

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

Tuesday, September 30, 1958.

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

**MAINTENANCE ACT AMENDMENT 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.****ROAD ACCIDENT DEATHS.**

**Mr. O'HALLORAN**—My question relates to the lamentable increase in road accidents in this State in recent years, and particularly to the unfortunate number of fatal accidents—20 in the last 18 days—that have occurred on South Australian roads. I do not imply that these accidents were in any way due to lack of courtesy or to bad driving; they may have been, as the term implies, accidents, but, in my extensive travelling on South Australian roads I have noticed a grave lack of courtesy by some drivers towards other drivers, and a growing disregard of the elementary rules of traffic. Will the Premier state whether the Government has considered this matter, and if not, will it consider it, and particularly whether more police in uniform should not be detailed to control country roads?

The **Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD**—In common with other members, I greatly regret the increased number of accidents that have occurred particularly on country roads, and the fact that so many of those accidents were not trivial, but fatal. It boils down to this—is Parliament prepared to fix a speed limit on country roads, for many of these accidents occur on country roads where there are no intersections and no other traffic. The vehicles merely run off the road into a tree or some other obstacle, frequently where there is merely a slight bend in the road. That undoubtedly points to very great speed.

**Mr. Bywaters**—Are you prepared to introduce legislation this session to deal with this?

The **Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD**—This matter has been considered by Parliament on a number of occasions. I personally favour a speed limit. With the present limit it is difficult for the police to get a conviction if there is no other traffic about on the country road concerned. The wording of the Act more or less obliges the police to prove that a person was driving to the danger of the

public, and that, of course, is difficult to prove respecting an open country road when there was no other traffic. I promise that the Government will refer this matter to the State Traffic Committee as an urgent matter, and if that committee will recommend a speed limit, I will see that legislation for the purpose comes down in time to be considered this session, for I say advisedly, and I am sure the police will bear me out, that many of these accidents occur solely because we have not an enforceable speed limit on country roads. An adjoining State has imposed a speed limit on country roads, and I think that is the basic problem we have to face.

**Mr. STEPHENS**—When the Premier refers the question of road deaths to the State Traffic Committee will he also refer to it the question of inspecting heavy vehicles? Several accidents have been caused lately through faulty connections between motor lorries and their trailers. In some cases the trailers have broken away and have run back, to the danger of other road users.

**Mr. O'Halloran**—A man was killed last week as a result of that.

**Mr. STEPHENS**—Yes. Another matter that should be considered is the provision of adequate braking facilities on heavy motor vehicles that draw trailers. Frequently new vehicles have a braking capacity to control a 20-ton load but when a trailer is attached those brakes are expected to control perhaps 40 tons.

**Mr. Quirke**—Don't they have brakes on the trailers?

**Mr. STEPHENS**—Very few. The police should have power to inspect these vehicles. Will the Premier refer these questions to the State Traffic Committee?

The **Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD**—These matters have been considered by the State Traffic Committee on previous occasions and legislation specifically related to braking and to the provision of safety chains on trailers is already provided. It would be more profitable to ascertain why those provisions were not complied with in respect of the accident caused by the trailer mentioned. I will ascertain what the Coroner has to say on that matter to see whether further action is necessary.

**Mr. QUIRKE**—Last week the Premier was asked a question about a railcar that travelled a considerable distance before stopping after an accident. By interjection I asked whether he would consider a suggestion to put exhaust brakes on such vehicles, but I do not know

whether he heard me. I have since made a check on exhaust brakes and found that many of the big transport operators between South Australia and New South Wales have vehicles weighing 25 tons gross fitted with these brakes, which the operators claim carry them in top gear down any hill between here and New South Wales without operation of the air brakes. They say that the air brake is an emergency brake, giving terrific braking power when both brakes are applied in cases of necessity. The gadget is a relatively simple one, and costs about £60—reasonably cheap considering that the brake on a prime mover costs £25 a wheel. The brakes can be fitted to both diesel and petrol motor vehicles. They are in operation now and have received wide acclaim from transport operators. Will the State Traffic Committee go into the matter with a view to fitting these exhaust brakes, if found suitable, to road passenger vehicles operating in the Adelaide hills? I am assured that they can be fitted to railcars so that if the air brake is broken in an accident the exhaust brake will slow down the vehicle and even stop it. I have seen some of these brakes in operation and I am sure they could avert many accidents.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I think a more appropriate authority to consider the matter is the Railways Commissioner. Over a long period of years the railways have had much experience with air brakes, and as the railways are directly associated with the honourable member's question—

Mr. Quirke—Road vehicles too.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—As the matter also applies to railcars I think it would be advisable to get the views of the Railways Commissioner; so I will see that the question is placed before him for investigation.

#### DUST NUISANCE AT ORROROO.

Mr. HEASLIP—I understand that the policy of the Highways Department is, wherever possible, to seal roads through country towns to minimize the dust menace from passing traffic. Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Highways when it is likely that the road in the Orroroo township between the hospital on the south of the town and the railway crossing on the north will be sealed to keep down the dust, which is a real menace in that area?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will ask my colleague for a report.

#### PLANTING IN FRUIT FLY AREAS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Can the Minister of Agriculture state when people will be permitted to plant tomatoes and other vegetables and fruit in areas affected by fruit fly last season?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I will get a statement for the honourable member by tomorrow, but without committing myself, I rather think there will be no difficulty from now on.

#### LOCK SCHOOL RESIDENCE.

Mr. BOCKELBERG—Some time ago I requested that a lighting system be installed in the Lock schoolhouse. I understand that recently permission was given to light both the Police and Engineering and Water Supply Department homes. As the headmaster of a school such as Lock has a certain amount of social standing in the town and has to entertain people, it is unfortunate that he has to use the light of a hurricane lamp and a couple of candles, so to speak. Will the Minister of Education consider installing an adequate lighting system?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I will have the matter investigated and let the honourable member know as soon as possible what can be done.

#### INSURANCE OF PASSENGERS.

Mr. LAWN—I and, I think, the general public are under the impression that passengers on trains, buses and trams are insured against injury arising out of an accident. Recently a passenger was injured as a result of the bus driver applying the brakes suddenly. He applied for compensation from the Tramways Trust and was informed:—

We advise that the trust's investigation into this accident reveals that our operator was compelled to apply his brakes to avoid colliding with a motor car which was negligently driven into his path. As our operator acted without negligence, the trust cannot admit liability, and no compensation can be paid.

Can the Premier say whether passengers are insured against accidents such as this, and will he have this claim for compensation investigated?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—As far as I know, the Tramways Trust does not insure its passengers against accident. The trust would be responsible for any injury sustained as a result of the negligence of the trust or any of its operators, but for a passenger to get compensation it would be necessary, in my opinion, to prove negligence. I say this without prejudice, but on the case the honourable member

submitted, the operator of the vehicle probably avoided a serious accident by the application of the brakes, so he should be commended for his prompt action and I do not think any claim for damages as a result of his driving could be sustained. As far as I know, there is no insurance of railway or tramway passengers, but if either department, or one of its employees, was negligent and a passenger sustained injury as a result, he would undoubtedly have a claim against the department concerned.

#### CLOVER SEED PRODUCTION.

Mr. HARDING—Today's *Advertiser* states that the Department of Agriculture has produced pedigree seed of Palestine Strawberry Clover at Kybybolite Research Centre, and that South Australia is the largest producer of this seed in the world. Has the Minister a report on this matter?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—The information I have is substantially the same as that given in the press, that the department has gone to much trouble to produce what is known as the mother seed as a foundation for a pure strain of this variety of clover. As it grows prolifically in the South-East this development will be of considerable value to farmers, not only in the South-East but in other States as well. It is confidently expected that there will be a considerable increase in production of strawberry clover seed when the mother seed is available.

Mr. HARDING—Is Palestine Strawberry Clover seed rationed, and what is the price per pound?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I will obtain the information for the honourable member.

#### ELECTRICITY TRUST AND CARAVAN PARK OWNER.

Mr. DUNSTAN—I have been informed that an official of the Electricity Trust interviewed one of my constituents today and asked him a series of questions relating to the use of electricity in his caravan park. After considerable talk it became obvious that the trust's officer wanted details of this man's business. Finally he admitted that the inquiry had been made for the purpose of assisting a local government authority which proposed erecting a caravan park with assistance from the Tourist Bureau. My constituent naturally took some exception to inquiries by the Electricity Trust into details of his business for the benefit of a competitor, and I ask the Premier whether he will investigate this case.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The honourable member realizes that I have no personal knowledge of this matter, but I will ascertain how the request came to be made. It would help me if the honourable member would let me know the name and address of his constituent and where the investigation took place.

#### CAMPBELLTOWN RUBBISH DUMP.

Mr. LAUCKE—A rubbish dump is operated by the Campbelltown Corporation on the south side of the River Torrens at Athelstone, and it is adversely affecting the interests of my constituents on the northern bank who are dependent on the river for domestic and irrigation water supplies. Mr. L. P. Coulls, who is a member of an old gardening family at Highbury, depends on waterholes in the Torrens for irrigation and home supplies, and the dump is within 6ft. of his supply, which has been badly contaminated by seepage from rotting refuse. Floods sometimes carry the contents of the dump down the river. In the interest of public health, particularly as it affects users of River Torrens water below the Gorge weir, will the Premier have investigations made under section 10 of the River Torrens Protection Act concerning the depositing of this rubbish in close proximity to the river, and to see whether action should be taken to avoid contamination arising from that practice?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The River Torrens presents a problem because in the early days of settlement the land to the centre of the river was sold to adjoining owners. It is unlike many streams where the banks are under Government control and ownership. I think that for almost the entire length of the Torrens the adjoining owners' titles take them to the centre of the bed of the stream and as a result the normal control that can be exercised so easily in other rivers does not apply to the Torrens. I will have inquiries made by the Central Board of Health to see what appropriate action can be taken.

#### SUPERANNUATION FUND HOUSE INSURANCE.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Can the Premier say whether it is correct that the South Australian Superannuation Fund in respect of finance for home building limits the insurance of such homes to one company? If so, will he take action to permit borrowers to insure with other companies so that they may enjoy the advantage of competition?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I was not aware that the Superannuation Fund, in providing finance for housing, restricted operations to one company. If it does, it is probably because some special concession is granted, in which case it may be unwise to disturb the existing arrangement. I will ascertain the facts and let the honourable member know them.

#### NATIONAL PARK SWIMMING POOL.

Mr. MILLHOUSE—During the Address in Reply I referred to the desirability of providing a swimming pool in the National Park and on September 3 I asked the Minister of Lands a question on the subject. I understand he now has a further reply.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I have received a reply from Mr. Lyon, secretary of the National Park, as follows:—

In reply to your inquiry of the 28th ultimo I am instructed to advise you that the Commissioners reiterate their earlier comments on the subject of a swimming pool in the National Park when it was stated that provided sufficient funds were made available to construct a first-class pool with proper equipment and amenities in a landscape garden setting the matter would be given serious consideration.

#### RIVER MURRAY LEVELS.

Mr. KING—Has the Minister of Works any information concerning my question of September 17 about the Kingston and Berri ferries in relation to a high river level?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—My colleague, the Minister of Roads, has informed me that the District Engineer will examine the position of the approach roads to Berri and Kingston ferries again during this week and ascertain whether it is necessary and practicable to protect low sections of these roads in order to keep the ferries open. The road between Paringa and Renmark will be kept open for a river of 22ft. 6in. in the Renmark gauge. I take it that means that the road will still be usable if the flood reaches the 22ft. 6in. level which, as I said last week, seems unlikely.

#### FLOODING OF SEPTIC TANKS.

Mr. JENNINGS—Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked on September 16 relating to the flooding of septic tanks in emergency Housing Trust homes at Mansfield Park?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Chairman of the Housing Trust reports as follows:—

As was the case with many of the emergency dwellings, the emergency dwellings at Mans-

field Park could not be sewerred at the time they were constructed and are therefore fitted with all-purpose septic tanks. The effluent from septic tanks often presents a problem and this is accentuated during a wet winter or when the drainage of the area in question is poor. In order to alleviate the position, the trust often constructs a trench from the septic tank leading to a baling pit and this has been done in several cases at Mansfield Park.

Except where the tenant is a widow or an incapacitated person the trust expects the tenant to empty the baling pit and the trust has pumps which it makes available to tenants without cost for this purpose. The trust will always do what it can to improve the position where the effluent from a septic tank is causing trouble but during a wet winter when the soil becomes soaked it is sometimes difficult to solve the problem completely.

#### INFORMATION ON RACECOURSE PROTESTS.

Mr. FRED WALSH—Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked last week regarding information on racecourse protests?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have received the following report from the secretary of the Betting Control Board:—

1. The authority to determine protests or objections is vested in the stewards. The Betting Control Board has no such authority.

2. The stewards, and no-one else, has authority to declare the grounds upon which a protest or objection has been made.

3. In regard to the happening at Gawler on September 20, referred to by Mr. Fred Walsh, I have been informed by the chairman of stewards that a proper direction—that a protest had been entered by the rider of the horse placed third against the horses placed first and second—was given to the official responsible for course announcements.

4. I have spoken to this official and he admits that the mistake was his in misunderstanding the direction.

5. I, personally, consider that both Mr. Walsh's suggestion that the second horse ("Coremaker") "had no prospect of securing the decision" and that of Kevin Sattler (*The Mail* 20/9/58) that "anyone backing 'Coremaker' in the protest had no chance of collecting" are doubtful.

Rule 131 of the Australian Rules of Racing provides:—

If a horse—

(a) Crosses another horse in any part of the race so as to interfere with that or any other horse's chance, or

(b) Jostles, or itself, or its rider in any way interferes with another horse, or the rider of another horse in the race, unless it is proved that such jostle or interference was caused by the fault of some other horse or rider, or that the horse or rider jostled or interfered with was partly in fault,

such first mentioned horse . . . may be disqualified for the race. If such first mentioned horse is a placed horse and the interference in their opinion has affected the chances of any other placed horse, the stewards may place the former immediately after the horse or horses so interfered with. In this rule "placed horse" includes one placed fourth.

6. It would seem that Mr. Walsh's complaint might have been based on reports concerning the happening which appeared in the press which, to say the least, are misleading. In the *Advertiser* of September 22, the writer "Donaster" said "This announcement, without further details, was followed by spirited betting." In point of fact, only one bet was laid in the grandstand about the second horse ("Coremaker") being awarded the race.

7. The board is loth to interfere in matters outside our control but we will take the matter up with racing clubs with a view to their providing against any similar happening in the future.

#### LOXTON SOLDIER SETTLEMENT AREA.

Mr. STOTT—Is the Minister of Lands aware that there has been some damage to the southern main from the pumping station in the Loxton soldier settlement area? Has he received any reports about the damage and, as it is likely to cause, in the event of pumping taking place, a lack of water during the summer months, will he take action in the matter, and can he name the Engineer who was in charge of the operations when the main was laid?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—The southern main has caused a problem in the Loxton area and investigations have been made as to the cause of the trouble. It appears that in the manufacture of the pipes used something went wrong. The result was that the pipes were laid with rubber jointings and when they moved they caused serious leaks and some minor damage. In the repair work the lead joints which replaced the rubber joints have been successful. It would be a costly matter if the whole main were taken up and replaced. The engineer reports that as these breaks occur they will be repaired with lead joints, and it is hoped that losses to the settlers will thereby be overcome. This matter is constantly under review by the engineers, and I have frequently obtained reports of a similar nature from them. As the breaks occur there will be sufficient plant on hand to rectify them.

#### FISHING REGULATIONS.

Mr. BYWATERS—Has the Minister of Agriculture any further information regarding the large cod sold in Victoria by a man in my district?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I have no further statement to give. I took up this matter with a colleague of the Chief Secretary of Victoria when I was in Sydney at the last Agricultural Council meeting. I shall be going to Melbourne next week, when I will take up this matter with the Chief Secretary and see if any thing can be done. I support the move the honourable member has made.

#### COOBER PEDY PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. LOVEDAY—Has the Minister of Education a further report regarding the practicability and desirability of opening a primary school at Coober Pedy?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—So far as I am aware, we have not received any further information from Coober Pedy, but as soon as it is received I shall be in a position to discuss the matter with the principal adviser of the Education Department, and will let the honourable member have a reply as soon as possible.

