

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

Tuesday, August 12, 1958.

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

**QUESTIONS.****PREMIER'S VISIT TO UNITED STATES.**

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Is the Premier in a position to make a statement to the House following on his recent visit to the United States, and in particular can he resolve the doubts in the minds of many people as to the industry or industries that may be established in this State as a result of his visit?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Before I attempt to answer the Leader's question I express to him and to all other members of the House my appreciation of their action in carrying on the business of the House during my absence without creating any problems. I assure members that I deeply appreciate the ready co-operation we have had in this matter from all sections of the House.

With regard to the Leader's question, as he and other members will realize, the proposals taken to America were of a highly confidential nature and I am not yet in a position to outline to the House what they were. As we are living in a very competitive world and as these proposals largely affect the business of other people as well as the Government, I cannot inform the House today what they were; but I can say that on examination by the highest business authorities in America they proved to be practicable and were exceptionally well received, and that I came back to Australia very much heartened by the response they received. Moreover, before I left Australia I had in a broad manner discussed the matters with the Prime Minister, who gave me a certain amount of sponsorship in connection with my visit abroad. A considerable number of matters still have to be tied up and it is too early to say definitely that all the proposals will be accepted, although I believe that at least part of them will be.

The proposals have a very important defence bearing and in my opinion will undoubtedly open up a very large and valuable export market for Australia. For that reason I believe they will receive the full support of the Prime Minister and the Commonwealth Government. A considerable amount of negotiation still has to be done and a considerable amount of economic information is required. For example, overseas business firms

investing in Australia today are very anxious for a small amount of the capital—between 20 and 25 per cent—to be provided in Australia because, if that money is found locally, it is a tremendous financial advantage to the companies concerned. One of the problems that will confront us immediately, and upon which I have been asked to get more information, is whether it will be possible to find in Australia between £6,000,000 and £8,000,000 as an initial Australian contribution to the project, to be repaid from the earnings of the project as it materializes. I have not yet been able to make more than a preliminary investigation of this aspect, but the few inquiries I have been able to make have been favourable and I believe the money can be found in Australia.

I regret that I am not able to tell the Leader the precise nature of the proposals but I can tell him that I believe that since the proposals were first submitted to the American interests at the beginning of June we have made a very substantial advance, that they stood up to almost nine days of intense investigation, and that I feel very pleased indeed with the outcome of the preliminary work. I hope members will realize that the Government does not desire to withhold information, but on a previous occasion when we had a very important industry tied up, the premature disclosure of information, not from this State but from another quarter, lost us that industry. Under the circumstances we have kept this matter highly confidential, and I assure members that the information I am giving the House is the full information I have given to anyone outside Cabinet itself, and that members of the Opposition have exactly the same amount of information as members of my own party.

Mr. Stott—What about asking for the co-operation of the South Australian press?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The press naturally desires to supply its readers with as much information as is released to it. I have no objection to the press conjecturing until it is black in the face. A conjecture does not mean anything, particularly if it is not well directed: it may even be advantageous if it is a little off the target. I again thank honourable members for their co-operation in this matter.

**METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT SYSTEM.**

Mr. MILLHOUSE—At present South Australians, particularly those residing in the metropolitan area, are concerned about our transport system. During his recent visit to the

United States did the Premier have the opportunity of studying the way transport problems are being tackled in American cities compared with the way they are being tackled here?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The honourable member has asked a wide question and some of the things seen in America are completely inapplicable under Australian conditions. For example, we could not afford to have the type of highway common in America which carries perhaps four lanes of traffic each way, side by side, and on which complete cloverleaf turns have been made so that no driver crosses the flow of traffic under any circumstances. Further, on such highways a driver is guilty of an offence if he does not travel at a speed of at least 40 miles an hour. Obviously, we could not have that system or the underground systems on which probably thousands of millions of pounds have been spent. However, having travelled on American buses a number of times, I felt that comparisons could be made on bus transport and that we would probably derive some advantage from studying the system at present applying on bus transport in the U.S.A. No tickets are issued to a passenger getting on to a bus. The fare is standard for the entire bus route and the passenger merely puts a coin into a machine alongside the driver, who is thereby relieved of the obligation of issuing tickets, his only obligation regarding the handling of money being to give change to anyone desiring it. This means that passengers boarding a one-man bus may do so very quickly—indeed, almost as quickly as they could load under ordinary circumstances—and I felt that the bus transport was speeded up thereby.

Take, for instance, the problem that is so controversial here—the reintroduction of a city section. Such a section would be practicable under that circumstance. A city section, say at 6d. per adult, would mean that a passenger could get on to the bus, pay 6d., and go as far as the bus was going. Under such a system there would be no more argument about the section. Similarly, express buses would run to the outer suburbs; travel would be speeded up and that system would be practicable here as it is in America. In every American city I visited the same system was in force and in some cities where there are about 500,000 people in the metropolitan area, conditions were comparable to those in Adelaide. I believe that that system could be examined and I intend to ask the Government representative on the Tramways Trust whether it could be examined more

critically to see whether some reform could be made in connection with what is today a slow and tedious method of collecting fares.

#### MORPHETTVILLE DRAINAGE.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I understand that the South Australian Jockey Club is a little perturbed about certain floodwaters that encroach on its Morphettville property and that last week a special invitation was extended to the Minister of Education to inspect conditions there. Although it is not my prerogative to know the Minister's findings or whether he considered that the waters came from Mitcham, Unley or any other place, can the Minister of Works ascertain from his colleague (the Minister of Local Government) whether the S.A.J.C. has an adequate system of drainage from its property, particularly from areas covered by roofs and pavement, into the normal stormwater channels available for that purpose?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—It is correct that my colleague visited Morphettville the other day to inspect the drainage problems. He mentioned that matter informally to Cabinet, but as to the specific question raised by the honourable member, namely, whether adequate provision has been made by the authorities at Morphettville for floodwaters to be taken from paved or roofed surfaces, I am unable to express an opinion. The whole matter of drainage in that area is one for investigation by the Public Works Committee, and, so far as I know, it has not yet brought down its report.

Mr. Frank Walsh—It affects not the race-course, but the adjacent area.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—If the honourable member desires to be informed whether the Morphettville area is adequately drained, I do not know who would be the authority to decide that.

Mr. Frank Walsh—I think it is the Highways Department.

The SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member cannot debate the question.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I am willing to discuss the matter with the Minister of Roads to see whether he desires to express an opinion on this matter.

#### VICTOR HARBOUR SHIPPING LIGHTS.

Mr. JENKINS—Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my question of July 31 concerning the provision of guiding lights on the end of the screwpile jetty at Victor Harbour?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I have a note dated August 8 from the Harbors Board to the effect that subject to tests (anticipated to be completed that night) of a new design of lantern, it is proposed to proceed immediately with the installation of the navigation light for fishing vessels on Granite Island. The work should be completed in one week.

#### SCHOOL TEACHERS' ACCENTS.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Recently some prominence has been given in the press to the possible effects of the accents of teachers from overseas on children under their care. Personally, I believe that such effect would be very small and has been exaggerated, but to allay the fears of those genuinely concerned about this matter, will the Minister of Education call for a report on the possible influences on scholars' speech of teachers with overseas accents?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Last year I received a similar complaint, which I immediately referred to the Director of Education. Later I received reports from him and the superintendents that the greatest care was taken to ensure that all teachers had a sufficiently good command of English and that there was no just cause for complaint. During the past couple of weeks the women's branch of the South Australian Institute of Teachers voiced a public complaint concerning teachers with language difficulty. This stated that a number of New Australians with strong accents (including some from the British Isles) and other language difficulties are appearing in infant, primary, and secondary schools. Many of these are fine teachers, but the Women's Branch decided to ask that they be not placed in charge of young children, who find it hard to understand the teacher, and who may become "infected" with the accent or sentence construction used by her. I immediately called for an urgent report on the matter, and I have received one from the Superintendent of Primary Schools (Mr. A. G. Paull), who says:—

On the question in general I wish to point out that no two people speak alike and that there are as many "accents" as there are teachers. A number of migrants, both European and British, are employed as teachers in primary schools. Most of those whom I have recommended for appointment have been interviewed by me. Some have been seen by other senior officers of this department, and a number have been interviewed in England by the Agent General. In all cases it has been thought that the teacher's speech would be intelligible to children. It is true that some

Europeans who have been employed have difficulty in making certain sounds in the English language, but their departures from normal pronunciation are not, in my view, sufficiently marked to make it impossible for young children to understand them. I feel that in some quarters a prejudice against "foreigners" lingers and that this may be responsible for some complaints. Apropos of this I should like to say that I consider that clear German or Latvian English is as easily understood as broad Scottish.

It has been suggested that children will become "infected" by the teacher's accent, or sentence construction. No specific instances of this have been brought to my notice. Thirty-five women from Britain and four from Europe have been selected for the Special Course of Training which commenced on July 7, 1958. They were all interviewed by either Mr. Shaw, Mr. McDonald or me. We believe that their speech is quite satisfactory. A number of applicants were rejected on account of their speech. This should not be treated as a general matter. If the Women's Branch of the Teachers Institute knows of specific cases of teachers whose speech is unintelligible and will bring them to my notice, I shall ask the inspector concerned to furnish a report. If in the opinion of the inspector a teacher's "accent" is so marked that the children's education is being seriously affected, I shall endeavour to place that teacher with a higher grade or recommend termination of her appointment. Of the 3,715 primary teachers there are relatively few from Britain or Europe, and I feel confident that most of these speak well by our standards.

I consider that a perfectly clear and well-balanced report from an extremely capable and zealous officer, and Mr. Paull has given that specific promise that he will personally investigate every individual case submitted to him. If there is any substance in a complaint—as there may well be—the position will be remedied.

#### NORTH ADELAIDE RAILWAY CROSSING GATES.

Mr. CUMBE—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked last week about the provision of automatic traffic gates at the North Adelaide railway crossing?

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

The Railways Commissioner reports that the problem has received the attention of his officers for some time and he has been advised by the Town Clerk, Adelaide, that it is also receiving consideration by his council. The following tentative conclusions have been drawn up by the Railway officers:—

The congestion of road traffic in the vicinity of North Adelaide station involves vehicles which do not use the level crossing.

The installation of automatic gates at the crossing will not provide a solution to the general problem.

It is proposed that a joint investigation, involving officers of the Railways Department and the Corporation of the City of Adelaide, be undertaken with a view to arriving at an effective and economical solution to the problem relating to road traffic in this locality.

