

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, August 11, 1959.

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

### QUESTIONS.

#### METROPOLITAN RESERVOIRS.

Mr. COUMBE—Last week, when I asked the Minister of Works to make a statement concerning the metropolitan reservoirs and the possible use of bores in the metropolitan area, he said that the position would be reviewed this week following rains. Can the Minister make a statement at this stage, following the rains of the week-end, particularly regarding the use of bore pumping?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—As I ventured to forecast last week, the rains at the week-end did not prove substantial. It was, therefore, decided that the bores should come into operation yesterday, which has happened. The intake into the reservoirs so far has been very disappointing. The gains they have made have been only slight and in the main attributable to pumping operations, so we are not at all in a happy position at the moment about supplies. The reservoir catchments have had some useful rain and the Engineer-in-Chief expects that if further substantial rains fall the catchments will be of a material nature. However, up to the present such rains have not fallen and the position remains as it was, namely, that emergency measures must be continued and the bores will continue to operate until further notice.

#### GLENELG TRAMLINE CROSSING.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—On the Glenelg tramline the following notice has been placed at Acacia Street, abutting Wattle Avenue:—

Persons crossing the lines, except where a public road intersects such lines or at a crossing place authorized by the trust, will be prosecuted by order of the M.T.T.

This is the only crossing along the line where such a notice exists, and it is used by children attending the Mornington school. If they have to proceed to a road to carry out the design of the trust it is necessary for them to walk at least 200 yards in an easterly direction where they come to a crossing intersected by six roads and return the same distance on the opposite side of the tram tracks. I would not consider that to be in the interests of safety for the children. Will the Minister of Works approach the trust with a view to having the

notice removed and permitting at least a walkway across the lines for the children going to and from this school?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will bring the honourable member's remarks under the notice of the general manager of the trust.

#### UNIVERSITY STATUTE.

Mr. MILLHOUSE—Some few weeks ago I introduced a deputation to the Premier from the Adelaide University Students Representative Council protesting about a statute that had been passed by the Senate of the University giving the University Council power to preclude a student from further studies if, after three terms, his Faculty did not believe he was a fit and proper person to continue. Has the Premier had an opportunity to consider the matter and, if so, can he give an answer?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have considered the matter and it has been discussed in Cabinet and with the Minister of Education, with whose department the University is mainly concerned. I have written to the honourable member and he will get the letter in due course. The University is controlled by a statutory body that has been appointed under Act of Parliament. It is not under the direct control of the Government, and, in fact, the Government has no member on the council. Unless there is a direct conflict with a Government department, the policy has always been to give effect to recommendations from statutory authorities in connection with regulation-making powers, provided that any regulation made is within the power of the authority to make. I do not think there is any doubt about that in this instance. Cabinet has decided that the recommendation of the University Council shall be submitted—and, in fact, I believe it already has been—to His Excellency the Governor for endorsement. I am quite sure a responsible authority such as the University Council would not use any power either capriciously or unjustly so far as any student was concerned. That, of course, can always be examined in the particular circumstances.

#### PRESERVED AND CANNED FRUITS. STANDARDS.

Mr. HUTCHENS—It has been brought to my notice that different standards are required in the various States for preserved and canned fruits. I believe this has affected some canning companies in this State; one company, at least, was asked to take its products off the

market in another State because it did not comply with the standards in that State. This creates much embarrassment and loss to the companies concerned. Will the Minister of Agriculture endeavour to see that uniform standards are established for the States, possibly in keeping with export standards, in order to preserve the rights of the people concerned?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—The matter of uniform grade standards for canned fruits has been discussed by the Standing Committee of the Australian Agricultural Council and by the Council on several occasions following representations from the Australian Canned Fruits Board and the Australian Cannery Association. So far, no finality has been reached. On general grounds, it must be considered desirable that canned fruits sold on the Australian market should be required to conform with minimum standards of quality and "fill." This could only be achieved if all States legislated for a uniform set of grade standards and, further, if satisfactory arrangements could be made for the somewhat costly inspections which would be necessary to enforce the standards. I think the achievement of uniform standards could best be brought about by a further approach from the industry concerned.

#### COST OF WATER FOR SWIMMING POOLS.

Mr. LAUCKE—I have been asked by the secretary of the Williamstown Swimming Pool whether the recent increase in the price of water would apply to water used in pools. Can the Minister of Works say what effect, if any, the increase will have on the price charged for the water used in pools in future?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—It has been the Government's policy to assist swimming pools in two ways, firstly, by a subsidy towards their construction, and, secondly, by providing cheap water for use in the pools. The previous arrangement provided that water would be supplied at 6d. a 1,000 gallons up to 1,000,000 gallons. Under that arrangement we did not permit the authorities controlling swimming pools to use the water that they emptied from the pools for any other purpose, and that gave rise to some interesting problems. The Engineer-in-Chief has gone into the matter and has now submitted a proposal to the Cabinet regarding an alteration in the terms of the use of water. The previous arrangement did not take into account the capacity of a pool, but was based on a fixed quantity of water without regard to the amount a pool

used, and, therefore, it may have provided small pools with more than they required and larger pools with less than they needed to be maintained in proper condition.

Cabinet has now approved a new arrangement whereby each pool will be provided with a quantity of water, at a concession rate of 9d. a 1,000 gallons, equal to 13 times the measured capacity of the pool. That will mean that a pool may be filled and emptied 13 times, or that an amount of water equal to that will be granted at concession rates. In addition, the pool authorities may use the water emptied from the pools for any purpose they desire. They may water an adjacent oval, as is the case at Williamstown, or they may use it for lawns, trees or surrounds. Any water used by a pool in excess of 13 times the measured capacity in any one year will be charged for at the normal rate for excess water in that area. Beautification schemes surrounding pools will be assisted by the arrangement. It also provides that it will not be necessary to take into account water used in showers or baths at the pool. One meter will serve the whole installation and there will not be two prices for two different kinds of water. I think it will be a better arrangement: it provides for each pool's requirement according to size, and it should materially assist pools.

#### FIRES IN EMERGENCY HOMES.

Mr. JENNINGS—My question concerns the tragic fire that occurred in my district last night. I have asked the Premier questions about fires in emergency homes before and members know that there have been far too many of them. The number of fires in this type of house is disproportionate to their number throughout the community. The Premier has always said that inquiries are held after a fire, which is true, and that on many occasions children have been left alone in homes. That, too, is true, as it was unfortunately in this case. Nevertheless it would seem that too many fires are occurring in this type of home for it to be mere coincidence. In the hope of avoiding more tragedies of this kind will the Premier be good enough to have a proper inspection made by a recognized fire authority of all Housing Trust emergency homes, particularly in respect of electrical connections and the inflammability of some of the materials used?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Some time ago I ordered that in every case of a fire in a temporary home there should be a

coronial inquiry. There have been a number of fires, some of importance and some of little importance. None, fortunately, has been of the tragic nature of last night's fire. In each case the coroner has made an inquiry, but nothing of a concrete nature has come from the inquiry about any structural faults in the houses. Inquiries have shown that the fires have originated in a variety of ways, but not, as far as can be ascertained, from a structural defect. The matter was discussed this morning, because I can assure members that the Housing Trust and Government are just as concerned as anyone to see that these tragic fires do not occur. The Government is investigating the advisability of replacing the wood stoves which are at present installed in all temporary houses. The wood stove is a very convenient means of room heating, but unfortunately there is considerable evidence that people leave the front of the stove open and go away from it. Although it may seem safe at the time, there is always the possibility of a coal rolling out on to the floor. I am investigating whether we should take all the wood stoves out of the temporary houses and put gas stoves in their place. I do not imply that wood stoves are fundamentally unsafe, because in the country everyone uses them and has used them for many years, but it seems that there is some problem associated with leaving a wood stove open in temporary prefabricated houses. None of my remarks today must be associated with this particular fire, because I have no knowledge of whether the fireplace in this house was left open.

The wiring in the homes has been inspected by Housing Trust officers, and as far as I can find out the wiring is of the same standard as that in homes in general occupation. If the coronial inquiry brings forward any matter of interest to honourable members I will report on that, but in the meantime the Housing Trust has been authorized by the Government (which will have to foot the bill for any alterations) to consider changing over from wood stoves to gas stoves.

#### PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS.

Mr. DUNNAGE—At the meeting of the Unley Council last night pedestrian crossings in Unley were considered. At present we have two—one on South Road and one on Goodwood Road—and we intend putting in two more on Unley Road and one on Glen Osmond Road. We have for some time been waiting for the Road Traffic Act to be amended or a

new Act to be introduced. Can the Premier say when that is likely to happen so that councils will know the position and be able to put in pedestrian crossings when the time is ripe?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Road Traffic Act deals with two principal matters: all matters associated with the registration of vehicles; and the conduct of vehicles on the road, or traffic laws. Sir Edgar Bean very generously undertook the obligation of revising and consolidating the Road Traffic Act. That, of course, is a big job and will take a considerable time. I recently discussed this matter with Sir Edgar, and we propose that in future there will be two Acts, although they will not necessarily be called Road Traffic Acts. One will deal with all matters relating to the registration of cars. Consolidations and improvements have already been drafted and will be available for Parliament in the near future. They will be introduced this session and I hope will be put into effect because they will enable some valuable alterations in administration procedure to be brought about. The whole of the Bill relating to rules of the road will not be ready during this session. Amendments will be introduced early this session to deal with the problem the honourable member has raised, but it will not be possible for Sir Edgar Bean to have the consolidated Act ready for Parliament this session unless, perhaps, late in the session.

#### COUNCILS' RATING POWERS.

Mr. TAPPING—Last week the Port Adelaide City Council resolved to increase its rates by 15 per cent and, in moving the adoption of the report, the chairman of the finance committee said that the council unanimously desired that the Government give power to grant concessions to pensioners. As some pensioners receive only £4 7s. 6d. a week, will the Premier consider amending the Local Government Act to give councils power to exercise a discretion in this matter?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I believe some associated matters were raised in the Local Government Bill introduced last session. There is no doubt that the Act enables a council to exercise certain discretion with regard to rating. The honourable member does not desire to deal with a class of property in a district but with individual properties based on the position of the owner or tenant. I will investigate the matter to see whether the amendment goes as far as that, and will consider it on its merits.

