

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, August 5, 1958.

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

QUESTIONS.**LOANS FOR HOUSING.**

Mr. O'HALLORAN—According to this morning's *Advertiser* the Government intends to move to amend the Advances for Homes Act and the Homes Act to provide for an increase of £1,250 in the maximum amount which can be advanced through State instrumentalities for the purposes of those Acts. Can the Minister of Works say what additional Loan allocation is available to meet these increased commitments and at what rate of interest the money will be advanced?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I am not able to say what amount will be available, nor can I assure the Leader at the moment that the rate of interest will remain unaltered, but so far as I am aware there is no proposal to alter it. I think it was altered only last year, or the year before, to bring it up to present-day money values. The amount of money available depends on several factors and I prefer not to make any commitment on that point now.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—In this morning's *Advertiser* the following statement appears:—

Where the advance exceeded £3,000, the borrower would be limited to 85 per cent of the value of the security.

I am afraid I cannot follow the press statement and I would appreciate it if the Minister of Works would explain the meaning of "security." Where does the security commence and where does it end? Can the Minister clarify the statement relative to 85 per cent over £3,000?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—As I understand the intention of the Bill, the maximum loan available under the amendment will be £3,500.

Mr. Frank Walsh—What is the security?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The security is the value of the property for loan purposes. I understand that the Housing Trust costs are accepted as the value. In other cases it is a question of a valuation by the lending authority.

POLICE ACTION AGAINST NEW AUSTRALIANS.

Mr. SHANNON—It has come to my notice that certain New Australians in their late teens or early twenties have been the subject of

police surveillance in Adelaide streets on suspicion of loitering without just cause. One young man 18 years of age was standing on the edge of the footpath outside a picture theatre during the interval awaiting the time to re-enter the theatre for the balance of the programme when he was asked to move on. If this is the police attitude towards the relevant section of the Police Offences Act I think directions might be given to the department regarding its administration. We do not deny its usefulness but this youth was told to move on when he knew he was doing no harm and committing no offence. Because he did not move on he was arrested and spent the night in a cell. The following morning he appeared before a magistrate and, I think, was fined. According to my information he was a very well behaved youth and his parents were very upset at the incident. Another young man in his early twenties, who had received injuries in a motor accident and had one arm in a sling, was waiting on the side of a street for a taxi when he was told to move on, but he did not do so and was arrested. As far as my information goes, these were innocent people moved on arbitrarily by officers of the law. Will the Minister of Works take up the matter with the Commissioner of Police with a view to his instructing his officers in the interpretation of the provision that permits the moving on of people who are known to the police to be of a type that might cause some trouble to the department, and perhaps to show a little more leniency towards people who are not so known to the police, especially if they are people who do not understand our laws and who are entirely innocent and wonder why they are are spoken to by the police?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—This matter, by its very nature, must present difficulties to the police officers administering it. I think it is accepted by the public generally that over recent months the police have done a very good job in moving around the streets, particularly at night, and preventing the assembly of people into groups which later in the night, or when their numbers increase, might become troublesome. I think the public commends the police for the tactful and successful manner in which they have dealt with this problem. I should imagine it would be extremely difficult for the Commissioner to commend his officers on the one hand for doing something of which the public approves and then, on the other hand, ask them to hold their hands under certain circumstances. It must be difficult firstly to frame a

set of instructions and secondly to carry them out. If, in the course of their duties, police officers have made one or two mistakes, that is, perhaps, understandable. In his question the honourable member referred only to individuals and did not suggest that they were members of any group. I would be surprised if the police exercised power of arrest over an individual if he had a legitimate excuse for being in a certain place at a certain time. If he explained to the officer his reason for being there I cannot understand the explanation not being accepted.

Mr. Shannon—They were both arrested.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I do not think the police, as a matter of practice, arrest people who are waiting on the side of a street for a taxi. I have often waited for taxis in such circumstances, but so far have avoided arrest.

Mr. Shannon—I will admit that in one instance it was a new Australian who might have had difficulty in understanding what it was all about.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—That will no doubt come to the Commissioner's notice when he is asked to examine the matter. I think the member will appreciate the points I have raised and the difficulties there are in administering this law. However, I will ask the Chief Secretary if he will discuss it with the Commissioner.

MOSQUITO CREEK FLOODING.

Mr. HARDING—Will the Minister of Lands have inquiries made by a member of the South Eastern Drainage Board into the cause of water in Mosquito Creek flooding northwards away from the original outlet into Bool Lagoon?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I saw the report in this morning's press of the flooding mentioned, but I do not think I should make a full report at this stage because the Land Settlement Committee's report on the Eastern Division drainage will be tabled today and will be available to all members.

PUBLICATION OF SCIENTIFIC BOOKS.

Mr. BYWATERS—Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked last Thursday concerning the publication of scientific books?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The Chief Secretary has provided me with the following report from the Government Printer:—

Funds are still provided for the publication of scientific handbooks by the Government

which are sold on a commercial basis out of the Government Printer's Vote and Deposits Account. Delays in printing are unavoidable owing to the immense amount of work involved in the production of these volumes, which includes the making and processing of numerous blocks and plates.

The programme of printing of handbooks, including last year's, is anticipated as follows:—

Flora, Part IV (325 pages) was published in 1957.

South Australian Mollusca, Part III (422 pages) is on the printing press, the index is not yet supplied, and should be completed shortly.

A reprint of *Flora I* (253 pages) will be undertaken on the completion of the *Mollusca*.

Supplement to J. M. Black's *Flora of South Australia* Part I.

Fishes of South Australia.

Reptiles and Amphibia of South Australia.

Birds of South Australia.

Aboriginals of South Australia.

Five people have been approached during the last 12 months to see if they would prepare handbooks. The subjects were on the flora, fishes, reptiles and birds of South Australia and on the "Central and South Australian Aboriginal." The committee receives no money except for the publishing of the handbooks and this is paid directly to the Government Printer, so no funds are available for expenses incurred in preparing the handbooks.

It should be understood that the committee was set up by the British Science Guild in 1920; the guild has now merged with the British Association for Advancement of Science. The handbooks, which have an excellent reputation both within and outside Australia, are used by naturalists, fishermen, bushwalkers, students and scientists. In many respects they give the best accounts available on Australian flora and fauna.

NORTH ADELAIDE RAILWAY TRAFFIC GATES.

Mr. COUMBE—Frequently I have advocated in this House the installation of automatic traffic gates at the North Adelaide railway station crossing. In view of the increased traffic at this important railway crossing caused to a large extent by the additional number of heavy lorries and semi-trailers travelling from the Port Road over the North Adelaide railway crossing and up the Main North Road to the north of the city, and the consequent serious hold-ups at that crossing, resulting at times in queues of cars nearly a quarter of a mile long, will the Minister of Works representing the Minister of Railways take up with his colleague once again the question of the installation of automatic traffic gates at this crossing?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Yes.

MOOROOK AND WAIKERIE IRRIGATION EXTENSIONS.

Mr. STOTT—In the irrigation areas of Moorook and Waikerie there is much land suitable for citrus trees and every type of vine under irrigation. Some settlers have applied to the department for permission to plant those areas but it has been refused on the ground that the existing pumping station is inadequate and the water supply is insufficient to increase irrigation there. They are very concerned about this, because as the Minister is aware, there seems to be no restriction in regard to the tremendous development that will be carried out by the establishment of a wine factory at Waikerie. In view of the fall in prices of peaches and other fruits the growers desire increased areas planted to augment their incomes. Will the Minister investigate this matter and see if provision can be made, not immediately, but in the future to increase the capacity of the pumping stations at Moorook and Waikerie so as to enable more land to be brought into production?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—This matter is being considered. I will bring down a report shortly for the honourable member.

FERRY APPROACHES.

Mr. KING—Has the Minister of Works obtained a reply to my recent question concerning ferry approaches?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Yes, the following report was furnished by the Minister of Roads:—

The Commissioner of Highways reports that immediately after the accident Mr. Smerdon, Mechanical Draftsman of his department at Keswick, made an inspection of the locality. He stated that the driver of this vehicle made a statement to the effect that his governor control mechanism had jammed and he was unable to stop his vehicle at the landing. It is considered that standard departmental signing of ferry approaches is adequate. Standard signing consists of the following signs located in this instance at distances shown below from the ferry landing:

A standard square "ferry" sign below a red Scotchlited triangle situated approximately 380 yards from the landing,

A standard rectangular reflectorized "ferry—slow down" sign approximately 180yds. from the landing, and

A standard circular "6 m.p.h." sign approximately 38yds. from the landing.

In addition, a locally made "stop—ferry" sign was located 30yds. from the landing and would not have been obscured by another sign from the view of a driver travelling at 6 m.p.h.

BOOKS IN PRISON LIBRARIES.

