

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, April 5, 1960.

The SPEAKER (Hon. B. H. Teusner) took the Chair at 3 p.m. and read prayers.

### QUESTIONS.

#### MEAT PRICES AND GRADING.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I have received a number of complaints from the metropolitan area and the country regarding retail prices charged for meat at present. The complainants point out that there is a wide disparity in the prices livestock are bringing in the abattoirs market, ranging from about 1s. a lb. down to 6d. for mutton and from 2s. 6d. down to much less than 1s. 6d. for beef. In view of these complaints, and in view of the present unsatisfactory position, can the Premier say whether the Government is considering the branding of meat according to quality and the reimposition of price control, again based upon quality, on meat sold?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Some time ago the Government tried to introduce a system of branding meat according to quality. Mr. Rice was instructed by the Government to investigate and report on the best method of doing this, and he reported that, under the circumstances, he could not recommend it because there was considerable resistance to its introduction from certain elements in the industry. In those circumstances, although the Government was prepared to make available, I think, £7,000 to inaugurate the system, it had to abandon its intention because it was not generally acceptable to the industry as a whole. Members generally are aware of the difficulties associated with price control on meat. South Australia continued price control on meat much longer than other States, but finally abandoned it because of the inherent difficulties associated with it. From time to time the Prices Commissioner has checked on meat prices and has issued reports to me. I will see that another check is made and another report obtained to ascertain the present position. The reports we have had so far this year reveal, firstly, that there has been a tendency to increase margins since price control was lifted, and secondly, that there has been a big disparity between the prices charged by various butchers in the metropolitan area. This shows that there has been no concerted effort to charge similar prices under all circumstances. In the main, high prices were charged where there was an advantage associated with the location of the shop.

Mr. O'Halloran—And probably for superior quality meat.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Probably, in some instances. I will get a report and, as soon as it is available, I will advise whether the Government feels it can do anything about the matter.

#### WINE AND GRAPE PRICES.

Mr. KING—Dissatisfaction has been expressed in my district at grape prices being paid by proprietary wineries for grapes purchased this year. It has been reported that the Australian Hotels Association has recently announced increases in the prices of some wines. With the 1960 grape harvest nearing completion, and considering the report of the Prices Commissioner after his inquiry into the wine industry, can the Minister of Agriculture comment on the manner in which the findings of the Prices Commissioner have been implemented both as to prices paid for grapes by proprietary wineries and the prices at which wines are being sold in South Australia, in other States, and for export; and also, as South Australia is the main wine grape producing area, he has considered taking up with the Commonwealth Government the re-introduction of the Wine Export Bounty Act?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I ask the honourable member to put that question on notice.

#### DELAYS IN GOVERNMENT BUILDING PROJECTS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Last session I referred to delays in the completion of various Government buildings. At that time there seemed to be a dispute between the contractor and some of his sub-contractors. Could the Minister of Works ascertain why the Norwood boys' technical high school and the Burnside wards M, N and O have not yet been completed? Is it because certain sub-contractors have not received correct payment, or is it because they refuse to work harmoniously with the contractor in completing the jobs?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I have not received any reports on the progress of either of these projects, but I will look into the matter and bring down information tomorrow, or at the earliest possible moment.

#### NEW RESERVOIR FOR LITTLE PARA RIVER.

Mr. LAUCKE—I understand that investigations have been proceeding into the possibility of constructing a reservoir on the Little Para River at Golden Grove. Can the

Minister of Works say whether a suitable site has yet been found?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—One or two projects for additional reservoirs in the Adelaide Hills area and in the area mentioned by the honourable member are at present in the preliminary investigation stage. So far no firm recommendations have been forwarded to me by the department and no consideration has been given to them beyond the preliminary investigation stage. These are among the last of the sites that appear to be available for catchment purposes in the Adelaide hills area, and the department is seized with the importance of investigating all possible areas of catchment, firstly, to augment the supply and, secondly, to reduce the heavy costs of pumping water wherever they can be reduced. No firm recommendations have been made to me by the department for consideration either by the Public Works Committee or by the Government, but as soon as the reports and recommendations are available I will let the honourable member know where the proposed sites are located.

