvements. Of course, they are not all due to Government action. For instance, it did not plant the iron ore at Iron Knob, or the uranium at Radium Hill; but members opposite must agree that it has done all in its power to develop the natural resources of South Australia. Surely it can take some credit for that. We often hear members opposite disparaging the Government for doing exactly what it is doing. Again, they often

seem to think that the Government takes full credit for everything that has been done for the development of South Australia, but I should like them to give the Government a little credit at times for what it is doing in that direction. The future of the State seems to be assured in that, through the good offices of the Premier, an oil refinery will be established, and further developments seem probable at Whyalla, and at Elizabeth, where General Motors-Holdens will establish a factory. I am sure that when the Premier returns from America he will have something in his pocket for the benefit of the State that will provide work for thousands of men in years to come.

We hear much from members opposite about decentralization and complaints about the drift of population from the country to the city. I have lived in the country practically all my life, but I have not seen much evidence of a drift to the city. Many houses are being built on Eyre Peninsula by private people and the Housing Trust, yet many are still waiting for houses. That does not support the argument of drift to the city.

Mr. O'Halloran—You do not agree with the Government Statist?

Mr. BOCKELBERG—I shall give the figures. In 1954 the population of the metropolitan area was 483,535, or 60.68 per cent of the State's population, and the population in country areas was 313,624, or 39.32 per cent of the State's population. In 1956 the population of the metropolitan area was 506,000 (60.63 per cent of the State's population), and the population in country areas was 328,635 (39.37 per cent of the State's population). Those figures reveal a slight percentage increase in the country population.

Mr. O'Halloran—Because many people moved to Elizabeth.

Mr. BOCKELBERG—Elizabeth is not in the metropolitan area. I am sure many people are moving to Whyalla and other parts of Eyre Peninsula where they get good service. Perhaps there is something wrong in other parts of the State and, as a result, some are moving to the city. The members for Mount Gambier and Whyalla must agree that population is increasing in their towns.

Mr. Lawn—What about Wallaroo?

Mr. BOCKELBERG—If the people there are happy to live in Wallaroo, good luck to them. Industries may go to that town later. Who knows? Surely the picture is not as grim as that painted by members opposite. They

often talk about decentralization, but they should realize that it is not always easy to convince industries that they should go to the country. They cannot force people to start a factory at Wallaroo. The people concerned might very well say "No, we will go somewhere else." I hope we all have the interests of this State at heart. I am deeply concerned for the interests of South Australia and the people in particular. A good water supply is essential to any country, especially to one such as South Australia, which has only one assured source of supply, namely, the River Murray. I congratulate the Premier on the successful outcome of his efforts over the Snowy River Waters Agreement, for South Australia's just share of Murray water is now assured.

Mr. Lawn—Do you agree with what your own Senators said in the Federal House?

Mr. BOCKELBERG—They have their battles to fight and I have mine, and the honourable member has his. I hope that when the Government increases the water supply to Whyalla the main will be made large enough so that eventually Eyre Peninsula can be connected and get water from the Murray. The central part of Eyre Peninsula, in particular, needs a regular supply. I congratulate the Government on the scheme to improve the supply at Port Lincoln. Recently the *Advertiser* reported that £16,300 had been spent on a search for water in and around Port Lincoln. Much has been spent on this work in the last few years, and before long the town will probably be supplied by a separate scheme so that present sources will be available for farming communities north and west of the town. I am sure that Eyre Peninsula will become a most important part of the State, for production there has now reached a high level. Dr. Callaghan (Director of Agriculture), when speaking of Eyre Peninsula, said recently:—

Wheat acreage had remained fairly constant at 500,000 acres during the last 10 years. But production had increased from six to nine million bushels. Now three million bushels of oats were harvested from 190,000 acres. Barley production had increased ninefold to 4.8 million bushels. Over 300,000 acres of pasture were topdressed last year compared with 30,000 acres 10 years ago.

I am sure all members agree that Dr. Callaghan knows what he is talking about. Production has increased so much on Eyre Peninsula that large contracts have been let for the erection of silos. This year a silo with a capacity of 1,250,000 bushels will be erected at Port

Lincoln, and others with a capacity of 400,000 bushels at Kimba and Rudall. Next year a 400,000 bushel silo will be constructed at Lock, and silos to hold 300,000 bushels will be erected at Wharminda and Poochera. The Bulk Handling Company sponsored by the Wheat and Woolgrower's Association will spend £550,000 on Eyre Peninsula in return for total subscriptions from farmers of £150,000. That proves the company has great faith in the future of Eyre Peninsula. Tenders are now being called for the silo at Lock, and they will be called later for those at Wharminda and Poochera. In 1947 the sheep population was 1,115,000, but it has increased by almost 100 per cent, for in 1957 it was 2,067,000.

