

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, July 21, 1959.

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

### ASSENT TO ACTS.

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, intimated the Governor's assent to the following Acts:—Appropriation (No. 1); Public Purposes Loan (No. 1); Supply (No. 1).

### SWEARING IN NEW MEMBER.

Mr. DUNSTAN, to whom the Oath of Allegiance was administered by the Speaker, took his seat in the House as member for the district of Norwood.

### DEATH OF MR. C. L. DAVIS.

The SPEAKER—I have to inform the House that I have received the following letter from the widow of Mr. C. L. Davis, former member for Port Pirie:—

Thank you so much for your letter of 9th inst., in which was conveyed tributes to the memory of my late husband by the Honourable the Premier, the Hon. Sir Thomas Playford, M.P., the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. M. R. O'Halloran, M.P., and Mr. D. H. McKee, M.P., and your personal expressions of sympathy in my bereavement. Will you please accept my sincere thanks for your personal expressions of sympathy and I would be grateful if you would also convey to Sir Thomas Playford, Mr. M. R. O'Halloran and Mr. D. H. McKee and the members of the House of Assembly generally my heartfelt thanks for their kindly tributes.

### QUESTIONS.

#### TAX REIMBURSEMENTS.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—At the Premiers' Conference held recently an adjustment was made to the reimbursement that the States receive from the Commonwealth under the Tax Reimbursement Act. There has been much press publicity on the matter and a reference to a formula but as far as I can ascertain no description of the formula has been given to the public. Can the Premier say whether a new formula has been devised, whether it will take the place of the formula contained in Commonwealth legislation, and whether it will be necessary to make the new one the subject of legislation so that it may be effective for the six years which I understand is the period of the new agreement?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Considerable detail and many technicalities are associated with this matter. I promise the

honourable member and the House that at Budget time I will bring down a more lengthy explanation of the alterations and the proposals made by the Commonwealth to the States. Speaking in general terms, and in answer to a question, there is no need for the States to pass any legislation regarding this matter. The States have never passed legislation regarding tax reimbursements or any formulas operating under the tax reimbursement scheme. The tax reimbursements are grants made by the Commonwealth in consideration of any State forgoing its right to levy taxation. If a State levied taxation it would not get a reimbursement grant, and the only legislation passed was that passed many years ago suspending the operation of income tax collection by the States.

With regard to the formula, speaking from memory (and I know honourable members will not hold me precisely to these figures), the amount that the Commonwealth would have provided in tax reimbursements this year under the old formula was about £220,000,000. I think the amount last year was £205,000,000 or £210,000,000, and under the formula that operated the increase of population would have attracted another £10,000,000 or £15,000,000, making a total of £220,000,000. As members know, all States have been having severe budget problems, and I think that, with the exception of New South Wales, every State last year had a heavy deficit in its budget accounts. The Commonwealth realized that it would be necessary to provide an additional amount, particularly as Victoria and Queensland had applied for a grant under section 96 of the Commonwealth Constitution. I think Victoria's deficit last year was about £3,500,000 and Queensland also had a heavy deficit. The Commonwealth proposed to the States that in lieu of the £220,000,000 which would have been available under the formula the amount would be increased to £242,500,000. In other words, it would provide an additional £22,500,000 to the States, and it suggested the means of allocation to the States, which was based upon the amounts that the States had received last year in grants, rounding the figure up to the fractional figure above in cases of two-place decimals. Again I speak without the figures before me, but that means that Victoria under this proposal receives from the Commonwealth £21 4s. 6d. a head of population, New South Wales £21 10s. 6d., Queensland about £27, South Australia about £29 or £30, and about the same amounts for Tasmania and Western Australia.

The Commonwealth stipulated that these amounts be related to the *per capita* grant, which would fluctuate with increases in population each year for the next six years, so that if a State's population went up the amount it received from the Commonwealth would go up, and also that the amount would be increased by 1.1 per cent in connection with increased wages, so that any increases in wage payments last year will be paid, and any increases of wages paid this year will be paid in the next year's budget, by the Commonwealth grant being increased to that extent. The Commonwealth required that the agreement should last six years, and that in future there shall be only two regular States applying for grants under section 96. Neither Queensland nor South Australia is prohibited from making a request to the Grants Commission, but as the amount provided by the Commonwealth has been increased so substantially, it is considered by the Commonwealth that the grants provided by the Grants Commission will be on a much more difficult basis, and those grants will be restricted and the case made out to the Commission will have to be proved more strongly than previously.

The Grants Commission has been distributing grants of about £18,000,000 or £20,000,000 between the States. It is not contemplated by the Commonwealth that they will be paying anything now except minor adjustments as far as the claimant States are concerned, and the Commonwealth has made it clear that it is not prepared to countenance more than two States as regular applicants. That does not prohibit South Australia or Queensland from applying.

Mr. Jennings—Or any other State.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Or any other State for that matter. It is recognized that Tasmania and Western Australia will of necessity have to apply because their financial position is difficult, but there would be nothing to stop any other State applying if it could justify a special application to the Commission. Indeed, the Commission has already given some consideration to what would constitute a special application. The original proposal put forward was not acceptable to South Australia. It seemed to me that the Commonwealth, in working out the amount provided for South Australia, had added an amount of £19,800,000 which we got by way of tax reimbursements last year to £5,000,000 which we got as a special grant, but it overlooked the fact that there was some deficit which was subject to second part consideration.

We made out a case which was accepted by the Commonwealth for an additional increase of £1,000,000, and a case was made out by New South Wales for an additional £1,000,000, and that was accepted also, so that the Commonwealth amount went up by £24,500,000 more than under the old formula.

At Budget time I shall bring down a statement setting out precisely the relative positions of each State under the old agreement and the new one. I will also show the relative amount *per capita* that each State will receive under the new agreement, which will be subject to rises in the cost of living taking place in each year and will be reviewed each year, and also subject to increases in population. I think every State considered that the agreement is an advance on anything previously submitted to the States, and I believe it provides greater stability in the States' financial affairs.

Mr. Stott—How does the new formula affect the claimant States of Tasmania and Western Australia as compared with the old one?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Western Australia and Tasmania do not get the advantage of the formula to the same extent as the non-claimant States for the simple reason that in each instance the percentage is taken up. In one instance the percentage was .18 and they made it the number above. For South Australia it was .78 and again it was taken up. Every time a percentage was taken up it was at the expense of Western Australia and Tasmania whose percentages were brought down. They do not get as good an initial grant now in comparison with the other States as they did previously.

Mr. STOTT—Regarding the new tax formula adopted by the Premiers' Conference, the Premier stated that he would fully explain this matter when he gave his Budget Speech. This is a very important question which needs study and consideration, and if members have to wait until the Budget speech is delivered it will not give them much time to analyse the position compared with what it was under the old formula. Would the Premier consider making details available to the House at an early date in order that members may see how the new tax formula works and study the new procedure?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The full details of the formulae were printed at the time of the conference and are, of course, public property. They are available in the Parliamentary Library to honourable members

who propose to do any research upon them. The report I intend to make at the time of the Budget is, of course, on how these matters tie in with our requirements of money and what our position is under them compared with the position which would have existed previously. That report can only be presented at the time of the Budget. If the honourable member desires general information on what the formulae are, it can be obtained merely by his applying to the Parliamentary Librarian.

#### WATER SUPPLIES.

Mr. DUNNAGE—All members are concerned about water supplies throughout the State. I congratulate the Minister of Works and the Government on the work carried out over the years to build up our supplies. At present we are experiencing an extremely dry spell. Can the Minister indicate whether it is possible to build up reservoir supplies by pumping more water from the Murray; whether the pumps are working at full capacity; and whether preparations are being made to reopen bores in the metropolitan area that have previously been utilised in dry spells?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I could not agree with the honourable member more when he—

Mr. Jennings—Congratulated you.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Yes, that too. It was a well-deserved compliment which I accept heartily not for myself, because I did not have much to do with it, but for my predecessors. It referred to Government policy that has achieved what the honourable member claims. Our position is becoming increasingly serious. The continued dry spell is unprecedented in living memory and for some time we have been concerned about the prospects. Pumps are working to full capacity and have been for some time. In addition a number of steps are being taken, and others are being explored, to meet the situation that will develop unless we get good rains soon. Cabinet has already considered some measures and there are one or two others still awaiting discussion. We hope to have the whole matter sorted out later this week when I shall be able to make a comprehensive statement on all measures being taken to meet this difficult situation.

#### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HOMES.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Can the Treasurer indicate the number of applicants who are waiting for financial assistance from the State Bank to purchase new homes or seeking loans

to build new homes; is there any likelihood of there being any wastage, that is, by the applicants withdrawing or being ineligible; and, if so, what proportion?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have not the precise figures with me, but I hope to have them tomorrow.