#### MILLICENT HIGH SCHOOL GROUNDS.

Mr. CORCORAN—Can the Minister of Education say whether any finality has been reached regarding the proposal to obtain land at Millicent for the high school there?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—This morning I received a message that the honourable member intended to ask this question, so I am in a position to give him a detailed reply. Negotiations for a site for a new high school at Millicent have been in progress for many months, following an indication from the high school council and the Superintendent of High Schools that it was considered more expedient to obtain a site for a new high school than to carry on with the proposals to extend the existing school. A suitable property was valued by the Land Board at £100 an acre, and Cabinet approval was given to offer to purchase on the basis of that figure. The offer was not accepted, and the owners stated that they expected to receive in the vicinity of £250 an acre, although in 1952 it had changed hands at a figure of £70 an acre. In January I approved that the Land Board be asked to indicate what it considered to be a reasonable offer in view of the expressed anxiety of this department to acquire the property, and after consultation with the Senior Valuer of the State Land Tax Department the board suggested that a figure of £150 an acre be asked for the land. Cabinet approval was given to this course of action, and the owners were written accordingly. A reply was received thanking the department for its offer of £150 an acre, and stating that it was certainly a better offer than that of £100 an acre, but that this figure was also not acceptable to them, but as a means of helping the matter to proceed they indicated that they would accept £240 an acre. As the need for this site was considered very pressing and little progress towards finality had been made, in spite of a great deal of negotiation, I reluctantly obtained Cabinet approval to compulsorily acquire the land in question. Notice to treat was served on the owners on August 5, but I am still prepared to negotiate in the friendliest possible manner.

#### MYPONGA RESERVOIR.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked last week about the provision of parking and look-out areas at Myponga reservoir?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Engineer-in-Chief has advised me that a parking area and tourists' look-out has already been constructed adjacent to the Myponga reservoir. This area is on the road which runs in a westerly direction on the northern side of the reservoir and it is located on the upstream side of the reservoir wall so that a good view can be obtained not only of the construction work while in progress but of the water subsequently stored after the dam has been completed.

#### ATOMIC POWER STATION.

Mr. RICHES—Last week, and again yesterday, reports appeared in the press from a committee of Federal members who have been inquiring into a proposal to establish an atomic power station in Australia. According to these reports it is strongly recommended that the Federal Government should finance its construction in South Australia. I believe that if that can be achieved the land being reclaimed as a result of dredging near Port Pirie should be considered as a site. Has the Premier had an opportunity of considering these reports and, if so, can he tell us the Government's reaction?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have not had any advances from the Commonwealth Government in this matter but Mr. Wentworth, chairman of a committee of the Federal House which has been investigating atomic matters, approached me and asked whether this State would be prepared to purchase electricity in the event of the Commonwealth establishing a nuclear power station. That committee was strongly of the opinion that in the national interest we should develop not only the know-how to establish nuclear power, but also to reach a position in which it would be practicable. The Government told Mr. Wentworth that it would be prepared to purchase electricity from the Commonwealth if it established a nuclear power plant, but would require it to be available on terms and conditions not disadvantageous in relation to our present costs of production. I have not heard whether the Commonwealth is sponsoring the activity and I do not think it has reached the stage of deciding on a site. Any site close to our grid lines would suit South Australia.

## HIRE-PURCHASE CONFERENCE.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Recently I asked the Minister of Works whether the Government would be prepared to attend an Australia-wide conference on hire-purchase, but the Minister said he would refer this matter to the Premier. Is the Premier prepared to indicate his attitude?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Government would be prepared to attend such a conference. The subject for consideration, however, in my opinion is not very clear cut and it relates to a most complex question. It has always been the policy of this State to attend interstate conferences because we believe that if action is to be effective in respect of many of these matters it must be uniform.

## COMPENSATION FOR ACQUISITION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY.

Mr. JENNINGS—I understand the Minister of Education has a reply to the question I asked last Thursday concerning land acquisition in my district.

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I referred the honourable member's question to the Attorney-General who has supplied the following reply:—

(1) The plan in question sought approval to resubdivide a 20-acre allotment into two allotments each 1,820ft. in depth and having a frontage of 280ft. and 185ft. respectively. The original request for road widening asked that the applicants make provision on the plan for a 17ft. strip for road widening purposes. Unfortunately that request was made in error and should have read 7ft. instead of 17ft.

(2) Under regulation 71 of the Town Planning Act where an existing road abuts an area proposed to be resubdivided and it is necessary to widen that road to provide a thoroughfare of adequate width, having regard to existing and future requirements, the Town Planner may require the owner to widen the road to such an extent as is necessary irrespective of the existing width, and may withhold approval to the plan until the required widening has been provided for.

(3) Section 14 (1) of the Town Planning Act provides that when any plan of subdivision or resubdivision has been deposited in the Lands Titles Registration Office, every road, street or thoroughfare shown on the plan shall vest in the council of the area in which it is situated without compensation or payment to any person. There is therefore no question of confiscation of property by the Government but a vesting in the local governing authority of the area of the land required for future road purposes. This request is in accordance with the scheme for the proposed widening of main roads in the metropolitan area adopted in 1947.

## SHEEP BRANDING FLUID.

Mr. HEASLIP—In recent years the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Organization has developed a sheep-branding fluid which is capable of being scoured out. Apparently it is not being universally adopted and as a result its whole value breaks down because the wool has to be piece-picked by hand, thus increasing costs of production. At a recent meeting at Alice Springs the Woolgrowers' Council decided to urge the Government to introduce legislation to make compulsory the use of this fluid, called "Csiromark." Can the Minister of Agriculture inform me whether the Government contemplates legislation to bring this about?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—The matter was discussed at the conference, and the Department of Agriculture has examined the proposals; in fact, it has had this matter in mind for a number of years. Recently I drafted proposals for future legislation about the use of this brand of fluid, and sent letters to several organizations interested in the matter. I am awaiting replies on a few features which will take the matter a step further, and when I obtain them I will be able to tell the honourable member whether I will be recommending any action by the Government. I cannot take the matter any further now, but it should not be very long before I will be able to give some more concrete information.

## WHEAT STABILIZATION SCHEME.

Mr. STOTT—My question relates to a statement I made during the Address in Reply debate, when the Minister of Works and I were talking at cross purposes about a reported statement made by the Minister of Agriculture for New South Wales that he was strongly in favour of and would fight for the continuation of allowing a margin of profit under the wheat industry stabilization plan. Over the week-end I received a copy of *The Land*, a New South Wales publication, which contains an article relating to a speech made by the Honourable R. B. Nott, the New South Wales Minister of Agriculture, when addressing the Farmers' and Settlers' Association conference. The article stated:—

The Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Nott, last week emphatically denied that he had "sold out the wheatgrower" when the Agricultural Council was deciding the new wheat stabilization plan. Mr. Nott was replying to a question asked by councillor H. R. Shepherd at the F.S.A. conference. Mr. Shepherd asked Mr. Nott whether he was aware of the "extreme

disappointment" felt by wheatgrowers about the announced plan when New South Wales was in an extremely good bargaining position. Mr. Nott emphatically denied that there was any suggestion that he had not done his best for New South Wales wheatgrowers. "I was the Minister who introduced the question of allowing a margin of profit over the cost of production to the Agricultural Council," he said. "I fought for it, and got support mainly from South Australia, but we were deadlocked by other State Ministers."

This statement seems to clear up a number of points, and as the Agricultural Council will be meeting in Canberra on Friday to consider the question of profit, will the Minister of Agriculture indicate whether the statement made by Mr. Nott sets out this State's attitude and whether we can expect him to adopt the same attitude at the conference?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—As I said last week in reply to a question on this matter, the Ministers comprising the Agricultural Council do not normally make statements about the proceedings of the council. I also said that there was a statement in the press purporting to have been made by the New South Wales Minister of Agriculture before the meeting, and that that was the only statement I had seen. I know of no other statement since the Agricultural Council meeting other than the one made by the chairman, the Hon. Mr. McMahon. South Australia adheres to the principle of the chairman making statements on behalf of the conference. This was the arrangement at the last conference and I do not intend to depart from it either by commenting on any of the proceedings of the last conference or making any further comment about South Australia's attitude at the conference to be held next Friday. I regret that I can take the matter no further.

#### SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. GEOFFREY CLARKE—Will the Premier state when he proposes to ask the House to sit at night?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—A considerable amount of business is accumulating: the Loan Estimates are practically finalized and the B.H.P. Indenture Act has been completed. In these circumstances, if it is convenient to members, the Government would appreciate it if they were prepared to sit on Tuesday and Wednesday night next week.

#### FISHING REGULATIONS.

Mr. BYWATERS—Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my question of August 6, in relation to a fish caught at Mypolonga and

confiscated by the Victorian Government when sent to that State?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—This question refers to a magnificent fish caught quite legally in South Australia and sent to Victoria, but unfortunately it was not known to the fisherman that it was against the Victorian laws to send it there, and as a result it was confiscated. I have received this report from the Parliamentary Draftsman:—

The Victorian Government has declined to admit liability for confiscating this large cod. They maintain that they acted in accordance with their Fisheries Act (section 42) and that the owner of the fish contravened that Act and the proclamation dated August 2, 1937, which forbade any person to sell or possess such a fish in Victoria at the relevant time. It is fairly clear that the Victorian Government's attitude is justified by the letter of their law. Whether the law is invalid by reason of section 92 is a difficult question which could only be settled by legal proceedings against the State of Victoria.

Any further action would naturally be a matter for Cabinet decision so I cannot give any further information.

Mr. BYWATERS—I am pleased that the Minister is to refer this matter to Cabinet with a view to taking it further if such action is warranted. Further, I should be pleased if it could be taken up on a ministerial rather than a departmental level. In view of the difference between the laws of Victoria and those of South Australia relating to fishing in the River Murray, particularly in respect of the close seasons, one of which opens on November 1 and the other on December 1, will the Minister investigate the possibility of making these State laws uniform?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—Yes.

#### FIRE PRECAUTIONS IN FORESTS.

Mr. RALSTON—A number of fires have occurred in recent years in the pine forests of the South East, culminating in the disastrous fire at Wandilo this year when a number of men lost their lives in an endeavour to protect pine forests owned by the people of South Australia. In view of that and the statement made by the Director of Emergency Fire Services within the last few days that "safety precautions in forest areas are entirely a matter for fire personnel of the Woods and Forests Department," which clearly defines the position in the South-East, will the Government consider the advisability of sending abroad a forestry officer, preferably one who has had practical experience in forest firefighting, to investigate the latest methods, technique and equipment now in use overseas with the object

of improving wherever possible the methods of fire prevention and control now in use by the Woods and Forests Department? This is an opportune time, as the fire hazards of the Northern Hemisphere would be at the most dangerous level at this time of the year.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—The honourable member very kindly informed me that he would ask this question, and in the short time available I have been able to get a little information, although it is not comprehensive. I discovered that the Assistant Conservator of Forests is this week attending a fire control school being conducted by the New South Wales Forestry Commission. In addition, all State Forestry Departments have regular meetings under the aegis of the Commonwealth Forestry and Timber Bureau, whose meetings are held at two-yearly intervals. Overseas conditions are not similar to those in Australia and overseas experience would mainly be useful in the matter of equipment. This information was conveyed to me by telephone. The Woods and Forests Department has access to all the latest technical literature on equipment which is available locally and overseas. Two years ago the Commonwealth sent a man overseas, and his report has been made available to all States.