I regret that transport to and from Eyre Peninsula is not as good as it should be. The people there are up to 600 miles from the metropolitan area, and transport of goods often presents a big problem. The area is not served by a direct railway line to the mainland, and many settlers have no axe to grind with the steamship companies. I hope that more permits will be granted for the road cartage of goods from Eyre Peninsula. A short time ago a carrier of Minnipa, who lives next door to the Government Research Centre, transported a load of stock and the Department of Agriculture sought permission from the Transport Control Board for him to carry a grader back to Minnipa. This was refused, and he had to return empty. The department then had to send its own truck to Minnipa with the grader.

School transport is still a problem in my district. Roads are not as good as they might be and, as a result, vehicles suffer heavy wear and tear. Further, petrol costs 7d. a gallon more than in the metropolitan area. Country producers have to pay taxes to maintain trams, buses and railways for the benefit of people in the metropolitan area, yet they have to pay about £1 a week to transport children to school. Before the Empire Games are held in Perth in 1962 I hope the Western Australian and South Australian Governments will ask the Federal Government for a special grant to improve the Eyre Highway. Probably thousands of cars will use it when the games are held.

I endorse the remarks of the member for Barossa (Mr. Laucke) about the native problem. It is a serious problem and we could do much more than we are doing. In my area, we are associated with a church organization and have difficulties to surmount in building on private property before we can

arrive at a mutual understanding. I am sure that as a body Parliament will overcome the native problem in the next few years.

I was disappointed with the speech of the honourable member for Hindmarsh (Mr. Hutchens) last week. On occasions he has spoken well but last week his speech contained nothing constructive. From start to finish it contained disparaging remarks. At one stage he blamed the Government because some Rundle Street rag man charged a person more than necessary and would not refund the money. We look to the Opposition for constructive criticism, not for hindrance. I support the motion.

Mr. JOHN CLARK (Gawler)—I support the motion and desire to refer to certain members who have merited commendation from this House; in particular to Sir Malcolm McIntosh who, unfortunately, on account of illness, has had to relinquish his Ministerial post. One could not but feel sad last week to see Sir Malcolm, who held a portfolio for so many years, occupying a back bench. He was a good Minister and did his job well. I am glad to see the Minister of Lands in his place this afternoon, and wish him a speedy return to complete health. I congratulate the new Minister of Agriculture on his appointment, although I regret his leaving the ranks of private members because he could always be depended upon to rise and speak, but his elevation will mean one fewer Government member speaking on legislation. I wish him well in his portfolio. I offer similar wishes to the new Minister of Works. Neither of them would expect me to wish them a long term of office, but I hope the short time they have will be happy and profitable. It is good to see the Chairman of the Public Works Committee getting about more freely and we wish him a speedy return to health. I congratulate the two new members of the Public Works Committee and wish them well in their positions.

I regret the sad death of Mr. John Fletcher, and my sincere sympathy goes out to his wife and family. He will be missed in this Chamber. I must extend a welcome to his successor. Naturally the Opposition is delighted to see him here. I have known him for many years. I liked him from the start and apparently the Mount Gambier people are of a similar opinion. I know Mr. Ralston will be a worthy addition to this Parliament, particularly to the Opposition this year and to the Government next year when the Labor Party will control the affairs of the State. The

people of Mount Gambier revealed common-sense in choosing him.

Mr. Jennings—Their vote revealed that the Government is on the way out.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Yes. I liken the Government to a punch-drunk boxer reeling on the ropes and waiting for the knockout. Government members are whistling to keep up their confidence whilst shaking in their shoes. Possibly after the elections next year we will find all three South-Eastern seats represented here by members of my Party, and those members will be the members of the Government Party. I think that is accepted by the Government members who have spoken because up to the present all we have heard from them has been fulsome praise and paeons of adulation of the Government. After Mount Gambier, members opposite have had to do something to convince themselves that they are not on the way out, but they will find it hard to convince the electors of that. I hope the opening speeches by Government members do not indicate the general tenor of remarks from Government supporters because if they do it will become wearisome.

The member for Light (Mr. Hambour) started to make some telling points on primary production and I was hoping to hear something worthwhile, but before long he degenerated into complimenting the Government. I was rather intrigued to hear him say, towards the close of his remarks, "I know it is easy to criticize." When he first entered this place we admired him because he was prepared to criticize, but something happened to him and he now finds it much easier and wiser to praise. I suggest, that, after all, unqualified and uninformed criticism and unqualified and uninformed praise are equally undesirable. The member for Victoria (Mr. Harding), who seconded the motion, gave nothing but praise. His speech was not provocative: in fact, it was restful.

