

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, August 25, 1959.

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

PETITION: WINE INDUSTRY.

Mr. STOTT presented a petition signed by two electors of the district of Ridley asking that the House order an inquiry into the wine industry.

Received.

QUESTIONS.**STUART ROYAL COMMISSION.**

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Can the Premier say whether the Government has considered the difficulties encountered by the Royal Commission in the Stuart case and has he any statement to make to the House on the matter?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I think all honourable members have probably seen in the press that Mr. Shand, counsel for Mr. Stuart, abruptly terminated his brief last week and returned to Sydney. Upon that happening the commission adjourned pending consideration of an appointment of additional counsel to represent Mr. Stuart at the tribunal. I was contacted by the Crown Solicitor and informed of the event and I immediately said that the Government would be prepared to pay the costs of a counsel to appear to represent Mr. Stuart at the hearing. I desired that the Law Society should be communicated with so that it would have the position before it and could make the necessary recommendation for an appointment. However, the proceedings have not gone very far because it is not at all clear whether Mr. O'Sullivan and Miss Devaney walked out with Mr. Shand or not. Up until 12 noon today they had not given any firm opinion as to whether they were representing Mr. Stuart or not and, of course, if they are representing him the Law Society obviously could not assign counsel: it would be the duty of Mr. O'Sullivan to nominate counsel. Incidentally, Mr. O'Sullivan has been advised that the Government will pay the cost of counsel in the event of suitable counsel being provided.

Mr. Dunstan—What about his costs before this?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—In the original trial Mr. O'Sullivan was briefed by the Law Society, in accordance with an agreement between the Law Society and the Government for the provision of counsel to indigent persons. I am not in a position to

know the situation more recently, but I know some finances were provided for him from outside sources to go to the Privy Council. I am not quite sure of the sources of the finances that were available for the briefing of Mr. Shand to come from Sydney, but he was certainly not briefed by the Law Society here. Where those funds came from, I do not know. They were not provided by the Government, nor has any application been made to the Government for any finance in connection with this matter. However, I did receive a communication—and I have given some consideration to it—to the effect that providing the Government would be prepared to eliminate the third reference to the Royal Commission there would be no difficulty then in speedily providing counsel for the commission to proceed with its hearing. The Government believes the third reference to the commission is very material. There have been suggestions that information which should have been available at the original trial was not available to that trial, and honourable members will see that if that was the case it would be extremely important that we know the reason why information was not available at the trial, because the whole purpose of a trial is to sift out all of the relevant facts, and the police have been accused of not making available information they had in their possession. Therefore, the Government would be very anxious that the terms of reference be carried out in their entirety.

Mr. Lawn—Who made these representations to the Government?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—That information was conveyed to the Government by the counsel assisting the commission and the suggestion emanated from the Law Society that if the Government would be prepared to drop the third term of reference in the inquiry there would be no difficulty then in counsel's being available for a speedy resumption of the hearing. I promised the House that as far as the Government could possibly find out the facts of the case this matter would be investigated. I think every honourable member would desire that the full facts of this case should be investigated in every possible way, so under those circumstances the Government believes that it would not be advisable to drop the third term of reference. My reply to Mr. Brazel, which I think was conveyed to the Law Society, was that at the outset I told the chairman of the commission that in the event of the commission's finding the terms of reference restricted it in any way—either

that the terms obliged the commissioners to go into matters that were irrelevant or that they were precluded from going into matters necessary for the ascertaining of truth—the Government would immediately consider an alteration of the terms of reference. My reply to the suggestion that the third term of reference should be eliminated was that we would consider this matter only if the Royal Commission considered it inadvisable or unnecessary to consider those matters. That is the position at present. Up to lunch time the counsel assisting the commission was unable to inform me whether Mr. O'Sullivan and Miss Devaney were still, in point of fact, representing Mr. Stuart or not and, of course, until that fact is ascertained it would be impossible for either the Law Society or any other authority to assign some suitable person to watch the interests of Mr. Stuart at the hearing. I do not at this time want to go into matters that are before the commission.

The SPEAKER—That would be out of order.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes, Mr. Speaker; I think it would be most improper at this stage. As Acting Attorney-General I have seen the matters which have still to be considered by the commission. Obviously, the papers have come before me, and some very serious matters have still to be considered by the commission. I believe the terms of reference should not be interfered with in any way. I repeat that if the commissioners feel they are being hampered in any way by the terms of reference, the Government will immediately consider the position. The only objection that has been made to the terms of reference is that matters have been included on which, for some reason or other, it appears inadvisable that evidence should be tendered. I do not want to say anything further than that at this stage, but I assure the House that quite apart from the trial of Mr. Stuart—whether a decision has been properly arrived at or whether the decision was proper—some other important matters are involved in the hearing at present, and I think that under those circumstances the commission should be allowed to investigate those matters and to report publicly on them.

OLD UNLEY HIGH SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

Mr. MILLHOUSE—The new Unley Boys' high school is likely to be completed and ready for occupation in 1960, and everyone is happy about that. Can the Minister of Education say to what use it is proposed to put the present buildings at the present school in Kyre Avenue, Kingswood?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—It is proposed in 1960 to establish a new girls' technical high school, to be known as the Mitcham Girls' technical high school, in the present Unley high school buildings at Kyre Avenue. Those buildings will be gradually adapted for use for this purpose. Some first year classes from the Unley boys' and Unley girls' high schools will require accommodation at Kyre Avenue during 1960. This temporary arrangement will be terminated when the proposed new high school at Blackwood is opened in 1961.

SOUTH-WESTERN DRAINAGE SCHEME.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Can the Chairman of the Public Works Committee say when the report on the south-western districts drainage scheme is likely to be presented to Parliament?

Mr. SHANNON (Chairman, Public Works Standing Committee)—A decision on general principles has been arrived at by the committee, and a plan is being prepared by the Department of Lands for incorporation in the report to be presented to this House when it has been written and approved by the committee. That plan has slightly delayed the preparation of the report, as the original plan was not suitable for reproduction and a new one had to be prepared. My committee felt—I think wisely—that Parliament should see the plan of the proposed method of handling the problem of floodwaters in the western districts. I assure the honourable member that the report will be completed and tabled in ample time for Parliament this session to pass the necessary complementary legislation to start this important work this coming financial year.

ONKAPARINGA VALLEY WATER SCHEME.

Mr. SHANNON—I have received a number of inquiries from residents of the Onkaparinga Valley, where the scheme for supplying water from the Murray River via the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline is now well advanced. Some towns have been connected with water and some have been reticulated. Can the Minister of Works say whether these towns can expect to have the benefit of any water during this coming summer, especially at Mount Barker, where the local council has issued an order for all householders to install septic tanks? A supply of water will be required to service these septic tanks and, because of the shocking season we are now experiencing and the lack of intake into the reservoirs, the residents are concerned as to whether the department can take steps to overcome this pressing problem.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Onkapinga Valley scheme, as the honourable member is aware, is very comprehensive, embracing a number of towns in the hills area. I ask the honourable member to repeat his question tomorrow, and in the meantime I will take steps to ascertain the position regarding the scheme as a whole and Mount Barker in particular.

USE OF KADINA BRICKS.

Mr. HUGHES—Yesterday I received a letter from the owner of the Kadina brick-yards asking whether I would endeavour to see that bricks manufactured at Kadina would be used in the construction of the proposed police buildings at Moonta and Kadina. The bricks manufactured at Kadina have passed all the requirements set by the Housing Trust. Will the Minister of Works take steps to ensure that, in the event of those buildings being of brick construction, every consideration will be given to the use of the locally manufactured bricks?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Whilst the Government desires in all cases that locally manufactured products should be used wherever possible, the matter the honourable member now raises is really in the hands of the contractor who successfully tenders for the work. I think the question is timely, insofar as it gives some publicity to the fact that bricks are manufactured in Kadina and that they are, according to the honourable member, acceptable in quality. All I can say is that when the tenders are called for this work the brickmaker at Kadina, in his own interests, should take steps to bring his product before the people who may be tendering and, as he is on site, he may be able to offer a price advantage to a contractor. I suggest the honourable member inform the brick manufacturer so that he may be on the alert to take advantage of the opportunity.

CHURCHILL ROAD.

Mr. COUMBE—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked last week concerning reconstruction of the Churchill Road at Ovingham and Prospect?

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

It is estimated that plans will be completed and tenders called for the underground drainage required in Churchill Road by the end of October. The road reconstruction will follow as the drainage is completed. The amount of £36,000 (including a moiety from Corporation

of Prospect by way of departmental loan) has been approved for the drainage, and £30,000 for the roadwork during 1959-60.

ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL.

Mr. FRED WALSH—This morning's *Advertiser* reports a statement by the Premier that the Government intends to rebuild the Royal Adelaide Hospital at a cost of £12,000,000. As the only stages of the rebuilding at the hospital inquired into and recommended by the Public Works Committee are the radiotherapy block and the multi-storey wing above that block, to cost about £2,000,000, can the Premier say whether the Government intends to proceed with the £10,000,000 worth of work not yet inquired into by the Public Works Committee by means of a special Act exempting the work from the provisions of the Public Works Standing Committee Act?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I did not read the report mentioned so I am not conversant with its terms, but the Government has accepted a tender for slightly over £1,000,000 for the completion of the radiotherapy block—the only decision made by the Government. Further building work at the hospital would ultimately have to be approved by Parliament after the committee had thoroughly investigated the matter.

HAMLEY BRIDGE RIVER CROSSING.

Mr. HAMBOUR—My question relates to the bridge crossing the River Light on the south side of Hamley Bridge. Most people in the town and district are concerned about its condition and it appears that some work is proposed. Will the Minister of Works get a report from the Minister of Roads as to what is proposed and, if there is a proposition, when it will be put into operation?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will obtain the information for the honourable member.

MONARTO SOUTH RAILWAY COTTAGES.

Mr. BYWATERS—Some time ago the Electricity Trust supplied electric power to Monarto South, where there are several railway cottages. The people in them were told that the houses would be wired soon after power came to the area but so far they have no information as to when the work will be commenced. Many of them have electrical appliances, as they have moved from other areas where power has been supplied, and are anxious to be included in the scheme. Will the Minister of Works take up with the Minister of Railways the question of whether these houses can be wired in the near future?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I shall be pleased to do that.

BERRI-LOXTON CAUSEWAY.

Mr. KING—Has the Minister of Works obtained a reply regarding the raising of the Berri-Loxton causeway?

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

Funds for the raising of the Berri flats between Bookpurnong Hill and the River Murray on the Berri-Loxton main road No. 262, have not been allocated for 1959-60. Preliminary investigations have been made, but no plans have yet been prepared.

PHARMACY TRADING HOURS.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Has the Premier obtained a reply to the question I asked last week regarding all-night chemists, and chemists trading at week-ends, being able to sell non-exempt goods during those hours of trading?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Section 65 of the Early Closing Act empowers a chemist to dispense and sell medicine and to open his shop for that purpose and any person may enter that shop for the purpose of obtaining medicine. (This includes patent medicines). In addition, chemists are permitted to sell at any time any items mentioned in the second schedule to the Act. This schedule includes drugs, medicines, medical and surgical instruments and appliances, including veterinary medicines, implements and appliances, perfumery, antiseptics, tooth, hair and skin brushes, sponges, face powders and puffs, infants' foods, hair oils, hair washes and shaving soaps. However, all-night chemists' shops are not permitted to sell, after the closing time prescribed in the Act for shops, any non-exempt lines such as films, glassware, etc., which are now stocked in many chemists' shops. This position was some time ago explained to proprietors of some chemists' shops which open all night. No complaints have been received concerning—nor have inspectors detected—any after-hours sales of non-exempt goods from these shops.

ST. KILDA ROAD.