Mr. HUGHES—In the "Views and Comments" column of last Thursday's *News* a contributor calling himself "Interested" wrote the following letter, headed "Thrillers":—

I have heard that many of the books in Yatala's library are mystery thrillers and low grade Westerns. If this is so, is it not a deplorable state of affairs in view of the quoted fact that petty criminals come out of prison as hardened, expert criminals? In their enforced isolation prisoners should be able to enjoy worthy literature.

Will the Minister of Works ask the Chief Secretary whether this type of literature is on the shelves of prison libraries, whether he thinks it is suitable for a prison library, and whether he will take steps to have an inspection made of the reading matter available to prisoners and submit a report to the House?

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

CARRIERS ROAD PERMIT FEES.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Has the Minister of Works yet obtained a report on the different percentages charged to carriers carrying under permit from the Transport Control Board?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—My colleague, the Minister of Roads, has furnished the following information:—

The chairman of the Transport Control Board reports that the 10 per cent fee would apply where a road permit has been granted for cartage between areas that are both served by rail. Where either the loading area or the unloading area are not rail served, the fee would be 5 per cent or lower.

RICHMOND BUS TURN-ROUND.

Mr. FRED WALSH—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked on July 24 concerning the turn-round of buses at the Richmond bus terminus?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The general manager of the Municipal Tramways Trust has supplied the following report:—

The trust has been negotiating by correspondence and conference with the West Torrens Council for the provision of a turning loop at the outer terminal of the Richmond bus route since 1956. Initially the council agreed to the trust's proposal to use the loop bounded by Marion Road, Leicester Street, Dover Street and West Beach Road, provided the trust agreed to bear the cost of road strengthening in Leicester and Dover Streets. However, before this could be considered, the council advised that it was not in favour of our driving buses in Leicester and Dover Streets, nor did they suggest any reasonable alternative. The buses were then turned by driving into the mouth of Dover Street, backing into West Beach Road, and proceeding to the junction of West Beach/Marion Roads, to lay

over for the return journey to the city. Meantime we continued our representations to the council for a movement which better fits the requirements of road safety, but without avail. This movement has continued for so long as we could allocate small buses to this route but with the progressive change from trams to buses we found that it was no longer practicable to avoid using large buses—at times, one-man operated—on this route. This is the only case where a local Government authority has refused to meet the trust's request for a turning loop: the trust is still willing to contribute towards the cost of necessary road strengthening of this, or a satisfactory alternative loop. With these factors in mind the trust notified the West Torrens Council on June 26, 1958, that commencing on July 20, 1958, it proposed to use this loop purely for turning purposes and not for the carrying of passengers, who would be put to the inconvenience of being offloaded prior to making the turn, instead of being carried to the end of the terminal. With regard to using the land the trust owns some distance further west along West Beach Road, it is mentioned that this site was purchased for a workshops site and it would adversely affect the use for which it was obtained to provide a loop therein, besides involving quite unnecessary mileage and other costs.

LAND FOR BIRDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. LAUCKE—I am concerned at the state of deadlock which has arisen in negotiations between the Education Department and certain landholders at Birdwood in the matter of the intended purchase of land to provide suitable playing areas for the Birdwood High School. Can the Minister of Education send the property officer of his department to Birdwood to personally interview and treat with landholders with a view to arriving at a satisfactory compromise on the price of the land?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I am quite prepared on behalf of the Government to purchase the land, and have approval from Cabinet to negotiate at the value fixed by the Land Board. Speaking from memory, the prices asked by the respective sellers were about double the Land Board's valuations and a deadlock has ensued. I should be willing, however, to act on the request of the honourable member and send the Property Officer of the Education Department (Mr. Lewis) to interview and negotiate with interested parties.

FISHERIES REGULATIONS.

Mr. RICHES—I have been approached by fishermen of Spencer Gulf who are concerned at the recent deterioration in the supply of fish, which many of them attribute to the practice of disturbing breeding grounds, netting in shallow waters, and taking fish far below the

size permitted under the regulations. Will the Minister of Agriculture have this complaint investigated and inform me whether officers police the regulations relating to fish in the northern waters of Spencer Gulf?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—A number of regulations cover the netting of fish and the minimum legal size at which certain types of fish can be taken, and those regulations are policed. However, if the honourable member has details of cases in which people are contravening the regulations and no action is being taken, I should be interested to get all the details he can give me and investigate the matter immediately.

WOMEN JURORS.

Mr. TAPPING—Has the Minister of Education, representing the Attorney-General, a reply to my question of last week concerning the appointment of women jurors?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Following the honourable member's question I conferred with the Attorney-General and the matter was also discussed in Cabinet yesterday, but it was decided that amending legislation would not be introduced this session.

HINDMARSH INTERSECTION.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Today's *Advertiser* reports that the Hindmarsh Council is concerned at the number of accidents that have occurred at that point on the Port Road where it is joined by John Street and Government Road. I believe there have been about 90 accidents there, including three deaths. Further, I have noticed that one enterprising company has a permanent break-down service at the corner to attend to accidents, which is further evidence of the danger there. I believe that the cause of the accidents is other than the corner itself. Generally speaking, the law requiring the motorist to give way to the man on the right does not apply to traffic using Port Road, but traffic passing this intersection frequently overlooks the fact that there are four points at which this rule applies there. Will the Minister of Works, as Acting Leader of the Government, have this matter referred to the State Traffic Committee for inquiry to see whether it is advisable to amend the law to make it necessary for a driver to give way to the man on the right at all points? I have seen pedestrians waiting up to 30 minutes trying to cross this intersection in the peak period.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I am not quite sure whether in the first instance it might not be wise to have the matter referred to the

Minister of Local Government, but in any case I will refer the honourable member's remarks to the appropriate authority.

TEMPORARY NUMBER PLATES.

Mr. STEPHENS—A little while ago I referred to the Minister the matter of trailers and other vehicles not bearing number plates, coming from other States. I am now informed that there are vehicles other than interstate which do not bear number plates. For instance, in the case of the person living outside the metropolitan area who has purchased a motor car, wants to have it registered but cannot get the registration fixed up or a number plate put on his vehicle for about 10 days, the local police are allowed to give him permission to use that vehicle without a number plate during those 10 days. It has been pointed out to me that the position would be improved if a temporary number plate could be put on that motor car while its owner was waiting for his permanent number plate, so that the vehicle could always be recognized. Vehicles should have something on them to make them recognizable by the police, who would then have no need to worry an owner driving a vehicle bearing no number plate. Will the Minister take up that matter and see if something can be done so that an owner, while he is waiting for those 10 days to elapse, can have a temporary number plate put on his vehicle?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will bring the matter to the notice of the appropriate authority. The facts are, I think, that where a 10-days permit is issued the windscreen can bear a sticker, which is fairly conspicuous. The fact that that is there and also that the vehicle has no number plate on it will, in itself, draw attention to the vehicle. In the main these are local motor cars. I think that if one notices a motor car without a number plate, he automatically looks to see whether it has anything on the windscreen. However, I do not suggest that the honourable member's suggestion should be rejected out of hand. I will bring it to the notice of the authorities to see if they consider it practicable and whether it would assist in identifying where identification is necessary.

PETERBOROUGH PEDESTRIAN CROSSING.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Has the Minister representing the Minister of Railways a reply to the question I asked recently about a pedestrian crossing at Peterborough opposite Tripney Avenue?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Minister of Railways has furnished the following information:—

The Railways Commissioner has reported that the proposal to construct a pedestrian crossing was first made at a meeting of interested parties in August, 1956. The Peterborough Corporation was advised in 1957 of the estimated cost of providing the crossing, and was requested to indicate whether it would agree to meet this cost. The Corporation indicated in a subsequent letter that it was not prepared to do so. As the Railways Commissioner was not agreeable to undertake this work at the cost of his department, no further action has been taken.

NEW HEATHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. SHANNON—Many rumours have been circulating in the Mount Lofty district that the Government is not in earnest in its proposal to erect a secondary school to serve the Stirling district council area. There were rather protracted negotiations for a lease of portion of the recreation reserve at Heathfield for this purpose, but it is now alleged that the Education Department plans to erect this secondary school at Blackwood, where the Government has purchased land, and that Heathfield will be by-passed. Can the Minister of Education say whether the department's policy on the provision of secondary education in the Stirling district council area has changed and, if it has not, is he still prepared to pursue negotiations for the portion of the Heathfield reserve that his officers selected?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I am not responsible for the accuracy or otherwise of any rumours that may be circulating in the district, but those the honourable member referred to are certainly without foundation. The Director of Education and I desire to have a new high school established at Blackwood, and the Government is in the process of acquiring a suitable area there for that purpose, but that does not jeopardize the chances of having a new high school established at Heathfield. The Director and I, and other departmental officers, consider that a high school at Blackwood alone would not cater for the needs of the rapidly growing population in the hills district. About a year ago, on our instructions, senior officers of the department inspected several sites in the Heathfield district, and later the Director and I met the chairman and district clerk of the Stirling district council and the honourable member and other interested parties and inspected the sites, and I think all members of the party were unanimous that the site mentioned by the honourable member was the best. I agreed then that if a clear title to

this land were offered to me as Minister of Education for the purpose of establishing a high school I would accept it, and the Director of Education concurred. I am still ready and willing to accept a transfer for that purpose.