**BLANCHETOWN BRIDGE.**

Mr. STOTT—Has the Minister of Works obtained a report from the Minister of Roads on progress on the Blanchetown Bridge?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Minister of Roads has forwarded the following report of the Commissioner of Highways:—

Following the selection of the site for the Blanchetown bridge and approach roads, borings for foundation investigations have been completed. Two test piles have been driven, but as further information is required, the driving of an additional two is now in hand. The design of the superstructure of the bridge is well in hand, and upon receipt of the results of the additional test piles, the complete design and specifications should be finalized in the near future.

**NORWOOD HIGH SCHOOL.**

Mr. DUNSTAN—My question follows on a question asked last week by the member for Burnside concerning the new Norwood High School. There has been considerable worry in the district about the commencement date for work on this new school. Can the Minister of Education state when work will commence?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—On the spur of the moment I cannot give that information, but will endeavour to secure it and let the honourable member know some time next week.

**MOUNT BURR RECREATION HALL.**

Mr. CORCORAN—Last year the Estimates provided for a new recreation hall at Mount Burr. As I understood at the time, all the capital cost would be borne by the Government. I may have been, and may still be under, a misapprehension, but there has been some hold-up in this matter. I understand that little progress has been made on this project, which will cater for the needs of the community. Can the Minister of Forests say whether any problems that have arisen are still unsolved, whether any progress has been made, and when the hall is likely to be a going concern?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I am well aware of the need for a recreation hall at Mount Burr. At least part of the reason why the project is not further advanced is the desire of the authorities to reach full agreement and try to meet the wishes of everybody in the area. The new hall will provide for committee rooms, and special rooms for the doctor and for various other purposes. All these interests have had to be consulted. The Housing Trust has a settled plan on which it is working at the moment. Much drawing has to be done before tenders can be called for, probably in about two months' time.

**PAINTING OF ROAD BRIDGE AT MURRAY BRIDGE.**

Mr. BYWATERS—Will the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Roads, take up with his colleague the urgent need for painting the road bridge over the River Murray at Murray Bridge? To the best of local knowledge, it is many years since it was painted. Will local painters be given the opportunity to do this work if and when it is approved?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will take up that matter with my colleague.

**ELECTRICITY TRUST'S OPERATIONS.**

Mr. HAMBOUR—Will the Premier obtain a copy of the balance-sheet of the Electricity Trust, or does he know the financial result of its operations last year?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will obtain a copy of the report for the honourable member. Speaking from memory, the Electricity Trust operated successfully last year, and made a small profit.

**COOLTONG RECREATION RESERVE.**

Mr. KING—In view of the representations that were made to him, can the Minister of Irrigation say whether a decision has been made concerning the Cooltong Recreation Reserve?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—The Secretary for Irrigation reports:—

The Cooltong War Memorial Community Centre Incorporated, in a letter of 8th July, 1959, has applied for permission to plant 276 citrus trees on the rising ground of Recreation Reserve Section 334, Cooltong Division, Chaffey Irrigation Area, for the purpose of beautification and the provision of a windbreak. A plan enclosed shows the location of the area, containing approximately 3½ acres, which comprises a sandy rise suitable for tree-planting.

According to the plan, provision has been made for the establishment of recreation facilities on the flatter portion of the area. A water supply is available and, although the land has been dedicated for recreation purposes, no objection is raised to the proposed tree-planting programme. The Community Centre authority would be required to meet all costs involved in conveying water from the department's pipeline, and all water used will be recorded through the existing meter and paid for under the same conditions as obtain with present supplies for the oval.

I recommend that approval be obtained to the application to plant and spray-irrigate approximately 3½ acres of citrus trees on Section 334, Cooltong Division.

I have approved this proposal.

**MOUNT BARKER ROAD.**

Mr. SHANNON—My question relates to the proposed siting of the new highway leading from Crafrers to the entrance to Stirling, near Pomona Road. I have investigated some of the problems, not as an engineer but as a tree and beauty lover, and believe that the engineers could choose a route other than through that portion of our beauty spots in the hills—because it is one of our beauty spots—and thereby avoid destroying many mature and beautiful trees and shrubs without interfering with the trafficable nature of the proposed highway. Mr. Whibley, who was head gardener for the Stirling Council for many years, had his home there and planted some shrubs. The Ising family did it, and so did the two aged Misses Robertson. If this were done I do not think we could avoid some damage, but we could avoid total damage. If we could retain some of the beautiful trees and shrubs now established there they would always attract people from other States, who would be able to see what our hills look like rather than seeing bare country, as they would if the road were taken through the gardens and the beautiful trees and shrubs cut down. I think it could be done and I suggest that it is an important matter to the State. Some growth has been destroyed and we will never see its like again.

The SPEAKER—I think the honourable member is debating his question.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I shall be pleased to bring the honourable member's various remarks before my colleague, the Minister of Roads.

**BROKEN HILL ROAD.**

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Has the Minister of Works obtained a report from the Minister of Roads regarding bituminizing the Broken Hill road between Mingary and Cockburn?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Minister of Roads has furnished me with the following report from the Commissioner of Highways:—

The streets of Mingary and Cockburn have been sealed with bitumen. Investigations into the availability of stone for base material are in hand, and a survey for this road will be undertaken in the near future. It is expected that a commencement will be made on the construction of this section during the current financial year.

**HOUSING TRUST FLATS.**

Mr. HUTCHENS—Recently I learned from the member for Torrens that following on his appeal multi-storey flats had been built in his electorate. I understand that his request was

granted on the ground that services were available. Will the Premier ask the Housing Trust to confer with the Hindmarsh Council with a view to building multi-storey flats in the Bowden and Brompton area where many sub-standard houses still exist?

The Hon. SIR THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will have the matter examined.

**BRIDGE OVER SOUTH ROAD.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Has the Minister of Works obtained a reply from the Minister of Roads regarding a bridge over the South Road at Tonsley?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Minister of Roads has furnished me with the following report from the Commissioner of Highways:—

The road pavement south of the bridge is 30ft. wide. The roadway across the bridge from eastern parapet to western kerb is 34ft., and there is a 4ft. wide footway on the western side. As stated previously, provision for pedestrians is primarily the function of local authorities, although when bridges are constructed or reconstructed, the department provides at no cost to councils such footways as are required at the time. It is not intended to widen this bridge until the roadway running south is widened, as it involves extensive re-location of the creek.

**HEALTH ACT.**

Mr. STOTT—Has the Premier obtained any information regarding the possible amendment of the Health Act following on a report from the Loxton Local Board of Health?

The Hon. SIR THOMAS PLAYFORD—No, but as soon as it is available I will let the honourable member have it.

**COCKCHAFER BEETLE.**

Mr. SHANNON—Has the Minister of Agriculture anything to report following the question I asked some time ago about methods of controlling cockchafer beetles, which are a nuisance in the Adelaide Hills, and their possible elimination?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—The Director of Agriculture prepared a reply but he must have expected a rather long question because his report covers 2½ pages of typed matter, which I think is too long to read now, so I will give the following summary, which I think answers the question:—

1. Cockchafers are native insects which have caused trouble for many years and are tending to become more prevalent as a result of increased pasture development.

2. There are variations in severity of outbreaks from year to year, depending largely on climatic factors.

3. Chemical control measures are effective; if applied at the correct time the cost of insecticides is down to 4s. per acre.

That is not always the cost: it may be as high as 16s. an acre. The summary continues:—

4. Pasture renovation, including the establishment of perennial grasses, gives a good measure of protection against the pest.

5. A scheme to enforce spraying or dusting of all infestation would be a most difficult undertaking in terms of both personnel and financial cost.

6. Such a scheme is considered to be of doubtful effectiveness.

I will make the full report available to the honourable member.

#### CAPE TULIP WEED.

Mr. JENKINS—Recently, since the bush fires swept through the Port Elliot district, there has been a prolific growth of the Cape Tulip weed. One officer of the Department of Agriculture has inspected the position. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether his report has been submitted to the Weeds Advisory Committee and, if so, has the matter been dealt with and is there any possibility of eradicating the weed?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I do not know whether the question is related to the one the honourable member asked last week about the failure of clover pastures, of which I asked him to give further details, but the reply the department has prepared on this matter, in the absence of strict detail, may apply to what the honourable member is now asking. It is as follows:—

Many factors may contribute to a deterioration of pastures as described in this extract from *Hansard*. The most common cause is the changed soil condition resulting from several years of clover growth. As the level of soil nitrogen is raised, conditions become more favourable for the growth of grasses and weeds such as cape weed. In the absence of a good perennial grass like phalaris or perennial rye grass, weeds and poor species like silver grass may take control. Pasture renovation, including the sowing of a suitable grass, is the best remedy in such cases.

Attacks by insect pests, notably red-legged earth mite, also frequently produce this kind of deterioration. Continued hay cutting with close grazing of the aftermath and an early seasonal break followed by a dry spell are two other contributing factors.

Soil deficiencies are yet another possible cause and several instances could be quoted where trace element or potash deficiency has caused a lack of clover and a predominance of relatively worthless species. It is not possible to identify the factor or factors responsible for the trouble in the instance cited. It is suggested that the department be advised of the location of this area so that an inspection can be made by a technical officer.

If that is the same problem, the answer to the question is "Yes." If it is another problem, I assure the honourable member that the officers of the department will be willing to make an inspection in that case also.

#### SMOKE AND SOOT NUISANCE.

Mr. TAPPING—Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked last week regarding smoke and dust nuisance from the Osborne Power House?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes, the General Manager of the Electricity Trust reports:—

The trust is doing everything possible to minimize the emission of smoke and grits from the Osborne Power Station. The dust collection system has been recently completely overhauled and modified to improve the efficiency of the mechanical collectors. A hydrovac system which is a large vacuum cleaning plant has also been installed to supplement the mechanical plant.