Mr. HALL—Has the Minister of Works obtained a reply to the question I asked recently regarding St. Kilda 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 estimated cost to reconstruct and seal the three mile length of the St. Kilda Road is between £40,000 and £50,000. Apart from week-end tourists, the traffic on this road is

not heavy. A request by the District Council of Salisbury for a grant of £5,000 to seal 30 chains was not recommended, as available funds were required for more urgent works. A grant of £200 has been approved to assist council in the maintenance of the existing open surface road which is in good trafficable condition.

GUMMOSIS IN ALMOND TREES.

Mr. TAPPING—By today's mail I received a letter from a constituent of mine in Largs Bay complaining that in many houses adjacent to his property almond trees are affected by gummosis. Fearing that it might spread, he wrote to the Director of Agriculture and the reply, in effect, was that there was no law to compel people to remove diseased trees and that nothing could be done. My constituent asks that, if nothing can be done, will the Minister consider, if necessary, amending the legislation to give some control over the disease?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I shall be glad to get details of the letter and I will give the honourable member a considered reply as soon as possible.

BARLEY SEED.

Mr. BOCKELBERG—In view of the adverse seasonal conditions will the Minister of Agriculture approach the Barley Board to see that sufficient barley is kept in stacks throughout the country so that seed will be available for sowing next season?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—Yes.

FINANCE FOR HOUSING.

Mr. RICHES—The Treasurer has announced that the State Bank is not now in a position to accept further applications for finance for home building. In any case, the State Bank has not assisted in the past, to the extent we would like, those people desirous of building their own homes, because no payment is made until the walls are topped. I am referring to a deserving section of the community—the young men who do some of the work themselves and do their own contracting. Last week I asked the Treasurer if he would approach the Savings Bank to see whether it could make advances available, and he said he would do so, but the press reported that the bank was not in a position to accept applications for three months. Does the Treasurer know of any other source of finance that could be made available for prospective builders, and will he state whether the Government is taking any action to catch up with the known lag?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—When the Government introduced legislation

increasing the amount that could be made available to an individual purchaser I pointed out to the House that if we made the largest and most favourable advance we would automatically get all the business and it might be beyond the capacity of the State's resources to look after the avalanche of applications we could expect, but that we would do our best. Those remarks have proved to be justified by the result, as the State Bank became the avenue for all applications for new housing in this State. The provision of £3,000 on the basis of a 95 per cent advance was so much more advantageous than anything else available that the State Bank got all the applications and it has become physically impossible for the staff to handle all the applications within a reasonable time. Notwithstanding that additional finance was made available the bank felt constrained to advise people to apply to another institution. The Savings Bank has agreed to make £5,800,000 available this year for advances for housing and although it will not be in a position to process an application immediately (I think it is two or three months before it can process an application) there is no reason why an application should not be lodged there immediately and I am certain that it would be dealt with as expeditiously as possible.

I have also had communications with the Commonwealth Bank which I am informed desires to assist also in this State. About £20,000,000 will be made available for housing this year by South Australian governmental and semi-governmental sources. This is by far the largest amount that has ever been made available in the history of the State, and is much larger than was ever contemplated previously, so it is not for the want of trying to assist but because our terms are so much better than those of other authorities that we are now getting all the applications.

Mr. RICHES—Would the Savings Bank or the Commonwealth Bank be willing to advance money to people building their own homes or would those banks insist on the work being let by contract?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The honourable member asked this question, I think last week, and I promised to refer it to the Board of Management of the Savings Bank. I have not yet received a reply. I think the board meets on Monday, and I will probably receive the reply tomorrow. I will let the honourable member have that information as soon as possible.

ALLENDALE SCHOOL FENCES.

Mr. CORCORAN—I have received a letter from the secretary of the Allendale area school committee which states:—

I am enclosing a letter we sent to the Education Department from the Allendale school committee three weeks ago, and wish you to follow this up. We have for the past few months been trying to get this work done. We would be grateful if you could get some action.

The enclosed copy of a letter to the Director of Education states:—

This committee is becoming worried that nothing whatsoever yet has been done to repair the damage caused by the fire on January 17 last. We are particularly concerned with the fencing as we have replanted hundreds of trees but sheep from the adjoining paddocks have got in and completely ruined some of our work by pulling them up. In addition no repairs have yet been done to the fencing at the old Allendale residence and the adjoining landholder cannot use his paddock, as the paling fence, wood and storage shed, etc., at the headmaster's residence have not yet been replaced.

There are men available for these jobs and reasonable prices have been supplied to the Architect-in-Chief inspector months ago, but he has done nothing. The committee could have the work done in a few weeks if it had the authority. If possible, could we supply you with prices and, if approved, have the work done ourselves without delay? Please give this matter immediate attention.

Does the Minister of Education know anything about this matter and, if not, will he have it examined in order to expedite action?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The letter was obviously addressed to the Director of Education and, doubtless, he has been attending to it. It has not reached my table but I shall be pleased, now that the honourable member has addressed the question to me, to give it my personal attention and let him know as soon as possible what can be done to assist this desirable school and the enthusiastic school committee.

REDUCED DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURE.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Over the week-end I heard rumours from various quarters that the Treasurer had instructed certain departments to prune their estimates of expenditure to be included in the coming Budget. Will the Treasurer state whether departmental expenditure is to be reduced, whether the reduction is to be substantial and whether, as a result of such reduction, there will be any possibility of unemployment?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Leader's hearing has been extremely accurate

because what he has heard is quite true: I did instruct several departments that I desired them to prune their estimates. That, however, is not unusual: in fact, I believe that it might be almost assumed that some departments prepare for the pruning and put a few speculative amounts on the Estimates with the object of having a little leeway to meet circumstances that may arise. In respect of the last part of the question, any alteration of departmental figures should not in any way involve unemployment.

UPPER MURRAY POLICE STATIONS.

Mr. KING—I understand the Minister of Works has a reply to a question I asked recently concerning the Renmark and Barmera police stations and courthouses?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Yes. Tenders were called in 1958 for alterations and additions to the Renmark police station and courthouse but following representations from the Renmark Corporation, Cabinet directed that new plans were to be prepared. The present position is that working drawings are nearly completed. When completed, a specification will be prepared and tenders will be called. It is anticipated that a contract will be let early in the new year.

In respect of the Barmera police station and courthouse sketch plans have been completed for the new buildings and working drawings will be commenced shortly. It is anticipated that a contract will be let early in the new year.

WEST TERRACE AND ANZAC HIGHWAY INTERSECTION.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked recently about the West Terrace and Anzac Highway intersection?

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

A copy of the Conference of State Road Authorities of Australia publication, *Roads in Australia*, has been sent to the Adelaide City Council. The present intersection treatment may have been influenced by the trams, and now that these are no longer operating the council may have considered some alteration to the existing arrangement.

TRAFFIC ISLANDS.

Mr. SHANNON—Has the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Roads, a reply to my recent question concerning the standardization of traffic islands?

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

Section 358 of the Local Government Act states, *inter alia*: "The Commissioner shall not approve of any traffic island or roundabout unless satisfied that it is necessary for the proper regulation of traffic and that it will be constructed so that as far as is reasonably possible it will not damage vehicles driven on to or against it."

The kerbing on these islands was formed by a concrete extruding machine, manufactured and purchased solely for this purpose. The kerbing has a sloping face, and should not cause damage to vehicles travelling at a speed which is reasonable for traffic passing through an important road junction. In locations such as this, if the islands are too low they are not clearly visible, particularly at night. Investigations are still proceeding into the visibility of islands having kerbing with less height and greater slope, with the object of standardization.

INCREASED POSTAGE RATES.

Mr. LAUCKE—The matter to which I refer does not come within the jurisdiction of this House, but it has a direct impact on services that are of real value to country community life. I refer to the provincial press and religious and social publications, which literature cannot be delivered as in the city, but must be posted. In last Thursday's *Angaston Leader* the following article appears:—

The Federal Budget lifts general postage by 25 per cent, but country newspapers are expected to accept an increase of around 500 per cent. Bulk postage on registered country journals has been 2½d. for eight ounces. From October 1, 2d. per copy must be paid for the *Leader* which averages around 1½oz. for a 12-page issue.

Our subscription rate has been held at 10s. a year despite increased postage, wage and paper cost—but the latest blow means that the P.M.G. gets 8s. 4d. of each year's subscription of 10s., leaving us 1s. 8d. to meet production costs. Residents in country towns can be served through news agencies, but the outback settler will be asked to shoulder another handicap unless the Government can be induced to modify considerably this unfair increase.

Will the Premier seek a further review of postage rates with a view to having the rates applicable to bulk postage brought back to the increase which applies to normal letter postage? I understand that the bulk postage rate has been reviewed and reduced from 500 per cent to 200 per cent, but that still imposes a condition deleterious to the delivery of country papers and religious and social publications.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The honourable member prefaced his question by

stating that this was not a matter that came under the control of this Parliament. I will take up his question and place it before the Federal Treasurer for consideration.

AMBULANCE DELAYS.

Mr. BYWATERS—Yesterday I was approached by a Murray Bridge doctor who complained that the Murray Bridge ambulance had been held up for two hours at the Royal Adelaide Hospital awaiting the return of a stretcher. It takes $3\frac{1}{2}$ to four hours for an ambulance to go to Adelaide and return to Murray Bridge, and if it has to wait an additional two hours the town is without a service for a long time. Will the Premier ascertain from the Minister of Health whether the Hospitals Department will co-operate more with ambulance drivers to ensure that stretchers are returned more promptly?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes. I will get a report on this specific incident, but in fairness to the Hospitals Department two or three other complaints I have received have proved to arise from factors outside the hospital's control. Some country ambulances do not have standard stretchers and, as in some cases it is not advisable to move a patient until he has had treatment, that stretcher cannot be returned immediately. Where a standard stretcher is provided with the country ambulance a standard stretcher can be returned to the ambulance as a replacement. I will advise the honourable member the reason for the delay and will ascertain if it is necessary to take action in respect of it.

HACKNEY BRIDGE WIDENING.

Mr. CUMBE—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked last week about the widening of the bridge at Hackney?

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 existing bridge has a 24ft. width roadway, and two 5ft. footpaths, and is in good condition structurally, but requires repainting in the near future. There are no immediate plans for widening, as many other bridges in the metropolitan area are in more urgent need of attention. It is anticipated that it will be necessary to widen the bridge to four lanes at least in the foreseeable future. No traffic count has been taken in the vicinity.

PORT PIRIE BOOSTER MAINS.

Mr. McKEE—Can the Minister of Works say when work is likely to be commenced on the new booster mains for the Engineering and Water Supply Department at Port Pirie?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—As the honourable member knows, that scheme was recommended by the Public Works Committee and approved by Cabinet some months ago. I will inquire of the Engineer-in-Chief as to what stage that project has reached.

POLICE TRAINING COLLEGE.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (on notice)—Is it the intention of the Government to suspend training at the Police Training College for a limited period, or is it to be closed to further training altogether?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—No.

HIRE-PURCHASE.

Mr. DUNNAGE (on notice)—Is it the intention of the Government in any proposed legislation on hire-purchase to make it compulsory for both husband and wife to sign the agreement before it becomes legal?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—No.

LOAN ESTIMATES.

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from August 20. Page 543.)

Highways and Local Government, £250,000.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Last session the Government indicated that it would construct a new bridge over the Sturt Creek to permit the Marion Road to proceed directly north and south, and also that it would widen the bridge over the Sturt Creek on Adelaide Road because of the large volume of traffic now using that bridge due to the drive-in theatre and the consequent congestion in the area. Can the Treasurer say when those projects will be proceeded with?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—The only information I have is upon the expenditure of the £250,000 provided in these Estimates, on which I have already given a full report. Funds for projects such as those mentioned by the honourable member would normally be provided from the Highways Fund, which is not now under discussion. Those amounts would be provided for in the Revenue Estimates. Where a very large project places an undue strain upon the Highways Fund, the Government occasionally makes Loan funds available.