#### CRADOCK COAL BASIN.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Can the Minister of Lands, in the temporary absence of the Premier, give any information in reply to my recent question regarding the search for coal in what is known as the Springfield area near Cradock?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I have a report from the Director of Mines, Mr. Barnes, as follows:—

Geological mapping at Springfield has indicated a basin covering approximately  $3\frac{1}{2}$  square miles and containing sediments comparable in age to those of the Leigh Creek coalfields. To date a total of 3,670ft. of drilling has been carried out, mainly in bores not exceeding 200ft. depth. The first hole had intersected two seams of low-grade coal 8ft. and 12ft. 6in. thick but subsequent drilling had only shown a number of very thin non-commercial coal seams. To date approximately half the possible coal-bearing area has been tested, and drilling is proceeding. The search for other possible basins in this region is being actively pursued.

#### DOCTOR FOR PARAPLEGIC CENTRE.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Can the Premier state what progress is being made in training a doctor overseas to take charge of a paraplegic centre which, according to reports of last year, is to be established at Northfield?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will obtain a report from the Minister of Health and let the honourable member have it in due course.

## VERMIN ACT.

Mr. LAUCKE—Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent query concerning the effectiveness of certain sections of the Vermin Act?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The Attorney-General has provided the following reply:—

The judgment of His Honour Mr. Justice Ross in allowing the appeals against convictions imposed by Justices in the cases referred to indicates that the appeals were upheld and the convictions quashed because the district council in serving notices for the work to be done within 14 days did not give consideration to the nature and extent of the work, and having regard to the circumstances, the time which might fairly and reasonably be allowed for the completion of the work. In the opinion of His Honour the time fixed by each of the notices was unreasonable, and the notices did not comply with section 22a of the Act. The judgment of His Honour does not reveal any matter which calls for an amendment of the Act at this stage.

## FLAX INDUSTRY.

Mr. RALSTON—During the war years it became essential to expand the Australian flax industry for defence and other purposes. At first substantial losses occurred, which became less each year owing to increasing knowledge of production and more modern machinery. The secretary of the Flaxgrowers' Association of South Australia estimated that this industry is worth at least £75,000 a year to growers, a further £75,000 a year in salaries and wages, and £20,000 in costs and incidentals, such as freights and oil. As this industry will cease unless further grants are made in the 1958-59 season—in about June or July—will the Premier take up this matter with the Commonwealth Government to see whether steps can be taken to prevent the loss of an industry so valuable to South Australia, and to Mount Gambier in particular?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—This matter, of course, is one in which the Commonwealth is directly involved. The industry was set up by the Commonwealth, it has been maintained by the Commonwealth ever since, and I think it was the subject of a recent Tariff Board inquiry. I will refer the question to the Federal Minister, and inform the honourable member in due course what the position is. It has been suggested on one or two occasions that the State Government subsidize this industry to enable it to continue, but under the Constitution it is specifically prohibited from taking that action.

## LAKE MERRETTI STORAGE.

Mr. KING—My question concerns some recent discussions I have had regarding water storages in the Murray Valley. Can the Minister of Lands report on the way the high river will affect the level of Lake Merretti, which has been used in the past as a storage basin for irrigation?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—The honourable member raised this matter with me on two or three occasions and handed me a telegram he received from settlers in the Chaffey area. I have received the following report from the Superintendent of the Irrigation Branch:—

As at September 29, Lake Merretti is about half full and will probably reach full level by the end of this week (October 4). Because the bank constructed by Calperum is surrounded by water (the top of the bank is about 1 ft. above water level at present) it has not been possible to make a close inspection, but it appears that water is flowing into the lake through the pipe which is located beneath the bank at something less than full pipe rate. In addition, some water is flowing in *via* a low or excavated portion of the natural bank about 100 yds. on that side of the built up bank nearest Lake Woolpoolool. It is expected that, in order to hold Lake Merretti full, it will be necessary for the pipe beneath the bank to be sealed off and a low portion of the natural bank sandbagged. Both these operations could be difficult.

## CONCRETE SPECIFICATIONS.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked on September 4 about concrete specifications laid down under the Building Act?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Chairman of the Building Act Advisory Committee reports:—

Paragraph (1) of regulation 31 of the second schedule to the Building Act provides that concrete for use as reinforced concrete shall be as provided by the Australian Standard Specification for concrete in buildings (No. CA.2). CA.2 does not prescribe the mix for concrete although it deals, in detail, with the composition and measurement of aggregate, the mixing of the concrete, the use of reinforcements and other things. The regulations in the Building Act prescribe the proportions of concrete when used for various purposes. For example, for some purposes concrete is to be one part of cement, not more than two parts of sand, and not more than four parts of other aggregate. For other purposes, other proportions are prescribed. Thus, the actual proportions of concrete to be used for a particular purpose must comply with the proportions prescribed by the relevant regulation. In general, the regulations prescribe the various proportions by volume. Paragraph 17 of CA.2 provides that, if the proportions are by volume, one bag of cement (94 lb.) shall be regarded as one cubic foot. This must be

be construed as meaning that, if a bag of cement contains 94 lb., it is to be regarded as one cubic foot in volume. In point of fact the average paper bag of cement contains 94 lb. of cement and is one cubic foot in volume. This cubic content of a 94 lb. bag is accepted by engineers generally and is as stated in engineering text books. Thus CA.2 lays down the working rule that, if a 1.2.4 mix is required, then for every 94 lb. bag of cement there can be added up to 2 cubic feet of sand and 4 cubic feet of other aggregate. If, instead of a 94 lb. bag of cement, only 90 lb. of cement were used, there would have to be a corresponding reduction in the quantity of sand and other aggregate used in order to comply with the requirements of a 1.2.4 mix. Cement does not have to be measured by the bag although in very many cases it is so measured, but, however it is measured, the concrete must be of the proportions set out in the relevant provisions of the regulations.

#### BROKEN HILL RAILWAY TRAFFIC.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Has the Minister of Works any information in reply to a question I asked recently about the increased volume of railway traffic between Broken Hill and the eastern States and what loss of freight the South Australian Railways will incur as a result?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Railways Commissioner reports that there are no concentrates being moved at present from Broken Hill to the east coast of Australia. It is understood, however, that at Cockle Creek a superphosphate plant is being constructed which will require 3,000 tons of zinc concentrates a week to be railed from Broken Hill within the next two or three years, and it is possible that the capacity of the plant will subsequently be increased. Since the war the importation of oregon for use in the mines has ceased. Australian hardwood, from the east coast of Australia, has been used exclusively in mining operations at Broken Hill. It is understood that the mining companies prefer the use of Australian hardwood because of the better overall properties for their purpose. The Commissioner's report does not deal with the question the honourable member has just raised about the loss to the South Australian railways. He asked in his previous question whether there would be any substantial loss of revenue, but I think the Commissioner's report indicates that any diversion of trade to the eastern coast cannot be prevented. The eastern States will require zinc concentrates for superphosphate purposes and the Broken Hill mines are using hardwood instead of soft wood for mining operations, but

the overall tonnages involved do not appear to be very significant when considered in relation to the total traffic.

#### NOXIOUS WEEDS.

Mr. JENKINS—Has the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Railways, a reply to the question I asked last week about the eradication of noxious weeds on railway property in the Port Elliot and Goolwa district council areas?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I told the honourable member that it was the intention of the Railways Commissioner to eradicate noxious weeds on railway property if adjacent landholders took steps to eradicate weeds on their properties. A report I have received verifies that reply and states:—

It is departmental policy to endeavour to eradicate weeds on railway property when neighbouring landholders do likewise. In the present instance, no approach has been made to the Railways Department by the councils concerned, but the Chief Engineer is now taking up the matter of weed eradication with these councils.

#### RIVER MURRAY BOATS.

Mr. BYWATERS—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked on September 16 about derelict boats on the banks of the River Murray?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I have a full report which is available to the honourable member if he wants it. The important parts are as follows:—

In 1953 the Harbors Board instructed the present Harbormaster at Port Adelaide, Captain J. M. Thompson, to explore the matter of wrecks in the River Murray to determine the danger they presented in regard to the navigation of the river. At that time, there were forty-one wrecks between the Victorian border and Goolwa and with the exception of one at Goolwa they were not considered to be a danger to navigation. Because of the likely cost of removing the one at Goolwa it was marked with a wreck buoy.

The report goes on to indicate the difficulty of proving ownership of the wrecks. Originally they were privately-owned vessels and, after wrecking, were sold for salvage purposes and still later resold. When it came to a question of recovering the cost of removing them from the owners, or persons who might be regarded as owners, ownership was disclaimed, as is perhaps natural. The report concludes:—

Except for one wreck lying alongside the Murray Bridge wharf which the board is about to remove, it is considered the wrecks are causing no harm, and as they are not considered to be a danger to navigation, I feel it would

be difficult to justify the very large expenditure it would be necessary to incur for their removal.

Mr. Bywaters—There are two at Murray Bridge which could be removed and their ownership could be proved.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will mention that matter to the general manager of the Harbors Board. I know of the one lying close by the wharf at Murray Bridge and I take it that is the one referred to in the report.

#### NARACOORTE WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. HARDING—I have previously referred to the low water pressures in Naracoorte south. I understand a bore has been sunk in that area and that an amount is provided on the Estimates for equipping it. Can the Minister of Works report on the matter?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Approval was given for the expenditure of about £10,200 on improving the water supply for Naracoorte following on the Mines Department sinking a bore which proved a successful source of supply. Work is in hand to equip the bore with the necessary pumping plant. Materials are on order and, as soon as they arrive, will be installed. It is expected that it will result in an improvement in the quality of the water and in pressures in the higher levels of the township. It is expected to be operating within three or four months.

#### BERRI FERRY.

Mr. STOTT—At present crossing the river at Berri creates concern in peak traffic hours because of the smallness of the ferry. On Saturdays people travelling to football matches have to queue for long distances from early in the morning. With the establishment of a cannery at Berri considerable quantities of fruit will be delivered from the Loxton area, causing further congestion. Will the Minister consider providing a bigger ferry because of the increasing traffic?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will refer the question to the Minister of Roads.

#### DAVEYSTON-FREELING TURN-OFF.

Mr. LAUCKE—Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question concerning the dangers at the Daveyston-Freeling turn-off on the Greenock-Gawler road?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—My colleague, the Minister of Roads, has advised me to the effect that traffic islands at Daveyston at the Freeling turnoff have not yet been completed as the narrow median strip has not been placed in position because it would interfere with the

bituminous sealing to be carried out in the near future. Reflectorized direction signs to Freeling are being fabricated and will soon be erected. It is considered that with the erection of these signs and the completion of the traffic islands, traffic flow will be satisfactorily directed. The islands will at first be temporarily constructed with removable sandbags.

#### REJECTED MEAT.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (on notice)—

1. Have any quantities of mutton or lamb intended for export to the United States of America been rejected by the Commonwealth inspector during the last twelve months?

2. If so, what was the reason?

3. What was the total estimated value of the meat so rejected?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—The replies are:—

1. Yes.

2. In addition to the normal causes of rejection, the demands of the United States health authorities have caused the Department of Primary Industry to raise its inspection standards.

3. As the board is a service establishment for slaughtering, it is not aware of the value of the meat rejected.

#### GRANTS FOR TRAFFIC LIGHTS.

Mr. HUTCHENS (on notice)—

1. Has the Government made grants to any local government body towards the installation of traffic lights at the intersections of highways, in excess of the cost of road works?

2. If so, in which instances have grants been made and to what extent?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The replies are:—

1. A considerable number of requests have been received for assistance with traffic lights at intersections, and each case is carefully considered on its merits.

2. At Anzac Highway-South Road intersection, the department paid for half cost of installation—£2,037. Approval has also been granted for the department to meet half cost, being £1,610, of installation at Gepps Cross. The Government has also indicated that it is prepared to defray all the road work costs at the John Street-Port Road intersection, provided that the Hindmarsh Corporation re-affirms its offer to install traffic lights.

#### CANCER RESEARCH.

Mr. BYWATERS (on notice)—

1. Is cancer a notifiable disease for statistical purposes?



2. Is adequate finance being made available by the Government to assist in research into cancer, in view of the hope that a cure may be discovered?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Director-General of Public Health reports:—

1. No. Medical and statistical authorities generally agree that mortality statistics give all necessary information on the prevalence of the cancers in their various forms. In some hospitals and clinics a "cancer registry" is kept for routine administrative purposes. The annual reports of the Royal Adelaide Hospital provide a record of patients attending there.

2. The Government supports the work of the Anti-Cancer Campaign Committee, The University of Adelaide, and the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science; several departments of those institutions engage in basic research of biological, chemical and medical nature. It is generally agreed by medical authorities that *ad hoc* cancer research is not so likely to produce results as the more general researches.

#### RIVER MURRAY WATERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer) obtained leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to ratify and approve an agreement for the further variation of the agreement entered into between the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth and the Premiers of the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia respecting the River Murray and Lake Victoria and other waters, and for other purposes.

#### BUDGET DEBATE.

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from September 25. Page 938.)

Grand Total, £73,413,000.

Mr. JOHN CLARK (Gawler)—I will commence my remarks by giving thanks for benefits received from the Government in my district. Mr. Hambour suggested that criticism in this place was a good thing and that if a member continued to criticize he stood more chance of getting results. Although there was much in his remarks that I could not support, I did support him one hundred per cent on that statement. I am happy about certain actions by the Government in my district, but most of them should have been done some time ago, and some might not have resulted but for continuous agitation on my part. Members will recall that I have often mentioned the need for an Adult Education Centre at Gawler and I am happy that funds have now been voted so that this important work can

be commenced. I have said again and again, and the Minister agrees, that this Adult Education Centre is doing a good job and is well worthy of a home of its own, where it can carry on its widespread activities. The Treasurer told me that £58,000 has been voted for the beginning of this work.

I was pleased about the recent announcements by the Minister of Education in connection with the Gawler High School. For some time we have been asking for grading work to be done and tennis courts established on land which is adjacent to the high school, and which was formerly the property of the late Hon. R. J. Rudall. Some years ago the school conducted a successful drive for funds, but it has been waiting two or three years for the opportunity to spend the money. The work now being done will give them that opportunity. I am also pleased about the proposal to widen the Main North Road. About seven years ago when I raised the matter in this Chamber some Government members were amused. The present Minister of Roads also was inclined to pooh pooh the idea that the road created a danger. I am happy that continuous criticism has at last resulted in something being done. It will cost a good deal, but if it causes the saving of lives then it is money well spent.

I am happy also that work is proceeding on the Lyell McEwin Hospital at Elizabeth. There is not much room at the Salisbury Hospital, where good work has been done under difficulties, and the burden there will be lightened by the establishment of the Elizabeth Hospital. It will also mean a lightening of the burden on the Hutchinson Hospital at Gawler. The sum of £30,319 is to be spent. The ultimate cost will be £325,000 and the hospital will be a great asset to the district. I thank the Government for building many new schools in my area, particularly at Elizabeth. They are all necessary; in fact, some are overdue. I am disappointed that work cannot be commenced sooner on the school at Elizabeth Grove. The area is well built up and is entitled to a school. Now many of the girls and boys who would attend that school have to go to Elizabeth South, which is becoming overcrowded. I am told that the school at Elizabeth Grove will be ready in 1960. I understand that four rooms are to be added to the school at Elizabeth South to cater for the additional children, which will make the school very large indeed. I think Forbes School is the largest in the metropolitan area, but I can envisage the day when Elizabeth South school will be larger. On Saturday next at the

Elizabeth South school they are having an official opening by the Chairman of the Housing Trust. If there were any possible chance of getting the school at Elizabeth Grove before the beginning of 1960 it would be a great help.

I was pleased to hear the Treasurer mention the doubling of the number of Intermediate exhibitions and Intermediate technical exhibitions. This is a desirable step and will be an encouragement not only to teachers and pupils, but to parents. It was also pleasing to hear about the increase in the boarding allowances that apply up to the Intermediate standard and to bursaries above that standard. I was also delighted to learn that there is to be a boarding allowance of £75 for Leaving Honours students away from home. The Minister and departmental officials would be happy indeed if Leaving Honours classes could be established in country high schools. There is some difficulty associated with it, but the step now being taken will be a great help to parents and children. I give sincere thanks for all the work that has been done in my district. I would like to have the opportunity at about this time next year to express thanks for several other matters being dealt with. As the member for Light (Mr. Hambour) said, reminders sometimes do some good. Gawler is still crying out for sewerage. I know I have mentioned this over and over again in this House, and I hoped from what I heard about the Sewerage Inquiry Committee that before long something would be done about providing sewerage in that area. However, that has not happened. Other towns have been mentioned, and I congratulate them, but I bring forward the claims of Gawler, where sewerage is essential, and any possibility of a big industry being established is seriously jeopardized by its absence. A number of unfortunate incidents have occurred because of the lack of lavatories on diesel rail cars. I know they stop at many stations, as the Minister told me in reply to a question once, but that does not make the people's minds easier. However, as I have spoken about these things *ad nauseum* in this House before, I will not go further into the matter.