The air injector system has been extended to further boilers in the "B" Station. This plant enables the ash hoppers to be emptied as a continuous process and reduces the emission of dust. Only two boilers remain to be fitted with this equipment and these will be adjusted as soon as possible. All plant used in the collection of dust is being maintained to standards which will ensure its most efficient operation.

In addition, the trust has experimented in the collection of dust in the area and has had a rather remarkable experience in that regard. It found that a considerable amount of grit accumulated in its equipment when the wind was blowing from the south and the grit could not have come from the Osborne Power Station. It is believed that some other industrial plant in the area may be contributing towards the nuisance. However, I can assure the honourable member that the trust is doing everything possible to see that the equipment is maintained in the best possible condition to minimize the nuisance.

#### SHEPHERDS HILL ROAD DRAINAGE.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Has the Minister of Works received a report from the Minister of Roads regarding the drainage of Shepherds Hill Road?

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

The proposed drainage scheme for the South-Western Districts provides for a pipe drain along Sturt Road from the South Main Road to the Sturt Creek. As this pipe will be below ground level, it will not interfere with access to properties.

# HOUSING TRUST BUILDING NEAR NOARLUNGA.

Mr. STOTT—Can the Premier say how much money the Housing Trust contemplates using in acquiring land for building, and also what the Highways Department proposes to spend, in the area near Noarlunga where the oil refinery is to be established? My question more particularly concerns the Housing Trust. Is any Loan money required for the purpose I have mentioned, or has the trust sufficient money to pay for purchases in that area?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Housing Trust is provided with an overall sum, but it co-operates with the Government in providing houses in areas where industries are being established, and that will be the normal procedure to be followed in this case. The sums available to the various organizations will be known to the House when the Loan Estimates are introduced, probably tomorrow.

## FLEECE TESTING.

Mr. HUTCHENS—This morning's *Advertiser* contains an article headed "Fleece Testing," which states:—

A fleece testing service, designed to double the rate of improvement in wool production, would be offered to S.A. stud Merino breeders, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Brookman) announced yesterday. The service, provided jointly by Roseworthy Agricultural College and the Department of Agriculture, would begin in 1960, and would be without cost to breeders.

As this is an important announcement which could have a very definite bearing upon the economy of this State, and particularly of the woolgrower, can the Minister enlarge on it?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—Firstly, I add to that report by saying that the finance for this scheme is largely provided from the Wool Research Trust Fund, which in turn receives its funds from levies from wool-growers. If any impression is given in the report that it is provided from the South Australian Government's funds, I should like to correct that impression. This fleece testing is actually an extension by measurement of the work that is normally done by studmasters by their own judgment of the eye. For some years the judgment of experienced studmasters has been tested against measurement, in order to determine how accurately breeding policy can be carried out by such judgment alone and where doubt can be eliminated. The proposed extension converts the research of the last few years into a service for studmasters throughout the State. I think it is being done in most of

the other States and is, as stated in the report, a very important development which could have a very big bearing on future wool production per sheep, and possibly also on wool production per acre.

## BULK SHIPMENTS OF BARLEY TO JAPAN.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I recently asked the Minister of Agriculture whether he had seen a report, emanating from a source in Japan, that bulk shipments of barley which had been forwarded to that country had to be rebagged because Japanese mills were not equipped to handle barley in bulk. Can he state the possible impact of this on our considerable barley trade?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I made inquiries from the Barley Board which confirmed that a loss did occur through having to re-bag bulk barley in Japan. For that reason the board has not exported bulk barley to Japan for at least two years. The shipments generally go in bag and the quantity is normally two or three thousand tons.

## TEROWIE WATER CARTAGE.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (on notice)—

1. Is water at present being carted from Burra to Terowie by rail?
2. If so, for what periods has this been necessary during the twelve months ended June 30, 1959?
3. What has been the cost, including the cost of the water at Burra?
4. What portion of this cost, if any, has been recouped by the sale of water to townspeople of Terowie?
5. What price are they charged for this water?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Railways Commissioner reports:—

1. Yes.
2. Continuously, excepting for period August 31, 1958, to November 8, 1958.
3. £10,564 8s.
4. £73 18s. 3d.
5. Outsiders—35s. per 1,000 gallons; railway employees not living in railway cottages—7s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons.

## PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT.

The SPEAKER laid on the table an interim report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on:—

- Kingscote Harbour Accommodation.
- Plympton High School.

Grand Junction Road Trunk Water Main.  
Augmentation of Metropolitan Water  
Supply.

Campbelltown High School.

Elizabeth High School.

New Millicent High School.

Automotive Trade School (Additions and  
Alterations).

Henley High School.

Seacombe High School.

Coomandook Area School, and

Gilles Plains High School.

Ordered to be printed.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from August 6. Page 390.)

Mr. RICHES (Stuart)—Since I secured leave to continue my remarks news has been received of the death of Albert Namatjira, and I humbly add my tribute to the many paid to this great man, who had my admiration and respect. He was a great man, a leader of men, and had the bearing and stature of a king among his people. He has thrown into the light of intelligent thought the problems that all his people face as they strive to take their place in twentieth century Australia. The problems of migrants coming to Australia pale into insignificance alongside those of the original inhabitants of Australia. Namatjira's problems are the problems of his people and I hope that because of his work there will be a more sympathetic approach to them. I do not profess any knowledge of art—as that term is generally understood today—but if an artist is one who conveys a message as well as gives joy to the beholder, then to me Albert Namatjira ranks among the highest this age has produced. No-one else has captured the story—and even the glory—of the inland as he has done. Those who feel that his colours are exaggerated, or to whom his work does not appeal, do not know or have no love of Namatjira's country.

I regret that more of us did not pay our tribute during his life-time. Unfortunately, life is like that. Another matter that I regret, and which I feel impelled to mention, is that if any of the art galleries of Australia or the world should display Namatjira's work, surely the South Australian Art Gallery should, but several times I have visited it and have not seen any of his work displayed, though I have seen rooms given over to French surrealist and futurist paintings which carry no message, have no beauty and give no joy to the beholder. Surely the gallery has some of his work and, if so, it is the wish

of the people that they have an opportunity of seeing it.

Perhaps what we failed to do for Albert Namatjira we could do for his people, for he was of his people. We might help other artists among his tribe. Members of his own family show artistic promise and it would be a fine tribute to him if we enabled them to give of their best. I believe that Winnie Bamara has a future as an artist and one way of paying a tribute to Namatjira and his work is to see that she gets the opportunity she so much deserves. We should take care to avoid the mistakes that brought unhappiness to him. I believe it was a tragedy that he ever left the influence of the mission that had lifted him to the height of his greatness and maintained a true concern and friendship for him in his hours of greatest need, and which even surrounded him with love at his death.

One of his great characteristics, and the one that appeals to me most, is that he never forsook his people. He never went back on his relatives. Had he left his own people and tried to move exclusively in circles that kept them out he would have been regarded with much more favour in certain circles, but, to his credit, he retained his love for his relatives and friends. One of the overriding problems facing all aborigines who wish to take their place in our state of society is that they must cut adrift from their families, kinfolk and homes, because if they ever go back they are referred to as having "gone native" again and reverted to type. I believe that that great urge on this part of natives, who for a time find happiness in our way of life and then go bush, is brought about by their love for their kinfolk and their inability to cut themselves completely adrift from those who have a call upon their affections.

Mr. O'Halloran—There is no doubt about it.

Mr. RICHES—I am glad that Namatjira was not one who could do so. I hope that some day someone will find a solution of the problem that faces these people, and may the story of Namatjira hasten that day. When I last spoke in this debate I said that the Governor's Speech and the speeches which have since been delivered in this House bore evidence of a tendency on the part of the Government, and of the people, towards true socialism and that there can now be a true denial of the Liberal and Country League policy of free and unrestricted private enterprise. I pointed out to the member for Light how far he had moved from the advocacy of private enterprise. His speech



in this debate could not, by any stretch of imagination, be held to have any semblance of that policy. The member, by interjection, said I was not placing him in his true light when I drew that inference from his speech but I have since done him the honour of reading his speech again and I find that, far from advocating a policy of free and unrestricted private enterprise, he bitterly complained about the competition of free enterprise in a free and open market for milk at Broken Hill.

The member for Light admits that under control in Adelaide, through an equalization scheme for the distribution of milk, producers get a better price for their whole milk, the dairies are of necessity kept in a cleaner condition, the milk is kept to a good standard and the consumers are protected. Further the honourable member said producers in his district would like to come into the scheme.

Mr. Hambour—I said that.

Mr. RICHES—The honourable member's exact words were:—

That the committee has the right to sell milk in an area protected by this Government—a privilege that many people in the State would like to enjoy.

The privilege to sell in an area controlled by the Equalization Committee is not my idea of free and unrestricted private enterprise. He complained of unfair tactics in the Broken Hill market. Let me assure the honourable member that I agree with everything he said about that, but I think he will admit that all the problems in the Broken Hill market are caused by unfair competition from private enterprise. The Broken Hill market is open and not under the control of the Equalization Committee; nor is it under the control of this Government, but in that town where firms have to compete with each other private enterprise is keeping other people out initially by price-cutting and later on recouping it. That is the kind of thing which the honourable member claims he champions, which we say cannot develop the State, and which no Government would dare adopt generally.

Instead of asking for more and more free and unrestricted private enterprise we find the honourable member asking for more and more socialism and he immediately went on to pay a wonderful tribute to the work of the Electricity Trust in his electorate, saying he would like more of it. In his maiden speech he said that the development of the State depended on the provision of water, power and electricity by the State.

Mr. Hambour—How do you relate that to milk? I complained about the activities of

certain people in private enterprise. Burglars are not eliminated because the State has laws.