Speaking from memory, the £250,000 is primarily involved in connection with a major bridge over the River Murray.

Line passed.

Lands, £128,000.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—At a returned servicemen's conference held recently the Treasurer pointed out that the Commonwealth Government had withdrawn from the scheme to settle ex-servicemen on the land and said that the State would do its best to see that qualified ex-servicemen who had missed out under the Commonwealth scheme would be provided with land. He further stated that the Minister of Lands was contacting local authorities to see if there were areas worth investigating for this purpose. Such an undertaking should be financed from Loan funds, but on looking at the Loan Estimates under the Department of Lands I find that the sum of £1,000 is provided for land re-purchase for closer settlement, and that amount will not go far, under prevailing conditions and at existing values, in settling anybody on the land.

The next item that might be associated with such a project is "Crown Lands Development Act, £100,000." Another line is "Settlement of Discharged Soldiers on the Land, 1914-1918 war." I do not know whether that could be mentioned in this connection, but in any event only £2,000 is provided for that purpose. The total of these amounts is £103,000. Can the Treasurer say if that is all the Government contemplates spending during the current financial year, or if other funds are available that would enable worthwhile properties to be purchased, supposing some of those properties were made available by local councils?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Before the Government can provide money for a project costing over £100,000 a report in respect of that project must be submitted by either the Public Works Standing Committee or the Land Settlement Committee, and in due course I must submit certificates to the House that that has been done before the Loan Bill comes in. The £100,000 placed on the Estimates is the largest amount the Government could place on the Estimates until a specific project has been provided and the Land Settlement Committee has reported upon it. In answer to the second part of the question, under the Public Purposes Loan Act, provided Parliament has approved of a purchase, the Government may transfer from another Loan item some additional Loan money to complete that purchase if it is otherwise legally pro-

vided. The £100,000 provided is the gross amount that could be provided this year until we obtained some information from councils and until there were definite projects to be approved by the Land Settlement Committee. That is the maximum amount to be provided. Some projects are always held up because of lack of money. These Loan Estimates provide money on an ample scale and if a recommendation for a project were to come from the committee I think it would be possible to provide the necessary money.

Line passed.

Irrigation and Drainage, £801,000—passed.

Woods and Forests, £1,150,000.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—In connection with sawmills, provision is made for expenditure on various items, and then there is a reference to "Other, £96,000." Can the Treasurer explain the item?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I assume that it covers a number of small miscellaneous items. A large department of this description must provide for many small items and I think this amount can be regarded as covering contingencies.

Line passed.

Railways, £2,750,000.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Last year I asked the Treasurer some questions about the conduct of railway refreshment rooms. I believe that during this year conferences have been held on the matter. Can the Treasurer supply the latest information?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—We are discussing Loan Estimates, which cover expenditure of money on capital works, so they do not cover the matter raised by the honourable member. It should be brought forward when the Revenue Estimates are discussed.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—The sum of £855,000 is to be spent on providing 42 suburban diesel rail cars, including spares. Is there any hope of passengers on the Brighton rail service getting relief by the provision of diesel rail cars instead of their having to use the present carriages? Will the cars be used to speed up the service and provide a more comfortable journey?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will get a report from the Railways Commissioner on that matter.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—The sum of £609,000 is to be spent on providing ballasting, relaying,

buildings, drainage, etc. Portions of the line between Cockburn and Port Pirie are in bad condition and for some time relaying has been urgently needed. Derailments have occurred and occasionally they still take place, due, it is said, to the bad condition of the track. I can understand the Railways Commissioner's lack of desire to spend money on this line in view of its possible conversion to a standard gauge, but that conversion appears to be some distance away and it is necessary to have a good line to carry the Broken Hill ore to Port Pirie. If some of this money is not to be spent on relaying those sections of the Broken Hill-Port Pirie line, will the matter be considered? The sum of £80,000 is to be spent on new residences. Where will they be built? An amount of £12,000 is to be spent on improvements to narrow gauge ore waggons. Is this work to be done at the Peterborough workshops, where an efficient staff is available and where this type of work could be done?

The sum of £12,000 is to be spent on the conversion of eight rail cars to diesel operation. They will be used probably on the Peterborough or Eyre Peninsula narrow gauge divisions. I have previously advocated the provision of air-conditioned narrow gauge railcars in order to provide more comfortable travel for passengers and to enable a daylight service to be started between Adelaide and Broken Hill. Air conditioned cars are available on the broad gauge from Adelaide to Terowie and if such cars were available on the rest of the journey to Broken Hill we would be better able to meet the competition from road transport. I ask that consideration be given to this matter.

The sum of £136,000 is to be provided for plant and machinery, including motor vehicles. Is this to be spent on various workshops in the narrow gauge areas? If the latest machines could be provided in them it would obviate sending much repair work to Islington. We should do all possible to encourage the decentralization of the work. All railway repair jobs needed in an area should be done in that area, even if it means providing additional funds. The matter of cost may be raised but I have been assured by heads of workshops that with improved machinery most of the work sent to Islington could be done more cheaply locally. When an engine is sent to Islington for overhaul it is out of action for a lengthy period, whereas if the work were done at the Peterborough workshops it would be in service much more quickly. Can we expect a

greater mechanization of these workshops to ensure the utmost work being done in them?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The matter of relaying sections of the Broken Hill-Port Pirie line is of importance to the State. For some years we have deferred any substantial work on that line as we have been awaiting its conversion by the Commonwealth Government to the standard gauge. Any expenditure on that line, if it were to be scrapped later, would be wasteful expenditure, but we can no longer delay expenditure on repair work if it is to be used satisfactorily. I cannot give today the information the honourable member desires, but I will get a report for him. The money is to be spent on many small jobs.

It has been the Government's policy in recent years to make funds available to departments to enable them to provide suitable housing for employees. I will ascertain how many houses are to be built at Peterborough from the £80,000 provided. I think the Leader's assessment regarding the other three items is probably correct. Peterborough is the workshop that normally undertakes 3 feet 6 inch gauge work, so if the money is to be spent on work relating to this gauge it will be carried out there. The amount of £12,000 is purely for altering three railcars to diesel operation. I do not think that air-conditioning is involved. It may be that they are already air-conditioned. However, I will ask the Railways Commissioner to consider this matter.

Mr. BYWATERS—I take it that the 11 diesel mechanical railcars for which £31,000 is provided will be used in the country to give a better service, particularly on the Murray Bridge-Tailm Bend line. When the Bluebird is not running the cold draughty carriages in use are not very comfortable. In recent months there has been a reduction of 25 per cent in the work force at the Tailm Bend workshops. As facilities are there for carrying out repairs, could not work be sent out from Islington and Mile End to avoid having empty cottages in this town? I have suggested in this House that a public relations officer be made available to the Railways Department to provide better liaison between the travelling public and the department and between senior officers and employees. The Australian Railways Union agrees that such an appointment would bring about a better means of obtaining co-operation. A public relations officer in Victoria has produced much co-operation in the department and has been successful in advertising the railways there.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The £31,000 is for the eleventh railcar, which will be used for country services. At present ten operate, and the additional car will operate this year. I do not know the change of policy that would alter the labour force at Tailm Bend, but I will obtain a report on whether there has been some alteration, the reason for it, whether it is likely to be permanent, and whether it will be rectified. The honourable member's third point will be submitted to the Commissioner.

Mr. TAPPING—The amount of £855,000 is provided for 42 suburban diesel railcars, including spares. I do not object to this large amount, but can the Treasurer say whether the Railways Department is making satisfactory progress and whether there has been any increase in patronage in the last two years?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—In my opinion the Railways Department has made a very great improvement in the last few years and I pay a tribute to the Commissioner, his officers and all associated with the department on the much better result that has been obtained since better equipment has been made available. The railways in this State have not the protection that many other States have provided. Although the Transport Control Board controls certain carriers' activities, there is no control over ancillary vehicles and in some instances the railways are competing with persons who may be operating on a reduced registration fee. The use of diesels has been a great assistance to the department and has effectively checked the drift in its finances, although the use of these vehicles cannot completely overcome the fact that in some instances the department is competing on an unfair basis with its competitors. In some instances road transport has vital advantages over the railways but, for shifting heavy loads over long distances, the railways are still paramount. Without the economies effected, however, they would be in a very bad way.

Line passed.

Harbors Board, £1,200,000.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—An amount of £120,000 is provided for an oil berth at Kirton Point. For many years I have heard complaints that oil companies charge a higher rate for petrol on Eyre Peninsula than on the mainland. If this has not been overcome, can the Treasurer give an assurance that the expenditure of £120,000 will mean that consumers on Eyre Peninsula will get petrol at the same rate as applies when it is imported through Port Ade-

laide? This is a considerable item which will benefit the oil companies, so if a concession has not already been granted to consumers, it should be granted now.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The price of standard grade petrol is controlled by the Prices Commissioner, who takes into account expenditure involved in providing the service. One problem considered was that only certain companies had installations at Port Lincoln and it would have been too costly for every company to have installations there. This meant that some companies were shipping out of Port Adelaide to ports on the peninsula. This gave such a wide variation of cost that it was difficult for the Prices Commissioner to arrive at a basis he could apply satisfactorily. There is another side to this question. World-wide practice demands that oil berths be isolated from general cargo berths. That would have caused problems at Port Adelaide, but the proposed refinery has now cleared them up. Oil companies have reduced the prices voluntarily: some time ago they brought down the price by 1d. a gallon. I believe another company is putting in installations on Eyre Peninsula which will mean there will be two companies with bulk installations there. I think all these things together would help to bring down the cost of petrol in this important centre.

Mr. RYAN—For roll-on, roll-off accommodation at Kingscote and Port Lincoln, £75,000 and £20,000 respectively are provided. The only amount relating to Port Adelaide wharves is £162,000 for the reconstruction of the North Parade wharf. As it has been disclosed in the press in the last few days that the work at Kingscote and Port Lincoln will be commenced in the next week or so, will the Treasurer indicate whether any provision has been made for roll-on, roll-off wharf construction at Port Adelaide?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I assure the honourable member that provision is made in the Estimates for work at these three places.

Mr. Ryan—But not in the £162,000?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I am not sure of the line, but provision has been made.

Line passed.

Engineering and Water Supply, £8,150,000.

Mr. CORCORAN—Is any provision made for the water supply agreed upon for Millicent?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I am not sure whether the Public Works Committee

has furnished a report on the Millicent water supply, but I will make inquiries for the honourable member.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—An amount of £1,200,000 is provided for the enlargement of the Warren trunk main. I understood that it was estimated this work would be completed as far as Tarlee by the end of this financial year. Can the Treasurer say whether the proposed expenditure represents the full cost of the enlargement as far as Paskeville or only as far as Tarlee?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—It is not the full cost of the main because work has already been done and paid for on it. As far as I can ascertain, this year's expenditure will take the main as far as Tarlee.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Can the Treasurer say whether, in allocating this Loan money, consideration was given to the amount that would be returned to the department? What is the department's demand by way of return? Will this allocation aggravate the department's present inability to meet its commitments, or will it measure up to the required standard?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The State provides water services at much below cost. The Government has endeavoured to extend the services as far as can be economically justified. It is not possible to take water everywhere because some schemes would be too costly in view of the estimated additional production. Economists state in general terms, that, if the direct revenue and increased production total 20 per cent of the total expenditure, a scheme can be justified. That is not a high standard. This year's expenditure will increase our Loan indebtedness and the interest will not be met from the direct revenue. It will greatly increase our productivity so the State will benefit.

Mr. JENKINS—An amount of £1,000 is provided for Milang. Can the Treasurer say whether that is to augment the township supply or is it for other work?