I would like to see a real attempt made by the Premier to obtain from the Prime Minister grants of moneys specifically to assist education. This would assist not only education itself—by which I mean the teachers, and the children who will be our future citizens—but it will give other departments a greater share

of State revenue. I have the greatest admiration for the work being done in schools, sometimes under difficulties. Last Friday I had the opportunity of going to a sports day at the Mudla Wirra school which, although in the Barossa District, was once in my district. The member for Barossa (Mr. Laucke) very nicely performed the opening ceremony. It was a delightful day, and I was struck by the happy relationship between teachers and children and between parents and teachers, and the harmonious way in which everyone joined in and had a good time. Of course, the children all strove against each other to win points, but I did not see anyone become annoyed because he was beaten. This function provided a good example of what is going on in our schools, not only in the way of education and sports, but in living together. I would not have spoken on education matters but that I believe the Premier was kind enough to refer to me when introducing the Budget; if he did not mean me, he will no doubt say so. He said:—

On education we have been consistently overweight. I mention that because I know that one member of this House evidently does not know it, or if he does, he has not publicly stated it.

I think he was referring to me, and if he was, I am happy that he mentioned the matter, because I have had a lot to say about education over the years. The Premier usually ignores my remarks except for one occasion some years ago when he quoted out of date figures easy to refute. He said I "had not publicly stated it," but that is not correct; as a matter of fact, during the course of the Address in Reply debate I said that I believed education facilities in other States were worse than ours. I do not know which way to go in this matter, because the Minister of Works rather took me to task when concluding that debate, and mentioned my statement that I thought conditions in other States were worse than ours. He said he thought that my remarks had slipped out, that I was sorry for them afterwards, and that it was only because fairness was part and parcel of my make-up that I let the remarks slip out. He took me to task for saying this, yet the Premier said I had not mentioned it. The truth of the matter is that I stand by anything I have said. I have no regrets, and I repeat that I know we are spending a large amount on education, which anyone would be a fool not to admit, but I still think it is not enough. I have tried to show previously where we would get the money and I have tried again today. The Premier

went to some trouble to prove by figures that we are doing better than other States, but, as we all realize, figures can prove anything or nothing.

Mr. O'Halloran—It depends on whose hands they are in.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—It does. For instance, the Premier was good enough to tell us in his Budget Speech that 10 years ago South Australia was spending 82s. a head on education, New South Wales 81s. and Victoria 80s. These figures are all about the same, but he included Queensland, where the expenditure was 73s. That State has always been notoriously low in its education expenditure. The average for the three States was 78s., and naturally our expenditure of 82s. a head was higher than that average. If the Premier of New South Wales, for whom the member for Burnside (Mr. Geoffrey Clarke) apparently has a high regard judging from the number of times he has mentioned his name in interjections, did the same thing, and included South Australia instead of his own State, he would show an expenditure of 81s. compared with the average of 78s. in the other three States. That is the same sort of result the Premier got here.

Mr. Jennings—Victoria could have done the same thing.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Yes, if Mr. Bolte, for whom the Premier has a high regard, had done the same thing he could have found a result just as interesting. The present expenditure in New South Wales is 281s., in Victoria 280s., and in Queensland 217s.—an average of 259s., compared with our expenditure of 282s. If Mr. Bolte had done the same thing, including South Australia instead of his State, he would have got almost as good a result. Victoria's expenditure was 280s. *per capita*, compared with the average of the other three States of 260s., so the Victorian Premier could say, as our Premier did in regard to South Australia, "Well done, Victoria." Obviously, the comparisons the Premier gave did not mean a thing. He wanted to put to the House that South Australia's expenditure *per capita* was slightly higher than that of New South Wales and Victoria, and much higher than Queensland's. Most people would expect that the *per capita* expenditure on education of thickly populated States would be somewhat less than that of a sparsely settled State. The latest report of the Grants Commission supported that view. The commission stated:—

South Australia and Western Australia have relatively low population density. Moreover,

in the claimant States a relatively higher proportion of children attend State schools. The problem of providing schools and education facilities for these children is therefore a heavy burden on their social service costs.

I shall now quote the Grants Commission in regard to expenditure on primary and secondary education in all States. It gave the following figures:—

Item.	South Australia per capita. s. d.	Per capita average of six States. s. d.
Administration and general . . . .	4 0	6 4
Transport of school children . . . .	9 0	11 4
Training of teachers . . . .	9 1	10 8
Primary schools expenditure . .	94 5	95 8
Secondary schools expenditure . .	27 5	35 4
Total . . . .	143 11	159 4

I have been accused of being unfair at times in my comments on education, and if I wanted to be unfair now I would not continue quoting from the Grants Commission report, but I shall now give the figures regarding tertiary and other educational activities. Here we find that South Australia's expenditure is, in the main, above the average. The figures show:—

Item.	South Australia per capita. s. d.	Per capita average of six States. s. d.
University . . . .	14 11	11 6
Technical education	24 3	20 1
Agriculture . . .	2 1	2 2
Libraries, etc. . .	5 3	4 0
Deaf, dumb and blind . . . . .	1 0	0 10

I am glad the item "Libraries" was followed by "etc.," because the "etc." includes all sorts of things not associated with libraries. The total of those items shows that South Australia's *per capita* expenditure was 191s. 5d., compared with the average of the six States of 197s. 11d. Honourable members can draw their own conclusions from the figures given, but my view is that *per capita* costs do not reflect the efficiency and worth of the education systems of the various States. Surely the amount spent per child is the real criterion. It is not easy to work out this figure, but I shall refer to the Grants Commissioner's statistics on the population increase in the various States. For the year under review South Australia's population increased by 2.9 per cent; New South Wales' by 1.96 per cent; Victoria's by 2.62 per cent; and Queensland's by 1.9 per cent.

South Australia's percentage increase was easily the highest and therefore one could hardly be blamed for expecting that its school-going population would also reveal the greatest percentage increase and that it would have a greater increase in its education expenditure than in the eastern States. To further that belief let us consider the increase in the numbers of migrants in these same States. South Australia's migrant population during the year increased by 1.51 per cent; New South Wales, .74; Victoria, 1.28 and Queensland, .37. Again South Australia showed the highest percentage increase.

In the report of the Grants Commission appears a reference to the percentage increase in the number of schoolgoing children between the ages of six and 13 years. The percentage of schoolgoing children between those ages—which of course do not include a number of boys and girls attending high schools—in South Australia is 16.21 per cent; New South Wales, 15.28; Victoria, 14.87 and Queensland 16.07. Tasmania, with a percentage of 16.39, is the highest in the Commonwealth, but not much higher than South Australia. These figures all suggest that one would expect the *per capita* cost to be much higher here in order to provide the same amount of work as in the other States. The Treasurer's figures show them as slightly higher, but the figures I have presented tend to make one worry, because they show an entirely different position. On this issue the Grants Commission report states:—

One of the consequences of this relatively greater population increase is a relatively high proportion of children of schoolgoing age in each of the claimant States. Moreover, in those States, relatively higher proportions of children attend State schools.

That is rather important.

Mr. Jennings—It is an answer to the Queensland question.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Yes. It is generally recognized among education authorities that the standard of education in Queensland is not as high as elsewhere, but Queensland has a much greater percentage of children attending church and private schools. Figures reveal that South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales are spending enormous sums on education. I do not deny that: in the last few years the cause of education in this State has been greatly advanced; but there is still a lot to be done. This comment applies not only to South Australia, but to all States.

I recently read an article in the *Teachers' Journal*—the organ of the South Australian Institute of Teachers—referring to conclusions that were arrived at at a recent conference of State presidents held in Adelaide. This was by no means a political gathering, but a meeting at which persons vitally interested in education discussed it around a table. The conference decided that the growth in secondary school education was evident in all States. It referred to the ever-increasing birthrate and mentioned the fact that migration in some States had become an embarrassment. It stated that one State excludes five-year-olds from all its schools through lack of accommodation and it mentioned that all States were striving to increase their buildings, some with prefabricated constructions. As a matter of fact the conference referred to the Norwood Boys' High School, which created a favourable impression. The conference suggested that the shortage of teachers was still serious in all States and mentioned that in one State—which, thank goodness, was not South Australia—the problem can only be met by employing men of 77 to 80 years of age as teachers. It suggested that there was a great scarcity of specialists in secondary schools. In one State 600 secondary teachers began but only 150 were University graduates. Most of those present at the meeting deplored the fact that secondary school teachers were in many cases teaching boys and girls without having the qualifications which most of us think are necessary. The meeting criticized South Australia's practice of having a one-year course of training but personally I wonder how we could manage without it. Some of those present, including the South Australian delegate, criticized the "creaming off" of graduates from primary to high schools, which has been going on for about 18 months. Many teachers with degrees have been transferred from primary to high schools, although most were trained for primary school work and had no high school training. However, with the great increase in attendances at secondary schools, what else could we do?

The meeting mentioned the training of teachers and referred to a number of factors, some of which apply in South Australia. One State, according to the report, is re-opening an old high school as a teachers' college, and another will use an old school which was recently used as a transport depot. I do not think that is an ideal place for a college. The meeting reported favourably on what Western Australia and South Australia are doing in

the recruitment of officers. Personally I think we were most fortunate in South Australia in obtaining the services of Mr. G. S. McDonald for this work. I can remember when he was on the verge of retirement. When speaking privately to the Minister of Education on one occasion I said it was a pity that Mr. McDonald's services were to be lost to the Education Department simply because he had reached the retiring age, and the Minister agreed, so I was happy when the position was given to Mr. McDonald, and he is filling it most capably. I have spoken to him on a number of occasions about employment in the department for various people, and just to talk to him gives one an idea of the good work he is doing.

The report said that in Western Australia there is a superintendent with over-all charge of teacher training. That is something we could have in South Australia. It also mentioned that Tasmania and Western Australia showed the advantages of the close link in those States with the Education Department and the training of teachers at the University. Unfortunately, here in South Australia we have been waiting for a long time for a Chair of Education, which has been expected for years but seems to be still over the horizon. The meeting had something to say about salaries, but I will not deal with that matter because South Australia has a salaries case before its board. The meeting also mentioned superannuation and it was made obvious that all States are working to raise the pension value, and in the light of present-day values I think the pension is not enough. The report also had something interesting about the housing of teachers. It said a problem presented itself in this matter, and it was made plain that the difficulty affected both seniority and probation. Often, owing to lack of suitable housing, good teachers find themselves in a position where they have to refuse promotion. The meeting agreed that rents of school houses in most States were lower than the rents for comparable homes, but it was said that the rents of school houses in South Australia were inequitable.

South Australia comes a bad last in the length of the long service leave, although there is an advantage in that attendance at the Teachers' College counts, whereas it does not in other States. I am always fair in my statements and I point this out in all fairness. If time permitted I could give much more information about the findings of the committee, but, to sum up, all States have a very serious problem. I repeat that the root cause of it

all is the shortage of money and that the obvious solution is more money. The report concluded with this statement:—

All States complain bitterly that their State Treasurers refused to ask the Federal Government for specific grants for education. This showed a fundamental lack of the appreciation of the needs of education and the damage that the limitation of it will ultimately cause the States.

It is obvious from the report that all States want Federal assistance and that they are spending enormous sums on education. We would be foolish to deny that. It is obvious also that even more money must be spent. We cannot afford to boast of what we have spent whilst so much remains to be done. I believe that in the very near future two things are inevitable, but they will greatly increase expenditure on education. The first is the raising of the school-leaving age, which must be attended to as soon as possible. In fact, I believe it is long overdue. We must hasten the advancement of the school-leaving age because of the effects of automation on our economy, but what will it cost? I will not debate this matter at length because others are more qualified to do it than I am, but it is an urgent matter, and the sooner the age is raised the better it will be. I was interested in a report in this morning's *Advertiser* of an address given by the Minister of Education yesterday when he referred to the appointment of women to responsible positions in school. I am pleased about this. Some women teachers have been appointed deputy headmasters, and I have been happy about it. The Minister announced that next year women teachers would be appointed to six metropolitan high schools, including Brighton, and that soon a woman would be appointed to one of the highest positions in the administrative section of the department. This is an excellent move, for women should have the right to rise to these positions as the crowning of their life's work.

A comparison of the salaries paid to men and women for these particular jobs shows that they are reasonably close, but I see no reason why they should not be the same. This is the whole point of my remarks. I see no reason why a male deputy headmaster should receive a higher salary than a female deputy headmaster, because they do exactly the same work. The time is rapidly approaching when not only the Education Department and other Government instrumentalities but everyone will have to pay men and women the same salary for doing the same work. I do not intend to

enlarge on that, except to refer to one or two matters of particular interest.

Some opposition will be raised to the payment of equal pay, largely from vested interests that want to keep things as they are. We must realize that in most civilized countries the sexes have equal political opportunity, but that is not so in South Australia. One has only to think about the franchise for the Council to realize that. We are still waiting for the economic and social equality that has been reached in the more enlightened communities. Unfortunately ours is not an enlightened community. In at least 18 countries, and in 16 States of the United States of America, there is equal pay for equal work. Equal pay seems to have been obtained first in the public service, and that applies to 65 countries, including Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands and most States of the United States of America. It is good to know that it will be fully implemented in Great Britain by 1961 and that the principle has been adopted by the United Nations Organization, of which Australia is a member. I shall not dwell on that issue, but the time is rapidly approaching when we shall have to give serious thought to equal pay for women in the same way as we have given them equal voting rights. I realize it will be very costly and that some people will hold up their hands in holy horror and predict economic disaster. When reforms relating to prisons, child labour and slavery were suggested, people predicted an economic upheaval, but when they eventuated mankind benefited. I suggest mankind would benefit if we had this equal pay reform.

Nowadays we must realize that unfortunately money has become the measuring stick of all budgets; we are forced to realize it when we battle to get things for our districts and are told they cannot be afforded because the money is wanted for something else. I realize this is hard to avoid, and although democracy should be the yard stick, we have unfortunately only a tiny modicum of democratic government here. Some members have glowingly spoken of the length of the Premier's term of office and the proud record of this State, but I cannot bring my tongue to speak of things like that. Olympic records are not allowed when there is assistance from the wind, so we cannot allow any record made by the Premier when he has been assisted not by the wind but by the tearing gales of an intolerable gerrymander. I support the first line.

Mr. QUIRKE (Burra)—In supporting the first line I congratulate the Government on the Budget it has presented, in view of the intolerable circumstances in which the financing of anything apart from hire purchase finds itself today. Wool production has decreased in value by 21 per cent in recent months, butter production has to be subsidized, and now we have a crisis in the base metals industry, particularly in regard to lead. There is a crisis in connection with housing. Wherever we look the biggest impact upon the economy of this country comes from the money structure, about which I wish to speak. When debating the Loan Estimates I issued a challenge that was graciously accepted by the member for Light (Mr. Hambour) who made what must have been to his colleagues some startling admissions—the first that have been made in years in this House. The constant hammering of myself and the former member for Chaffey (Mr. Macgillivray) year in and year out at the financial stringency and the results it brings has produced some tangible results. Our constant and unwearying efforts to achieve some semblance of sanity in this House in relation to economic matters has been effective.

This Budget is a credit to the people who brought it down. I also say that, in my opinion, if the Treasurer would speak his mind he would not deny the truth of what I have unwearyingly put before the House over the last 18 years. The member for Light (Mr. Hambour) said:—

The member for Burra said he would reply to any argument that I put forward about finance. The honourable member said, "Every penny of money that comes into existence comes in the form of debt." That is true.

He then endeavoured to qualify that by saying:—

... but if I said the grass was green it would be true.

If the grass was yellow, or if there were no grass at all, what he said would also be true. The fact is that in regard to housing there is no grass, green or dry. The only shortage is the shortage of money.

Mr. Hambour—Read what I said later.

Mr. QUIRKE—I will soon. If a man has money he can build a house. There is no shortage of material or manpower. There is even some unemployment in the building industry.

Mr. Hambour—If the unemployed went to the country they would get plenty of work.

Mr. QUIRKE—The honourable member said:—

I inferred from Mr. Quirke's remarks that we could produce money whenever we wanted it. That is true, but I have never heard anyone deal with the consequence of taking such action.