#### INCREASED WATER CHARGES.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Can the Minister of Works intimate the estimated additional revenue as a result of the recent increase in the charges for rebate and excess water?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—State revenue will not benefit at all in the current financial year. Accounts for the increased charges will not be rendered until later and the revenue will not be recovered until the next financial year. The increased charges will not return any additional revenue this financial year.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford—Except to a minor extent.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—That is so. I could have an estimate prepared of the total amount to be collected, but I cannot say off-hand what it would be. I believe there is confusion regarding charges for water. They are of two kinds—rates and price of water. Rates are based on the assessed annual value of the property served and it is a charge made irrespective of the quantity of water used by the consumer. The consumer is entitled to a certain quantity of rebate water, which is calculated on the amount of rate he pays divided by the price per thousand gallons of rebate water. If he uses more water than is available to him by means of that calculation he is then charged for excess water at so much a thousand gallons. The calculation made at the time the increased charges were announced did not take into account the fact that the annual charges paid for water comprise those two separate items—the rate and the price for water—so the increased amount paid will be only a fraction of the amount computed at that time. More than half the people will not pay any increased annual charge because they do not use excess water. If it is understood that the total charge for water comprises those two factors—the rate and the price for water—it will materially assist in understanding how water charges are made up.

Mr. RALSTON—I have previously pointed out that the water rate in Mount Gambier is at least 50 per cent higher than in the metropolitan area. Recent press articles indicate

that most water districts will be subject to the increased charges and the reason advanced for them is the cost of pumping water to the metropolitan area from the Murray. Can the Minister of Works say whether the increased cost of rebate and excess water will apply to the Mount Gambier water district and to the Blue Lake country water district and, if so, is the increased cost retrospective to June 30, 1959?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The increased charge is not retrospective and it will apply only to the account rendered for water in respect of the present financial year when the water has been consumed and when the meters have been read. I have with me the old schedule in which the Mount Gambier district is mentioned as being on the same basis as the majority of other districts in the State, and that being so the recently increased charges will apply there. If we try to apply a rate to each district individually we shall have a chaotic situation. There is not a single water district, including the honourable member's district, which today pays its way. He has claimed that Mount Gambier is rated much higher than other districts, but that claim is not borne out by the information I have obtained from the department. All districts which have previously not paid a rate that is above or equal to the new rate will be subject to the increase, but where the rate at present is equal to or above it no increased charge will be made.

Mr. RALSTON—I recently examined a copy of the *Government Gazette* to obtain information on water rates, and my interpretation of what I read was that the metropolitan water rate for the year ended last June was £7 10s. per £100 on the annual rental values assessment, or a 7.5 per cent rate, whereas the Mount Gambier rate was £10 16s. per £100 on annual rental values or a 10.8 per cent rate. If these figures are incorrect, will the Minister of Works inform the House what the correct figures are for the water districts I have mentioned?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I have not that information with me but I will obtain it for the honourable member.

#### INCREASED BUS FARES.

Mr. TAPPING—Recently increased bus fares have been announced for the metropolitan area. In addition I understand that periodical monthly tickets, which have represented a considerable concession, have been discontinued.

Yesterday I received a letter from a Semaphore constituent stating:—

The new bus fares with the discontinuation of the periodical tickets is going to make the cost of travel very hard to take. For instance a five-day ticket at present is £2 16s. 9d. per month. Under the new system it will cost the five-day traveller £4 per month. Naturally the person working 6 days will pay more.

This person will now have to pay in ordinary fares £1 3s. 3d. a month more than he paid for his periodical concession ticket. It seems wrong to penalize regular customers. Will the Premier confer with the Tramways Trust to see whether it will consider re-introducing periodical concession fares and so make the buses worth while?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Minister of Works has handed me a memorandum that the sale of monthly concession tickets has fallen off drastically over the last two years, and that the revenue earned from this source now represents only 1.4 per cent of the trust's traffic revenue, as compared with 5 per cent some two years ago, that this small income does not warrant the cost of providing facilities to sell tickets to the public, and that it is proposed to discontinue their issue. That shows that concession fare tickets were used only on a small scale, which did not warrant their continuance.

#### MOUNT COMPASS TO VICTOR HARBOUR ROAD.

Mr. JENKINS—The new road being constructed from Mount Compass to Victor Harbour is well under way, and is just passing the Cut Hill area. On the old road there was a bus stop for tourist and passenger buses so that people could see the beautiful view of the Bluff and Encounter Bay, but the new road follows a different course that does not allow this. At present there is a detour that allows buses to pull on to the old road. Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Roads to consider, if it will not create a traffic hazard, leaving that detour open in order that passengers and tourists may be able to see this beautiful view?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will bring the matter under the notice of my colleague and ask him to consider it.

#### RAILWAY WORKERS' COTTAGES.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Railways whether it is a fact that where electricity is supplied to a railway worker's cottage in the country the occupier must pay a surcharge of £10 a

year for a period of 10 years, plus additional rent for the cottage for all time because it has been wired?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will bring that matter under the notice of the Minister of Railways and ask for a report.

#### NORTHERN WATER STORAGES.

Mr. HEASLIP—Although I think there is still plenty of time for a run-off into the metropolitan reservoirs, continued dry weather is making it very uncertain whether the northern reservoirs will collect any water this year. Can the Minister of Works give the holdings of northern reservoirs (Bundaleer, Beetaloo and Baroota), their capacity, and say to what extent the Morgan-Whyalla pumps are being used?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The country reservoir position does not appear on paper to be quite so acute as that of the metropolitan reservoirs, but I am afraid the long-term picture is not much brighter. Most of the northern reservoirs to which the honourable member referred can be fed, and are being fed, from the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline. Without that I think that every year our northern towns would have been seriously embarrassed, if not out of water altogether. The total volume of water held in country reservoirs is boosted by the fact that we still have some 2,700,000,000 gallons in the South Para Reservoir, but unfortunately it is not possible to distribute the water equitably over the whole area so the northern reservoirs, particularly Baroota and Beetaloo, are a long way down. The pumps on the Morgan-Whyalla line have been working continuously; in fact, I think they are going continuously almost the whole year to maintain and build up supplies. Information can be released a little later when particulars are finalized as to just what we are able to do there. At the moment the position in country reservoirs does not appear to be quite so difficult as in the metropolitan reservoirs.

#### FOOT BRIDGE OVER STURT CREEK.

Mr. FRED WALSH—I have been approached by various Progress Associations in the North Glenelg area and other people who are concerned about the danger to pedestrians crossing Sturt Creek and Keswick Creek on Tapleys Hill Road. Recently a small New Australian boy was killed. Not much publicity was given to this accident, which was rather sad, and there is a possibility that further accidents will

occur because of the lack of foot bridges at these crossings, particularly that over the Sturt Creek. There are about 300 migrants in the North Glenelg Migrant Hostel who use the bridge daily going to and from the Graymore Bus and the Port Adelaide bus; these people must cross the bridge because the buses stop on the south side. Also, the people from 60 houses in the Golflands Estate area use the bridge, and in the summer time naturally they use it to go to and from the beach, which further enhances the danger. On request I made an inspection and found that all the people had said was correct. At peak periods I do not think there is a busier thoroughfare except Anzac Highway, Port Road and North Road. Before further accidents occur a foot bridge should be built across the Sturt Creek. I believe the West Beach Reserve Trust has agreed to develop this area, which will make the area still busier for those crossing the bridge. Will the Minister of Works point out the danger to the Minister of Roads, and ask him to call for a report on the early construction of a foot bridge at least across Sturt Creek?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Yes, I will do that.

#### LOWER MITCHAM BUS SERVICE EXTENSION.

Mr. MILLHOUSE—On June 9 the Minister of Works laid on the table of the House the report of the Metropolitan Transport Advisory Council on the proposed extension of the Lower Mitcham bus service. The following day I asked the Premier what the Government proposed to do about the matter and he said that the report had not then been considered by Cabinet. If no decision has yet been made by Cabinet, will the Premier meet a deputation from the Mitcham Council to discuss the matter?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes.

#### SICK AND AGED PERSONS AT PORT PIRIE.

Mr. McKEE—Recently, when on a deputation to the Chief Secretary, the member for Stuart and I were promised an investigation regarding the care of sick and aged persons at Port Pirie. Can the Premier inform me whether the investigation has been made?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I regret that I am unable to give the information today, but I will try to have it tomorrow.

