

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**Thursday, August 28, 1958.**

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

COUNTRY HOUSING BILL.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, by message, recommended to the House the appropriation of such amounts of the general revenue of the State as were required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

QUESTIONS.**RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' LEAVE.**

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I have received the following letter from the Acting Secretary of the Australian Railways Union:—

I have been instructed to request that you be good enough to arrange with the Minister of Railways to receive a deputation from this union in order to discuss the practice recently instituted by the Railways Department of rostering guards at Mile End to commence and finish their annual leave in the middle of the week. It has always been the practice previously to commence annual leave at the beginning of the week thereby giving the employee the benefit of the weekend. There were odd occasions when, by mutual agreement, the leave was commenced during the week. Trusting you will be able to arrange this deputation.

I discussed this matter with the Acting Secretary, Mr. Quigley, and suggested it might be wiser to ask a question of the Minister in order to get some clarification of the position before requesting a deputation. Will the Minister of Works submit this matter to his colleague to try to get the position clarified, and particularly to ascertain whether the practice of rostering employees for leave at the beginning of the week should be reverted to?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will refer the matter to my colleague.

ATOMIC POWER STATION FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Mr. KING—It has been reported in the press recently that a committee comprising Federal members of Parliament has recommended that an atomic power station should be established in South Australia, and the River Murray area has been mentioned as a suitable location. In view of this report and the fact that the power consumption on the river is about 10,000 kilowatts daily, has the Premier anything to report to the House, and does he think that this would be a suitable location?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Another honourable member raised the same question regarding another location and I can give the honourable member only the same reply now, namely, that this matter has been mentioned by a sub-committee of which Mr. Wentworth, M.H.R. is chairman, and which has advocated that a station should be established in South Australia. My Government has been asked whether it would be prepared to purchase the electricity developed in the event of such a station being established, and I have replied in the affirmative. I emphasize that this committee is not in point of fact acting directly on behalf of the Commonwealth Government. I understand it was appointed by the Liberal Party rather than by the Government, and as yet has no official support from the Government itself. I do not want to go into the question of location, as I am not sufficiently well informed. However, I fancy that almost any location would be suitable in South Australia where ample water is available.

MARION ROAD RECONSTRUCTION.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—In connection with the reconstruction and widening of the Marion Road and the removal of electric light poles to a new alignment, will the Minister of Works ascertain from his colleague the Minister of Roads whether this work will be done by the Electricity Trust at its cost, or would the Highways Department or the local council be responsible for meeting it?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will do as the honourable member requests.

FORESTRY FIRE EQUIPMENT.

Mr. HARDING—In the Victoria electorate there are a number of sawmills and a large area of forests. I am frequently asked what equipment is available in the forests to combat bushfires. Will the Minister of Forests obtain a report?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—There have been many additions to the fire fighting equipment of the Woods and Forests Department recently and I know that it is of a high standard and that much of it is spread evenly throughout the main forest areas. I could not give further details now, but shall be glad to get a report for the honourable member and bring it down as soon as possible.

CIVIL DEFENCE.

Mr. TAPPING—In a recent issue of the magazine *Sentry Go*, Mr. A. J. Lee, State President of the Returned Soldiers League, criticized the Federal Government for not planning for the co-ordination of civil defence training. He also said that apart from the civil defence school at Mount Macedon no organization was apparent, and as far as he knew South Australia had done nothing about it. Has the Government any plans for civil defence in this State?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—We have tried to follow out what the Commonwealth desires in this matter. The honourable member knows that defence is primarily a Commonwealth responsibility and the whole matter of civil defence depends upon the scale of attack it would have to be designed to meet. I attended the school at Mount Macedon and realized that the system of civil defence depends upon the nature of the attack expected—whether that of the first or the second world war or attack by atomic weapons. No State of Australia or country in the world can adequately protect itself in civil defence matters from an atomic attack; I think that would be supported by the scientists who were in Adelaide a few days ago. The nature of such attack would make it almost impossible to make civil defence effective. It could perhaps mitigate some of the problems, but the big problem of destruction would still occur. Under those circumstances the honourable member will see that it is not possible for me to give a reply. In fact, I do not think any country has solved this problem completely, and a country that is much more prepared than Australia has said that civil defence activities would be a waste of money because they would be ineffective.

METROPOLITAN MILK SUPPLY.

Mr. HAMBOUR—On July 24 I asked the Minister of Agriculture if he would consider admitting milk supplies from the mid-north to the metropolitan market, and he promised a report. Is it now available?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I asked the chairman of the Metropolitan Milk Board for advice on several matters. His report is too long to read in full, but the relevant portion states:—

Milk from the northern areas is required for consumption within towns such as Port Pirie, Whyalla, and Port Augusta, and supplies available under existing conditions are insufficient to meet the demand. If producers in the mid-north are taken into the metropolitan

area the supply available to northern towns will be further reduced. The wholesale firm at Laura has, at times, obtained milk from a factory at Jervois and others within the board's area to assist in augmenting their supply of fresh milk, and the board does not wish to aggravate the position by further depleting the quantity available to northern towns. Careful consideration must be given to the question before any expansion of the producing area is decided upon, as under the present methods of production, although supplies during the period of low production will certainly be increased, a much larger surplus would be created during the flush period when it is not required. This would have the effect of reducing the overall returns to all producers.

In short, the Milk Board area will not be extended at present to include the area referred to.

LIBRARY BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

Mr. HUTCHENS—I appreciate that in all libraries under the control of the Minister of Education and for the use of young people an endeavour is made to see that books are available that will inculcate the highest ideals, but some parents feel that certain books available are unsuitable. I received a letter from a mother who is concerned for the welfare not only of her own child but of others. I have shown this letter to the Minister of Education, and I ask him whether he has had the remarks therein investigated and can inform the House of the outcome?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I have obtained the following report from the Principal Librarian of the Libraries Department:—

Censorship of literature is a matter for the Commonwealth Literary Censorship Board and not for the State Parliament. The two books which were the particular subject of the complaint were *The Shiralee* by D'Arcy Niland, and *Doctor at Large* by Richard Gordon. I respectfully offer the following comments. *The Shiralee* was included in the exhibition of "Best Literature Available for Children and Young People," during the recent children's book week. *The Shiralee* received unreservedly favourable reviews from all the leading book review periodicals in the English-speaking world, including the *Manchester Guardian*, *Library Journal*, *New York Times*, *Saturday Review of Literature*, and the *London Times Literary Supplement*. The *Library Journal* wrote:—

"A man's growing love for a child and the child's utter dependence on the man are beautifully depicted. The simplicity of language suggests the lean structure of the ballad; at other times it touches the philosophical truth of the fable. The ultimate result is a testimonial to the dignity of man . . . A happy reading experience recommended to all but the smallest collections."

The report continues:—

There are two copies in the Youth Lending Service, and they have been borrowed 44 times. Many parents must therefore have seen the book, yet there has never been a complaint till now. Every effort is made to keep the standard of the books chosen for the Youth Lending Service at a high level. In making the selections, the reviews in acknowledged book-review periodicals are closely studied. The language in the book is admittedly somewhat coarse in a few places but one would not expect the language of an itinerant odd-job man, when aroused, to be otherwise. The book is sincere and true to life. "Doctor at Large" also received favourable reviews in such journals as *Library Journal*, *Manchester Guardian*, *New Statesman and Nation*, *New York Times*, and *London Times Literary Supplement*. The *New York Times* wrote: "Here is British—and medical—wit at its very best." And the *Manchester Guardian*: "The reader cannot fail to be highly amused by the skilful deployment of a strong comic talent." Borrowings now total 56. No complaints have been received up till now. The two books were intended for the 16-18 year group; unfortunately these books are sometimes borrowed by younger teenagers.

The Principal Librarian concludes with general comments as follows:—

Most modern writers employ a frankness of expression that would shock an earlier generation. The "sordid and seamy side of life" is shown as being sordid and seamy, if it is a necessary part of the story, and no attempt is made to give it a false gloss. One could take exception to many of the acknowledged classics—even Shakespeare is frank, and even bawdy in places, but the plays of Shakespeare are prescribed reading for school children from the age of 14. Parts of the Bible could be described as "raw."

I agree with the comment of the principal librarian that most modern writers employ a frankness of expression that would have shocked an earlier generation. *The Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*, by Ray Lawler, recently presented at the Theatre Royal by the Australian Elizabethan Trust, and *The Shifting Heart*, by Richard Beynon, now being staged by the trust in association with the University Theatre Guild in the new Union Hall at the Adelaide University, are typical examples. Both the settings and the language employed are crude, but, in my opinion, both plays are works of great literary merit and productions of outstanding quality, as well as being typically Australian in character.

WHEAT QUALITY.

Mr. LAUCKE—For many years Australian wheats have been marked by peculiar attributes, the retention of which is of paramount importance within the framework of higher

quality protein. Can the Minister of Agriculture say what investigations are being undertaken on wheat quality; whether we are striving to maintain the essentially Australian characteristics, e.g., colour, ease of milling, and low moisture content; and whether there are terms of reference for these items to the Wheat Industry Research Committee?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—As the honourable member gave me notice of this question, I was able to get a statement prepared by the department. Briefly, I may reply to the honourable member's questions as follows:—Firstly, the report sets out in detail the investigations on wheat quality; secondly, it relates that the committee is careful to maintain Australian wheat characteristics and quality; and thirdly, the terms of reference to the Wheat Industry Research Committee are described in detail in the report. As this is a long statement and, if I tried to condense it, I would probably spoil it, I ask leave to have it incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

The report stated:—

(a) Investigation on Wheat Quality.—The following projects relating to wheat quality are now being or will shortly be undertaken in South Australia:—

1. A wheat production survey to secure information on the influence of environment and variety on the protein content and baking characteristics of grain; to obtain a running record of the grain protein content of deliveries to Wheat Board receival points; and to examine the practicability of visually assessing the grain protein content of semi-hard and hard varieties. This project is being undertaken by the Department of Agriculture.
2. Field Trials.—Department of Agriculture field trials have been in progress for many years to determine the influence of soil, climate and fertilizer treatment in the various wheat growing districts on the baking performance of new and established wheat varieties. This work is to be expanded to include up to 26 experimental sites.
3. Wheat Breeding at Roseworthy College.—The present wheat breeding programme which is based on the exclusion of all new crossbreds below a set quality standard has been in progress since the early 1930's. This is to be extended with emphasis on the various aspects of baking quality combined with yield.
4. Fundamental Studies on Wheat Quality.—The Waite Agricultural Research Institute is about to embark on basic studies of the means whereby protein is built up in the wheat grain and its relationship to the other constituents of the grain.