There we have an admission that all money comes into existence as debt, and that we can produce money whenever we want it, the only fly in the ointment, according to the member for Light, being the consequence of such action. I understand the honourable member means we would have inflation?

Mr. Hambour—Extreme inflation.

Mr. QUIRKE—The honourable member continued:—

I will prove what I shall say is true. Bank overdrafts, or money advanced, are against assets, which are the result of production.

Unless a man is sound financially the banks will not grant him an overdraft, but the point is that although the security is based on past production the overdraft is given against future production.

Mr. Hambour—The man mortgages his past production.

Mr. QUIRKE—It applies to both past and future production. That is something the honourable member overlooked. He continued:—

Private banks are traders performing a function that is controlled by the Central Bank.

I agree entirely. The banks trade only in debt, and that debt mortgages future production. The first charge against that production is the interest charge, but that debt costs the banks nothing, apart from a very small sum for administration. I am not casting any aspersions on the integrity of the banks. The system has reached a stage where they now have a monopoly, under the direction of the Commonwealth Bank, of the credit structure of this country. It is in the restriction of credit that lies the evil that prevents people from building houses. The amount of money advanced for housing is insufficient, and the money that is advanced is too dear for thousands of people. Many cannot avail themselves of it. I have previously given figures showing that the repayments for a house costing £3,000 would be £18 5s. a month over 30 years, and that the total repayments would be £6,750. Many people earn about £16 a week, and the repayments on a house such as that, plus rates and taxes and maintenance, would take between £5 and £6 of their wages.

Mr. Hambour—It costs a man that much to run a motor car.

Mr. QUIRKE—They have not all got motor cars. I have no sympathy for a man who puts a motor car before a house. He would need much more than £16 a week to run a motor car and pay for a house. A £3,000 house is the absolute minimum house for a married man with two or three children, but what will it be worth at the end of 30 years? During the debate on the Loan Estimates I said that married couples should get a subsidy of £1,000 of costless money for such a house. It is now accepted that money advanced by the Commonwealth for such purposes is costless, apart from a small amount for administration expenses. That could be injected into the house building scheme without causing one penny of inflation. It could be done simply and effectively as I will reveal, and I will refer to the opinions of others. According to the Commonwealth report of this year approval of loans for housing during the year amounted to £15.7 millions and the demand for housing loans by the bank's individual customers progressively increased. However, the bank's capacity to meet this demand depended upon the continued support of its depositors and the general public. That statement should be challenged because last year that bank made a profit of almost £24,000,000 and the year before £20,000,000, which would have provided almost 15,000 homes costing £3,000, or on the basis of £1,000 for each home, three times that number.

Mr. Hambour—Assuming what you say is correct, who would you give this money to?

Mr. QUIRKE—Let us assume that money is advanced through the State Bank and the Savings Bank under the Advances for Homes Act. They will advance £3,000 at 5 per cent. Those organizations would then be recouped £1,000 by the Commonwealth Bank. How would that affect inflation?

Mr. Hambour—I accept that, but would the thousands of people who have already purchased homes under mortgage be given a concession?

Mr. QUIRKE—Yes. No matter when they bought them, if they purchased through the banks, I would help them. I often hear members opposite refer to the Commonwealth Bank as the "people's bank," but that bank has mulcted the workers of this country of thousands of houses because of the profits it has made. What does the bank do with its profits? According to its report, £12,592,000 was paid to consolidated revenue.

In other words the bank was acting as a taxing authority for the Commonwealth Government. There is no bank in the Commonwealth, or combination of banks, that can extract as much from the people as the so-called "people's bank." An amount of £5,051,000 was paid to the National Debt Sinking Fund. God help us! If ever money was poured down the drain, that was. One needs only examine the Sinking Fund to realize the minute reduction that represented when related to the astronomical increase in the total debt annually. That money could have been used for housing, but because it has been paid into the Sinking Fund it remains for ever sunk.

An amount of £5,658,000 was credited to the reserve fund of the Commonwealth Bank. That bank does not need a reserve fund. It is the central bank of Australia and what possible emergency could that bank have to meet? It has the whole of the capitalization of this country in the hollow of its hands, yet over £5,500,000 which could be used for housing was paid into its reserve.

It is interesting to refer to the opinions of experts, but before doing so it is necessary to have a clear appreciation of what is meant by "deflation" and "inflation." "Deflation" is when there are plenty of goods but no money and "inflation" is when there is an insufficiency of goods, but an abundance of money. The scheme I have proposed in relation to making £1,000 available for each house would in no way cause inflation. If any member can prove that it will I will gladly listen to him. In a condensation of the first Giblin Memorial Lecture delivered in the Bonython Hall on August 21, Sir Douglas Copland said:—

Deflation was not, in the circumstances, the cardinal weakness of Australian depression policy. This policy was superior to that of any other country in evolving a technique for sharing the loss of income and making a rapid, if painful, adjustment to the new conditions.

It is peculiar that in no other given set of circumstances—unless it is by a surgical operation—is one called upon to make painful progress. It is only in relation to finance. Sir Douglas Copland continued:—

In this achievement Giblin played a leading part; and in his *Letters to John Smith* he did much to make the position clear to the John Smiths of the nation, some of whom were in high places. He would have supplemented this adjustment by an expansion of credit, and the weaknesses of Australian policy, as of that of every other country, was that the basic adjustment was not followed by an expansion of credit to create employment.

Have members ever heard such a clarifying statement following on the fatuous stupidity of the people who were in command of the finances at the time? One of the best financial brains was hounded out of Parliament because he suggested the issue of fiduciary notes to relieve unemployment. Sir Douglas also said:—

In 1930 in a letter to the Prime Minister, he opposed holding the £A at parity with the £ sterling. In that letter appeared the following maxim: "To be scared of a policy involving a definite moderate measure of inflation is as sensible as to avoid a glass of beer for fear of delirium tremens."

Are we still afraid of a glass of beer in the form of mild inflation? There can be no progress without some inflation, but the trouble is the debt always hangs around the neck of the subject of the expansion.

Mr. Hambour—Just now you mentioned that it would be all right if only the capital were repaid in connection with the money advanced.

Mr. QUIRKE—I do not want the repayment of the money. I would give it. It is impossible to get it in any other way. Why should we be afraid to give money to men who are the source of this country's future greatness?

Mr. Laucke—What rates of interest would be adopted in the issue of the credit?

Mr. QUIRKE—I want the acceptance of the principle in connection with housing, although it could be used in other directions. I am pinning it to housing because in the building of houses practically all industries are concerned.

Mr. Hambour—You want subsidized housing?

Mr. QUIRKE—Yes, on the basis of free money. When we promote a demand for money we must make more available, and then if there are not enough door knobs, window frames, etc., to go around with the money available the injection of further money will increase the production of those things.

Mr. Hambour—You want subsidized housing.

Mr. QUIRKE—I want a subsidy of £1,000 paid to the man who is building a house. It is not a matter of giving him something for nothing. Frequently today people will not do their homework. They sit down and winge about what is to them an obscure evil. They should get down and analyse the cause. There should be a demand from this House to the Federal Government for assistance in housing that will promote the well-being of everybody. Unless we do something about getting a roof over our heads we will be out in the cold, cold



world. According to a report in the *Advertiser* of August 23, 1958, Mr. G. R. Mountain, of the National Bank of Australasia, Melbourne, said, in an address dealing with possible measures open to Australia to offset the effects of the current fall in export prices, that the heart of the matter was to resuscitate internal spending. He added that in the 1951-52 recession an internal credit expansion of £384,000,000 had assisted domestic expenditure to rise very greatly and thus offset the fall in export receipts, and that, perhaps more important still, it had helped to maintain domestic incomes in the face of a tremendous outflow of payments for imports. None of this money was costless. Whoever got it had to pay the current rates of interest, but, apart from administrative costs, it cost the lenders nothing. That cannot be denied, yet the rake-off came. The Commonwealth Bank could make money available without an interest charge, and the Banking Commission's report supported that view.

Mr. Loveday—Would the private banks agree to your suggestion?

Mr. QUIRKE—They would not have to. It would be a matter of competition. If the money came from the people's bank it would not have to come from the private banks.

Mr. Hambour—There are more lucrative businesses than banking.

Mr. QUIRKE—Yes, but I am talking about the principle. If you have a business you have to incur tremendous costs in purchasing raw materials, or wholesale goods to sell at retail prices, but that does not apply to money.

Mr. Hambour—But doesn't the Commonwealth Bank say what it wants from them?

Mr. QUIRKE—It does, and I am glad that the honourable member brought that up, because it opens an avenue for wider debate. The money is taken from the banks and put into the reserve fund for the purpose of restricting their capacity to advance credit. The other day £15,000,000 was released, but do not get away with the idea that that is the total; it could go to £100,000,000, according to the policy of the Central Bank. This did not cost anyone anything, except the man who borrowed it. I think I have said enough on this. It has been a most interesting debate, and I thank the honourable member for giving me a further opportunity to discuss these matters. It is not a matter of who wins the debate, but of seeing that the full facts are given prominence. Prominence was given to them in this debate, but not a word of anything I or the member for Light have said

will appear in the public press. This sort of talk is completely and utterly banned by the press. Of all that I and others have put in 15 years, very little has appeared in the press, and I do not expect anything will ever appear. In "Rydge's Journal," Mr. Hepburn McKenzie, chairman of H. McKenzie Ltd., speaking about reducing building costs, said:—

Prospects for the ensuing year depend to a great extent upon governmental action in various fields. Primarily home building, the key to which is finance. This has been a political football for some time, but Sir Douglas Copland, the well-known economist, last week put forward the suggestion that overcoming completely the Commonwealth-wide housing shortage should be well within the capacity of our national resources within a short period.

He does not say how.

Mr. Hambour—You will admit that there is healthy competition in the building trade?

Mr. QUIRKE—I want a more robust baby still. I want that baby to grow up, but at present it is likely to grow up under a low roof and become stunted. The article continues:—

Inadequate finance for housing is still a major obstacle, but even if this were overcome, high costs would still be a deterrent to many desirous of acquiring their own home. On a similar occasion 12 months ago, reference was made to the necessity of all concerned to use every endeavour to reduce the cost of home building. Unfortunately, during the intervening period little has been achieved in this direction. In its quarterly review issued last month, the Bank of New South Wales stated that, "The basic problem of housing in Australia inevitably hinges on the question of costs." In referring to the housing conference convened by the Premier, Mr. Cahill, last March, it comments: "It occasions no surprise that no clear solution emerged from the conference although it served to highlight the basic problems confronting the industry throughout Australia."

We can do many marvellous and deadly operations at Woomera, but you can hold all the conferences in the world on housing, yet nothing will be achieved. Mr. McKenzie's article concludes:—

So far as our industry is concerned, the small gross profit margins permitted by the Prices Commissioner are an incentive towards efficient operating, but too large a proportion of our costs is represented by imposts by Federal and State Governments and semi-governmental bodies, over which we have little or no control. Income tax, payroll tax and land tax combined take from this company each year considerably more than stockholders are paid in dividends. The industry's costs have a high labour content, consequently payroll tax is a high burden having no relation to earning capacity. A similar comment

applies to land tax and municipal rates owing to the large area of land usually necessary for our type of business. Road tax has recently become an additional burden, the full effect of which is yet to be felt. Royalty paid to State Forestry Department and railway freights represent a very large proportion of the cost of local timbers (hardwood and cypress). It is unfortunately true that the cost of ralling 100 super feet of hardwood from the North Coast to Sydney is greater than the cost of shipping a similar quantity of timber from either Malaya or Western Australia, and approximates freight costs between North America and Sydney.

What can we do about that? We certainly cannot do anything about it here, but for a country in which most of the people are outside walls—whether they should be inside or outside is not for me to say—to tolerate a set of conditions in which it costs as much to buy timber that has to be carted only 200 to 300 miles as that brought from Canada, something is wrong. How can the worker of today, the man who is endeavouring to get his little home together and have his family around him, possibly buy it from his income when that mountain of preconceived debt is on everything he buys? If those costs remain as they are, there must be injected into the cost of the houses something that is free, or he will never obtain a house. I support the first line.

Mr. GOLDNEY (Gouger)—I, in common with other members, and particularly the Leader of the Opposition, express much concern at the mounting costs of some of our large public works. It seems extraordinary that some of our major buildings erected in the last few years and some which are not completed have cost a tremendous amount more than the original estimate. We cannot blame increased wages altogether, although no doubt they have had some influence on the prices. An outstanding example is the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which was referred to by the Leader of the Opposition. This building will cost a tremendous amount more than was originally estimated. It applies also to other works, including the Adelaide-Mannum pipeline, the original estimate for which has been greatly exceeded, and also the drainage works in the South-East, although in this instance the estimates were made a number of years ago, and the completion of the work has been very slow, conditions in the meantime changing. The South Para reservoir cost an enormously greater amount than the original estimate, which was prepared not long ago. This is of concern to the general public. We can always do with more money. We never have enough

to carry out the projects which the Commonwealth and the State Governments desire to undertake. This afternoon Mr. John Clark referred to education. Admittedly we are spending a great deal in this direction, but we could expand further if more money was available.

The position concerning the reticulation of water in South Australia compares more than favourably with that in other States. We have to expand our service continually because of the increasing number of stock and the larger quantities being used for irrigation. Water services that may have been adequate 20 years ago are now unable to meet present-day requirements. There is constant need to repair or replace mains that were put down 30 or 40 years ago. Earlier this session I asked a question regarding the enlargement of the Warren main. This is of vital importance to many people, not only in the Barossa Valley, but also further north and in the northern end of Yorke Peninsula. I am pleased that a fairly large amount has been set aside on this year's Estimates to commence the enlargement of the main serving these districts. It is expected that during the present financial year it will reach Nuriootpa, and eventually it will provide an improved pressure to places further north and west. I consider this one of the urgent water supply improvement projects.

Fair-minded people must admit that during recent years much of our road-making funds has been spent on major highways linking Adelaide with Melbourne and the South-East. We know that these highways must be kept in order. Tremendous sums have been and are being spent on the hills road. Although this expenditure was necessary and desirable, now that some of these projects have been completed or are nearing completion I hope the Government will spend larger sums in the northern areas, which have not received much attention compared with other portions of the State.

Perhaps there were two major causes for the falling off in railway revenue in the last few years. One was the lighter harvest last year, resulting in the railways losing much freight which would ordinarily have been available; the other was the curtailment of ore transport from Broken Hill to Port Pirie which for many years has been the source of considerable revenue to the railways. It appears that this income may be still further curtailed because of the fall in the demand for lead and concentrates on overseas markets. It

is to be hoped that other markets will be found and that the position at Broken Hill, which is vital to our railway economy, will soon improve.

There are a number of taxation impositions on the land. For instance, we have local government rates, which have constantly increased during the last few years. While prices of primary products are reasonably good, perhaps it does not seem so hard, but if producers experience dry seasons and low prices these charges will be difficult to meet. Although a few years ago water rates were very moderate compared with the benefits conferred, they have now been sharply increased. Water rates, council rates and land tax are a heavy burden on primary producers, and if their conditions change for the worse they will have great difficulty in meeting them.

The member for Adelaide (Mr. Lawn) said he had obtained a copy of the constitution of the Liberal and Country League, and he made some caustic comments about the aims and objects of the Party. I think that on reflection he may regret his statement about the principles—or lack of principles, as he put it—of the Party. He also said L.C.L. members were lacking in humanitarian ideals, and I think he said they had no conscience. That was a hard statement to make, and I am afraid he has been misinformed in this regard. We have many charitable organizations in South Australia, and I think the honourable member would find that the people he condemns for having no humanitarian principles or conscience contribute liberally to those organizations. I hope that in the future he will show a little more tolerance towards members on this side of the House. I support the first line.

Mr. FRED WALSH (West Torrens)—I listened with interest to the attack the member for Gouger (Mr. Goldney) made against the member for Adelaide (Mr. Lawn) for something he said about the Liberal and Country League. It is good for members to be able to air criticism in this Chamber, and I am sure the member for Adelaide will accept that criticism in the spirit in which it was given by the member for Gouger. This Budget is similar in many respects to other pre-election Budgets that have been brought down, for we have had no intimation of any likely increases in taxation. Of course, the State's avenues for levying taxation have been limited as a result of the uniform income taxation system. I believe that South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania were happy to pass the

back to the Commonwealth for the imposition of income taxation, and they are glad to get reimbursements from the Commonwealth without having the responsibility to collect that taxation. One of the main contributing factors in keeping State Governments, whether Liberal or Labor, in office for so long is the fact that they do not now levy income taxation. There are other factors, which I shall refer to when speaking on another matter before the House.