SOUTH-WESTERN SUBURBS HOSPITAL.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Some years ago the Government purchased land from the Housing Trust for the purpose of establishing a hospital in the south-western suburbs and placing a portion of the land under the control of the Tourist Bureau. Will the Minister of Works ascertain from the Chief Secretary when the hospital will be established and the other portion placed under the control of the Tourist Bureau?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—A person who has had a lease of part of this land has requested a renewal of his lease, and I think it has been renewed until June 30, 1959. I will refer the question to the Chief Secretary to see whether any plans have been formulated for the purposes mentioned by the honourable member.

BUS SERVICES.

Mr. COUMBE—The recent changeover from trams to buses has been accomplished fairly smoothly. There have been complimentary comments on the bus services, but one or two problems have arisen in my electorate, particularly regarding North Adelaide and the southern end of Prospect and Nailsworth. By the time buses coming to the city reach Prospect, Nailsworth and North Adelaide many of them are full, and people living in those areas cannot then get on, and sometimes have to travel to the city by taxi. Will the Minister of Works ask the Tramways Trust to provide short header buses at peak periods—that is, buses that run only part of the way out—so that they can pick up people living nearer the city and relieve congestion?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I assume that it would also be the honourable member's suggestion to run express buses if short header buses were introduced. I will refer the matter to the Tramways Trust.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES: WIDOWS' PRIVILEGES.

Mr. BYWATERS—Has the Minister representing the Minister of Railways a reply to the request I made last week that widows of railway employees who die just before retirement be granted the same privilege passes as widows of men who reach the retiring age?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Minister of Railways has furnished me with the following information:—

The Railways Commissioner reports that widows of railway employees who have died while in the service are entitled to one interstate pass and one intra-system destination pass provided such passes are taken out within a period of 12 months of the death of the husband. It is true that widows of railway employees who had retired from the service are entitled to one intra-system destination pass a year provided the employee who had retired had served 20 years with the department prior to retirement. There is no anomaly in this matter but simply a necessary line of demarcation in respect of privileges.

FLUORINE IN WATER SUPPLIES.

Mr. LAUCKE—Recently I asked the Minister of Works questions in reference to adding fluorine to drinking water in the interests of dental health. The Minister said that the water supply at Port Lincoln from the Uley-Wanilla scheme contained the supposedly necessary degree of fluorine and I asked whether research would be undertaken at Port Lincoln to determine the value of the fluorine in the drinking water. Has he a reply?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Minister of Health has supplied the following information through the Director-General of Public Health:—

In 1952 to 1954 dental officers of this department made a preliminary investigation into the incidence of dental caries in children in the Port Lincoln area. No satisfactory conclusion could be drawn at that time of the relationship between dental caries and fluorine ingestion. Experience from long term investigations made overseas indicates that the continued use of drinking water containing about one part fluorine per million assists the development of caries resistance in teeth. Obviously it is necessary to have a period of many years drinking of the water, and especially in childhood. The health of teeth is, however, affected by other factors such as the consumption of sugary foods, and my own opinion is that the general dietary is a more potent factor than the fluorine content of the drinking water. It is clear that many factors should be taken into account in considering the best methods to be adopted to improve the dental state of the population. I do not recommend a research study of the circumstances at Port Lincoln.

CONTROL OF FIREARMS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked on July 24 regarding the control of firearms?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Chief Secretary has furnished the following reply from the Commissioner of Police:—

In regard to the incident in Run'le Street on June 24, 1958, I ordered an immediate

investigation when the matter was reported to me the same day and I enclose a copy of constable Blight's report. Also enclosed is a copy of the instructions issued following the incident and amplifying the orders already in the Police Regulation Book. The matter of control of firearms has been given careful consideration and it is hoped that amending legislation will be submitted to Parliament this session. The term "firearm" used in the suggested legislation includes an air gun.

Certain extracts from the report are attached to the reply which continues:—

Summarizing briefly:—

- (a) The Rundle Street incident was immediately investigated and steps have been taken to prevent a repetition.
- (b) If the new Firearms Act is passed there will be legislation to effectively control air guns in addition to other firearms.

TRAMWAYS TRUST.

Mr. LAWN (on notice)—

1. What are the names of the present members of the Municipal Tramways Trust?
2. For what term are they appointed?
3. How often does the trust hold meetings?
4. What is the annual remuneration of the chairman and each member of the trust?
5. How much money has been advanced by the Government to the trust in each of the years since its reformation?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The replies are:—

1. Mr. A. B. Barker, chairman; Messrs. F. A. Lewis, G. F. Seaman, S. H. Watson, and N. S. Young—members.

2. *Vide* section 10, M.T.T. Act, 1935-1952.

3. Fortnightly, with special meetings as required.

4. Chairman—From the date of his initial appointment on February 2, 1953, Mr. Barker has not drawn fees, but has acted in an honorary capacity. Members—£500 per annum.

5. Loans repayable have been made to the trust as follows:—1952-53, £400,000; 1953-54, £600,000; 1954-55, £700,000; 1955-56, £500,000; 1956-57, £500,000; 1957-58, £700,000; total £3,400,000. In addition, cash grants have been made to the trust as follows:—1952-53, £700,000; 1953-54, £700,000; 1954-55, £600,000; 1955-56, £570,000; 1956-57, £510,000; 1957-58, £490,000; total £3,570,000. Debts have been cancelled as follows:—1955-56, £350,000; 1956-57, £240,000; 1957-58, £240,000; total £830,000.

SWIMMING INSTRUCTION TO SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice)—What are the Education Department's intentions with regard to the teaching of swimming in schools next summer?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Provision is being made for the enrolment of 35,000 pupils in swimming classes to be conducted during the 1958-1959 swimming season. This will be an increase of 3,000 on last year's figures. It is expected that 18,000 pupils will receive instruction in weekly lessons during school time, commencing as early as weather permits in October; 17,000 will attend vacation swimming classes to be conducted from January 5 to January 16, 1959. Last year 16,000 attended lessons in school time, and 16,000 in vacation classes. Vacation classes are being planned for 85 centres—22 in the metropolitan area and 63 in country towns. More than 300 swimming instructors will be employed at these centres (294 instructors were employed at 76 centres in January, 1958—21 in the metropolitan area and 55 in the country). Pupils from schools other than those of the Education Department will be included in vacation swimming classes. Last year, children from 105 independent schools attended these classes. Normally children enrolled will be 9 years of age or over, but where adequate facilities are available, children under this age may be admitted as late entries when the classes are being held. Advertisements through the press and radio, in addition to ordinary announcements, will be used to ensure that parents and guardians are given full information regarding vacation swimming classes.

HOUSING TRUST: PENSIONER'S HOMES.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice)—

1. Is it the intention of the South Australian Housing Trust to continue building pensioners' homes?

2. If so, what are the trust's intentions in this regard for the next twelve months?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The replies are:—

1. Yes.

2. The current programme for which contracts are let is for 100 further dwellings of which 40 are under construction. It is expected that further contracts will be let in due course. Up to June 30, 1958, 342 of these dwellings had been completed.

HILTON BRIDGE.

Mr. LAWN (on notice)—

1. When did the repairs being carried out at present on the Hilton Bridge commence?
2. When is it expected that these repairs will be completed?
3. Is it the intention to widen the bridge?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The replies are:—

1. Repairs at present being carried out on the Hilton Bridge commenced on September 2, 1957.
2. It is expected that the repairs will be completed on August 30, 1958.
3. The Highways Department has not planned any widening of this bridge.

SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENT.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (on notice)—

1. How many applications for consent under section 20 of the Places of Public Entertainment Act were received during the year 1957-1958?
2. How many applications were approved for that period?
3. How many applications were rejected for that period?
4. What reasons were there for such rejections?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The replies are:—

1. During the year 1957-1958 204 applications were received for permission to use licensed places of public entertainment on the Sabbath under the provisions of section 20 of the Places of Public Entertainment Act.
2. Of these, 196 were approved.
3. Eight applications were rejected.
4. The eight applications rejected were for functions which did not comply with the conditions under which Sunday permits may be granted.

TEROWIE RAILWAY WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (on notice)—

1. Is water for railway purposes being carted from Burra to Terowie at present?
2. If so, for what periods has this been necessary since September 14, 1957?
3. What has been the cost?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The replies are:—

1. Yes.
2. Continuously, excepting for period January 23, 1958, to February, 1958, both dates inclusive.
3. £9,925 15s. 8d.

SOUTH-EASTERN DRAINAGE AND DEVELOPMENT.

The Speaker laid on the table the report of the Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement on South-Eastern drainage and development (Eastern Division), together with appendices.

Ordered that report be printed.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from July 31. Page 256.)