I will take the matter up further and obtain a more considered report because I do not want it to be thought that I am making any decision on it straight away. I point out that since the serious fire at Wandilo a good many improvements to the department's fire-fighting equipment have made it much safer for the men. The cabins of the trucks have been enlarged to provide shelter. I think the cabins have been asbestos-lined and a number of other provisions made, all to either increase the safety of the personnel or increase the mobility of the trucks to enable them to get through any bad soil conditions.

#### WILD DOGS.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Has the Minister of Lands any information to give following on the question I asked last week regarding the reported prevalence of wild dogs inside the dog fence in the north of South Australia, and can he say whether the increase reported was due to the fence not being maintained in good repair?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I have a report on this matter as follows:—

The responsibility for patrol and maintenance of the dog fence is on the individual

owners of each section. There are 30 separate sections and 27 owners involved over 1,360 miles of fence. Some months ago reports showed that this maintenance was unsatisfactory in five cases, four Vermin Boards and one company. As a result, dogs entered the protected area in considerable numbers. Payment of fence maintenance subsidy distributed by the Dog Fence Board annually at the rate of £13 per mile of fence has been withheld from the offenders. Subsequent reports have shown marked improvement in three of the five cases and arrangements, satisfactory to the board, were made for improvement in the remaining two cases. Kangaroos are present in great numbers both inside and outside the fence for practically the whole length and present a major problem by continually damaging the fence. The Dog Fence Board is watching the position closely, and has made, and will continue to make, every effort to ensure that the fence is brought to and maintained in dog-proof condition. The twelve months ended on 30th June, 1958, produced 13,260 claims for payment of bonus for destruction of wild dogs, far in excess of the average 7,040 for the preceding ten years. There has been a general increase throughout most districts.

#### CLOSE SEASON FOR SHARK FISHING.

Mr. JENKINS—Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether it is the intention of the Government to have a close season for the shark fishing industry.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—The Chief Inspector of Fisheries and Game has informed me that by proclamation gazetted September 26, 1957, the close season is fixed for the month of November in each year and applies to gummy sharks and school or schnapper sharks.

#### RE-AGGREGATION OF SUBURBAN LAND.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—My question relates to the Town Planning Act and a letter which I have received from the Corporation of West Torrens in that regard. Recently the Town Planner approved the re-aggregation of a number of blocks in the Morphettville area which, it is claimed, are the property of the South Australian Jockey Club. They comprise an area between the Glenelg tramline and the Anzac Highway, and are separated from the racecourse proper. Because of the private ownership of some of this area the land has now been re-aggregated under two titles. The Anzac Highway frontage is approximately 1,000ft. and on today's valuation is worth not less than £30 or £35 per foot. The council is receiving £630 a year in rates from the land. Section 29 (2) of the Town Planning Act is as follows:—

If satisfied that for the purpose of preserving any area as an open space or that for any reason whatsoever in the public interests it is desirable so to do, the Governor, on the application of the owner of the land, may by proclamation declare that any land in any part of the State to which this section applies shall not be subdivided into allotments for sites for residences, shops, factories or other like premises.

The South Australian Jockey Club maintains that this land should be declared open land for use as a car park by those attending the Morphettville racecourse. Is it fair that it can be re-aggregated from individual allotments into two allotments? A little more than five acres is involved and it could be declared open land.

The SPEAKER—The honourable member may not debate his question.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I am asking a question regarding open land.

The SPEAKER—Will the honourable member now ask his question?

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Is it the Government's policy at this stage to agree to the practice I have outlined or will it introduce amending legislation this session to enable more appropriate action to be taken?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I shall be pleased to satisfy the honourable member's several requests and let him have a reply in due course.

#### USE OF FIREARMS BY NEW AUSTRALIANS.

Mr. RICHES—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked last week concerning the possibility of making New Australians more conversant with the laws relating to firearms?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—In answer to the honourable member's original question I said I would see whether the Good Neighbour Council would help promulgate the laws to New Australians and I felt confident that, if it had not already done so, it would be willing to do so. I am pleased to say that, without any further prompting by me, Mr. Edson of the Commonwealth Immigration Department rang up my office to say, in effect that the Good Neighbour Council had already published a pamphlet, "The Good Neighbour Guide to the Laws of South Australia," which is issued to all migrants and sets out, among other things, the laws relating to the use of firearms in this State. Therefore, everything that can be done is already being done to inform New Australians on the matter.

#### INDUSTRY FOR GAWLER.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—The Gawler *Bunyip* of Friday, August 8, contained the following advertisement:—

Factory premises with over one and a half acres for urgent sale at £3,000, splendidly situated, fronting Main Road at Gawler. A very good building, approximately 3,000 square feet including good offices, lunch and change rooms, good cement flooring, detached bulk store, toilets for both sexes. . . . An excellent opportunity to secure a valuable property in a decentralized position with ample labour available.

These premises are worth much more than the price stated. Will the Treasurer investigate the possibility of the Government's purchasing them either as an investment for the future or as an inducement and a site for a small industry seeking to establish itself in South Australia?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Government would desire to facilitate the establishment of an industry in that factory, but it could not undertake to purchase it on the chance that an industry could be found. I will, however, see whether an industry is available and when industries come under my notice from time to time I will bring the property to their attention.

#### MILLICENT HOSPITAL.

Mr. CORCORAN—I have received the following letter from the secretary of the Thyne Memorial Hospital committee, Millicent:—

At a meeting of the board of management of this hospital on August 11 considerable concern was expressed by all members with regard to the future requirements for hospitalization of the people of this district. It was felt that with the announcement of a considerable number of homes to be built by the South Australian Housing Trust this hospital could not cope with the inevitable increase in population. The board feels that with the sudden extra industrial expansion this is a strong case of where the Government should make a special grant to provide adequate hospital beds.

You are well aware of the financial support given by the residents of this district in the last few years, a total of over £35,000, and the board is emphatic that it is unreasonable to approach the district again for further support. It is for this reason that we request that you ask the following questions in the House at the first opportunity:—

- (1) Has any provision been made in the Estimates for the extension of the hospital at Millicent to cope with the expected influx of population at that town as a result of the establishment of new industries?
- (2) If not, would the Minister of Health consider a special grant to extend the hospital to meet the anticipated bed requirements?



The probable expansion referred to in the letter will eventually take place in the district and I hope that the Government will do something realistic to help the hospital committee meet its increasing financial obligations. Will the Premier refer these questions to the Minister of Health?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Government will be involved in considerable expenditure in regard to the proposed industry, which will be the subject of a Bill this session. I will, however, do as the honourable member has requested and consult the Minister of Health on this matter to ascertain the expected requirements of the district and whether there is a case for action by the Government besides the normal subsidy paid to subsidized hospitals. I will advise the honourable member in due course.

#### SOUTH ROAD WIDENING.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question concerning the widening of the South Road near Tonsley?

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

The Commissioner of Highways has advised that no further widening is proposed at this stage until a four-lane pavement is possible along the whole section of the road and the full intersection can be developed. The radius of the present curve is adequate as in this area the permissible speed is 35 m.p.h. Several small trees and a brush fence have also recently been removed to improve visibility.

#### RIVER MURRAY FLOOD WATERS.

Mr. STEPHENS—Some time ago I asked the Premier whether the water that will come down the Murray River from the Snowy River water scheme would be controlled in order to avoid a repetition of the disastrous flood of 1956, when the banks broke. Has the Premier investigated this matter and can he say whether provision has been made to control such waters?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have made some general inquiries on this matter and the information obtained was to the effect that the Snowy River water scheme is a controlled scheme and that its general effect on the flow of the Murray River will be one of control rather than of accentuating the flood problem. It must be remembered that the River Murray system comprises many tributaries other than those that rise in the area controlled by the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority: many flow into the Murrumbidgee, the

Lower Murray, and the Darling. I believe that the effect of the Snowy River scheme will be the opposite of increasing the flood danger, because of the increased size of the Hume Dam and the fact that it will be possible, when the scheme is completed, to divert water from the upper reaches of the river back into the Adaminaby Dam, which is linked with the Snowy River. The honourable member's question can be answered generally by saying that the Snowy River scheme will not add to our flood problem, but rather assist in solving it, although it cannot give complete protection because the authority covers the uplands of the river, whereas much of the flood water comes from other sources.

#### DEMOLITION OF HOMES FOR SERVICE STATIONS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question concerning the demolition of homes for the construction of service stations?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The main question asked by the honourable member was whether a gentlemen's agreement that existed between the oil companies and the Government still existed, and I therefore inspected the docket on the matter and found that the chairman of the Oil Industries Committees (Mr. MacRae) wrote to the Premier on April 23, 1958, advising him that the arrangement would be continued until June 30, 1959. The letter states:—

In effect, this decision means that for this further period, the total number of retail establishments dispensing petrol in the metropolitan area will not be increased. There is also the continuing proviso that "in the event that any oil company not at present marketing through retail establishments should commence to do so, the whole matter will again come up for review."

Therefore, the reply to the honourable member's question is that the gentlemen's agreement is still in existence.

#### WEAPONS RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—I think members of both Houses have received an invitation from the Controller and staff of the Weapons Research Establishment to attend on Thursday, August 21, a preview of the establishment and exhibits which have been prepared for public exhibition on subsequent days. The preview will be from 1.45 to 4.45 p.m. Many members have expressed their desire to attend this function, but if Parliament is sitting they will be reluctant to go. Will the Premier investigate the possibility of suspending sit-

tings of the House, at least for a period, on that day to enable members to see this outstanding preview of exhibits?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will see if it is possible to meet the honourable member's request, and I suggest to members that they accept the invitation as I think they will be able to attend.

#### TEACHERS HOSTEL, PORT AUGUSTA.

Mr. RICHES (on notice)—Is provision made in the building programme of the Education Department for the current financial year for a teachers hostel at Port Augusta?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—No.

#### SCHOOL RESIDENCES.

Mr. RICHES (on notice)—When is it proposed to commence erection of a school residence at Napperby?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—During the financial year.

Mr. BOCKELBERG (on notice)—When is it proposed to commence the erection of a school residence at Yeelanna?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—During this financial year.

#### SOLOMONTOWN SCHOOL.

Mr. RICHES (on notice)—

1. Is it proposed to improve the ablution block and shelter accommodation at the Solomontown school?

2. If so, when is it anticipated that a start will be made on the work?

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

1. Yes.

2. As soon as possible during this financial year.

#### DENTAL OPERATORS.

Mr. LOVEDAY (on notice)—

1. How many licensed dental operators are there in South Australia?

2. How many of these are employed as such?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Registrar of the Dental Board advises that seven are qualified, of whom, so far as is known, five are still employed in dentistry.

