

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, October 2, 1958.

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

PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN ACT.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the Act.

QUESTIONS.**BRAKES ON RAILCARS.**

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Has the Premier any further information regarding my question of last week concerning the braking system on Bluebird railcars?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—No. That report is not yet to hand but I will inform the honourable member as soon as it is.

MANNUM-ADELAIDE PUMPING COSTS.

Mr. HAMBOUR—There have been varying reports as to the cost of pumping water from the Mannum pumping station to the metropolitan reservoirs, one being that it is 5s. a thousand gallons. Can the Minister of Works give any information as to the cost?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The cost of pumping water from the Mannum pumping station to various points in the Adelaide hills and the metropolitan area is an interesting study in itself. During the last few days I have had the docket before me and have given some attention to it. The actual cost of pumping water depends on the power consumed and its price, which varies slightly according to the time of the day at which it is consumed. Usually, of course, we pump water in off-peak hours to take advantage of the lower tariff. The second and most important factor is the utilization of the whole scheme, and the consequent relationship of overhead and fixed charges such as interest, amortization and maintenance, to the total quantity of water pumped. Because of the capital cost of the scheme and the cost of the installations, such as electrical equipment and so on, the cost per thousand gallons varies very substantially according to the total quantity pumped. The point of delivery has some effect on the cost of the water at the point of utilization.

I have taken out a schedule of the cost of pumping water over the last four years' operation of the pipeline, and they show that the actual cost per thousand gallons has varied

from 15.6 pence to as much as 76 pence. The latter cost was incurred in 1955-56, when only a little water was pumped. That emphasizes the point I made that the cost per thousand gallons depends substantially on the total quantity pumped. The figures for the last four years are as follows:—

Year.	Total pumped;		Total cost.	Cost per 1,000gall. Pence.
	1,000gall. at Mannum.	£		
1954-5 . . .	5,626,800	431,940	18.42	
1955-6 . . .	1,051,998	333,163	76.00	
1956-7 . . .	3,919,200	447,897	27.43	
1957-8 . . .	14,019,900	900,964	15.60	

Those are the all-inclusive costs taking into account capital cost, amortization and total working expenses. Members will see that last year, when we pumped a very great quantity of water, the cost went down to 15.6 pence, whereas in 1955-56, a very wet year, we pumped very little water and the cost was 76 pence. It may be of interest to members that consideration is being given to putting in additional pumping units so that we can pump under still more favourable conditions. At present we are obliged—as we were in June—because of the probability of a dry season to start pumping in order to build up our reservoirs to take care of summer needs. We had good rains from the beginning of July onwards, and most reservoirs are full or overflowing, so it might be said in the light of later experience that it was unnecessary to pump in June. With additional pumping facilities we can avoid pumping earlier in the year because we can relate pumping to capacity. If we decide to increase pumping capacity, the chances are that in most years the cost will be reduced even below the average of those four years.

PLANTING IN FRUIT FLY AREAS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my recent question relating to future plantings in areas affected early this year by fruit fly?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—The stripping of fruit and vegetables in proclaimed fruit fly areas in Port Augusta and the metropolitan area is now completed. Spraying, however, will continue in the metropolitan proclaimed areas until the end of October. Householders are now permitted to plant tomatoes and other vegetables. Householders in proclaimed areas should remember that the prohibition on the removal of all fruits from those districts still applies and will remain in force

until it is sure that the eradication measures have been successful. This will not be known before the end of the coming stone fruit season.

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE COURSES.

Mr. HARDING—In the *News* of September 30 appeared certain figures published in the *Education Gazette*. The article stated:—

Most boys go in for primary production. These figures are shown in the latest issue of the *Education Gazette* published under the authorization of the Education Minister, Mr. Pattinson. The table shows that of 10,332 children leaving Education Department schools, 5,287 were boys and 5,045 girls. Of the boys, 641, or 12.1 per cent, took up some form of primary production.

In view of the considerable number of boys interested in primary production, can the Minister of Education say whether the teaching staff of the Education Department has been improved in recent years with a view to having agricultural science courses conducted at high schools, particularly at Port Lincoln and Naracoorte?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I think there was some confusion in the article: primary production was treated as one occupation, into which 12.1 per cent of the boys went, and it was said that 24 or 25 per cent went into secondary production, yet the article said that most boys went in for primary production. There is still a serious shortage of secondary teachers in general, and a great dearth of specialist teachers, such as those teaching agricultural science. I am anxious to have agricultural science taught in several of the larger secondary schools throughout the State, because I believe one of the best methods of decentralization is the decentralization not only of primary education, but also of secondary and adult education. It is highly desirable not only to keep as many people in the country as possible, but to keep as many as possible engaged on the land. It is impossible at present to comply with the requests of people in various country centres to set up classes in agricultural science for the very good reason that we have not the specialized teachers. The honourable member introduced to me a considerable time ago a very large and representative deputation representing not only the Naracoorte high school council, but also the executive of Australian Primary Producers Union, asking me to set up these classes in secondary schools in general and in the Naracoorte high school in particular. My colleague, the Minister for Works, who represents Flinders, has

been pressing me very strongly to do the same at the Port Lincoln high school. I have also received similar requests from Loxton and other centres. As one who lived for many years in an agricultural district and represented it in Parliament, I am anxious to see that agricultural science is taught as widely as possible throughout the State, but, the Director of Education and the principal officers of the department have informed me on several occasions, both verbally and in writing, that they cannot supply agricultural teachers for any of the high schools named, or generally, and that this position will not improve in the foreseeable future. I regret, therefore, that I cannot give an affirmative reply to any of the very valid requests from the various centres.

HOSPITAL BENEFITS FOR AGED.

Mr. HUTCHENS—It appears that recently it has been possible for people who are invalid and aged to get coverage in approved societies for hospitalization benefits. Many aged people are unaware of this until they visit the almoners at the Royal Adelaide Hospital seeking admission to Northfield. I believe that the almoners are unable to send people to Northfield because of the long waiting list and because the hospital is packed beyond its capacity, but could assist these people in obtaining accommodation in some private nursing homes if they were covered for these hospital benefits. As this is not generally known by aged and invalid people, will the Premier make every effort to get the press to give publicity to this in order that they may be protected?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have no doubt that the press are listening to the honourable member's question and will give publicity to it:

SMOKY BAY SCHOOL.

Mr. BOCKELBERG—A considerable time ago the Education Department promised to move the school at Smoky Bay slightly nearer the town by September, but up to the present nothing has been done. As most of the children live in Smoky Bay and have no means of transportation to the school, will the Minister of Education get his department to expedite the matter?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I shall be pleased to do so. I understand that Mr. Whitburn, one of the assistant superintendents of primary education and for all practical purposes the Superintendent of Rural Schools, intends to visit Eyre Peninsula this month.