#### ABORIGINE'S PAYMENTS TO DEPARTMENT.

Mr. HUTCHENS—I have before me a letter from the Australian Railways Union concerning an aborigine, whose name I have already given to the Minister of Works, who is employed by the Railways Department, and who is receiving £21 4s. a fortnight after deduction for rent. This man's estimated fortnightly expenditure is £2 10s. for meat, £11 for groceries, and he has hire-purchase commitments of £10 5s. He also pays the Aborigines Department £4, so that his total commitment is £27 15s. a fortnight, which is more than his income. Can the Minister of Works say whether it is customary for the department to charge aborigines these amounts, whether the payment is for a debt incurred to the department and, if so, whether it is a general practice? Can he also say whether income is considered when these people are requested to pay certain moneys to the department?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The honourable member telephoned me this morning and gave the name of the person concerned, and I sought some information quickly from the department regarding his case. I think it must be accepted (and the honourable member's question indicates) that this man unfortunately enters into commitments above his capacity to pay. From information available to me, that has been so for a considerable

time. The department, as its function and policy, attempts to assist aborigines in many ways, and sometimes these people incur liability to it for furniture or other items of essential equipment. The department expects—I think quite justifiably—that in due course the money will be repaid, and it ranks with other creditors in receiving something from these people. However, on investigation it was found that this was not the case: the person concerned does not owe anything to the department, but got into some difficulty with past accounts with country storekeepers in towns where he had been living and, in order to assist him and his creditors, the parties conferred with the Aborigines Department, which agreed that, if the aborigine voluntarily agreed—as he did—to make some payments on account of creditors, the department would pay this money off his former debts. Under this arrangement, which was made amicably between the creditors and the aborigine, he pays £4 a week to the department. This has been going on for some time and the man has liquidated two previous accounts, one for £24 and another for £12 19s. He has also paid over £11 off a third account of £21. The department is in no way involved in this matter and has no charge against the aborigine concerned, but in its usual good offices it assisted him to make an arrangement with his creditors which, up to this point, has been completely acceptable to both parties. If the honourable member desires any further details, such as the names of the storekeepers concerned, I will make the information available for him.

#### ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATIONS.

Mr. HALL—Yesterday a police report over the air informed the public that by a certain date in August trailer safety chains must be fitted to vehicles in accordance with the law. The report further stated that, if in doubt about the regulation, people should approach the local police officer for information about the requirements. This regulation was laid on the Table in this House only last Thursday and a motion for its disallowance may be moved until May 4. It is obvious that someone is trying to use this Parliament as a rubber stamp for Government regulations, and I believe that that is a negation of our democratic rights and principles.

The SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member must not debate the question.

Mr. HALL—Thank you, Mr. Speaker, but I believe what I said leads up to the question.

I ask the Premier whether, if these alterations are made and the regulation is subsequently disallowed, the people will be compensated. Will the Premier also inform the House and a bewildered and somewhat incensed public whether they need act on this regulation until this assembly has exercised its democratic and constitutional rights and considered this regulation?

The Hon. SIR THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Acts Interpretation Act states clearly that any regulations, except certain local government regulations, which are of a different character, and those under special legislation, operate as soon as they are gazetted. As Parliament has already provided for this, there is no negation of any rights of Parliament. As far as I know, no move has yet been made to disallow these particular regulations. If such a move were made, the general procedure would be that the Government would not act until this matter had been decided by Parliament.

Mr. HALL—Will the Premier use his good offices in an endeavour to have police officers cease to promulgate the regulations on trailer safety chains until they have been considered by this House?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have already informed the honourable member that in the event of consideration by this House it will obviously be necessary to hold the hand of the department pending that time. No such notice has been given to this House and until it has been given it will not be proper for the Government to interfere.