Mr. O'HALLORAN—The sum of £5,000 is provided to augment the Marree water supply. I understand it is to improve the casing and pump facilities at Abdul Bore in order to supplement the existing supply from the Commonwealth Railway dam which is proving inadequate to meet the town's needs. Marree is becoming an important centre in the far north and its population has increased. I do not expect the Treasurer to be able to supply full details of this item now, but I impress on him and the department the urgent necessity

of having this work completed before the summer, particularly as last year there was an alarming water shortage.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will certainly ascertain whether this work can receive urgent attention. In respect of the member for Stirling's query about the Milang scheme, the total cost will be £15,000, but a small amount has been provided this year for the commencement of the work.

Mr. HALL—The sum of £100,000 is provided for the cement lining of pipes throughout the State. Can the Treasurer say whether all cement lining costs are met from Loan revenue and whether this amount represents the complete cost of cement lining in this year's programme?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—At present steel pipes are lined before they are put into service, but where steel pipes are being replaced by larger pipes they are reconditioned and cement-lined either *in situ* or before use.

Mr. Hall—I am referring to the cement lining of pipes *in situ*.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—That is charged against the Loan account.

Mr. BYWATERS—An amount of £6,000 has been allocated for work at Murray Bridge, including £1,000 to commence work on a chlorinating station, and I am pleased to note that this work is to commence. I understand its total cost will be £11,000. An amount of £1,000 is provided to investigate a project to supply country lands in the hundreds of Burdett, Ettrick and Seymour. This scheme was submitted to the Public Works Committee, which reported favourably thereon. The House accepted the report, but for some reason or other it was set aside, no doubt because of the investigation of a scheme to extend from Taillem Bend to Keith. I could never understand why the latter scheme was even considered, particularly as the area reported on is within two miles of the River Murray, near Murray Bridge. The Public Works Committee was impressed with the production potential of the area and that was a favourable consideration. Residents agreed to pay a higher rate to get the supply. I am puzzled to know why £1,000 is to be provided for an investigation of a scheme that was favourably recommended over two years ago. Will the Treasurer clarify that? Another matter, not referred to in these lines, is a water supply for the Callington area. The member for Light said it was difficult for some areas to get water because of the rating. Because

of its high mineral and sulphur content, the water at Callington is practically useless. Therefore, the people have to cart water during the summer months, which is difficult for them. Although I have put up five different schemes to the Minister by deputation and commission, so far nothing has been approved of as being financially possible. Then I asked the department to put up a scheme for us to look at if ours were rejected. The reply was that that was not possible, which was both disappointing and frustrating for the people of that area. As their stock cannot drink the present water, they must have good water there. I agree with the honourable member for Light (Mr. Hambour) that it is difficult to comply with the financial requirements, but, if the people could be given sympathetic consideration and some idea of what would be required of them in rating, they would be pleased. We have just about reached the end of our tether, for on each occasion we have been knocked back. I support the honourable member for Light in this matter.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—When the Public Works Standing Committee reports favourably upon a project, it does not mean that that project has been completely surveyed and the necessary specifications and plans prepared for it. The committee has before it the major items involved but the detailed plans and specifications have not been completed when the committee makes its report. Therefore, the explanation of the £1,000 is not difficult: it is probably for preliminary work for the commencement of the scheme, although I have no definite information on that. I will check that for the honourable member. Well over 90 per cent of the people in this State have had water supplied by the Government, which has been made a charge upon the Revenue Estimates both in the past and in the future too. Future estimates will show also that the supply of water to the community as a whole is a service that is being paid for not by the people who are getting it but by the community as a whole. For instance, to a property whose full value was £5,000 it might cost the State £30,000 to supply water. That is completely out of the range of practical politics. The Public Works Standing Committee's standards are sympathetic. The Government has never raised a specific line upon which it should report. The committee has used its discretion and considered the general picture rather than the question of a direct return; but it is impracticable to provide

water to a property when it will cost five or six times the total value of the property and when, incidentally, in many instances the value of the property will not be very much improved by the water.

Mr. Bywaters—What about the small township areas?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The honourable Leader today raised a question of water for Marree, where we are already supplying water. That of itself indicates the extremes to which the Government has gone in trying to provide water to various settlements. I have noted the honourable member's remarks about Callington and will have them investigated. It depends on what is involved there. In some instances it is not that no water is available but a request is made because the main water is much softer than the local water.

Mr. Bywaters—It is 1,400 degrees softer in that case.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I am not referring to Callington now because I am not conversant with the facts, but in many places Murray water is requested because it is so much softer than the local underground supplies. The Government is prepared to submit to the Public Works Standing Committee projects capable of measuring up to a reasonable standard. Before I start on my Revenue Estimates this year I know we shall be losing £1,500,000 on water supply, but we have taken the view that, where production will justify it, we will expand the water supply. I think that is an intelligent approach to the problem.

Mr. LAUCKE—Do "services and minor works" under "Adelaide Water District" include a recommendation for fluorination of the water supply in the interests of dental health?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—No, fluorination is not provided for in that supply. Up to the present we have had no clear recommendation in that respect.

Mr. LOVEDAY—Regarding the item "Morgan-Whyalla water main, £30,000" and an amount of £25,000 being provided this year for additional pumps to increase the capacity of the main to meet rising demand, will the Treasurer comment upon a situation that has arisen as a result of placing Whyalla under a rating system as opposed to the system of paying for water as it is consumed? A widow who appealed against the water rating was assessed at £80, which means that her rate will be £10 16s. (13½ per cent). Two officers from the Engineering and Water Supply

Department approached her regarding an appeal and suggested that, although she previously had used only 30,000 gallons a year, if she could get her friends to put in a lawn she could use the other 66,000 gallons of rebate water in that way. The placing of Whyalla under the water rating scheme will mean that more water will be used than necessary. This needs looking at. Many people are opposed to being put under a water rating scheme because they think it will entail unnecessary cost. Many business houses will not use the water, nor will many residents. It should be considered whether we should go back to the old method of paying for water by consumption. As regards the £1,000 provided to complete the installation of chlorinating plant at Morgan to purify the water, will that plant operate this year and will its effect be felt right to the end of the line?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The first point is not peculiar to Whyalla. Whether we shall charge for water purely by consumption or by rating with a rebate has been considered in other places with the same sort of problems as Whyalla has. The department must have an assured income. In many places, if it did not, it would be at the mercy of the weather as far as its revenue was concerned. The interest charges for the installation of the plant go on, of course, perpetually.

Mr. Loveday—When the witnesses from the Engineering and Water Supply Department gave evidence to the committee, they said there would not be an increase in water charges to Whyalla.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—That was, I think, borne out by the subsequent event that, when water charges in the rest of the State were increased the other day, Whyalla was not included because it was paying slightly above the standard charge. I will look at the question whether there is likely to be any extensive additional use of water. At present, Whyalla has used all the water provided under the agreement. There was no water that could have been used by Whyalla that was not used.

I assume that the effects of the chlorinating plant will be felt throughout the system as soon as it is in operation. If the water is not side-tracked into tanks, if it has a straight run through to Whyalla, water pumped at Morgan tonight will reach Whyalla in 11 days' time. There would be some replacement in tanks, but I would assume that the present consumption on the line is so heavy that the water would be reticulated fairly quickly, and as soon as the chlorinating plant operated we

would start to obtain some tangible results from it, right to the end of the line. Possibly within three weeks of the time it started to operate there would be a noticeable difference.

Mr. CLARK—Under "Country Sewers," £21,000 is provided for preliminary investigations. Can the Premier say whether Gawler is one of the towns being investigated?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I believe that is so.

Mr. KING—Can the Treasurer say whether any of the river towns are included in that figure of £21,000 for preliminary investigations? I understand that a certain order of priority has been drawn up. The sewerage problem in the Upper Murray towns is being accentuated because of the great expansion taking place, and it has been particularly accentuated in the low-lying areas. Although some towns have chlorinating plants, that does not help those who draw their water from channels that are not chlorinated, in such places as Winkie, Monash and Glossop. Other wastes must necessarily go into the river, and although the river clears itself in a certain distance there must obviously be some effect upon the water supplied to other areas which are increasingly dependent on the Murray for supplies. Can the Treasurer say whether Renmark, Barmera and Berri are included in that £21,000, and if they are not, whether he will investigate their priorities in view of the greater demand for sewerage which exists today?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I think the country towns that first applied for sewerage were Victor Harbour and Renmark. I have not before me the detail the honourable member desires. Since the first proposals were considered, some towns that were previously keen dropped out when the proposed charges were announced, and asked that their requests be deferred. A medical committee is at present looking at the matter purely from the health point of view. I will submit the honourable member's suggestion to that committee and obtain a report for him as soon as possible.

Mr. HAMBOUR—I appreciate that Loan moneys are spent in relation to production. I am quite aware that development is important to the State, but the Government, I think through the Treasurer's instance, has treated this question of water as an amenity. Can the Treasurer say what return the Government expects on water reticulation where it is an amenity? He must relate that also to

the farmlands that water passes through, and also to the fact that the extent of production on those farmlands depends entirely on the quantity of water available. Farmers can extend their production if they have the water. I can instance four communities in my electorate that have no water, and if they were to be rated in excess of the sum provided under the Act the cost would be prohibitive. In the last scheme I had costed the required return was 5½ per cent. Is that in line with Government policy? The Minister of Works' predecessor stated that the Government was prepared to put in schemes provided they returned 2½ per cent, and I would like some enlightenment on that point.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I am prepared to recommend to Cabinet the provision of any water scheme in the honourable member's district which will pay its full working costs plus four per cent upon the capital that is invested in it.

Mr. Hambour—A 1½ per cent discount?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—That is equivalent to almost two per cent being borne by the State as a whole. Honourable members know that our finance now costs us 5½ per cent, and with sinking fund and other costs the interest charges run to almost six per cent. If projects will return the full working costs plus four per cent I am willing to recommend them for speedy consideration by Cabinet.

Mr. FRED WALSH—The sum of £400,000 is provided for the Glenelg treatment works. Can the Treasurer say whether that amount will enable the completion of the extension of the treatment plant as outlined 2½ years ago, and whether that completion will mean the entire elimination of the sludge beds that have caused some concern in the area? When the plans were being considered certain councils along the beach, particularly the Henley and Grange and Port Adelaide Corporations, considered that taking heavier effluent out to the deep water area would ultimately mean the contamination of the beaches, but at that time the experts believed that it would not affect the beaches. Is a constant check kept on the effluent to safeguard the beaches against any possible contamination, and will the completion of the work mean the total elimination of the sludge beds, which are an eyesore? How long they can be kept from the gaze of the public, with the development that is taking place there, and with the West Beach Reserve on two sides and the beach on another side, is a question for

conjecture. Will the amount listed enable the completion of the expansion programme of the Glenelg treatment works?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—No. The money provided this year will mean that the work will be 90 per cent complete by the end of the year. I will obtain a report from the Engineer-in-Chief on the technical details mentioned by the honourable member, although, as far as I know, no difficulty has been experienced in the trials that have been carried out.

Mr. HARDING—Under country water districts, £4,000 is provided for Naracoorte, and under country sewers, £212,000 is provided for that town. I understand that the £4,000 is to deepen No. 4 bore at Naracoorte and to equip that bore. Naracoorte has an endless supply of underground water that it can rely on, but the storage capacity is the same as it was 25 years ago, and if the bores failed the town could be in a hopeless position, particularly with the sewerage scheme now beginning to function. The population has increased by 200 per cent and the consumption of water even more, and there will be a further increase for sewerage purposes. Does the Treasurer consider that the expenditure of £4,000, to deepen the bore which is sanded up, is sufficient to supply water during the coming summer?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The £4,000 is to complete the job, the total cost of which, I think, is £7,000. As far as I am advised, it will be satisfactory, but I will check and let the honourable member know. I believe that the supply of water is very good and that it will be satisfactory.