I have also been in touch with Mr. Harris, the department's transport officer. I will place the matter before Mr. Whitburn immediately and ask him to personally investigate it and let me have a report on his return.

PREMIER'S VISIT TO UNITED STATES.

Mr. STOTT—In view of certain statements that have been circulating in the city and other parts of the State, have negotiations reached the stage where the Premier can now make a further statement regarding his recent visit to the United States of America?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—No, except that I can say that one of the principals I contacted in the United States arrived in Australia this morning, and is conducting some investigations in this country. I hope to see him in the near future, but whether it will lead to anything I am not sure.

TRAMWAY BUS OPERATION.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—The secretary of the Tramways Employees' Association has informed me that some time ago an agreement was made with the trust that the existing practice regarding the manning of buses, whether by one man or two men, would continue, other than alterations on major routes, which was agreed to on July 20. One practice that was to be continued was that two men would man buses serving crowds going to sporting fixtures. He informed me that the trust has rostered men for one-man bus operation on Saturday next for the Cheltenham races, and that it proposes to have what are called queue conductors selling tickets to people who line up to board buses. Thereafter, one man would be responsible for seeing that the passengers had tickets and that others joining the bus *en route* purchased tickets. Will the Premier take up this matter with the trust to see whether the existing practice, which according to my information was undoubtedly agreed to by the trust, should be continued?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have no knowledge of the agreement that the trust entered into, so I cannot now comment upon it, but I will submit the question to the trust and ask for a report.

BOTTLES ON ROADS.

Mr. CORCORAN—Has the Minister representing the Minister of Local Government a further reply to my recent question about the danger of bottles left on the roads?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I am sorry I have not a further reply, but I told the

honourable member previously that this is not a question which can be easily solved, and I am sure there is no ready answer to it. I think I detailed that at some length when the honourable member asked his question and mentioned steps already taken and investigations already made to discover an answer. However, my colleague has not yet furnished me with a report and I am informed that the reason for the delay is that the problem is almost impossible of solution.

Mr. Corcoran—I thought that the Minister might have conceived new ideas about it.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The answer is that I have not yet received a report.

SHORTAGE OF NURSES.

Mr. HAMBOUR—The shortage of nurses is not only State-wide but world-wide. In view of the fact that the Auditor-General's report indicates that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has three nurses to one patient and the general rule is one nurse to one patient, will the Treasurer ascertain if any nurses can be released from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to relieve the shortage, in the country in particular?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The number of nurses at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is rather larger than would be indicated by the number of patients because the hospital is now being opened up and is taking in-patients for the first time. In some branches of the hospital, particularly the maternity wing, the wards are not immediately filled but it is hoped that the hospital will in due course be filled with patients and the staff is designed to meet the then requirements. In any case we have no power to transfer these nurses to the country.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY FOR TARPEENA.

Mr. HARDING—I refer to a statement made by Councillor K. H. Paltridge, of Mount Gambier, who said that 100 per cent of the rate-payers in the township of Tarpeena want the formation of a new ward in the Mount Gambier Council. I know that a local committee has been formed to promote the use of electricity at Tarpeena. Can the Minister of Works inform me of the progress in the erection of the Mount Gambier-Nangwarry power line, and is it expected that electricity will be available from this source to the residents of Tarpeena?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I have discussed this matter this morning with the chairman of the Electricity Trust, who said that if

possible he would get a statement for me for this afternoon. Unfortunately, he has not been able to do so in the detail that he desired. The trust's officers are actively investigating the matter raised, namely, the supply of electricity to Tarpeena. The earlier reaction to the proposed supply to Tarpeena indicated some doubts in the minds of residents whether they wanted it. There was lack of unanimity, but I have no doubt that when that is resolved the trust will be able to assess the requirements of the township and the economics of the proposal. I point out that to put in a breakdown station on a line involves considerable cost and, unless the residents of this small township are nearly unanimous in their desire to utilize the power, the cost would be prohibitive. I think it would be correct to say that if the people are almost unanimous in their desire for a supply it will be made available.

DAMAGE TO NORTHERN ROADS.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Has the Minister of Works any information concerning my recent question about rain damage to northern roads, particularly those in the Hawker-Blinman area? What progress has been made with their restoration?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Reports obtained from the District Engineer show that the Hawker to Blinman road and other roads in the northern areas were considerably damaged by the recent rains, particularly at creek crossings. Repairs are being effected by the Engineering and Water Supply Department road gangs and every endeavour will be made to have the roads open for all types of traffic including caravans as soon as possible. A number of caravans were stranded by the rains and the honourable member will be glad to know that the department's road employees spent the week-end before last helping cars and caravans through the Parachilna Gorge so that they could return *via* the Copley-Hawker road. As these reports were obtained several days ago I take it that the roads would by now have been restored to trafficable condition.

USE OF RAILWAY BRIDGES FOR ROAD PURPOSES.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I understand the Minister of Works has some information regarding a suggestion I made some time ago that some railway bridges on the old narrow-gauge railway line between Hawker and Copley might be used for road purposes.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I have received the following report on this matter:—

In regard to the honourable member's question on July 30 concerning the above, a letter from the Chief Civil Engineer, Commonwealth Railways, was received by the Commissioner of Highways asking if the department is interested in the retention of any of the bridges for road use. The Engineering and Water Supply Department carry out road works in this area on behalf of the Commissioner of Highways, and arrangements were accordingly made for these bridges to be inspected by the District Engineer of the Engineering and Water Supply Department. This has been done. The District Engineer states that the use of the bridges for road purposes is not practicable. He bases his statement on these factors, viz., that the bridges being only 10ft. wide would present a traffic hazard; that the use of the bridges would result in little real benefit in as much as that after heavy rain traffic would not be able to get across the Hookina and Brachina creeks; at same places, now that the restriction of the railway has been removed, it will be possible to improve the road location. This relocation can be done at a fraction of the cost of using the railway bridges. The Engineer in Chief is in full agreement with the District Engineer's report which I shall be glad to show the honourable member.

LOXTON SETTLEMENT DEPUTATION.

Mr. STOTT—Has the Minister of Agriculture any information concerning the deputation that waited on him and made representations concerning red scale on fruit trees at Loxton and also the appointment of an additional horticulturist to assist fruitgrowers in that area?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—No. This deputation waited on me on either Monday or Tuesday last but I have not had time to prepare a considered reply to the requests.

FLINDERS RANGES COLOUR FILM.