Mr. RICHES—The honourable member is giving me wonderful assistance and I appreciate it very much because he more and more emphasizes my point that private enterprise has failed generally and has failed particularly in the milk industry. He does not like it in any of the topics he has discussed in this debate. He admitted that Government control was all right in the metropolitan market in the distribution of milk and that his farmers would like to come in and accept more of that control. He admits that he is in difficulty in Broken Hill where private enterprise is cutting the ground away from others by threatening to undersell milk until it gets a monopoly and then, following the usual practice of monopolies, putting the price up. That is the policy he espouses and he sees no quarrel with it. He sees a lot to quarrel with in the socialist policy, but he praises the Electricity Trust and wants more of its services in his district. He likes the Government to provide all services. That is good. He says that we should treat all people in this State equally and that, if a contribution is to be made, it should be made by all; but he does not add "with due regard for capacity to pay." He went a bit off the rails there; he went quite well as a Socialist until he got to that point. He still believes that the rich should be richer and that the richer you are the more help you should get from the powers that be because you can then contribute more yourself.

Mr. Hambour—It is just as well you are not a school teacher because you are not conveying anything to anyone.

Mr. RICHES—There are none so blind as those who will not see. If he did get the Government to see his argument that services should be provided only where they are paid for and that people should pay no more in one area than in another he would never have power, water or postal services, and just about every other service would be priced out of his electorate. Running through the honourable member's speech was the theme that, because the Government was managing its instrumentalities and undertakings so much better than private enterprise, we should not allow people to be at the mercy of private enterprise.

Mr. Hambour—Did I say that?

Mr. RICHES—By inference, yes: that we should not allow these districts to be at the mercy of private enterprise. The honourable

member did not suggest that private enterprise should provide roads, power or other facilities for his district: he suggested that the people should provide them all.

If the policy of private enterprise, pure and simple, were put into operation neither the honourable member's district nor any other could develop and the State as we know it would cease to function; but the honourable member, like all other members on his side, recognizes that industry needs props from the Government and that the bigger the industry the more heavily it leans on the Government and the more props it gets.

Mr. Hambour—Did I say that, too?

Mr. RICHES—No, I am saying it. I said you believed in it, and a little while ago you said it was the function of the Government to provide these things. Once again I agree.

Mr. Hambour—You are a deducer.

Mr. RICHES—If the honourable member would read his speech he would be surprised at his reversal of form since he first spoke after entering this House. So dependent is industry on the props the Government has given that no Government would dare to remove them. The Government would not dare to hand the State over to free and unrestricted private enterprise, and the honourable member for Light, in the light of representations he has made in this debate, would be the last to ask it to. I ask him to examine this plank on the platform and he will see how outmoded it is. There should be co-operation between the Government and private enterprise, the kind of thing that existed with A.W.A., T.A.A., C.O.R. and Commonwealth Engineering in Sydney, and the Government should not be regarded merely as a prop. It should come in as a full partner instead of our having a situation in which industry looks to the Government to provide all the services, housing, power, water, means of communication and, in many instances, the cost of finding the raw material, and then to finance the industry into being and to build a factory. Then, if there are any losses, the Government is asked to share them, but it is never asked to share any profits. The industries that were on a good footing and shared profits with the Governments operating under the kind of partnership I suggest are a first step towards a better state of society. But, because there was a profit in them, the people associated with the honourable member sold out the people's rights. An article appeared in today's *Advertiser* concerning the relationship between

the Government and industry in the development of the State. Professor R. I. Downing looked into the next decade and saw an increasing population and production with exciting prospects, provided the Government and the people get together. He said, "I cannot see private enterprise taking the initiative."

Mr. Hambour—Many on your side say that.

Mr. RICHES—I have been saying it for about 25 years and I hope the honourable member is gradually coming round. He is not big enough to say it straight out but he is advocating it each time he asks in this House for something for his district. He advocated increased water, electricity and hospital charges in the metropolitan area and in various parts of the State.

Mr. Hambour—Increased hospital charges.

Mr. RICHES—I assure the honourable member I will not forget hospitals.

Mr. Hambour—But get the others straight. I said there should be the same water charge to all people in the State. I did not talk about the cost of electricity.

Mr. RICHES—But you have done so.

Mr. Hambour—I referred to Government hospital charges.

Mr. RICHES—The honourable member has from time to time protested against a surcharge on electricity.

Mr. Hambour—Correct.

Mr. RICHES—He has protested against the surcharge, which only comes about because it costs more to take electricity to those paying it, yet in the next breath he says charges should have some relationship to costs. He asks for increased water charges in the metropolitan area in the mistaken belief that this will mean a reduction in the area he represents.

Mr. Hambour—I did not say that. I said we should have the same charge for water throughout the State. Some pay 2s. 6d., some 2s. 3d., for rebate water.

Mr. RICHES—The honourable member said he did not ask for increased water charges.

Mr. Hambour—Of course you have to increase them to bring them up to the maximum.

Mr. RICHES—He is coming around already. He said:—

If people on the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline pay 2s. 6d. a thousand gallons for rebate water and 2s. 6d. for excess water there is no reason why people on the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline should not do likewise.

That was the colour of his thinking throughout his address and he has applied that thinking to water, electricity and hospitals. When I

was at school we used to call this a dog-in-the-manger attitude. He is labouring under the mistaken idea that if he can lift charges on some other sections of the community his district will get a reduction. The aim should be to give a water supply as cheaply as possible. I would agree with the honourable member if he sought a reduction in water charges in his district and I agree that a reduction in the surcharge on electricity is a step in the right direction. That is a proper stand to take to further the interests of a district. It is better than saying that because one district pays a certain amount, the charge in other districts should be increased. The honourable member pointed out that there are four kinds of hospitals, but there are more.

Mr. Hambour—Of course, there might be 44 if you analyse them in detail.

Mr. RICHES—Yes, and there are plenty of anomalies in the case the honourable member brought up. By and large, the burden of his argument was that Government hospitals should increase their charges to patients, the Government should increase charges against local governing bodies, pensioners should be required to pay—

Mr. Hambour—Where they can.

Mr. RICHES—And that hospitals should be empowered to collect from the children of people admitted to hospital. He advocated that for every Government hospital in the State, including the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Two of those hospitals are in my electorate.

Mr. Hambour—Which two?

Mr. RICHES—Port Pirie and Port Augusta.

Mr. Hambour—You are not the member for Port Pirie?

Mr. RICHES—I want the people of Port Pirie and Port Augusta to know that this urge comes from the back benches of the Liberal Party.

Mr. Hambour—No—from the member for Light.

Mr. RICHES—If it were only the member for Light, I should not take any notice of it; I should not be the slightest concerned but, unfortunately, letters have been written to the press giving the same figures, which are misquotations and misconceptions, as the member for Light gave in this House, and the Hospitals Department itself has, by correspondence, indicated that it is paying undue attention to what the honourable member has to say. He is too successful in his representations to the Government, for our comfort.

Mr. Hambour—Thank you; that is the nicest thing you have said.

Mr. RICHES—I want the people of these two districts to understand that these things the honourable member has advocated can be foisted upon them.

Mr. Hambour—You have paid me the compliment of saying that I may influence Government policy in this regard.

Mr. RICHES—The honourable member, and the people with him. The Hospitals Association has probably been listening to him and carrying certain resolutions. All I know is that the Government is already taking action along some of the lines advocated by the member for Light.

Mr. Hambour—That is very good; it shows I must be right.

Mr. RICHES—Unfortunately, it shows that the Government has not given any more thought to the matter than has the honourable member. What a lovely programme to come out with is this contribution that the honourable member says he is so proud to make to the debate, that, wherever the Government has established hospitals, we should increase the charges to patients and pensioners, we should charge the children of patients and we should increase the charges to the local governing bodies! The honourable member can take all the credit for that.

Mr. Hambour—You can take back the second one: I did not say we should increase the charges to pensioners. I said hospitals should collect from pensioners where they can pay. I always thought the honourable member spoke the truth; he should not distort my words.

Mr. RICHES—If a pensioner has not been paying and is now required to pay 24s. a day, that is a fairly substantial increase. If it is not proposed, the honourable member can enlighten me afterwards. I was told only at lunch-time today that one of the hospitals has adopted that as a policy and advertised that as from this date all pensioners going into that hospital will be charged a minimum of 24s. a day. Of course, that is no hardship: £8 8s. a week from someone receiving £4 7s. 6d. a week pension and having rent to pay! That is the kind of thing that the honourable member in advocating and is being implemented this very day.

Mr. Hambour—You are deceiving yourself. I said that £3 10s. a week was the amount the pensioner was charged. The honourable member should read it.

Mr. RICHES—I read that, and I read the honourable member's advocacy. I tell him that the Murray Bridge Hospital has advertised

this week that there will be a charge of 24s. a day for all pensioners. They are not taking individual action; this is concerted action, about which I am concerned. This can affect the metropolitan area and the Government hospitals throughout the country. For the edification of the honourable member, I want him to know that the Government did not build any hospital in the country for the exclusive benefit of the town in which it was built. I believe the same applies in other districts as applies at Port Augusta. Nobody would believe that a hospital was built there for Port Augusta alone. It is a general hospital serving the whole of the north-west and all the towns between Port Augusta and Alice Springs. The number of patients entering that hospital from Port Augusta would be only little more than one-quarter of the total admitted.

Mr. Hambour—That applies to every hospital in the State: it serves an area.