Mr. QUIRKE—Under country sewers, four items are listed, including two big amounts for Naracoorte and Port Lincoln. Is it expected that those amounts of money will complete those schemes, and if so, is it the intention of the Government to proceed this coming year with some of the other sewerage schemes that have been recommended?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—It is not expected that those sums will complete those works. Some supplementary work, and in fact some major work in some instances, will still be required. The Government will be continuing the programme, and I hope materially expanding it.

Line passed.

Architect-in-Chief, £6,750,000.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Certain amounts are provided for hospital buildings, including the Royal Adelaide Hospital. In view of the

announcement by the Government that a tender has been accepted—

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford—A price has been accepted.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I am wondering what system will be adopted. Not one contractor in South Australia could complete work of this nature without using subcontractors. Does the contractor have to arrange for the subcontracting or does the Government come into it? On a big job it could be that some individual subcontracting prices could exceed £50,000. I am thinking about subcontracting for flooring work, terrazzo work, etc. Is a check made by the Government of the subcontract prices? I do not want to see happenings at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital repeated. If a contractor uses subcontractors, will the Government investigate the subcontract prices?

I am looking for improvements in Government contract work. Has the Government altered its policy on Government contracts, especially in regard to school buildings? In order to get work done more quickly does the Government select contractors for tendering purposes? If that is the system, is it not increasing the cost of the work or are there sufficient safeguards in the matter? Last week I spoke about the hold-up in the final inspection of the Findon high school to be made by the Architect-in-Chief's Department, and referred to delays in providing extras at the Salisbury and Findon high schools. Why was it necessary to provide a portion of the Norwood boys' technical school with a copper roof instead of the type of roof mentioned in the original specification? Can the Treasurer give me an explanation on these matters?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—There has been no alteration in Government policy on contract work. When a job is to be done plans and specifications are drawn, the department prepares estimates of costs, and tenders are called. Subcontracting has always been the responsibility of the contractor and subcontract prices are not considered by the Government. For some time contract prices have been considerably below departmental estimates.

Mr. Quirke—Have they worked out all right?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes, in the main, but one or two contractors did not have sufficient capital to finance the big work for which they had contracted. Now we are examining more closely whether a contractor has sufficient financial backing in order to complete the work. That may satisfy Mr. Walsh. It is difficult in these days to get

complete plans prepared at the one time for a large building and consequently, when a contractor gets the contract for additional work on the building, his original contract is extended on a quantity survey basis; otherwise, the work could be held up. We have not adopted the practice of dealing with subcontractors. The contractor is responsible for their work and he may want subcontractors different from those the Government wants, and all sorts of difficulties could arise. The Government seeks competitive tenders, which are examined by the Auditor-General. If there is any departure from the acceptance of the lowest tender, a special report on the matter is examined by Cabinet. Our recent experience has been entirely satisfactory in that, generally speaking, builders' prices have been substantially below our estimates, but there is sometimes a great disparity between tenders. For example, for one building considered by Cabinet this week the departmental estimate was £10,000, the successful tenderer's price was substantially below that figure, and the highest tender was over £80,000. On another occasion the lowest tender was about £300,000 and the highest well over £2,000,000. Generally speaking, however, tenders are competitive and are below the cost estimated by the department.

Mr. HUTCHENS—An amount of £144,000 is provided for major additions at certain technical high schools. Does this sum include an amount for a science block at the Croydon girls technical high school? Members of the school council and the parents' association are very pleased with this school, which is nearing completion.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I cannot give the information, but I will obtain it for the honourable member as soon as possible.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I did not complain that the contractor who constructed the first two floors of the Royal Adelaide Hospital is going on with the rest of the project, but I would like to know whether the Government could investigate subcontractors' prices for cement work, flooring, terrazzo work and marble veneer. On the Treasurer's statement there could be a variation. As some subcontractors have agreed to refrain from demanding money due to them, they should be given an opportunity to share Government contracts. If this contract is not already signed, could not a competitive price be obtained for the terrazzo work, as this may save something under this line?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The usual position is that the contract is a total contract and we do not know who a particular subcontractor will be. However, the Minister concerned and I will examine the honourable member's question to see what is involved, although I do not know how we could effectively carry out his desires.

Mr. RYAN—I refer to the provision of £144,000 for major additions at seven technical high schools. In submitting these Estimates the Treasurer said that the major portion of this amount would be spent on the Norwood boys and Croydon girls technical schools and that five other schools were expected to be commenced in the next year at a completed cost of £950,000. If the larger percentage of this £144,000 is to be spent at Norwood and Croydon and the balance is to commence the other schools, will the Architect-in-Chief's Department declare a priority for these schools or will that be left to the Education Department? Further, if all this amount is spent before the other schools are commenced will those schools be forgotten in the next financial year and be just carried over into the following year? Are they placed on these Estimates as a matter of appeasement only?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Each department, with its Minister and advisers, works out the priority. The general approach has been that, when the total amount that can be submitted on the Loan Estimates is known to the Government, Cabinet makes an allocation between departments, taking into account their respective requirements. If, for example, the Education Department provision is £3,000,000 the Minister of Education, in consultation with his officers, puts down the schools he wants built and the priorities he desires.

Mr. Frank Walsh—He does not always get them that way.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Sometimes, for some reason or other, the priority has been altered. If one of the schools the honourable member mentioned is not commenced this year that will not mean it has been forgotten. The priority will still be there and ultimately there will not be much difference in completion time. The Education Department advises the Architect-in-Chief when it desires a school to be available and the Architect-in-Chief does his best to secure a contract to get it ready for the opening of a school year. Some preliminary expenses are always necessary and the fact that the vote is small does

not mean that the construction will not be expeditious but merely that only a certain amount can be spent in the time. Schools are not forgotten just because they happen to lose their turn.

Mr. FRED WALSH—I compliment the Education Department in obtaining portion of the Birkalla reserve for the Plympton High School but, because of the stubbornness of interested parties on the other side, there have been certain difficulties regarding the erection of a temporary school that will later affect the erection of a solid construction building. I believe the polo club has insisted on certain rights it had under an agreement with the previous owner of the land who intended to subdivide it and from whom the Education Department purchased it. A condition of the sale was that the club should have the right to use portion of the land that protrudes into the area purchased by the department for this school until the club could obtain land elsewhere. The department has powers of compulsory acquisition and, although it is better to settle the matter amicably, it still has not been settled. This will affect the lay-out of the temporary school and subsequently of the solid construction building. Can the Treasurer say whether a satisfactory arrangement has been made regarding this land or whether it has been reserved for use by the polo club under the terms of the original sale?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—This matter came before Cabinet some time ago. As we had been unable to arrange a satisfactory purchase, Cabinet gave approval for the land to be acquired compulsorily, which meant that it was placed in the hands of the Crown Solicitor for him to take the necessary steps. As far as I know, no settlement has yet been effected but Cabinet decided that, failing a satisfactory settlement being reached, we would go on with the acquisition. That is the last I heard of it. I can check to see how far negotiations have progressed and inform the honourable member, probably tomorrow or Thursday.

Mr. CUMBE—Referring to "Other Government buildings; cottage homes—£30,000," as this is the first of the proposals to board out young children with foster-mothers in special cottages rather than in institutions, how many homes are represented by the £30,000 and when will this come into being?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Another amount will be included in the Revenue Estimates. Only a small allowance will be made for it this year. It is in the

nature of an experiment, and not without considerable cost per child.

Mr. LOVEDAY—Under "School buildings" the Treasurer said that Whyalla West would have additional brick buildings to provide 10 classrooms, estimated to cost £75,000. Does that refer to a new infant school or to additions to the existing building?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I understand it is additional buildings.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I should like clarification on a matter of general Government policy with regard to examination certificates. Page 3 of today's *News* says, "Board attacks exam standards. Intermediate 'bad'." The Public Examinations Board sets a standard. The *News* tells us that the South Australian Public Examinations Board examiners report that "large classes and ineffectual teaching may have been responsible for further deterioration in Intermediate English standards." What is the children's future after their three or four years in a secondary school? In some cases they leave after their third year with a certificate obtained on merit, and take further examinations outside to become apprentices. What is the Government's policy on that? Is the Public Examinations Board still going to set the Intermediate examination standard, and will certificates gained from internal examinations taken within the technical high schools be accepted?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The honourable member will realize that the rapid expansion of the State since the war, combined with the fact that during the war years no schools were built in Australia and very few students were available for training in our teachers colleges, has placed an intolerable burden on every education authority in the Commonwealth. We have a greatly increased number of children after a period of total war when no school buildings were constructed and the Education Department was practically without recruits. The problem has been particularly acute in South Australia because our rate of increase has been so great. I do not accept in its entirety the statement that causes the honourable member so much concern. I have examined the results each year fairly critically and I find that in public examinations the children from the Adelaide high school and other high schools in the State do very well compared with other children irrespective of their accommodation or standard of teaching. The frequent observations made about standards being affected by the size of classrooms and so on have to be modified because,

if that were the fact, a high school well accommodated and with a relatively small number of children in a class (as happens sometimes in this State) would be expected to do better than other schools at public examinations; but no difference can be detected. The standard at the high schools is, generally speaking, fairly well maintained, and the results of public examinations show that many high schools in the State share the honors. In fact, some of the bigger high schools, where overcrowding is probably at its worst, often get the best examination results.

Mr. Clark—They might be better staffed.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I accept that, from the point of view not of teachers to numbers, but of the quality of the teaching. At the Adelaide high school the teaching is probably as good as would be found at any school or college in the Commonwealth. Generalizations on this subject should not be accepted out of hand as being completely true. Our standards of education are improving every year, and those associated with the Education Department would maintain that. The member for Gawler (Mr. Clark), who knows the Education Department as well as any member of this House, would agree that the standards of education in this State are improving.

Mr. Clark—I do not think the results are improving, if they mean anything.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I believe that the education system is wider and that the results are improving, though it is possible to single out some particular subject for comment. I saw recently a statement by a professor that we do not now give enough attention to mathematics. Another day, some professor says we do not do anything about the humanities or some other science. I pay a tribute to the Education Department for what it has done, bearing in mind the magnitude of its task and that for so long during the war years it was denied any opportunity for expansion. The points raised by Mr. Frank Walsh will have to be examined.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I think we are in agreement on technical high schools and high schools, but can the Treasurer dispel a doubt that seems to be uppermost all the way through? Is the Intermediate certificate still recognized as the measuring rod for entry into the Public Service or is a higher certificate necessary for clerical work? Up to a short time ago the Intermediate was recognized as being sufficient, even for permanent appointment. Will a third year certificate be recog-

nized as of equal value whether from a technical high school or a high school?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Generally speaking, the Public Service Commissioner desires entrants to the Public Service to have the Leaving certificate. Immediately after the war that policy had to be broken down considerably because we just did not have the applicants available to fill the positions vacant. I think that generally the same standard applies in the Commonwealth Public Service, that the applicants with the Leaving certificates are preferred. As far as I know, that has been the position for many years.

Mr. RICHES—The Treasurer has given us the Loan Estimates in much greater detail than in previous years, and it seems to me that practically the whole of the expenditure has been accounted for. I am concerned about expenditure that will have to be incurred in my district before another year is out, and for which there appears to be no line on these Estimates. Can the Treasurer assure us that if the Government is convinced of the need for additional expenditure, it can be provided for? The Minister of Works has kindly consented to visit my district and inspect the Umeewarra Mission, and when he does, I know he will be seized with the necessity of expenditure that will have to be incurred immediately in the name of humanity. I refer to the expenditure on the school at the Umeewarra Mission, which at present has two small rooms each designed to accommodate 13 children. Although accommodation is provided for only 26 children, over 70 children are being crowded into that building, which has been allowed to fall into a deplorable state of neglect. Windows have been broken and the tank has collapsed, and I do not know when the building had a coat of paint last.