Mr. RICHES—Will the Premier take up with the Director of the Tourist Bureau the possibility of having a colour film made of the Moolooloo area as it is at present with the extraordinary wealth of colour available? I know the Flinders Ranges and have never seen them looking better than at present in this locality. I feel that the publicising of our State would be considerably advanced if this colour could be captured and utilized not only in South Australia, but in other States. Will the Premier discuss this with the Director?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The SPEAKER laid on the table reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on Elizabeth water supply and Whyalla technical high school (new wing), together with minutes of evidence.

Ordered that reports be printed.

THE ESTIMATES.

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from October 1. Page 1032.)

ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

Attorney-General's Department, £41,409; Crown Solicitor's Department, £35,578; Parliamentary Draftsman's Department, £8,993—passed.

Public Trustee's Department, £70,665.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Whilst I appreciate the volume of work undertaken by this department and the courtesy extended by its officers to the public, I was perturbed at comments appearing in the Auditor-General's Report. I gained the impression from that report that the department would need further assistance. With the service that department is rendering to the public, perhaps some review of the commission which it charges could be made to enable it to continue to meet its expenses. I have no criticism of the efforts of the department, but merely wish to see that it meets its expenses.

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—There has been a notable increase in the scope and volume of the work of the Public Trustee's Department, so much so that it has been necessary for the Public Service Commissioner to recommend the appointment of increased staff to cope with the work. That department has had a great demand placed on its services. I have not heard of any suggestion that the rate of commission should be increased. My colleague, the Attorney-General, has advised me that conditions generally are satisfactory, apart from the lack of staff, and that position also is being remedied.

Line passed.

Supreme Court Department, £85,543; Adelaide Local Court Department, £35,514; Adelaide Police Court Department, £30,623—passed.

Country and Suburban Courts Department, £68,262.

Mr. RICHES—Many people in country districts consider that stipendiary magistrates who are appointed to country districts should live in those districts, rather than in Adelaide.

Over the years there has been agitation for resident magistrates, and I think this is the appropriate time for me to mention the feeling of the people in northern districts. I understand from my reading that people in the South-East have made similar representations. There is certainly a strong feeling in the northern part of this State that the stipendiary magistrate appointed for the Port Augusta Local Court district should be domiciled in that district. It does not matter to me whether he resides at Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Whyalla, Quorn, or any other place. The work that has fallen on the shoulders of local justices has increased, and the visits of the magistrate are not frequent enough. A feeling exists in the district that the work could be facilitated considerably to the district's advantage if the magistrate resided in the district.

These representations have been made over a considerable period, but I believe a satisfactory answer has never been given. I know it was contended that it was desirable that the magistrates should live in Adelaide so that they would have access to libraries. I acknowledge that they may need that access, but I suggest that it would be much easier for a magistrate to visit the city occasionally and to consult the library as required, or to have the books sent to him as required, than for him to do so much travelling and to incur such heavy travelling costs. I would like this matter thoroughly examined, not cursorily dismissed as it seems to have been in the past. The question is serious, and I assure the House that there is strong feeling about it.

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I assure the honourable member and the House that the matter has not been merely cursorily examined. A thorough investigation has been made of this question, not only recently but over a long period of years. The question has been raised during the régimes of four Attorney-Generals, and goes back to the time when Sir Shirley Jeffries was holding that office. Strong arguments have been presented both for and against the proposal. One argument against it, and one to which the honourable member has just referred, was that judges as well as magistrates should have ready access to the Supreme Court Library and other libraries in the city, and that they should be in touch with their fellow magistrates and; wherever possible, with other members of the legal profession. Law is not an exact science and is continually changing, not only in the matter of

legislation but in judge-made law. A constant stream of judicial decisions come in from all quarters, and it is absolutely necessary that our magistrates should be in frequent and constant touch with all these latest decisions. Another argument—and purely my own personal one—against the proposition is that in many respects it would be undesirable for a magistrate to have a too intimate association with the members of the public in a comparatively small centre. I shall be only too pleased to take up the matter with the Attorney-General. I am sure that he, born and bred in the country as he was, is very sympathetic to the proposal, and I will bring the honourable member's powerful plea before him once again.

Line passed.

Coroner's Department, £5,496; Registrar-General of Deeds Department, £135,601—passed.

Miscellaneous, £18,437.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—For licensing polls, £2,632 is provided for fees, and £868 for expenses. These are considerable items. I do not agree with local option polls in principle, and the present situation in some parts of the State is ridiculous. Recently a poll was conducted in my district to see whether a storekeeper's wine licence would be granted in a town almost on the extreme southern boundary of the sub-division, and electors living up to 300 miles away had the right to vote. Approximately 10 per cent voted at the polling booth situated in the town where the licence was required. At the nearest adjoining booth majorities against the licence were obtained, but the further away from the town the livelier was the majority in favour. The matter was determined affirmatively by people who could not have much interest in the matter. That shows how ridiculous the law is. I think the best way to deal with the matter is to have a strong licensing court, but if we are to have local option polls we should see that they have a local flavour.

Line passed.

TREASURER AND MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION.

Treasury Department, £36,500; Superannuation Department, £45,766; Motor Vehicles Department, £195,430—passed.

Agent-General in England Department, £28,362.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I am very pleased with the service being rendered to South Australia by our Agent-General and Trade Commissioner in London, Mr. Howard Greenham. However, I am of the opinion, which is shared by a

number of people who have discussed the matter with me, that as it is many years since he was in this State, and as he is Trade Commissioner as well as Agent-General, he should be brought back so as to bring the growth and development taking place here, and the opportunities for trade; in short, to be brought up to date with the general position, which has changed greatly since he was last in this State.

Mr. GEOFFREY CLARKE—I endorse the Leader's remarks. I give sincere credit and praise to Mr. Greenham for the work he is doing for this State.

Line passed.

Land Tax Department, £100,176; Stamp and Succession Duties Department, £37,224—passed.

Publicity and Tourist Bureau and Immigration Department, £287,392.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I support the request made on my behalf by the member for Stuart this afternoon that the film unit be sent to the Flinders Ranges to photograph the indescribably beautiful wild flowers found there at this time of the year. What I am more concerned about, however, is that some time ago discussions were held about developing a further area north of Blinman. This would be a circular route taking in Blinman, going through Moolooloo and coming back along the Moolooloo Road through Parachilna Gorge. There is beautiful scenery through this area, and it has been suggested that a further chalet be developed there because the new management of the Wilpena Chalet has, I understand, brought about a great increase in tourist traffic. If we had accommodation farther north new scenes somewhat different from those around Wilpena would be thrown open. This would help make the beauties of the Flinders Ranges known not only to South Australians but to tourists from other States and overseas. If accommodation were readily available tours would be facilitated.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Can any definite amount be granted to develop portion of the Pethick Estate, which adjoins the southwestern districts hospital site on Oaklands Road? I understood this was to be taken over by the Tourist Bureau. Some very fine gums are growing there, and it is a recognized tourist resort. If some assistance were given I am sure residents nearby would co-operate to establish tennis courts and bowling greens. It would serve as an attraction not only to

tourists to take part in recreation, but also to local residents and others who may desire to visit the area.