#### GAWLER ASSEMBLY DISTRICT.

Mr. CLARK—The Gawler Assembly District numbers had grown to 15,129 at the end of March—an increase of 6,000 in the last two years—and at the same rate of increase the numbers would be over 21,000 by the next State election. Even now, of course, they are more than enough for two country electoral districts, and a further rapid increase is certain. In view of this, will the Premier say whether the Government intends to introduce legislation this session to give electors in this area the additional representation to which they are now entitled?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The representation that any district is entitled to is provided for in the Constitution, so the last part of the honourable member's question is already answered. Regarding the general part of the question, the district he represents is growing very rapidly indeed, and I point out,

quite frankly, that if the Government introduced amending legislation this session it would be out-of-date by next session because of the enormous growth taking place. As there is no immediate election, except a by-election, that I know of, it would be better to allow the position to stabilize before considering this matter. I think the honourable member would, in modesty, assume that he could represent the district.

#### BOOLEROO CENTRE WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. HEASLIP—The township of Booleroo Centre is short of water, and this matter has received such publicity that I am sure all members are aware of that fact. Booleroo Centre is not the only town in that area in the same predicament, as several other towns have no reticulated water at all, whereas Booleroo Centre has a reticulated system. The district hospital at Booleroo Centre is serving a great need in that area, and the members of the board have done a wonderful job in keeping the water up to that hospital from bores in the surrounding districts. As this hospital is essential and cannot carry on without water, can the Minister of Works say whether the department or the Government has any plans to overcome that shortage and to supply Booleroo Centre with water?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The department and the Government have been aware for some time that a piped supply of water to the township of Booleroo Centre was desirable and, indeed, would become necessary, one reason being the need of the hospital for a satisfactory supply of rather better quality water than was obtainable from local sources. I agree with the honourable member that the Hospital Board and the people in that area have done a really good job in keeping the hospital supplied, under some difficulty, and because the department has been aware of that difficulty it has always intended at some future date to supply Booleroo Centre from one of our major pipeline schemes. Some three years or so ago the department erected a 1,000,000 gallon capacity tank at the township. That tank was erected for two reasons: firstly, it would enable us to fill it in the winter months from the bore and thus create a reserve supply to carry us through the summer; secondly, if and when a supply from a trunk main was available to Booleroo Centre, the tank would form an integral part of that scheme. In the last two summers it has become apparent that the bore which supplies the town has not been delivering its normal output. I think it has fallen from about 120,000 gallons

a week to 70,000 or 80,000 gallons a week, and that, together with the exceptionally dry summer and spring, has meant that the township supplies have become extremely short. In fact, it was not possible this spring to fill the storage tank, and therefore the town is very short of water. With these two factors before us, the department has been looking at the possibility of getting a water scheme for Booleroo Centre, and I understand that in fact negotiations concerning the scheme are now well in hand. The scheme would commence probably somewhere near Caltowie and go northward and north-westerly to Booleroo. Such a scheme would require the attention of the Public Works Committee, and I think that within a matter of two or three weeks the department would be able to refer that scheme to the Committee for consideration. It was expected earlier that it might be more advantageous to take a pipeline from a point on the new Morgan-Whyalla main between Caltowie and Wirrabara, but because the bore at Booleroo has been delivering less water, a greater degree of urgency has attached to the matter and the other scheme has been considered in lieu of the earlier plan.

Mr. HEASLIP—Will the Minister state what will be the position of landholders along this new pipeline? Will water be available to them and to any township that the pipeline goes by or through? Will the landholders be rated and, if so, will the Public Works Committee give them an opportunity to give evidence?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—One reason why the pipeline will take the route I have outlined is that it will enable a supply of water to be given to the farms and towns through which it is proposed that it shall pass. From time to time the honourable member has raised with me the matter of providing water for farm lands in the area around Appila, and to the east, north and south-east of that township. This proposal will give these people access to a trunk main, and the usual practice will apply: rates will be levied for the services supplied. The calling of evidence before the Public Works Committee is a matter for that Committee.

Mr. RICHES—Has a scheme for Booleroo Centre been referred to the Public Works Committee?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—It has not yet been referred, but it will be ready in a short time for reference to the Committee. The Committee conducts its own inquiries and every

facility to appear before the Committee is provided to any person who wishes to give evidence.

#### HOUSING TRUST PROGRAMME.

Mr. LOVEDAY—Can the Premier say whether the programme of the South Australian Housing Trust will be increased this year for the whole of the State or whether it will remain the same, and whether the number of houses to be built by the trust at Whyalla will be increased or remain the same?