That condition has been brought about largely because the departments concerned are not quite clear as to who is responsible for the school, and it is one that we are not very proud of. Negotiations have taken place quietly. I frankly admit that I received a shock when I first saw the state of the building some weeks ago. Expenditure will have to be incurred there this year, and I am certain the Minister of Works will agree with that conviction. Is there sufficient flexibility in the amounts that have been set down for capital expenditure this year to permit of some substantial alteration being made at Umeewarra Mission this year? Other expenditure will be necessary there.

I now refer to the Port Augusta high school. We have had visits from the Superintendent of Secondary Education and the Director of Education, who have discussed with both the adult education council and the high school council the necessity for the erection of buildings to provide for apprentice training at Port Augusta away from the actual high school building. We are convinced of the undesirability of trying to accommodate apprentices in the day time with first year high school boys and girls in the same grounds, where there are two distinct standards of discipline, two distinct outlooks and differing approaches. Everyone concerned seems to agree upon the necessity for a building that would adequately provide for the training of apprentices away from the high school, but although it must be nearly two years since representations were made we still have not received an answer, and a feeling of frustration exists.

I know the Minister is calling for a report on this matter and I believe the department is sympathetic, but it is perfectly evident from these Estimates that we cannot expect anything for another 12 months. This delay is not in the best interests of the town and district, and the matter is urgent.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The educational matters mentioned by the honourable member will be examined by the Minister and his department in due course. The Umeewarra Mission is not a department of the State, it is a mission undertaking work for the welfare of aborigines, and it has never been financed out of Loan moneys.

Mr. Riches—The school buildings are departmental buildings.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have already said that the question of the school buildings will be examined by the Education Department. The grant for work for the mission would normally be dealt with in the Revenue Estimates, because that is something that has nothing at all to do with the departments of the State.

Mr. CLARK—I do not suppose any member's district has benefited more from a financial angle than has my district, through force of circumstances. On looking through the Loan Estimates I find that my district is to have two high schools, ultimately costing £471,000; three technical schools, ultimately costing £431,000; six primary schools ultimately costing £763,000, and one adult education centre ultimately costing £58,000. The considerable sum of £1,723,000 will have been spent on schools in my district when those

schools are completed. I hope that this programme in Elizabeth will be speeded up, because at present there is quite a lag in that area. We have had one instance of a headmaster looking after two schools. I take this opportunity of thanking the Minister for the letter he wrote me setting out the facts in that matter, but whatever the facts may be I do not think it is a good thing for a headmaster to be put in that position. It is still necessary to transport children to school by bus over considerable distances. I realize that the school development there will be wonderful, but I ask that that development be brought to fruition as soon as possible because the lag is causing worry and inconvenience to both teachers and parents.

I was very concerned to read an article in today's *News*, containing matter taken from the report of the South Australian Public Examinations Board's examiners. Members have told me outside the House that they regard me as one-eyed over education, and they say that I believe we cannot spend too much money on education. If necessary, I plead guilty to that charge. My associations over many years may have shaped my opinions on this matter, and I believe that no amount of money is too much to spend on the education of our boys and girls who, of course, are our future citizens, clergymen, leaders of commerce and business, members of Parliament and even future Premiers, because, after all, I am sure the Premier does not expect to go on for ever.

People have come to me to ask my opinion whether all this money for education is being spent for the best results. I can say that the schools being built today are magnificent; Salisbury high school will be a wonderful school. I can think back to the lack of amenities at the schools at which I have taught, and when I think of the very fine teachers' rooms and libraries now being provided in schools I do not think for one moment that money is being wasted.

The gentlemen doing this work for the Public Examinations Board and giving this report are men in the scholastic world who really know what they are talking about, and I am concerned when I read such comments concerning the examination answers of boys and girls as "vagueness, inaccuracy and confusion." They go on to say:—

The unsatisfactory papers show a lack, not so much of knowledge and intelligence, as of the ability to shape an answer.

Those gentlemen then speak of gross carelessness in spelling, punctuation and syntax. All those things I have mentioned can be taught by an efficient teacher. I should hate it to be thought that I was casting a slur on secondary school teachers. I do not believe it is their fault. The examiners say there is a deterioration in standards. They should know, as many of them have been engaged in examining for a long time. They say that large classes and ineffectual teaching may have something to do with it, but I should hate to think that there was ineffectual teaching. Over the last year or two the department has transferred many Grade VII teachers to high schools. That does not result in improving the quality of our primary school staffs, because those asked to transfer to high schools are generally the pick of the teachers in the primary schools.

Mr. Hambour—Don't you think it may be due to the attitude of the students?

Mr. CLARK—To a large extent the attitude of the students depends on the quality of the teachers. I do not believe that the quality of teaching is any worse than it has ever been, but that it is as good as it can possibly be under existing conditions. I am pleased that our teacher recruiting programme is meeting with success and that it is proposed to build a teachers' college that will be a landmark in Adelaide. I believe that many of the present faults of students as to vagueness and inaccuracy are due to the fact that English grammar is not taught so much in the primary school now, though I know that some teachers will not agree with me. In earlier days we went too far in one direction in hammering grammar, whereas I believe we are now going too far in the other direction. An improvement in the standard of the curriculum in relation to grammar would be of enormous assistance to students who have to answer Intermediate or Leaving questions.

Mr. Quirke—Could any subjects be deleted so that more emphasis could be given to grammar?

Mr. CLARK—I realize that the present curriculum is overcrowded. In the old days we taught grammar and arithmetic in such a way that when the boys and girls reached a high school most of them could, without much assistance from the teachers, pass the Intermediate examination without much trouble. The time devoted to these lessons was no longer than it is now. If we are to get rid

of vagueness, inaccuracy and confusion the children must be taught how to express themselves in plain English. For a long time I have advocated that work on the Gawler Adult Education Centre should be commenced, and I notice an amount for the purpose on the Estimates this year. Certain difficulties have been encountered in the drainage of the area. Can the Treasurer give me any information on this?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will get a report for the honourable member.

Mr. DUNSTAN—Provision is made for major additions to the Marryatville school. The Treasurer has already explained that there is to be a new infant school building close to the present primary school. Is it proposed that it should be on the site at Kensington previously acquired by the department, or is it to be on the existing school site?

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

Mr. HAMBOUR—The Government is not to blame for all the criticism regarding our education system. Some of the blame must be shouldered by parents themselves. Only recently we had criticism about children having to chop wood at school. I remember the time when we considered it a privilege to get the wood. The people should be told that the State is doing its best and that they also must do their best. I recently had experience with youngsters who were seeking employment. I was impressed by the fact that they could not write, spell or add properly, but that could be overcome within 12 months if they applied themselves. It would appear that many of them do not care. Parents must be made to realize that they must play their part if they expect their children to measure up to a satisfactory standard of education.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Can the Treasurer say whether the copper roof at the Norwood boys' technical school is included in the present Loan programme and also why there is delay in the final inspections of new schools? I know of subcontractors for school buildings who are still waiting to be paid by the contractors. When a contractor has received a progress payment from the Architect-in-Chief, he should be compelled to submit a financial statement showing how the money has been disbursed before he receives any further payment. Can the Treasurer give a reply to my questions?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I hope I will be able to get the information by Thursday.

Mr. DUNSTAN—It would appear that £20,000 is provided this year for the rebuilding programme at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Can the Treasurer say whether that is the correct position?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Major works are being done at the Magill block and the large radiotherapy block at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and Cabinet has now accepted another tender for work above the radiotherapy block. I assume that the expenditure at the hospital would be more like £1,500,000 and not £20,000, but I will ascertain for the honourable member what the £20,000 covers.

Mr. HALL—People in my area have congratulated me on the fact that a new area school is to be built at Mallala. I cannot see any line dealing with that matter and as I do not want to be embarrassed could the Treasurer explain the reason?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will obtain a report for the honourable member.

Mr. McKEE—I cannot see a line dealing with the Port Pirie high school. The Minister of Education told me that extensions would be made next year to cope with another 300 students. Is provision made for these extensions?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will get a report for the honourable member.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Earlier today Mr. Hughes referred to the possibility of locally manufactured bricks being used in the erection of a police station at Kadina. Can arrangements be made for the use of suitable locally manufactured materials when contracts are accepted for Government works? Perhaps there could be a clause setting out that preference be given to locally manufactured materials.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I view this matter with much caution. If locally manufactured materials are available they should be the cheapest available, and the contractor would prefer to use them, but on the other hand if there were such a clause we would find soon that the cost of the materials would be the same as the cost of those obtained elsewhere.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, £4,359,000.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I notice that 1,020 double unit houses for rental purposes are to

be built at Elizabeth. A large number of workers from Edwardstown, Ascot Park and other places in my electorate have gone to live at Elizabeth in order to get houses of a decent standard. Why are so many houses built at Elizabeth where industry is not available? Why not erect them in areas where there is industry but insufficient homes? If there is a potential labour market in a given area industry should be established there. We have a problem in properly housing workers in the metropolitan area. If industry went to Elizabeth and a demand for labour was created there I would not object to so many houses being built there, but there is a long list of workers in the metropolitan area awaiting homes. The time has come when we should decide how much longer we can afford to have a certain area of land available for each house. Although I do not criticize the Housing Trust, the blocks on which these homes have been built are, in many cases, larger than necessary. The Building Act provides for a minimum area of 4,000 square feet and the Town Planning Act, under which the Housing Trust operates, provides for 7,000 square feet. Surely there is a happy medium between the two. Will the Premier state the Government's reason for insisting that over 1,000 homes are to be built at Elizabeth whereas only 460 will be built in the metropolitan area?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I think it must be apparent to all members that the land the trust has been able to acquire in the metropolitan area is limited and is rapidly becoming more expensive. If the trust intends to go on with a large building programme it is inevitable that it must have land outside the metropolitan area; and that is why it is building at Elizabeth. This problem exists in every country. If people are to be given a reasonable area on which to build there must be room to develop. I am opposed to crowding people into small blocks because I believe there is a big advantage in having a reasonable area for a home. Although from the point of view of transport there might be some reason for having smaller blocks I doubt whether people are as happy on these blocks as those who have larger areas on which they can grow vegetables and fruit and have a reasonable space for their children to play. That, broadly, is the problem that caused the trust, with other people, to build outside the metropolitan area.

Mr. QUIRKE—The sum of £500,000 is provided for expenses and discounts of floating loans. Apparently the cost of the loans is provided from Loan funds. Will the Premier

say whether these are loans that are maturing or expected loans?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—They would be both; we have certain conversions, re-conversions, and loans coming up. In some instances they are issued below par and there are expenses of brokerage and so on. I doubt whether the full £500,000 will be required but we cannot know this until the terms of the loan are decided by the Loan Council, which could provide a higher interest and not have any discounts, in which case there would be only the expenses of the loan. On the other hand it could reduce the interest rate and make the loan attractive by issuing at a discount. Until the Loan Council's policy is known it is not possible to state a precise amount, but I think the amount provided is adequate, if not more than adequate.

Mr. HUGHES—For 28 single unit houses for rental under a special country scheme, £60,000 is provided. In submitting these Estimates the Treasurer said:—

The sum of £60,000 remains of the special grant of £368,000 received from the Commonwealth late in 1957-58 and made available to the trust for the provision of houses for needy families in country towns.

Recently the Wallaroo council was told by telephone that the fund was exhausted. As the Wallaroo council has transferred land to the Housing Trust, can the Premier give an assurance that when money becomes available houses will be built at Wallaroo?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will take up this matter with the chairman of the Housing Trust and advise the honourable member, probably on Thursday next.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Kapunda, a town in my district, has a higher percentage of pensioners than any other town in the State, and they live in old sub-standard buildings. Will the Treasurer ask the general manager of the Housing Trust to consider building more pensioners' homes in Kapunda? These homes are a boon to people living in sub-standard homes who cannot afford a high rental.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—For the Municipal Tramways Trust the sum of £55,000 is provided, presumably for capital expenditure on equipment. However, I do not know whether it is to provide buses for an already established route or to provide a new service. The Government has indicated that pensioners will be permitted to travel on railway and tramway vehicles at concession fares; but what of the people who use services licensed by the trust? The fares and sections on these services are approved by the trust

and the time tables are insisted on by it. Probably the Treasurer will tell us that it is not the intention to divide the people in giving these concessions but that he will extend concession travel to pensioners throughout the State.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—If the honourable member read the explanations I gave in introducing these Estimates he would see that this amount is for plant and equipment and has nothing to do with concession fares or dividing the people.