Mr. JENKINS—The amount voted for this department indicates the awareness of the Treasurer to the importance of the tourist industry. An amount of £469 is provided as South Australia's share of the cost of establishing a joint Australian tourist bureau in New Zealand. Will we have a representative there or will it be a local representative or someone from one of the other States?

Mr. BYWATERS—Mr. Pollnitz, the new Director of the department, in the short time since he was appointed has proved very able and an asset to the department. He recently visited my district and other parts of the State to acquaint himself with the local position as to tourist attractions. I think we shall hear much more about this department and that Mr. Pollnitz will be of great assistance in advancing our tourist activities.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have discussed with the new Director the question of tourist development in the Flinders Ranges and we arrived at some general conclusions. The first thing we wanted was to establish the Wilpena Pound Chalet on a sound basis. The Government completed its purchase last year and additional money has been provided on this year's Estimates to help bring it up-to-date. Other progressive steps will also be taken. I assure the Leader of the Opposition that his suggestion will be closely examined. For many years Blinman has been rather popular as an overnight stopping place. Although the local hotel is not particularly modern, the hospitality extended is greatly appreciated. I think the department would be rather loath to set up in direct competition with this hotel, and I doubt whether Mr. O'Halloran would support that either. Mr. Walsh's suggestion will also receive consideration and I hope that in due course we shall be able to produce a satisfactory plan.

South Australia is not sending a man to New Zealand. It will be a joint office and we shall be properly represented there. I will convey to the new Director of the department the remarks of Mr. Bywaters.

Mr. KING—I also compliment the new director on the great interest he has shown in his work by travelling through the country to study tourist potentialities. We should spend more money to attract people to the State and make that the prime objective of the Tourist Bureau rather than concentrate too much on selling tours for other States and

other countries. Can the Treasurer say whether it is intended to appoint officers in capital cities of the other States from which we could expect tourists?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—We already have officers appointed in some other States, and in others we get assistance from the local tourist bureau. I believe that a satisfied customer is our best advertisement. Merely to open an office in another State and induce someone to come here is not, in my opinion, the best way to establish a permanent tourist traffic. I believe that the money we have spent in recent years in the State itself in making attractions accessible to people will possibly, in the long run, pay a better dividend than merely attracting someone to come here without having this end properly keyed up. Some attractions we have provided for tourists are also equally enjoyed by our local people. They enable tourists coming to this State to feel that they will be happy and well looked after.

Although in some States we are having a little difficulty in getting the bureau to accept us in full partnership and are treated rather as a poor relation, with strictures as to what we can do in the joint office, the position generally is satisfactory. We find that the tourist industry is growing. Our hotel accommodation has improved immeasurably in recent years and this is of great assistance. I will direct the honourable member's remarks to the Director and if anything further can be done I will see that it is done.

Line passed.

Prices Control Department, £74,850—passed.
Miscellaneous, £6,506,338.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—An amount of £480,000 is set down as contributions towards the working expenses of the Municipal Tramways Trust. I should like to know whether greater co-operation could exist between the trust and other bodies such as the Housing Trust, the Town Planning Committee and local councils in relation to transport facilities. I could not give a better illustration of what is taking place than to mention the Mitchell Park area in my electorate. The Housing Trust is building many homes in that area, and better transport will have to be provided to meet the needs of the residents. The Tramways Trust has licensed private operators to provide transport in many areas, but the Government should see that all authorities concerned with town planning co-operate to ensure that residents get adequate transport services, especially in new areas. Many roads were not

constructed to take heavy buses, and if councils were told where buses will be run they could provide adequate roads and thus be relieved of heavy maintenance costs.

I understand that the sales tax on a bus is not less than £1,000. Buses cost much money, and if private operators did not have to pay sales tax they could have a fleet of seven instead of six. As the Tramways Trust is apparently not in a position to operate all bus services the Government should see that private operators do not have to pay heavy sales tax in providing public transport. Can the Treasurer give me any information on the points I have raised?

Mr. FRED WALSH—The sum of £19,500 is provided for the Betting Control Board, but I am far from satisfied that the racing public are getting the service they are entitled to from the board. It was appointed to protect the interests of bookmakers and the betting public, and I was not happy with the reply the Treasurer gave on Tuesday to a question I asked concerning an incident at the Gawler racecourse last Saturday week. He read a report from the secretary of the Board (Mr. Alexander), who admitted that the course announcer had not carried out instructions given to him by the chairman of stewards regarding a protest to which I referred. He linked up my question with public statements made by two sporting writers, Kevin Sattler and "Donaster," the inference being that I was influenced by their statements. I assure Mr. Alexander and the Treasurer that I am just as competent to express an opinion on horse racing as either of those sporting writers, or Mr. Alexander himself, who doubted my contention that anyone backing Coremaker in the protest had no chance of collecting. He went on to say that there was only one bet made in the grandstand. I am not an habitue of the grandstand—I normally frequent the flat enclosure because I think I have a far better view there. The Betting Control Board rarely, if ever, visits a racecourse.

The position is that the third horse protested against the first and second horses. There could be no improvement in the position of the second horse as a result of that protest. It could only have been in favour of the third horse because the second horse's rider didn't protest at all. It had no chance of improving its position irrespective of the outcome of this protest. Therefore, I submit that those people who backed "Core-

maker"—I saw two bets, which drew my attention to it—had no chance whatsoever of winning. Even if there was only one bet laid in the grandstand, as suggested by Mr. Alexander, a proper announcement would have been made by the Betting Control Board if it had known its job. After all, it is quick to hop in when a horse has been scratched prior to the start of a race, telling the general public to what extent the prices are affected on the bets already laid—and sometimes it is pretty considerable as those who are interested in the racecourse know.

The point is that, even if only one bet was laid, it was the board's job to announce that bets were off and the money should have been refunded. Without doing that they were not protecting the betting public. If its members are not prepared to go to race meetings themselves and observe the conduct of the betting, then they should leave it to those who are prepared to go and are competent to express an opinion. It is not right, if Mr. Alexander is the only one who attends, that he should be the determining factor in this. I hope the Treasurer will bring this matter before the board and emphasize that it has a duty to perform to protect the general interests of racegoers and the betting public.