These projects relating to wheat quality in South Australia are being financed from the resources of the three organizations concerned, the Wheat Industry Research Committee of South Australia and the Australian Wheat Industry Research Council. Investigation of quality features has been recognized as one of the most important objectives in determining the expanded programme made possible by wheat-grower contributions and the matching contribution from the Commonwealth Government.

(b) *The Maintenance of Australian Wheat Characteristics.*—Since the early 1930's, the efforts of South Australian wheat breeders have been primarily directed towards the improvement of the baking quality of wheat varieties. All the work carried out has taken well adapted Australian varieties for its basic material and breeders have constantly kept in mind the importance of retaining the valuable Australian characteristics of whiteness and ease of milling. The low moisture content of Australian wheats is an influence of our environment rather than of the inherent nature of the varieties.

(c) *Terms of reference of the Wheat Industry Research Committee of South Australia.*—The Wheat Industry Research Committee of South Australia is advised in matters relating to the formulation of a research programme by a technical committee. This represents the research and extension organizations of South Australia in addition to two wheat-grower members. This technical committee has at its disposal the long experience of South Australian scientific workers in wheat quality experiments and constantly keeps before it the need to maintain and improve the baking quality of the wheat grown in this State. The organizations represented on the committee are aware of development in this field in overseas countries and interstate. They also maintain regular consultation with millers, bakers, and wheat growers so that their work is relevant to the needs of wheat producers, processors, and consumers.

HIRE-PURCHASE.

Mr. LOVEDAY—My question refers to an anomaly in hire-purchase business, concerning which a recent press report stated:—

The need to tighten up the legal side of hire-purchase transactions is high-lighted by the growing number of reports of people who have bought vehicles from dealers and have had them re-possessed by finance companies because the dealer could not meet his commitments to the company. In virtually all these cases the vehicles sold are held by the dealer under a "floor-plan." Part of their cost is financed by the finance company, to be recovered against their sale on cash or terms. In these cases it seems that recourse has been had to the buyer, who in good faith imagined the vehicle was his. Will the Premier say whether the Government intends to introduce an amendment to the Mercantile Law Act to prevent buyers being placed in this position and hire-purchase companies acting along these lines?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I received a letter within the past two days from the Premier of New South Wales, asking whether this State would be willing to be represented at a conference on hire-purchase matters. I have replied to Mr. Cahill to the effect that this State always makes a point of being willing to confer on any matter where it believes a useful purpose can be served; therefore that matter is likely to be discussed at an interstate conference. I do not want the honourable member to think that I am sheltering behind an interstate conference in a desire not to answer his question. Hire-purchase is today a question of great complexity, an answer to which I do not believe has yet been found. While undoubtedly great problems are involved, no-one can deny that hire-purchase has made goods and services available to people who could otherwise never have had them.

Thirdly, no-one can deny that it has not materially assisted in providing employment in our factories and industries, so that anything tending to destroy it would be detrimental to our present economy. Having said that, I will say no more than that I have informed Mr. Cahill that I should be prepared to attend a conference of the States if one was called.

TRAFFIC PROBLEMS ON MAIN NORTH ROAD.

Mr. CUMBE—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked recently relative to overcoming certain traffic problems on the Main North Road?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Minister of Roads advises me that plans for the reconstruction of this intersection are in course of preparation, and the co-operation of the Adelaide City Council has already been offered by the Lord Mayor in person in order that the design may be satisfactory to traffic not only now but for many years to come.

COMPENSATION FOR ACQUISITION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY.

Mr. JENNINGS—Has the Minister of Education any further information about the question I asked recently about the acquisition of some private property by the Town Planner?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Yes. I furnished one reply previously from the Attorney-General, but I have since had discussions with the Minister of Roads on the same subject matter. He, in turn, has discussed it with the Commissioner of Highways, who feels that he can add little to the reply

already given by me. The procedure in acquiring land for road widening through subdivision or re-subdivision of adjoining properties is as follows:—The Town Planner, who has a plan of the Metropolitan Road Widening Scheme, and who is or will be supplied with plans of other departmental widening proposals as soon as they are prepared, submits to the Highways Department plans of subdivisions (or re-subdivisions) adjacent to roads proposed to be widened. The department then notifies him of its requirements which he includes in his conditions of approval.

At first the Highways Department asked the Town Planner to rigidly enforce the provisions of the Act, but it quickly became apparent that, in some cases, particularly in small re-subdivisions, the provisions of the Act could not reasonably be enforced, and in such cases the department has agreed to the re-subdivision without requiring any land to be ceded for road widening although it will be required later. The extent to which the provisions are relaxed is a matter of Government policy, which is now being ironed out between three departments.

My colleague, the Minister for Roads, informs me that he will be pleased to discuss this specific case with the honourable member personally, when he will explain the various anomalies which arise during these transactions.

KOONIBBA MISSION SCHOOL.

Mr. BOCKELBERG—I understand that there is considerable over-crowding at the Koonibba Mission School. At present, 96 children are enrolled. Is it the intention of the Minister to assist in or do something about building an extra classroom so that these children may be better accommodated?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I am sorry to hear that there is a serious overcrowding of children at the Koonibba Mission School, and I do not doubt the accuracy of the honourable member's report. I shall be pleased to make inquiries for the purpose of remedying the overcrowding. This is the first I have heard of it, but I will take up the matter immediately, and I may enlist the services of my colleague, the Minister of Works.

SOLOMONTOWN EMBANKMENT.

Mr. DAVIS—Has the Premier received a report from the Harbors Board about repairs to the wall at Solomontown Beach?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes, and it gave me considerable concern because it

was to the effect that a large expenditure would be involved in making the repairs the honourable member's committee desires. The report said it would be necessary to sheetpile the whole length of the embankment, which would be very costly. I have sent the report back to the board asking whether there would not be a good chance of success if the area in which the repairs were made were sheetpiled to enable the repairs to be carried out. I inspected the embankment myself and thought if the repairs had been satisfactorily made the rest of the embankment probably would have stood up in a satisfactory manner. The matter is now before the board in connection with that inquiry.

MYPOLONGA WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. BYWATERS—Has the Minister of Lands any further information regarding the domestic water supply for the Mypolonga area?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—In the last two or three days a report came from the Engineer for Irrigation with a plan and estimate of costs, but the department has sent it back to the engineer for further information, and as soon as it is available I will advise the honourable member.

FREE MILK FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Mr. STEPHENS—Will the Premier ascertain from the Federal Government what has been the cost to the Federal Government of the supply of milk to school children in South Australia?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will seek that information for the honourable member.

DAMAGE TO RED GUMS BY INSECTS.

Mr. QUIRKE—Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to the question I asked recently about an aphid infection that is now rampant in red gums?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I have a report on this matter from the Waite Institute, but it is too long to read in full. I shall, however, make brief comments on it and furnish the honourable member with the report for examination afterwards. It is assumed that the pest is of the family Psyllidae—"lerp insects," or "fire-blast insects." They are sap-sucking insects allied to aphids. Their attacks on eucalypts were well known to the aborigines who used the sugary lerps as food and attacks have been recorded by white men since the colony of New South Wales was

founded. The intensity of attack varies greatly from year to year, infestations being most evident after prolonged spells of dry weather when the trees are struggling to obtain sufficient water and the removal of sap by the insects brings about the characteristic "fire-blast" effects and consequent defoliation.

Before white settlement, some control over psyllid numbers was exercised by native insect parasites, as it still is in the few small remaining areas of virgin country. The progress of agriculture, by destroying native flowering plants whose nectar provides food for adult parasites, has greatly reduced the numbers of the latter. This is the chief reason why attacks are most severe on eucalypts growing in agricultural areas. It should be pointed out that there is no record of the trees having been killed by psyllid attack alone. A strong growing tree recovers when ample water again becomes available. All the evidence suggests that any tree apparently killed by psyllids was in an unhealthy state, and would have died in the absence of the insects which, at most, hastened its end.

ASSIMILATION OF ABORIGINES.

Mr. DUNSTAN—I was interested to see in the press recently a statement by the Attorney-General to the effect that he had had discussions with Mr. Neilson, of Point Pearce, and that his plan for the assimilation of aborigines from Point Pearce was being put into effect by the department. I am concerned about this matter and draw the attention of the Minister of Works to the fact that a native, Fred Graham, of Point Pearce, applied some time ago for the assistance of the Aborigines Department in obtaining for him a house at Penola where work was available for him and where the local people desired him to go. They were prepared to assist him in assimilation. I think the department has purchased a block of land in that area as there is no house available, and there is no indication yet when Graham will be able to go there under the assimilation programme. In addition, three other members of the Point Pearce community—Cecil Graham and another of the Grahams, and Ralph Buckskin—also applied to go to Penola, where work is available for them. So far it seems that no action has been taken by the department in this matter, and I ask the Minister whether he will have investigations made with a view to speeding up this proposal.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Cabinet is continually giving approval for the building of

houses for aborigines in various towns throughout the State. I am not sure of the exact number from memory, but I know that several have been approved for South-Eastern towns, though I am not sure whether Penola was one place. In the last couple of weeks we have given approval for houses to be built in South-Eastern towns, and I shall have to refresh my memory on the names of the people concerned. It could be that the family the honourable member has mentioned are among them, but I will ascertain that information. On the matter of general policy and the implementation of the proposals to which the honourable member referred, I assure him that whenever the board puts up a request for a house to be provided for natives whom it recommends, sympathetic consideration is given to the request, and quite a number of houses are being built all the time.