We have heard much about South Australia's buoyant economy, but that position obtains in every State. I hope it will continue, but I doubt whether it will because of the many difficulties confronting Governments in other parts of the world, for this will ultimately be reflected in Australia's economy. Some members opposite have stated that South Australia's grants from the Commonwealth Grants Commission may be reduced, and if that takes place I think this Government will have to impose increased taxation and charges. The member for Gouger said that water rates in country districts were low a few years ago, but that applied throughout the State. Last year we were told by the Engineer-in-Chief that there would be no increase in water rates, but by increasing property assessments the department imposed higher charges on consumers. Householders were allowed 110,000 gallons a year of rebate water, but that figure was reduced to 70,000, and the price of excess water was increased by 3d. a thousand. Many people use between 70,000 and 110,000 gallons a year, and their water charges will be considerably increased. The result is an increase of 3d. per 1,000 gallons of excess water. The Government and the department said there would be no increase of water rate but, simply by doing that, they get an increased return. Far better to have considered a direct increase on the rates themselves than employ this method. The Government within the next 12 months, if returned to office—and naturally I hope it will not be because we shall find some fairer method than that employed by the Government in the past for adjusting rates, taxes, charges and fees—will be compelled to find a way of getting extra revenue for the projects contemplated under this Budget.

I want now to deal with the Henley and Grange railway. For a long time the people in that district, while agitating for the removal of the line from Military Road to a site further east where the department had acquired certain land for the purpose of duplicating the line, were led to believe that the whole of that

line would be electrified. The Railways Department in about 1950 planned to electrify the railway running from Adelaide through Woodville to Grange and Henley Beach, and later extend it behind West Beach to Glenelg, the old Holdfast Bay line, or a route approximating to it, running circuitously. Evidence was taken before the Public Works Committee then and the present Commissioner of Railways, Mr. Fargher, who was then Assistant to the Railways Commissioner, gave evidence as follows:—

The very considerable development of the district in the past few years and the prospective future development warrant an improved service, but this cannot be provided until the line is duplicated. By duplicating the line from Woodville to Henley Beach it will be possible to increase the frequency of the service at peak periods and to operate the service punctually. It will also be possible to provide a time table which will ensure that arrival and departure times of trains will be better suited to the needs of the travelling public than at present. The duplication of the Woodville to Henley Beach line is an urgent necessity whether the line is to be electrified or not.

Later, when the Transport Advisory Council was set up (comprising Mr. Fargher and Mr. Keynes, from the Municipal Tramways Trust, under the chairmanship of Mr. Hannan), it brought in a recommendation, after very little evidence had been taken, that the railway line be discontinued altogether beyond Grange. This caused considerable public resentment in the district. Although it is true that the Henley and Grange Council desired that the line be transferred from Military Road to a point further east where the Railways Department had acquired land, and gave evidence accordingly, it was disturbed and agreed with local residents that it was wrong to discontinue the railway as had been decided by the Advisory Council.

What concerns me is that, although buses have replaced trams on that route, they go only as far as the Grange and people living south of Grange who desire to travel to the city or to the industrial areas in the north-western suburbs and who previously used the railway are now compelled to travel by bus to Grange and then by railway from Grange. If some time elapses before the Railways Department ultimately constructs a line to cater for that fast-developing area east of Henley and Grange, those compelled to use the service are being mulcted and are paying extra fares that they should not be paying. If the matter was properly considered by the powers that be, the chief of whom today is

the general manager of the Tramways Trust, some provision would be made, by agreement with the Railways Commissioner, for an inter-system transfer of tickets whereby a person could board a tramways bus at any point south of Grange and there purchase a ticket that would carry him either to Woodville or to any industrial area between Woodville and Adelaide, without his being required to pay a second fare.

I read an interesting letter that reflects to some extent on the services provided by the Tramways Trust for Henley and Grange. It refers to the method by which Captain Sturt used to get to Adelaide in the early days of the State. As most honourable members are aware, Captain Sturt used to live in the Grange area. His house is still there, preserved by the local authority. The letter reads:—

Poor Sturt had to go to Adelaide in his gig, which took 30 minutes behind the old grey mare and less if he used the pair of bays. Progress has here made its greatest stride. The train has been taken away, and now we have buses. A fast bus gets to Adelaide in 39 minutes with driver and conductor; 45 minutes without conductor. Whichever way you look at it, this beats Captain Sturt's slowest time.

It costs 1s. 3d. if you walk 100yds. at the start; 1s. 6d. if you don't. This is because there are two routes which start 100yds apart. On one the time to Adelaide is 37 minutes for 1s. 3d.; on the other 45 minutes for 1s. 6d. Thus each costs the same, namely, 2½d. a minute. Captain Sturt was often troubled by the breath of loneliness when he drove home from Adelaide. Progress has even fixed this. We travel 68 souls to a 31-seat bus. This makes it impossible for loneliness to breathe and almost impossible for us.

I think that sets out the position clearly and the writer is to be commended for his letter. One method of overcoming the problem would be by providing express bus services from the city to Lockleys, beyond which the buses could stop at the regular places. In that way Sturt's times could be considerably bettered and the public provided with a more comfortable form of travel. This problem is not confined to people residing in Henley and Grange but it affects many people living in outer suburbs. It is not fair to expect people who live long distances from the city to stand in crowded buses for more than half their journey and express buses would obviate that difficulty.

The question of transfer tickets has been referred to on more than one occasion and it would be to the trust's benefit and of value to the general public if such a system were implemented. Any member who has travelled

in other States will realize that this applies elsewhere and is particularly valuable in the cross-suburban service in Victoria. I do not see why it could not apply here. The secretary of the Tramways Union suggests the sale of multiple-ride tickets. By that I presume he means a system that obtained in Melbourne whereby a person could purchase a dozen or more tickets and travel the number of sections represented by the value of the tickets. It frequently happens that people do not pay fares for their journeys—often because they arrive at their destination before the conductor has approached them. They cannot be expected to chase the conductor to pay their fares and if this system were utilized the trust would not lose so much revenue.

The Treasurer referred to the United States where a system of flat rate fares applies in many cities. In San Francisco a person can pay 10 cents and travel either one or two blocks within the city confines or out to Ocean Beach, five or six miles distant, but I doubt whether that would be successful in Adelaide. However, all these systems that might improve the popularity of our tram and bus services and increase the trust's finances are worth considering.

I am pleased that the Railways Department is retaining a strip of land which could be utilized for providing an adequate transport service to the people residing in the area between Tapleys Hill Road and Military Road. Within four or five years, if the present rate of development continues, there will be very few vacant blocks in that area and it will be essential for the authorities to provide a service for the people there.

The Tramways Trust has been criticized for its methods of dealing with its employees, particularly in relation to the roster system. However, because that matter is before the court—and therefore *sub judice*—I do not intend to offer criticism of it. However, I intend to refer to the question of terminating an employee's employment when he is absent from his work. A case that was originally brought before the notice of the member for Edwardstown, but which has been mentioned to me, concerns a man who was absent from March 3 to September 3. During his absence he received a letter from the trust advising that his services would terminate on September 12. It actually gave him a week's notice. He was certainly advised that when his health improved he could apply for permission to return to work. In the same letter he was requested

to hand in his equipment, clothing, etc. It is not a common practice in industry for an employee who is absent because of illness or accident to be sent a notice. This would not be permitted in the industry with which I am associated and in which the employees must return to work and, if the employer does not want to employ them, he may give a week's pay in lieu of notice, or employ them for a week. We would not permit any employer to give notice while the employee is on sick leave or absent as a result of an accident. If this were done there would be an industrial dispute.

I hope the trust will not make this method of dismissal a general practice, and that it will reconsider this matter. The trust knows the name of this man as well as I do, and others may have been dismissed under similar circumstances. If it was the trust's intention to dismiss him, why was he permitted to keep his equipment, clothing and change during the whole of the period? The fact that he was permitted to keep his change shows a lack of efficiency in the trust; however, I would think that this is a stereotyped letter that is sent out to many people.

The member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) spoke extensively about industrial relations, particularly as they affect production costs and higher production, with emphasis on incentive payments. The member for Whyalla (Mr. Loveday) referred to incentive payments rather effectively. I agreed with much that Mr. Coumbe said about industrial relations and the need for increasing productivity in contrast with higher production, his object being to get cheaper production by applying more modern methods and mechanization to industry. He said:—

More and more workmen ask for jobs with incentive schemes to increase the amount of money they take home each week. Under these schemes the worker gets more money and the employer gets increased output; there is a greater output with a lower unit cost.

That is all right as far as it goes, but let us analyse it. More and more people are seeking jobs with incentive schemes because there is less and less employment, and as many have been receiving overtime, which has now been curtailed, their incomes have been decreased. As many of them are committed under hire-purchase agreements, they have to earn money, and incentive schemes enable them to do so. It is unfortunate that employers take advantage of this.

Incentive payments may be all right in some ways, but I have never liked them. Many

years ago I worked in the Broken Hill mines on contract mining, and I know the viciousness that obtained when so much a ton was set for a party of workmen, and as a result the party went for its life to get all it could. I have earned as much as 35s. a shift, fixed on a price of about 5s. a ton, admittedly in good parties and in good mines. At the end of a month, when the contract was renewed, it was for 3d. or 6d. a ton less, and the reductions usually went on until the party found it could not earn a reasonable wage. When this happened the men would not accept another contract, and went to another mine. The next party that came in would get almost as much as the previous party, and so the thing went on in a vicious circle.

I was young then and did not see the effects such things would have, but I have seen the viciousness of these schemes in later years. The clothing trades industry is a striking example of how these things work. That is probably the most sweated industry in this country and in other places. We know from history that the Commonwealth Arbitration Court granted it a common rule that had never been granted to any other industry. This brought about what amounted to a system of compulsory unionism, because preference was given to unionists. I do not think these conditions obtain today because, I think, the employers have succeeded in breaking them down. However, I am not sure the employers will succeed in eliminating the common rule in an application they now have before the Court. When I said by way of interjection "Many workers have been seeking jobs with more overtime," Mr. Coumbe said:—

What is wrong with that? Overtime comes about mainly because there is a greater amount of work about than can be done with the employees available.

I do not agree. It is more often more convenient for an employer to work his staff overtime than to employ extra men. Although he has to pay penalty rates, it is more economical for him to pay those rates than to employ a bigger staff.

Mr. Bywaters—It cuts down his overhead expenses.

Mr. FRED WALSH—That is true. In some instances he may have to keep his employees on, despite the fact that he has insufficient work for them. I believe that too much overtime is about the worst thing that can happen to anyone. This affects particularly the employee, because he suffers physically.

Mr. O'Halloran—And he suffers morally because he looks upon overtime as part of his standard work.

Mr. FRED WALSH—That is the position he reaches, and unfortunately is the position we are now reaching fast because people are seeking those jobs in which there is greater overtime in order to increase their weekly income to meet their hire-purchase obligations and other payments to which they are committed. I am one who knows something about the question of working hours and I have tried to do everything possible to eliminate overtime. To a great extent my efforts have been successful in the industry in which I was interested and overtime has been broken down to the lowest possible limit. I read the other day in "In my Surgery," appearing in the *News* of September 23, where a young woman went to a doctor complaining of her physical condition. She fidgeted and twitched while she spoke, and said she had lost her appetite. The conclusion of the doctor was that she was doing too much work. The article included the following:—

A 40-hour week, if those 40 hours are genuinely filled with hard work, is plenty long enough for most people. Those who consistently work overtime, especially in a mentally fatiguing job, do so to their own detriment.

You must have a holiday immediately, otherwise you'll be unfit for any work. I think you ought to change your job, but if you do go back to it, you must promise me, no overtime. And don't ask me for pills, you need rest.

That can be taken as a good example of what can happen to any person required by his employer to work excessive overtime. Ultimately he must break down. I do not care whether it is called incentive payment, the bonus system or overtime, it all adds up to payment by results, and I oppose any system which has this as its objective.

Mr. Coumbe went on to speak about productivity. I agree that we must increase productivity if we are to retain and improve our standards of living. That is only a logical assumption. However, vested interests all the time are crying out for higher production. We have heard it down through the years. I can remember the clamour led by Billy Hughes, after the first World War, that we must have greater production if we were to survive as a nation. What was the net result? We produced such a quantity of consumer commodities that we were unable to dispose of them.

Mr. O'Halloran—We had the depression in 1930.

Mr. FRED WALSH—Exactly. There must be a proper balance. Some people try to give the impression that Australia has not increased its productivity. To show the position I ask leave to insert in *Hansard* without

reading it a table prepared by the Commonwealth Statistician dealing with productivity, wages, etc.

Leave granted.

The table was as follows:—

Year.	Value of Total Factory Production in £ ('000).	Value of Production per Person in Mfg. Industry in £.	Population.	No. of Persons employed in Factories.	Total Value of Wages and Salaries paid in Factories in £ ('000).	Increases etc, in Productivity per person in £.
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	
1926-27† ..	162,325	359	—	452,184	90,575	3†
1946-47† ..	410,862	510	7,579,358	804,929	237,134	87
1947-48† ..	489,296	576	7,708,761	848,876	285,765	66
1948-49 ..	568,769	639	7,908,066	890,117	339,219	63
1949-50 ..	661,532	721	8,178,696	917,499	385,797	82
1950-51 ..	843,872	871	8,421,775	968,918	491,718	150
1951-52 ..	1,024,867	1,048	8,636,458	977,517	611,789	177
1952-53 ..	1,082,862	1,160	8,815,362	933,261	635,245	112
1953-54 ..	1,231,113	1,244	8,986,530	989,542	705,134	84
1954-55 ..	1,365,509	1,324*	9,200,691	1,031,082	781,640	60*
1955-56 ..	1,498,764	1,409*	9,427,558	1,061,166	853,025	75*
1956-57 ..	Not available					

† Commonwealth Court granted 40 hour week.

\* Estimated Value.

‡ Commonwealth Court granted 44 hour week.

Mr. FRED WALSH—From the table we can ascertain that between 1926-27 (when the Commonwealth 44-hour week was introduced) and 1946-47 (when the Commonwealth 40-hour week was introduced) productivity per person increased by £150, or 41.7 per cent, and the number of persons employed in factories increased by 352,745, or 78.3 per cent. This should be compared with the period 1946-47 to 1955-56, when productivity per person increased by about £899, or 176.3 per cent, and the number of persons employed in factories increased by 256,237, or 31.8 per cent. Therefore, we have a disproportion of an increased percentage of 176.3 in productivity as against an employment increase of 31.8. Surely this development is significant, and answers the posers put up by one or two members opposite.

Mr. Coumbe—I did not say that productivity had not increased.

Mr. FRED WALSH—That may be so, but one or two of the honourable member's colleagues did. I do not think the honourable member suggested that the figures were as good as those I have quoted. The member for Light (Mr. Hambour) said that the standard of living in Australia had increased, and he particularly referred to the United States of America. I have obtained the Labor Organization's annual report for 1957, which shows that average industrial wages in

Sweden rose by 6 per cent in 1956, compared with a rise of only 2 per cent in the previous year. The consumer price index rose by an average of 4 per cent over the same period. Unemployment rose by only 7,000, or 0.2 per cent of the total labour force. The member for Light referred to increased costs of living, and I shall quote figures on this subject from the International Monetary Fund statistics. They show that the percentage increases in cost of living between 1951 and the latest available date in 1957 were United Kingdom 28, Belgium 6, Denmark 15, France 15, West Germany 6, Italy 18, Netherlands 16, Norway 25, Sweden 22, Switzerland 7, United States 7, and Australia 36. That gives some idea of the vast increase in the cost of living in Australia compared with that in other countries. Therefore our economy is not so rosy as we have been led to believe by members opposite.

Next Thursday a deputation will wait on the Minister of Industry and request three weeks' annual leave for all South Australian workers. I regret I shall not be there, but I heard some person say in the precincts of this building that the workers will never be satisfied and that they already have three weeks' leave as they get an extra week's leave for long service. That is just the argument we said would be used when the Long Service Leave Bill was being debated last year. We on this side of the House said that long service leave would be

regarded as an extra week's annual leave, and it will be interesting to see whether the Government intends to use that argument against the request for three weeks' annual leave. The deputation will not be requesting anything new. More than 50 per cent of the employees in the industry with which I am associated in an honorary capacity have been getting three weeks' annual leave for years. Some may say that is because of exceptional circumstances, but I read in the *International Labor Organization News* recently that in Switzerland a minimum of three weeks' paid annual holiday will now be granted to all workers in the Canton of Geneva. This is the outcome of a referendum in which the trades unions made their influence felt, and the Australian Labor Party has been endeavouring to get a referendum system established in this country for a long time. The people of the Canton of Geneva determined by referendum that three weeks' annual leave shall be granted to all workers in that Canton.