Mr. Hambour—You contend that the bookmakers took the punters' money knowing that the punters could not win?

Mr. FRED WALSH—They did not know. It was assumed by almost everybody on the course that things were all right. All that was announced was that a protest had been entered and it was generally thought that it was the second horse protesting against the first horse, when in fact it was the third horse protesting against both the first and second horses. The bookmakers thought it was the second protesting against the first. The fact remains that both sides, the betting public and the bookmakers, were not aware of the facts. My complaint is that it was the duty of the board, whose concern is betting, adequately to advise the people responsible for these announcements, whether through the stewards or whoever it may be, so as to protect the public. I accept the assurance of Mr. Alexander that they will take all possible steps to see that there is no recurrence of such a thing and indeed to protect the public on all occasions.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Under "Interest on Trust Funds and on Temporary Deposits, etc." £129,487 was spent last year, and £120,000 is proposed for this year. These trust funds are

not specifically referred to in the Estimates, but there is some information in the Auditor-General's Report where, at page 298, we find "Trust Funds Accounts, Balance on 30th June, 1958, Section A" and on page 299 we find Section B. Section A is described as "Amounts held by the Treasurer on behalf of various bodies and upon which interest is paid." Section B is "Amounts held by the Treasurer on behalf of the Commonwealth Government and other bodies and upon which no interest is paid." I do not know how the two categories are arrived at. Some of the items in each appear to be similar. I can understand that the Commonwealth Government amounts may not be subject to interest, but the amounts held on behalf of other bodies appear to be somewhat similar in both categories.

Also on page 299 is an item "Leigh Creek Coal Fund—£340,021." That is in the category on which no interest is paid. Is that fund a trust account held by the Treasurer for some future purpose, interest-free? I assume that that is related to the amounts in the Estimates mentioned in the middle of page 53. How are these categories arrived at and why is it that interest is paid on some amounts held by various bodies and not on others? Also, how is the Leigh Creek Coal Fund constituted and for what purpose is it being held in trust?

Mr. HAMBOUR—In referring to the Tramways Trust I am not being critical and I do not know the answer to the question. The Tramways Trust has had some £7,000,000, and this year we have lent it £300,000 and are virtually giving it £480,000. What is the position with regard to private vehicles licensed for the transport of passengers? Are they showing a profit or do they need a similar subsidy? Is it not possible for more services to be given to private operators? I have never heard any worth while suggestion as to how the trust could overcome its losses and if private operators can conduct services profitably it may be advisable to extend their activities. Will the Treasurer investigate this suggestion?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—In respect of Mr. Fred Walsh's comments I will obtain a further report.

Mr. Fred Walsh—I had not read today's *News* when I made those comments.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will still obtain a report. In respect of the Leader's inquiries, certain authorities are obliged by Acts of Parliament to provide moneys for certain purposes and certain sums

come into the Treasury for work of a temporary nature being undertaken for such authorities. Those funds do not carry interest. If the Leader examines the Auditor-General's report he will see that the interest applies on amounts that are deposited, not by compulsion or to meet demands, but for safe keeping for an appreciable time.

I have no report before me concerning the Leigh Creek Coal Fund, but the Leader will recall that it was established out of a surplus of £300,000 in the State's accounts. The fund was established from that amount and, when the Electricity Trust took over, the residue of the fund was still in the Treasury books, although I do not believe that at present it would constitute a cash deposit. As a matter of interest, I expect that by June 30 next the fund, which was the working account of the field and which was heavily in debit in the early years, will go into credit. I will get a specific reply for the Leader. In reply to Mr. Hambour's query, private operators can conduct services more cheaply than the Tramways Trust for two reasons, firstly because they run buses at times when they know there will be sufficient passengers to ensure a payable load.

Mr. Hambour—Aren't they responsible for the entire route?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes, but they are not tied so closely to timetables as is a public transport system. Secondly, some of the private services are conducted by principals who do not get involved in rosters which are extremely expensive. I cannot say that I would favour a changeover to private operations. It is interesting to note that recently in Perth the system has been changed back to public transport.

Mr. Hambour—Due to the service?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes. We are paying for the service to the extent of £480,000. The other amount mentioned by the honourable member is not a subsidy to the trust, because the trust pays interest and full charges on the money it has borrowed. It is loan money and it is a transaction on which the Government does not make a loss. In sparsely populated areas where it is not practicable to give a frequent service private operators enjoy an advantage.

Mr. LAUCKE—An amount of £20,000 is provided for third party insurance for Government vehicles. Can the Treasurer say if that is carried by the Government or whether it is undertaken by private companies? Is there comprehensive insurance on Government vehicles and, if so, who carries it?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—In November 1955 the Government changed its policy somewhat in this matter. At present all Government vehicles are insured against third party liability with outside companies. Increased premiums will become payable in December. We carry our own comprehensive insurance.

Mr. HUGHES—In connection with the Wallaroo distillery an amount of £26 is provided for refund of rental and £1,000 for repairs and painting. If the previous tenant had continued in occupation it would certainly have cost the Government far more than £1,000 for repairs and painting. During the occupation of the previous tenants, "Wallaroo Engineers," the distillery only housed one man and two boys. Another tenant is now in occupation and I commend the Government for spending money to keep this magnificent structure in good repair. Line passed.

MINISTER OF LANDS AND MINISTER OF
REPATRIATION.

Lands Department, £735,029; Government Motor Garage, £37,053; Advances to settlers, vermin proof fencing and loans for fencing and water piping, £1,424, and Miscellaneous, £122,054—passed.

MINISTER OF WORKS.

Public Works Department—Office of Minister, £7,485.

Mr. QUIRKE—Some time ago I requested information from the Minister regarding the publication of the report of the Minister of Works which we used to get and which was an extremely valuable document. The list of departments under the Minister of Works includes the Engineering and Water Supply Department, the Architect-in-Chief, Government Offices, West Terrace Cemetery—it looks as though that is where the report has gone—Public Stores, Aborigines, and Public Works. These are some of the big activities of the State. There is no more important portfolio than that of Minister of Works, yet we do not get a report. Earlier Minister of Works' reports were an absolute mine of information and were referred to all over the State. I have been asked in many places why they are not now published, and last time I asked the Minister he said he had nothing further to report on what he had already told me. Does the department or the Minister intend to reopen this question and publish this report, and how soon can we expect to have the matter examined?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I appreciate the honourable member's interest in the activities of the various departments, and I agree with him that they are extremely important in view of the very large undertakings in which the State is constantly engaged. The honourable member will appreciate that I only recently took over the office. The answers I gave him were factual and not intended to evade the question. A report covering the activities of the department cannot be prepared in five minutes, nor should it be. It should be a worthwhile statement.