DEPOSITS ON HOUSING TRUST HOMES.

Mr. RALSTON—Last week I asked a question of the Premier relating to the deposit necessary on Housing Trust homes in Mount Gambier, and I have since considered his reply. Inquiry has shown that there are a number of trust homes now completed and available for purchase. Can the Premier say whether the trust will advance money on second mortgage to people desirous of buying a home at Mount Gambier but have not the necessary capital to meet the deposit at present required? I have in mind young couples of limited means who wish to acquire a home of their own.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—For a number of years the Housing Trust has been making money available on second mortgage to assist in the purchase of homes, and as far as I know it is still doing that. When the new legislation foreshadowed in the Loan Estimates comes down I believe it will not be necessary for the Housing Trust to make second mortgage money available. In fact, the whole thing will fall to the ground if the trust has to make it available, because that will seriously impair the trust's ability to build. If the honourable member will let me have the circumstances of the family I will get more precise information.

"FILLED MILK."

Mr. HAMBOUR—I believe that America and New Zealand are producing an article called "Filled Milk" and exporting it at a lower price than the natural product. It is

milk where the animal fat has been removed and vegetable oil substituted. Will the Minister of Agriculture investigate the effect the product will have on our dairying industry?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—The matter is being investigated. The department has been studying it for some time and it will be discussed at the next meeting of the Agricultural Council. "Filled Milk" has been known for a long time in many other countries. The United States of America and England both produce it and, as the honourable member says, it is milk with all solids not fat left in but with the butterfat removed and replaced with vegetable oil. As soon as I have anything more to report I shall let the honourable member know.

MOUNT BURR HALL.

Mr. CORCORAN—I have received the following letter from the secretary of the Mount Burr Hall and Sportsground Committee:—

We would like to appeal to you once again to see if you can find out when we are likely to get our new hall. As you know, Mount Burr is one of the prettiest places in the South-East and the outdated, drab, draughty, dilapidated hall does nothing to improve the look of the place. So far all we have had are promises and plans shown to us, but as you know plans and promises are not bricks and mortar, and we are still left with this old wooden building which, though it served its purpose in the past, has with the growth of Mount Burr become inadequate. Also, the state of the interior leaves much to be desired when one realizes the hall is the main community centre. The abovenamed committee have a sum of money set aside for new seating for the cinema and we do not wish to lay out what to us would be a large sum of money on fittings which may be inadequate for the new building. We look to you, Mr. Corcoran, for your utmost assistance in putting our case for a new hall to the appropriate authorities, as we think it is high time that we learned something definite.

According to the Loan Estimates the sum of £12,000 is to be provided. Will the Minister of Agriculture tell me whether it will be devoted towards the building of the new hall?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I do not know the position because it has not been brought to my close attention. I do not know if the Government is committed to build all the hall or whether an effort is to be made by the community. I am unaware of the whole story but I will be happy to get a report and let the honourable member have it. At the moment I do not know the Government's full responsibility in the matter.

HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL BENEFITS ORGANIZATIONS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—In view of the fact that certain companies whose financial status seems to be in question, and who have been trading in connection with medical and hospital benefits, are not registered as approved organizations by the Commonwealth, will the Minister of Education ascertain from the Attorney-General if any of them were registered under the Commonwealth Life Act, 1945?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I will be pleased to get the information from the Attorney-General, or the appropriate Minister or officer, and I hope to be able to give a reply on Tuesday next.

BEAUTIFICATION OF HIGHWAYS.

Mr. LAUCKE—Has the Minister of Works obtained a reply from the Minister of Roads following on the question I asked recently about the planting of trees along major highways in the interests of beautification and to afford wind breaks in country areas?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Minister of Roads has supplied the following report:—

The Commissioner of Highways reports that after constructing a road his department takes over the pavement and structures for maintenance purposes, the remainder of the reserve being under the care and control of the local authority. The Local Government Act provides for the establishment of a "tree planting fund" by local authorities into which certain reserves must be paid for the express purpose of planting and maintaining trees on roadsides. In many parts of the State local authorities have embarked on a programme of tree planting with pleasing results. Generally, therefore, the planting of avenues of trees as suggested by the honourable member should be the responsibility of the local government authority.

COOBER PEDY SCHOOL.

Mr. LOVEDAY—For a considerable time at Coober Pedy a number of aboriginal children, half-castes and others have received no education at all, and in some cases the parents have evinced a desire for the education to be provided. Other children in the neighbourhood are probably receiving correspondence education. Will the Minister of Education investigate the position to ascertain whether it is practicable and desirable to establish a school in the area to provide education for all these children?

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

MILK PRICES.

Mr. BYWATERS—Is the Premier, as Prices Minister, aware of the recent drop in the price of milk of 3d. a pound butterweight content and can he indicate whether this will be passed on to the consumer?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—This drop in price is associated with the overseas sales of butter. I do not think there has been any decrease in the price of milk in the metropolitan area or in the price paid to dairymen supplying wholemilk to the metropolitan area.

RAILWAY OFFICERS' APPEALS.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I understand the Minister of Works has some information concerning a question I asked recently regarding railway officers' appeals.

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

The Railways Commissioner reports that he had discussions upon the matters mentioned by the honourable member with a deputation from the Trades and Labour Council on June 5, 1958 and with officials of the Australian Railways Union and the Australian Federated Unions of Locomotive Enginemen on the 26th of that month. The Commissioner does not recollect having had any other discussions with the unions on these two subjects, nor is he aware that the unions intend seeking further discussions with him in the future.

WARNING LIGHTS ON STATIONARY VEHICLES.

Mr. KING—In view of the number of accidents that have happened recently—one was reported in yesterday's press—through vehicles running into the backs of stationary vehicles, can the Premier say whether the question of providing warning devices on parked cars, trucks and semi-trailers during the day and night has been discussed by the State Traffic Committee and, if not, will he obtain a report on this matter as soon as possible?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I know that the Minister of Roads has been fairly active in this matter and I will obtain a reply for the honourable member.

EDWARDSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked recently concerning the sealing of the Edwardstown primary school yard?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The Architect-in-Chief's department advises that the work will commence in approximately six weeks' time and that it should be completed within six weeks of the date of commencement.

RETIREMENT OF ASSISTANT LEADER HANSARD STAFF.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition)—Before discussing the Oil Refinery Indenture Bill, now before the House, there is another matter, not related to the Bill, to which I desire to refer briefly. I understand that this is the last occasion on which the Assistant Leader of the *Hansard* staff, Mr. Eric White, will be associated with the reporting of our proceedings. I express my appreciation of the manner in which he, firstly as a reporter, and latterly as Assistant Leader, has ensured that the remarks of members—and particularly of myself—have been accurately recorded. On the eve of his retirement I publicly express my appreciation of Eric's work.

Mr. SHANNON (Onkaparinga)—I support the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition. I regret that we have to lose such an old friend. In my experience of Parliament, extending over a long period, Mr. White has always been able to make my speeches readily understandable. He has interpreted my unusual method of speech in such a manner that readers of *Hansard* have been able to appreciate what I have been saying, and I am grateful to him for that service. The *Hansard* boys, generally speaking, have a difficult task to perform. I regret that old Father Time comes along and says, "It is your turn to make way for a successor." Fortunately for members of Parliament, Father Time exercises no such power over us. We have a much more savage master who decides through the ballot box whether or not we shall continue in service; but in Government departments the retiring age is arbitrary and it is now Eric's time to retire. I have sometimes referred to my old friend as Lazarus, who was raised from the dead. Eric has not actually been raised from the dead but once or twice he has been raised from the near dead and each time has returned smiling. Those who know him appreciate all that he has done for *Hansard* and consequently for members of Parliament.

OIL REFINERY (HUNDRED OF NOARLUNGA) INDENTURE BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 26. Page 532.)

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition)—I do not propose to occupy much time in discussing this Bill. I agree with its broad general principles as explained by the Premier. As it has to be referred to a Select Committee

I can see no reason for devoting much time to the details set forth in the agreement which forms the indenture, because no doubt that committee will carefully investigate all matters and if there are any to which the attention of the House should be drawn no doubt that will be done.

I believed that it would be of great advantage to the State and to Wallaroo if the oil refinery could have been established at or near that centre, but following on the Premier's explanation I am satisfied that no other site could have been selected and I have no further qualms in that regard. I believe the establishment of the refinery will bring many advantages to the State and the Opposition, with its usual desire to co-operate with the Government in moves of this nature that benefit the State, does not desire to impede the passage of the Bill. I support the Bill.

Mr. SHANNON (Onkaparinga)—It would be unfair if members did not give the Premier full marks for securing this important oil refinery for South Australia. We did have some luck in that our coastline is sufficiently near to a dense population to provide the operatives of this undertaking with an adequate water depth to accommodate the ships now being envisaged for the transport of crude oil from its source of supply to the refineries. We are happier than our neighbours to the east and the west in being able to provide accommodation for such ships as may in the later stages of the development of this industry be in operation. The sea in the vicinity of Halletts Cove is sufficiently undisturbed. It may get savage on occasions, but usually conditions in the Gulf suit this type of ship movement, although if a storm arises occasionally movement of oil to the refinery may be delayed. These are factors which the company obviously took into account, and then decided that the advantages far outweighed the disadvantages.