The Hon. SIR THOMAS PLAYFORD—It is not possible to give an answer to that question at this stage, as the Loan Council has not yet met and the appropriations for this State are not yet known. When the amount of the Loan money is known the Government can then appropriate it to the various activities, but until then it is not possible to give a firm figure. In order that departments would have some general idea of their programmes and so that they could arrange them, I have given them some figures, which are, of course, subject to amendment. The details will not be known until the Loan Council meets in May or June. The general programme based on money from all sources in this State this year was much larger than ever before—about £21,000,000. That is a very large sum, and I doubt whether we can increase that amount. I understand that the present rate of house building at Whyalla is considered satisfactory by the Broken Hill Pty. Company Ltd. I think the company is not more than filling the houses that we are at present building, and I doubt whether it desires an increase in the programme. If it does, the request will be examined.

#### MACCLESFIELD-STRATHALBYN ROAD.

Mr. JENKINS—A portion of the highway between Macclesfield and Strathalbyn is very narrow and tortuous, and has a very high vehicle count, which is likely to be much greater with the progress taking place in the Milang area and the number of people going fishing in that district at weekends. Will the Minister representing the Minister of Roads ascertain whether there are any plans for the reconstruction of this road or for building a new one to take its place soon?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Yes.

#### OIL REFINERY FOR WALLAROO.

Mr. HUGHES—In view of the announcement over the air last night, and the report in this morning's *Advertiser*, that the British Petroleum Company is in an advanced stage of planning a project for the construction of a

lubricating oil refinery in Australia, and that the location is still to be finally determined, will the Premier make known to the company the claims of Wallaroo as a suitable location in South Australia and, if he does, will he arrange for a representative of the company to be shown over the district of Wallaroo?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The reply to the first part of the question is “Yes,” and to the second part, “If the directors so desire, Yes.”

#### S.A. INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY.

Mrs. STEELE—In view of the fact that in an enrolment of about 10,000 students, exclusive of those attending secondary and trade school classes at the S.A. Institute of Technology over 3,100 are females, and as there are 31 full-time and 33 part-time women teachers on the staff of the Institute, can the Premier, representing the Minister of Education, say whether consideration will be given to the appointment of a woman or women to the Council of the Institute?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I am not able to answer the question offhand, but I will confer with the Minister of Education, who has not yet returned to duty after an illness, and inform the honourable member of the position in due course.

#### MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF JURORS.

Mr. TAPPING—My question relates to jurors who become ill whilst serving the State from time to time. In the February session this year, when a murder case was being conducted, one juror on the panel collapsed, and the case was adjourned until the next day when a further jury was empanelled to hear it, but that meant hours of valuable time being lost, which we cannot afford in the conduct of courts in South Australia, and money was involved. In March another juror took ill and that also held up proceedings. Will the Premier confer with the Attorney-General about the advisability of persons being medically examined at a cost to the State before being empanelled as jurors, so that occurrences like those I have mentioned will be prevented?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will discuss the matter with the Attorney-General, but I point out that a medical examination does not mean that a person will not take ill at a given time. The practice does not apply in any other part of the world, and I doubt whether it would be advisable to adopt it here. Before a trial takes place a considerable number of persons are empanelled

and frequently there are many challenges by one party or the other of the persons presented. It would be difficult to have a mass examination, and, in any case, it might not achieve the desired result.

#### NEW HOTEL FOR ADELAIDE.

Mr. SHANNON—A paragraph in this morning's *Advertiser* mentioned that the Hilton hotel group was interested in coming to Australia with a view to entering the hotel business. It was said that they might buy a hotel in Adelaide. After visiting the eastern States I thought that we might lose the opportunity to get a second really first-class hotel established by this group of hoteliers. Can the Premier say whether they are negotiating for the purchase of the Australia Hotel at North Adelaide and, if so, does that mean that we will not gain another first-class hotel?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I saw the account of the negotiations but I do not think they refer to any hotel in existence in South Australia. Recently a number of prominent business people have been examining the possibility of our having an additional hotel of international high-class standard. I think it is generally accepted that there is some call for additional accommodation to be provided as the city is growing rapidly, but so far as I know there is nothing in the present negotiations affecting a hotel in South Australia.