#### NOTICES IN PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (on notice)—

1. Have amendments recently been made to the regulations under the Industrial Code removing from employers the obligation formerly placed upon them of exhibiting certain notices in places of employment?

2. Did any organization ask for these amendments? If so, what organizations?

3. Was the Trades and Labour Council or any workers' industrial organization invited to discuss these amendments before they were made? If not, why not?

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

1. Yes.

2. No, although a request was made by the Chamber of Manufactures that consideration should be given to altering the form of notice required by regulation 45 under the Industrial Code.

3. No. The amendments to the regulations do not in any way affect the rights of employees as prescribed in the Industrial Code but simply remove the obligation for employers to exhibit a notice containing copies of nine sections of the Industrial Code and one regulation thereunder.

#### REPORTS OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

The SPEAKER laid on the table interim reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on the following projects:—Cadell Prison Farm; Christies Beach Primary School; Clapham Primary School; Elizabeth East Primary School; Elizabeth Girls Technical High School; Elizabeth Park Primary School; Fulham Gardens Primary School; Gilles Plains Boys Technical High School; Gilles Plains Girls Technical High School; Mount Gambier North Primary School; Mitchell Park Primary School; new LeFevre Boys Technical High School; new Port Adelaide Girls Technical High School; Netley Primary School; Supreme Court Additions; Warradale Primary School and Whyalla Technical High School (New Wing); and report on the Taperoo-Osborne and Largs North-Swansea Sewerage System, together with minutes of evidence.

Ordered that reports be printed.

#### SUPPLY BILL (No. 2).

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, by message, recommended the House to make provision by Bill for defraying the salaries and other expenses of the several departments and public services of the Government during the year ending June 30, 1959.

In Committee of Supply.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD moved—

That towards defraying the expenses of the establishments and public services of the State for the year ending June 30, 1959, a further

sum of £7,000,000 be granted; provided that no payment for any establishment or service shall be made out of the said sum in excess of the rates voted for similar establishments or services on the Estimates for the financial year ended June 30, 1958, except increases of salaries or wages fixed or prescribed by any return made under any Act relating to the Public Service, or by any regulation or by any award, order, or determination of any court or other body empowered to fix or prescribe wages or salaries.

Motion carried. Resolution agreed to in Committee of Ways and Means and adopted by the House.

Bill introduced by the Hon. Sir. Thomas Playford and read a first time.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—I move—

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

It follows the usual form of Supply Bills and provides for the issue of a further £7,000,000 to enable the public services to be carried on until about the middle of October. Clause 2 provides for the issue and application of the £7,000,000. Clause 3 provides that no payments shall be made in excess of similar lines on last year's Estimates, except that the Treasurer may authorize the payment of increases in salaries or wages. It seems that this year it may be somewhat later than usual before I shall be able to present the Budget. There has been some slight delay in the Grants Commission's report coming to hand, but this Bill does not contain any unusual clauses.

Mr. O'Halloran—Will the £7,000,000 be sufficient to carry on public services until the Budget is presented?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I do not know when the Grants Commission's report will be received, but I hope it will be available before this money has been spent. The Loan Estimates are virtually completed, and they will be available soon for members' consideration.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from August 7. Page 320.)

Mr. DAVIS (Port Pirie)—Rising to speak to the Address in Reply, I first of all desire to welcome back to this House Sir Malcolm McIntosh. I am pleased that he is with us again and join other members in wishing him well. I also congratulate the new member for Mount Gambier, Mr. Ralston. We on this

side know that we have won an important seat. We are glad not only to win that seat but to know that the people realize what little the Playford Government has done for them in the country. On this occasion the country people have shown by their vote a desire to get rid of the Playford Government. That desire applies not only to the South-East but also to the whole of the State. I am sure that after March next the Premier will be facing west and not east in this House. The people will be pleased to have a change of Government, with representatives in Parliament prepared to do something for the whole State and not only the metropolitan area.

Like many others in this House I was disappointed last session when the Leader of the Opposition moved for an investigation into the placing of industries in the country and, strangely enough, all members opposite were supported by members who call themselves "independent." However, since then the people have realized the intentions of the Playford Government if returned.

I have listened with much interest to some speeches by members opposite. I was sadly disappointed with and amazed at the attitude adopted by Liberal members. I was astounded by the remarks of the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) who did nothing but try to abuse the Australian Labor Party. Obviously, he knew nothing about the matters with which he was dealing, for he made untrue statements. He accused us of doing certain wrong things. The least that members can do is extend to other members a little courtesy, for it is the duty of us all to uphold the dignity of this Chamber.

I can only liken the member for Torrens to two women gossiping over the back fence. All they can think of is some scandal about their neighbours, the reason being insufficient knowledge of anything else. Since I have been here I have tried to uphold the dignity of this House and I expect members opposite to do likewise. I am sorry that they have not followed the example of the Australian Labor Party members here.

Mr. Millhouse—Maybe the trouble is that we have.

Mr. DAVIS—Then you have made a poor job of it. I did not think at the same level as the honourable member who stated that the Democratic Labor Party was a breakaway from the Labor Party. That is incorrect; they were never members of the Australian Labor Party. I can only describe them as

impostors trying to fool the people by adopting the name of Democratic Labor Party. As members opposite well know, their aim is to defeat the Labor Party at the next election. There is no difference between the Democratic Labor Party and the Liberal Party. Members in the Party opposite encourage these people and, I have no doubt, are financing them to try to defeat us in the next election.

Mr. Millhouse—What do you think of the suggestion that the Australian Labor Party should give its preferences to the Democratic Labor Party?

Mr. DAVIS—I will not express an opinion on that. I personally think there is no difference.

Mr. Millhouse—Between the Australian Labor Party and the Democratic Labor Party?

Mr. DAVIS—I am not worrying about that or where the preferences will go, but I am concerned about the statements made in this House by the Liberal Party. As a matter of fact, some prominent Liberal men have threatened us with running Democratic Labor Party candidates against us and supporting them. I would not put that past the honourable member either. His attitude is nothing to be proud of. No stone will be left unturned by the Party opposite to ensure that these people are financed so that some of the Labor vote will be taken from us.

Mr. Bockelberg—Are you getting worried?

Mr. DAVIS—No, I am not getting worried.

Mr. King—What about the high standard of debate? Are you keeping that up?

Mr. DAVIS—I am referring only to the slurs cast by the honourable member for Torrens upon members of this House. I am sorry if I have lowered my dignity at all in replying to him. I hope I shall never do that in this House. The Liberal Party realize they are on the way out but think they might save their political hides if they can get a large number of Democratic Labor Party men to split our vote. However, they will be sadly disappointed because most people who were misled in the first instance by the camouflaged name given to this Party will realize that they are out only to destroy the Australian Labor Party.

Mr. King—The A.L.P. will destroy themselves.

Mr. DAVIS—I was amused to hear the member for Torrens say that members of the Australian Labor Party have to do as they are told. If a member of the Australian Labor Party does something wrong he is dealt with

by the Party but, as it is a democratic Party, he has a perfect right to appeal against a decision or make application for re-admittance if necessary. That does not apply to the Party opposite. If they do anything wrong they are dealt with by the Liberal Party in a different way, by a plebiscite—and nothing can be hidden from the people, either. If I liked to stoop to that sort of thing, I could tell some rather damaging stories about the way in which the Liberal Party conduct their plebiscites. When we hold one, as supporters of our Party we do not try to defeat any particular candidate. I do not think Mr. Coumbe can boast about his selection, because if he delved into actions taken during the holding of the plebiscite, which he won, he would find nothing of which he could be proud.

I want now to refer to local government matters. It has been claimed at municipal conferences in Tasmania and Victoria that insufficient grants of Government money are made to councils. More money should be paid to them from the proceeds of the petrol and other taxes. Each council in this State is carrying on under difficulties with the revenue it receives from rates. More money should be granted to councils from the motor registration fees collected. Not long ago our fees were about doubled, but most of the additional money received was spent on main roads and councils were not assisted much. In my district thousands of motor vehicles travel the roads. Some grants have been made to the council and no doubt the city has received its share, but other councils are struggling for existence. There has even been talk of members resigning from them because of the difficulties to be faced. In 1957 a new assessment was made at Port Pirie. I was mayor at the time and money was needed to make it a decent city. The council decided to continue with the full rate on all properties, which meant a fairly steep increase in some rates. The ratepayers decided to get rid of the councillors and form a progress association. I think it should have been called a protest committee. My colleagues and I were defeated at the council elections, and members of the progress association took office. They claimed to have all the answers, but when they took over they found it was not so.

Prior to the elections I introduced a deputation to the Minister of Local Government and a number of suggestions were made. After the elections the new mayor invited the Premier and the Minister of Local Government to visit

Port Pirie because he felt he had the solution of the problem. One suggestion put to the Minister was to amend the Local Government Act so that the council could strike a minimum rate, which would be £10, and another was to increase the rating power, which if accepted would have meant that some Port Pirie rate-payers would pay 40s. to the pound, three times as much as they pay today. That would have been a most vicious rating system. At Port Pirie there are four wards:—Solomontown, Port Pirie West, Port Pirie South and Port Pirie North. Residents in the low-assessed areas, some of which are swamp land, would under the suggestions pay a minimum rate of £10. Hundreds of blocks there are assessed at from £20 to £30 and some as low as £5. The mayor suggested a rate of 4s. or 5s., of course with a view to lightening the burden on the highly assessed parts of the town. The ratepayers in the low-assessed areas would have had to pay 5s. as against 1s. by rate-payers in the main street. I am opposed to this sort of thing and condemn any vicious form of rating. Another council suggested that each council have the power to strike its own minimum rate, but this would have been a more vicious system still, because any rate could be fixed.

I am pleased that the Government has not accepted the mayor's suggestions. I do not know whether they coincide with the ideas of the other members of the progress association. At the dinner during the visit he did not give an opportunity to members of the council to air their views or to move a vote of thanks to the Premier and the Minister; he did it all himself. He turned it into a one-man show. He was in the company of the Premier and no doubt remembered that the Government was a one-man band, so thought he could have the same thing at Port Pirie. I was surprised that the mayor should adopt such an attitude. If he had consulted some of the older councillors probably they could have given him good advice. The progress association claims that it is non-political, but its constitution includes the right to nominate and support progress association political candidates. At the declaration of the council poll in 1957 one of my colleagues who was defeated congratulated a member of the association and said, "Now that they are returned they will do as they are told; otherwise out they will go." Following on that the secretary of the Liberal Union in Port Pirie, who is prominent in the association, visited the council at the first opportunity and had the audacity to try to

take part in the council's discussions. Can anyone in Port Pirie believe that these people are really non-political? I am president of my Party in Port Pirie, but would anyone believe me if I contested an election and represented myself as non-political? The secretary of the Liberal Union became non-political overnight. If I were a tiny tot I would describe him, no doubt, as "a teeny weeny bit political." I am happy to know that the people at Port Pirie have realized that they have been misled in the last 12 months because at the last council elections they returned a team of Labor men. They now realize the tactics used by the Liberal Party when it seeks to gain power. It will soon be a forgotten race in Port Pirie.