Mr. Quirke—That is the point: is it going to be?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Yes, so far as I am aware. That is the purport of my answer to the honourable member's earlier question, and that is still the position.

Line passed.

Engineering and Water Supply Department, £3,097,929.

Mr. LAUCKE—The sum of £145,400 is provided under the line "Country water districts." Is the reticulation service for Marananga included in that figure?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I cannot give the honourable member precise information about that scheme, but I will look into this question and let him have a reply later.

Line passed.

Architect-in-Chief's Department, £200,157; Government offices, £174,900; Cemetery, £18,500; Public Stores Department, £122,074—passed.

Aborigines Department, £374,021.

Mr. LAUCKE—I have a close association with certain church missions and I express the appreciation of those missions for the interest taken by the Government, the fine assistance it has rendered, and the increased amounts it has given each year to assist them and others in their work for aborigines.

Line passed.

Public works, £1,185,150.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I am concerned with the state of the building in Victoria Square that houses the Engineering and Water Supply Department and the office of the Minister of Works. Certain renovations were made to the exterior of that building a couple of years ago following the fretting of the stonework, but what I am now concerned with is the condition of the blue stone steps in the entrances and on the stairways. This blue

stone is a very old type of stone and was imported from Melbourne for this work. Over the years it has had tremendous use and has worn; it now definitely needs a complete overhaul. I do not consider this building to be an appropriate one, bearing in mind the number of people who are called upon to go there on business. I realize the Minister has not been in office very long, but he is young enough and energetic enough to see that some action is taken in this matter.

A plan is provided for every sewer in this State, whether in small dwellings, flats or factories, and I am concerned whether the building is adequate to store these plans. The Lands Titles Office is also situated in the building, which is used extensively by the public. The stonework is fretting and the renovation of the building should be given a high priority. The Motor Vehicles Department is situated on North Terrace, some Government offices are in Rundle Street, and others are in Victoria Square, so obviously the Government believes in decentralization in some matters. Many years ago plans were drawn for a new building on the valuable site adjoining the Engineering and Water Supply building, with frontages in Victoria Square and Flinders Street, but new plans should now be drawn up because such a long time has elapsed. In buildings recently constructed in this city, steel has been used for framework and concrete for floors; in the *Advertiser* building, a different type of flooring is to be used. I hope the Minister will provide better accommodation for the staff of his department. Firstly, the Victoria Square building at present housing the Architect-in-Chief, the E. & W.S. Department, the Lands Titles Office and the Factories Department should be renovated; secondly, the section adjoining it should be demolished, and a modern building constructed to house some of the decentralized staff and to provide the amenities insisted upon in other industries.

Mr. BYWATERS—For preliminary surveys for water supplies and irrigation schemes, £11,000 is provided. The Minister has kept me informed about a proposed reticulation scheme from Tailm Bend to Keith, and as this is still in the survey stage, I understand it will be covered by this item. I am interested in another scheme (from Palmer to Sedan) that has been suggested by two petitions, one from me and another from the Speaker of the House. This will serve the people of Milendella in my district and Cambrai in the Speaker's district. Will the

Minister take up this matter with the department concerned to see whether any progress has been made?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The steps leading into my office are getting somewhat worn, and I have it in mind to do something about them. The provision of additional office accommodation is a matter to be dealt with under the Loan Estimates, so I cannot deal with it here. I will investigate the matter raised by the member for Murray, and inform him of the results soon.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, £46,232.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Previously I have commended the appointment of the Advisory Committee on Country Sewerage. I understand it has submitted a report concerning Gawler. Can the Minister say what is the priority of this town?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—So far the committee has tendered only a preliminary report and until I see the final report I cannot answer the question.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

Education Department, £8,194,819.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—An amount of £17,400 is provided for the Visual Aids Section. Its value to the department is generally known and the films shown are of great assistance in giving instruction and enjoyment to the children. The increase this year is £1,378. For documentary films an amount of £5,000 is voted. Will this money be spent on films for the Visual Aids Section?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—It will be able to use the films.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—I commend the work of the Technical Correspondence School. I have a son in the motor industry and during the last five or six years while he has been serving his apprenticeship I have become convinced just how valuable this school is, particularly the correspondence lessons. I doubt whether a better set of lessons could be obtained anywhere, and if an apprentice had to buy them they would be very expensive. A fine feeling exists between the tutors and the boys. We are very fortunate in having such a fine man in charge and such excellent tutors. If the apprentices do not do well it is either their own fault or because they have not the educational background to cope with the work.

Mr. KING—An increase of £1,000 is provided for the Psychologist's Branch. Can the Minister say whether its work is being expanded, particularly in the care and education of mentally retarded and handicapped children? I have a strong suspicion that this branch is severely over-taxed, but whether it is due to the inability of the Minister to get additional personnel I do not know. More attention should be given to this branch.

Mr. BYWATERS—Last week, in company with other honourable members, I was fortunate to be able to visit the occupational centre for mentally retarded children and I was very impressed with the work being done. I asked the principal whether any others in the department were being trained to do this type of work. It is apparent that this man has a full-time job. He is loved by the children, and they are making progress. I understand that he gives talks to parents in his own time and tries to educate them how best to treat these children. Would it be possible for others to be similarly trained, or if there are no others here able to undertake the work would the Minister go further afield? The principal told me that many cases were reported from the country and the only opportunity the parents of these children have to get any relief is to send them to Minda Home. However, it would be far better if they were sent to a school like that already established at Woodville. Has any consideration been given to increasing the staff?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—In response to inquiries from Mr. King and Mr. Bywaters as to the education of children handicapped physically or mentally, I can say that this question is receiving greater attention than ever before and facilities are being provided along the most modern lines for the development of their abilities and aptitudes to the greatest possible extent. Special schools for children who are hard of hearing have been established at Woodville and North Adelaide, and occupational centres for retarded children have been opened at Kent Town and Woodville. In addition, the Government has made increased grants to special schools, such as Townsend House and Suneden. We are not doing as much as I should like, but we cannot get enough highly trained teachers. The department's psychologist is abroad, and, in addition to investigating the most modern methods of teaching handicapped children, he will try to recruit specialist teachers. We have already obtained some from overseas and

we hope to get more and expand the psychologist's branch of the department.