We would be lacking in our appreciation of the vision of those on the Treasury benches, headed by our worthy Premier, if we did not fully realize that the Premier knew that if South Australia secured the establishment of an oil refinery allied industries would be established adjacent to it. Had he not had that vision, possibly subsidiary industries which would want to establish in proximity to the source of the materials they require could be seriously embarrassed. These materials would include wastes from the refinery. In this instance we are dealing with one of the big oil companies of the world, and it would have

been easy for the Government to say "You can establish your industry in our State" and let it go at that, but that is not an orderly way to handle such a matter. I am proud that the Government has handled this matter in an orderly manner, which will result in the development not only of the refinery, but also that of ancillaries which will follow, thus enabling South Australia to reap the maximum benefit.

Only yesterday, when speaking on the Loan Estimates, the Leader of the Opposition had a word or two to say about overseas capitalists who were invading this lovely country, bringing their capital in and exploiting certain industries for their own profit and benefit, disregarding our welfare.

Mr. O'Halloran—You might quote me accurately.

Mr. SHANNON—I think I am giving a pretty fair interpretation of what the honourable member said, because I listened to him with some interest when he was talking about certain major industries. Possibly Holdens was one he had in mind: during his speech I mentioned Holdens and their activities at Elizabeth. I gathered that he thought that these industries were more concerned with their own material profits, which they remitted to their shareholders overseas, than with giving service to the country of their adoption.

Mr. O'Halloran—I made no such suggestion. I pointed out what would be the economic impact.

Mr. SHANNON—I may be wrong. In this morning's press I read a report of the honourable member's remarks, and I suggest that he correct it if it misinterpreted his remarks. I do not think it did. I thought he was rather suggesting that we at this stage were overdoing the encouragement of overseas capital to come to Australia to develop industries which, he suggested, was for the benefit of shareholders overseas rather than for the benefit of Australia; but if we did not get overseas capital for the establishment of industries such as we are now discussing, it would be a very long time before our small Australian community could afford to find the capital necessary for such a huge undertaking. We would all like to see more done in providing houses, hospitals, schools and so on, but this would keep us very busy if we had to find the finance from our loan funds. It would be beyond our financial capacity to expand in the field envisaged by the establishment of an oil refinery. That is well known and understood. Our economy will be enlarged as the result of

overseas capital investment. Undoubtedly the stability that Australia has achieved since the war in the industrial field, and its ability to finance its affairs from its own resources, have encouraged overseas capitalists to think that Australia must be a good field in which to invest some of their surplus funds. In the past we have discouraged this trend of overseas investment by our own profligacy and inveterate desire to have everything supplied on a plate without making an effort to do anything ourselves. One of the fundamentals in the development of a young country is that capital is so invested that it receives a reasonable return and that service is provided to the community as a result. I believe people overseas with funds to invest believe that that is the policy that has been pursued in Australia over the last decade, and this is one of the reasons why we have had no difficulty in encouraging investors to come to us. It is one of the reasons why we agreed to the Premier's recent rush trip to the United States to talk with people with money to invest and see if some of them would come to Australia and help us to expand our economy and build a more balanced economy for our primary producers.

Primary producers in this State are under a misapprehension that I, who represent an area in which there are many primary producers, would like to right. They believe that we are overdoing the establishment of secondary industries, but I ask them to consider that we are giving them a home market, which is much better than any overseas market could be. With an assured home market they do not have to bother about competing with people who can market wheat in the United Kingdom for half the price that they can grow it. Marketing within our own shores is carried out in such a way that the producers of foodstuffs, clothing materials and other products receive a return based upon cost of production. This gives the man producing from the land some real stability and enables him to decide what his future programme will be. This applies to everyone, of course, because the employee is just as dependent on such things as the employer, as wages are based on the cost structure.

I have read through the schedule of the Bill, and although I have little legal knowledge, I do not think this House need worry very much, because this matter will be referred to a Select Committee that will have every chance to consider legal matters. However, the major factors that form the basis of the agreement—the various things the State will have to do

and the obligations it will have to enter into compared with what the company will have to agree to—appear to me to be fundamentally fair. I cannot find anything to cavil at in the agreement, which appears to be eminently fair. In fact, I believe that the company, which consists of good business people, has not laid down any unnecessarily harsh conditions; I believe it is very happy to come here. It is a two-way programme, as the company obviously has something to offer that we are very happy to accept, and on the other hand I think we have something to offer it. I think the agreement is based on an attitude of give and take, as the company is not expected to shoulder greater obligations than the privileges it expects to get. I am happy to support the second reading.

Bill read a second time and referred to a Select Committee consisting of Sir Thomas Playford and Messrs. Frank Walsh, Riches, Heaslip, and Geoffrey Clarke; the Committee to have power to send for persons, papers and records, and to report on Tuesday, September 16.

LOAN ESTIMATES.

In Committee.

(Continued from August 27. Page 582.)

Grand total, £26,722,000.

Mr. JENNINGS (Enfield)—I feel I need not be other than mercifully brief in my remarks. The member for Light (Mr. Hambour), who immediately preceded me, commenced his remarks with charming and characteristic relevancy when he sought to take the House immediately into an excursion into the realms of ornithology, talking about red parakeets.

Mr. John Clark—Did he talk about galahs?

Mr. JENNINGS—I am now prompted to say that I will not join in this bird watching expedition, otherwise I might talk about galahs or perhaps cuckoos: that would be rather irresistible. The only other point I found in his remarks was his criticism of the running of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It is rather interesting that he, who so frequently attacks members on this side of the House for exercising their democratic rights in criticizing the Government, should criticize the Government of which he is a supporter. I do not think the criticism in this regard was quite justified unless, that is, we believe in a parsimonious attitude in running our hospitals and deny proper care and attention to the people confined in them. I do not want anyone

to consider that in saying this I am condoning any inefficiency or waste of public money—quite the contrary—but we have no reason to believe that the honourable member's criticisms are justified, as I have absolute confidence in the doctors and nurses who play such a large part in ministering to the sick in our public hospitals.

The member for Light on several occasions in his memorable speech was so rash as to remark on the policy of the Labor Party and to deny that we believe in the rights of private property. This is just another example of the peculiar remarks that have emanated recently from members opposite in regard to the Opposition's policy—this recent evincing of great interest in the affairs of the Labor Party.

Mr. Lawn—They feel they are on the way out.

Mr. JENNINGS—One would think so. I believe most members definitely gained the impression from recent remarks of members opposite that the Government and its supporters, particularly those who feel in rather a delicate position in the districts they represent, are panicky, and I think that is reflected in their completely irresponsible and unsubstantiated arguments.

Mr. Hambour—Were you uncomfortable?

Mr. JENNINGS—Yes, but mainly because I found it rather difficult to follow the honourable member—and not from lack of perception, either. One moment we hear from the gentlemen opposite that they do not know and cannot find out what the policy of the Labor Party is, and in the next breath they tell us just what our policy is and what it is not.

Mr. Hambour—Do you know?

Mr. JENNINGS—The attitude of members opposite is strangely illogical. They know more about the Opposition's policy than we do at one moment, and in the next they tell us that no one knows what it is and no one can find out. Let me put the honourable member right with regard to his allegation about our non-respect for the rights of private property. I assure the honourable member, if he needs that assurance—for I think his remarks may have been dictated by political considerations rather than genuine beliefs—that we on this side are devoted believers in and supporters of the rights of private property, but the distinction between us and members opposite is that we have bothered to inform ourselves on what is genuine private property and what is the property of the community and society at large. We always

support the rights of private property, but we do not think that God-given natural resources should be exploited by private persons for private gain. That is where we differ from honourable gentlemen opposite.

The member for Chaffey (Mr. King) entered this debate. I was astonished to find that in speaking first on the Government side after the Premier the honourable member was assuming the mantle of the economic panjandrum of the Liberal Party. He indulged himself a little, too, in the currently favourite practice of referring to the policy of the Liberal Party. He did this in an over-studied, inaccurate and pathetically unhumorous way which I do not think impressed anybody on either side of the House.

Mr. John Clark—Except himself.

Mr. JENNINGS—That may be so, although perhaps he even had second thoughts about that. I think what I said about the member for Light in regard to knowing our policy one minute and denying that he knew it the next may equally apply to some of the things the member for Chaffey said. He claimed that the Government did not know what the policy of the Labor Party was because no one had told the Government what it was. I ask the honourable member to listen to what is said in regard to our beliefs on another matter that is to be introduced into this House, and he will hear our policy authoritatively, lucidly and interestingly explained by the Leader of the Opposition and other members on this side. If that does not properly inform his mind that is not our fault: he cannot very well blame us for his lack of understanding. I will give the House the opportunity of re-hearing the noble sentiments expressed by the member for Chaffey—not because of their intrinsic merit but for the pleasure it will give members. Referring to the Labor Party, he said:—

They do not create anything; they try to take it over and then destroy it.

We now come to what is probably the most classic example of mixed metaphors it has ever been the privilege of this or any other Parliament to hear:

If the Labor Party took over here they would kill the goose that has been bred by the L.C.L. to lay the golden eggs. They would then scramble the eggs—

Scrambling golden eggs! I should think that is something without much future in it—

and would soon be reduced to eating their own words to eke out a starvation diet.

Mr. Lawn—Why don't they eat the scrambled eggs?