Mr. COUMBE (Torrens)—I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply so ably moved by the member for Light (Mr. Hambour) and seconded by the member for Victoria (Mr. Harding). I add my congratulations to the new Minister of Agriculture on his appointment. I feel sure he will ably administer that department as have so many talented men before him. I also welcome to this Chamber the new member for Mount Gambier (Mr. Ralston) and eagerly await his maiden speech. I only regret the circumstances of his entry here caused by the untimely death of Mr. John Fletcher who was so deeply respected by us all. I am pleased to see in the Chamber today our old friend Sir Malcolm McIntosh who is looking much better. I regret that ill health has caused his retirement from the Cabinet as Minister of Works and Minister of Marine. His was an outstanding career in establishing an Australian record as a Minister with 25 years' consecutive service. That is a truly remarkable achievement in any field.

I was deeply impressed by the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech in opening Parliament in June. From my reading of opening Speeches for some years past and hearing several since I have been a member I am confident that this Speech now under consideration is by far the most outstanding and its review of the achievements of the past year and of things to come is extremely impressive. There is plenty of substance in it and it reveals clearly that the Government is not content to rest on its impressive past achievements, but is prepared to look ahead with a vital, progressive and far-reaching outlook. It outlines a solid programme of planning and development and indicates that the Government is proceeding with its announced intentions of developing our limited natural resources and at the same time balancing our manufacturing economy by promoting and encouraging new industries here.

There is such a wealth of solid matter in the Speech that the Opposition can find very little to legitimately criticise. The only unfavourable note struck is that relating to the effect of drought conditions brought about during the early part of the year through lack of rain. All members warmly welcome the recent wide-spread rain and trust that the State's primary production will recover from its early setback. We are fortunate that despite one of the driest spells in the State's history we have been able to avoid the imposition of water restrictions by pumping water from the River Murray. The situation would have been tragic if this source of supply had not been available. It outlines the importance of the Murray water to this State and the Premier is to be commended for his struggle to preserve our fair share of this water which is the lifeblood of our country.

In this debate we have heard, with one notable exception, only criticism from the Opposition—dreary criticism. We appreciate that it is the Opposition's duty to criticise, but it should be constructive criticism and not criticism for criticism's sake. I gathered the impression the Opposition was striving for effect and was beating the air. From the remarks of members opposite one would gather the opinion that this State was stagnating. What remedial suggestions have been proposed to correct this fictitious state of affairs? We have heard none. We have heard no grand policy enunciated by the Opposition during this debate which at least affords an opportunity for members to declare their policy. We have heard no promises of things to come. The only sign of unity I have seen is for members to get together on a common issue and to cry "Jeremiah."

Mr. O'Halloran—Do you mean "gerrymander?"

Mr. COUNBE—Members opposite know what I mean by "Jeremiah." It is the cry we get when the Government introduces progressive legislation for the welfare of the State which, after all, I submit would be more beneficial to the supporters of the Labor Party than it would be to Government supporters. Perhaps the Opposition has decided to settle some of its differences and get back on what is commonly called a "unity ticket." The other day when a Government member was speaking I heard the member for Adelaide interjecting that there was a split on the Government side. I can assure him that the Liberal and Country Party is stronger today than ever before, and there is no doubt about

that. He cannot say the same for the Labor Party. I remember reading in the press where his Party expelled Mr. Chambers, who was the representative for Adelaide in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Davis—Are you concerned about that?

Mr. COUNBE—Are you afraid to hear what I am about to say? Mr. Chambers was expelled for criticizing his Parliamentary Leader, Dr. Evatt. He was tossed out of the Party, and what happened? When he said meekly that he was sorry, they took him back.

Mr. Fred Walsh—What is wrong with that?

Mr. COUNBE—You should go a bit further. Quite a number of members opposite secretly agreed with what Mr. Chambers said on that occasion, but were too afraid to say it publicly, for their heads might roll.

Mr. Davis—If you criticized Sir Thomas Playford, you would go out too.

Mr. COUNBE—We have all heard the saying, and it is said quite openly, that while the Labor Party has Dr. Evatt as its leader it will never win an election. What about the President of the South Australian branch of the Labor Party, Mr. Clive Cameron? It was reported on May 14 from Canberra that in a speech in the House of Representatives he attacked certain unions, including the Australian Workers' Union, of which he is a prominent member, and called one union official a tyrannical czar because he could dismiss union officials and replace them with "yes" men. Then we read a report from Melbourne published in the *Advertiser* on July 27 in which Mr. Cameron was threatened with expulsion by the Australian Workers' Union in order to discipline him because of his proposal to drastically alter the method of electing union officials. Although Mr. Cameron is State President of the Australian Labor Party, members of that Party are crucifying him because he was game enough to get up and say in Parliament what he thought.

Mr. Davis—He was threatened by his organization and not by the Australian Labor Party.

Mr. COUNBE—Now we can see where the split is on the other side. I have introduced the topic only because of the original interjection by the member for Adelaide. What about the threat announced in all the papers of Australia that it is the intention of the Democratic Labor Party at the next Federal and State elections to contest every seat for which there is a Labor candidate.

Mr. Fred Walsh—You will be upset if they don't.

Mr. CUMBE—I am only giving the facts, and they cannot be denied. All I am saying is what has been announced, and apparently some honourable members opposite do not agree with the announced decision of the Democratic Labor Party. In this debate members opposite appear to be changing their tactics by advocating a unity ticket in order to decry the wonderful record of the Liberal and Country Party Government as outlined in the Lieutenant-Governor's speech.

Mr. Dunstan—What does this unity ticket mean?

Mr. CUMBE—If the honourable member does not know he must be a babe in the woods as regards Labor Party management.

Mr. Davis—What about the card vote?

Mr. CUMBE—There has been much criticism in the honourable member's Party about this card vote. At a Party conference a delegate could hold 20,000 votes or so and outvote the others, and is entitled to do so under the card vote system. It was the Party's own idea, and I believe it has the same system for every type of election. The party can have it, but it is not democratic. I am introducing this subject only because the member for Norwood did not know what it was and sought enlightenment. We might canvass this question of card voting further. During this debate and at other times members opposite have commented about decentralization. I submit that the card voting system is the very antithesis of decentralization. I have before me a cutting from the *Advertiser* of July 7 in the form of a letter to the editor under the heading, "Selection of Candidates," and it is as follows:—

The two big political parties are preparing for the Federal and State elections; most of their candidates have been selected, but by vastly different methods. The Liberal and Country League candidates are selected for the district by the members of that party living in the district, and all members have one vote only.

The Australian Labor Party candidates are elected by the annual convention at the Trades Hall by delegates from affiliated bodies. Each delegate is entitled to votes in accordance with the number of members for whom sustentations are paid. The voting is not limited to delegates living in the district for which a candidate is being selected. The ordinary member of the party living in the district has no vote in the selection, but is expected to vote and work for the candidate selected. Is it any wonder there is dissatisfaction in the Australian Labor Party.

It was signed "Dissatisfied." I realize that letters to an editor are not regarded as true fact at times, but I read this letter to indicate

some of the feeling engendered among members of Australian Labor Party branches when they do not get decentralization in the running of their own Party. When members of the Opposition get up and talk about the decentralization of population and industry, I ask them why they do not put their own house in order first. They could then talk with some confidence on the question.

Mr. O'Halloran—Every country Parliamentary member of the Labor Party is chosen by the district he is to represent.

Mr. CUMBE—I am pleased to hear that. I should now like to refer to some of the contributions to the debate. Firstly, I shall deal with the speech made by the member for Hindmarsh (Mr. Hutchens), who dwelt at some length on the housing position. We all acknowledge that extremely deplorable housing conditions exist; we have all seen them, and metropolitan members particularly have problems on their hands. I know that problems exist in the country, but there is a concentration in the metropolitan area. These conditions have existed for many years, but the Government is continuing to take positive steps to overcome them, through the activities of the Housing Trust, which is building over 3,000 houses a year, and the provisions of the Homes Act and the Advances for Homes Act. Both these Acts will be amended this session to increase the amounts of permissible loans. This was reported in this morning's *Advertiser*, and the many questions asked on the subject this afternoon indicated that it is a matter of very great interest to members on both sides. This is a definite move by the Government to improve housing conditions, yet the member for Hindmarsh said that nothing has been done. The Commonwealth Year Book contained a table of permanent housing completed by State housing authorities for the year 1956-57:—

New South Wales	3,030
Victoria	2,580
Queensland	1,912
South Australia	3,131
Western Australia	1,191
Tasmania	686
Australian Capital Territory .	868
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	13,398

Of the total number of homes built in Australia, South Australia is building almost a quarter.

Mr. O'Halloran—How many houses were built in New South Wales by co-operative building organizations?

Mr. CUMBE—One thing at a time; I am dealing with permanent homes built by

a State housing authority. From this table it can be seen that not only is the South Australian Government building more homes than any other State, but on a *per capita* basis infinitely more than Labor ruled New South Wales, which is often held up to us as a model. Despite these facts, Mr. Hutchens criticized the Government for not building enough homes, yet at the same time he said:—

Things being as they are, if I were in control of the Housing Trust I would want to do just as they are doing.