As every member in this House knows, ever since I have been a member I have tried to secure a decent train service to Port Pirie. Recently the Traffic Manager wrote to the mayor of Port Pirie suggesting that a deputation wait on the Railways Commissioner. When I learned of this I thought that the Traffic Manager had slighted me as member for the district, but when I approached him he told me that he had written believing I was still mayor of Port Pirie. While I was in hospital I read that a conference was to be held and I sent for the mayor and told him I objected to any conference being held without my presence. He assured me that it was misrepresentation and that there was to be no conference. However, a few weeks later I learned that a deputation led by the mayor had conferred with the Railways Commissioner. The mayor was so politically biased that he did not invite me, as member for the district, to be on the deputation nor was I asked to introduce it, as is usual. I believe a certain decision was arrived at at the conference, but the mayor has not told me what happened nor is he likely to. I asked the Minister to secure a report and I have since received one from the Railways Commissioner. It would appear that the mayor has now lost control of the situation because, although a decision was arrived at, the Whyalla Town Commissioner has taken over and made other suggestions with the result that the matter has not been finalized.

The Port Pirie council reeks of politics and the Liberal Party is seeking full control. I remind the mayor that if he wants to make his city prosperous he must have complete co-operation from the member for the district. I am prepared at all times to do everything possible to assist him but apparently he regards

himself as the big gentleman of Port Pirie and does not want my help. I have dealt at length with the question of rating, but I feel sure that I have a solution to the problem in Port Pirie. A deadlock had been reached at Port Pirie, but I am pleased to know that because of a further reduction by one penny in the rates in certain areas—Risdon Park and the shopping centres—that deadlock has been broken. By a slight amendment of the Local Government Act I feel sure the rates in the main part of Port Pirie could be reduced to one shilling or thereabouts without causing hardship to any ratepayer. However, the Progress Association does not want my advice and if I made a suggestion would no doubt tell me to mind my own business.

Mr. Frank Walsh—Aren't you an alderman?

Mr. DAVIS—No, and I have no desire to be. I do not know, but I may be forced into the position of standing again for mayor. I am not going to stand idly by and hear my colleagues accused of playing politics in municipal affairs. I am prepared to donate £100 to any charity the mayor or any other member of the Progress Association nominates if they can prove that at any time I played politics in municipal matters. At no time can they say I was biased in municipal affairs. I do not think they will be sufficiently game to accept my challenge, but it is open at all times. It is interesting that some members have now deserted the Progress Association. A business man told me recently, "You know, Mr. Davis, there would not have been any Progress Association if the rates had not been raised. I think it is defunct now."

One of the candidates at the last municipal elections was an engineer, a former employee of the Broken Hill Associated Smelters, who had reached the retiring age. In all good faith he said, "I offer my services as an engineer." He wanted to do something in the interests of his town. I believe he was born in the town and it is amazing that at his age he suddenly realized that there was work to do about the place and so he offered his services as an engineer. I remind him that it is not engineers who are required in local government, but statesmen.

Mr. Dunnage—Is that why you aren't in it now?

Mr. DAVIS—No, people sometimes make mistakes. They rid themselves of good statesmen and do not realize it until it is too late. However, they will probably return the statesmen who will right the affairs of Port Pirie. It is strange that men who live in a town all

their lives suddenly appreciate that work has to be done. I suppose this gentleman is going to engineer them through their difficulties. He may be a good engineer in a particular line, but I remind him that there is already in Port Pirie an engineer who has forgotten more about roadmaking than he ever knew.

Mr. Quirke—Will he have the opportunity to reply to you?

Mr. DAVIS—We have a press at Port Pirie. I would not attack anyone if he did not have the right to reply. If the honourable member is at all anxious, I will challenge this gentleman, the mayor, or any of the members of the Progress Association to a public debate on the whole thing. One of them has become an independent in order that he will not have to make up his own mind. He can jump on the popular waggon at any time. All I am concerned about is the prosperity of the city of Port Pirie, not whether there is an independent Progress Association. I am prepared at all times to do everything possible to help. The whole position has been brought about by a camouflaged Liberal Party. I admire those who have the courage of their convictions nor have I anything against an honest Liberal man. That may not apply to every honourable member opposite, but I remind the member for Light—

Mr. Dunnage—What about an honest Democratic Labor Party?

Mr. DAVIS—That is an impossibility. No one would be in that Party if he was honest.

Mr. Dunnage—They are all friends of yours!

Mr. DAVIS—But a long way away. There is no honesty in a Party that will attempt to destroy another Party.

Mr. Dunnage—That is what you are trying to do to us.

Mr. DAVIS—You will be making me do a little wishful thinking. I believe that some members opposite are honest in their politics, but I would not sink to the level of the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe). He should follow the example of those on this side. When he was speaking I was somewhat hurt to see him lower his dignity to such an extent. As regards the member for Light (Mr. Hambour) I do not think any member on either side treats him very seriously. He attacked my friend, the member for Murray (Mr. Bywaters), who told the truth to the people. I think Mr. Hambour put himself in a very bad light in his electorate.

Mr. Hambour—I spoke the truth and nothing but the truth.

Mr. DAVIS—I hope the Government will pay heed to what I have said about greater contributions to councils from the petrol tax and other funds. The people of Port Pirie are very concerned that their children cannot do the Leaving Honours course locally, but have to go to a city or metropolitan school. This also applies to other country children. It is beyond the purse of most Port Pirie citizens to adopt this course, with the result that many of their children are deprived of the privilege. The Governments of Australia should realize that other countries are spending more money on educating their children to become scientists. No Australian State is spending sufficient in this direction. I have received the following letter dealing with this matter from the secretary of the Parents and Friends Association of the Port Pirie High School:—

I have been instructed by my association to seek your help in our effort to obtain from the Minister of Education financial assistance for all country students who attend Adelaide high schools for the Leaving Honours courses. Students who seek an education higher than Leaving must go to Adelaide, with consequent heavy expenses for accommodation. As the State Government is not prepared to provide such courses in the country, with a resultant big saving in expenses, it is not unreasonable we feel, to ask them to subsidize students by accommodation reimbursements. Should you feel that you can help us or require further information, I shall be pleased to call upon you to discuss the matter.

I have said in this House before, and others on this side have advocated, that the Government should spend more money on education in the country. I cannot see that it is necessary for children to travel to the metropolitan area for the courses mentioned. A university should be established in the country, and I believe that Port Pirie would be a central place for such a university as it would serve all the north.

Mr. Dunnage—Would it not be better at Port Augusta?

Mr. DAVIS—I would not complain if it were there.

Mr. O'Halloran—Charters Towers, a former mining town in Queensland, is now a centre of learning.

Mr. DAVIS—I hope that in the very near future Port Pirie will be a very large city.

Mr. Dunnage—It is now.

Mr. DAVIS—I would not call it a large city, as it has a population of only 15,000.

I hope that when a Labor Government gets in power it will be able to place industries there which will result in an increased population and that it will be able to populate other country towns which are at present dying.

Mr. Dunnage—We have plenty out our way.

Mr. DAVIS—I agree, and that is the whole trouble with this Government—there are too many people in the metropolitan area, and most of them are coming from country towns.

Mr. Dunnage—They are not coming from Port Pirie, at any rate. You said your population is going up and the district expanding.

Mr. DAVIS—I am not denying that but that is only through the efforts of the member for the district. I feel sure that the Government will realize the importance of Port Pirie, and I am pleased that it is making some use of the eastern side of the city. Silt is being pumped from this part of the town, and if the Government does not mess up that job as it has every other job it has started, it will be a good job. I hope the Premier has something in mind for this town, as it would be an ideal site for any industry. I hope for the best, and the best thing that will ever happen for this State will be the return of a Labor Government next March. We would be well rid of the Playford Government; if we do not get rid of it the State will be ruined. Although he did not say very much when explaining his visit overseas, the Premier asked us for our confidence. He said the matter was a top secret, but when the New South Wales Premier came back with a pocketful of industries—six in all—I am pleased to say that he had no top secrets.

Mr. Dunnage—Which ones did he get?

Mr. DAVIS—Perhaps one industry will be able to use fruit infested with fruit fly for making jam. I think the member for Unley (Mr. Dunnage) rendered a great service to Australia in finding the way to use this fruit.

Mr. Dunnage—It was a suggestion; you could not think of anything.

Mr. DAVIS—I give you all credit. As another member said, the jam would be a little meaty. The member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) said we were never constructive. I hope he has listened to what I said this afternoon and will try to influence the Premier to do what I have suggested. If we are not returned next year, in time we will be able to educate members opposite to do the right thing for their State. Probably in time the Premier will see fit to resign and then there will be a rush to see who will take his place.

Mr. Hambour—The brains trust on your left—Edwardstown, Norwood and others—has written out a little piece for you.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I do not wish to be referred to as the member of a brains trust.

The SPEAKER—The honourable member for Edwardstown has taken exception to the expression, and in view of that I ask the honourable member for Light to withdraw.

Mr. HAMBOUR—I thought I was complimenting him, but at his request and yours, Mr. Speaker, I withdraw.

Mr. DAVIS—Earlier I mentioned the undignified manner of some members in this House. I wish the member for Light would pay a little more heed to the conduct of members on this side. I have nothing further to say on this debate.

Mr. Lawn—You did make a speech without reading it.

Mr. DAVIS—In reply to the interjector, I have lost my notes. I know that some members opposite, particularly the member for Torrens, were at a disadvantage because the Premier was not here to tell him what to say, so I should excuse him a little. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

Mr. DUNNAGE (Unley)—I, like all other members except the member for Adelaide (Mr. Lawn), am delighted to support the motion so ably moved by the member for Light (Mr. Hambour) and seconded by the member for Victoria (Mr. Harding). They made good speeches, and I compliment them. I would like to be associated with the remarks all members have made about the late member for Mount Gambier (Mr. Fletcher). Mr. Fletcher was a personal friend of mine, as he was of everyone in this House, and I deeply deplore his death. I welcome his successor who, if he is only half as good as the previous member for the district, will be a great success. I congratulate the Minister of Works and the Minister of Agriculture on their preferment by the Government to their high positions, which we all know they are capable of filling.

I also congratulate the member for Burra and the member for Torrens on their elevation to the Public Works Committee. I think the Public Works Committee is the best of all Parliamentary committees. I had the honour to serve on it for a little while and I enjoyed my association with the members, who are quite unbiased in their deliberations and devote a considerable amount of time to their

work. In fact, I think they devote far more of their time to that committee than members of any other committee, and if it is possible I would like the Government to increase their allowances. That would be well deserved, because they are doing a remarkably good job.

Mr. John Clark—Increase all salaries.