Mr. JENNINGS—I don't know; they may have finished them. I think we can now well afford to leave the honourable member to his own discomfiture. I will refer in brief to some recent remarks on another debate, in answer to the remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition in this debate, by the member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Shannon). I do not particularly care what construction the member for Onkaparinga chooses, for reasons best known to himself, to put on the words of our Leader, but all the Leader said was that we were importing industries here and a great deal of the benefit by way of profit and so on was being exported from this country. Nobody can deny that. Probably it could easily be shown that in many instances we could, if we used national credit, finance these industries ourselves without importing overseas capital, but in none of our public utterances have we ever opposed this importation of foreign capital for the development of the country. I think somebody from the other side of the House interjected during the Leader's speech—

Mr. Hambour—Do you remember the Leader saying: "Bringing industries here to fleece the worker"?

Mr. JENNINGS—I heard him say that, but what he was obviously implying was that the profits being made by these companies were out of all relationship to their capital investment and that, if the workers who were creating all the wealth received their proper share of it, the company's profits would be much less or the people in the community would be able to enjoy cheaper motor cars. I do not intend to speak at length on the Loan programme, for I always believe this is one of the most unsatisfactory debates we have in this Parliament: we have no control over the loans approved by the Loan Council; all the Government does is to distribute the money.

Although it may be easy to say that I should have a new school somewhere in my district, I know that by saying that I may be depriving a colleague of getting a new school in his district. There is not much scope for a discussion of policy in this debate: it is a matter of bookkeeping. The money collected in revenue is distributed by the Treasurer in what he considers to be the best and fairest way. Indeed, the debate is made even more unrealistic by the fact that, even though we go through the Estimates thoroughly and approve or disapprove certain expenditure, we find out next year that the money has been spent in some other way, as the Treasurer is permitted to spend it.

Much has been said about the amount available for housing this year, but from my quick mental calculation it is apparent that we can only expect 3,000 homes to be built, which is slightly fewer than the reduced number last year—and this at a time when our population is increasing tremendously. Therefore, the dismal picture of homelessness in this State, which has worsened progressively over the past five or six years will not improve during this financial year.

I now refer to one or two matters concerning my district. I have pleaded again and again, as have my predecessors before me, for the Government to shift the sewage farm from Islington, and the Government has made certain promises over the last 20 years. In that area good land is being used for purposes that are offensive to residents of the district. Indeed, the aroma emanating from the farm is unpleasant to people living within a distance of the place. In any case, I believe the Government has acknowledged that the farm must be shifted and other means adopted sooner or later to treat sewage. Once more I implore the Government to investigate this problem so that some plan may be adopted to relieve local residents of this nuisance.

There is an urgent need for a public hospital in our northern suburbs, the population of which over the past four or five years has increased tremendously, almost incredibly. The only hospital in that area is a brave, but inadequate, community hospital at Nailsworth. The needs of the community generally have not been met over the past few years by the Royal Adelaide Hospital, nor are they being met even with the new hospital at Woodville. True, a hospital is being erected at Elizabeth, but it is suitable only for Elizabeth, Salisbury and surrounding areas. Therefore, I suggest that irrespective of what other hospital schemes are embarked on in the foreseeable future, urgent attention be given to the desirability of a public hospital in the densely populated northern suburbs.

I was pleased to read of the new schools to be built in my district. These include an infant school at Gepps Cross, a primary school at Klemzig, a technical high school at Gilles Plains, and a new high school at Campbelltown. Further, considerable additions are to be made to the Enfield high school. These are projects I have taken up with the Minister and I am glad that at least the money is to be provided for them, although I realize that merely placing a line on the Estimates does not build a school. Frequently the same amount for the

same school appears on the Estimates year after year, but at least something is accomplished by approving the money for a project in the first place, and I hope that, following on the favourable reports on these schools that were made by the Public Works Committee before these items were included in the Estimates, work will go ahead as expeditiously as the most optimistic of us can expect. With those few remarks I end my speech, but assure members that I am keeping a few interesting things for my speech on the Budget.

Mr. LAUCKE (Barossa)—My views on finance vary very much from those held by the member for Enfield (Mr. Jennings) who advocates the use of national credit to finance capital works. I believe in using money that has been made in current productive activity, whether primary or secondary industry. The dividends of industry should be used, and money borrowed from whatever source it can be in order to finance those projects that cannot be financed from current revenue. I cannot see how money can be turned out from a machine like sausages.

The most important and responsible function of the Government is to administer the finances of the State in a sound and businesslike manner based on orthodox methods of finance. The stability and confidence of the whole economic structure is engendered if sound financial principles are observed by Governments. It is evident that the financial policy of the Playford Government is dictated by the same adherence to sound business principles as any responsible citizen would apply to his own affairs, whether he is a business man or a farmer. The marked success that has attended the development of primary and secondary industry in South Australia is directly attributable to the well-considered and sound direction of this State's resources and finances. Up to June 30 last, a total of £300,413,000 has been spent *ex* loan moneys for the provision of capital assets and services essential to provide a framework of public utilities beyond the means of the individual to pay for, but which form a framework within which individuals and private enterprise can operate in the creation of a buoyant and progressive economy. I am not opposed, as has been suggested, to public utilities provided they assist in the operations of individual interests. The test for capital outlay is this: will it provide a means for the creation of further wealth?

A quick glance at the various allocations of loan funds during the last year reveals that those assets enabling wealth to be created have

received most attention. For instance, water-works and sewers of all public works had the highest figure (£57,821,000) allotted to it in the grand total to June last year. In line with this, it is the second largest allocation out of the £26,722,000 loan expenditure for the current year, namely £7,250,000. Here we have evidence of appreciation of the fact that water is of the most vital importance to any public utility. It ensures an ability to produce food and enables industry to operate, where water is so necessary as the first requirement. This Government has given and is giving water precedence over all other requirements in public utilities by virtue of the fact that £7,250,000 is allocated for water this year.

Next, we find that the Architect-in-Chief's Department, which covers hospitals and school buildings, is given an amount of £7,500,000. I am happy at the number of prefabricated rooms being provided to meet the rising demand in schools. These rooms are excellent additions to any school buildings; they are comfortable and well lit, and I feel that they are not only a temporary condition but will be permanent assets.

The next highest utility for allocation is the railways, which receive £2,500,000. The total capital cost of those railways, £49,000,000, is money well invested. There is so often criticism of the railways that little thought is given to the assistance rendered to the State generally enabling goods to be freighted over long distances for the benefit of outside areas. The indirect benefits of a good railway system are so great that we would not be in our present position as a State were it not for our railways.

The question may be asked: Where does all this money come from that we have to spend this year? We are laying out £26,750,000 on capital works. It is basically derived from our primary economy. I stress that good old Mother Earth is of the highest importance to our progress. We are passing through a most interesting and vitally important phase in the development of our country. It is a transitional stage from a major emphasis on primary production to a rising complementary economy as between primary and secondary industries. Our secondary industry potential is high, and I am pleased to note this: In studying the economic history of the nations of the world, I find it is evident that, where a balance between primary and secondary industries has been achieved, high and permanent living standards have been ensured, and an ability to weather economic storms has been

the invariable result. I have in mind for instance New Zealand's economy, which is based almost exclusively on primary production. The chill winds were promptly felt there recently through a decline in wool, meat and butter prices. There had to be a hurried application to Australia for financial support. It is only by a balanced economy as between primary and secondary industry that stability can be achieved. So I acknowledge freely the vital role that secondary industry plays in the overall economy.

The farmer is the key man now in our economy, as he has been in the past and will be in the future. That we are fundamentally a primary producing State must never be lost sight of. It must be fully appreciated in this Assembly. This is the reason for an appreciation of this basic fact. We cannot buy capital goods or raw materials from overseas unless we have credits in overseas accounts. A quick glance at the statistics for this State, looking at the exports and imports position, reveals that South Australia in the last 10 years has done well in maintaining appreciable credit balances of trade, which are as follows:—In 1947-48 our total exports amounted to £52,900,000; our total imports were £22,953,829. That means there was £30,000,000 credit in overseas trade 10 years ago. Since then money values have decreased, but last year, 1956-57, our total exports of £122,924,000 exceeded our imports of £45,500,000 by £77,000,000. For the year ended June 30, 1958, this State had a favourable trade balance of £50,000,000, but the Commonwealth's deficiency, taking into account goods bought and sold and invisible items such as insurance, amounted to £100,000,000, so South Australia has done a remarkable job in helping to maintain overseas credits, which enable this country to purchase those things that are so necessary for its development. The purchasing power of our overseas credits enables us to build up our secondary industries and maintain employment. Our imports last year in capital equipment and raw materials accounted for 80 per cent of our total imports. If we were unable to import, through lack of overseas funds, our development would be seriously impeded and unemployment would result.

This State has played a major role in the stability of the Australian economy, and I hope we in this House will always acknowledge the high importance of our rural interests when considering any other activities. The rural and secondary industries are inter-dependent, and should not be antagonistic towards each other.

I agree with the allocations set forth in the Loan Estimates, for I believe they meet requirements in a fair and equitable way, and I commend the Government for the way the Estimates have been presented.

I will now refer to the incidence of a disease which has affected fruit production in the Barossa Valley for many years. In 1956-57 the production from orchards earned this State £4,111,000, and we should try to expand this production, but the deadly scourge of gummosis seems to have called a halt to the production of apricots and the planting of new trees in the Barossa area. The best apricots in Australia have been and could be produced in the Barossa Valley. Fifteen years ago 100 acres of trees were planted annually, but five years ago these plantings had fallen to 40 acres. Practically no apricot trees are now being planted, and between 1954 and 1956 from the Barossa Valley 500 trees were removed. Fifty per cent of trees that are now 20 years or older are dying, and I have been reliably informed that 99 per cent of all trees are infected.