Mr. RICHES—That hospital accepts patients from other hospitals in the area. Indigent patients find their way to Port Augusta Hospital. It serves great areas which make no rating provisions. Towns bigger than Port Augusta are not rated one penny for hospitals by the local governing bodies. As far as the patients' fees at the Royal Adelaide Hospital are concerned, I hope the member for Light can find some comfort in the suggestion that they should be increased for no other reason than that the fees in some hospitals in his district are higher. I am the chairman of an ambulance committee and do not object to Government expenditure on the Royal Adelaide. I give full marks for that expenditure because that is a proper responsibility for all the people of the State. I hope that by one means or another we are carrying our reasonable share of the cost of the upkeep of the Royal Adelaide, because as chairman of my committee, every month I sign vouchers for patients conveyed from our hospital and from hospitals round about to the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

In those circumstances, why should the Royal Adelaide Hospital be chargeable against the metropolitan councils only? Why should Port Augusta Hospital be charged against Port Augusta council only? Why should Port Pirie Hospital be a charge against Port Pirie council only? Why should the honourable member object to this broadening of the service? Hospitals cannot be established all over the State. How does the honourable member think he is helping by asking that the patients' fees be

increased? I ask him to go into these public hospitals, to observe the districts that they serve, and to look at these two factors: the number of people who ought to be in hospital but who are frightened to go there because they cannot bear the cost; and the number of people who are in hospital and whose condition is worsened by the constant financial worry while they are there.

Mr. Hambour—Nobody is denied hospitalization because he cannot pay. The honourable member knows that is true.

Mr. RICHES—I am telling the honourable member, whether he knows it or not, whether he believes it or not, that there are people who ought to be in hospital and who are not because they cannot afford to go. I appreciate that the honourable member finds it difficult to believe that, because he does not know; he is out of touch with the people, but that is God's truth. To a certain extent, he admits that is true in Adelaide, where there are two hospitals. He told us that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was half full while the Royal Adelaide was overcrowded. Why would not people prefer to have members of their family, their loved ones, treated in that magnificent new Queen Elizabeth Hospital instead of the Royal Adelaide? Only the fees stop them. The honourable member said that himself.

Mr. Hambour—If they cannot afford to pay, what difference does it make?

Mr. RICHES—In the city it is assumed that, if a family is able to pay, it will go to one of the private hospitals, where the honourable member says there are plenty of beds, or the Queen Elizabeth, but why do they flock to the Royal Adelaide? The treatment there is good, but is it because it is better that they go there?

Mr. Hambour—I told the honourable member why—because it is cheap.

Mr. RICHES—I know, because of the economic circumstances of the people involved. Most of the people in the Royal Adelaide could not go to a private hospital; they could not afford it. If they could afford to go to the Queen Elizabeth, they would go there. The same position obtains in the country. It shows a small mind when the best that can be produced in the way of statesmanlike argument for the good government of this State is a suggestion that we should increase the charges to the patients and the local government bodies, that we should make the pensioners pay, that we should go back to the system that was

abolished 10 years ago and levy charges upon the children of patients in hospital. Caring for the sick is the responsibility of us all, whether or not we are ratepayers. It is surely one that every well and healthy person should want to accept in full. As far as possible, these charges should be equalized throughout South Australia. The honourable member for Light would be rendering much better service if he would apply his thinking and his suggestions to trying to reduce the charges in the other hospitals rather than calling for an increase in charges from those who cannot afford to pay. He says that the Government should help the districts that contribute the most. The honourable member believes that—that is his philosophy of life.

Mr. Hambour—I did not say that.

Mr. RICHES—The richer you are the more you pay.

Mr. Hambour—I never said that; the honourable member is not sticking to the truth.

The SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member for Light must not interject so much.

Mr. RICHES—The honourable member went through the figures and dealt with the rate revenue. The whole burden of his complaint was that the percentage of contributions to a hospital was based on a given percentage of the rate revenue so that, where a district was wealthy, according to him, it should pay so much more.

Mr. Hambour—I never said that.

Mr. RICHES—It bears no relation at all to the capacity of the people to pay. As far as Port Augusta was concerned, his figures were quite wrong.

Mr. Hambour—They were quite right.

Mr. RICHES—No, because the township of Port Augusta is not wholly included in the local governing area. The population of Port Augusta among whom he spread the payments includes an area in Port Augusta that pays no rates but they are entitled to all the services of the hospital. Also, the Port Augusta hospital is the base for the Royal Flying Doctor Service for the whole of the north. All these things have to be taken into account before the honourable member can be correct in assessing the percentage of payment that is and should be made.

I am concerned about the Government's action in so quickly getting away from the undertaking, given to the people in the Premier's policy speech, about free books for students in secondary schools. Last week I referred to this matter in a question and said that the Premier's policy speech gave an

unequivocal undertaking that if his Party were returned to office provision would be made for the payment of increased book allowances to all children including all secondary schools in South Australia. That is not a statement attributable to a press reporter, for whenever the press reports a policy speech it always makes sure that it gives an accurate report. South Australians were entitled to believe that this undertaking would be carried out, but the Minister of Education said he could not be held responsible for any report of what the Premier said. Surely members opposite are concerned about what their Leader, in good faith, promises the people. It is a matter of grave concern to members on this side when such promises are broken.

Far from all students attending all secondary schools getting book allowances, 30 students at the Port Augusta High School were denied an allowance because they failed in one year. What is Government policy on these students? They need help more than anybody else and they should be encouraged to stay at high school at least until they are 16 years of age. I have heard time and again senior officers of the Education Department advise that a child who reaches the Intermediate standard and who for some reason fails at the first attempt should go back to school and have another try, but the Government discourages that by refusing to give that child the book allowance. Some people suggest that such children should not be allowed to clutter up our high schools. It is really a stigma upon children who fail in any one year. This has been given out by implication in this House, but members in another place were not ashamed to say that they had failed in some subjects in three succeeding years. They said that Winston Churchill had failed dismally time and again, and that Abraham Lincoln had failed many times. It has been said elsewhere that our Premier did not attend high school.

Mr. O'Halloran—And that the Leader of the Opposition did not pass any exams at all.

Mr. RICHES—If we were to exclude everybody who had missed out at exam time in secondary schools this House would be without the member for Stuart, and I could think of no greater calamity than that. Recently I had a discussion with one of our Supreme Court Judges about the number of young people who appeared before him in the various courts. He remarked upon the fact that at the last sitting of the Port Augusta Circuit Court no young man appeared. He said that it would not be uncommon to find in 60 or

70 cases listed in the metropolitan area that about 50 per cent would be related to young men. I asked him to think back and say how many of those who appeared before him had come from our high schools and after thinking for a time he replied that there would be very few.

We ought to follow the lead of overseas countries and as long as possible keep our young people under the training and guidance of high schools, but the Government is acting to prevent that. I know there is a feeling held by a few in the Education Department that our high schools should not be cluttered up by young people who do not pass at the first attempt. I hope the position will be reversed because it is a grave social problem. In these days of shortage of teachers a child could fail through no fault of his own, and that should be considered. Students at the University are protesting against the power to prevent them from continuing their studies after the third term. This could have an adverse effect upon young people from the country. I have had some experience with young men and women who have come from the country to attend the University. Some of them had never left home before and consequently for them there was a period of unsettlement and re-adjustment. Their first year at the University could be adversely affected by circumstances that have no relation to their future capacity to pass exams. I should like this power to be seriously considered before it is administered because it could operate harshly against young people from the country.

At Port Augusta we have a power station and a nuisance that is caused by the almost overpowering dust, smoke, smog, and vapor from it. When the site for the power station was selected it was thought that the prevailing winds would drive the smoke well clear of the town but experience has shown that it follows the water and the town becomes completely enveloped every time there is a south wind. In the summer, in a town where it could be a pleasure to live, the conditions become trying, so much so that the future development of the town is being affected. Early in the piece representations were made to the Premier for relief in this matter. It was when the picture *Robbery under Arms* was being made and it was said that the Electricity Trust recognized its responsibility and that investigations were being made overseas by competent engineers to deal with the nuisance.

The Premier assured us that contracts had been let for electro-static precipitators and that work was being carried out on them. We learned subsequently that no contract had been let, that the trust had not reached a decision regarding the existing power station, and that it was considering the establishment of some means to deal with the position at the B station. Later it was found that contracts had been let for electro-static precipitators at the B station and that high chimney stacks were being erected in the hope that the smoke would be taken up to the upper atmosphere to be dispersed over a greater area.

Mr. O'Halloran—How high were the stacks?

Mr. RICHES—Two hundred and sixty feet. Later in this speech I will suggest an alteration in procedure. We were told that it would be impossible to install precipitators at the A station because they had not been provided for in the design of the building and the foundations would not carry them. It was said that another chimney stack would be erected to take the smoke into the upper atmosphere. The people at Port Augusta thought that was reasonable but they asked for an assurance that the chimney stack would be so designed that if it proved ineffective precipitators could be installed later. We have not been able to get such an assurance from the Premier. He said that we had nothing to fear, that the Electricity Trust's responsibility was to rid the town of the smoke, and that, if the stack did not do that, other means would have to be devised. We asked for that to be set out in writing but when we got the written statement it was not from the Premier but from the chairman of the Electricity Trust.

It was pointed out that tests had been conducted in wind tunnels in conditions similar to those at Port Augusta and that as a result it was confidently expected that the smoke nuisance would be abated, but the chairman of the trust said that the tests indicated that, if a chimney stack 260ft. high were built for the purpose, a substantial amount of dust from the A station would be carried clear of the power station and the town when the wind was from the south. When we remember the quantity of coal burned at the A station, and that the B station will burn twice the quantity, it does not give much satisfaction to be told that a substantial amount of the dust will be carried away. That is not in accordance with the Premier's assurance.

I urge the Government to see that provision is made for the installation of precipitators if the chimney stack proves ineffective. Many

people have stood on a vantage point at Port Augusta and watched the smoke from the stack going three times as high as 260ft. and then coming down to envelop the town. Not many engineers would be convinced that this chimney stack was going to work.

The suggested procedural alteration that I mentioned earlier is that these works should be submitted to the Public Works Committee for an inquiry before they are embarked upon. I feel that if the Public Works Committee had been given an opportunity to inquire into the erection of the A station, this mistake of building a station and making it impossible to install precipitators may not have been made in the first instance. It is a good thing to get an engineering device checked by other engineers. A tremendous expenditure has been involved in the erection of this new stack, and if it does not meet the demand much money will have been spent ineffectively. I cannot see that any harm would be done by having plans submitted to the Public Works Committee and giving that committee an opportunity of obtaining other engineering opinions.