Mr. FRED WALSH—During the debate on the Address in Reply I spoke on the problem of handicapped children who are past the age for attending the special schools at Woodville, Kent Town and Suneden. I understand there are about 32 over the age of 14, and before long they will not be accommodated at those schools. Perhaps not much can be done for some handicapped children, but I believe a number could become useful citizens if given proper training. It would not take much money to train these children for a vocation, though I appreciate the difficulty of getting qualified staff.

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—This is a difficult problem, but I think it is the responsibility of the Minister of Health. He has been studying it for some time and has received deputations from interested bodies, but it is not easy to get a solution. I have agreed with the Minister of Health to make the services of the psychologist's branch available in the education of these children over the age of 14. Much is being done for those at Woodville, and I hope we shall be able to do more, such as providing instruction in crafts for which they may be suited.

Mr. HUGHES—Can the Minister say what schools are covered by the line, "Private schools—Conveyance, boarding and book allowance for students, £58,000"? Can he explain the line, "Transport of handicapped children—Purchase of vehicles and conveyance of children, £9,000"?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The line for the purchase of vehicles was placed on the Estimates following on a deputation that waited on me some months ago that was introduced by the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe). Several associations interested in the welfare of physically or mentally handicapped children asked whether the Government would provide transport to and from school. Cabinet has not yet come to a decision, but this line has been placed on the Estimates in case the Government decides to provide transport. I hope to do so in the near future. We do provide free transport for country children to private schools when they desire it, if they qualify for it.

Mr. KING—Arising out of the Minister's reply to the member for West Torrens (Mr. Fred Walsh) about retarded children over the age of 16 for whom there is not much accommodation at present, I draw the Minister's attention to the position in Victoria. In the last two years I have visited several of the

centres established there mainly as a result of the work of parents and interested bodies. The children are kept at those centres after reaching the age of 16 because it is realized that mentally retarded children grow older physically but are not capable of progressing mentally. The Victorian Government has subsidized those centres at the rate of £4 for every £1 they themselves raise, and has helped considerably with transport. Those children stay there until they die. Fortunately, perhaps, they do not usually live long. After the age of 20 deterioration is rapid but they are capable of learning certain skills and are better off in the circumstances in which they learn them. We should remember that when dealing with this problem. Has the Minister done anything about the printing of the book *The Backward Child*? It is a good book for parents who cannot send their children to such centres.

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I am indebted to the honourable member for supplying me with a copy of this book, which I read with great interest and profit. I have referred it to the Director of Education with the idea of seeing whether it can be copied and used in our department. I have not yet received any report on that. I think the Acting Director is awaiting the return of Mr. Piddington. As soon as I have any information I will inform the honourable member.

Line passed.

The Libraries Department, £145,601; The Museum Department, £42,801; The Art Gallery Department, £21,022—passed.

Miscellaneous, £1,777,405.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—I noted with interest that the honourable member for Murray (Mr. Bywaters) in his Budget speech made timely reference to the Workers' Educational Association. Over the years the W.E.A. has done particularly good work in its field. Nowadays the adult education centres in South Australia are doing a similar work but usually not in the same areas as the W.E.A. The great improvement brought about in adult education during the regime of the present Minister of Education will stand as a memorial to him and the officers in his department.

Recently, the administration of the W.E.A. has been changed a good deal, with the result that its income will not be as high as it was formerly. I note with pleasure that there is an increase of £300 in the grant this year, but the £2,500 proposed, in view of the association's commitments, will not be enough. I under-

stand it will need at least £3,600 in 1959. I raise this matter now in anticipation of the future. We shall not carp if the Government finds that it can allot more than £3,600.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—This is not the first time I have had something to say about the annual function held by the students of the University of Adelaide. All people, including university students, are entitled to recreation, but, if the Government is prepared to spend money on our future citizens, and maybe leaders, for higher education, then I think that the students have a responsibility to the community at large. Police court action arose from recent occurrences. I was one of the many persons involved in the delay occasioned by a student's interference with the Emerson crossing traffic control lights. It was fortunate that I was able to extricate myself from the queue and was not delayed as long as others, but the action of this student—who obviously had knowledge of the control light mechanism—could not be classified merely as a "prank." Our police force has sufficient work normally without having to devote time to remedying the defects caused by these irresponsible students.

I do not want to prevent students from holding their annual procession, during which they solicit public assistance for many charitable causes, including the Children's Hospital, but I believe that if the students want to provide entertainment for the public they could conduct it on the University oval. I am sure many members of the public would support their efforts and if the students' activities were confined to the oval such vandalism as occurred this year might be prevented. We expect certain standards from our future leaders, as well as regard for public safety. Will the Minister of Education inform the University of my representations?

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I support the requests of Messrs. Bywaters and Clark on behalf of the Workers' Educational Association. The ambit of the association has materially changed as a result of re-organization in the last couple of years and much of the work formerly undertaken by it has now been transferred to the adult education movement. This has been a mixed blessing because, while it has relieved the W.E.A. of certain responsibilities, the association has lost the right to collect certain fees which are now paid to the University. Consequently the association's income has been seriously depleted and according to recent information its budget will not be met by the amount voted this year. I realize that

£2,500—an increase of £300 over last year—is provided for current running expenses and £500 for a building fund associated with the purchase and renovation of a building as a permanent home for the association in Adelaide.

There is still a big field of activity available for the association in Adelaide and country areas. The association was established many years ago, in about 1910, and members of the trade union movement supported it, as one would expect. The association began to interest unionists in educational hobbies and in improving their cultural knowledge, but with the advent of the first World War and the subsequent depression many people lost interest in the association. However, there is a reviving interest, particularly in the trade union movement. This type of education can make workers better unionists and fit them to accept positions of responsibility in their unions, which will make the unions even stronger forces in our society than they are at present.

When the member for Gawler was speaking Mr. Hambour remarked that we could do the job next year. I assure him we shall have no hesitation in doing it next year, but I am concerned with the balance of this year. I do not know whether the Minister or the Treasurer has any loose funds that could be made available for this worthy purpose, but I suggest that consideration might be given to a small supplementary grant to this association this year so that it could meet its liabilities without having recourse to certain of its funds which should form its reserve fund. I refer to the revenue from its bookroom activities. I suggest to the Minister that he consider this matter as it will probably become necessary to make a small additional fund to keep this organization on the right side of the ledger until we consider next year's Estimates.

Mr. BYWATERS—I support the remarks of my colleagues, the member for Gawler and the Leader of the Opposition. I now refer to the line “National Fitness Council of South Australia.” I note with gratitude that an additional £750 has been provided for this council this year. The Speaker and I are the representatives of this House on the National Fitness Council, and it is pleasing to be associated with that body. The council is also sponsored by the Federal Government which contributes—I feel insufficiently—towards its work. Members of the council are grateful for the interest shown by the

Minister of Education since he has been in office. Former Ministers have not always shown such interest.