## SEWAGE FARM GRASS.

Mr. SHANNON—Because of the disastrous year many smaller dairy farmers in the hills are in dire need of additional fodder for their cows. It has been the custom to secure it from the Sewage Farm. Without going into the pros and cons of using such a source of supply, will the Minister of Agriculture consider extending the period during which this source of supply is available in order that they may save themselves from the almost disastrous step of having to sell their dairy cows, for once they do that these smaller people will never start up in the business again?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—When measles was detected in meat at the Abattoirs last January restrictions were imposed on the use of Sewage Farm grass. The disease was difficult to pick at the time of the meat inspection and it was thought that the risk was too great because of our big export market, so restrictions were imposed, but unfortunately they were not observed fully by everybody. There were breaches, probably from wilful action rather than from neglect or forgetfulness. These cases could not be treated lightly and it was impossible to overlook the situation, so regulations were proclaimed closing the Sewage Farm for grass for cattle and pigs. This was in line with practice throughout Australia in connection with the use of Sewage Farm grass. Cattle graze on some sewage farms, but the grass is not allowed off the property. The regulations, which I have for tabling today, come into force on September 1. However, recently in view of the continued dry conditions a deputation pointed out to me their desperate position. I refer to certain dairy farmers who normally depend on Sewage Farm grass for their cows. A survey was made of the users, and they are the people to whom I refer. Because of the continued dry conditions there is now being considered a further alleviation of the situation. I stress that it is not the permanent answer by any means, but the position may be met by extending for a few months the period for the use of the grass, under strict supervision. This will include the Department of Agriculture having an officer busy at all times studying the use of the grass, and every beast fed on it being ear-tagged or marked in some way, which work will be done by the department. The disposal of the cattle will have to be done under strict supervision. They will not be sold on the hoof. If sold at all it will be on the hook as carcasses. These matters are being looked into at present in view of the dry season and I

hope to be able to give the honourable member more detail later.

## PRICES IN ELIZABETH-SALISBURY AREA.

Mr. CLARK—Recently much dissatisfaction over prices has been expressed to me by residents of the Elizabeth-Salisbury area, and in particular by the Elizabeth Progress Council, which represents a number of progress associations doing good work in the area. Many in the locality consider that at present either metropolitan or country prices are charged, whichever are the greater. For instance, bread prices are considerably above metropolitan prices. The bread is being charged for at the country prices. Recently metropolitan prices were charged for milk, and this has meant an increase of a halfpenny a pint. Will the Premier ascertain the reason for the recent increase in the milk price and obtain a report on the commodities subject to price control in the area?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Without obtaining a report I can tell the honourable member the reason for the increase in the milk price. The Salisbury-Elizabeth area is now included in the metropolitan area and it has become subject to the price control exercised by the Milk Board. The honourable member is not correct when he assumes that there is one price for bread in the metropolitan area. The Prices Commissioner has found after examination that the cost of delivery in some places is higher than in congested areas and to enable the bread supply to be continued he has fixed an additional amount over the average price for the metropolitan area. I should be happy for the Prices Commissioner to examine the matter of the delivery price at Elizabeth, but probably he has already got a report on it. I will have an investigation made.

## COUNTRY ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES.

Mr. HARDING—On June 9 I asked the Premier a question regarding electric power being supplied to Tarpeena from the Mount Gambier power house, and on the following day I asked, seeing that Kalangadoo was on the direct route from Nangwarry to Mount Burr, whether Kalangadoo could be supplied with power from the same source. Has the Premier a reply?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I took up the Tarpeena supply with the chairman of the Electricity Trust and trust officers are now investigating the matter. Even when a decision is made it will probably be

12 months before the job can be completed. I personally examined the Kalangadoo problem some time ago. I think there are still some difficulties about the existing franchise, but they are being examined by the trust and I think they are the subject of negotiation at present.

#### CAR DEALERS' FINANCES.

Mr. LAWN—Last Friday's *News* contained a report of statements made by His Honour Judge Paine in the Insolvency Court. It stated:—

In the Insolvency Court today Judge Paine directed that a bankrupt former city car dealer be charged with failure to keep proper books of account. He alleged that no trading, profit and loss accounts, or cash book had been kept since July 1, 1956, although bankings were nearly £250,000.

Can the Premier say whether all car dealers have to file returns with the Registrar of Companies or with some other Government Department? Is there any check on these firms to see that they are keeping proper books?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will let the honourable member have a concise report on this matter.

#### ROADS IN HOUSING TRUST AREAS.

Mr. JENNINGS—I wish to make it clear that I am asking my question with the support and concurrence of the member for Port Adelaide (Mr. Ryan) because it concerns territory on the border of our electoral boundaries but in the municipality of Enfield. In order to explain my question I should like some photographs I have with me to be exhibited on the notice board.

The SPEAKER—Order! I point out that neither our own Standing Orders nor the practice of the House of Commons allows the exhibition of photographs or any like matter for the purpose of explaining a question. Therefore, the honourable member would be out of order if he proposed to exhibit the photographs, but he may make an explanation in asking his question.

Mr. JENNINGS—Thank you, Sir, I am sorry, but not disappointed. The roads I have in mind are exclusively in a Housing Trust area that was established seven or eight years ago, and Mr. Ryan and I have had numerous complaints about them. We have been informed that police patrols even use the footpaths so as to avoid the roads, and I ask the Premier to take up this matter with the chairman of the Housing Trust to see whether the trust can use

some influence to get the roads improved. Failing success there, will he ask the Minister of Local Government to take up the matter with the council concerned?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I think the honourable member realizes that the Housing Trust, although it is only a housing authority, has on many occasions assisted councils on road problems. I believe the trust has a good reputation in that respect, but if the honourable member will let me have the photographs I will have his question investigated. I realize that, although roadmaking is the responsibility of councils, where there is an enormous housing programme it puts a heavy immediate burden upon the council concerned.

#### WARREN TRUNK MAIN.

Mr. LAUCKE—Can the Minister of Works inform the House of the progress made in the laying of the new Warren trunk main to Paskeville?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I did not come prepared with a statement on that matter. I will try to get a detailed one for the honourable member, perhaps tomorrow. All I can say from memory is that the work on the Warren trunk main has been through extremely difficult country, but fairly satisfactory progress has been made. The department expects to be able to increase the total mileage in the coming year, and in discussions I have had with the Engineer-in-Chief and Mr. Campbell I learned that they are increasing the number of men employed on the main now that they are in better country, possibly using two gangs of men instead of one. The department is anxious to make all possible progress because we desire the main to be completed in order to relieve the Morgan-Whyalla main of the load which is now upon it in supplying Yorke Peninsula. As soon as we get the Warren trunk main to Paskeville it will supply the needs of Yorke Peninsula instead of the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline being called upon to supply that same area through the Bundaleer reservoir.

#### QUARRY BLASTING AT MURRAY BRIDGE.

Mr. BYWATERS—Recently I have had many complaints from residents at Murray Bridge about heavy blasting by quarries in that locality. Some people say that their homes have cracked, and one man said that much plaster had fallen from one of his

ceilings just after a heavy blast last Saturday morning. Soon after that blast my phone ran hot for a while and I had to answer many complaints. About two months ago complaints were made about blasting to the district council of Mobilong, and for a while things improved. For some time normal charges took place, and these did not inconvenience the public. However, recently the blasts have been greater and there have been many complaints again. The main area of complaint seems to lie in line with the rock formation, and the people there are breathing fire and thunder, and I ask the Premier if he will have investigations made through the Minister of Mines to see whether the firm concerned is using heavier charges than are permissible. If that is the case, can some action be taken to stop a recurrence of heavy blasting causing damage to homes?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will have the matter investigated.

#### DISTRICT COUNCIL AMALGAMATIONS.

Mr. STOTT—For some time many country district councils have been concerned over their financial responsibilities and obligations. Apart from myself other country members have suggested the possibility of amalgamating smaller district councils into larger areas. This proposal would require investigation, a poll of ratepayers and an amendment of the law. As the situation is deteriorating annually will Cabinet consider appointing either a Royal Commission or a Select Committee to investigate the proposal?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I was a member of the House when a Royal Commission considered this matter previously. It is not the Government's intention to appoint one on this proposal.

Mr. O'Halloran—Based on previous experience?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes, which is a good guide. If any district councils want to amalgamate, machinery is available for such a course. Similar provisions apply if any part of a district council wants to change to another district council. The previous Royal Commission closed a number of district councils. This created bitter hostility in country areas where councils lost their identity and where such amalgamations were not desired by either council and were bitterly opposed by them. The Government does not intend to appoint a Royal Commission to force councils to amalgamate.

#### SEWERAGE REGULATIONS.

Mr. LOVEDAY—I have asked a number of questions concerning the printing of the sewerage regulations and on September 25 last the Minister of Works said they might be ready within eight to ten weeks. Can he say whether they have now been printed and are available?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I have a vague recollection of receiving some information concerning these regulations about 10 days ago. As far as I know they have not yet been printed although they are almost complete. I will make inquiries and give a definite reply tomorrow.