Mr. DUNNAGE—If you want that, it is up to you, but whether other members will support you is another matter. One person I cannot miss in offering congratulations—

Mr. John Clark—What about the honourable member for Adelaide?

Mr. DUNNAGE—I have not got that far down the list. I know how low you can get, but I cannot get that low. In offering congratulations, I cannot overlook Sir Malcolm McIntosh, who has been a Minister all the time I have been in this House, and I have been here for a long time. I have enjoyed my association with Sir Malcolm. He is one of the outstanding men of this State over many years. He brought a great deal of ability and energy to his portfolio, and I look upon him as one of my best friends. Although one Minister is here now, I have it in my speech to say, when I start reading it, that of all the Ministers in this House, including the Premier, nobody has been more co-operative to me than Sir Malcolm. I do not expect the Minister of Agriculture to do anything there because we have no crops, except those mentioned by the member for Port Pirie. Sir Malcolm has been an inspiration to me and a great adjunct to my district, and I thank him for everything he has done for me. Every time I have asked him to come in my district or be associated with me he has been delighted to accede. I am sorry he is going out of the House. We will all miss his genial manner and his quickness in answering questions.

Mr. Lawn—You will not miss him next session. You will not be here either.

Mr. DUNNAGE—It is very nice to see Sir Malcolm back in the House and enjoying his association with us. I pay my respects also to the Minister of Lands, Mr. Hincks, whose short illness shocked us all. We are all pleased to see him back.

I compliment the Lieutenant-Governor on the fine Speech with which he opened Parliament. Some members opposite do not agree with me, but I claim that it shows progress and planning for the future and the ability that this Government has to do all the things the people of this State expect it to do. Most of



the promises in the Speech will be carried out before the next election, if at all possible.

Afterwards I heard the mover and seconder of this motion and then the Leader of the Opposition rose to speak. The Leader, of course, is always interesting and convincing. He gives much thought to what he says, and I was delighted to hear some of the words he used because they fitted us members on this side so well. I asked him afterwards if he really believed all he had said, and although I did not hear his reply I believe he really meant it. I will refer members to one or two remarks because I do not want the Leader or other members to forget them. The Premier said the Government was going to decontrol meat, something that had never entered our heads on this side of the House because we thought we would have socialistic price control for all time. It was very interesting, therefore, to hear the leader of the Socialists make the remarks which appear on page 133 of *Hansard*. He said:—

I believe that the maximum price that has been fixed has become the minimum.

We have been saying that for years on our side of the House. He went on:—

There is no shortage of meat now and if it were decontrolled the price would find its proper level.

We say that about everything, not only meat. We say that if control of prices in general were removed they would come back to their ordinary level. We know that people will be able to get good cheap meat if price control is removed. The Leader went on:—

The people would then have to pay top prices for good meat and those who could not afford to pay such prices—and there are many of them in this State—would pay considerably less for inferior cuts. I think the Government's idea of waiting until September is that the quality will have averaged up a little, so we shall make a further impact that will mean people will be paying more for their meat than before decontrol.

What a great speech from the Leader of the Socialist party that believes in Socialism and control and nothing but that! I could hardly believe my ears when I heard him. I congratulate him on a very fine statement.

We will not forget it; it will always be in our minds when the Leader talks about controlling things. He also claimed that it was the Gunn Government that extended the forests in the South East, and the member for Adelaide (Mr. Lawn) made a similar claim when he said that the Gunn Labor Government between 1924 and 1927 did more for the forestry industry

than any other government. I used to go to Millicent when I was a boy attending school, and to Mount Burr forests which were being planted about 1910. Planting continued for years after that, but they really only extended under Mr. Gunn, I presume; he was the only one who did anything about it. According to my calculations—and I checked with the member for Millicent, who agreed with me—the Mount Burr forests were being planted when I was a school boy back in 1910.

Mr. O'Halloran—How many acres were planted then?

Mr. DUNNAGE—Those forests were being planted, and plantings continued after that. I do not know who the Premier was at that time.

Mr. O'Halloran—It was a Labor Premier, as a matter of fact.

Mr. DUNNAGE—All I am saying is that those forests were being planted then.

Mr. Quirke—The first radiata were planted in 1877.

Mr. DUNNAGE—That shows that Mr. Gunn did not have anything to do with it; he had about as much to do with it as I did. He merely continued the policy of previous Governments, as this Government is doing today and the Leader of the Opposition hopes to do next year.

Mr. O'Halloran—I am sure I will.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Hope springs eternal in the human breast. I listened to honourable members behind the Leader and thought what a sorry outlook he will have next year if all he hopes for comes about. I cannot imagine for one moment that he would like to be Premier and have behind him the gentleman who is sitting behind him now. The member for Norwood (Mr. Dunstan) repudiated his Leader last week.

Mr. Dunstan—That is a lie.

The SPEAKER—I ask the honourable member to withdraw that remark.

Mr. DUNSTAN—Sir, I have never repudiated my leader in this House, and I refuse to submit to any accusation that I have. If the member for Unley withdraws his accusation against me I will withdraw mine against him.

The SPEAKER—The honourable member for Norwood must withdraw the statement "That is a lie." If it is incorrect, he can say that it is incorrect, but I cannot allow the expression "That is a lie."

Mr. DUNSTAN—I am sorry. To me that was a deliberate misrepresentation by the member for Unley.

The SPEAKER—I ask the honourable member to withdraw that statement as well because

it has been held that those words are unparliamentary. I ask the honourable member to withdraw both those statements.

Mr. DUNSTAN—I am perfectly happy to withdraw the statements if the honourable member will withdraw his.

The SPEAKER—There has to be an unconditional withdrawal.

Mr. DUNSTAN—Very well, I will withdraw my statements. On a point of order, Sir, I ask the member for Unley to withdraw his statement, because I consider it most offensive.

The SPEAKER—The honourable member for Norwood considers the remark of the honourable member for Unley offensive, and I ask him to withdraw it.

Mr. DUNNAGE—I will withdraw it. I made that statement in what I thought was a good way, but if the honourable member wants it some other way, I will put it differently. I asked a question last week and was given a reply, but according to the *Advertiser* Mr. Dunstan asked the question. The honourable member takes exception to his name and his views being confused with mine, which indicates that he does not want to be associated with the remarks of the Leader. That is what I take that to be. He does not want to have anything to do with them, and if that is not a repudiation I will withdraw my remark. However, if it is not a repudiation I do not know what it is, because he would not have a bar of the words of the Leader.

Mr. Dunstan—You use my words; I did not say that at all. Don't you try to put glosses on here.

Mr. DUNNAGE—I could not do that to the honourable member.

The SPEAKER—Order! Will the honourable member resume his seat. I ask the honourable member to address the Chair, and I ask honourable members to refrain from interjecting so much. If they interject I ask them not to do so across the floor of the House, but by way of the Chair.

Mr. DUNNAGE—My remark does not seem to have met with the success that I had hoped. It seems that the Leader of the Opposition is to be Premier next year. A peace meeting was held in the Botanic Park the other Sunday. It was so interesting, that some outstanding people in this House attended, among them the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lawn—Were you there?

Mr. DUNNAGE—No, I was not invited, otherwise I would have gone. The Leader of the Opposition was in really good company.

Mr. Chambers and Mr. Cameron—good company to be in—spoke at the meeting. They had just had a fight at the Trades Hall, but they fixed that up and went down to the park to the meeting. They did not say anything about Mr. Cameron on the steps of Parliament House and what he did when the "Comms" came down here, nor how Mr. Chambers and Mr. Cameron put their arms around one another and got down to being peaceful, happy and contented in the Australian Labor Party.

Mr. Quirke—What is the use of a peace meeting without peace?

Mr. DUNNAGE—First of all they kick a man out because he makes a truthful statement and he does not agree with his leader, and then they take him back again and take him to the peace meeting at the park. How delightful! He could be sent over to the summit conference next time.

Mr. John Clark—You were going to say something about our leader.

Mr. DUNNAGE—I am coming to what the member for Adelaide said and how he must be getting a bit against the Leader. It seems to me that everybody is against the Leader, and I am only sorry that next March when we are all defeated the Leader will not be the Premier. There appear to be too many hopeful boys sitting behind him looking for the job, so I think he had better look out for himself.

Mr. John Clark—He can look after himself.

Mr. DUNNAGE—We have heard the member for Adelaide in his comments about the Premier. If the Premier were here I would pat him on the head, because he is the greatest Premier this State has ever had and all honourable members opposite know it. When he returns to the Chamber one of the first to ask him for something will be the member for Adelaide. Take my tip: watch him and see what happens. One member who chases the Premier is the member for Adelaide. I do not blame him; I try to do it myself, but Mr. Lawn gets more out of the Premier than I do. In other words, the Premier likes him more than he likes me.

Mr. Jennings—You can hardly blame him for that.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Watch the honourable member next week: he will be here, sitting alongside the Premier, whispering in his ear, and waiting for these things. One sees the future administrators of this State waiting to get the Leader out of his job so that one of them can get it.

Mr. Jennings—Wishful thinking!

Mr. DUNNAGE—It's not wishful thinking for me; I hope it is for members opposite, because I would hate to see some of them in his seat, for I know what they would be like.

Mr. Lawn—You will be outside.

Mr. DUNNAGE—I shall not be on the steps, moaning and complaining all the time like you. I shall not be running to the Premier, like you. I will be out of it and will have earned my rest.

Mr. Lawn—You earned it with the champion question.

Mr. DUNNAGE—We will get to the jam now.

Mr. John Clark—Get on to your swan song.

Mr. DUNNAGE—It was the most outrageous statement ever made in this House. I wonder what you would have said had it been your family. It was the worst thing I have heard.

The SPEAKER—I ask the honourable member to address the Chair. With his knowledge of Standing Orders he should know what he should do.

Mr. DUNNAGE—It was terrible. The member for Adelaide dwelt on the jam question, but I defy any member to put forward a better suggestion. I still think that instead of throwing 70,000 bags of fruit into the ocean and watching it roll back on to the beaches time after time—as we do—it is time the Government did something with the fruit. The Minister said it could not be used, but I say it can be. We are throwing away all that valuable fruit, which is costing thousands of pounds to collect. It could easily be sent to the Yatala Labor Prison for the prisoners to make into jam. That is a suitable suggestion and, if anyone has a better, let us hear it. All that is put forward, however, is condemnation. All I ask is that the fruit be taken out a little further so that it may wash up on the other side of St. Vincent Gulf. As I said that, the Minister of Lands (Mr. Hincks), the member for Yorke Peninsula, looked round and I felt embarrassed. The Minister of Agriculture has said that the fruit is dumped and we all know that some of it comes back. He sends gangs to pick it up and send it out again. Surely the fruit could be turned into jam and successfully used by Government departments. Useful work would be provided for members of certain professions who are at Yatala. They already make bricks and do laundry work, and this would be another useful job for them to learn. If that suggestion is no good, let us hear a better one.