I agree that in the first instance, when time was the essence of the contract, there was merit in the decision this Parliament made that expenditure by the Electricity Trust would not be subject to the committee's inquiries. The Premier gave an assurance that Parliament itself would visit the undertaking at least once in every two years, and that took place with the open cut work at Leigh Creek.

In these other matters, a visit by Parliament itself does not enable the tendering of evidence from anybody else interested or the checking of plans submitted by engineers, and since considerable sums of money and the town's future are involved there is now an excellent case for the reference of these matters to the Public Works Committee.

Samples of this smog have been taken to determine its effect upon the human population. Two samples were taken, one dry and the other damp. The dry sample showed that there was .2 per cent of moisture; 1 per cent of water soluble material; tar fraction, nil; ash, 97.8 per cent; sulphur, nil; silica 56.9 per cent; silicates, 6.1 per cent, and free acid, nil. Both samples were slightly alkaline. That analysis was made by the Department of Chemistry. It is hoped that the dust is so highly diluted and dispersed in the air that no practical danger to the public exists, but if the silica fraction were of a given concentration and a given particle size, and the actual chemical composition was such that silicosis

could result if the dust were inhaled, this could be very dangerous to the community.

For over 12 months the Port Augusta Local Board of Health has been trying to obtain from the Public Health Department a proper analysis and examination of the incidence of that smog and its possible effect on the health of the community. This is of major importance to Port Augusta. If this chimney stack does not correct the situation that has arisen, and if through lack of foresight it is not possible to install electro-static precipitators in the new chimney, the Government will be subject to very severe criticism and condemnation. I hoped—and I felt sure—that the trust had provided in the new stack for such an installation, and if it has made that provision it will allay many fears and much anxiety in the town if it will say so. We have asked the Premier to give us this undertaking, but the best answer we can get is that a substantial amount of the dust can be removed from the atmosphere, which gives us small comfort indeed.

Citrus growers in Beetaloo Valley are experiencing difficult times because of low rainfall and increased water charges. We heard this afternoon that it is possible for the Government to grant concessions in the use of water under certain conditions. We do not quarrel with the provision of water for swimming pools at concession rates. One honourable member has objected to some people getting water more cheaply than others, but we have no quarrel with that; in fact, we think that is good. I think an equally good case can be made out for concession rates on water supplied to citrus growers at Beetaloo Valley, particularly because those blocks were opened up for soldier settlement after the first world war. It is just as important to the Government and to the State to keep our soldier settlers on the land as it is to establish new settlers.

These settlers were originally able to secure adequate supplies of water from the Beetaloo Valley reservoir. I am not suggesting that the reservoir was built exclusively for the citrus growers, but it was built both for the citrus growers and for the industrial centres around about. As the industrial centres grew, more and more calls were made on Beetaloo Valley water, until the Murray pipeline became essential. That pipeline was installed, not for the benefit of Beetaloo Valley citrus growers, but for the maintenance of the industrial centres also served by that pipeline. The increases in charges for water supplied to these people—who were settled on that land in citrus production

even before many areas on the river were opened up—have made citrus production uneconomical. It is a sad thing to see some of these orange groves going out of production; it is a loss to the State, and a matter we ought to consider more sympathetically than we have in the past.

When I was in Sydney recently a controversy was taking place regarding orange prices. It was claimed by the housewives that oranges for which growers in some parts of New South Wales were being paid 1½d. were being sold for 9d. on the Sydney market. The fruit-growers replied that the oranges being sold at 9d. were South Australian oranges, which, according to their statement, were regarded as the best oranges in the world. I believe that the oranges at Beetaloo Valley will compare with any produced in South Australia, and it is a sad thing to see orange groves there going out of production. The fruitgrowers in that area have asked the Premier to visit them, and they are still hoping that he will be able to. They have also made representations to the Minister of Works in this matter. We recognize that with increased costs it is not easy to reduce the price of water, but this afternoon we have had an indication that it is possible to give concessions where they can be justified. I think that a limited concession, perhaps a bulk rate, in order to maintain these orchards in production, is feasible and could be justified.

In conclusion, I will say a few words on decentralization of industry and the industries that are developing in various parts of the State, and in particular on the need for industries in the northern areas. I mentioned last week that we on this side of the House were proud of the part Labor had played in the development of the State and of our part in the negotiations that led up to the announcement of the establishment of steel works at Whyalla and of industries and development in the area. We are glad to read of the harbor improvements that have been promised for Port Pirie, and of industries foreshadowed following the development of those harbors. We are looking forward to the standardization of railway gauges and the improvement of communications. We were interested to hear the Mayor of Port Pirie on Saturday looking into the future and visualizing the possibility, when all this work is completed, of a steelworks at Port Pirie. I am not too sure about steelworks at this juncture unless it is a steelworks that would be fabricating steel, because my impression is that the whole of the

iron ore resources in South Australia have been handed over to the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited in perpetuity, and that, unless any other industry is prepared to talk terms with the B.H.P., it has no chance of obtaining iron ore in South Australia. I said earlier that it was not necessary to give to the B.H.P. those rights in addition to the rights it already had over iron ore leases in order that steelworks should be established, but I agree with the people of Port Pirie that the establishment of a steelworks at Whyalla could well mean the establishment of small industries around Spencer Gulf supplementary to the major steelworks.

A desperate need exists for secondary industries, no matter how small, in these northern areas; therefore, I appeal to the Government to set aside an officer, with authority comparable with that of the Housing Trust, to make early representations to every industry in Australia which could be persuaded to expand its operations to this State, and to advance the claims of the northern reaches of Spencer Gulf as a desirable area in which this expansion should take place. The Government surely recognizes that we cannot develop any area unless there is balance. Housing Trust officers are doing wonderful work in bringing small industries to Elizabeth, but it is time someone was appointed to advance the claims of the upper reaches of Spencer Gulf for the establishment of industries that might be settled around the steelworks being built at Whyalla. It is completely beyond the capacity of local councils. Representations need to be on a higher level. I cannot believe that it is impossible to entice industries there, particularly if they are informed that power and water can be provided at metropolitan rates, that land is available, that housing can be provided and that, if necessary, factories can be built for them. There is just as urgent a problem in relation to the employment of female labour at Port Pirie and Port Augusta as there is at Elizabeth. We cannot expect that the people charged primarily with advancing Elizabeth's cause will, at the same time, advance the cause of the upper reaches of Spencer Gulf which lend themselves more to heavy industry.

The deepening of the Port Pirie harbour should be expedited, and I strongly support the representations made by the member for Port Pirie for an inquiry into the cost of landing coal at Port Pirie. I do not know why it cannot be off-loaded at Port Pirie just as easily as at Port Adelaide. I hope the plans for the new wharves being considered by the



Public Works Committee will incorporate facilities for off-loading coal at Port Pirie. There is an increasing anxiety on the part of all thinking people about the necessity to provide avenues of employment for the great number of children coming through our high schools and for whom no employment is available at present. I hope these matters will be brought to the notice of those whose responsibility it is to deal with them. I support the motion.

Mr. FRED WALSH (West Torrens)—I associate myself with other members who congratulated the new members of both sides. The new members' speeches augur well for their Parliamentary careers. I think it can be truly said that all members who were returned at the last election were returned in seats that might be described as "blue riband seats," so far as their Parties are concerned, under the present electoral boundaries, and until those boundaries are adjusted they can expect long Parliamentary careers.

The member for Burnside, Mrs. Steele, has made history, but history might well have been made about 20 years ago when Mrs. Skitch was the endorsed Labor candidate for the district of Thebarton on the first occasion an election was held with single electorates. Unfortunately, she was defeated. Later, another Labor candidate was defeated for the same seat. I was subsequently elected under optional voting, but when compulsory voting was introduced I was never opposed in that electorate. It is safe to assume that had Mrs. Skitch been elected in 1938, given good health, she would have been a member today. Whether or not I would have been a member is another matter. I mention this to show that perhaps the Labor Party could have been the first Party to make history in this regard instead of the Liberal Party. Nevertheless, we are sincere in congratulating Mrs. Steele on her election and on her maiden speech. I join in the congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker. It is true that when you were first elected as Speaker we nominated one of our members, but since we have experienced your impartiality and just rule we see no reason to oppose your election. That is a tribute to you, and illustrates the esteem in which members of the Opposition hold you.

I do not know of any other Address in Reply debate when such a galaxy of speakers made so many fine contributions to a debate. I find it almost impossible to reply to members opposite, which says a good deal for some of them, particularly as in the past one could

make quite a speech from criticisms of their speeches. On this occasion I find myself, to use the vernacular, without a feather to fly with. However, I must refer to the member for Ridley's criticism and condemnation of the member for Onkaparinga as chairman of the Public Works Committee. I take no side in their debate about bulk handling, but I disagree with Mr. Stott's remark that Mr. Shannon was not fit and competent to hold the position of chairman of the Public Works Committee. I have been his fellow member of that committee for 10 years and, for the last four or five years, have sat under his chairmanship. I appreciate his competence and ability and it would be difficult to find among the present members of the committee a more able chairman than he. I think I express the views of all committee members when I say that.

Mr. Coumbe—Hear! Hear!

Mr. FRED WALSH—I have asked questions in the House concerning the provision of a foot bridge across the Sturt Creek on Tapley's Hill Road. This matter has been brought to my notice by local progress associations and local residents who visualize a danger developing at that point because of the increased volume of traffic crossing the present bridge. The Minister's reply was not satisfactory, and it is regrettable that the department takes the attitude that these questions are matters for local councils. This bridge is on the border of two council areas. The Minister said the question of a foot bridge would be considered when the road bridge was widened, but it is not so long since this bridge was built. The department showed poor foresight in not providing a foot bridge when the old wooden bridge was reconstructed. The result is that the whole of the bridge is taken up by the roadway and pedestrians can cross only by using the roadway. I point out that in the Commonwealth Migration Hostel nearby there are over 300 families and in addition there are 60 to 70 houses in Golflands Estate, all of which contribute their share of children and adults who cross this bridge. Anyone seeing the volume of traffic passing over the bridge between 4.30 and 6 p.m. can fully appreciate the danger to pedestrians on the bridge, and the position will continue to worsen.