I have a high personal regard for the member for Barossa (Mr. Laucke), who delivered a nice speech in a pleasant manner, but he too completely overdid the praise. One could almost hear the organ thundering out chords of praise as he was speaking. I was able to agree with him in two respects. The first was the customary and well-deserved credit he gave at the beginning of his speech to members who had increased their stature in this House. Praise is an excellent thing provided it is tempered with honesty. In respect of the second matter I am open to contradiction

because he might not agree with my interpretation of a remark he made. He said he believed that this Government had reached a stage "unique in the history of South Australia's development." I was reminded of a story, current when I was a boy at high school, of an Australian who went to an American town. An American said, "Boy, this is a unique town." The Australian said, "Yes: 'unique' comes from the Latin *unus*, meaning *one*, and *equus*, meaning 'horse'." If the honourable member meant that this was a one-horse Government I am in complete agreement, but I doubt whether he did.

Since the absence of the Premier, the debate has been more fiery and Government members not so afraid to interject, with the result that the standard of debate has improved. The member for Eyre (Mr. Bockelberg) spoke mainly of district matters and made a reasonable speech. I have not commented on the speeches of members of the Opposition because they said plainly what they meant. Unfortunately, they were subject to some deplorable interjections, which was a pity.

I propose to deal briefly with a few aspects of the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech. In paragraph 3 I read something that astonished me at first, but after hearing some Government members I realize it is part of the build-up to try to avoid the debacle early next year. In paragraph 3 we are told that vast industrial projects are now contemplated. That makes very good reading indeed: it is very good to hear it, and it will be very good to welcome new industries to this State, but it is a pity that we on this side of the House at least cannot share the happiness and optimism of Government members that these industries are all going to the right places.

Although some Government members have tried in this debate to show us the immense amount of decentralization carried out by this Government there has been no real evidence whatever of real decentralization. Nothing has been done to benefit old established country towns such as Gawler and Wallaroo. The member for Light (Mr. Hambour) was bold enough to cite me as an example of a member representing a district that has benefited enormously from decentralization, but I could not agree with him less. He knows Gawler well and many people in it because he was there as a boy, but can he find one person in Gawler who would appreciate what he calls decentralization?

Mr. Hambour—What about the Gawler Manufacturing Company? How many trust homes have you there?

Mr. CLARK—I am talking about industry. It is true that the town has the factory he mentioned but I cannot give a great deal of credit to the Government for that. I give credit to the people who worked in that industry and helped to establish it. The honourable member knows only too well that once Gawler was one of the greatest industrial towns in Australia, but it lost its prosperity and greatness because past Governments of the same political colour as the present Government failed to give industries the encouragement and contracts it should have given them.

One or two things have already been said during this debate about Wallaroo, many of which were not very sensible. One would have thought that Wallaroo could have been considered as the site for the new oil refinery. I am not going to saddle the member for Light with this statement because I am not sure whether he said it or not, but I think it was he who said that the harbour would not be suitable. However, it is generally accepted that the Wallaroo harbour is one of the best, and would be ideal for the oil refinery.

Mr. Hambour—You contend that Wallaroo would be suitable for the oil refinery?

Mr. CLARK—I do, and I was rather disappointed that it will not be established there, although I admit there may be reasons unknown to me that perhaps would make it unsuitable.

Mr. Hambour—You admit that you have a lack of knowledge?

Mr. CLARK—It is unwise for the honourable member to say that, because some people might start saying things. I would have thought that the rather unusual trip made by the Premier over the Hummocks last year would have had some lasting effect on him, but apparently it did not. That is an example of what decentralization means! On Friday, July 18, the Leader of the Opposition made a broadcast speech on decentralization which I think would be of some help to members, and if they want to read it I will be happy to obtain a copy. However, as much will be said in this Chamber this session about decentralization, I do not intend to labour the matter now.

Mr. Hambour—What about a little policy on decentralization?

Mr. CLARK—That is what will be given next year after the State elections. The honourable member will find himself speaking from an entirely different position in the House and I feel certain his beauty will show up much more to advantage than it does sitting where he is now. I hope he gets a shady spot.

Mr. Hambour—Tell us about Gawler.

Mr. CLARK—The shouting and the tumult dies, and I will continue with my own remarks. The honourable member made a forceful speech and it is now my turn. In paragraph 11 of the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech this statement appeared:—

Important proposals are being prepared for the improvement of the sewerage system of the metropolitan area. In addition the Government is now in a position to commence construction of a number of country sewerage schemes.