#### CASUAL EMPLOYEES' LONG SERVICE LEAVE.

Mr. RYAN—In view of the legislation brought down by the Government during the last Parliament granting long service leave to workers in industry not covered by any other agreement, will the Premier indicate whether the Government intends to introduce legislation this year granting the same privilege to casual workers in industry?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Bill introduced by the Government did provide for long service leave for certain casual workers but those proposals were rejected by Parliament. It is not proposed to introduce further legislation this year.

#### FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS.

Mr. NANKIVELL—The Tatiara District Council has recently been increased by the addition of the Hundreds of Archibald, Makin, McCallum and Shaugh and thus become one of the largest council districts and fire control districts in the State. As this district is already subject to considerable fire risk in the inside areas the addition of this area on the fringes has imposed an added hazard. The district already has its full complement of fire officers, but will the Minister of Agriculture consider increasing the number that may be appointed in that district for the next fire season?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—It is my policy to approve the appointment of additional fire control officers when asked by the district councils. If I accept the statement that the maximum number has been appointed to this district I can only say that I am bound by the Act and am unable to make any further appointments without amending legislation being passed by Parliament. However, I will closely examine the matter.



## PORT PIRIE HOUSING.

Mr. RICHES—Early this year a deputation waited on the Premier and sought Government action in alleviating unsatisfactory housing conditions at Port Pirie. The Premier promised to have a survey made by a competent officer of the Housing Trust and an officer of the Port Pirie Local Board of Health. Can he indicate whether that survey has been made or has he any information to supply concerning the deputation's request?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I gave the necessary instructions for the survey to be made, but I have not seen a report. I will check and advise the honourable member tomorrow.

## SATURDAY CLOSING OF BANKS.

Mr. DUNSTAN—About nine months ago my Bill regarding Saturday bank closing was passed, but the banks are still open on Saturday mornings. Earlier this session the Premier, in reply to a colleague of mine, said he was waiting for a reply from the Associated Trading Banks following an undertaking given by the Governor of the Commonwealth Bank. Has he had that reply? If not, does he propose to take action on the matter?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The legislation ultimately passed provided that, in the event of the banks agreeing to open later on Friday afternoons, Saturday mornings would be proclaimed bank holidays. It was presumed at that time that agencies of the savings banks would be allowed to open on Saturday mornings to deal with customers. The honourable member probably knows the history as well as I. In South Australia there are only the Commonwealth and State Savings Banks, whereas in other States some of the trading banks have established savings banks and they are loath to agree to Saturday closing because they believe it would give the Commonwealth Bank some trading advantages over them. I have been negotiating with the banks and with the Commonwealth Bank to see if some basis of agreement can be reached. I believe the Commonwealth Bank's attitude is fair and reasonable. It readily agrees to two important concessions which vitally affect the trading banks. Firstly, it agrees that it would not use the fact that its agencies are open for any trade advantage and, secondly, it would not open a lot of new agencies for the purpose of benefiting from the fact that those agencies would be open. On the other hand the Commonwealth Bank and the State Savings Bank believe that there is no point in closing agencies which are

not employing bank officers, but which are occupying premises that would be open in any case. The Government also believes that non-cheque customers should have some opportunity of getting money for normal purposes at the week-end. I have not received an answer from the Associated Trading Banks. I believe they are divided as to what action they should take. I understand that some trading banks are anxious to take advantage of the legislation, but that others do not desire it. That probably accounts for the long delay of about six weeks since I wrote a letter and followed it up with a couple of telephone calls. I will, however, forward another note consequent on the honourable member's question.

## MEAT PRICES.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Recently there has been considerable complaint from the public about the disparity between the price of meat in butchers' shops and the prices livestock are fetching at the Abattoirs, and I believe some investigation has been made into the matter. Will the Premier state whether, as a result of the investigations, price control will be reimposed on meat, and if it is decided to reimpose control, whether grading according to quality will be given serious consideration? My experience has been that the price of top quality meat sets the main for that of lesser quality, and as a result many people are exploited unnecessarily. Will the Premier state whether these matters have been considered and whether any decision has been reached?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Since meat was decontrolled the Prices Department has continued to take an active interest in meat prices. Generally speaking, for the first month or two the prices kept within the margins that had been set by the Prices Department, but since then they have tended to increase above the margin; now they are substantially above them. This applies, I think, to all cuts of meat and all brands. As there is not only one price for meat in the metropolitan area, the Prices Department, for the purposes of comparison, obtained the actual prices charged in 53 butchers' shops and averaged them to obtain a price to compare with what was charged prior to decontrol.

The Leader touched on one of the difficult problems in meat price control—that there are so many qualities of meat that it is extremely difficult to fix a price that is adequate for good quality meat but not excessive for second-grade. In the interests of the public and of the producers of high quality meat the Government

investigated the grading of meat, undertook to pay the expense of strip branding to enable grading to be provided, and asked Mr. Rice to work out a proposal for strip branding on the basis of export quality being maintained for first grade, second grade and so on. Mr. Rice ultimately had to come to the Government and recommend it not to proceed with the proposal because it had the opposition of the industry at large, and even of stock breeders and owners, so there was a general opposition to strip branding, which is the only sure way of providing that meat is sold according to quality on a retail basis.

As to whether it is necessary to recontrol meat, Mr. Murphy has been having a series of conferences with various sections of the meat industry in the last fortnight. I believe that as a result some decrease in prices has been agreed upon, but I am awaiting a report from Mr. Murphy.

#### TEMPORARY HOMES.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I have received a letter from the Corporation of Marion about temporary homes in its area, with an indication that a similar letter was being sent to the Minister of Education as member for Glenelg. This letter states that permission was granted to the Housing Trust to build emergency homes in its area for a 10-year period. The council asks whether it would be practicable to remove these emergency homes from Mitchell Park, which is in my district, and from Oaklands Park, which is in the area represented by the Minister of Education, and if so, how soon they could be removed. It is desired that when the homes are removed the trust will build solid homes in the area.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Government has instructed the Housing Trust to pull down and dismantle the camp purchased from the Commonwealth Government immediately after the war, which has been used for emergency housing. The old camp buildings were definitely sub-standard, and the Government has been requested to pull them down and provide other accommodation for the tenants. A great deal of work in providing alternative accommodation has been carried out. Emergency housing is another proposition. There are 2,000 emergency homes—

Mr. Frank Walsh—Not in this area.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—No, but we must regard the problem as general rather than isolated. There are 2,000 families housed in emergency homes, and these people

find them a convenient type of housing in a time of emergency. To pull these down and provide permanent homes we would have, on today's costs, to provide £5,000,000, which would seriously curtail all other building operations in this State. We are not in a position to pull them down at present, and I have been informed that many tenants do not want them pulled down, because they have not much money and appreciate that the rents are much lower than for solid construction homes. In the circumstances, I regret to inform the honourable member that the emergency in housing has not passed sufficiently to enable us to pull them down. The Government does not regard them as permanent homes, and in the same way as it has taken action to have the camp pulled down it will demolish these homes when the position eases.

#### WHEAT PLANTINGS.

Mr. LAUCKE—Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to a question I asked earlier this session about having a survey taken of our wheat belts with a view to determining what types of wheat could be grown to the best advantage in given areas?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—The Department of Agriculture recognizes that the over-all quality of the State's wheat harvest would be improved if semi-hard varieties on the one hand and soft varieties on the other were grown in those districts which favoured the production of good quality wheat of that type. While the protein content of the f.a.q. wheat in South Australia varies considerably from year to year, there are districts which regularly produce grain of above average protein content. Similarly, the grain from some areas is normally below the f.a.q. sample in protein level. The effects on protein content of season and district are greater than that of wheat variety. Varieties like Scimitar with a high degree of stability produce flour with poor bread-making characteristics if the grain is low in protein. On the other hand, it has been reported by a mission to Japan that there is a good demand for soft wheats of good colour and low protein.

It is clear from the above that it is desirable that varieties such as Scimitar should be discouraged in districts characterized by low grain protein, and that such districts are well suited for the production of wheat acceptable to the Japanese trade. The areas of high and low protein are not clearly defined at this stage. Preliminary surveys have been conducted during the last two seasons, but further and more detailed results are needed before zoning of the

State's wheat belt can be finalized. When this stage has been reached, it is proposed that departmental recommendations for sowing in various districts should be based on considerations of both yield and quality.

#### WOOLLEN AND SYNTHETIC GARMENTS.

Mr. HUTCHENS—The following appeared in an article in the *News* of July 17 under the heading "Trade Down in South Australia":—

S.A.'s export-import balances for the 10 months ended April 30 were £10 million less than in the same period for 1957-58. . . . Indicative of the lower yield from wool is the fact that in the 10 months of 1957-58 export of 112 million lb. fetched £32.6 million, but in the corresponding period of 1958-59, sales of 120 million lb. brought only £25.4 million.