Investigations have been carried out for 30 years in an attempt to find a cure for gummosis, but so far without success, though two years ago it was found that old apricot wood, if allowed to lie for at least four or five years in the open, would develop the gummosis spore. After any rain those spores are released and may infect trees after pruning. Gummosis cannot be combated by spraying, but it has been found that by very light pruning and not cutting back the main stem of the tree, and by burning old prunings infected by gummosis, the spread of the disease can be controlled to the extent of 90 per cent. Therefore, we can almost completely wipe out gummosis if pruning methods are altered by just taking off the ends of the laterals and keeping them away from the main trunk. I believe that these methods would lead to a resurgence of apricot growing, which would benefit my district and the whole State. Apricot production would then play a considerable part in the creation of overseas credits.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman—Will the amount of apricots produced be increased by modified pruning?

Mr. LAUCKE—I think it has been shown that light pruning will control gummosis to a great extent and that there will be replantings of apricot trees in the Barossa Valley. No other crop is more profitable on our soils. I

have much pleasure in supporting the first line.

Mr. TAPPING (Semaphore)—I support the Loan Estimates, and shall refer to two matters which have particular relation to the district of Semaphore. The first is the allocation of £82,000 for land purchases by the Harbors Board. Since 1949, when the Government brought down legislation for the board to acquire land, particularly on LeFevre Peninsula, it has spent about £1,250,000 for that purpose. The amount of £82,000 has been mentioned as the figure for land purchases during the current year. That sounds all right but as the money has been lying dormant for so long it is time the Government had the land subdivided and the garden suburb established as was originally intended. The Housing Trust could also build the proposed 1,000 homes in the LeFevre, Largs North, and Taperoo areas. We are still short of houses and 4,000 to 5,000 people are still awaiting trust homes. In the metropolitan area the position is difficult because most houses have been and will be built at Elizabeth, which means that people in other parts will have difficulty in getting houses, despite their present shocking living conditions. I believe the trust will concentrate on Elizabeth because of the shortage of suitable land in the metropolitan area. That is a good reason why the Government should expedite the establishment of the garden suburb mentioned in the 1949 Act.

Some weeks ago I asked the Premier a question on this matter and he said that Mr. Hart, the Town Planner, was giving the matter of the subdivision his consideration, but that the process of subdividing would take about three years. That is too long a period to wait in view of the desperate need for houses. The garden suburb proposal should be expedited. Many tourists coming to this State travel from Outer Harbour along the Lady Gowrie Drive towards Adelaide and it must be very depressing to them to see the sandhills and the sordid shacks. First impressions count and the first impression the tourists get when travelling from Outer Harbour is very poor. This is another reason why the garden suburb project should be speeded up. The Port Adelaide Council is also perturbed about the matter. About 1,000 families could be housed on the land but as building has not taken place the council is losing much revenue from rates. The Harbors Board has acquired the land and has reimbursed the council with £5,000 in

each of three years, making a total of £15,000, but that does not offset the lost rates.

I now refer to the emission of soot from the Osborne power house. In 1946, when I was first elected to Parliament, I was approached by a number of people concerned about the emission of cement dust from the Adelaide Cement Company works at Birkenhead. It was nothing for 10 or 12 women to come to my home complaining about the way they were being treated, how the health of their children was impaired, and how their clothes were damaged by constant washing.

My Bywaters—How long had that been going on?

Mr. TAPPING—It was going on before 1946. Overtures were made to the Cement Company manager and he expressed a willingness to do something to improve the position. Eventually, because of the insistence of the council and myself, pressure was brought to bear and Mr. Schroeder was sent to Germany to find ways to eliminate the emission of this cement dust, which was covering a large area in Birkenhead and Largs Bay. The company decided to install a precipitator, which cost £80,000. It took about two years to install, but people in the area are now pleased with the result. The precipitator has proved to be 98 per cent effective. I have learned that because of its installation the company makes a saving of 20 tons of cement a day, or 140 tons a week, so this will eventually enable the company to cover the outlay. It has done a good job in this matter and the people I represent express their deep appreciation of its action. The people are gratified and believe that now their health will be so much better.

Soot is being emitted from the Osborne power house. The experts say it can be eliminated but the experiments so far have not been adequate to meet the position. The only way to overcome the nuisance is to do as the Cement Company did and invest wisely in a precipitator. I get telephoned complaints four or five times a week. I have made personal investigations into the complaints and have found they are fully justified. It has been said by Electricity Trust administrators that as it is an industrial area the people must put up with the difficulty, but no-one can truly realize the position without living in the area. If some of the trust administrators lived there for at least a month they would reverse their present views. I wrote to Simon-Carves Ltd. of England who are experts in the installation of precipitators. I am convinced beyond doubt that the trouble

at Osborne can be eradicated. Such a company could be engaged to make tests and submit a quote to the Government with a view to improving the position. A booklet sent to me by the company states:—

Precipitators can be designed according to conditions and requirements to give any desired collection efficiency up to 99 per cent. Ninety-nine per cent would represent almost complete eradication of this nuisance. This proves that it can be done if we are sincere in our desire to overcome the problem. In respect of capacity the company claims that—

Precipitators can be designed for any capacity from a few cubic feet per minute up to several million cubic feet per minute.

The company has considered these matters since 1908 and today is in a position to supply a precipitator equal to the task. It also claims—

The finest particles, down to mists and dusts can be collected at the highest efficiencies. A working life of 20 years or more can normally be expected before any major items need reconstruction or replacement.

The last claim is of particular interest particularly as we must have regard to the economics of the situation. In the next month or two a drive-in theatre will be opened at Osborne. In the metropolitan area we already have the "Blueline" and "Mainline" and residents of Osborne suggest that the theatre in their area should be named the "Sootline." That is most appropriate because people in this area suffer daily from the menace of soot and dust. We must consider the housewife who is for ever cleaning up. The male has some conception of the position but because of the extra and unnecessary work imposed on the housewife as a result of this nuisance she is only too conscious of it. The administrators and engineers of the Electricity Trust claim they have done all that is humanly possible with the equipment they possess, but I suggest we should obtain a precipitator.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson—That would not be completely efficient.

Mr. TAPPING—The company guarantees 99 per cent efficiency.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson—That is still not complete efficiency.

Mr. TAPPING—The precipitator at the Cement Company was not completely efficient, but it has eased the situation considerably. I would be satisfied with 99 per cent efficiency.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson—Would your constituents be satisfied, too?

Mr. TAPPING—Yes. The efficiency of the precipitator at the cement company is 98 per cent and the people are grateful for that.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson—The honourable member must realize that this is not a simple matter.

Mr. TAPPING—I give credence to the claims of Simon-Carves.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson—It has something to sell.

Mr. TAPPING—That is not a fair statement. It has provided dozens of precipitators and its report has convinced me that its precipitators are efficient.

Mr. Hutchens—Aren't its precipitators guaranteed?

Mr. TAPPING—They are absolutely guaranteed.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson—Guaranteed to a certain degree of efficiency.

Mr. TAPPING—Yes, to 99 per cent and we would be grateful for that.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson—I am pleased to have that assurance from the honourable member.

Mr. TAPPING—The Government has decided to erect a stack 230 or 240 feet high at the Port Augusta powerhouse in the hope that the soot will drift miles away before disintegrating. If this proves effective and cheap, it could be tried at Osborne. The Housing Trust has built a number of homes at Osborne and a thousand homes can be built there when subdivision for a garden suburb takes place. We should do something to protect those houses.

Mr. O'Halloran—If we did, it would save painting.

Mr. TAPPING—Paint is one item that occurs frequently.

Mr. Corcoran—What would a precipitator cost? It would not cost thousands, would it?

The Hon. G. G. Pearson—They would cost millions.

Mr. TAPPING—Despite what the Minister claims, the precipitator at Birkenhead, which is 98 per cent effective, came from Germany and cost about £80,000.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson—The estimate I had for a precipitator at Port Augusta is almost £1,000,000.

Mr. TAPPING—The Minister now speaks of a million: he previously referred to "millions."

The Hon. G. G. Pearson—There are several plants, including Port Augusta A and B.

Mr. TAPPING—The Minister knows that at Port Augusta it is intended to increase the height of the stacks.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson—It would cost millions to do all our power stations.

Mr. TAPPING—I am talking about Osborne at the moment.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson—We have A and B stations at Osborne.

Mr. TAPPING—I maintain it would not cost millions, but even if it were to cost £1,000,000 and it afforded the people relief and resulted in an improvement in their health, as I believe it would, it is worth considering.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson—Of course it is and we are not unsympathetic.

Mr. TAPPING—Well, do something about it. It has been cast aside as uneconomic. The cost would be offset by the improvement in the health of the people.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson—We are not unsympathetic, but you don't get money off trees.

Mr. TAPPING—I know that. I am glad the Minister is interested in what I am saying, but I have brought this matter up in the House on several occasions. As a matter of fact I was told a short while ago that having got rid of the cement nuisance, if I got rid of the soot nuisance I would never lose my seat. I hope the Government does something about this matter.

Mr. QUIRKE (Burra)—I have listened with considerable interest to the debates in the last couple of weeks and whilst I am not going to develop the theme on which I spoke recently I warn the Minister of Works and the members for Light and Barossa that I am cooking up something interesting for them on the Budget debate. I have become tired of people saying, "You can't get something for nothing" and "Money doesn't grow on trees." No one would expect money to grow on trees. All one can expect from trees is the cash received for the crops they produce. As for the claim that we can't get something for nothing I challenge any member to refute that every penny of money that comes into existence in this country comes in in the form of debt. I am prepared to speak last on the Budget in order to answer any statement that is put forward in reply to that challenge. Not a penny comes into existence except in the form of a debt. Only the other day a report appeared in the press that the overdrafts of one bank amount to £77,000,000. That amount is manufactured money, and is only real money in relation to the work it performs. Every cent was manufactured and was costless money to the bank concerned. It is said that banks lend according to their deposits. They do nothing of the sort. That statement has whiskers on it a yard long and has been disproved a hundred thousand times. The fact

that this thought is introduced in the House at this stage shows the muddled thinking of certain people on the matters being discussed.