Perhaps I am biased but I would have liked to see the second sentence first. As the member for Light invited me to say something about Gawler, and I was disturbed by the imploring tone of his voice, I will say something about sewerage there. He cited the Gawler Manufacturing Company, which is about the only industry of any size left in Gawler. This industry should be complimented because it has struggled to keep going in Gawler under very adverse conditions with regard to sewerage. It has had all sorts of difficulties in disposing of effluent, and I am pleased to say that on several occasions I have tried to help it. It is wonderful to hear that something will be done for the country with regard to sewerage: I could have cheered when I heard this, but I have heard it on several occasions before, yet we are still waiting for it. No mention is made that the cost of such sewerage will be at least four times what it would have been when first investigated. Despite that, however, it is essential for Gawler at any rate; other members can speak for themselves. Many possibilities of establishing local industries have had to be lost in the short time I have been in this Chamber simply because sewerage has not been available. Other members probably have found that when an industry seeks to come to a town, it is not interested when it finds there is no sewerage system to dispose of waste. I urge the Government to investigate fully the possibility of bringing the cost of country sewerage more closely in line with metropolitan costs.

I have had the good fortune to travel over the State a good deal; and I believe that

Gawler and Mount Gambier should be sewered first. I am pleased to know that the Advisory Committee on Sewerage, headed by Mr. Murrell, has been investigating and making findings on certain country towns, and I hope the reports of this committee will be available so that some country sewerage schemes can be put on this year's Estimates, because it is necessary for sewerage schemes to be established in the towns I have mentioned. Also, I urge a revision of country sewerage rates—not up, but down.

In paragraph 12 quite a lot was said about railway improvements, and on this subject I, like other members, find that I have to refer to something I have mentioned before. We have had very much improved time tables on the line between Adelaide and Gawler which serves Salisbury, Elizabeth, and Gawler, and although there are some anomalies that should be ironed out, generally speaking the services are much improved. However, I have something to say about suburban diesels, colloquially called "red hens," with all the modern conveniences! Last year I asked the Minister representing the Minister of Railways to take up with his colleague the matter of providing lavatory accommodation on these cars. Members will remember that the first half of the reply was sensible enough: it was to the effect that as the vehicles were suburban vehicles they were not equipped with lavatories, but the second part of the question was the height of absurdity. It was:—

I might add that it should not be overlooked that toilet facilities are provided at various stations in between Adelaide and Gawler.

I remember how uncomfortable the Minister of Works looked when he gave that answer because he obviously realized it was very foolish. Only the other night I was witness to what can happen to an unfortunate person on this particular train who is denied lavatory accommodation, and it was not very pleasant, so I raise this matter again. This time I would like an intelligent answer instead of a reply like I had formerly.

In paragraph 14 it was stated that the population of Elizabeth is now about 8,500. Obviously it will soon be a city. The best news for the town is that General Motors-Holdens will begin operations there. I believe that could be an inducement to and provide the necessary stimulus for the establishment of other firms. We hear all sorts of news about Elizabeth but we do not always hear that industrial expansion has been most dis-

appointing. I do not say what will happen in the future, but at present most workers at Elizabeth travel to the city daily for employment, for there is little employment in the area, particularly for young people leaving schools. That problem is not so urgent at present, but within a few years hundreds of young people will be seeking employment and, as is the case with young people in many other country towns, they will either have to leave home or travel long distances daily to their work. I always feared that Elizabeth would become only a dormitory for the city. We have too many such towns, for instance Gawler. Elizabeth is the Government's child and it should therefore become the Government's obligation. In fairness to the people who have come to live at Elizabeth, it must be said that many are buying houses there. They have invested all their savings in homes and every effort must be made to provide employment for those people as near as possible to their homes. I urge the Government to do the job it said it would do when Elizabeth was established. The Government must not shirk its responsibility. It is all very well to say that industries will go there. Although I believe they will, many people at Elizabeth are feeling the pinch in the meantime.