Later I heard a news item that owing to regulated sales by J.O. there was an accumulation of money that would be made available for the advancement of wool sales. As it is sound economics for consumers to purchase wool instead of synthetics, can the Minister of Agriculture say whether his department, if it receives any of the J.O. money, will encourage the printing of literature to enable purchasers to easily detect woollen from synthetic garments?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I will examine the question and give the honourable member a considered reply, but in general I can say that if the money from J.O. goes into research I do not know how it will be spent. If it is to be spent on research the department will probably be given the opportunity to express its views. Much attention has been given to the question of promoting wool sales and Australia is at last waking up to the fact that we must use wool wherever possible. Most of our wool goes overseas on to world markets and, whatever we do in Australia, we are dealing with only a small proportion of the total wool clip. Our biggest job today is to sell the wool overseas, but that does not minimise the job we have in Australia.

#### LATE SUNDAY BUS SERVICES.

Mr. JENNINGS—There has been considerable consternation in my district about the recent Tramways Trust announcement that late Sunday night services are to be considerably restricted. I admit that a census of the loadings seems to show that they are not well patronized, but that does not alter the fact that they are patronized by people who have no other form of transport and are on shift work, or returning

from social visits or entertainment, and restriction will deleteriously affect them. Will the Minister of Works take up the matter with the Tramways Trust to see if the position can be reviewed?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Yes. However, the trust, in coming to a decision on this and other matters, will have been guided by the patronage offering. In some of the larger cities of the world tram and bus services operate throughout the night, admittedly on a limited scale, but they are dependent on the patronage offering. I am certain that the trust would not have made any decision to curtail late Sunday night services, or any services, unless it had found that they were not used enough to justify their continuance.

#### MOTOR VEHICLE TRANSFERS.

Mr. LAWN—My question is not intended to be critical of the Motor Vehicles Department but to be helpful. Earlier this year I had occasion to transfer the ownership of a car to another person and then, being only an ordinary member of Parliament with no other form of income, I had to purchase another used car myself. The transfer of ownership was made from the other person to me, and I transferred my ownership to another person. In each case the owner and purchaser went to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to effect the transfer and paid the fee. Four days after the car had been transferred to me I received the following letter from the department, which had been either printed or roneoed, and apparently placed in the typewriter and addressed to me:—

Dear Sir/Madam,  
Motor Vehicle No. —

I am in receipt of a notification from the registered owner of the transfer of ownership of the above vehicle to you, together with a request that forms be forwarded for the purpose of transferring the unexpired registration to you. The forms have been sent to the registered owner, who has been advised that unless the transfer is finalised within 21 days of the change of ownership, the registration will become void. To complete the transfer it is necessary for both you and the registered owner to sign a transfer form and lodge this form together with a fee of 10s. at this office within the prescribed 21 days. If the above-mentioned requirements are not complied with, the police may seize the disc without further notice, therefore you should immediately contact the seller for the purpose of completing this transaction.

Then followed this note:—

P.S.—This letter is being sent immediately on receipt of the advice, and before a check has been made to see whether any application for transfer has been lodged.

The only notification given the department was the application for the transfer. The fee was paid and the transfer effected. I believe this department to be one of our most efficient, and it was a surprise to me to receive such a letter. It means that those letters are being sent out to the owners and the purchaser in all cases where a transfer is being effected, and in the case I have mentioned three people received a letter unnecessarily. The cost of typing, reneoling or printing these letters and of envelopes and postage has to be considered. Will the Treasurer discuss this matter with the Registrar and see if some more efficient system can be introduced in that department?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—If the honourable member will let me have a copy of the letter I will obtain a report from the Registrar as to why that particular procedure was followed, together with a report on whether the system can be simplified.

#### TRANSPORT CONTROL BOARD LEVY.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Can the Premier say whether a levy is imposed on passengers who travel to various beauty spots in South Australia by road buses, and whether the proceeds of that levy, which, I understand, may be as high as 10 per cent, are paid to the Transport Control Board to assist its funds?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Transport Control Board makes charges for the licensing of routes for various services. I believe the charge is based upon the revenue collected by the transport operator and that sometimes it is as high as 10 per cent, although I think the average levy is probably 5 per cent. That levy is made following the granting of the licence which is usually a pre-emptive one, securing to the operator the advantages of no competition on that run. If the honourable the Leader has any particular licence in mind I will obtain for him precise details of the amount collected.

Mr. O'Halloran—Does it apply to buses in the Flinders Ranges?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I think it does, but I will inquire and give the Leader more definite information.

#### BEETALOO VALLEY WATER RATE.

Mr. RICHES—Both the Premier and the Minister of Works will remember that several years ago when there was an increase in water charges a deputation from Beetaloo Valley

came to Adelaide and requested special consideration for that area. The Government was not willing at that stage to grant any concession. With the recent announcement of increases in water charges because of the necessity to pump water over longer periods for the area, concern is expressed by growers, particularly growers of oranges, on the likelihood of any further increase in water charges in that area. They are asking whether the whole question of water charges for orange production in Beetaloo can be re-examined, particularly as it seems they must pay about four to five times as much for water as the orange producers in the river districts, which is a very serious matter for Beetaloo. Already one orange grower has gone out of production and back to sheep, and it is feared that others may have to do the same. As this area was settled by soldiers after the first world war this is a case for special examination. Can the Minister of Works say whether the Government will consider exempting that area from any further increase until such time as a case can be submitted?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I happen to have in my bag a schedule of water charges for the various parts of the State, and I find that Beetaloo has the same charges for rebate and excess water as most of the rest of the State. They will, of course, under the recent announcement now have an increased charge of 3d. per thousand gallons in respect of both rebate water and excess water. It will go from 2s. to 2s. 3d. per thousand gallons of rebate water and from 1s. 9d. to 2s. for excess water.

There is always a problem where water is used from an ordinary reticulation service for irrigation purposes. We must be careful always to draw a clear distinction between reticulation water, which is for stock and domestic supplies, township supplies and so on, and irrigation water, which is provided, as the honourable member has suggested in his question, by the Minister of Irrigation for large-scale irrigation projects along the River Murray and in other places. There cannot be any real comparison between these two charges. As I have said, numbers of people come along frequently, either privately or as a deputation, from various places in the State to seek water supplies saying that, if they had a water supply, they would be able to grow this, that and the other, lucerne and so on. Invariably, I have to tell them that it cannot possibly be the policy of the Government to attempt to supply for large-scale gardening purposes country

water out of a pipeline intended only for domestic and stock supplies. It is unfortunate, I know, that sometimes people are embarrassed thereby, but the fact remains that it would be impossible to do so.

The water in the area to which the honourable member refers is pumped largely from Morgan and carried over the hills until it reaches that point. The water that may be impounded in the Beetaloo Reservoir is only a fraction of the water required to maintain a water supply to the northern towns which it serves. So, any water that is taken for irrigation purposes has to be replaced by water that is pumped through the Morgan-Whyalla pumping system. Therefore, difficult as it may be, we have to face the facts of this matter. I cannot undertake to consider favourably any reduction of water charges in that area.

#### SLAUGHTERING CHARGES.

Mr. STOTT—Does the Minister of Agriculture realize that there has been an increase in slaughtering charges at the Metropolitan Abattoirs? Can he set out the charges in their respective categories and say whether they apply to export and also to boneless meat going to the United States of America? Also, is it not a fact that the Metropolitan Abattoirs Board charges a higher yard fee than is charged in other States? As the farmers are having a fairly desperate time at the moment, with the increased slaughtering charges, would the Government or the Abattoirs Board consider reducing yard fees and bringing them into line with those charged in the other States?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I will look at the question. Speaking briefly, the payments made in the United States to us had quite an effect on the necessary increases to be made. The board is given the duty, under the Act, of charging in order to cover its expenses. That is all it has been doing. The general effect of the board's operation has been under close supervision by investigators recently. It was said that, for the most part, the board was working satisfactorily. No doubt its charges are not high compared with charges in Australia generally. The yard fees may be higher than in other parts of Australia, but I rather fancy that there is some different factor in the charging of our yard fees that makes an exact comparison difficult. However, I will look that up and get some more details for the honourable member.

#### ACQUISITION OF LAND BY ALIEN FRIENDS.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice)—

1. Is it the intention of the Government to introduce legislation to repeal those parts of section 24 of the Law of Property Act enacted by Act No. 18 of 1945?

2. If not, what were the reasons for the enactment of this Act?

3. To what extent are those reasons still valid?

4. For how long prior to 1945 were alien friends permitted to acquire land in South Australia without restriction?

5. Is there any restriction on the acquisition of land by an alien friend in any other State?

6. If so, what are the restrictions and in which States?

7. How many applications pursuant to section 24 of the Real Property Act, have been made so far during the present financial year?

8. How many of such applications have been refused or deferred and on what grounds?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—The replies are:—

1. The matter is under consideration.

2. On expiry of the Commonwealth National Security (Land Transfer) Regulations in 1945, Parliament decided that a measure of control of ownership of land by aliens was warranted.