In relation to housing, I shall use my best endeavours to safeguard the interests of those I represent. The minimum advance for homes is to be increased to £3,000. A line on the Loan Estimates relates to the amount to be made available to the State Bank for this purpose. If a working man wants a house under this proposition, he must find a deposit of five per cent, or alternatively own a block of land worth five per cent of the £3,000. I want to know what will be the ultimate cost. If a man takes a loan for a 30-year term it will cost him £18 5s. a month, or £4 11s. 3d. a week. Assuming that he receives £18 5s. a week, his payments to the bank will represent one quarter of his income. If the payment represented one sixth of his income, he would then want a wage of £27 7s. 6d. a week in order to pay for his house.

Mr. Lawn—Does the £4 11s. 3d. include principal?

Mr. QUIRKE—Yes, and interest. If he pays £18 5s. a month for 30 years, the total will be £6,570, equal to £219 a year. The majority of workers do not receive £18 5s. a week and therefore the man receiving less will not benefit in any way unless he has a supplementary income, because that would be economically impossible. How could he meet the cost of an increasing family if one quarter of his income were absorbed to pay for his house? One doctor's bill could be sufficient to wipe out a week's rent. The occupier would have to pay all maintenance charges, water and sewerage rates, council rates, and electricity and gas bills. It is said that we cannot provide the money to house the people. I am giving the House facts in relation to the availability of money for housing and the charges made on it. The scheme could not possibly work unless wages were increased so that the cost of the money could be met from his wages. What is all this talk about inflation and taking away from the worker his fixed income by devaluing his money so that what would have given him a sufficient income 10 years ago would now place him on the bread-line? That is what is happening and if this procedure continues the position will be even worse.

If I am wrong let someone tell me so. I do not want hypothetical statements to the effect that one cannot get something for nothing. We are not getting anything for nothing, but every citizen has rights in this country concerning the security of his family.

My proposal could be given effect to without hurting anyone. At one time the Labor Party propounded a scheme to nationalize the banks. It was the silliest thing it ever suggested. It would be totally unnecessary and it would be possible to cripple every bank in Australia without the necessity to go outside the Commonwealth Constitution. It could be done fairly, but I do not want that to be done. It is not necessary to cripple these institutions which are giving such a magnificent service to the community. The only thing necessary is to bring within the ambit of the Government power to provide the necessities for those whom the Government presumes to govern. The talk we hear about the taking over of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company because it is making profits has no connection with the real problem. Such a suggestion is only a red herring. The real problem is how to provide the money. The member for Semaphore, Mr. Tapping, submitted a nice case in his usual nice way about the dust menace which plagues people in his area. I have heard the member for Stuart, Mr. Riches, putting forward the same argument in relation to the Electricity Trust's power station at Port Augusta. The trust does not precipitate the dust willingly and maliciously. It knows perfectly well that precipitators to remove the nuisance are 98 per cent effective, but they are not installed because they are costly and the trust has not the money. Therefore, the people will have to suffer the plague of dust on their linen, washing and window draperies. I will not say any more about that but I would like this House to have a look at this housing scheme because without the security of a good house—the shelter and security of a man's own home, something he owns himself and is the citadel of the family unit—you have no security at all.

Mr. Hambour—You want cheap money?

Mr. QUIRKE—I want the cheapest money I can possibly get. The rate for this housing scheme on £3,000 is 5½ per cent, and the people cannot meet it. No working man rearing a family can afford to spend £6,570 over 30 years to put the four walls of a cottage around his family. If payments are kept up-to-date the rate is reduced to 5 per cent, but that is the absolute minimum. How can we pass this type of legislation when we know that it will be frustrating and ineffective? Some time ago we lifted advances under the Advances for Homes Act from £1,750 to £2,250, but I would like to be told of any person who was advanced £2,250.

Mr. Lawn—There is not one.

Mr. QUIRKE—No, that amount could not be afforded, and an instruction was issued that no more than £2,000 could be advanced. With the new permitted advance of £3,500, will £3,000 or £2,250 be the maximum amount advanced? It cannot be worked at the present cost of the money. If anyone who makes the statement that you cannot get something for nothing and leaves it at that, wants to debate the finer points of the economic structure of this country, I offer a challenge to him to do so, but not once in the 18 years I have been in this House has this challenge been accepted.

I shall now talk about certain school buildings, not the schools themselves, but the out-buildings at country schools that a man in the country would erect in a day. I would like the Education Department to take the construction of these buildings away from the Architect-in-Chief's Department and let it be handled by school committees. Let the department supply the materials, and I have no hesitation in saying that there is no school committee in the country that would not put up the buildings at a fraction of what they now cost. A tremendous amount of money is wasted in this way. These structures now cost far too much, and the cost is out of all proportion to their real value. When tradesmen have to be sent to the country and the department has to pay £10 a week board at a hotel, the Education grant is knocked around. If we took away the cost of erecting these sheds we would probably build a third more buildings with the same amount of money. There would be plenty of co-operation in the country, and it would not be difficult to get a tradesman associated with school children to erect these amenities. The Minister of Education knows he has had co-operation, so let this be a general practice—to allow the construction to be supervised by a school committee and carried out by local tradesmen. This would save thousands of pounds a year.

I hope that something will soon be done in relation to sewerage schemes in country areas. Some country towns have the horrible night soil pan collection; some councils with the best of intentions have made septic tanks compulsory, and others have urged people to install them, but they have built up a legacy of horror. In the Taperoo district and other places in the metropolitan area where septic tanks are used, as well as in the country, it has been found that they are only effective when there is effective effluent drainage. Without this, conditions are very nasty indeed. Sewerage costs money, of course, and there is no money to give conditions of ordinary civilized life!

A few thousand pounds granted to start these things will only mean that we will be going until the crack of doom under our ideas on national finance to get even within measurable distance of ordinary civilized amenities. The Opposition speaks about the decentralization of industry, but as I have said before, it is not possible to put industries in country towns without sewerage. Most of the principal country towns have a water supply and electricity, two of the components of a sewerage scheme. You cannot put people under one roof or a series of roofs in one location without deep drainage, because septic systems on impervious soils become a horrible shambles, and people will not set up industries under those conditions. A Victorian firm that would have employed about 30 people got in touch with me and asked whether the district in which they wanted to establish an industry had water and light. I told that firm that there were these facilities, but when I said that there was no sewerage, the matter was finished. Most of the employees would have been females and it is not hard to realize what conditions would have been like. One of the first essentials today is a deep drainage sewage disposal system. This should be given to country towns as soon as possible, but here again we come up against the same problem.

These Estimates contain a provision for the Magill Reformatory, and the Public Works Standing Committee has made a report on the proposed prison farm at Cadell. If there is to be any sort of prison farm or detention place in the country, let it be for the boys at present at the Magill Reformatory to get them out where they have the wide canopy of heaven above their heads instead of what they have had for many years. Even if it is not possible to transfer all of those children to such a place we could at least transfer some. We would have a greater chance of reforming those youngsters if they were out in conditions that appeal to any boy, where there is an open life and horses to ride, and where the boys can do what all boys like to do. Under those conditions I am certain that we would achieve immeasurably better results than keeping them in close confinement, such as exists at Magill, until they are 18 years of age.

It is unnatural and wrong for young, unformed people, however bad they have become, to be herded under those conditions. As a measure of advance in our social life, let us get away from that and forget about it just as we forgot about the old-time practice, of which this is a relic, under which we

transported children from England to Botany Bay because they stole something worth a few pence. It is only a matter of difference in degree, and we have not advanced very far from that system.

Mr. Fred Walsh—They are hanging a negro in the United States for stealing a few shillings.

Mr. QUIRKE—Yes, and we put juvenile delinquents away under unnatural conditions, and we do not improve them. These places are colleges, and there is no college in Australia that receives such quick results and provides such quick education for the inmates. That is all I have to say on this matter. I hope some of the items I have mentioned will be considered, and in conclusion I ask members not to forget that the challenge I issued still stands.

Mr. COUMBE (Torrens)—I was very interested to hear the challenge issued by the member for Burra in his speech. I will not take up the challenge in this debate at such short notice because the matters he raised went far too deep, but I do commend him for issuing such an interesting challenge. It is one which will quite likely be taken up in earnest by members on both sides of the House at a later stage. At least the honourable member put forward constructive ideas and made more interesting comments than some members opposite in this debate.

The Loan programme before us today is a very ambitious one. It stresses and urges the necessity of developing our natural resources and carrying out public works in an expanding economy. I am sure all members will agree that the programme is in keeping with the development which is taking place in South Australia. Not only is our population growing but our productivity is expanding also. From my reading of the Loan Estimates for some years past it is very apparent that the programme now before us is a record one. It is quite possible that many of the amounts set out will not prove a benefit in this financial year, but we will receive the benefit of these over the next two or three years and probably in some cases it will only be the future generation that will reap the full benefit.

Most of the projects are of a long-range type and show that the Government is looking ahead and planning for future generations. In a rapidly expanding State I feel that this type of planning is essential, because once we get the ball of prosperity moving we have to keep

it moving. Nothing succeeds like success. That is exactly what is happening, and I commend the Treasurer for bringing in such a programme that will achieve this expansion and foster it. If the Loan Estimates had been of a different nature we really would have been hamstrung, but they are in keeping with the times, and I congratulate the Treasurer personally on bringing in such a programme. I feel that it must give him a great deal of personal satisfaction to have the privilege of introducing a programme of this magnitude which will affect the State for many years to come.

Mr. Lawn—You apparently want support in Torrens next March.