Very little money would be needed by the department to erect an outrigger bridge across the creek to protect pedestrians. I suggested that in the case of the Holbrook Road bridge two years ago, but the Minister told me that

nothing could be done to the bridge and that it was the responsibility of the local government authority to provide a footbridge. I now find that the department intends to widen the bridge and that in order to do that it must have a different design from the present one. I believe that what applies in the case of the proposed Holbrook Road bridge should apply in this case also and the department should provide a footbridge. In addition to the hazards I have already mentioned, a tramways bus stops on the south side of the bridge and turns in the face of oncoming traffic. I have seen pedestrians going foot over foot on the six-inch base of the boundary fence. If an accident should happen before something is done I should claim that it was the responsibility of both the departmental head and the Minister, and they would stand accused in not seeing the danger which I have pointed out. I ask that the matters I have referred to be reconsidered.

I raise the matter of fees to members of wages boards. When I raised this question last year I was told that because there had been no substantial alteration in basic rates and because a considerable amount of the work was done in the evening, no increase in fees was warranted. This is not the view of those who represent trade unions on industrial boards and, indeed, I do not think it is the view of employers' representatives. They all think that the fee is totally inadequate and that board members are entitled to increased fees. In the early 1930's when the basic wage was £3 3s. a week the fee paid to board members was 7s. 6d. a sitting, and if we take into account the increases in the basic wage from that time until now, when the basic wage is £13 9s. per week, and equate the figures, we would find that the fee should be well over 30s. a sitting.

It is not correct to say that most of the work done by members is performed in the evening. I have been a member of two wages boards for 35 years. I am not personally concerned with the question of increased fees, but I am interested in other members who have to leave their jobs during the afternoon to attend wages board meetings. They have to use their own time to deliberate on these matters in the interests of peace in industry. That is the point I make, and the Minister and anyone else who has had any association with industrial matters will appreciate the value of the work done by members of wages boards. My remarks on that matter apply equally to the chairman and the members on

both sides. They all perform a considerable service to the community by maintaining peace in industry and it is because of this that I ask that the fees be reviewed. I point out, too, that conferences are held between employers and employees on many occasions to deal with certain claims. They do not always relate to claims of employees, because the employers sometimes put forward a claim and ask for a conference to discuss the matter for the purpose of trying to reach agreement. It must be remembered that when an agreement is reached it has been achieved at no cost to the Government and in the employees' and employers' representatives' own time. I admit the employees may be paid by the union for which they work for time lost, but it should be the responsibility of the Government to see that all members are adequately compensated for the services they render. I ask the Premier to consider this matter, and if possible accede to my request.

Some members on the other side of the House, particularly the member for Burnside, referred to some of the principles that we on this side subscribe to in dealing with equality of the sexes. I do not intend to refer to that matter other than to speak on the question of equal pay for equal work. The honourable member for Burnside did not directly refer to that, but I do not think she would be unkindly disposed to a move put forward with that end in view. Many of the principles which are today universally accepted originated from the Labor movement and many of them, after long years of struggle, were recognized and finally became international legislative measures, and in other instances they are embodied in certain international constitutions.

As satisfactory as these achievements may be, there are some who believe that we should now rest on our laurels. We have found from experience that that must not be the case, for we must be constantly alert to safeguard those principles and see that they are carried into effect. I believe that Government departments, and particularly those responsible for the policing of awards and determinations, can play their part. In the past I have been critical—and others have too—of the laxity of the Factories and Steam Boilers Department, which polices awards. As a result of the reorganization of Government departments this work will now be taken over by the Department of Labor and Industry, and I believe that is a good thing because this matter should be the direct responsibility of the

Minister. I hope that as a result of the re-organization more factories inspectors will be appointed so that they can carry out the work which they are now unable to do because there are not enough of them.

The principle of equal pay for equal work was originally a workers' claim and it was based on the profound feeling of the Labor movement for the ideals of security and social justice. It was first propagated from trade union platforms as far back as 1888, and even long before that. It was, however, in 1888 that the British Trade Union Congress carried a resolution, which was adopted unanimously, claiming that equal work should have equal reward. Now every Labor movement throughout Europe advocates that policy and it is universally accepted in principle throughout the world, or at least it is accepted by those nations which have achieved any sort of self government and those which are associated with the United Nations Organization.

Article 23 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights which was adopted on December 10, 1948, reads as follows:—

- (1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work, and to protection against unemployment.
- (2) Everyone without discrimination has the right to equal pay for equal work.

This shows conclusively that the nations of the world recognize the principle. Australia, like the other 80 or more nations, is a part and parcel of United Nations but, with an exception to which I shall refer later, it has made no attempt on a national or State basis to implement this article in the declaration. It was left to the International Labor Organization to put the declaration into precise terms and to take necessary steps to cast it into shape as an act of international jurisdiction. Equal pay for equal work, as it is prescribed in the preamble to the Constitution of the International Labor Organization, has since become the subject of an International Labor Convention. The United Nations preamble states, *inter alia*, that it is the recognition of the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value. In July, 1951, by 105 votes to 33, with 40 abstentions, the International Labor Organization Conference that meets in Geneva once a year adopted at its 34th International Conference a convention known as Convention No. 100, which prescribed equality of remuneration for male and female labour for equal work. It is quite clear that the equality prescribed is in respect of sex as no other distinction is specified.

So far, unfortunately, only a few member States have ratified that convention. According to the terms of the convention it became the duty of every State in the fixation of rates of payment to encourage and, within limits compatible with national custom, to ensure the application of the principle of equal pay in all spheres of work. The convention specified that this principle might be applied by means of (a) national laws or regulations; (b) legally established or recognized machinery for wage determination; (c) collective agreements between employers and employees; or (d) a combination of these various means.

Very few countries have a system of wage fixation similar to the Australian and New Zealand systems. Most European States, Canada and the United States of America have a system of collective agreements. Employers and employees meet in discussion on various matters relating to wages and conditions and reach agreements known as collective agreements, some of which have a certain force of law, whereas others have none. In Canada it is the province of provincial governments and, to some extent, this country can be likened to Australia. I know the attitude adopted throughout the years by Australian Commonwealth Governments towards conventions adopted by the International Labor Organization conferences. At one time I believed the reason for this attitude was the better standard of living and working conditions in this country, because of that the Government did not see the necessity for ratifying the convention despite the rules and constitution of the organization itself.

In 1935, after a convention was carried on the 40-hour week, I wrote to the Commonwealth Government, submitting my report and stating that I trusted it would look at the matter in an entirely different light. I received a reply that the Government's attitude was not due to better standards and working conditions in Australia but rather to the methods we applied regarding Federal and State fixation of wages and conditions. That is true to some extent—the Commonwealth cannot do anything that would interfere with conditions obtaining in any industry where there is a State award or determination governing the terms of employment and where both parties have been parties to that award or determination. The same thing applies to the States. They cannot do anything affecting industries or organizations that come within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Court. Although the Commonwealth is admittedly

limited to providing only for its own employees, it has never gone even so far as to do that, but has side-stepped the issue. If it had ratified the convention, as Parliament must do, and had then applied it to its own employees it would at least have given a lead to the rest of the wage-fixing tribunals throughout the Commonwealth. However, for reasons best known to the Government, it has never done so. In the main, the only conventions it has ratified are those relating to the mining, waterfront and seafaring industries. I believe Australia's record is not a good one in this regard.

We must now consider the position as it affects this country. The object of the Labor Party is to obtain equal pay not for the sexes as such but for equal work. This has been talked about for the best part of a century but it has now become a more definite trend. The Trade Union Movement, which has the backing of the Labor Party, will strive soon to make this matter the subject of legislative action. To the Cahill Government in New South Wales goes the credit for being the first Government in Australia to enact legislation embodying the principle of equal pay for equal work. This legislation was enacted just before an election when the Opposition, supported by an anti-Labor press, predicted the downfall of the Labor Government, but the Cahill Government had the courage to go on with the proposal. True, it has now decided to spread it over a period of years which could be wise from the point of view of the economy of a State, particularly as this will apply only to New South Wales. If the rest of Australia gave effect to similar legislation the New South Wales Government would probably adopt a different line. There are no other Labor Governments in Australia apart from Tasmania and New South Wales, and the Tasmanian Government is not in a very sound position to attempt to get legislation of this kind passed because, even if it got it through the Lower House, where it is not in a very strong position, it would still have to get it through the Legislative Council. The New South Wales Labor Government has taken what we consider to be the best possible step to implement this vital principle.

In Canada two provincial Parliaments have passed legislation providing for equal pay for equal work. These are the Ontario and Saskatchewan Governments, and strangely enough the latter province has a Parliament composed of about two-thirds farmers. They are not narrow in their outlook and are able to

appreciate the need for these reforms. Although the United States of America has not ratified the convention to which I referred, many collective agreements are in force there that provide for equal pay for equal work. In Mexico the Constitution lays down equal pay as does the Constitution in the Federal Republic of Germany, which we know as West Germany. Although these countries have not implemented it yet they still recognize the principle, but we have not gone as far as ratifying the convention. The principle of equal pay for equal work belongs to fundamental social rights and because of that it is our intention as a Labor movement to continue to strive and fight for its implementation in this and every other State of the Commonwealth, thereby giving practical recognition and not lip service to the declarations made by the nations of the world.

Reference has been made to the mechanization of industry, or automation as some call it, by the application of modern technological science. We are becoming more and more perturbed at the effect this is having on the employment of our people. I do not want at this stage to enter into any discussion on immigration. One can refer to that appropriately on other occasions, but we know that each month, each year, Australian industries are becoming more mechanized.