#### ELECTRICITY TRUST: DAMAGES.

Mr. BYWATERS—Recently a young lady travelling home by autocycle from her place of employment for lunch met with an accident involving herself and a vehicle driven by an employee of the Electricity Trust. Apparently it was purely an accident, and the young lady received very severe head injuries, resulting in concussion, and she had to receive hospital attention. Two days later insurance men from the trust visited the hospital and interrogated her to such an extent that she was greatly upset. They were able to get her to sign a statement that she was responsible for the accident and that she would pay the £30 damages to the vehicle. After the interrogation the men left and the young lady burst into tears. The staff had great difficulty in consoling her. This was told to me by people outside, but I have since checked with the parents and the girl and found it to be so. Will the Premier investigate the matter, after I give him the names of the people concerned, to see that this state of affairs does not occur again?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The honourable member has set out a number of matters which he desires me to investigate, and he asks me to give a guarantee that these things will not happen again. Until I know what has happened I would not like to commit myself to a statement, but I am prepared to investigate the matter to see if it is necessary to take action. I think that is what the honourable member requires.

#### HIRE-PURCHASE LEGISLATION.

Mr. DUNNAGE—The following statement was made by the Lieutenant-Governor in his Opening Speech:—

My Ministers attach great importance to the Hire-Purchase Agreements Bill introduced last session. It is their intention to move at an early date for its restoration to the stage reached during the previous session.

This was a contentious subject and much interest was taken in it by many people. Will the Premier say whether the legislation will be introduced again in the early part of this session or in the second part?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—As the honourable member knows, the Bill passed through this House and became a lapsed Bill in the Legislative Council. The Government intends to restore it to the Notice Paper as soon as the Address-in-Reply debate is concluded.

#### PORT PIRIE URANIUM TREATMENT PLANT.

Mr. McKEE—My question relates to the high blood count of white corpuscles in employees of the uranium treatment plant at Port Pirie. I have been informed that the blood count of some employees has been as high as 12,000, with several between 10,000 and 11,000. I believe that the normal count is about 8,000, so it is understandable that the steep increase in the number of white corpuscles is causing the employees great concern. Will the Premier obtain a full report concerning the blood counts of all employees at the uranium treatment plant and ascertain whether an increase of white corpuscles can cause cancer of the blood?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Since the establishment of the uranium treatment plant at Port Pirie this matter has received constant attention. I will refer the question to the Minister of Health to ascertain whether further action is necessary or whether any grounds exist for the fears expressed by the honourable member.

#### MURRAY RIVER WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. HARDING—An article in last week's *Mail* indicates that no water is at present flowing past the weir at Mildura and that 35 miles upstream from Mildura it is possible to wade across the River Murray. It also states that at present South Australia is dependent on water from the Darling River and from the storage in Lake Victoria. Can the Premier say whether the report about the condition of the river above Mildura is correct and whether we are at present solely dependent on water from the Darling River and from Lake Victoria?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I understand that the lock at Mildura is not particularly effective in holding water and that when there is no water flowing over it a considerable quantity is still escaping downstream. It is different from, and not as effective as, the locks in South Australia. The fact that no water is flowing over the lock does not necessarily mean that water is not passing through the area, because with the lock actually closed water is still flowing freely. New South Wales and Victoria are entitled to supply South Australia's quota of water from the Darling under the River Murray Waters Agreement. We also have storage at Lake Victoria, under the control of the River Murray Waters Commission, which can be used to supply our monthly quota. So far as I know, South Australia has received its quotas this year without any difficulty.

#### TELOWIE CREEK PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. RICHES—Can the Premier, representing the Minister of Education, take up with the Public Buildings Department the question of having the building of a new school at Telowie Creek placed high on the priority list of new schools? I mentioned the situation at this school last session and was given to understand that definite progress had been made, following on reports from departmental officers, firstly, on obtaining a new site and then on erecting a new building, but under today's date I have received a letter indicating that the matter has not been taken any further than it had been when I received a reply last session. The conditions at that school are intolerable and have already been publicized in sections of the press. Will the Premier investigate the possibility of securing a higher priority for this work?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I do not know how high on the priority list this school is, but I will call for a report and

advise the honourable member before the Loan Estimates are prepared so that he will have ample time to consider the matter.