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

Mr. LAUCKE—I refer to the 28 single unit houses for rental. Whilst in my electorate there is generally little demand for trust homes, the ability by those of limited means to obtain homes through this scheme has been most heartwarming and it is pleasing to know that there is provision made to meet the needs of this very important minority. I realize that the original sum of £368,000 will be used up but I ask the Treasurer if the fund has earned sufficient to enable further homes to be built in the current year?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I doubt whether it has earned sufficient yet, but it will have earned sufficient before the year is out.

Mr. FRED WALSH—I am concerned at the trend on the part of the trust to build homes for sale rather than for rental. I believe more homes should be built for rental and fewer for sale. Few men on the basic wage, or earning a little more, can provide a deposit of £600 on a home and still afford to rear a family. In the *Advertiser* of Monday last the following article appeared:—

As a service to Australia, young married couples should rent rather than buy houses a leading London economist said in Sydney yesterday. They would be helping Australia's economy by ensuring that the work force was mobile and able to do developmental work where it was most needed.

That statement was attributed to Sir Sydney Caine, Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science, who is making a four weeks lecture tour of Australia.

The payment of a deposit ties a person down to remain in that place and he is committed for the whole of his lifetime to stay in that house unless, because of circumstances, he leaves the area for a better job. Many people are attracted by the facilities and easy terms provided by the trust, even when they are on very high salaries, but I do not think it was ever intended that the trust should build for people in that position. The trust should build

for people on salaries of up to £15 to £20 a week, but people on higher salaries should try to purchase homes elsewhere. I should not like to see the Housing Trust extend its policy of the last few years and increase the number of houses for sale: it should build more homes for rental to people on low wages. Will the Treasurer refer this suggestion to the Housing Trust?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The honourable member raises an interesting subject but, if the Housing Trust were to confine its attention purely to building rental houses, the number of houses it could build would be restricted, because where a house is built for purchase a deposit is immediately available to help start building another house. Secondly, under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement the Housing Trust can only get certain moneys from the Commonwealth because the Commonwealth makes the money available under its share of the Loan programme if those moneys are used substantially for house purchase transactions. If house building by the Trust is restricted to building homes for renting the number erected will be very limited compared with the programme the Housing Trust can put through at the present time. A number of other matters arise in connection with this matter.

I think it is the height of impertinence for a man to come to Australia, be here a couple of days, and then assume he knows the economic problems of this country. I do not care whether he is an economist or not, but if he is an economist one would think that he would have more brains than to make a statement like that. One would think that, instead of having big, fixed, permanent industries, we were a series of nomadic races shifting from place to place to obtain a living. The big bulk of the people employed in industry in Australia today are employed in big, permanent, secondary industries that every day are growing stronger and, indeed, are beginning to capture world export markets. We have long since passed the stage where we have to wander from place to place from day to day in search of employment.

Mr. Fred Walsh—I did not use that as an argument: I merely quoted it.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I realize that and I am using it only as an argument to show that some people come to this country and before they know which State they are to be located in they can solve all our problems for us. I consider that is the height

of impertinence and I do not care whether a professor said it or not. The Housing Trust is trying to plan its programme to provide for the needs of the people of the State. It is undertaking a big programme at Whyalla this year and all the houses built there, if necessary, will be for rental to employees in the steel industry, in many instances people just coming into the town who would not have a deposit for a house.

Similarly, some houses will be built for the oil refinery and they, in the first place, will be for the work force and not for permanent residence but, in the second place, they will be taken over by the permanent occupation forces who will be newcomers from other parts of the State who may not have the amount necessary to purchase. If we were to restrict our programme—if that were considered desirable—it would mean a big reduction in the number of houses we could build simply because a substantial part of the money would not be available to us at all and, secondly, there would be no turn-around of the money in the sense that we would not get from banks, or as deposits from building societies or institutions under the Homes Act, any repayments at all and, consequently, the Housing Trust, to that extent, would have to restrict its activities. I assure the honourable member that the trust realizes the necessity for a considerable number of houses and, if the honourable member looks at the total figures, he will see that over 50 per cent of the houses provided for are for rental.

Mr. QUIRKE—I like to see people buying their own houses. Last year I inquired what a person would have to pay monthly if he borrowed £3,000, and at that time it was £18 5s. a month. Most of the rental payments on these homes are about £3 10s. a week.

Mr. Coumbe—More than that.

Mr. QUIRKE—Well, £3 15s. a week, which means that a man would pay about £15 a month in rent without getting any equity at all in the house whereas, if he paid £18 5s. a month, he would get a complete equity in his house eventually. As a business proposition it must be better to purchase than to rent.

Mr. CLARK—I notice—in connection with the progress work on 5,851 living units—three categories, namely, metropolitan, country and Elizabeth, instead of, as one would expect, the two categories of metropolitan and country. Many of my constituents in Elizabeth do not know which area they are in, particularly in connection with prices. Is there any special reason for the third category of “Elizabeth”?

It should have been included in the country area.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—This division was made to appease the Leader of the Opposition. If we had put Elizabeth into the country area, he would undoubtedly have objected and said “This is really a part of the metropolitan area.”

Mr. O'Halloran—Yes, a northern suburb.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I thought that the member for Gawler would have been in conflict with his Leader, and I did not want to start another internecine strife over there! In those circumstances I showed the lines separately, hoping I should be able to keep the honourable member opposite from disputing the matter.

Mr. HAMBOUR—I cannot understand honourable members opposite advocating the construction of rental rather than purchase homes. Only a fortnight ago I was able to get a tenant to purchase a home from the Housing Trust. He paid £159 deposit for a house that cost £2,850, and he had an allowance made for each year of occupancy. He is happy now to become a house owner, and has 40 years in which to pay for it. It is said that Australia requires a roaming community, but I disagree. If we can settle our communities, we shall have much better citizens. We should do all in our power to encourage the individual to purchase his home to give him an equity in the country he lives in and works for. The Treasurer should have more and more money allocated for purchase houses. I cannot see any point in devoting money to rental homes when an equity can be obtained in a purchase home.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I could not agree with the honourable member for Light more than I do now. It is advisable that the worker in all cases should own his own home, but not all jobs are permanent. The man who ties himself down to a purchase home on the chance of a job becoming permanent is taking a great risk. For many years I have, with the full support of the Opposition, advocated what I think is a solution to this problem, namely, that when a person purchases a home and then finds that through an industry folding up or some other circumstance he has to move to another part of the State to get employment, the home should be taken back by the State authority, whatever it may be—the Housing Trust or the State Bank—and he should be paid for the equity in that home that he has established, because any worthwhile house-owner who has occupied a home for a period

does establish an equity. Then that home should be allotted to somebody who is employed in that area.

Conversely, of course, in the area that the owner goes to, there must be someone who, through circumstances beyond his control, is leaving and vacating a house which could be allotted to the person who is moving there. This also supplies a solution to the problem mentioned by the member for West Torrens. He said that we should build all rental homes. As a representative of the workers in this State, I appreciate that, if we have too many purchase homes near industry, it will tie the workers to their jobs and make them more docile in their approach to the big industries that the Treasurer has mentioned.

I suggest that in the period between now and the consideration of the next Loan Estimates some consideration be given to implementing a policy so that a man who has a home and has to leave it through circumstances born of unemployment should not lose his equity. I am old enough to remember what happened in this country during the great depression when many worthy workers who had purchased homes on time payment saw their jobs fold up, and they became unemployed and lost whatever equity they had in their homes. Some, in more fortunate circumstances, managed to get along and benefited from that. That has happened and will continue to happen, because nobody can guarantee permanent employment, except in very rare cases. Generally speaking, of course, this applies to the Public Service, but even in the Public Service, especially in those sections where men have to work in the country, permanency of domicile in a country town is not guaranteed. I know of men who were appointed to the railways and missed opportunities of promotion because they owned a house in a country town which they dare not leave because they could not get a house in the metropolitan area where they would have had to move had they accepted the opportunity for promotion.

In support of what the honourable member for West Torrens said, that the Housing Trust was never intended to be what it is today, I say with all respect to the trust that as the State landlord it has done an excellent job in providing homes for the people. The management has been sympathetic in providing homes for those whose need was the greatest, but when the Housing Trust was first established by a Liberal Government under Mr. Richard Butler (as he then was), it was never intended to become what it is today. The idea

was that homes should be built and let at low rentals for under-privileged people. In the early days there were two funds for this purpose—one provided by the Government and one supposed to be contributed to by voluntary subscription. That has all gone by the board. I am not suggesting we should get back to those conditions, but serious consideration should be given to the suggestion that, when people are forced to move from one area to another, they should not lose their equity in their homes.

Mr. SHANNON—I should like to point out to the Leader of the Opposition that in the first instance Mr. Butler (as he then was) was encouraged by the then member for Sturt (Mr. Horace Hogben) to step into this field of providing low rental homes for people on low incomes. In the early days homes were built that could be let at a net economic rent of 12s. 6d. a week. This Government was the first to provide homes for people on low incomes or for people who, either through old age or infirmity, had to depend upon a pension of some sort for their livelihood, with a maximum rental payment of £1 a week. I have three in my own electorate. That fund is a revolving fund which will gradually build up by virtue of repayments made in the way of rent, no charge being made by the Housing Trust for administration.

Mr. O'Halloran—Where did the money come from?

Mr. SHANNON—From the Commonwealth.

Mr. O'Halloran—They made provision for the people you have mentioned?

Mr. SHANNON—This Government was the first in the field to provide homes, with that money provided by the Commonwealth, admittedly. It could have been used, as it was by some States, for other purposes. In this State it was earmarked for this special purpose, and I think this Government, led by the Premier, can rightly claim credit for that.

The trust's policy of building homes for purchase is, I think, a fundamental principle that has something to do with our society. People are encouraged today to buy all sorts of household equipment, sometimes things which are of an entertainment value only—for instance, television sets—on peppercorn deposits and to pay for those articles as they earn. I suggest that the purchase of a home by a man who is married and perhaps has a family or is starting one, provided he has a fairly decent and reasonably secure job, is a means of saving, because it ultimately becomes an asset.

Mr. Fred Walsh—Are you suggesting that he be freed of the necessity to provide a deposit?

MR. SHANNON—I will have a word to say about that a little later. In my opinion, it is a very desirable feature of society that those who are in sufficiently safe employment should have homes that they know are their own. All a person has to do is pay his regular interest and principle payments, which are calculated over a long term of years, and he thereby retains his ownership and possession of his property. The Leader suggested that this tied him to industry. A person in a rental home may secure other employment, and quite obviously the Leader would say that that person has nothing to pick up and take away with him. On the other hand, however, he has no asset; he is in exactly the same position as when he first moved into that home, unless he is a saving person who has put money aside, but unfortunately that is the exception rather than the rule. Some people can put money aside, as is instanced by the man who purchases a home and pays possibly £1 a week more in outgoings to make his purchase than he would if he paid rent, and he is ultimately reaping the benefit of that money he has put aside. The rental basis for house occupancy tends to create a spirit of nomadism; it creates a feeling in the occupant that he is not tied and can move about. I am not in favour of that. For our society to be stable, and for our industries to be well founded, it appears to me that the more stable the housing of the people in industry is, the more certain it is that industry will prosper and be able to pay the wages that the employee must have in order to meet his commitments.