Mr. O'Halloran—That is an important Canton too.

Mr. FRED WALSH—It is. I believe the three weeks' annual leave will be extended to other Cantons in Switzerland and to West Germany in the not distant future. Increasing mechanization in industry is causing grave concern, and the situation will become more serious as automation is introduced.

[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.]

Mr. FRED WALSH—We see all around us indications of further vast technological changes in industry. Increasing mechanization is seriously affecting employment and the re-engagement of people displaced as a result is becoming a great problem with the passage of time. The only way to protect the interests of those most concerned, the workers, is to have an early get-together of the Government, employers and employees to ascertain the possible disadvantages accruing to employees in industry from increased automation. Here in Australia we are nowhere near the position reached in the United States, but automation is fast developing in countries like Germany and, to a lesser degree, France and England. Gradually, it can become a most serious social and economic problem.

Full application of automation can greatly benefit the human race, but there is a transitional period, with which we must concern ourselves, when we must discuss its various aspects to avoid, wherever possible, any serious effect it may have on employment, because we

shall not be able to consume the goods we are producing with increased mechanization. That will result in the type of depression we have known in years gone by. Some people say the application of improved technological methods in industry is causing considerable unemployment in the United States. The position, of course, may be the result of a falling off in world markets. Here in Australia we enjoyed, as they did in America and other producing countries, the markets available to us in Europe resulting from the lack of production that occurred during the war and the post-war period; but now those European countries are expanding their economies and manufacturing industries to such an extent that they can not only provide for their own consumption, but also compete in the world's markets, in some instances more favourably than we can.

It has been suggested that we should lower our costs of production to compete with those countries with their expanding economy, but there must be no lowering of the cost of production in this country at the expense of the worker. That, we are determined, shall not be brought about.

Mr. O'Halloran—Eventually, we would kill our local market.

Mr. FRED WALSH—Yes. We can with proper governmental management protect our own market, at any rate. While some may complain about the action of the United States in restricting their imports of lead because they want to protect their own interests, it is a natural thing to do. I well remember the first time that Australia played the same game in the early days of the depression. The Scullin Government imposed tariffs on imports into this country to protect Australian industries that had curtailed some previous imports into Australia. We have seen it done at different times during the years since then, not only by Labor Governments but also by Liberal Governments. The Menzies Government has applied it at least twice since 1949. Although many agreements were made during the discussions on the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs in 1947, the Menzies Government has still applied certain increases in tariffs for no other purpose than to protect the Australian manufacturer. That is one method.

The other is to impose restrictions on imports apart from tariffs which are prohibited by the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, but it does not much matter which method is



employed if the result achieved is the same. If we do these things ourselves, we have no right to squeal about others doing it. We must accept it as a logical corollary to the whole business of international trade.

There are many examples of automation around us in Adelaide, where old machines are being displaced by new machines which eliminate the employment of many workers in a particular establishment or industry. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find employment for those who are getting on in years. That brings me back to a question I was speaking of earlier. The member for Torrens indicated certain jobs with greater incentives and overtime. We tend to lose sight of the fact that during the war and in the post-war years many women were employed in industry, but they are gradually being displaced with the result that the income in their families is decreasing, making it more difficult for the family to retain its previous standard of living.

I will quote from a statement by a representative of the German Government at an International Labor Organization conference dealing with automation as applied to West Germany. Frequently, machinery has been applied in an industry where one would not expect it to be applied to the extent that it is. I give as an example a certain distillery. As a result of automation introduced there, the staff has been reduced to less than one-third, though producing the same quantities. The same thing applies in a malt house in Victoria where, as a result of the application of more highly mechanized processes, nine men can now do the work that two years ago it took 49 men to do. The names of these places can be given if honourable members have any doubt that what I am saying is true. I could mention a number of other places, but I do not like to name individual firms or establishments. Automation will gradually become common-place if employers have the wherewithal to purchase the costly machinery. Manufacturers look to the future in the hope that as a result of their increased production from a smaller staff they will be able to recoup the cost of the machinery and ultimately make a handsome profit.

When discussing the Bill to ratify the Indenture in connection with the oil refinery establishment members were not able to fully debate it because it had been considered by a Select Committee, but the Industrial Engineer of the Vacuum Oil Company, Mr. W. E. Lilburn, said that the refinery at Hallett's Cove, when established, would be as nearly fully automative as any process in the world

and that, despite the size of the refinery and the daily output, only 250 men would be required to operate it. Last week the Industrial Sales Manager of the same company, Mr. Harvey, said at a Junior Chamber of Commerce luncheon at Port Adelaide that 2,000 men would be employed in building it and 400 in operating it. There is a considerable discrepancy in the figures mentioned by those two men. I cannot say who is correct, but I hazard a guess that the Industrial Engineer, who will be associated with the working of the refinery and who will have an intimate knowledge of its proposed mechanization, would have a greater knowledge than the Industrial Sales Manager. In other words, the refinery that we visualized employing a considerable number of men will, at the most, only employ 250 because of automation. I am not unmindful that as a result of its establishment a number of secondary industries will be established which no doubt will create employment. We sincerely look forward to the day when those men who are displaced will be employed.

I do not know of any country that has made as much progress or created as much stability in its economy as Western Germany has done since the war. I have visited that country three times—in 1935, 1947 and 1954—and have some personal knowledge of it. The Western Germany Minister of Labor, Mr. Anton Storch, at an International Labor Conference, in respect of automation said:—

In the Federal Republic of Germany we have introduced the right of co-determination for the workers, thereby enabling them to keep watch on technical progress in their undertakings and to influence it. But in the next stage of development this will not suffice. Above and beyond the level of the undertaking, employers and workers must constantly follow the trend of the times. With progressive automation we must clearly see where dangers are developing for the working man and, in order to recognize these dangers soon enough and counter them, we shall not be able to avoid establishing institutions in which employers and workers will work together with scientists and Government in order to keep a constant watch on whether better standards of living are being created for everyone as a result of the action taken. If we set about matters in this way I hardly think that we need have fears for the future.

Let us at this point ask ourselves quite frankly whether human labour has always been rightly utilized in industrial countries in recent years. We have reduced hours of work to such an extent that we have had to seek supplementary manpower and in our country, as in others no doubt, very great recourse has been had to female labour in the undertakings. Let us ask ourselves earnestly whether the world

would not live more happily if women were induced to resume what has always been their own task—that of wife and mother? I believe that many problems, as for instance, the problem of juvenile delinquency, could be solved to the benefit of mankind if children could always be looked after by their mothers. If developing automation enables us to manage with a smaller number of workers then we should do everything possible to distribute the consumable portion of the increased social product primarily to male workers. The family would then be placed on a sound financial basis even without the earnings of the wife and mother.

That, to some extent, condenses my own views. During this debate the member for Light (Mr. Hambour) referred to Mr. McEwen as a great man who had proved himself at overseas trades conferences, particularly at Montreal. I do not share the same opinion of Mr. McEwen's stature, and I point out that he is not a product of the Liberal Party, but of the Country Party. He is not without ability, but I believe that instead of messing around with some of the countries to which the United States looks for trade we should be seeking markets in South America where the same inroads have not been made into the potential markets.

Mr. Hambour—Won't you give Mr. McEwen credit for what he did in Malaya?

Mr. FRED WALSH—Good Lord, there is nothing in Malaya yet to speak of, for the position there has not been stabilized. They are only kidding themselves that it has been stabilized. I do not consider Malaya as an argument.

Mr. Hambour—He sold 8,000,000 bushels of wheat there.

Mr. FRED WALSH—That is about the quantity that will be sent from Wallaroo next year.

Mr. Hambour—It was an effort, anyway.

Mr. FRED WALSH—One might as well say that a bag of rice would be a big sale.

Mr. O'Halloran—Have we been paid for that wheat yet?

Mr. FRED WALSH—I do not know. I didn't make the deal. I believe it would pay South Australia to send a mission, even if Government sponsored, to South America to explore the possibilities of trade there.

Mr. Hambour—That would be all right if you nominated me.

Mr. FRED WALSH—With all due respect to the honourable member, we could nominate someone worse, but it would be a job to find him. Mr. Beatty, a trade authority who knows South America well because he spent 3½ years

there with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, and had every opportunity to observe the possibilities of trade referred to some of the principal items in demand in that country, such as pharmaceutical products, tinned jams and fruits, steel and builders' hardware. He went on to say:—

The Argentine, Peru and Brazil offer a vast market for stud sheep and flock rams which now come almost exclusively from the United Kingdom. Food and other allied products could also share in the markets there. There are a few things which could not find a sale where four cities have a total population of 12,000,000 and are still growing.

The Government could seriously consider organizing a trade mission to South America with a view to developing markets there in the interests of this State. It could leave the other States to look after their own interests. The items enumerated, perhaps with the exception of steel—and perhaps later including steel, when the steelworks are established at Whyalla—are in demand and could be supplied by this State. I suggest that this matter be considered to stop the shrinking of employment, which I think will become a great danger soon if the international trade situation does not improve as we all desire. I have much pleasure in supporting the first line.

Mr. LAUCKE (Barossa)—I have always listened with interest to the member for West Torrens (Mr. Fred Walsh), because I believe him to be an authority on the incidence of industrial legislation and practices. I entirely agree with his statement that automation, properly approached, may benefit the whole human race, but point out that we have to move collectively in this matter, not just one nation alone, because we must compete to achieve individual living standards. However, the thought expressed by Mr. Walsh was, I think, excellent and true. On the other hand, I was sorry to hear him say that incentive payments embrace undesirable features, because I feel that if we are to compete with overseas industries we must be prepared to adopt the systems that some keenly competitive countries use. If we can use incentive systems without jacking up normal production unfairly, I believe much can be said in favour of incentive payments.

It is evident from this year's Budget that this State has achieved a remarkably solid economic position. As such a Budget was brought down after a very adverse season in climate, conditions and prices, I think we have achieved something in a new direction by having a balance between primary and

secondary industries. Wheat production fell last year from an average of 25,000,000 bushels for the previous 11 years to 12,500,000 bushels; barley production was 17,700,000 bushels, less than half the previous year's production; and the volume of wool produced fell from 568,242 bales, which realized £54,125,692 at 73.83d. a lb., to 512,236 bales, which realized £36,776,678 at an average of 56.11d. a lb. These reductions in production were reflected in the revenues the State derived from railways and harbors, so I was pleased to see that income from public works and services in the last financial year was £37,000,000, and that taxation provided £10,000,000. I feel that these figures would not have been achievable had we depended so utterly on primary production as we did 10, 20, or 30 years ago. The sound conditions arrived at, which can be expected to continue because of the policy that has been adopted in recent years of building secondary industries in unison with the greatest possible use of our lands and the greatest possible output, have been, in effect, a revolution in our State economy. Whilst never overlooking the great importance of primary production as the basic unit of our economy, secondary industry has been so complementary to primary industry that it has given us our present stability. The whole picture in this State has been changed to very good effect, and now we can bear, with comparatively little hardship, the repercussions of the adverse conditions to which I have referred.

It is worthy to note that in 1930 a reduction of some £35,000,000 in our overseas income led to a major recession; last year the income for the Commonwealth as a whole fell by £172,000,000, but the effects were nowhere near as adverse as those experienced in 1930. In this I congratulate the Treasurer on the part he has played in bringing this new look to our economy—of giving greater credence to the importance of a secondary economy working in conjunction with primary economy.

Mr. O'Halloran—He has given it the sack look.

Mr. LAUCKE—It is a very modern look, and it has given a more modern look to the whole of Australia and the world in recent years. The member for Burra (Mr. Quirke) said that the thing that makes most impact on our economy is our monetary system. I agree with that entirely, because I believe finance is government and government is finance. He suggested £1,000 of costless money

for each householder, and said this would not cause inflation.

Mr. Quirke—I said for each house built.

Mr. LAUCKE—I stand corrected. We find that the issue of Treasury bills is not in the hands of the State, but of the Commonwealth. I presume the position is kept under review continuously. I fear any movement away from a sound attachment to the issue of no more money than the value of current goods and services. There is a day of reckoning with finance, and I cannot see how money can be produced without ultimately its being returned in some way or other. I like the idea of helping our fellow men. The issue of credit may appear to be one way of helping him.

Mr. Quirke—Will the honourable member say where the thousands of millions of pounds which are now current in Australia came from, and to whom is it due to be returned?

Mr. LAUCKE—Fundamentally the moneys are in debit or credit whether for goods produced or services rendered at some time during our history. Why is it that in Canada the people who advocated the rather free use of social credit were wiped out completely at the last elections? Not one Douglas Credit candidate was returned. Their policy was so disastrous that the public lost confidence in it. In times of national stress when local materials and labour are available, and there is no avenue for the employment of those materials or labour, a more generous view could be taken of national credit as a temporary measure, but it is a temporary measure which must be paid for at some future time.

Mr. Lawn—In which way?

Mr. LAUCKE—Through the production of goods or services.

Mr. Lawn—If a house is produced by credit, what is the difference between that and what you are arguing?

Mr. LAUCKE—The production of a house is all right, but it is the pumping into currency of credit which, although it is represented in the building of a house, is still currency and must ultimately be repaid in some way or other.

Mr. Quirke—You are quite wrong. It is not currency at all.

Mr. LAUCKE—Again I stand corrected. It is an issue. I feel that the best interests of every section of the community are served not by an easy *ad libitum* approach to the creation of bank credit—

Mr. Hambour—If Mr. Lawn lent £500 he would want interest on it.

Mr. LAUCKE—When money is freely and easily available we have inflation which is the greatest curse to the man on wages or salary, the recipient of a pension or a fixed income, or a policy holder in a life assurance company. He suffers and not the so-called capitalist, who is resilient under those conditions and could possibly withstand them better than people on a fixed income. I approach the position with great caution. I have in mind the need for economy in spending. As I move around the country I see the excellent work done by district councils. Their members do work gratis and the money available to them is spent more efficiently than money is spent by some Government departments.

Mr. Bywaters—Do you believe in interest-free loans for this type of work?

Mr. LAUCKE—We cannot afford that. We have to tighten our belts as demands on money are ever-increasing. I should like to see more money allocated to councils and their powers increased in regard to road construction. Once bituminous roads have been provided throughout country districts their maintenance should be left in the hands of the local authority, and not the Highways Department, because I think it can look after roads in the more settled areas without the maintenance being done by the Highways Department.

I refer with great pleasure to the Government's most generous attitude in recent years towards our aborigines. In the past five years the amount spent for their care has been almost £1,000,000. The amount provided in 1953-54 was £119,000, £264,000 in 1957-58 and this year it has been increased to £374,000. This is a wonderful gesture toward our fellow Australians. I am pleased with the amount that has been allocated to church bodies to spend in the interests of natives on mission stations. Men and women who have devoted their lives to aborigines are better suited to care for their physical and spiritual needs than are paid officials. I take off my hat to the Government for giving such credence in the Budget to the importance of church missions.

I am concerned about the present condition of the fruit canning industry. Overseas markets are particularly heavily catered for and overseas prices are below the Australian cost of production. The local market is very dull. Whatever portion of the fruit crop can be dried should be treated in that way. Before the opening of the season all steps possible should be taken to ensure the placing of the

current crop. Dried fruits have had a good clearance in recent months, and that augurs well for next season.

Mr. Lawn—What do you think of the suggestion put forward by the member for West Torrens to send a man to South America to investigate markets there?

Mr. LAUCKE—I am particularly pleased with the Rt. Hon. J. McEwen's work as a salesman for Australia. He is the best ambassador we have had abroad for the sale of primary products, and he is also organizing markets for our secondary industries. He should be applauded for what he is doing, and he has already achieved much in establishing barley and wheat markets in Japan. It seems that he has also reopened markets in Ceylon for our flour, and he is examining the position in Asia to see whether markets can be established there.

Mr. Lawn—Do you think the only person who should seek markets overseas, apart from the Rt. Hon. J. McEwen, is your master?