If we examine the matter closely we can see that the Government is doing a magnificent job in providing houses, and it wishes to do more, but this State is so prosperous and the population is increasing so rapidly that homes cannot be built quickly enough to accommodate all applicants coming before the trust. This is the main reason for the lag about which Mr. Hutchens made such a play. He quite conveniently forgot to mention that our population is increasing by over 20,000 each year.

I congratulate the member for Whyalla (Mr. Loveday) on his speech. It was a most thoughtful and well prepared contribution, and was marred only by his criticism of the Sewerage Inquiry Committee, with which I do not agree. The member for Murray (Mr. Bywaters) gave us a dissertation on decentralization, mainly as it affects his electorate. Although I cannot agree with everything he said, he put his case ably and fairly without telling us very much that we did not know.

His Excellency's Speech is one of the best I have read, certainly the best I have heard, in the short time I have been in this House; it was magnificent, and in keeping with the expanding and booming conditions of this State. I defy members of the Opposition to improve on it, and ask if they can recall when a review of the State's activities contained such a record of achievement, promise and fulfilment. An indication of the popularity of South Australia, especially to the worker and his family, is contained in a report issued by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician (Mr. K. M. Archer) on April 29, published in the *Advertiser* on April 30. Under the heading "South Australia is top in Growth" appeared this article:—

The population of South Australia is increasing more rapidly than that of any other State. This is shown in figures issued today by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician (Mr. K. M. Archer). South Australia's total population at the end of 1957 was 886,203—an increase of 2.82 per cent. Next was Victoria with 2.58 per cent. South Australia

also topped the percentage increase in 1956 with 3.27 per cent. Victoria was again next with 3.04 per cent. The migrant intake in both years has contributed more to the South Australian population rise than the natural increase. Arrivals in South Australia exceeded departures by 14.11 for each 1,000 of mean population. This migration increase was far ahead of the other States.

The plain fact is that industries come here and then people follow because of stable conditions and the same administration of the Playford Government, which has consistently legislated for all sections of the community and has not indulged in class warfare such as we have seen in other States where Labour is in power.

Mr. O'Halloran—They have amended the Criminal Law, and that applies to all classes of the community.

Mr. CUMBE—They have done some things, but this Government has done more beneficial things, and will continue to do so. It is not resting on its achievements, as was evident from every line of His Excellency's Speech. If we take the Speech paragraph by paragraph and examine it very closely we find that the Government is looking ahead, planning for the future and moving with the times. In other words, it expresses a positive and dynamic policy. Proposals include the extension of agricultural services, the planning of new water catchment areas and services, sewerage and irrigation schemes, more money to be spent on roads than ever before in the history of the State, the planning of new hospital accommodation, railway improvements, harbour facilities, more and more schools and houses, the extension of country power supplies, and the extension of the survey of mineral resources of the State, including drilling for oil. In the latter regard I mention the admirable co-operation of the Mines Department with Santos Ltd. and the Delhi-Taylor Corporation of the United States of America which will result in one of the largest oil exploration schemes ever to take place in this country.

I could go on enumerating the items. We have a dynamic policy; it is the one on which we are going to proceed, and the one that will keep us here for many years. We did not hear one word of praise from the Opposition on this magnificent Speech, nor did the Government receive any encouragement from the Opposition for its work in developing the State.

Mr. Jennings—It did not get any encouragement at Mount Gambier.

Mr. CUMBE—What of the proposed legislation to be submitted to this House for

approval as set out in the Speech? I have heard very little from the Opposition with regard to that legislation, but perhaps it is saving up its effort until the Bills come before the House. The Government is to be commended for introducing Bills in connection with two of the mightiest industrial projects ever to come to this State. They will be two of the most far-reaching Bills ever to come before the House. Cabinet is to be commended for its part in the negotiations which led to these vast undertakings coming to this State, because I consider that it represents progress in the true sense of the word. This State will really progress if we get this type of legislation and more of it to follow.

Mr. Lawn—Do you know the terms of the agreements?

Mr. CUMBE—We will know what they are when the Bills come before the House.

Mr. Lawn—You are in full agreement even though you do not know the terms of the agreements?

Mr. CUMBE—The member for Adelaide has missed the point. The Speech tells us that these Bills will be presented to this House for the approval of members. I am pointing out that Cabinet has encouraged these industries to come to South Australia and therefore legislation will be introduced in this House for approval or otherwise.

Mr. Lawn—You do not know the contents of the agreements.

Mr. CUMBE—I cannot compete with the spokesman for the B.H.P. Company sitting in the corner who seems to know all about it. With the establishment of the proposed works not only the State but workers and their families will benefit. In addition, the indirect value of these undertakings will be simply enormous. I doubt if anybody here can visualize the full extent of that indirect value. Houses will have to be built to house the workers at these factories, and that will mean a tremendous fillip to the building industry. We will have shops, banks, offices and garages, meaning more buildings, and services such as electricity, water, sewers and telephone extensions will have to be provided, bringing extra employment to the State. Transport of various types will have to be provided, whether it be rail or bus services; local government itself will benefit through rating; and road-making and various other developments will take place. The employment position overall must receive a tremendous shot in the arm.

Mr. Lawn—We need the employment for the thousands who are unemployed today.

Mr. CUMBE—The Opposition seem to adopt a Jeremiah attitude in regard to the progressive schemes of this Government. All we get from them are sour remarks. Following the type of development to which I have referred, it sometimes happens that the secondary or ancillary development outstrips the original progress. The three main new industries which it has been announced are coming to this State are the B.H.P. expansion in regard to its steel works, including the tanker building programme, the oil refinery project at Halletts Cove and the General Motors-Holdens expansion at both Elizabeth and Woodville.

Mr. Lawn—Is the Government taking the credit for that, too?

Mr. CUMBE—These three main projects represent a total capital investment of over £60,000,000, which is real money in anybody's country. Overseas companies do not invest capital of this order unless they are very satisfied that stable conditions exist and that they will have some security of tenure for the future. Dealing with the question of employment in this State, I point out that the number of factories in South Australia rose from 2,067 in 1939 to 3,750 in 1955. Over that period the number of employees in factories more than doubled—from 43,000 to 89,000. The figures show that the annual percentage increase of persons employed in factories was 4.75, compared with only 4.28 per cent in New South Wales. In other words, the annual percentage increase in South Australia is greater than that of the biggest industrial State in the Commonwealth, which means that we under a Liberal Government have a higher percentage increase than New South Wales under a Labor Government.

A comparison of salaries and wages over the years is rather interesting. In 1939 the salaries and wages paid in South Australia amounted to about £8,000,000. In 1955 the figure had risen to more than £70,000,000. More important, the average annual wage which in 1939 was £195 (one of the lowest in Australia) had risen by 1955 to £810 (the highest in Australia). This remarkable feat was achieved under a Liberal Government.

Mr. Corcoran—A coincidence.

Mr. CUMBE—Figures do not lie. Whereas in South Australia the figure was £810, New South Wales, the most highly industrialized State in Australia and governed by Labor, achieved a figure of only £804 a year. That is a good yardstick.

Mr. O'Halloran—Have you the relevant profit figures for the two periods?

Mr. CUMBE—The worker is more concerned with what he takes home in his pocket, not with profits. This is the real benefit the South Australian worker gets under this Liberal Government. He supports a Government that gives him these conditions and he and his family welcome these new industries; indeed, they want more. Yet did we hear anything from Opposition members regarding these plans to introduce new industries? Did we hear encouragement or praise? I wonder how the workers would feel if they heard Opposition members decrying the Government for bringing these industries here. Obviously, Opposition members realize that these industries will be beneficial to this State and are trying to play down the Government's part by simply saying nothing about it. That is an old trick.

Mr. Corcoran—You're saying enough about it.

Mr. CUMBE—Somebody has to say it. I refer now to the activities of the Education Department. Over the past 10 years the primary school population in this State has doubled, placing a tremendous burden on the department that must provide not only for the increased accommodation to house the scholars, but also for the trained personnel to teach them. The great rate of increase experienced in the primary section is now being felt in the secondary section and before long it will be felt in the tertiary section (the University and the School of Mines). The Minister of Education is to be commended for his efforts to provide additional accommodation for the children and for trying, under difficult circumstances, to avoid overcrowding classrooms. I realize that the Minister has an almost insuperable problem at present and I commend him for trying to alleviate the position and to provide more and more trained teachers. I understand that the number of teachers has increased from 2,700 in 1948 to more than 5,000 today. An indication of the vigorous steps being taken by the department is shown by the recent announcement that plans for at least 15 new schools of various types—primary, infant and technical—have been referred to the Public Works Committee for approval. Surely so many schools in one reference is a record and indicates that both the Minister and the department are aware of the need for additional accommodation. I commend both for

the remarkable job being done. Paragraph 18 of His Excellency's Speech stated—

During the financial year now ending the largest annual road programme in the history of the State has been carried out. Approximately £8,000,000 has been spent. Substantial improvements to the main arterial highways have been made, and much work has been done on developmental and feeder roads in country areas. Additional ferries have been placed in service at crossings of the River Murray, and contracts have been let for larger ferries for every crossing. As a result of the liberal grants made by the Government, local authorities have equipped themselves with adequate modern plant and are doing valuable road work in co-operation with the Highways Department.