3. It is considered that the legislation has not operated to the detriment of aliens, and in certain circumstances control would operate to their advantage.

4. Prior to 1945, the only State restriction on the acquisition of land was that non-British Asiatics were not able to acquire land in irrigation areas.

5 and 6. There is no restriction in any other State against an alien obtaining freehold land. In all other States except Victoria and Tasmania, certain restrictions apply to aliens holding Crown lands.

7. In the financial year 1958-1959, 4,429 applications were received.

8. Thirty-three were declined and 13 deferred. The majority of applications declined was on the ground that the applicants were considered as already holding sufficient land for their requirements. The applications deferred were due to the unsuitability of the applicants.

## ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Consideration of Committee's report.

Mrs. STEELE (Burnside)—Mr. Speaker, a little more than four months ago I entered this chamber for the first time—a few hours after I had been declared elected the successful candidate for the district of Burnside.

Momentous as is this occasion today—when I stand here the first woman in the history of South Australia to raise her voice to move the Address in Reply in this Chamber—it cannot quite equal the thrill which I felt and the other emotions which surged through me on that afternoon last March.

My thoughts then were of the generations of women who had striven tirelessly and unceasingly—undaunted by any opposition which they encountered—to secure for women the right to vote. History was made in 1894, when, after a succession of Bills had been introduced and failed since 1885, South Australia became the first of the Australian colonies to extend Parliamentary franchise to women. Parliamentary debates of that period make interesting and often amusing reading, but the women of South Australia owe much to the genuine interest and perseverance which many of the political leaders of those times pursued to bring about a reform which was later reflected in the electoral laws of the Australian Commonwealth at the time of Federation. The bust of one of the stalwarts who supported women's franchise in those now far-off days—Sir John Cockburn—stands at the head of the stairs on the floor above, and to his memory as I pass by I often pay my humble tribute.

I am extremely conscious of the honour of being the first woman elected to the House of Assembly—65 years after women's suffrage had been granted; but I am also very much aware of the great responsibilities I bear. To be the representative of an electorate comprising over 26,000 electors is both a challenge and a responsibility, but in order that I may be a good member, Mr. Speaker, I shall for some time at least be a listener and an observer so that in making myself well-informed on all matters debated in this House I may serve my constituents to the best of my ability.

I am reminded of a comment made by Eleanor Roosevelt when she was the only woman appointed to the United States delegation to the first General Assembly of the United Nations in London in 1946. Speaking of her feeling of isolation as the only woman on the delegation she said:—

If I failed to be a useful member it would not be considered merely that I as an individual

had failed but that all women had failed and there would be little chance for others to serve in the near future.

A very salutary reflection for one making her debut in this House! I am not an Eleanor Roosevelt, but I feel that same deep sense of responsibility.

I feel it most appropriate at this juncture to say how much I have appreciated the gracious way I have been received in this House. From the Premier, his Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, and members on both sides of this Chamber I have received encouragement, help and friendship, the warmth and sincerity of which have made me feel at home amongst you. This applies, too, to the staff—both men and women—who have gone out of their way to render me every assistance in the course of my duties.

Members may be interested in a letter I received only last week from the Viscountess Astor who holds the distinction of being the first woman to take her seat in any British Parliament. In her letter she says,

You are doing better than I did; you are moving the Address! I can assure you that even my best friends hardly spoke to me inside the House of Commons for the first year I was in Parliament.

How much happier has been my fate!

Mr. Speaker, may I congratulate you on your re-election to your high office, which in the short time in which I have been privileged to be a member of this House I have observed you to fill with such distinction, dignity and impartiality. I also congratulate the member for Unley on his re-election as Chairman of Committees. To the Premier, Sir Thomas Playford (who is the Leader in this House of the Party to which I am proud to belong), the people of South Australia owe much. The advances this State has made during the 20 years in which he has led the Government are indicated by its recent emergence from the role of a claimant State to which it has long been relegated to one of sound financial stability comparable to the status enjoyed by New South Wales and Victoria. His Excellency the Governor's Speech paints a stimulating picture of steady growth and prosperity, and it is to the far-seeing Premier and the zeal and initiative with which he inspires and encourages his Ministers that much of this expansion is due.

Indicative of South Australia's new stature is the lead which it has given in marshalling the mining and engineering industries of Australia into developing and expanding the research laboratories at Parkside. With an

already impressive reputation the facilities at these laboratories are to be developed on a national basis. In congratulating the Government on this move I should like to say how proud I am that the research laboratories are situated within the borders of the electorate I represent.

Not unnaturally, I shall be extremely interested in the Bill to amend the State's Constitution in order that any doubts as to the validity of women to be elected to and to sit and vote in either House of Parliament will be resolved for all time. I am sure that such a Bill will have the unqualified support of members on both sides of this House.

Because I am a Liberal and adhere through natural inclination to the principles and beliefs held by the Liberal and Country League I do not like the imposition of controls. However, I am convinced that a continuation of price control over certain commodities and services is in the best interests of the people of this State. I have not the figures for the past 12 months, but for the year ended June 30, 1958, there was a saving through price control of £14,500,000—savings from which all sections of the community benefited. At the same time during that period companies in this State operating under price control showed buoyant returns. I shall quote a few instances of how the average family benefits, and I remind members that more than a quarter of the earnings of the average wage-earner is spent on clothing and footwear.

Compared with the eastern States a saving of from 3s. 6d. to 19s. on a pair of blankets (according to quality) is possible, and 2s. 10d. on a pair of towels. As I found out for myself when in Sydney recently, there is a difference of 8d. in the cost of heeling and tipping women's shoes; and on men's, women's and children's half sole and heel there is a balance in South Australia's favour of 2s. 9d., 3s. 2d. and 2s. 3d. respectively. On a good quality man's suit the South Australian purchaser is 39s. better off, and he saves up to 2s. on a shirt and 2d. on every handkerchief he buys. A woman buys an average quality two-piece suit for 25s. less, an overcoat for 17s. 6d. less and her stockings at an average of 4d. a pair more cheaply here than in the eastern States.

Many food lines have been released from control, but I wonder whether members realize that a popular line of breakfast food costs 4d. less here than in Melbourne and Sydney and 1s. 2d. when compared with Perth prices. A 2 lb. packet of self-raising flour is sold here

for 1s. 6d.—an average saving over all other States of the Commonwealth of 3½d. The difference in South Australia's favour on a large bottle of tomato sauce varies between 3d. and 1s. 8d. Bottled milk sells at 9½d. a pint here, whereas in Sydney consumers pay 11½d. And so I could go on. And what of meat prices? Opponents of controlled meat prices assured us that if controls were lifted the price of meat would soon be adjusted purely by the law of supply and demand and that healthy competition would keep meat prices at a stable level. What do we find? As the Premier has said, with the lifting of control meat prices actually dropped slightly and then for a short time remained static—probably so that the meat trade could claim it was keeping faith with the public. Then the disillusionment began as prices gradually rose month by month until now the average family's monthly meat bill has increased by £1 to £1 10s. if not more. Women know from a practical point of view how much better off the average family is under price control and there is ample evidence to confirm their opinion.

Perhaps the most spectacular of all price control successes is in the building industry. An average brick home of five rooms can be built here for £500 to £600 less than in any other State of the Commonwealth where price control does not operate. Comparable savings are made in houses where building materials other than brick are used. It is estimated that lower building costs in South Australia have saved home builders at least £5,500,000. Surely in such varied fields price control is worth continuing for the time being at least.

I express gratitude on behalf of the parents of many handicapped children who will benefit by the provision of transport between their homes and special schools in the metropolitan area. So that their children may take advantage of the facilities provided in such centres parents have borne a severe physical and financial burden and I am gratified that a case presented to the Minister of Education by a committee of which I had the honour to be chairman led to the announcement by the Minister, some time ago, that such a scheme had been approved by the Government. I know that it is expected that this will come into operation soon.

Whilst speaking of education—and one cannot fail to be impressed by the advances already made and others which are contemplated in this important field and to which

much credit is due to the Minister of Education (Hon. B. Pattinson)—I wish to mention another matter.

Splendid work is being done in special classes for boys and girls of 12 years and over who cannot manage formal work, but the demand for places in these classes cannot be met. I believe that between 200 and 250 children cannot be placed. The classes are in primary schools scattered throughout the metropolitan area and because they form isolated small groups, the children lack the advantage of associating with boys and girls of their own age. These children have no chance of promotion from one class to another. They sometimes spend up to three years in one class; there is no progression of work; not much future to look forward to, and naturally they become frustrated. The class remains just one class without any sense of community such as is found in most schools with their extra community efforts, sporting activities, parents' meetings and so on.