Elizabeth has problems because it is a new town. Many of the people there, particularly those from the Old Country, are working at jobs other than those for which they have been trained. After budgeting for their new home, many find that they can afford only the bare necessities. I hope that in time this state of affairs will right itself, particularly if these people are employed near their homes, but at present the expenses of travelling to work are a real burden on top of their other commitments. I commend the people of Elizabeth for the corporate spirit manifest there; already a tradition of pride in their new town is apparent, but those people cannot afford to be blind to obvious faults. We must not allow Elizabeth to be treated as Gawler has been over the years. I have, therefore, taken this opportunity of reminding the Government that Elizabeth is crying out for industries. I urge the Government to remember the old-established towns when new industries are envisaged for the State. I remind the Government—or should I say the Premier—

Mr. Hambro—That is unnecessary sarcasm.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—The honourable member may regard it as sarcasm if he likes, but I

said it because I believe the Premier is the arbiter in the matter I shall raise. I remind the Premier that at present the number of voters on the roll for the Gawler electorate, which includes the town of Elizabeth, is almost 12,000, and by the date of next year's election it will be many more than that. In fact, it will probably be enough for two Assembly districts. That is not what I am asking for, however: in view of the fact that the district has grown to twice the size of its quota, will the Premier consider introducing proportional representation at State elections and thereby giving the people of Elizabeth and, indeed, the whole State, the right to be represented according to their wishes? If that is too much to ask—and in the light of past experience it may well be—I draw attention to the fact that the present electoral district of Gawler should be represented by two members even under our deplorable electoral system. Here is the Premier's chance to win everlasting honour. He will never have a better chance to renounce the totalitarian gerrymander under which he has not tried to give electoral justice to all the State. Is he prepared to take the opportunity? From a lack of interjections from members opposite on this point, I take it that they believe I make this request in good faith.

I commend the work done by the Housing Trust at Elizabeth. I have found the officers of the trust helpful and courteous. Although I do not agree with all the principles laid down for the development of the town, the officers possess the virtue of sticking to those principles so that people may know where they stand. Paragraph 18 of His Excellency's Speech states:—

During the financial year now ending the largest annual road programme in the history of the State has been carried out.

I am delighted that at long last the Government has started work on widening the Gawler Road. I wish the member for Light (Mr. Hambour) were listening to me now for I am sure that for once he would agree with me. This project has been desirable for many years, but the Minister in charge has considered it unnecessary. Apparently he realizes at last that the road is a death trap and that the sooner the work is completed the better it will be for all concerned.

I was somewhat concerned a few weeks ago when a constituent came to see me. He and another young man had been employed by the Highways Department carting road material from the quarries to build certain roads and they had been assured of several

years' work. Because of that assurance, given verbally, they purchased lorries and made themselves subject to various financial commitments. Unfortunately, however, after only a few months they found that they were put off and that the quarries would cart the materials in their own lorries. That may be a financial saving generally, but it is not a financial saving to the two young men, with families, who now find themselves committed to pay for the lorries and without the employment they expected. I hope that my drawing the attention of the Minister to this matter may have the effect of helping them.

I could mention many other matters in this speech, but I will leave them to other speakers who are possibly better qualified to deal with them. I wish to speak, however, concerning a few matters affecting all members and South Australians generally. On the subject of education, paragraph 16 of His Excellency's Speech states:—

Within the next fortnight, the number of pupils in the Government primary schools will reach a figure double that of 10 years ago. The increase of pupils in the secondary schools is even greater, and equipment and teaching aids are required on an unprecedented scale. These factors have imposed an enormous task upon the Government. Although much remains to be done, a gratifying degree of success has been achieved in meeting current needs and providing for the still greater needs of the future.

What of the future? No-one has more sympathy than I with the Minister of Education, who is waging a keen battle with meagre resources, indeed without the full sympathy of the Premier concerning what can be done for education in this State. In this connection I am reminded of a recent notable celebration held at the Adelaide High School, where the Premier's utterance made one wonder how interested he was in education. Yet we are told that the Government will continue to provide the increased expenditure necessary for education. That statement is nonsense, however, unless the Government interprets the word "necessary" differently from most people, because the Government's resources at present could not possibly cope with all the necessary expenses unless it were prepared—as I know it is not—to rob other departments of their necessities.

What then is the answer? At the risk of being called repetitious, for I have mentioned this matter several times before, I claim that the only possible answer to this dangerous problem is the provision of large and adequate Federal grants to the States specifically for

education. For many years mine was a voice crying in the wilderness on this matter: I have advocated it for as long as I can remember. It is heartening therefore, to find people starting to agree with me; indeed, many thousands throughout Australia are now of the same opinion as I. It boils down to the Federal Treasury and one might well ask, "What is the opinion of the present Prime Minister on this matter?" The present Prime Minister, unfortunately, has changed front so often on this question that no-one can be quite certain what his opinion is at any given time. One can be certain, however, that at present he is not prepared to give concrete help. How can the Prime Minister justify the fact that all the States are starved for funds for education? I should not like to be regarded as a pacifist, but when one reads of the enormous sums spent on defence one wonders why the Commonwealth Government is spending large sums to train our youth to kill, whereas the States are starved for funds to enable them to teach our children how to live. With the types of weapons used in modern warfare, one needs a certain amount of education to use them. Does the Prime Minister think that education is not necessary? I hope he does not, but when one knows his attitude, one cannot help but wonder. Does he believe that in this competitive age we can afford to give our children anything but the best? I am reminded of the words of a school inspector some years ago when appearing before a Parliamentary Select Committee on education. He said, "What South Australia needs are rainfall, artificial manure and cheap labour." However, today school inspectors have a different opinion, but are there still some people who feel that way about the teaching of our boys and girls? Surely education today is a thing of supreme importance. In fact, it always has been, although not completely recognized. Professor G. S. Browne, Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Melbourne, once said:—