I am a strong advocate of home ownership. I agree with the Leader that where the purchaser of a home has to leave his employment, perhaps because his employers have decided he is more valuable in another part of the State or even in another State, his equity should be returned to him. I make only one proviso, which is that the property must have been maintained in good order and condition. The Housing Trust has very great advantages over the private home builder. Firstly, it buys large areas of land on which to build its houses, and it buys that land at lower prices than the average home builder can buy blocks. The committee of which I have the honour to be chairman has seen first-hand evidence of that, and knows that where a State department requires a

block of land for some public purpose and the Housing Trust can make that particular piece of land available, it is always a lot cheaper—sometimes many thousands of pounds cheaper if it is a big area—than it would be if purchased from private individuals on the open market. The second big advantage the trust has is that it is able to build large groups of homes at considerably below the cost of single home building. By and large, therefore, the person fortunate enough to be able to buy a Housing Trust home frequently has not only the equity which he has provided by his payments over a period of years but also an increment in value which, if he offers his home to the public, somebody is prepared to give him. That is not unusual, and I think the trust records would disclose a number of such cases where an increment has accrued to the person who has purchased a home and then had to sell it.

I am strongly of the opinion that the trust's policy should not be unduly interfered with. I think its balance between homes for rental and homes for sale demonstrates a carefully thought-out policy. I give the general manager full marks for his appreciation of the State's needs in this regard. Mr. Ramsay is a very astute business man as well as a very eminent and fair administrator, a fact with which I think most people will agree. He realizes that certain country towns need only very few rental homes for the good reason that permanent employment is not available to the same extent as it is in the metropolitan area. I understand that when the trust builds homes outside the metropolitan area it takes into account the factors which I think would be taken into account by cautious business people. For instance, at Whyalla and Port Pirie and other places where industries are established and where employment is not likely to be short, the trust can afford to build rental homes to a much greater extent than it could in smaller country towns where industries are only small. Many country towns are dependent upon the type of industry that reacts quickly to a poor return from the land, and therefore the trust demands a certain deposit on a purchase basis from a person who wants to go into a home in that type of town. I advocate home ownership, and because of my assurance that home ownership is a tremendous help to the family in saving, I would reduce to an absolute minimum the deposit required of a person who is prepared to accept the responsibility of buying a home.

The trust's internal funds have increased each year by about £5,500,000. One purchaser helps to finance another purchaser by his payments, and he is all the time building up the fund. The trust's return from its rental and purchase homes is creating a continually growing fund which helps it continue in this field of home building. I feel that the policy being pursued is a very sound one, and I see no reason to criticize it. I agree with the Leader's suggestion about returning the equity to a man where a proper case is made out for such a return.

Mr. O'Halloran—That was the only suggestion I made.

Mr. SHANNON—I think it is a good one, provided the house has been properly maintained and the purchaser has a real reason for wanting to change his place of abode. I am convinced that as long as the Treasurer continues the policy now being pursued we need have no fear that anyone will have any cause to complain about the cost or the standard of these homes. The Housing Trust homes I have looked at are very well equipped, sometimes much better equipped than older homes.

Mr. HAMBOUR—It is obvious that houses well cared for will increase in value over and above the purchase price paid for them. A man who could not get his equity back on the open market could go to the trust, but one who improved his property could sell outside the trust and then the trust would get only the amount owing to it. The trust must receive as high a deposit as possible in order to build as many houses as possible. The homes are built out of the savings of the people. More effort should be made by people to buy their own home. I mentioned earlier how a man occupied one of these houses for five years and eventually purchased it, and his commitments as a purchaser were lower than the rent he had previously paid.

Mr. HEASLIP—An amount of £694,000 is provided for the completion of the electricity power line between Port Augusta and Magill for the east circuit. This line goes through numerous properties and the owners have signed agreements with the trust to provide easements and wherever a pole is erected the trust pays £10 a pole. Most of these agreements were signed almost 12 months ago. None of these people has yet received payment. When I saw the trust recently it promised that the position would be rectified immediately, but up to the present nothing has been done. On the Wilmington to Melrose power line the trust was supposed to pay property owners £1 for

each pole, but they have not yet been paid, and this goes back two years or more. Is the amount included in this line on the Estimates to meet payments to property owners, and will they be paid straight away?

Mr. O'HALLORAN—An amount of £102,000 is provided for township buildings at Leigh Creek coalfield. I commend the Electricity Trust for the type of houses it has built for its employees. They are a good investment for the trust because they have attracted to the field a type of workman whom any employer would be proud to employ and have resulted in the efficiency apparent in the trust's activities. Many single men are employed at Leigh Creek by the trust, some of whom have been housed in Nissen huts and in other accommodation which is not particularly satisfactory in view of the hard climatic conditions. I notice that the trust has now embarked upon a programme of building accommodation for its single employees on the basis of a room to each employee. I inspected this accommodation recently and it is a credit to the trust, which, I understand, intends to continue this building programme until all the single employees have up-to-date accommodation. If the amount mentioned is to be spent for this worthy purpose, I am happy to support it.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The sum that Mr. Heaslip mentioned for the transmission line includes funds to pay for easements. I will see that this matter is brought under the notice of the trust. The Leader of the Opposition is correct in his assumption regarding the building programme at Leigh Creek.

Mr. HAMBOUR—An amount of £500,000 is provided for rural extensions, but it will not be sufficient to deal with those extensions promised this year. Could more money be made available for this purpose?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The trust's estimates were carefully considered and as far as I can judge the funds provided are sufficient to meet its programme this year. It is possible within the trust's programme to transfer an item from one line to another.

Line passed.

Grand total, £29,000,000, passed and Committee's resolution adopted by the House.

PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL (No. 2).

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 authorize the Treasurer to borrow and expend moneys for public works and purposes and to enact other provisions incidental thereto.

Motion carried.

Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House. Bill introduced and read a first time.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill appropriates the moneys required for the works and purposes provided for by the Loan Estimates, which the House has considered. Clause 3 defines the Loan Fund. Clause 4 provides for borrowing by the Treasurer of £25,400,000. Clause 5 provides for the expenditure of £29,000,000 on the undertakings set out in the schedule to the Bill. Clause 6 makes provision for borrowing and payment of an amount to cover any discounts, charges and expenses incurred in connection with borrowing for the purposes of this Bill. Clause 7 makes provision for temporary finance if the moneys in the Loan Fund are insufficient for the purposes of this Bill.

Clause 8 authorizes the borrowing of £10,000,000 for the purpose of carrying on loan works at the commencement of next financial year and until the Public Purposes Loan Bill for 1960 is considered by the House. Clause 9 deals with the duration of certain clauses to the Bill. Clause 10 directs that all money received by the State under the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act shall be credited to a special account to be paid out as required for the purposes of the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act. Clause 11 provides for this Bill to operate as from July 1, 1959. I commend the Bill for consideration by members.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition)—It seems extraordinary that clause 10 should be included in the Loan Bill. One may have been included in previous Bills, but I do not remember it. I think the provision would be included more appropriately in a Bill dealing with Revenue Estimates. Has the Treasurer an explanation?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—A similar provision was included in last year's Loan Bill. This is money paid to the State by the Commonwealth for certain purposes. It is not revenue in the strict sense of the word, because we have no power to say how it is to be spent, except for the purposes of the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act. It is granted for specific purposes and it has been included in this Bill.

Mr. O'Halloran—It is not Loan money.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—No, not in the sense that we have to repay it, but it is not revenue money either. It cannot be included in a Bill dealing with Revenue Estimates. It must be in either one Bill or the other, and in the last two years it has been considered more appropriate to include it in the Loan Bill. Whilst State revenue was subject to investigation by the Commonwealth Grants Commission our financial position would have been enhanced if we had included it in Revenue Estimates.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 9 passed.

Clause 10—"Authority to spend Commonwealth Aid Roads Grant."

Mr. SHANNON—We have very little information on this matter. Probably we could get more if we referred to Commonwealth legislation, but this is the appropriate place for it to be given. I do not know whether the Treasurer has last year's amount, but if he has it members would be glad to know. Have any restrictions been placed on the expenditure of the money and is the arrangement in the best interests of our road programme? Is the Treasurer happy that under the arrangement we are getting our fair share of the money available?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—I cannot tell members the amount that will be received this year, because I do not know. It depends on certain computations made by the Commonwealth Statistician in connection with area, population and the number of motor registrations. I cannot give the information desired by the honourable member. Figures on this matter are set out in the annual report of the Highways and Local Government Department. Last year South Australia received £3,582,129, which was 11.22 per cent of the total distributed.

Mr. Shannon—Are you satisfied that that was a fair distribution?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Our population is approximately 9 per cent of Australia's total, so we get slightly more than we would on a population basis.

Mr. Shannon—We have area and numbers of motor vehicles.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Previously the formula was based, not on population, number of vehicles and area, but on area. This year, instead of 11.22 per cent I think we

will get 11.24 per cent. If it will be of interest to members I will have an officer of my department make a computation, but that may not be accurate because it will be based on figures of other States which are not always known to us. A further problem that arose was that the Queensland Government desired to include the aboriginal population for the computation of grants, but I am not sure whether the Commonwealth will accept that. The grant this year depends on our raising additional revenue. When the new agreement is before the House in due course this will come up for debate.

Mr. Shannon—Is the money from the Commonwealth petrol tax?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—It is part of the Commonwealth import duty on petrol. It is a slightly larger percentage of the petrol tax but, as it is a five-year agreement, I believe we will not be very much better off than under the present agreement. I think our figure this year will be about £700,000.

Mr. Quirke—Does the amount you have to match it with come from motor registration?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—It could come from registration fees. As far as we can see, the extra money from normal increase in annual registrations will enable us to match the increase, so I do not think it will be necessary for us to make a special provision but, to be on the safe side, in this year's Loan programme £250,000 is included for bridges and roads.

Clause passed.

Clause 11 and Schedule passed.

Title.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition)—Can the Treasurer say how a Bill for an Act to authorize the Treasurer to borrow and expend money for public works and purposes and to enact other provisions incidental thereto contains a clause that provides for the disbursement of moneys derived from the Commonwealth for a specific purpose? Of course, it may be covered by the proviso "and to enact other provisions incidental thereto," but this should be essentially a Loan Bill to provide for the disbursement of moneys borrowed for specific purposes. This is rather a slipshod way of doing things and in future I will ask that it be done in another way so that we can debate the merits of the matter.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I am informed that the Title is adequate to cover the purposes of the Bill. The Leader may like a comma after "borrow," which would make it quite clear, because the expenditure of the moneys from the Highways Fund is for purposes almost identical with Loan purposes. They are incidental works. If the Leader desires to have the matter placed in a separate Bill I shall be quite happy to do that, but we have no disposition in the expenditure of this money, as it is money already voted by Parliament. All we can do is pay it over to the Highways Fund in accordance with Commonwealth legislation.

Mr. O'Halloran—We want to have a look how the Highways Department spends it.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Highways Department has to spend it in accordance with the directions of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Riches—Except that it does not.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—It must have Auditor-General's reports about the matter. Certain amounts are assigned for certain purposes and I assure the honourable member that those purposes are inquired into and necessary audits in accordance with Commonwealth desires are carried out.

Mr. Riches—The Commonwealth earmarked money for the Woomera road last year that was not spent.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Under the Commonwealth Aid Roads Agreement the Commonwealth has no power to allocate money to any particular road. If it earmarked money for that road it would have been out of its own share, not ours. The provisions of the agreement will be debated in due course. However, amounts cannot be deleted. Certain amounts will be provided for roads for rural purposes as defined in the Act; I think certain money has to be provided for outback areas and a certain amount for general road purposes.

Title passed. Bill read a third time and passed.

SUPPLY BILL (No. 2).

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 8.58 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, August 26, at 2 p.m.