There is an opportunity here to extend the really wonderful work which is being done by trained and dedicated teachers and which would give these children a sense of fulfilment and of really belonging to the community.

Might I suggest that with the falling numbers in some central city schools one might become a special kind of modern practical school to meet the needs of these children. Here we could have a group of teachers of different abilities to contribute to the whole, each teacher specializing in his or her best field. The children would as a result have the benefit of varied experience with varied people. Whereas now equipment is repeated in each separate class in separate schools, in a central school better, more varied and progressive equipment could be obtained for the same outlay. Children could progress each year to more advanced work and there would be sufficient numbers to give both boys and girls a better chance of sporting activities and community experience, and provide a more definite preparation for employment later.

As I said earlier, the teachers of these classes are very often dedicated people with a very real interest and understanding in the problems which confront the children they teach and I feel sure their services would often be available to the children after they leave school—to provide a link with the outside world, as it were. I am sure it would be natural to expect that I, with my background of interest in community welfare, would speak on items of such a nature mentioned in the Governor's speech.

By natural progression I have now come to the final subject I wish to mention. The public conscience has been stirred in recent months by publicity given to the Reform School at Magill. In all fairness to the staff there I must say that I felt, when I visited there recently, that they were carrying out loyally and efficiently a difficult and at times thankless job under very trying and totally inadequate conditions. As I see it, Magill is only one small part of a complex problem of social welfare. If an individual contracts a disease through contamination and is not given the very best treatment possible; the cause investigated and steps taken to prevent its spread, the disease progresses to such a stage that little can be done later. In a sense this is what very often happens to the boys who end up at Magill. Here again one must acknowledge the work which is being done by officers of the Children's Welfare Department in all its branches, but we lack a co-ordinated plan here in South Australia and until we have one this State will continue to lag behind other States in the Commonwealth—notably New South Wales and Victoria—in its attitude to—and its treatment of—social welfare problems.

I mentioned in an earlier part of my speech that South Australia was the first State in the Commonwealth to introduce women's franchise. Members may not know that it was also the first place in the world to establish a children's court as such. This was in 1889. In neither "firsts" has it maintained the initiative which prompted these moves.

Twenty years ago in a report presented to the Government of the day attention was drawn to this fact. That report was made by a Committee under the Chairmanship of the late Mr. W. J. Adey, the then Director of Education, and in the light of social changes in the past two decades many of the recommendations are illuminating in their extraordinary similarity to the plan just announced by the Acting Premier of Victoria (Mr. Rylah) for the complete reorganization of Child Welfare and allied departments. I have here several very interesting documents including one on child welfare, one on child care, staff and institutions, a statistical survey and the Barry Report which was presented to the Chief Secretary of Victoria in 1956 and on which the very recent Whatmore Report, which has been adopted by the Government of Victoria, has largely been based.

These reports reveal that New South Wales and Victoria realize that they must put their houses in order. I suggest that the Victorian plan, incorporating all the latest thoughts and



ideas on the subject, be studied and that serious consideration be given to a similar need for complete reform in South Australia.

The Public Works Committee is even now studying evidence to support the building of a new reform school at Magill, and I consider that before this is approved a committee of three people—and there are plenty of well qualified people to choose from to do this for the Government—should be appointed to prepare a plan, not a report, on which the Government should act. Even the 1939 report insisted that Magill was obsolete and that a new school should be built immediately, so to wait another six months will make very little difference. At least we would not be perpetuating a system that is archaic.

In any case, I feel that to build another school at Magill in the ashes of the old would be a great pity and I have several reasons for saying this. Firstly, it would not matter how improved the facilities provided or how good the administration, it would still be the Magill Reformatory and the stigma would stick. Secondly, the site is not ideally suited to the branches of agriculture pursued there. An outer urban site would be more advantageous and the purchase of such a site could be financed from the subdivision of the Magill property for housing development. Thirdly, the intention is to build the new school within 150 yards of the nearly completed security block—a junior prison I call it—a preparatory school for Yatala—and however well designed and built a building which sickened and saddened me when I inspected it. To claim that the close proximity of it to the new school will act as a deterrent to the younger boys who will occupy the new building, is, I suggest, years out of date. We need widely situated separate institutions for detention and reformation.

There is a vital need here for a modern remand home of which the Juvenile Court would be an important part. In this home, in which beauty and colour in interior decoration should be a feature so that the right tone and atmosphere is achieved, provision should be made for a child guidance clinic where children could be studied and interviewed in a pleasant environment where the child feels at home, and it should include a school which should be divided into junior and senior houses. This would be a valuable first step in the reclamation of such children.

The new concept of handling young children is in small groups—in cottages or homes—which conform as nearly as possible to ideal

home conditions under the supervision of house mothers and fathers. This system is practised with great success in New South Wales. Most of the institutions administered by the Children's Welfare Department are old and totally inadequate and do not provide the ideal despite the devoted service being given by their staffs. Complete segregation according to age groups is vital, because discipline of an entirely different kind is necessary for younger boys. An integral part of all necessary reforms is trained staff, and a proper training system should be instituted to meet this need. The services of youth organisations active and willing in the field of prevention of youth delinquency should be co-opted and integrated.

In the event of an inquiry being instituted—and I hope that consideration may be given to such a move—terms of reference should require it to prepare a plan to co-ordinate all the features of this problem, which I have only briefly touched upon, into one Department of Social Welfare under a Director answerable to the appropriate Minister; consolidate the laws relating to child welfare and juvenile delinquency and suggest appropriate amendments; provide proper dignified accommodation and facilities for the conduct of a properly constituted juvenile court; and select an officer or officers with the necessary qualifications to undertake a study tour overseas and interstate for the purpose of investigating the most modern methods used in detention and reformation centres with a view to their establishment in this State; such an officer or officers to be of an age and seniority which will assure his or their services being available to the State for a sufficient number of years to implement and carry out such reforms.

I do ask most sincerely that urgent consideration be given to this pressing and grave community problem—a problem so vital to our whole social structure that it warrants a complete inquiry. The successful re-education of the wayward and problem child and the training for good citizenship cannot be measured in terms of money—it is beyond price.

When I took the Oath of Allegiance exactly six weeks ago it was for me a very solemn and sacred occasion, and when at the end I spoke the words "So help me God" I did so with great sincerity. I hope and pray that with His help I may serve the people of this State and my constituents faithfully and well. It is with a very great sense of honour and with due recognition of the compliment that has been paid me that I now move the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. HALL (Gouger)—It is my privilege to second this motion. I congratulate the member for Burnside on her part in history—being the first woman member of this Assembly. I also congratulate her on the able manner in which she moved the adoption of the Address in Reply. Government members are proud that the women voters of South Australia have a direct representative in this House through our Party and women should now have every incentive to take a greater interest in its deliberations. I pay a tribute to the member who represented Gouger in the last Parliament—Mr. Goldney. The people of the district are well aware of his good work for them and I join with them in placing on record our appreciation of his work. As a new member I thank members on both sides of the House for the help they have extended to me during the last few months. I do not doubt that I will have differences with members opposite but on all occasions I will try to keep those differences on an ideological level.

The opening of this 36th Parliament was a great credit to all those who took part in the necessary arrangements, and I am told the buffet style luncheon was an innovation that enabled each member to bring two guests instead of one, as previously. As a participant for the first time I appreciate this new step, and I hope it will be continued in the future. The most important part of June 9 was the Governor's Speech, paragraph 1 of which stated "I have called you together for the dispatch of business." The business that followed on the several succeeding days was certainly dispatched with a speed that was bewildering to a newcomer. However, I realise it was necessary to complete business for the year 1958-59, and that we now enter upon considerations for 1959-60.

Paragraph 19 of the Governor's Speech dealt shortly with the successful conclusion of negotiations with the Commonwealth over the River Murray Waters, and the Government is to be congratulated on the strong stand it has taken in this matter, a stand which has been shown to be correct by the present conditions in this State.

The matter of improvements in the reticulation system of this State was also mentioned. These are taking place in the entire area covered by the Engineering and Water Supply Department, and in areas into which the department's cover is being extended. The latest project nearing completion is the scheme

on Yorke Peninsula, which will be of great benefit to that area. In my electorate is a portion of the Warren-Paskeville main, which is scheduled to be replaced with 25in. piping instead of the existing 14in. pipeline. Boosters have been installed at Mallala and at two other points to give Gouger the benefit of their actions. However, much of our water reticulation system was installed many years ago in times when planners could not foresee the future demands and the problems that would arise. We now have in Gouger a very large, urgent and living problem that has as its entrails 250 miles of eroded and blocking 2in. pipes. These were laid usually at the end of 3in. or 4in. branch lines serving the last few properties at each extremity. In many cases they are dead-end services, and do not have the flushing effect of a constant flow. They served their purpose in by-gone days, but the whole foundation of the trouble is that they are unlined and have reached a shocking state of corrosion. When these pipes are rodded or cleaned the water pressure and supply in most instances is restored to a satisfactory level, but the second stage of corrosion, which takes place after the cleaning, is much accelerated.