#### UPPER STURT WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. MILLHOUSE—The area of Upper Sturt, which is in the south-eastern part of my electorate and adjoins the electorate of Onkaparinga, has no reticulated water supply. From time to time I have been approached about this and was approached again recently. Can the Minister of Works indicate when it is likely that the area will be provided with a reticulated water supply by his department?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—So far as I know, the department has not yet considered a reticulated water supply for the Upper Sturt district. I do not know the district very well, but I understand it is not highly developed as yet and that it enjoys a fairly good natural rainfall. No doubt the department has not yet considered a scheme for those reasons and possibly also because it has not been able to see the possibility of providing a supply for the area. I will bring the matter to the notice of the Engineer-in-Chief. However, so far as the department's programme is concerned, in the immediate future it will be hard pressed to carry out the schemes to which it is already committed or the work which it perhaps considers more urgent than this. The honourable member can be assured that the department will examine the matter, and I will supply him with further information later.

#### PUBLIC TRUSTEE'S FEES.

Mr. FRED WALSH—I am concerned with a regulation made under the Fees Regulation Act, 1927, increasing the fee for the preparation of a succession duties form and applications to register a death on a certificate of title and the production of that certificate by the Public Trustee. Although I know the date of operation of the regulation is December 22 last, I know of one estate—and possibly there are others—being handled by the Public Trustee that has been in his hands since last May. Can the Premier say whether the increased fees will apply to estates that were in the hands of the Public Trustee prior to the passing of the regulation?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Quite frankly, I do not know whether the fees would apply to an estate that had been committed to the Public Trustee, and on which he had commenced work, prior to the passing of the regulation. I believe they would. However, I will get a full report and advise the honourable member. Generally, the fees this

department were charging were nominal and insufficient to recoup the department's costs and it became a question of whether the department should curtail—

Mr. Fred Walsh—I am not arguing that point.

The Hon. SIR THOMAS PLAYFORD—I understand that, but I wanted to explain the background. If the honourable member gives me the name of the estate I may be able to take the matter further and ascertain what the precise charges will be in connection with it.

#### ADELAIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL APPEAL.

Mr. RYAN—Can the Treasurer say whether any organization is being paid a commission on money raised on behalf of the Adelaide Children's Hospital Appeal?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Adelaide Children's Hospital is, of course, conducted by a board, but I believe the hospital did engage some consultants from another State about fund-raising activities. I will see if I can secure precise information about what was involved in the transaction.

#### CONCESSION FARES FOR COUNTRY PENSIONERS.

Mr. RALSTON—The Government has granted concession fares for pensioners using State-owned transport in the metropolitan area which, I understand, extends from Gawler to Bridgewater. Most members fully support this policy, but agree that it should be extended to country areas so that pensioners there would enjoy similar concessions to pensioners in the metropolitan area. Country pensioners are somewhat concerned at this policy which discriminates between areas. Can the Treasurer say whether the Government has considered granting, in the next financial year, concession fare rates for pensioners in country areas where State-owned transport operates?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The concessions mentioned were granted in the last Budget and as I have not yet got around to forming the next Budget it is not possible to forecast what further benefits can be extended. I do not know what the position will be next year. The Commonwealth Government has announced its intention of balancing its Budget, but as I have not noticed any particular economies being effected in Commonwealth departments it may intend to balance its Budget at the expense of the grants provided for all States. Until I know the exact position regarding grants that will be available from the Commonwealth I cannot

forecast any extensions. The question will be noted and will be considered when the Budget is being prepared.