The honourable member for Port Adelaide (Mr. Ryan) referred to the effect of mechanization on the industry with which he has been associated all his life. While it may not be immediately apparent, we know that ultimately, when the present plans for the Port Pirie wharves are implemented, fewer and fewer waterside men will be employed there on work they have previously done. It is true that some skilled men will take their place, but the unskilled men will be displaced more and more as time goes on. I never thought it would be possible to mechanize our own industry to the extent already achieved. We hear that in certain Government departments mechanization is causing no displacement of labour.

I emphasize that, while it may be true at the moment that there is no displacement of labour by actual dismissals of employees, it is provided that, when employees reach the retiring age or leave their employment for some other reason, nobody takes their place. The net result is that fewer men and women are being employed in industry. I have no quarrel with that: it is progress and cannot be

stopped. But the Premier will recall that two years ago I suggested in a debate that the Government should convene a conference of employers' and employees' representatives so that they could get together and try to buffer the impact of the displacement of employees from industry resulting from the introduction of automation. I could not suggest a means at the moment, but I know we have to take notice of it. More industries are being created. Employment has to be found. If it is not found for our people as they become displaced for one reason or another, a gradual lessening in the demand for consumer products will result.

Mr. Heaslip—There is a big shortage of skilled tradesmen.

Mr. FRED WALSH—Yes. In regard to Port Pirie, admittedly more skilled men will be employed, but the unskilled and semi-skilled man will be displaced. Where does he go? It is too late in life for him to start learning a trade, especially these days.

Mr. O'Halloran—In any event, if an unskilled man is displaced in favour of a skilled man, where is the saving?

Mr. FRED WALSH—There is no saving at all. If we are going to consume our consumer products, then we must have a home market, and we cannot have that if a percentage of our people is out of employment. I turn now to America. No other country in the world has applied mechanization and technology to industry more than America has, in 1959 America is enjoying record profits. I read from the *United States News and World Report*:—

The figures suggest that, for the year 1959 as a whole, corporate profits will break all records of the past. The outlook now points to total profits for all corporations of about twenty-four and a half billion dollars. The previous high was twenty-three and a half billion in 1956.

My friend the member for Adelaide (Mr. Lawn), who had so much to say about General Motors-Holden's profits, may be interested to know that General-Motors (which, of course, is the parent firm) in 1959, after deduction of taxes made a profit of 590,000,000 dollars. That is far better than they did in Australia, having regard to the size of their business and their interests there as against what they have in Australia. The previous year the profit was 334,000,000 dollars. I could cite other big companies, but General-Motors stood out.

I am sorry that the honourable member for Rocky River (Mr. Heaslip) has left the

Chamber because I think this would interest him. *The Machinist*, dealing with production in America, states:—

Real income from farming actually has been going down at the same time that agricultural output has been going up. In 1958 total farm production was 29 per cent higher than in 1947, but the net income of farmers—including Government payments—was down 25 per cent. More than a million farms were vacated between 1947 and 1958. A fall-off in farm income, rising output per man hour on the farm that even exceeds the rise in industry, and the hope of many families for better times and security elsewhere led to this development. That shows that, although the net farm income had dropped by 7 per cent, its real purchasing power was reduced by 25 per cent. Yet we find they had an all-time record profit so far as overall industry was concerned, and a record production rise, so far as the farmers were concerned, of up to 29 per cent, while the net income was down 25 per cent. We, therefore, start to appreciate, or try to appreciate, how all this works out. It is brought about by mechanization of the farms. Some members on the other side of the House, who have had considerable experience in farming, surely must know, so far as we in this State are concerned, of the increase in production per man hour on farms compared with the real value of the income of the farms. I do not know whether anybody can interject to say whether that is correct or not, but I think one would generally be prepared to accept that there is an increase in the productivity of the agricultural community as against its income.

Mr. Harding—And the cost.

Mr. FRED WALSH—That is all involved. That lessens their income. Apart from the countries I have mentioned, in most of the more or less undeveloped countries where automation has been established production is still very low. The income of the working people there has always been low, but through one plan or another the time will come when the agricultural production of those countries will increase. My point is that the population of all countries will not be able to purchase all the goods produced, unless some regard is had to balancing income against production.

Only one step can be taken to safeguard us against the inroads of the increased mechanization of industry, and that is the implementation of a shorter working week. This opinion will not be subscribed to by Mr. Heaslip. Never have I heard him say anything in favour of a 40-hour working week. He strenuously opposed it, so when we talk about a 35- or a 37½-hour working week I can

appreciate that he is already starting to worry, and the time will come when he will reply to my remarks on this matter. As I said 20 years ago, the only way to correct the position is to reduce the weekly hours of work so that all people can be employed. I am continually referring to the New South Wales Government, but it is the only Labor Government with any power in the Commonwealth today. It has introduced legislation for a 37½-hour week for employees in Government-owned coal mines, and it will not be long before the appropriate tribunal will grant the same concession to other coal miners in the State. Because of the inroads made on the employable force in the coal mining industry in New South Wales, the object of the legislation is to create more employment. It will not be long before there will be a more acute agitation for a shorter working week, probably 35 hours. I could go on speaking on this matter but perhaps I shall have another opportunity later.

Before long legislation may be introduced in this Chamber or in the Council to amend the Local Government Act in order to give the City Council power over the disposal of a part of the park lands. I raised this matter the other day and the Premier said that he had not been approached, but that an approach had been made to the Minister. I am not worrying about the other parts of the park lands where it is intended to establish playing fields and the like. I am more concerned about the portion of the flat at the Victoria Park Racecourse where the City Council desires to transfer to the Adelaide Racing Club about five acres for enclosing and, it is said, beautifying, and at the same time to make an admission charge. I will not tell the House how long I have been going to races at Victoria Park but I think I know every part of it, and certainly more of it than any member of the City Council, and that is saying something, particularly for one of them. The council has confirmed its intention to go on with the proposal. It is understood that it wants to make a charge of 3s. to the patrons of the flat enclosure of five acres, where there is already a totalizator, a publican's booth, and betting ring. Little space would be left for beautification, and in any case anyone going into such an enclosure would not get a good view of a race. Although I have a gold pass that permits me to enter the grandstand I patronize the flat. I like to be there where I can get a better view of a race than in any enclosure. The City Council wants the club to

charge 3s. for entrance into that portion of the flat, and it already charges 4s. for entrance to the derby stand.

If the Government has the temerity to introduce this legislation I hope that it will not be accepted. We should not lose sight of certain aspects of the alienation of the rights of people in connection with our park lands. We should do all we can to retain the park lands. It is not the province of the City Council to handle the park lands as it thinks fit, because they belong to the people, and not only the ratepayers of Adelaide. I was born and reared in Adelaide, but now few people reside in the city. Most of them are in the suburbs and if there is to be any pleasure from the beautification of the park lands, and there should be, it should also be for people in the suburbs. The pleasure is not necessarily confined to the people in the suburban areas, either; country people also use this area, and, when all is said and done, they are just as interested in its future.

These people are taking something unto themselves that in my view they have no right, moral or otherwise, to take. It is good to see that some councillors oppose the move. Councillor Bonnin said—

On the rare occasions I have visited the racecourse I have noted the flat area has been neglected, and it would be better to enclose and beautify it.

I do not know the exact area the flat enclosure covers. I guess that it is about 40 acres, but some farmers in the House may be better judges of the size of the area. Nothing has been done to the outside area known as the flat for 50 years at least. A few trees were taken down because they hid the view of some of the patrons in the stand, and now only about half a dozen trees remain in the whole of the flat area. The playing areas are not worthy of the name, no attempt having been made to grade or grass them. Several years ago in this Chamber I mentioned the unsatisfactory sanitary arrangements that existed, and subsequently another was established. However, the other one still remains and is virtually a positive disgrace, considering that the Adelaide City Council is also the Central Board of Health. The stalls are also unsatisfactory. I am not blaming the stallholders, as no facilities are provided for them, but the standard of hygiene in some instance in very questionable.

One could go on for quite a long time. However, on this subject I hope that I shall not have the opportunity to do so and that

the Government will reject the proposals put forward by the council, backed by the Adelaide Racing Club, a body that made considerable profits last year, but pays no rates or taxes. Its annual rental is £1,500 but, by contrast, the South Australian Jockey Club—which provides facilities in the flat area at Morphettville and charges only 1s. 9d., I think, for admission—pays £6,000 a year in council rates alone, and about £2,000 annually in land tax. The Port Adelaide Racing Club pays £2,000 a year in council rates and more than £3,000 in land tax for the Cheltenham racecourse. The Adelaide Racing Club is actually seeking a reduction in its rates, and the Adelaide City Council, by way of compromise, has said, “All right, boys, we are not going to reduce your rental, we are going to increase it, but we will give you an opportunity to make some more profits by allowing you to enclose a certain portion of the flat area and charge patrons to enter it.” Charge them for what? For facilities to bet, and I assure honourable members that those facilities to bet are not the best. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply carried.

The SPEAKER—I wish to announce that His Excellency will be pleased to receive members for the presentation of the Address in Reply at 2.10 p.m. tomorrow.

#### STATUTES AMENDMENT (PUBLIC SALARIES) BILL.

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

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

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution:—That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Agent-General Act, 1901-1955, the Audit Act, 1921-1957, the Police Regulation Act, 1952-1955, the Public Service Act, 1936-1958, and the Industrial Code, 1920-1958, and for other purposes.

Motion carried.

Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House.

#### CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Constitution Act, 1934-1955. Read a first time.

#### ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer) obtained leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Electoral Act, 1929-1955.

#### LAND SETTLEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS (Minister of Lands) obtained leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Land Settlement Act, 1944-1958.

#### HONEY MARKETING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Agriculture) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Honey Marketing Act, 1949-1953. Read a first time.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.33 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, August 12, at 2 p.m.