What Australians will achieve a generation hence depends largely on our boys and girls and their education now. Each one is more precious than material goods or political expediences. A good education is his or her unassailable right.

We all know that is true. I remind members that he was not by any means a politician. I have been told that I am biased on the question of education; in fact that it is an obsession. If so, I am proud of this bias and glory in the obsession, and I will con-

tinue to fight for it. I cannot but help think that our boys and girls are entitled to the best education we can give them, but I ask, "Are they getting it in South Australia and in the other States, where, I believe, their educational facilities are worse than ours?" If one wants to know, all one need do is to talk to the teachers and the parents who are closely associated with the schools. I will refer briefly to a few of the things which are seriously lacking in educational facilities in all States. There is an appalling shortage of school buildings, and a substantial percentage of those erected are outmoded and overcrowded. An acute shortage of properly trained teachers also exists, overlarge classes have become the usual thing, and we find that temporary rooms have become permanent. We also find inadequate and often deplorable sanitary and hygienic conditions existing, and insufficient washing and drinking facilities are the regular thing. I could quote dozens of other deficiencies, and so could other honourable members. Those things to which I have referred all affect the quality of the teaching and therefore the quality of the learning of our children.

On May 20 and 21 a conference was held in Canberra representative of organizations from every State. The scope of representation was very broad. There were more than 100 delegates and observers from nation-wide organizations connected not only with the teaching profession, but with other professions. They included representatives of commercial concerns, primary industries, welfare organizations, and the Australian Council of Trades Unions. The subject for debate at the conference was "Education and National Responsibility." Each State gave a brief digest of its educational facilities, and the following was supplied by a South Australian delegate:—

. . . The overall enrolment in South Australia has more than doubled since 1946. A survey showed classes of 50 or more at all levels from earliest class primary school to fourth year high school. Approximately ten thousand children are in such out-size classes. Grouping of classes is a particular evil for 18.5% of all primary children are in composite classes. . . . As in other States, available funds have been needed for the building of classrooms. The provision of special rooms, libraries, weather sheds, etc., has not been possible, nor have the allocations from revenue been sufficient to keep existing buildings in a reasonable state of repair and maintain adequate toilet and washing facilities. A lowering of the average class-load or the raising of the leaving age above 14 years would have to be accompanied by the building

of many classrooms and a comparable increase in staff. For the latter purpose college accommodation is not available. At present an attempt is being made to convert an unused, most unsuitable building to a Teachers' College."

Delegates from some States admitted that some of their conditions were worse than those in South Australia. We are faced with the question "Why is this possible?" My answer is that the States have so many departments to finance and so many things to do that they cannot possibly spend enough on education. I know that some honourable members will remind me of the amount we are now spending on education compared with the position some years ago, and give that as a reason why we are spending enough in this direction. I am aware that the Minister of Education has told us in reply to questions that he is sorry that certain things have not yet been done, and realize that the finances available are not sufficient to provide the enormous additional cost which has to be met on education. The only hope is to get additional money. I mentioned earlier a ceremony at the Adelaide Boys' High School which afforded the Premier a wonderful opportunity to give the people the benefit of his thoughts on education. I should truly love to know what our Minister of Education's feelings were on that speech. I shall quote only two small passages from it. The Premier said:—"I have a great deal of misgiving about some features of our educational system." I could not agree with him more. His most important point was that he considered there was too much homework. I shall not argue whether homework is necessary or whether it is important. I have no doubt that some of the students agreed wholeheartedly with him, but I am sure that most of them did not. My experience as a teacher has been that most boys and girls rather like doing homework. I realize that the greater the load of homework the less likely they are to like it, but that is not the point. What a nation-rocking issue to raise at such a gathering! It makes one wonder whether the Premier is sensing the waning support of his policy and is out to catch the votes of the younger generation.