#### HOSPITALS DEPARTMENT: TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES.

Mr. DUNSTAN—My question relates to Government policy on the engagement and dismissal of temporary employees, particularly in the Hospitals Department. I am particularly concerned about the case of a Mrs. White who was engaged as an assistant housekeeper or housekeeper at the Northfield wards of the Royal Adelaide Hospital. She was engaged as a temporary employee under the terms of the Act and was issued with a book of Royal Adelaide Hospital regulations, for which she had to sign. She fell within regulation 57 of the regulations which states that "the appointments of the undermentioned shall be terminated by one month's notice from either side." According to a legal opinion by Dr. Bray, which I have seen, she was in the list of positions mentioned in that category. Her employment was terminated by a fortnight's notice and it then appeared, upon the advice of her consulting solicitors, that although she had been issued with this booklet of regulations and had understood this to be her position, the Crown retains its right in South Australia, in relation to appointments under the Hospitals Act, to dismiss servants without notice. This is a prerogative right of the Crown which cannot be derogated from it as it stands. It appears that people, upon being appointed as temporary public servants under the Hospitals Act, can be misled into believing that they are entitled to a greater notice than in fact they are given. In those circumstances, since the Government does not appear to have exercised the prerogative right of the Crown in relation to permanent public servants, which it has statutory power to do, will the Premier state Government policy in relation to temporary public servants, and inform me whether we can expect in future that people who accept positions as temporary public servants will be given the notice to which they are entitled?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I ask the honourable member to put the question on notice.

#### GAS WORKS ACCIDENT.

Mr. HUTCHENS—In the press last night and this morning appeared a report on an accident that occurred at the Brompton Gas Works in which four persons were injured as a result of the collapse of scaffolding. Can the Premier state whether the scaffolding was

inspected by the proper authorities, whether it met with the requirements of the Scaffolding Act and whether attempts were made to erect the scaffold in keeping with the alleged safety-first in industry?

The Hon. SIR THOMAS PLAYFORD—I saw the report with regret, as did all members. I will obtain a full report on the scaffolding from the Chief Inspector. I understand that the scaffolding did break, so it would appear that it had some defect. However, I will ascertain definitely whether the Act had been complied with and whether there was any negligence or any other matter that required attention, and will see that it is straightened out.

#### EGG PRICES.

Mr. LAUCKE—As from yesterday the wholesale price of first quality eggs was reduced by 3d. a dozen by the Egg Board. As decreased production at this time of the year has in the past tended to a firming in price rather than a weakening, can the Minister of Agriculture explain this rather unexpected fall in price?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—Although the honourable member speaks of decreased production, receipts of eggs by the board are about 30 per cent higher now than they were at the same time last year. This presents a problem to the board to clear these eggs as fast as it can, and I believe the price was reduced for that purpose. I do not know any more than that. The chairman, Mr. Anderson, is in another State attending a meeting of the Australian Egg Board and as soon as he returns I will get him to give me a full report on the matter. I remind the honourable member that the board is there to represent producers in an effort to sell their products as best it can, and that it has the widespread confidence of producers. I believe any decision it made would have been a sound one.

#### BIRKENHEAD TUG PENS.

Mr. TAPPING—Last year I asked the Minister of Works questions regarding the proposed construction of tug pens at Birkenhead, and in reply he said that as the tugowners were not prepared to subscribe to the outlay the Government did not propose to include it in the Loan Estimates last year. The Public Works Committee recommended the construction of these pens in 1957. In view of the many openings of the Birkenhead Bridge, and as the construction of tug pens downstream from the bridge would eliminate some of these openings, will the Minister of Works confer with his colleagues in Cabinet on the need to provide money on



the Loan Estimates this year to construct these tug pens, which are important for more than one reason?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Harbors Board and the Government recognize that advantages would accrue to the various interests concerned from the provision of tug pens, and appreciate the correctness of the honourable member's comment. However, the provision of these facilities will be very costly, and the board has been involved in heavy expense on major developmental work at Port Adelaide and many outports, so it has not been possible to allocate funds for this purpose. So far as I can see in examining the projected Loan programme for the board in the ensuing financial year, it will not be possible, because of the pressure of other essential developmental projects in various parts of the State, to make funds available for the construction of tug pens in the ensuing year. We recognize the desirability of these pens, and my comment last year was not necessarily a criticism of the tug-owning interests but merely to point out that the whole burden of the cost, not only of the establishment but of the maintenance of these facilities, would necessarily fall on the Government which was then, as it is now, unable to make funds available.