This appears to have happened to a line that runs past and serves my own property in the short time of six or seven years, and cleaning was started by the department again only yesterday; in some cases I am told that recleaning has been necessary within 12 months. A company called Cement Linings Proprietary Limited, which has carried out extensive work for the department, has not been able so far to reline pipes below 3in. in diameter. In reply to a query of mine, this company said it was experimenting with lining 2in. pipes, and hoped to obtain a finished inside diameter of 1½in. to 1¾in. This reduced diameter would, of course, reduce the potential flow, but it would still be preferable to a pipeline which, in one instance, would not permit the passage of a lead pencil before cleaning was carried out, yet in summer had to supply three or four farms with all their attendant needs. The cost to the department of cement lining a 4in. pipe is 4s. 9d. a foot, and for a 3in. pipe, 4s. 6d. a foot; therefore, it is not likely that it would be very much below 3s. 6d. or 4s. a foot for a 2in. pipe. At 4s. a foot, relining would cost £1,056 a mile, which is £264,000 for 250 miles.

The cheapest way of relaying is the use of 3in. asbestos piping at a cost of between 11s. and 12s. a foot. The best price that could be

quoted for this is £2,904 a mile, which is £726,000 for 250 miles. I have stated this problem in some detail, and there is no need for me to stress the need for water for stock in summer time. I know of some farms that do not receive water for many hours a day and sometimes for many days on end.

I believe the department has done and is doing a splendid job in maintaining its services in the face of rising costs, but I draw the attention of the Government to this matter because I would think it is the most important problem in the electorate of Gouger, and it is becoming evident in varying degrees in other districts at the same time. We are faced with three alternatives: the first, cement lining, the successful results from experiments in which indicate that it could be applied to give an assured if somewhat reduced supply; the second, the replacement of pipelines with 3in. pipes; and the third, having farms without water. The problem is widespread, and it requires an immediate stepped up programme to meet it.

Paragraph 9 of the Governor's Speech tells of progress made by the South Australian Housing Trust, which has built 36,000 homes and flats since its inception. That is a great achievement, and it has contributed to the progress of the State because it has placed homes where they are needed by industry, such as has been done at Whyalla, and will be done at the new refinery town. But, for all this fine record, everyone knows that more homes are needed, and as long as our living standards rise under basic Liberal administration, the demand for better housing standards will rise also. The building of smaller cottage type homes, as initiated by the Playford Government, for widows or people of limited means is a demonstration of the very good attitude that exists on this problem, but I think a very potent factor in home building is the savings of the public for that purpose. There is a limit to what the Government can do for people. It cannot minister to them at every turn of their lives from the cradle to the grave, and it is undesirable that it should do so, or we would live in nothing but a vast commune, so there are important decisions to be carried out.

One of the hardest things to do nowadays is to induce young people to save for their future, which primarily means a home. I seem to remember reading in *Hansard* that the member for Light stated that thousands of homes

are blown out of the exhausts of motor cars, and there is no need for me to elaborate on this truth. Much of the resources of this country are wasted in unrealistic spending; people want money for many articles that cost us dearly in export earnings, yet they come to the Government and get cheap loans for permanent assets. So that anything we can do to promote saving among the ever-growing ranks of the young unmarrieds, both male and female, will do much in many directions. And how do we persuade the telephoniste who earns £10 to £11 a week and lives at home, or the boy who works in a Government office, and plays in a band at night, to save for a future that is perhaps still indefinite to them? We need a national approach to the question of housing, which is a matter that concerns both the State and Federal Governments.

The Commonwealth Government has taxation concessions to encourage people to save for their retirement. Is anything more essential for a happy retirement than for one to own one's own home? Therefore, I believe that the provisions applying to assurance and superannuation that allow a saving or investment of up to £300 a year to be tax free, should be extended to allow up to that much saving each year to be tax free for a home. Such a scheme could have many variations, and I leave it to the experts to work them out. It is probably not a new idea, but I bring it forward as an inducement, that, if properly publicised, could have a beneficial effect upon young people and their futures.

I envisage an age limit to the scheme, say possibly 30 years. There would have to be an arrangement whereby the sum so saved could be withdrawn for other purposes after the tax had been deducted. I am sure the co-operative building societies would welcome such a scheme, and they are, of course, ready made organizations to put it into effect. I am also sure the assurance companies would be able to evolve policies and accounts to suit such a proposal. The sum so collected overall, as in building societies at present, would create a considerable fund from which to make housing loans. In fact, I should like to see this Government take up such a proposal with the Commonwealth Government for the stimulation of already existing means of saving—by the widening of the tax concessions that have age retirement as their aim and in relation to housing, which, after all, is very closely allied to the people's happiness when they retire.

The first matters dealt with in the Governor's Speech pertained to primary production, which, of course, is still the biggest industry in this State, and a barometer from which we can foretell, to a large extent, the future and prospects of other industries. The season 1958-59 was a record for cereal production. Let us hope that 1959-60 will not turn out to be as bleak as it has so far promised. Since the war prices have risen and those for manufactured articles are still rising, whereas there has been a marked drop in prices obtainable for most primary products. Yet, we still have people demanding that the primary producer should reduce his cost of production.

I will now quote from the National Bank's monthly summary:—

Since June, 1957, retail prices in Australia have risen by around 3.5%, but our export prices had fallen by approximately 28% on the official weighted figures for March.

Therefore, a reduction is impossible as primary producers' costs are made up primarily of the articles he buys from secondary industry to carry on his business. This position will be aggravated still further by the recent basic wage increase. I quote again from the same summary:—

Granting generally improved prospects as against a year ago the sudden upward jerk given to wage costs as a result of the 15s. increase is anything but a happy omen for our export prospects. It will take a great deal of effort at home, a lower tax burden and a further large slice of luck with respect to export prices and seasons, for this new load to be carried successfully.

If the country can afford to pay the increase in the face of present trends, I say congratulations to those who benefit by it, but if the country cannot afford to pay, it will need a lot more than political slogans to right the unbalance it will then create.

I have not the qualifications to deliver a sermon on gambling, but I suppose that done in a sense of fun and in the right perspective it may do no harm. However, when judges of the Arbitration Court indulge in it and the stake is the wellbeing of this country, I consider our national characteristic is being taken too far. In the published judgments, Mr. Justice Foster said:—"The season has been bountiful, and the prospects for another such season are very good." Mr. Justice Kirby said, and that on a day when wool prices were again falling, "Falls in wool and other important exports were being replaced by upward

movements which might well become gains." I trust that their guesses will be vindicated by the events that follow them.

There is another question also very much associated with the business of the primary producer, and it was mentioned in the Premier's policy speech that was endorsed by the public on March 7. I refer to succession duties. It is widely known that many farming properties are valued for succession purposes at figures above their true income earning capacity. I trust this matter will be attended to.

Beyond this point there is a principle in the levying of these taxes that is decidedly unjust, and I wish to bring it to the notice of the House. In our own society a certain number of jobs are available, and although there are difficulties in such times as depressions, there is, in actual fact, enough jobs for those who apply for them. These occupations, for which a youth may train and equip himself to obtain the one of his choice, are essentially the breadwinner's right to live decently and care for his family; and except for certain union fees in some instances, he pays nothing for the right to work.

However, consider the case of the youth who works on his father's property. He may work at home for a number of years, learning to manage the property. As an example, we can consider a small farm. The income is divided in a certain ratio between the parent and the son, and the true net profit will no more than meet wages for that occupation. If the father dies and wills the farm and plant to the son, the son will pay succession and estate duties that will amount to several thousand pounds, and yet his income from the property is little more than a living wage. So he pays at an exorbitant rate for the privilege of earning a living. My point is that on any sized property there is a first portion of its value that supplies a living wage to its occupier, and when it is handed down it is comparable to the rights of workers in industry.

Tax should not be levied on that portion while the legatee is in possession and actively engaged in earning his living from the legacy. Succession duties on that first portion are unjust and contrary to Australian thoughts on fair play. Tax on that part of a business above that portion could be imposed on a uniform basis on just and sane valuations, and not those of a few years when export prices

were on a more favourable basis than they are today. Gouger is typical of many of the older settled areas in the State that are, sometimes unobtrusively, large contributors to taxation revenue and export earnings. Much of the development of industries in new areas would have been impossible without the efforts of such districts. I ask that their interests be not forgotten in our search for new horizons.

Mr. O'HALLORAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADELAIDE TEACHERS' COLLEGE ADDITIONS.

THE SPEAKER laid on the table a report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence, on additions to Adelaide Teachers' College.

Ordered that report be printed.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.51 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, July 22, at 2 p.m.