Unfortunately, the increased grant is still not sufficient. I know there is the cry that organizations such as these are always looking for more money, but the council is fulfilling a very vital need in the community in looking after the youth of today and trying to educate them to use their leisure time in a far better way. Its work is commendable. I know that much of its work is voluntary and that many people give up their leisure time to enhance the advantages that can be provided by this very able body. The director and his staff are doing a fine job.

I particularly mention the Women's Playing Fields Association, which is doing wonderful work for the female members of the community. I pay a tribute to Miss May Mills, who has done a tremendous job voluntarily to see that this aspect of education is carried out to give the most benefit possible. That organization has a fine area near the South Road, and much work done there is due to the fine effort of Miss Mills, who has spent much time in improving that place which is a credit and will stand as a memorial to her. She is out there whenever possible; she has encouraged people with heavy earth-moving equipment, and other people to give their time on field days and other occasions in an effort to improve that area. I pay that tribute to a grand person.

I was pleased to see that our counterparts in New South Wales by their efforts are providing some of the best tennis players the world has seen. Quite a few of those tennis players received their tuition from the National Fitness Council in that State, and they are now keeping Australia in the forefront. This organization assists in making healthy bodies and healthy minds. It may seem strange to some that this work comes under the heading of education, but I do not feel that way because it is a vital part of our education to teach people today how to use their leisure moments to the best advantage. It is pleasing to see that progress has been made. We as a council feel that progress has been slow mainly because of the shortage of money; we would assist people more if we had the money at our disposal. I urge the Minister, when he is able, to make more money available to this council, and I thank him on

behalf of the council for the interest he has shown.

Mr. HAMBOUR—The Leader of the Opposition when dealing with the Workers' Educational Association said that organization helps make better unionists. I sincerely hope the Leader is careful that he does not lose them when he comes over to this side of the House, as he hopes to do next year. Is this association merely confined to unionists? I would appreciate information about how the money is to be distributed, because the Leader cannot deny that he said that this money would make better unionists.

Mr. O'Halloran—I did not say any such thing.

Mr. HAMBOUR—I assure the Leader that I am not completely deaf, nor am I as dumb as some members opposite. I would like the Minister of Education to tell me a little of the activities of the W.E.A. The people in my district have to contribute and pay their own expenses for the adult education they receive through agricultural bureaux and the like. I feel that we are entitled to know what is happening to this money.

Mr. COUMBE—This matter has been raised by the member for Light and previous speakers. In my opinion the Workers' Educational Association is doing a very good job, and I know that it has done very good work in the past. I notice that the Kindergarten Union of South Australia is being provided with £135,000 this year. That union has its training college at North Adelaide, where it does a very good job. Is this merely an increase of working expenses, or does it relate to an expansion of activities—training more personnel or opening more kindergartens? Can the Minister indicate whether a report has come to hand following on my recent representations for transport for children attending the South Australian Oral School and the Retarded Children's Welfare Association?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I was very interested in the remarks on adult education of the Leader of the Opposition and the members for Gawler, Light and Torrens, if only because it is a subject in which I am very interested. Adult education has been extended widely during the last couple of years. Technical schools are being developed as adult education centres throughout the State, and we are now preparing to do the same with our high schools. A broad range of cultural subjects as well as technical and educational courses will be available for night classes. In addition, a gradually

increased grant has been made to the university so that it can develop adult education. An increased grant has also been made to the Workers' Educational Association, but not as much as it might have desired. The Leader asked whether, if I had money available, I would give an increased grant to the association during the year in addition to that outlined in the Estimates, but it might be truly said that last year I made history as I gave that association more than it asked for.

I think there is room for the three separate avenues—the Education Department, the University and the Workers' Educational Association to be carrying on this valuable work of adult education at a time when we are gradually coming into automation and adults have much more leisure. I do not think those bodies are competing in any way, they are all going their separate ways, and the new avenues being exploited by the Workers' Educational Association are in the best interests, not only of the workers, but of the public. They go back to what was the traditional scope of that association, which I am pleased to see. The increased grant of £2,500 is to meet the extended programme of that association, and I hope to see its work extended. If I can do more to assist it, I shall be pleased to do so.

Reference was also made to the National Fitness Council; this has received an increased grant, although not as much as it desired. The council has approached me recently to see whether anything further can be done. This council is doing splendid work; many of its members are doing voluntary service, and I hope it will expand in the future. The member for Torrens asked about the Kindergarten Union. The increase of £15,000 is for an increase in general work. This union has a very ambitious programme; it has increased the number of creches to 102; it is doing splendid work.

The member for Torrens was temporarily out of the Chamber when I spoke about transport of handicapped children. I now have reports from Mr. Whitburn, the special officer appointed by me to advise me on the care and education of handicapped children, and from the Transport Officer (Mr. Harris). I am now studying them prior to making a submission to Cabinet. We have placed this amount on the Estimates in the meantime so that the money will be available when a decision is made. I will make available to the Vice-Chancellor of the University the remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Edwardstown.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—The member for Light (Mr. Hambour) a short time ago was kind enough to ascribe to me an ambition that I have never expressed in this House. He, of course, has a much better chance to become Minister of Education than I, firstly, because he is a member of the Government Party, and secondly, because in his Party, unlike ours (in which a Minister would be chosen by a jury of his peers), the choice is in the hands of his Leader. I am sure his Leader could make no wiser choice. I point this out because I have never claimed what I will do when I am Minister of Education.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT.

Department of Industry, £94,447.

Mr. FRED WALSH—An amount of £2,600 is provided for fees of members and secretaries of industrial boards. When I asked recently for a review of these fees, a letter from the Minister of Industry was quoted, stating that he was not prepared to alter the rate because much of the work was done in the evening. That is one reason why greater consideration should be given to increasing the fees. If a man works overtime in industry,

he is paid penalty rates. These people are working in the interests of the community, and in particular for the employer and employees over whom they have jurisdiction, not in their own interests. In 1932 when the basic wage was £3 3s. a week the fee paid to members of industrial boards amounted to 7s. 6d. a meeting, but today with the basic wage at £12 16s. the fee is only 20s. If we equate the figures to the 1932 basic wage, the fee should be at least 30s. Our wages boards do a very fine job in preserving industrial peace and because of the work members do they should receive an increased fee.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—This matter has not come under my personal notice but I will bring the honourable member's remarks directly to the notice of the Minister of Industry, ask him to get a report for consideration by Cabinet, and then advise the honourable member of the result.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, £1,630—passed.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.5 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, October 7, at 2 p.m.