Mr. Lawn—We could not improve on that.

Mr. DUNNAGE—I could improve on you a bit. I think that deals with the gentlemen on the other side before I get on to the other things I wish to say.

*Members interjecting:*

The SPEAKER—Order! There are too many interjections.

Mr. DUNNAGE—The member for Adelaide commented at length on our Leader, but I consider that Sir Thomas has done a terrific job. He has gone overseas and come back to this country—

Mr. Lawn—What with?

Mr. DUNNAGE—He has not brought Joe Cahill back at any rate; nor has he brought back another member for Adelaide, thank heavens! He has, we hope, brought back something useful to this community; but even if he has not brought anything back, what he has done recently in regard to the proposed oil refinery and steel mill will go down in history for all time. He has brought here two of the greatest industries ever to come to this country, and if he has done nothing else, he has done the greatest thing he could do.

Mr. Fred Walsh—I know what your war cry will be next March.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Don't worry about mine: worry about your own. We are right on your wheel. We have heard much about decentralization and I commend the member for Millicent (Mr. Corcoran) for the letter he read today, for it showed how decentralization was being carried out in South Australia. Apparently, a new factory is to be established in his district and he is asking that the Millicent hospital be enlarged. The local council has asked him whether this can be done. Surely the Playford Government will get some credit for the industrial expansion in that district. To listen to the members for Murray and Wallaroo one would think that nothing is being done in the country. Anyone reading their speeches would think that they had nothing good to say about their towns, yet in last Saturday's *Advertiser* I saw an advertisement that did not prove that Murray Bridge was going downhill. I would have thought from listening to the member for that district that people there who wanted to retire had to retire into any type of house, for that was roughly his expression; but about a fortnight ago when I visited Murray Bridge I saw new homes being built and new areas being developed all the way from Callington to Murray Bridge. Land in new subdivisions served by new roads is selling in the Murray Bridge district. Surely that

proves that the town is not going downhill. Indeed, if ever a town was on the up and up it is Murray Bridge, yet it is run down by its own member. I was amazed by Mr. Bywaters' statements. The Industries Development Committee has put an industry into his district for him, yet he does not commend the chairman of that committee. He merely says, "We get nothing; we have nothing there"; yet the advertisement in last Saturday's *Advertiser* showed that homes, not farms, were being developed. I was astonished at what the member for Murray said. He and the member for Wallaroo are running down their own districts and appealing to the Government for assistance. They have no confidence in their districts.

Mr. Millhouse—No loyalty, either.

Mr. DUNNAGE—That is true. I congratulate the Government on what it is doing to help country districts. The Industries Development Committee has done a great deal to assist industries. I was a member of that committee in its heyday, and it functioned very successfully.

Mr. Riches—Don't you think it is today?

Mr. DUNNAGE—Yes, and I hope the Government will bring down a Bill to give it more power, for it is a most important committee. When I was chairman for six or seven years the committee lent many thousands of pounds to industries and did a particularly good job. I also pay a tribute to the member for Edwardstown (Mr. Frank Walsh) and the member for Stuart (Mr. Riches) for the good work they did on the committee, but not one other member of the Labor Party approached the committee asking for assistance to industries in their districts.

Mr. Davis—You have a bad memory.

Mr. DUNNAGE—No. We went into the honourable member's district, but we were never approached by him. The member for Stuart was always looking for firms interested in establishing industries in his area. Something must be done to enable the zebra crossing on the South Road to function as it should. The Unley Corporation's area is an extensive one with a population of about 60,000 people. The corporation tries to observe the provisions of the Road Traffic Act, but it has found the Act contains some anomalies. The corporation's chief inspector has recommended the abolition of the only zebra crossing on the south side of Adelaide. A report he made to the corporation states:—

The pedestrian crossing on South Road was installed strictly in accordance with the requirements of the regulations under Part VI of the Road Traffic Act, 1934-1955, as under:—

94a. (1) A pedestrian crossing shall be indicated by two yellow broken lines at least 4in. wide running at right angles to the centre line of the road. A crossing shall be not less than 8ft. and not more than 16ft. wide.

(2) The area of a crossing shall be marked with yellow stripes 2ft. wide and 2ft. apart running parallel to the centre line of the road.

(3) A council laying down a crossing shall erect two warning signs on each side of the road. One sign shall be an advance sign for the purpose of warning traffic that it is approaching a crossing. The other shall be at the side of the crossing. The signs shall be in accordance with the Road Signs Code of the Standards Association of Australia.

(4) A council which has laid down a pedestrian crossing shall keep it clearly illuminated between half an hour after sunset and half an hour before sunrise and shall, if so directed by the Commissioner, place and maintain reflectors thereon.

(5) A council which has laid down a crossing shall keep the stripes and lines thereon clearly marked at all times.

(6) The Commissioner, if satisfied that a crossing is no longer required or is for any reason dangerous or inconvenient, may direct that it be abolished, and the council concerned shall thereupon remove the crossing marks from the road.

(7) It shall be an offence to park or rank a vehicle on the approach side of a crossing within 30ft. of any part of the crossing.

*Re* (3), reflectorized signs were erected in accordance with the Road Signs Code of the Standards Association of Australia.

*Re* (4), this was overcome by the provision of two banks of four—40 watt fluorescent tubes mounted on poles on either side to give a complete flood of the crossing and clearly illuminate pedestrians at night, at the same time giving the crossing a lighting distinctive only to pedestrian crossings, thus affording the motorist every opportunity to identify a crossing long before he approaches it at night.

It will be seen that this Council, in conjunction with the Marion Council, has carried out the obligations of the Act and regulations.

When, after trial, it was found that the crossing was dangerous, all possible yellow parking signs were removed from the close proximity and two 6ft. pairs of walking legs were painted on the road surface ahead of the advance warning sign to further draw the attention of the motorist to the crossing. It is not considered that any improvement for the safety of pedestrians was achieved.

After the corporation had done all this the crossing did not function effectively.

Mr. Riches—How many of those crossings are there in Adelaide?

Mr. DUNNAGE—One at Prospect and one at Unley.

Mr. Riches—The trouble is that motorists are not used to them.

Mr. DUNNAGE—That is true, but the Unley Corporation has carried out everything required by the Act.

Mr. Frank Walsh—How is the Goodwood school pedestrian crossing functioning?

Mr. DUNNAGE—Very well. The corporation proposed putting a zebra crossing in front of the school, but decided to put press-button lights there. The children can press a button and the light stops the traffic. That works well, and we shall have to do the same thing on the South Road unless the State Traffic Committee amends the regulations on pedestrian crossings.

Mr. Geoffrey Clarke—The committee only makes recommendations.

Mr. DUNNAGE—I shall come to that matter later.

Mr. Frank Walsh—Who was responsible for the installation of the lights at the Goodwood school?

Mr. DUNNAGE—Most of the money required was raised by the school committee, and the Unley corporation provided some, too. I think the honourable member knows that better than I do because I understand he was a member of the school committee when that money was raised. The chief inspector's report continues:—

Two fundamental reasons for the failure of such crossings in this State are considered to be:—

Firstly, motorists are not required to stop when a pedestrian is on the crossing, but only to avoid a collision. If a motorist thinks there is a danger of a collision he pulls up.

The report continues:—

The result is that the unfortunate pedestrian can find himself in the centre of the road with vehicles passing him on each side at a speed of 35 miles per hour or more, excepting on school days when the 15 miles per hour limit past a school keeps some motorists to that speed, and allows the pedestrian time between the moving vehicles to gain the safety of the footpath.

That is the first thing—the motorist must stop. I understand that they do stop at every other pedestrian crossing in Australia. The report continues:—

Secondly, in daylight with fast moving traffic both ways—

this answers the query of the member for Stuart—

the motorist has little time to observe side-of-road signs and unless the leading vehicle stops or slows down on sighting the yellow road signs, the closely following drivers are on and over the crossing before realizing it..

We know that is the problem. The report continues:—

Consequently it is considered that some form of distinctive animated lighting should identify crossings and should be placed in the most advantageous position so as to afford as little distraction as possible to motorists, yet be clearly visible—a double sided flashing amber lens suspended above the crossing, which type should be reserved for pedestrian crossings only, or some other distinctive form of lighting.

So we wrote to the Traffic Committee. I will not read all the answer, but will say that point No. 1 was the most illuminating. It says:—

The Committee does not consider it necessary to compel a motorist on approaching a pedestrian or zebra crossing to stop solely because there is a pedestrian on the crossing.

That means if there is no risk of collision with the pedestrian. The motorist has to decide that. If there is no risk, he goes over the crossing; if there is a risk, he has to stop. However, often within 50 yards of a crossing a motorist finds that a person will suddenly run across the road. If the motorist was compelled to stop, he would know that there was a pedestrian crossing there and that he must stop. In New South Wales in particular, where I have done much driving, there is no danger. Every motorist drives up to a pedestrian crossing and stops. We ought to do that here.

Mr. Geoffrey Clarke—Their recommendation follows the current practice overseas.

Mr. DUNNAGE—If that is so, I advise you to look at the current practice in New South Wales where more people are liable to be killed than here.

Mr. Geoffrey Clarke—A motorist can go fast with somebody on a crossing. If it applies to anywhere on the road, why do you want a crossing?

Mr. DUNNAGE—We are trying to protect the pedestrian because the Road Traffic Act says that there cannot be a stopping, which I think is altogether wrong. I could read much more to honourable members but I shall not, although I know you would desire me to. I can put these statements on the table if members wish to look at them. The last paragraph will interest local government people:—

In view of the hazards attached to pedestrian crossings it was resolved that the two other approved crossings be not laid down until legislation was amended to make them reasonably safe, and it is now recommended that the pedestrian crossing on South Road be abandoned, the signs removed and the road painting blocked out; but the fluorescent lighting remain until such time as the Road Traffic Act and Regulations are suitably amended or abolished.

I could read much more but it would be of no interest. Then the report states:—

To the average person, the meaning could be misconstrued and in any case councils unjustly blamed for something beyond their control.

It was proposed that the recommendation of the inspector be agreed to. That was not carried out because the recommendation was deferred for a further meeting of the council, until after I had asked a question of the Premier and obtained a reply from him whether the Government would amend the legislation. Whether or not that part will be amended I cannot say. It does not affect only the Unley and Prospect councils; it means that these are the forerunners of the many zebra crossings eventually to be placed in the metropolitan area. Unless we have a policy whereby motorists must stop, it will be impossible to put zebra crossings in the metropolitan area. We must have the on and off flashing lights, as on the Goodwood Road, or we must abandon zebra crossings. I bring that up for the Government to look at. The railways only pass through my district; the trains do not stop long, I am pleased to say.

Mr. Frank Walsh—A few derailments occur in that area?

Mr. DUNNAGE—Very few, considering the great number of miles traversed by the railways. I know they are unfortunate but the railways are doing as much as possible to overcome that. I hold no grudge against them on that score. I am concerned about the roads in our area, where the buses are now operating at full steam.