Mr. LAUCKE—If we had a few more salesmen of the calibre of the Rt. Hon. J. McEwen and the Hon. Sir Thomas Playford we would be a most fortunate nation.

Mr. Lawn—What about chemical industries? Government supporters said the Premier would bring back many industries from America.

Mr. LAUCKE—We have received much benefit from the Premier's efforts, and I am sure more will follow. I have much pleasure in supporting the first line.

Mr. HUGHES (Wallaroo)—I, too, support the first line. Despite what we have been told about the prosperity of this State under the present Government, the supposedly high level of employment and profits, the few who know anything about shortages, and excellent seasonal prospects the outlook for many people is less encouraging than it has been for many years. This applies particularly to people living in districts such as the one I represent, for there we find considerable unemployment.

I thought the position would be different in the metropolitan area, but it is not. Wherever I have been I have found an undercurrent of uneasiness. People seem to be living in fear that the prosperity they have been enjoying is waning. This will grow as the effect of such factors as the United States' decision to restrict imports of lead and zinc is felt. The recession in the United States has resulted in a feeling of uncertainty in South Australia.

The shares of some of Australia's chief companies producing lead and zinc have fallen in value greatly in the past 18 months. For instance, the shares of Broken Hill South were worth £5 0s. 6d. 18 months ago, but three months ago they were worth £2 13s. 3d., and last week only £2 7s. 0d. Eighteen months ago North Broken Hill shares were worth £8 4s. 0d.; three months ago they were worth £4 5s. 0d., and last week only £4 4s. 0d. The following figures were given by the Rt. Hon. J. McEwen last week in Montreal. Australia's exports last year of 133,000 tons of lead to the United States will be cut by 49 per cent under the quota system to about 68,000 tons.

Mr. Hambour—Do you agree that we should sell commodities to Japan?

Mr. HUGHES—If that would create full employment in Australia I would seriously consider it. The cut in imports by the United States will result in a reduction in dollar income for Australia of 18,000,000 dollars on the basis of the 1957 prices. Even if I do nothing else tonight, I make a plea that the Government and the Opposition co-operate with men of knowledge and high principles for an expansion of world trade and the development of the Commonwealth. South Australia faces difficulties and problems, and they are made more difficult because we are a small, rapidly-growing State. Overseas markets will become more difficult to find, and our industries face keen competition. It would be a fine achievement under present circumstances if our volume of exports could be maintained.

The Budget contains a number of small items that are welcomed by the Opposition. One is the grant of £1,000 for "Meals on Wheels." This organization is performing a great service to the community, and its progress has been steady, if not spectacular, thanks to a gallant band of workers and the wonderful support it has received from so many. The efforts of that great lady and leader Miss Taylor, during the past few years are beyond praise, for she has relieved the hardship of many people. Many volunteers have rendered great assistance, and with their continued help the organization's future is assured. I trust that the grant to this worthy organization will be increased in the next Budget.

Last week some of my colleagues and I visited the Woodville school for mentally retarded children. After a discussion with the head and a visit to the classrooms and workshop I felt sure that many of the children there would play a useful part in society. The Education Department was fortunate in

securing the services of the present head of that school. The parents of the children attending the school are thrilled with the response. This was borne out after I had met about 20 mothers who, in turn, assured me that their children were making progress since first attending the school.

The honourable member for Adelaide (Mr. Lawn) recently took up with the Minister of Education the matter of appropriate school transport being made available to these children. After discussing some problems with me, these mothers would continually come back to two problems that were apparently causing them much concern. Their main problem appeared to be school transport and each mother voiced her opinion on this subject. It appears that they are finding great difficulty in getting to school, not so much the smaller children but the boys of about 12 to 14 years of age. Anything that the Education Department can do in this sphere will be a great service to these mothers.

Secondly, they feared that their children would not be allowed to attend school after reaching the age of 16. The mothers maintain that that is the age when these children are most difficult to control, but when improvement is shown if this type of education is continued. I have every confidence in the Minister of Education and know that he will consider carefully these requests from the parents. The few children concerned depend so much on their parents and teachers. If the department could make some transport facilities available to them, it would be highly appreciated.

When speaking on the Address-in-Reply, I appealed to primary producers in this State to use their energy and determination to store up fodder reserves. Apparently, I was misunderstood because two members rose to the defence of the primary producers and referred to what I had said. I agree that much hand feeding has taken place in South Australia over the last two years. Fortunately, the seasons have been reasonably good and the farmers did not have to fall back on the whole of their reserves. I believe that there should be a concerted drive this season to encourage farmers to conserve as much fodder as possible. I have found many instances where farmers go to the expense of cutting, baling and stacking their fodder, and then they fail to protect it from the weather, and after a few months it is a black, rotting heap. After all the expense of

cutting and storing, surely it would be to the advantage of the farmers to erect roofs over their stacks.

Mr. Harding—What about a Royal Commission to consider that?

Mr. HUGHES—I do not think we need a Royal Commission. I am not criticizing the farmers in any way; I am merely trying to encourage those who have met the problem only half way. Perhaps that is what is tickling the conscience of the honourable member from the South-East. I know that many farmers in South Australia handle this problem well and have never been out of fodder. They realize what a great asset it is in this State where we have a few dry years. If the farmers do not work together as one body to conserve fodder and assist one another to solve this problem, the State will be the loser in the long run.

History was made at Wallaroo yesterday when a ship received grain from the new bulk silos. I was not present but was given to understand that the try-out proved successful and the operation proceeded smoothly. I pay a tribute to the local waterside workers for their magnificent work over many years in loading the grain ships. These men have worked most conscientiously and have been complimented by many a ship's captain on the efficient way they have loaded the ships. As we move with progress, we should recognize men such as these waterside workers who have borne the heavy work in contributing towards the progress of this State of which we are so proud.

I had hoped that the Minister of Agriculture, representing fisheries, would see his way clear to build a new fishing haven at Moonta Bay. This is not by any means a new request from the fishermen at Moonta Bay, for they have been asking for this haven for many years. Many Ministers have been approached on this subject from time to time, but with no apparent result. I really thought that Moonta Bay was to get this boat haven after hearing the Premier tell a Moonta councillor some time ago, "We are going to do something about a boat haven for the Moonta boys." The one thing he did not say was when he was going to do it. When one hears the Premier of a State in all sincerity volunteer such information, one naturally thinks the matter will receive attention soon. So, when we heard no more, I asked a question in the House, and the reply of the honourable Minister is in *Hansard*.

However, I hope that the Government is still keen to provide improved facilities in this area.

The great worry of the fishermen at Moonta Bay is that a heavy storm might blow up and carry away a portion of the old structure, thus causing extensive damage to the fishing fleet. I have heard recently that certain fishermen there are so concerned about what might happen that they are leaving their larger boats as far away as Port Broughton and travelling home by road rather than take the risk of such valuable boats being broken up. I hope that in the near future—I understand the opportunity has gone again as far as this year is concerned—serious consideration will be given to these boys at Moonta, because the only thing they have for future support is the fishing industry.

The Hon. C. S. Hincks—Isn't there a difference of opinion amongst the fishermen as to where it should be?

Mr. HUGHES—Not any longer. When Mr. Pearson—who was then Minister of Agriculture—visited Moonta several months ago he was assured that everything was settled and that the haven should be where the old structure is now. I support the first line.

Mr. RALSTON (Mount Gambier)—I appreciate the substantial sums made available for the needs of my electorate arising from the expansion of Mount Gambier and the increase in population. It is gratifying to see the South-East steadily forging ahead with the establishment of industries and with its wide range of primary production. In connection with Safety Week, which is being promoted by Jaycee, consideration should be given to the roadworthiness of the secondhand vehicles that are being sold. I understand that in New South Wales certificates of roadworthiness are issued when a change of ownership takes place or at the annual registration. Roadworthiness usually relates to steering, braking, lighting and sound tyres and tubes. That is accepted by the technical engineers of the Royal Automobile Association. Last week the Treasurer said that facilities for examining secondhand vehicles were available in Adelaide to members of the R.A.A. That is so, but it is time similar facilities were extended to Mount Gambier and other main country centres, so that country members could have the same type of advice at all times.

It is fitting to draw attention to a report of the Mount Gambier City Health Officer, Dr. Hawkins, published in the *Border Watch* of

Saturday, September 13. The article is headed "Another Case for Urgent Sewerage," and states:—

"On pulling up the floorboards, we found seven pits. Some had collapsed with the sinkage of the walls. Under the rear portion, there was one awful cesspool," said the doctor. A business selling cakes was established in the rear portion of these premises being used as a bakery. The health officer visited them because of the smell and discovered seven cesspits full of filth under the floor. He immediately condemned that portion of the premises and said that within two months he intended to condemn the remaining portion of this valuable property in Commercial Street, which is within 100ft. of the town hall. The proprietor of this rather prosperous business lost heavily because there was nothing left once it was condemned. The owners of the premises, the United Insurance Company, now have a completely worthless building that cost thousands of pounds, and until sewerage is provided it will remain valueless. Many other property owners could suffer a similar fate if sewerage is long delayed. In reply to a question I asked concerning the report of the Advisory Committee on Country Sewerage, the Treasurer said:—

Naracoorte's plans were somewhat more advanced than those of Mount Gambier, so possibly we shall have some difficulty in spending the amount provided for the latter place; but I assure the honourable member that the Government will get on with the job as quickly as possible.

I assure the Treasurer that Mt. Gambier people are just as anxious to get on with the job because Commercial Street is in a bad condition. A limited sewerage scheme could be implemented there. A scheme is already operating in another part of Mt. Gambier and appears to be satisfactory.

Another matter related to safety is the use of X-ray equipment in shoe stores in South Australia. In a recent copy of the *Advertiser* under the heading "Interstate Round-up", the following report appeared from Brisbane:—

The Queensland Government will ban X-ray equipment in the shoe stores.

The chairman of the Radiological Advisory Council (Dr. A. Fryberg), who is also the State Director-General of Health, announced today that the council had decided that foot X-ray machines should be disallowed.

For some time leading scientists have been concerned at the possibility of cancer and leukaemia arising from the indiscriminate use of X-rays, which are used in shoe stores in

South Australia. Although they operate on a form of automatic control, which switches them off after a short exposure, people are not prevented from going from store to store and having several X-rays with the possibility of being affected. In order to operate an X-ray plant in South Australian hospitals a person must be qualified and a certificate is issued by the Australian Institute of Radiographers. I hope the Minister will consider implementing regulations to protect the public from undue exposure to this possible form of danger.

Other speakers have referred to the decline in production in various spheres, but the timber industry in the South-East is expanding. The *Summary of Australian Conditions* for September issued by the National Bank of Australia gives some interesting figures of log output. For the year ending June 30 last a total of 101.3 million super feet of timber was obtained from Government pine forests. An unusual feature was that whilst Government mills treated 70.8 million super feet, 30.3 million super feet was milled privately. An assessment of the timber position in the South-East and adjacent areas in Victoria was given to the Mount Gambier Chamber of Commerce recently. It was stated:—

There is approximately 170,000 acres of planted pine at the moment. There is approximately 8,000,000,000 super feet true volume of log timber standing at the present time. The value of timber standing today would exceed £50,000,000. The annual growth of standing timber would exceed 500,000,000 super feet per annum of timber in log form. The estimated production in the course of the next 10 years will be approximately 250,000,000 super feet of sawn timber per annum, and the planted area of pine is continually increasing, both Government and private enterprise planting new areas at a rate greatly in excess of areas being clearfelled.

The next thing of great interest to people in my electorate is water rates. I find a growing concern, and in many cases hostility, over the amounts payable to the Engineering and Water Supply Department this year for water rates. The Leader of the Opposition referred to this when in this debate he said:—

I refer to increased assessments for water rating. Some assessments have been increased by more than 100 per cent, and many by 70 per cent to 90 per cent. If this is not an increase in charges I do not know what it is. I have taken a purchase trust home as a standard. The value of such a home is usually between £3,000 and £3,200. The water rates payable in Mount Gambier on a purchase trust home range from £11 6s. to £13 10s.—the

latter amount is usually payable on a house to which a garage or some improvement has been added since purchase. The average in Mount Gambier is about £12. Water rates payable in the Adelaide metropolitan area on similar homes range from £7 to £7 10s., and from £6 to £6 10s. is payable for sewerage rates, so the owners obtain water and sewerage for little more than the Mount Gambier people pay for water alone. It is obvious that the rate in Mount Gambier (10.8 per cent on assessed values, compared with a 7.5 per cent rate in Adelaide) is the main reason for the high costs referred to. Nature provided the water supply at Mount Gambier, a natural reservoir that is always full. The only cost involved is for pumping the water 300 feet, after which it reticulates throughout the area, whereas millions of pounds have been spent to establish reservoirs and the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline to serve the Adelaide water district, in addition to which the heavy operating cost mentioned by the Auditor-General has to be met. Because of these things it is impossible to justify the 10.8 rate on assessment values at Mount Gambier. I hope my remarks on this and other matters will not fall on deaf ears.

Mr. KING (Chaffey)—I support the first line with a considerable amount of pride in the achievements of the Government of South Australia, led by Sir Thomas Playford. I think it has been a wonderful record of 20 years of planning and progress, and I remind the House that of those 20 years we spent practically until 1948 fighting a war and getting over it. The progress made has been astonishing in that the majority has occurred in the last 10 years. In other words we are reaping the fruits of careful years of planning that have gone into producing a State with more diversified production and employment than have other States, and because of that diversification this State is now better able to withstand falls in prices of primary products, including minerals. I trust it will be resilient enough to absorb the falls in exports that have caused a certain amount of gloom, particularly on the other side of the House. I am sorry that the Opposition has continued in the main to adopt gloomy prophecies and to be wet blankets. Maybe Opposition members feel they are doing the State a service by adopting this attitude. I am pleased to note that amongst these gloomy prophets some see the bright side of things. I think the best left-handed compliment paid to us this session was that of the member for Hindmarsh (Mr. Hutchens) who asked if the

Government Tourist Bureau would handle *The Story of South Australia*, a book that contains a complete record of the wonderful achievements of this State during the reign of the present Liberal and Country League Government.

Mr. Hutchens—I acknowledged that we had increased our production.

Mr. KING—I am pleased that the honourable member acknowledged it.

Mr. Bywaters—We are always prepared to give credit where it is due.

Mr. KING—I hope the honourable member will do so in six months. The member for Stuart (Mr. Riches) went to considerable pains to point out that after his visit to Western Australia recently he was so proud of this Government's efforts in negotiating for an oil refinery that he had a letter from a member of the Western Australian Parliament read to this House to show how well we had negotiated the agreement. Despite the fact that the Opposition feels they should decry the efforts of the Government, indirectly it is proud of what has been done and of the part it has played in it, although probably it is not prepared to admit that. We have gone a great way from the days when South Australia was regarded as a mendicant State. We have now reached a position in which other States complain that South Australia is going so well that it should not get any more Commonwealth assistance. I hope the day will come when the other States need Commonwealth grants, which will come from the income of this State.

I think we must acknowledge that the best use has been made of water, one of the essential things that have made this State what it is today. We have never had water restrictions. Although we have few raw materials, we have used what we have to the best advantage. Power has been taken from one end of the country to the other, because without power industry cannot flourish. Primary production has increased statistically by leaps and bounds. Although values fluctuate from time to time, the people of South Australia, no matter on what they depend for their incomes, are not walking around in trepidation as the member for Wallaroo (Mr. Hughes) seemed to think. Naturally, they consider their position from time to time, but I think they all feel that the diversity offered in this State ensures the safety of their futures, and I sincerely hope this is so.

Dealing with matters closer to home, I am pleased that the Government has placed £20,000



on the Estimates to help with the Berri Hospital. This, being a subsidized hospital, needs to get much money from the district. It may interest members to know that Berri must find £4,000 and that amount will be in hand before the end of the year. We are having a citrus festival and I would like all members to participate. The Government has also increased the subsidy to the Marriage Guidance Council. We do not hear much about its work, which is done by volunteers who help to prevent the dissolution of marriages. They look after problems arising from broken homes. They have sponsored what is known as the "Home and Family Week," which is designed to deal with home life. Four towns in the Upper Murray conducted a special week from September 21 to 28 and the meetings were extremely well attended. It is felt that they will have far-reaching effects in helping people to understand the problem of keeping homes together. The future of any nation is bound up with the sanctity and well-being of the home.