I fully endorse—as I feel most members do—this policy of developing our main highways to various parts of the State, together with the more important feeder roads. The principle of Government financial assistance to local councils so that the latter may acquire modern plant is excellent, for it enables councils to do much more work, to do a first-class job, and to do it more efficiently and economically. This is an excellent scheme that should be extended further, especially in country areas. It means a further decentralization of effort within the department, the same as the new workshop being erected at Northfield will mean a decentralization of the congestion that occurs at the Highways Department's main depot at Mile End.

In the metropolitan area the changeover from trams to buses by the Tramways Trust is almost complete and, although the trust is removing the rails from the centre strip of the road where the trams formerly ran, many councils have been forced at considerable expense to themselves to undertake extensive reconstruction work. The Minister of Roads has been able to provide substantial financial assistance to some local councils both by grant and loan. After speaking to many members of local councils, I am able to say that this co-operation is very much appreciated, as is also the technical assistance given by departmental officers to local councils in carrying out pavement tests and soil tests, and advising on specifications, methods and tender details. That is an important aspect of the work being carried out and is particularly appreciated by councils who, because of their size or for reasons of economy, do not employ a city engineer. The Highways Department has placed its officers at the disposal of such local councils.

With the rapid growth of this State's population and the resultant increase in the traffic

on roads, particularly main roads, the question of traffic control within the metropolitan area is very much to the fore. At many busy intersections the only possible solution to adequate traffic control is traffic lights, preferably of the vehicle actuated type. That seems to me the only way adequately to control the flow of traffic, but in some council areas several of these danger points occur on the same roads within the same council area. They occur, too, on intersections where council areas abut and on the ring road route. There are several, for instance, on the main North Road and O'Connell Street, North Adelaide, the main entry into the city from the north. The financial burden of increased rating to provide traffic lights at these dangerous intersections is too great for the councils to bear. As a result the lights either are not installed at all or are installed in one place only, and some important places are neglected.

I strongly urge the Government to give further consideration to assisting local councils in the installation of these traffic lights on a pound for pound subsidy basis. Although the Minister of Roads has said before that traffic control is a matter not for the Government but for local authorities and therefore the Government cannot contribute to it, I feel that, in view of the tremendous growth of present-day traffic, which is accentuated by the number of heavy semi-trailers on the roads, if the Government is not prepared to introduce such a scheme where these danger points occur, at least it can on roads that are on the main roads schedule, that is the roads under the jurisdiction of the Highways Department, the maintenance of which the Highways Department is responsible for. Local government authorities, police officers, safety officers and all concerned with traffic control would greatly appreciate and welcome such a policy. Therefore, I strongly support this proposal. I think it will appeal to most honourable members.

In conclusion, I repeat that South Australia has a great future. I and hundreds of thousands of people in this State believe in it. This Liberal and Country League Government believes in it, too. Consequently, it is doing its utmost to see that through progressive legislation this wave of confidence and development will be fostered. I am very proud to be associated with what the great Party of which I am a member is doing for South Australia. I am proud also to be associated with the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply and have pleasure in supporting it.

Mr. RALSTON (Mount. Gambier)—Mr. Speaker, in this my maiden speech, I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. I express my pleasure at the welcome news that His Excellency the Governor, Sir Robert George, and Lady George have accepted an extended term of office. Both are well known and held in high esteem throughout the South-East generally. With previous speakers I express my regret at the death of an old and valued friend, Mr. John Fletcher. Mr. Fletcher served Mount Gambier and district over the many years with distinction and success. During that time he endeared himself greatly in the hearts of the people. At all times the claims of the lower South-East were strongly advocated by him, he had faith in the people and he loved the district he was privileged to represent. My sympathy is extended to Mrs. Fletcher and the family of the late John Fletcher in their sad bereavement.

Now Sir, I wish to thank the people of Mount Gambier and district for electing me their Parliamentary representative in the House of Assembly, and by so doing permitting me to have the honor and privilege of advancing the just claims of this beautiful and progressive city. I assure all sections of the community in my electorate of my full co-operation and assistance at all times. On all occasions I shall help to promote the progress of this district, its people and its industries.

To members of the South Australian Labor Party and all other who worked so diligently and successfully on behalf of the Party and myself I extend my thanks and appreciation. To the unsuccessful candidates and their supporters, who throughout the by-election observed and maintained an attitude of courtesy and fair play beyond reproach, I express my sincere thanks.

The campaign was without doubt one of the most important and hardest fought ever in the South-East. The earnest consideration and careful thought given by the electors to the various claims, promises and political issues at stake was reflected in the voting. At this poll, Mr. Speaker, the number of informal votes cast (89) was possibly an all time low for this electorate, which clearly indicates the care given by the electors in deciding which candidate and Party to support. They indicated in no uncertain manner that the policy of progress, full employment and decentralization of industry that the Labor Party stands for was the one most acceptable to the majority of them.

During the war years and the years following, primary production enjoyed prosperity never before known, and of this the South-East had its fair share. The timber industry also made remarkable progress creating employment and thereby rapidly increasing the population of Mount Gambier. All of this demanded additional social services, such as hospitals, schools and homes, to serve the needs of the growing city. Some of these projects have been completed, and others are in course of construction.

Towards the end of last year a cut of 25 per cent was announced in the Housing Trust programme during 1958. This announcement was disheartening to tradesmen who relied on the building trade as a means of livelihood, and caused dismay among those who were on the waiting list for homes. I trust this position will be reviewed. The proposed building of five cottage homes for aged people and people of limited means is a step in the right direction. I understand there is some difficulty in obtaining a suitable site, and if I can assist in any way I will be pleased to offer my services, as this is an essential and worthy project. The new hospital is still in course of construction, and it appears that some considerable time will elapse before it will be ready for occupation. Accommodation in the present building is at a premium; in fact there are times when the hospital is closed, except for emergency cases, and this has occurred recently. Both patients and staff are suffering much inconvenience under these conditions. Therefore, I trust the new building will be completed as soon as possible.

The history of sewerage in Mount Gambier is one of disappointment and frustration. The original survey resulted in a contour map No. 3185/40 being drawn in 1940 at a cost of £300 and this appears to be the first indication on the part of the present Government of providing a sewerage scheme for Mount Gambier. By 1949, an assessment, together with a schedule of rates, was submitted to the Mount Gambier Council for approval. These were adopted by the council in July, 1949. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works recommended that a sewerage system be provided for the town of Mount Gambier at an estimated cost, as at July 11, 1950, of £237,000. The final report of this committee was tabled in April, 1957, when it was estimated the cost had increased by 85 per cent—this was the only variation in the report. A further examination of the position occurred

this year when a medical advisory committee investigated sewerage for Mount Gambier from a health point of view, and I was present as a councillor. So far we have heard nothing further. In the recent by-election, a pamphlet published on behalf of the L.C.L. Playford Government, on which a picture of the Premier, Sir Thomas Playford, was prominently displayed, stated under the heading of "Sewerage":—

During the 1958-59 financial year £20,000 will be spent on surveys and designs for a complete sewerage scheme for Mount Gambier. It is estimated that, with the continuance of the rapid development of recent years, the scheme will cost more than £1,000,000.

Is it any wonder, after all this procrastination on the part of the Government, that the people have become extremely wary of election promises. But this is certain: all the filth and waste and contaminated water from the central area of the city cannot for ever be disposed of down deep bores into the underground water supplies, represented in Mount Gambier by the Blue Lake, which is the only water supply available for domestic and all other needs of the city and surrounding districts. We don't want any more surveys: we want sewerage immediately for the disability areas of the city, and at a cost comparable to that applying in the metropolitan area.

The Reidy Park primary school and the Gambier East primary school, both completed quite recently, are already overcrowded, and prefabricated class rooms are provided to cope with the number of students now in attendance. I am not blaming the Minister of Education for this because he undoubtedly acts on the advice of departmental officers and on estimated attendance. The need for the proposed new primary school at North Gambier has, of late, been apparent to everyone interested in education in my electorate. This brings me to the problem of secondary education. The present high school, built about 1914, with accommodation for 115 to 120 pupils, has been extended by the addition of further classrooms and the erection of separate prefabricated buildings to provide space for the present enrolment of 525 pupils, and it is expected that sufficient classroom space will be available for the 1959 intake when the enrolment is expected to reach 570. It is obvious, with the ever-increasing attendance at primary schools, that the problem of providing further high school accommodation must be faced in the immediate future. I suggest to the Minister of Education that a practical answer is a new technical high

school, similar in design to those already provided in the metropolitan area, or failing this, a multi-purpose high school similar to that provided at Whyalla, or Hamilton in Victoria. This is a type of high school which, I understand, has proved extremely effective for cities in country areas.