Mr. O'Halloran—If we had more teachers and smaller classes so much homework would not be necessary.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—If such conditions existed many children would not have to do homework at all, particularly those in primary schools. An interjection was made the other

day reflecting on the fact that I had been a school teacher, but I do not try to act as a schoolmaster. When I was teaching in the higher grades I managed to get along without giving much homework to the boys and girls. However, that cannot be done satisfactorily with large classes working under crowded conditions, for the children's attention is distracted.

I shall now quote the second thing the Premier said, and I entirely disagree with it, for it was nonsense. He said, "The present Federal Government is probably the first that has taken any real interest in education." Perhaps he based that statement on the results of the Murray report, which possibly persuaded the Prime Minister to make grants to the universities. Let us thank Providence for that, for the universities need help, but what interest has the Federal Government shown in helping children to pass through primary and secondary education so that they can go to the university if they desire and are worthy of tertiary education? What has been the Prime Minister's attitude towards Federal aid for education? When he was Federal Leader of the Opposition in 1945 he said, "The Commonwealth should make available to the States substantial amounts in aid of educational reform and development." When he was Prime Minister in 1955 he said, "I may say that no kind of pressure will persuade my Government to make a decision which it considers basically wrong." We find the same man giving diametrically opposite views on the same subject.

Fairly recently a conference of the Australian Teachers' Federation decided to try to persuade the Prime Minister to listen to reason on this matter. Firstly, it wanted the Prime Minister to discuss education with delegates, but he refused to do so. Secondly, in an attempt to influence the Prime Minister, it sponsored a petition which was signed by many people stating the grounds for their fears about education. These were the grounds:—

1. That the public educational needs throughout Australia are very urgent.
2. That each State of the Commonwealth is not able to cope with the provision of adequate educational facilities for rapidly increasing school enrolments.
3. That one important factor in the education crisis is the impact of the Commonwealth Government migration scheme.
4. That this desperate situation calls for generous assistance and co-operation by the Commonwealth Government.

5. That the Commonwealth Government should make available to the States grants of sufficient magnitude to enable them to meet in full their educational requirements.

About 130,000 people signed the petition. Perhaps double that number would have signed, but the Federation wanted the petition presented to the House of Representatives by a certain date. I understand it was the largest petition ever presented to the Federal Parliament, and it was necessary to get a trolley to wheel it into the House, but the Prime Minister would not receive the petition. I stress that the delegates to the Australian Teachers' Federation do not officially subscribe to any political Party. They are interested primarily in education and in helping school children. They then decided to take the petition to the Federal Leader of the Opposition (Dr. Evatt) to see what he could do. He received the petition and conferred with the delegates. The report of the conference is enlightening. Mr. Taylor, vice-president of the Australian Teachers' Federation, said:—

Since the war, the States of the Commonwealth have had to make as much provision again in building, in supply of teachers and equipment, as was done in the previous 160 years of the Commonwealth. For the school enrolments have doubled and at this particular stage have reached a crisis because the increased school population is being felt at the secondary level.

I shall now quote what Mr. Lewis, the Federations' secretary said, for this gives weight to the argument that Federal assistance is necessary. He said:—

The education position is very grim. Some States have class loads up to 70 and 80. Classrooms are non-existent, many of the old buildings should be pulled down by the health authorities, and if you looked at the toilet facilities you would be horrified.

The remarks of Mr. Dobell, vice-president of the Federation, are pertinent because they add weight to the points I have been making. He said:—

I want to congratulate you for receiving us. Your attitude stands out in direct contrast to Mr. Menzies'. I think it is desirable that such a gathering as this should be reminded that Mr. Menzies has made a complete somersault on his policy for Commonwealth aid for education. I quote his policy speech of 1946, "Education is at present for all practical purposes a State matter. But the uniform tax laws have meant that the States can no longer regard their direct revenues as flexible, while they have no powers of indirect taxation at all. Under these circumstances, if the educational needs of our people are to be satisfied, a measure of Commonwealth financial

assistance will be required. There is much work to be done in the improvement of country educational facilities, in technical and university education, in adult education, in the raising of the qualifications, status and remuneration of the teaching profession. The Liberal Party if returned to office will confer with the States with a view to devising ways and means of supplementing the States' financial capacity to make a real attack on these problems. Indeed, we cannot be satisfied that we are even beginning to build a post-war world unless we can say that the training of the minds, bodies and characters of boys and girls for useful intelligent and unselfish citizenship is taking a leading place in our policies and actions. . . . Obviously, there is no constitutional difficulty standing in the way of the Commonwealth providing the States with greatly increased tax reimbursements and Loan funds or making available surplus Budget funds for education."