Mr. Fred Walsh—You have the best roads in the suburban area.

Mr. DUNNAGE—I know, because the council constructed them. I can remember vividly the Unley Road being twice renewed in my time. I can give an outstanding example with regard to the Unley Road if it is desired. The trouble in our area now is that, unfortunately, we have to maintain the main roads which run through the city of Unley with buses running on them. We have the Glen Osmond bus, the Fullarton bus, the Kingswood line, the Unley line, the Hyde Park line, the Goodwood line and the Colonel Light Gardens route, all of which we have to maintain as they run through our area more than through any other in the metropolitan area.

I should like somebody to look at Maud Street, Parkside, where buses are now running, and see how it has been broken up in the last two or three weeks. That is only one point with the buses. I have yet to find anybody who appreciates buses after the trams. When the trams were taken off and the buses came

on, it was said here that the Municipal Tramways Trust was a bankrupt organization and could not run the trams. The trust at that time was run by the council. We gave a good service even if we were bankrupt. We also satisfied the people who wanted to ride in trams; but today first of all we do not give a good service with the buses; secondly, we do not satisfy many people. Very few people to whom I have spoken are satisfied with them. Honourable members heard my question here last week. Stop after stop has been cut out and the people feel that the buses instead of being run for their convenience are run for the convenience of the buses. That is my opinion, too.

Mr. Fred Walsh—Members of your Party have an interest in the Tramways Trust, so why not get on to them?

Mr. DUNNAGE—I want them to know what I think of these things. Every metropolitan member feels as I do about the buses. It was said that the councils could not run the trams economically, but as millions of pounds have been spent on buses the present organization must be near bankruptcy. We had a special group of officials to run the bus services and to make them pay, but in the last four or five years millions of pounds have gone down the drain, and it seems that that will continue because people will not ride in buses if they have their own transport. They are not run to suit the passengers. A bus used to stop at my corner, but now it goes on another hundred yards. It also used to stop alongside some shop verandahs, but it now runs on to where there is no shelter within at least 75 yards. I take a dim view of the way we are treated in our area. The Government should review the position to see that a better service is given to the community. I compliment Mr. Leverington, the contractor who is pulling up the old tramlines.

Mr. Millhouse—He is a good advertisement for private enterprise.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Yes. His men are working on Unley Road now and it would be difficult to find more efficient workers and organization. I have heard no complaints from people living near where they are working.

Mr. Fred Walsh—Aren't they under direct instructions from the trust?

Mr. DUNNAGE—Mr. Leverington is a contractor and I would say there are no instructions from the trust, except as to which lines are to be pulled up. The work is well organized.

Last week I raised the matter of water supplies in my area and received a good reply from the Minister, but he mentioned the wrong street. I referred to the street in which I was living, but he forgot that I had moved to another street. I thank him for his interest and for bringing down such a good reply. When he was Minister I approached Sir Malcolm McIntosh on many occasions about water mains. Mine is an old-established area and the mains have been down for many years. During the war they gave much trouble through bursting, but the department had difficulty in getting pipes to do the repair work. Sir Malcolm and I inspected some parts of the district and in no time the area through to Unley Park had new mains, and I thank him for it. We had a 4ft. main running from Happy Valley through Unley, and the volume of water caused the bursting. The same thing is happening now on the eastern side of Unley Road. In my street I have counted 22 places where breaks have occurred and repair work has been done. If the main had been pulled up in the first place and a new one put down much expense would have been saved. I ask the Government to examine the matter and, if nothing more constructive can be done, have a maintenance gang continually on replacement work. At the moment I can think of nothing more constructive than that.

It is heartening to know that our metropolitan reservoirs are almost full and that we are assured of water for a year or two. During the last 18 months the Government has done a good job in pumping water from the River Murray to the city. If nothing else has been done by our Premier, the Mannum pipeline must stand as a monument to his work, of which the State must be proud. I remember the Prime Minister saying on one occasion in Adelaide that every morning the people of South Australia ought to thank the Lord for Tom Playford. Every working man in this State ought to do just that, when he remembers the Mannum pipeline, the new steelworks, the new oil refinery, Radium Hill, Leigh Creek, Port Augusta electricity stations and the Mount Gambier sawmill. From one end of the State to the other we see signs of the progress brought about by our capable leader and a Government that stands loyally behind him. Every member of it supports the Premier. If the Leader of the Opposition ever becomes Premier I hope someone will be able to say the same about him. I cannot speak highly

enough of the work of the Premier and his Government. Of course, the Premier has slipped at times, because he is far from perfect. Just have a look at him. When I look across the Chamber at members on the other side I can see how Nature has slipped badly. We have in Sir Thomas Playford a great man in the community and every member here must be delighted to say that.

The Government did not think much of my suggestion about fruit picked in the fruit-fly campaign, but I have a suggestion to make about the proposed new oil refinery. The Government has already purchased about 2,000 acres of land for a new town near where the oil refinery will be established. I hope that in time this area will be bigger than Elizabeth. With our rapid industrial development there will be fewer open spaces and I have given much thought to ways and means of developing our broad acres in the Noarlunga region.

The Onkaparinga river enters the sea at Port Noarlunga through a narrow outlet and with the expenditure of a few hundred thousand pounds that outlet could be blocked, damming the water and creating an inland lake of fresh water stretching back as far as Noarlunga. At present a good road exists on the northern side of the river and when this lake is formed another road could be constructed on the southern side. The Government could purchase most of the land in the vicinity of such a lake for a comparatively small expenditure—possibly £500 an acre—and when the area is fully developed could resell the land at £500 a quarter acre to the general public. The money gained from these sales would finance all the work necessary in damming the river, building roads, providing flood gates and a lock to enable the passage of boats from the lake through to the sea. A study of the American business world at present reveals that there is a big demand for pleasure boats of all description. Thousands are being sold annually and I suggest that within five years our motor companies will be retailing motor boats. By purchasing all the land in this area the Government could make sufficient profit to finance the work.

Mr. Jenkins—Large acreages would be inundated.

Mr. DUNNAGE—But a great area would still be available for development.

Mr. John Clark—Have you seen that river in flood?

Mr. DUNNAGE—Yes, but flood gates could be provided to dispose of the surplus water and locks would enable boats to pass through to the sea.

Mr. John Clark—Locks are not cheap.

Mr. DUNNAGE—I am telling members how the Government could make a million pounds. This is quite a feasible suggestion.

Mr. Fred Walsh—I hope the Premier is listening.

Mr. DUNNAGE—I hope so, too, because anyone who examines the situation can see its possibilities. Land is selling at Port Noarlunga and Christies Beach for £400 or £500 a block and the Government could purchase the land in this area quite cheaply.

Mr. Quirke—It will be twice as dear tomorrow morning.

Mr. DUNNAGE—In the area there are broad acres waiting to be taken over and if this Government does not do it some other Government will in years to come. A huge inland lake would attract thousands of people to the area which is only 18 miles from the city and only half an hour away by motor. In 10 years' time houses will stretch all the way from Adelaide to Christies Beach. An inland lake would be a great asset to the area. We have nothing like it except the lakes at the Murray mouth which are too far from the city. This is a golden opportunity for the Government to do something worth while in developing that area. This State will develop more rapidly in the next 20 years than in the last 20. Even the last war did not stop our development.

Mr. O'Halloran—It reduced the development of South Australia.

Mr. DUNNAGE—How can the Leader say that when we consider all the industrial development that has taken place during and since the war. Munitions works were established at Smithfield, near Elizabeth, and Whyalla was developed during the war.

Mr. O'Halloran—Your Government didn't do it: the Federal Government did it.

Mr. DUNNAGE—What's the difference?

Mr. O'Halloran—There is a great difference.

Mr. DUNNAGE—The South Australian people had to pay for it.

Mr. O'Halloran—Australians had to pay for it.

Mr. DUNNAGE—If my suggestion were adopted the area could be developed and in such a way that it would pay for itself.

Mr. Fred Walsh—That would be State enterprise.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Nobody else would do it.

Mr. Fred Walsh—But you do not subscribe to that: it is not your Party's policy.

Mr. DUNNAGE—The area would be developed by the Government and the land would be sold back to the people.

Mr. Fred Walsh—And the Government would make a cop.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Yes. It would pay for itself. When the oil refinery and its ancillary works are established we will require development in that area and this is a golden opportunity for the Government. If the Government buys the land now it won't be able to say, as is said about providing a second belt of parklands, "But the land is too dear and money too short." The land there is not too dear. It is available for purchase and this work could be done without any trouble. I know that it would take a lot more money than the Government has and that it is short of money because of the fast development of the State. I hope that in one sense we will always be short of money if it is because every penny that can be spared is used to develop the State. Although the Minister of Education was allotted about £7,000,000 last year, he may need £10,000,000 this year, and the amount will increase yearly, proving that the State is developing rapidly. The same applies to other Ministers. I wish the Minister of Works could get a few more millions, especially when I compare the paltry amounts allotted to the State with the tremendous work his department is doing. I am amazed at the amount of work it does in the circumstances. I could criticize the Minister of Education without any trouble, but he is in a difficult position because the State is developing so much. I read with awe the other day that it was proposed to erect a new primary school at Mount Gambier costing £116,000, because such an amount has never been spent in my district while I have been a member. If the Government spent £20,000 there I would be very happy, but I cannot even get that. Mount Gambier is one of those decentralized places which is to get a new primary school for the sons and daughters of the workers and it is to be built by a Liberal Government.

Mr. Fred Walsh—Who planted the pine forests?

Mr. DUNNAGE—Jack Gunn didn't, anyway. He only had something to do with it. The reason why my district has to go without everything is that the State is developing on every hand.



Mr. John Clark—It needs good representation!

Mr. DUNNAGE—I congratulate the Minister of Education on what he has done with the amount of money at his disposal. He could do a far better job if he had more. I hope the member for Burra, Mr. Quirke, will tell the House how to get that money. I heard the Leader of the Opposition say that we could use bank credit, adding that we used it during the war and could use it now. I trust that Mr. Quirke will tell us how to get this money because one of these days we may be using it. Metropolitan members get more housing problems than any country member could possibly imagine.

Mr. John Clark—Don't you believe it.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Last week I was approached by five people who had been evicted from their homes. I appeal to the Government to build more homes for elderly

couples. The position is most distressing. I know one person who has lived in a house for about 30 years and is to be evicted and has nowhere to go. I should like the Government to divert some of its funds for the accommodation of these people, because it is sadly needed. I know the Government is doing what it can in the circumstances, but if a few more hundred thousand pounds could be allocated for housing it would be a great thing for South Australia. I congratulate the Premier on his continuation in office and on the work he has done, and hope that for many years more the State will have the pleasure of having Tom Playford as its Premier.

Mr. QUIRKE secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.57 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, August 13, at 2 p.m.