The Mount Gambier High School Committee considers this a matter of extreme urgency. I believe that land has been obtained for this purpose in the South eastern area of the city. I am in complete agreement with the High School Committee when they stress the need for immediate attention to this problem. The private schools within the district, namely the Marist Brothers' College and Mater Christi College, provide secondary education for many children, and without their assistance the position would be even more desperate. Education, once considered a luxury, is today a social necessity and will, no doubt, be treated as such in the future.

To achieve practical decentralization of industry, production costs must be carefully considered, and while electricity tariffs, water rates, sewerage costs, freight costs (including road transport) and any other factor affecting production costs operate to the advantage of the metropolitan area, real decentralization will remain a theory only. The costs I have mentioned should be averaged within the State in a more practical manner.

I know of only two industries that have been established in Mount Gambier that were not there before the first Playford Government took office. They were in the fields of pre-stressed concrete and primary production. There have been many inquiries about establishing new industries, but the overhead costs I have mentioned have precluded their establishment. The firms concerned have had a look at Mount Gambier and they have gone away. The flax industry was started in Mount Gambier by a Labor Government during the war, but it will be closed. Another was a small industry started by private enterprise, but it employed only a few people. In 1957 a Royal Commission of Inquiry was sought by the Labor Party to examine ways to bring about decentralization of industry. Had this been granted, the potentiality of Mount Gambier for industrial expansion would have been thoroughly investigated, but every Liberal member voted against it and the motion was defeated. This year it is expected that 230 children at Mount Gambier will leave school and seek employment. This number includes those leaving Marist Bros. College, the Mater Christi College and the

Mount Gambier High School. If employment is not available, and only industrial expansion can make it available, the children will turn to the metropolitan area for work. This problem of employment will increase year by year and it is becoming a constant source of anxiety to parents in country districts. Decentralization is the only alternative to an ever-increasing metropolitan population. At Mount Gambier, within the last five days, opinions have been expressed by men well able to judge the potentiality of the city and the South-East. First, the chairman of the Public Works Committee (Mr. Shannon) said:—

The Public Works Committee is impressed with the potential of this district on every visit it makes to the South-East. There is no doubt you have an almost unlimited potential to carry additional population.

In a joint statement the South Australian managers of the A.M.P. Society and the United Insurance Company said:—

We regard the South-East of South Australia as being one of the most prosperous districts in Australia. We cannot see any problems ahead. You have an expanding productivity. The South-East has been least affected by drought conditions experienced over the last season.

I hope the matters I have raised today will receive the careful consideration of the Government. Housing, sewerage, education and decentralization are of vital importance to the people of the South-East. Finally, I repeat a promise I made to the people of Mount Gambier. I will continue to live among them, learn their problems, present them where they will be considered, and insist on their proper consideration. This will be carried out in all sincerity, and in the spirit in which the promise was made.

Mr. HUGHES (Wallaroo)—I join with the honourable members for Light and Victoria in supporting the Address-in-Reply and congratulate them on their speeches. No doubt a great deal of research was necessary in order to present such information to the House. Had the mover, at the end of his address, not tried to convince certain members that their districts had been well treated, and that the Government had been sincere in its endeavour to rehabilitate such districts as Wallaroo, I would have said that it was an address with which the people would be pleased: not that they would be proud of it, but that it would have resulted in pleasant reading. I congratulate the Minister of Works on the excellent way he has conducted affairs of State during the absence of the Premier. I was under the impression that before the Premier left South Australia he came to an understanding with the Leader

of the Opposition that members of the Government Party would take their share of this debate, yet members on this side have had to fill in one after the other. I thought there would have been more sympathy for members who have to rise at about 5 a.m. to catch a train to come to Adelaide for the sittings of the House, but it has not been offered.

I join with members in expressing deep regret at the passing of Mr. John Fletcher. During the short time I had known him I developed a sincere respect for his kindly, helpful and friendly manner towards the younger members of this place. The State will be the poorer for his passing. I congratulate the new member for Mount Gambier (Mr. Ralston) on winning the seat at the by-election. I intended to listen to his maiden speech but I had to leave the Chamber for a few moments, and it seems that my absence caused a good deal of concern. I have handed to Mr. Ralston my portfolio as the baby of this House and I trust that from now on he will be addressed as such. I welcome him to this House and trust that he will be here for many years to look after the interests of Mount Gambier and to accept his share of the responsibilities of the State. Like the Leader of the Opposition I am proud to claim a small part in the success of Labor's efforts at Mount Gambier. Mr. Hambour said:—

Decentralization is a ball the Labor Party has been rolling around for the last 12 months and, like a rolling stone, has gathered no moss.

How is that when our Leader told this House last Wednesday week that the Government had borrowed, not stolen, our policy not one Government member denied it? We can accept it that it was generally done, and, as the Leader of the Opposition said, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. I deeply regret that the health of Sir Malcolm McIntosh has forced him to resign from the Ministry of Works. All members are delighted to see him back in the House and we trust his health will continue to improve and his strength return so that he can once again take part in the debates. I have already extended my congratulations to the present Minister of Works and the Minister of Agriculture on their elevation to higher office. I also congratulate the members for Burra and Torrens on becoming members of the Public Works Committee. We know that the trust reposed in them will not be misplaced. I did desire to congratulate the Speaker personally on the capable way he carries out his duties in this House, but unfortunately he has left the Chamber. Before coming to this House I

had heard of the excellent work performed by his predecessor, Sir Robert Nicholls, but not being a member during his term I can only assume that Sir Robert handed down to Mr. Teusner the qualities of a successful Speaker, one who puts into effect the high ideals the position justifies. The Speaker has the respect of members of the Opposition: members opposite can speak for themselves. I have yet to hear his rulings disputed.

In paragraph 5 of the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech, the following appears:—

The dry conditions of last year had unfavourable effects on the production of cereals, milk and butter, and on the growth of pastures. The grain harvest was only half that of a normal year.

I do not wish to be pessimistic about this year's grain prospects, but one wonders how long the reasonably good seasons we have been experiencing can continue and how producers will react to the poorer seasons that are sure to come. We have had more than our normal cycle of the good years nature provides. Nature has a habit of repeating what has happened before and those of us who were on the land during the dry seasons realize the hardships they entail. True, science has progressed so that much better crops can be grown on low rainfall than in the past, but, notwithstanding all that man has invented by way of tractors and modern machinery, and all that scientists have created by way of better farming practices, resulting in greater returns, we still rely on the Great Architect of the Universe for rain. We have heard much about rainmaking and, to a degree, science has been successful, but it is an interference with nature and primary producers will encounter many problems if rainmaking is persisted with to any great degree.

The long dry spell experienced a short time ago must indeed have been a warning to primary producers to get rid of the idea that because good seasons have been with us so long there is no need to store up fodder reserves. We are living in a transitional period and the seasons we once regarded as fixed are changing before our eyes. I appeal to primary producers to have the energy and determination to plan for the future by storing up fodder reserves. A mighty production has been won from the soil and we must prevent the appalling mistakes of the past. Fodder reserves carry increasing responsibilities to the man on the land, but they are essential. Scientific farming methods should afford the producer more time to attend to this vital need.

In paragraph 16 of the Opening Speech the following appears:—

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. During the last 50 years there have been many changes in the provision of education, and the future will see even greater and more rapid changes. To meet these changes and challenges we must be adequately prepared physically, mentally and spiritually, and this is the responsibility of the Education Department and the church. Recently I read the following, "Nobody without professional qualifications and inside knowledge of the system can criticize with great confidence the methods and administration of our State Education Department." Not having inside knowledge of the system I am not in a position to criticize, but I have given much thought to this problem of trying to meet the needs of a State that has suddenly decided to grow up.

We have visions when we are awake, but we have dreams when we are asleep, and I sometimes wonder whether those in charge of the Education Department in years gone by were unknowingly dreaming when they should have been wide awake, visualizing the future welfare of our young people and enticing more students into the teaching profession. I have heard it claimed by Government members that the Premier is a man of great vision. We have been told from time to time, and led to believe, that he can sit back and visualize what will take place in this State in the next 20 years. Apparently he has only acquired these powers in recent years, for otherwise the Minister of Education, for whom I have the greatest respect and admiration, would not be labouring so hard to maintain the required staffing of schools to meet the situation as it obtains today and will obtain for some time. The Lieutenant-Governor said that our student population has doubled in the last 10 years and stated, "In 1948 there were 2,700 teachers; today there are over 5,000." Ten or more years ago these men of vision should have looked into the future and made the teaching profession more attractive. I cannot speak too highly of the headmasters, head teachers and members of the teaching staffs in my district. They frequently work short-staffed and they have done a grand job and I admire what they have achieved under the circumstances. We often hear harsh criticism levelled at those known as pressure cooker teachers. I

often wonder what the department would have done without them to meet the crisis that was evident. In his speech the member for Light (Mr. Hambour) said:—

I take my hat off to those people who accept the full responsibility for educating their children. If you ask the parents of children attending public schools to contribute to education costs, they hold up their hands in holy horror.