Mr. Dobell was there quoting Mr. Menzies' remarks when Leader of the Opposition. I shall now continue quoting Mr. Dobell's comments at this conference. He said:—

The increase in migrant population has a cumulative effect because many of the migrants have had additional children since their arrival. While we are not objecting to these people coming out here, we certainly believe it increases the responsibility of the Federal Government to the people of Australia to provide funds for education, because this Government is responsible for bringing migrants into Australia. One further thing. The attitude of the Prime Minister in my opinion to the needs of education is quite cynical. In the first place he has turned a somersault on his policy as expressed in 1946.

Secondly he refuses to recognize the strength of the nation-wide movement behind the demand for large school funds from the Federal Government. . . . Mr. Menzies, in refusing to grant funds for primary and secondary education, and refusing to meet representatives of responsible bodies on this question is showing himself out of step with the people of Australia, whereas in receiving this deputation and petition, you are in step with the people throughout Australia.

When he replied to the delegates Dr. Evatt said:—

There are two points in your request. One is the petition which I have discussed shortly with my colleagues. Your first request is to discuss the petition and to ask me to present the petition personally to the Federal Government as soon as it can be arranged. That I will do and must do. It is a very important petition, and must be brought before Parliament.

The petition was brought before the Federal Parliament, but the debate was soon gagged and again the Prime Minister displayed what many people regard as his customary superior attitude on such questions. Therefore, those who were urging reform in education found

themselves almost back where they started, but public opinion was behind them. They took further action which showed that even dictatorial Prime Ministers can be eventually influenced by the weight of public opinion, especially when an election is just around the corner. On May 22 the Prime Minister magnanimously agreed to meet a deputation in Canberra on "Education a National Responsibility." This was a representative deputation of five presidents of State teachers' organizations and men and women from the Australian Council of School Organizations, the Australian Council of Trade Unions, the Australian Council of Salaried and Professional Associations, and the Australian Primary Producers' Union. They endeavoured to persuade the Prime Minister that education must be regarded as a national responsibility, but I cannot say they were successful. The Prime Minister refused to help, but he at least admitted that section 96 of the Constitution presented no bar to the Commonwealth making educational grants. Previously he had expressed doubts on whether that section prevented Federal assistance. The Prime Minister made two points: the Commonwealth Government had always been generous in its grants to the States (and I doubt that, though some States seem to have done well); the States had never asked for grants specifically for education. On more than one occasion our Premier has told me that he did not think the Commonwealth could constitutionally make such grants, but apparently the Prime Minister thinks it can. I was happy to see about that time an editorial in the *News* taking the Prime Minister to task on this issue. I cannot always believe what appears in editorials in newspapers but on this occasion I could. As the Prime Minister has said that the States have never specifically asked for grants for education, is our Premier willing to seek such grants or is he satisfied with what the State is getting? My attention was drawn the other day to a remark made by a member of the Legislative Council many years ago. He said, "Education spoils good labourers and makes bad scholars." I hope no member of this Parliament believes that. I sincerely hope the Premier does not believe it. Is he prepared to put the matter to the test and ask for grants for educational purposes? I hope I have not given the impression, for it is the

last thing that I want to do, that I am reflecting on the present Minister of Education.

Mr. Quirke—You could not do it.

Mr. CLARK—That is so and I would not wish to do it. The Minister of Education is admirably facing a critical situation. His efforts to make the lot of teachers and children much better are being thwarted by a lack of finance. At all times this spectre of finance is looking over his shoulder. I am certain that his department needs a blood transfusion of Commonwealth funds, so that he and following Ministers of Education will be able to carry out the things that must be done without always having the fear that sufficient money will not be available. We should all agree that education must be a national responsibility.

Mr. O'Halloran—And a social service.

Mr. CLARK—Yes, that is, as far as finance is concerned. I do not advocate that the Commonwealth Government should administer education in each State, but we would be enormously helped by adequate Commonwealth grants. I hope the Minister will prove capable of convincing the Premier that this is so. I do not think the Minister needs convincing. In view of the statements made at the Adelaide High School celebrations, and because the Premier has said on several occasions he does not think Commonwealth grants for education can be constitutionally made, although the Prime Minister has said they can, I think the Premier has let down his Minister of Education. I ask the Premier to make an attempt to get Commonwealth funds specifically for educational purposes. I hope that he and the Prime Minister will cease passing the buck on this issue and do something for the children. I have tried to be non-political in my remarks this afternoon, but this is an important issue. We should all be converted to the fact that many hundreds of thousands of pounds, and it could be more, are needed for expenditure on this important aspect of our social life, and to do it we must have Commonwealth assistance. I have pleasure in supporting the motion.

Mr. JENKINS secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.53 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, July 30, at 2 p.m.