The vote to the Department of Agriculture has been increased. It is pleasing that the Loxton Research Farm is to be made a branch of the Berri Experimental Orchard. In our district we have rapidly growing areas of various types of trees and vines. These include the soldier settlement areas. Several thousand acres of young trees are coming into production and they will swell the grand total of fruit produced, which I feel sure will be absorbed by the existing markets. I agree with Mr. Laucke that some of the fruits will have to be dried. Nothing is to be feared there. The growers have had several warnings this year and I feel that the market for dried stone fruit particularly is sound and can absorb anything the growers dry this year. The problems of the canning industry relate not only to markets, but principally to the quality. I believe the growers are beginning to realize that if the canners are to succeed they must provide them with quality fruit. If all canners seek to pack export standard fruit there will be no problem in distribution, because most of the fruit could be sold overseas in competition with fruits from other countries. In South Australia it is not so much a question of additional production as regaining the markets that were unfortunately lost to the eastern States during the wet winter which preceded the 1956 floods.

If we are to make the most of our opportunities we must provide, through the Department of Agriculture, the research facilities necessary to prevent deterioration in the pro-

duction of these particular fruits. First, there is the scourge of gummosis which is threatening to put out the production of apricots in the Barossa Valley. It has already shown its ugly head in the Murray irrigated areas. Certain steps can be taken to mitigate the problem, but full control has not yet been found. It is a problem which must be attended to before it completely wipes out the commercial production of apricots. In addition there are several diseases that attack peaches, some of which are found in the eastern States, but which do not particularly worry us because of our climatic conditions. One called black heart has shown up in our peaches. There is the mystery disease which causes the buds to fall in some varieties. In the lighter country the life of peach trees may be limited to 15 years and the growers could not carry on unless they had heavy production in those few years.

Sections of the industry are prepared to make contributions towards the cost of research. The Citrus Association has already done so in an attempt to solve growers' problems in respect of red scale. I trust the department does not lose sight of the possibility of using predatory insects to control not only red scale, but also other pests.

I have a great interest in the aborigines problem and I am pleased that £12,000 has been allocated for their housing at Gerard Mission, but this is only a minor contribution towards the problem. I am not happy with the way some of our missions are being conducted and I feel that a suggestion I made earlier is still worthy of consideration. I suggested that any person or association which proposes to conduct a mission should be licensed by the Government, and the terms of the licence should be drawn up possibly after consultation with existing missions to ensure that these people do in fact provide all the amenities necessary for the aborigines, not only for their personal comfort but for their education and nursing through the transitory period from the time they are Myall blacks until they are ready to take their place in the community. Some of the missions are simply encouraging the natives to squat on the edge of settlements and become what are known as "flour and sugar people"; and that is about all they are. They are becoming a nation of black delinquents and unless we do something about it pretty soon it will be a major problem because their number is increasing. There should be a change in outlook towards these people so that they can achieve nationhood, and in due time they will be justly entitled to it.

I have in mind the question of water storages on the Murray, and I am not now referring to the dam which had the member for Murray (Mr. Bywaters) worried some time ago. That proposal was not unique for it was suggested many years before the locks were installed; and it will be many years before the need for it will arise. I still think that something like that will have to be done eventually. The water storages I refer to are the lakes, of which there are a number in the Renmark district. Some creeks could be used for storages in time of high river, and the impounded water could be released as required. When the river level falls the water is very salty. If the salt content of the water gets too high, little can be grown under irrigation. It often takes many years to recover from the effect of high salinity, and if we had storages upriver we could improve the flow of water after a period of high river and before we had to replace the locks. We could freshen the water coming down the river and thus keep salinity down.

At Loveday, Cooltong, Paringa and adjacent areas some growers have turned to vegetables as catch crops, and I believe the Department of Agriculture should investigate many of the problems which are perhaps unique in that district, particularly those concerning peas and other vegetables. New varieties should be tried, as the district has plenty of sunshine and a copious supply of water, and vegetables could be grown in great quantities and add considerably to the State's output.

There are opportunities for introducing new varieties of grapes, for I believe we have been too conventional in the fruit growing industry. We followed the pruning methods of cold countries, and only recently our methods have been modified to suit our conditions. We could also introduce more varieties of wine grapes and take advantage of the rapidly expanding market in Australia for products of the vine. The demand for light wines is increasing, especially for consumption at meals, which is the proper way they should be taken. I hope the Minister of Agriculture will keep my comments in mind and make the most of the opportunities which the new station at Loxton will provide. I believe that this station and the Berri experimental orchard, will be able to provide some of the answers to problems of this area, especially those relating to ageing soils and replantings.

Recently the member for Gawler (Mr. John Clark) took me to task for my attitude towards decentralization. He said I did not quite understand the problem, and referred to

the remarks I made in my first speech in this House. I do not retract anything I said then, and I believe I have done a good deal towards implementing decentralization. Not long ago I spent a week at Shepparton, in Victoria, attending a conference called by the Murray Valley Development League to investigate secondary industries in the Murray Valley. The meeting was particularly concerned with Victorian problems, but I considered I should attend to see whether I could get any ideas that would help in South Australia, and I learned a lot. It is good to exchange views, and the conference debated what could be done to establish secondary industries in country districts. I believe everything depends on what a country district has to offer, and often we find that secondary industries established in country districts have been associated with primary production, mining, a particular labour force available, transport advantages, or cheap power. We find all sorts of troubles when an industry is brought in from outside that is not strictly related to the district.

I could perhaps draw an analogy from our fruit-growing industry. If one puts a graft on the wrong stock it may take for a while but it will soon wither. Sometimes we can introduce a new plant to an area, but it will only flourish if conditions are favourable. Consequently, some attempts to establish secondary industries in the country have failed despite the utmost goodwill of those sponsoring them. For instance, the Prestige Company established a factory at Mildura which employed 90 girls, but it had to be closed because its goods could be manufactured much more cheaply in city factories.

Many industries were established in the middle north of South Australia, but mass production in the cities ruined them. Many foundries and blacksmithing industries had to close, for they had to give way to bigger engineering firms having greater skills and capacities. The manufacturer of goods by hand cannot compete with manufacture by mass production. My district is still attempting to develop industries around those things produced in the area. Many commodities that were sent away in bulk for processing will be processed in my area. The new cannery at Berri will serve the Upper Murray areas for a start, and we are increasing the capacities of our wineries and distilleries. Many of our grapes are being sent away, and it would be better if they could be processed in the district. We are actively engaged in opening up fresh land within existing irrigation areas to provide a better

tenure and greater production. The more we can produce for local processing the wider will be the range of employment that we can offer our people.

I am interested in these problems, and the member for Gawler has similar problems on his doorstep. I worked in Gawler about 30 years ago, and in those days it was a flourishing town with several engineering works. May Bros. were great implement manufacturers, but the firm had to close, and many others did too. The member for Murray (Mr. Bywaters) some time ago suggested that the Government build factories in country districts so that industries could go there.

Mr. Bywaters—You did not read my speech correctly.

Mr. KING—That was my impression of what the honourable member said. However, I suggest that the member for Gawler has one of those factories in his district. I have been driving past it for the last two or three years and have noticed it has been empty. I thought it was a wonderful opportunity to get an industry for the town.

Mr. Lawn—You will not see it quite so often next year.

Mr. KING—Anyhow, I do know that the honourable member for Gawler tried to get an industry there. It illustrates the point that it is difficult for people to put in factories or fill factories just for the sake of finding employment. There must be a far better economic reason for people to invest money in businesses; they must have a good prospect of paying. It may be accessibility of labour or of raw materials or of markets. There are many reasons. Not too many people would like to see their industries lifted up bodily by someone else just for the sake of transferring people from one place to another.

It has been tried before. For instance, in America a company bought some land 150 miles from the big city in which it was operating. It offered about 1,200 of its employees an opportunity to go to this new factory. It also offered generous terms in housing. The people would not lose by going there, and they would even gain, but only 120 families were prepared to uproot themselves from their surroundings, schools, football clubs, hotels, friends and relations in order to make the change.

Mr. Bywaters—What about the north-east of England?

Mr. KING—Special considerations applied there. It was done to relieve a particular condition in the distressed areas of the ship-building industry in England. The position is

that if we are to develop these things in the country we must have populations in the towns big enough to produce the markets, as well as the people to produce the goods.

Mr. Bywaters—Would you favour a planning authority to accept evidence about it?

Mr. KING—No, I would not.

Mr. Bywaters—They have it in Victoria.

Mr. KING—The people in the district can do it. Secondary industries committees can be developed along the river. Already there are five that I have helped to form. These people are thoroughly investigating their own districts. No-one is more fitted than they are to be successful. They can combine to form their own association. They already have their own committees. Their interests, of course, are not all alike. What may be suitable for the top end of the River Murray will not necessarily suit the bottom end. What is good for Yorke Peninsula will not necessarily suit Eyre Peninsula.

Mr. Bywaters—We need a planning authority down here to correlate all the evidence.

Mr. KING—I do not think so. The member for Hindmarsh (Mr. Hutchens) will agree with me that the *Story of South Australia* is a remarkable tribute to the State. I congratulate the officers who drew up the Budget. I am always astonished at the celerity with which the various departments and the Treasurer get together their information. The Budget is a great credit to this Government.

Mr. DUNSTAN (Norwood)—I support the first line, but will not detain members very long tonight as my debating capacity is rather limited because of an affected throat. There is one particular matter I wish to mention, but there are others I shall deal with later. It is remarkable that the Grants Commission's reports have shown an extraordinary situation in relation to the disabilities grants made to this State over a number of years. This is not the first time that I have raised the matter in this House, but I want to refer to what has happened in the past few years.

In the period prior to the 1956-57 report, the Grants Commission made perfectly clear the basis of its estimates of grants for differential social service payments for this State. In paragraph 29 (iii) of the 1956-57 report, the Grants Commission said:—

From a consideration of (a) the budget standard adopted for the year of review; (b) the significant figure of budget result provided by step (ii); and (c) any other circumstances of the finances of the State which the Commission thinks should be taken into consideration,

and then going back to (ii) (c):—

In the case of a State with a net favourable adjustment the significant figure is the *corrected* budget result—

that is to say the corrected budget result without taking into account the net favourable adjustment, or indeed any of the adjustments favourable or unfavourable. Then it continued:—

... in the case of a State with a net unfavourable adjustment the significant figure is the *adjusted* budget result.

That may seem double Dutch until we look at the figures. The Summary of Adjustments is at page 53 of the 1956-57 report. In that year there was available to South Australia a net favourable adjustment of £2,124,000, because that was the amount by which this State spent less in social services than the non-claimant States. In other words, in order to spend to the level of the other States, the non-claimant States, we would have had to spend on social services in the year of review £2,124,000 more than we did. That was then reduced to net £924,000. That was the result after taking off the amounts with which the Grants Commission penalised us for the severity of non-income taxation and differential impacts of financial results of State undertakings on the budget. In each of these matters we were not as hard as the non-claimant States, and therefore some moneys were taken off our favourable adjustment, which left us with a net favourable adjustment of £924,000.

But when we look below at the Summary of Corrections and Adjustments, we see that, as reported in the earlier paragraph, since we had a net favourable adjustment in a year in which there was a balanced budget standard set, South Australia did not have taken into account the net favourable adjustment. We got nothing for the £924,000 which we could have had had we spent the money. It is quite clear that in order to get that money we would have had to spend it and claim a reimbursement. As we did not, we did not get it. The fact that we had a net favourable adjustment meant that our adjusted budget account was not taken into account and that the other two claimant States which did spend the money and claimed the reimbursement, had that money taken into account and were paid it. That was the situation when the Grants Commission accepted a balanced budget standard for its assessment.

In 1957 the Grants Commission adopted a deficit standard and in paragraph 51 of its

report on page 31 said that South Australia contended that a net favourable adjustment should be offset against a deficit standard to the extent to which it did not exceed that standard. It was argued that if a claimant State were prepared to tax and charge more heavily or to economize on expenditure by comparison with the standard States, it should be entitled to reimbursement of that expenditure to avoid running into deficit. The Commonwealth Treasury agreed substantially with this argument and the Commission decided that the South Australian contention was reasonable. As a result, although there was a net favourable adjustment to South Australia, because the amount by which we under-spent on social services in relation to the average of the non-claimant States was £1,711,000, that amount was taken into account and the adjusted budget result was taken as the significant figure regardless of the fact that we had a net favourable adjustment available to us. In consequence, in the summary on page 61 of the Commission's recommendations, we were given an allowance for some of that money. This is the only year in which the Commission has made an allowance for the fact that South Australia under-spent on social services. I was interested to see whether it was prepared to allot it this year especially in view of the fact that during the Commission's hearings members of the Commission verbally stated—and made it perfectly clear—that South Australia would not be penalized for spending to the level of the non-claimant States on social services.

In the year of review we certainly did not spend to the level of the non-claimant States. In its summary of the net *per capita* expenditure on social services for 1956-57, the Grants Commission stated that New South Wales spent 373/10d.; Victoria 386/9d.; Queensland 372/-; Western Australia 440/1d.; Tasmania 487/2d.; and South Australia 357/8d. This State had by far the lowest expenditure in the Commonwealth—a much lower expenditure than the average of the Commonwealth and lower than any State including all the non-claimant States. No State spent so miserably on social services as did South Australia and it is perfectly clear that only in one instance did we exceed the expenditure of any other State on any item of social service, and that was that this State spent more than Queensland on the total of education regardless of the fact that in this State, to run a comparable service we would have to spend more *per capita* on education in view of the area of our State compared with

Queensland and regardless of the fact also that in Queensland, because of the religious make-up of its population, a high proportion of children attend private schools, which is not the case here. Added to that fact, of course, this State has a larger school population and a larger increase in such population than any other State. However, in no other item of expenditure under the heading "Social Services" did this State exceed the expenditure of any other State.

According to the Grant's Commission's summary we under-spent on social services, in relation to the average expenditure of the non-claimant States, by £1,828,000. Did we get any allowance for that in the Commonwealth Grants Commission's recommendation of grants to this State? Not one brass razoo! If we had wanted that money and had been prepared to spend to the level of the non-claimant States and claim reimbursement from the Commonwealth, it is clear from the report the Commission made in relation to Western Australia which did just that, we would have got the money. However, as a result of this Government's policy we did not get a penny and our people lacked social services because this Government was not prepared to spend money and claim a reimbursement.

One can see this clearly in the Summary of Corrections and Adjustments on page 79, which reveals that the published budget result in South Australia was £49,000 deficit. There were no corrections to that amount and the corrected budget result revealed a deficit of £49,000. The net favourable adjustment in South Australia—that is the amount by which we under-spent on social services less the amounts taken off for severity of non-income taxation and differential impacts of financial results of State undertakings on the Budget—amounted to £628,000. The adjusted budget result was a deficit of £677,000. The Commission in this report did not tabulate as in the 1956 report, but it arrived at exactly the same result. On page 81 under the heading "Recommendations" it shows South Australia with an adjusted budget result—a deficit—of £677,000, less the deficit standard of £129,000, leaving a balance of £548,000. It then mentions an item not included in the 1957 report, "Less Surplus of Net Favourable adjustment over the deficit standard, £499,000," and we return to a deficit of £49,000. In other words it put the adjustment on and promptly took it all off again because it said it exceeded the amount of the budget standard deficit, so we

got nothing from the fact that, as the Treasurer said, we had tightened our belts in this State on social services.

Mr. Bywaters—We penalized ourselves.

Mr. DUNSTAN—Of course. We have clearly penalized ourselves and it has meant that the people of this State have not had expended on health, hospitals, charities, law, order and public safety, and education the amount we could have had to spend. Why? Apparently because the Government simply is not interested in running social services for the people of this State. It talks about what it does for this State, but its policy deliberately penalizes the people in a scandalous manner and it has cost South Australia, during the last five years, sums amounting to millions which the people could have had, but have not had.

Mr. Bywaters—Would that be why the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department has cut down?

Mr. DUNSTAN—Of course. We need not have charged in public hospitals, and more money could have been spent on education, but it was not spent because the Premier was not prepared to spend it.

It completely flabbergasts me that a Government can come forward, with all the laudatory comments of members opposite that the Government is coping with the situation, when this is revealed by the Grants Commission report. I am at a loss to understand the Government's policy: I can only conclude that it is so concerned with making loud announcements about grandiose schemes for industrial development that it is not interested in incurring the proper expenditure that these social services are entitled to. It is not good government to the people of South Australia, and I believe they will make this perfectly obvious when they draw their conclusions about this matter and record their votes in the ballot boxes next year.

First Line—Legislative Council, £10,730—passed.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

#### MINING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 9.33 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, October 1, at 2 p.m.