I know he also said it was an exaggeration and in reply to an interjection said he took it back. Nevertheless, the thought must have been running through his mind, and it goes to show what certain honourable members think of the rank and file of parents in this State. I go so far as to say that if the school councils, committees, welfare clubs and Parents' and Friends' Associations were to hear that a member of the Government side had actually said such a thing, the Education Department would have a tremendous task before it.

I am confident I am right when I say that the Minister of Education has a genuine, sincere appreciation of the voluntary work performed by parents and the money they provide toward better school amenities. Schools which have been established for many years and have received an abundance of help from local committees should not be neglected in the essentials at the expense of new schools to house a growing population brought about in some instances by the introduction of New Australians. I do not wish to be misunderstood—I am not opposed to New Australians. Far be it from my intention. In a previous speech in this House I said that Australia, and South Australia in particular, needs populating, but it needs to be populated as a whole, and unless we did that, no scheme could be successful. Unless each of our boys and girls is given the same opportunities, no scheme put into operation can be successful.

In paragraph 29 of the Lieutenant-Governor's speech appeared the following:—

Your approval will also be sought for an important agreement which the Government made with Standard-Vacuum Refining Company (Australia) Proprietary Limited respecting the establishment of an oil refinery in the hundred of Noarlunga.

A few moments ago Mr. Coumbe said that members on this side did not give the Government any credit for getting this industry. I give it no credit for having it established where it is to be established. For many years my constituents have pleaded with the Government to do something to prevent the young

people from leaving the district to seek employment. The old cry has been "We cannot tell industry where it must go." Perhaps that is so, but pounds, shillings and pence speak all languages. Some sacrifices could be made, such as will be made with the proposed oil refinery. I have before me an article taken from a paper with a State-wide circulation, dated May 23, 1958, and it is as follows:—

Sting in the Tail.—It came as an anticlimax for Yorke Peninsula local government authorities to be told by Land Minister Hincks and Road Minister Jude that South Australians could not expect to have the promised vast developments in secondary industry without sacrifice. They left no doubts that all was not as rosy as had been pretended since the back-slapping began over securing the oil refinery and steelworks and shipbuilding expansion at Whyalla. Perhaps South Australians were in no mood then to look objectively at the matter or maybe some facts just weren't mentioned—in case they'd hurt. And hurt they do. The ministers explained that the £4 million water catchment scheme at Myponga expected to guarantee Adelaide's water supplies for many years to come, would be swallowed—its entire output—by the big Hallett's Cove refinery. This put water reticulation back just where it was before the refinery was announced. It all meant that £4 million of tax-payers' money went directly into providing water reticulation for private enterprise. "Expect to tighten your belts now that you have these great projects," warned Messrs. Hincks and Jude. "There will be less to spend on roads, schools, and maybe hospitals." The Y.P. councillors are evidently still digesting this unpalatable information, for not a word of protest has been forthcoming. The community, of which primary producers are an integral part, is once more being used to provide industries which first had to have communities and community services before they could commence operating. The State Government has refused aid to such places as Wallaroo, where possibly 200 men will be thrown out of work by introduction of bulk handling, whilst it has approved allocation of extraordinary sums to attract private enterprise to the State. A Government industry such as railway workshops might offer the solution in a rail town like Wallaroo. Government assistance should always be in the best interests of the State as a whole.

On October 29 last the member for West Torrens asked the Premier a question regarding the likely contamination of our beaches in the event of an oil refinery being established between Brighton and Port Noarlunga. In the course of explaining his question the honourable member said:—

The member for Wallaroo asked whether the Minister would bring before the proper authorities the claims of Wallaroo when considering the establishment of an oil refinery.

To this the Premier replied:

With regard to the suggestion that Wallaroo might be considered, I am advised that the shipping facilities available at Wallaroo would not be adequate for the proposal.

The people of my district, and I don't mean only of the Wallaroo township, would be very interested to hear the Premier give a full outline of the shipping facilities necessary to meet the needs of such a proposal. When the announcement was made regarding the proposed site, we heard that a pipeline was to be run a mile out to sea and that the ships would anchor at its mouth and pump their cargo ashore. The Wallaroo port, with its wide expanse of deep water has never required the services of a tug to assist ships, which berth and sail from the jetty under their own powers.

The Hon. C. S. Hincks—Ships of a limited size.

Mr. HUGHES—Agreed, but the proposed pipeline will go a mile out to sea.

Mr. O'Halloran—What would be the depth of water at Wallaroo a mile out to sea?

Mr. HUGHES—I think it would be adequate to allow these ships to pump their cargoes ashore. There are two broad gauge railway lines on the jetty connecting with the State's railway system. We also have the labour potential, and the people want to live in their own homes. "Let the people live where they want to," interjected the member for Light when the member for Hindmarsh was speaking in this debate.

Mr. Hambour—What is wrong with that?

Mr. HUGHES—Nothing; let them live where they want to, but the Wallaroo people want to live at Wallaroo. I do not think the member for Light intended to make that statement—I think it just slipped out. Perhaps it is just as well for him that the Premier is away on the other side of the world or he might have found himself on the mat being told not to embarrass the Government. In the Wallaroo district there is plenty of land that could be purchased at low cost and other land that the councils would be pleased to have revert to the Crown if they could have a worthwhile industry to use the growing unemployed in the district.

Mr. Hambour—Isn't the Government supporting an industry at Wallaroo at the moment?

Mr. HUGHES—I will come to that in a moment. The oil refinery gave the Government an opportunity to prove that it was sincere when it said that it supports a policy of decentralization. I know members opposite

will ask "What about Rosewarnes?" The Premier has made the distillery building available to that firm at a low rental, and I congratulate Rosewarnes on their initiative and wish them success in the venture. When the Hon. C. D. Rowe visited Kadina a few days ago, he said that Rosewarnes had built up its work force to 31, the highest number of any firm that had so far used the power alcohol distillery building. However, he did not tell the gathering that it was the transfer of an industry, not a new one.

Mr. Geoffrey Clarke—It was an expansion, though.

Mr. HUGHES—It was an expansion, but not to the degree to which the Attorney-General led the gathering to believe.

Mr. Hambour—Don't be miserable.

Mr. HUGHES—I am not; I am only stating facts.

Mr. Hambour—You are stating part of the facts. You know what has been done, don't you?

Mr. HUGHES—Not to the extent mentioned to me by the honourable member in the House only a few weeks ago. We sincerely hope that the industry will expand and that it will employ more of the unemployed in my district.

Mr. Quirke—What sized industry would you need to cater for Wallaroo's unemployed?

Mr. HUGHES—If the Government put in an industry to employ 200 men, we would be very happy.

Mr. Hambour—Do you think there would be 200 men who would go to work?

Mr. HUGHES—I could collect 200 tomorrow. My constituents have been fighting desperately to retain the few remaining industries in the district, but last Thursday they received another crushing blow. The men at the Stobie pole yard, who have played a big part in the expansion of the Electricity Trust by making many thousands of these poles for trust mains, received notice of dismissal, to take effect as from last Thursday. The men taken on by Rosewarnes would not anywhere near compensate for that loss. Once again a country industry must suffer at the expense of centralization. When visiting Wallaroo to attend certain Christmas functions, members of the trust would pat the men on the back and

commend them for their work, telling them that poles were made cheaper at Wallaroo than anywhere else, but now we are told that the cost at Wallaroo is substantially higher than in the city. If this yard had been kept up to date by the trust and the highly mechanized plant installed in the city had been installed there, I venture to say that the price would have been able to compete with the city price.

The closing of that industry, following the closing of the acid plant, was a very disturbing matter to my constituents, who have their homes in the district and want to live there. Will the Government find homes and jobs for the hundred or more men who will become unemployed when bulk handling of grain commences on the waterfront at Wallaroo? Surely it will not sit back and ignore the position. I sound a warning that, if it does, the State will hear about it. Already newspapers are publishing no-confidence articles about the Playford Government, and earlier in my speech I brought one to the notice of this House.

The people of Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta are trying to help themselves despite the setbacks they have received from time to time. Those remaining behind are raising money to build caravan parks and improve the beaches in an endeavour to attract tourists, in the hope that one day something will turn up and once again this district, which has rendered so much to the progressive policy that members opposite talk about, will need their labour.

Mr. Hambour—What have you done towards it?

Mr. HUGHES—I am doing my best to regain it. I sincerely hope the Minister of Roads will give early consideration to the Port Broughton-Wallaroo Road. This has always carried a tremendous amount of heavy traffic, and with the introduction of bulk handling to Wallaroo it will carry a greater volume than ever before. This country will always have to rely on agricultural districts for its prosperity, and Yorke Peninsula was, and still is, the principal barley producing area of South Australia. I ask leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.50 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, August 6, at 2 p.m.