Mr. COUMBE—A feature of this year's Estimates is the increased amount being allocated to essential public works—major projects which will provide benefits to our people and in some cases return revenue to the State. They are things that really matter, not tin-pot schemes on which money will be spent and then prove to be only a passing phase. The projected works are things that really matter, such as housing, schools, railways, hospitals and the like. We have heard a lot about education in the Address in Reply debate and in this debate. The education vote is most gratifying. We all know the problem the Minister is facing in providing additional accommodation for the rapidly growing school population, and we have heard and read of criticism that the department is not doing enough. Here today we have a record vote on the Estimates for school buildings. If we take the Loan Estimates and run down the list we see that the Education Department gets more than anybody else, and I say good luck to it because that is as it should be.

We find that 30 schools of all types are mentioned, plus additions and alterations to others. I have only been in this House a short time but I venture to say that never before has a list of such magnitude been presented to this House for approval. This proves that the Government is doing its best within the limits of the money available to meet the problems that exist, not of its own making, with regard to education. I am sure that members on both sides will appreciate the money that is being allocated to the department to meet the problem.

The shortage has been in primary education, and I feel that some of that lag is now being made up. Attention is being diverted now and emphasis is being placed on secondary education, and we see the list of high and technical

schools that are being provided for, not only with more buildings but more and more facilities and equipment. On the tertiary level the School of Mines and the University are also receiving attention. The sum of £150,000 is provided for the School of Mines for extensions to the Playford Building, which is a six storeyed modern building scheduled to be completed this year ready for students to come in for the first term of next year. That building is necessary because the school has about 11,000 students and the number is increasing by about 10 per cent each year. Indeed, it will be necessary to start planning immediately for another building. That gives an idea of the tremendous growth of the school. The fact that the university is to build a new block on the site of the Exhibition Building proves further that the Government is assisting tertiary education in every possible way. Therefore, on the three levels of education the Government is providing assistance for all types of persons.

Teaching at the School of Mines is tied up fundamentally with much of the progress of this State, whether in primary or secondary industry. The school was established last century as the School of Mines. With the finding of copper in this State, men had to be trained and metal assayed. Many graduates of the School of Mines took their place on the field at Wallaroo and Moonta and the school soon established a reputation as the finest of its type in Australia. Many graduates of the school later worked at Broken Hill. With the expansion of secondary industry in this State, it was found necessary to train other types of craftsmen, so the school branched out into the training of tradesmen such as fitters and turners, plumbers and woodworkers. This was in addition to conducting diploma and fellowship courses.

The time has come when the School of Mines must play an increased part in the activities of this State. I hope—and I think the Minister of Education desires this—that one day the school will become the leading institute of technology in Australia, for so many industries are being established in the State and the training of executives at various levels, whether managers or foremen, will be necessary. How can we hope to expand if we have not the trained personnel? I believe the School of Mines is the proper place to train these men, for they cannot get such an education at the University in many cases. The Government is sympathetic toward the advancement of the programme at the School of Mines; this line on the Estimates is proof of that.

The School of Mines has sometimes been called "the poor man's university" and today, although some industries require an engineer or scientist with a degree, many do not require the full degree, but accept a person holding a minor degree such as a Bachelor of Technology. Therefore, the latter course has been established at the School of Mines and I hope that its importance will be realized because it satisfies a need in industry and provides opportunities for men and women to take a degree in their own time at much less cost to themselves, whereas they may have been unable to attend university full-time.

If this course were not available many men would have no opportunity to take a course, so many are provided with a chance of advancement in their careers who would otherwise not enjoy it. The establishment of the course also avoids costly failures in the first and second years of degree courses at the University. There is, therefore, a saving to the University and the person concerned, while industry receives a benefit because more trained personnel are made available than would have been the case under the old system. I say "good luck" to the School of Mines in establishing this course, and I hope the Government continues to assist this institution as much as possible.

In a country where more industries are being established every day the education of apprentices is becoming more important, especially as new techniques are evolved. In my grandfather's day the father of the boy who wanted to become an apprentice had to pay my grandfather a certain sum for that privilege and the only education the boy received was from the master, but those days are gone. Later, under an enlightened scheme the Technical Education of Apprentices Act was passed and in my father's day apprentices received free education at the School of Mines, where they attended for some hours in the master's time and some in their own.

As an apprentice, I attended the Adelaide Technical College because, by that time, the State Government had taken over from the School of Mines the education of apprentices. I commend the Education Department, particularly the technical branch, for the curriculum of studies these boys are required to undergo. Many things apprentices do today in their calling were undreamt of even 20 years ago. We have new machines, processes and techniques, and the only way we can take advantage of these new methods is for apprentices to learn in the best possible way how to use them. I therefore commend the Educa-

tion Department for its contribution to technical education. This is further exemplified by the construction of new technical high schools throughout the State, where boys and girls who may not be academically suited for high school study may attend. Therefore, the Government is to be congratulated on the steps it is taking to enable technical subjects to be taught in its departmental schools, in the trades schools, and at the School of Mines, which is under a separate Act.

Mr. John Clark—The correspondence courses are particularly good.

Mr. CUMBE—That is another aspect of education on which the Government is to be congratulated. Indeed, there are so many aspects of the department's work that we cannot mention them all today. The department is really on the job. The sums allocated to it are a record and I am sure the department is using them wisely. Many of these benefits may not be felt this year, but they may be next year, and I am sure they will be felt increasingly in subsequent years. Some children attending schools today may not receive the full benefit of this expenditure. The kiddies coming on will be able to reap the greatest possible advantage from it. Today the lad with the ability and application to work can rise to practically any position he wishes to, provided he applies himself to his job and has the ability to learn—because many companies are today providing scholarships. We read in the paper today that the Apprentice of the Year has been selected. He will get a trip and have many advantages. This year the boy came from the railway workshops at Islington; last year he came from General Motors. If that sort of thing can be expanded, it will encourage apprentices to rise above the normal. Many apprentices, as we all know, will remain on the bench, but I hope and contend that many boys with a certain ability and great application will rise above the bench and become foremen and executives. The best way to train executives for the future is to give them a solid grounding at the beginning so that they will learn their job at the bench, and then let them rise up in their own establishment. They will have gone through the mill. I say this from experience and support the Liberal Government's suggestion of giving this vote to the Education Department, and in particular to its technical branch. Coming to the Housing Trust, certain lines make provision for housing, about which a great deal has been said. I want to confine my remarks now to Housing Trust activities within the metropolitan area.

I do not want to be misconstrued as saying that I am pushing the metropolitan area instead of the country areas. I am only dealing with the present situation in the metropolitan area. First, in the metropolitan area the need is rapidly arising for houses for those working within the city and in the suburbs. In order to provide more and more houses, it has been necessary to go further out because most of the inner parts are built up and the only patches of vacant land are towards the edges of the metropolitan area. It will not be very long before all those areas are taken up.

Mr. Lawn—That is very nearly the position now.

Mr. COUMBE—I agree, with the result that the worker has further and further to go to his place of work, at some inconvenience and cost to himself. The trust will be faced with the position before long that there will be no more room in the metropolitan area available for building. It will have to go further out.

Mr. Fred Walsh—That obtains in every capital throughout the world.

Mr. COUMBE—I agree, but that is the position as I see it. In the electorates of the honourable members for Adelaide and Norwood and myself are large numbers of very sub-standard homes, many of which are 80, 90 or perhaps 100 years old. They are narrow houses with small rooms badly ventilated and, in many cases, suffering badly from salt damp. You can rub your hands on the inside of the wall and see it flake off, so damp is it. In many cases the local Board of Health hesitates to condemn these houses, as it rightly could, because it knows what the housing position is.

As I see it, these houses will have to come down before very long, even if only on health grounds. The Housing Trust should examine this situation, especially where there are terraces or large groups of these houses, as there are in many cases, and take into consideration whether it would not be worth while evolving a scheme for demolishing them.

Mr. Lawn—The member for Hindmarsh has been advocating that for years.

Mr. COUMBE—And in their place, instead of building Housing Trust homes, they should erect Housing Trust blocks of flats. There are many areas in my district, as in other districts, where this could quite easily be done. The capital value of those houses and the land, and the cost of demolition, should not be very high. In fact, in some cases the land could be bought almost as cheaply as in some of the outer areas. If these houses are knocked down and temporary accommodation is provided for those living in them, a greater number of

people could then be housed in a two-storey or three-storey block of flats.

Mr. Hutchens—Near their place of employment.

Mr. COUMBE—Yes. Their fares would be lower and, more important still, they would be in areas with existing services.

Mr. Fred Walsh—But not so congenial.

Mr. COUMBE—Compared with some that I have seen, anything would be more congenial. I am not suggesting building them up against a factory, but it would be far better than the worker travelling five or six miles to work. The advantage is that these houses would be built in areas with existing services—sewerage, water, electric light, gas, roads, footpaths, garbage collections—for, in many cases, all these services are there. That would be instead of the local government authority in a new area ploughing up roads, digging trenches and putting in drains. That economy would react favourably towards the cost of those blocks of flats.

The Housing Trust is conducting an interesting experiment along those lines in Walkerville at present. Instead of demolishing old houses, they are buying the backs of some very long allotments there and providing large areas where they will build eight double-storeyed blocks of flats—approximately 32 flats. That can be expanded. In many parts of the older established districts in our metropolitan area the allotments are very long and full of weeds and cannot be adequately maintained. That is another instance where groups of flats could be built economically to provide housing for the people. They would provide good accommodation for many people. In some cases, it is the only type of accommodation available for widows and widowers.

So, I make the suggestion that this would be a worth while idea for the trust to investigate because it has distinct possibility and because after all we shall be faced before very long with the position that the local government authority will have a large number of these very sub-standard homes on their hands. I have pleasure in supporting the first line of these Estimates and thank the honourable member for Burra for his interesting challenge, which I hope honourable members on either side of the House will be able to answer adequately.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.11 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, September 2, at 2 p.m.