#### MURRAY BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. BYWATERS—Can the Minister of Works say whether tenders are likely to be called for the proposed grading and sealing of the Murray Bridge high school yard?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The honourable member mentioned this matter to me previously and I obtained the following report from the Director of Public Buildings:—

Approval is being sought in a docket herewith for the expenditure of £6,925 on the formation of an oval and bitumen paving at the Murray Bridge high school. If approved, tenders can be called for the work as plans and specifications have already been completed.

The matter is ready for approval and will go to tender almost immediately.

#### ACCOMMODATION FOR MENTAL PATIENTS.

Mrs. STEELE—Concern is felt by a number of organizations interested in social welfare in the community, including, I understand, the National Council of Women, Young Women's Christian Association, South Australian Association for Mental Health and the Marriage Guidance Council of South Australia,

about the lack of suitable accommodation for some women patients on their discharge from mental hospitals who still need specialized care and attention. The ages of these women range from 16 to 59 years. In an effort to meet a community need, the Y.W.C.A. has accommodated some of these women and girls, but this organization has neither the trained staff nor the time to help these people, and, in addition, the presence of a number of this type of person in a residential hostel can have a serious effect on the other residents. Could the Premier, representing the Minister of Health, see that urgent consideration is given to the immediate need in this city for a residential centre to accommodate these women and girls, so that their rehabilitation and assimilation into the community will contribute to their ultimate complete restoration to health?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I do not know what numbers are involved, and just what function it is proposed the Government would have in this matter. I will obtain a report and advise the honourable member.

#### PUBLIC EXAMINATION RETURNS.

Mr. RALSTON—Can the Premier, representing the Minister of Education, say whether headmasters of high schools, technical high schools, area schools, and higher primary schools, submit returns to the Education Department showing the number of students from their schools who sit for public examinations and the results obtained?

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

#### BANNING OF LEHRER RECORDINGS.

Mr. DUNSTAN—On the opening day the Premier, in a reply to a question by the member for Enfield concerning the American entertainer, Mr. Tom Lehrer, said:—

I have also been informed that this celebrated artist proposed to release a number of records upon the unsuspecting public of South Australia, but as a result of the action taken by the Chief Secretary, possibly these will not now go into circulation.

Can the Premier say what action has been taken by the Chief Secretary in relation to records, and by what law and under what authority he has any power of censorship over recordings to be released in South Australia?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The details of the records I referred to, and indeed the items that were banned by the Chief Secretary, were not fully reported in the

press. The portions reported in the press were not the complete portions proposed to be put over in South Australia. I have checked on some of them, and some are salacious by anybody's standards. If the records were sold I do not doubt that the police would take action under the Act which is available to them in these circumstances. It would not be action by the Chief Secretary, but police action which can be taken on any matter of that description which the police believe to be not in accordance with the Act.

#### DISTRICT OF LIGHT BY-ELECTION.

Mr. LAWN—Undue haste is being shown by the Government in filling the vacancy for the district of Light. As is well-known, the Government has lost its majority in the House and hopes to fill the vacancy by the time the Address in Reply is finished and before it brings its programme before the House. Obviously it is afraid of being defeated. I remember that on a similar occasion some two or three years ago the Premier, campaigning on behalf of his Government at the Mount Gambier by-election, told the people there that if they wanted a Liberal Party Government they would have to return a Liberal Party candidate. The people showed the Government what they thought of the Liberal Party Government.

The SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member must ask his question.

Mr. LAWN—I asked permission to make an explanatory statement.

The SPEAKER—Order! The Chair wants to be in a position to know whether what is being said is in explanation of a question. If the honourable member asks his question the Chair will know.

Mr. LAWN—I think I said sufficient about the people of Mount Gambier and their answer. I presume the Premier will make the same statement to the people of Light. In the event of the electors of Light giving the same answer as that of the people of Mount Gambier, namely, that they do not want a Liberal Party Government . . .

The SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member's question is hypothetical, and I ask the honourable member to take his seat. Hypothetical questions are out of order.

Mr. LAWN—I will ask this question: if the people of Light elect a representative of the Opposition, will the Premier throw in the towel and resign?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The honourable member has tried to bring politics into the question. The simple fact is that there is a vacancy, and the Speaker, in accordance with the functions that are undoubtedly his prerogative, has called for a by-election. Regarding the result of that by-election, I point out that in the event of the Government losing its majority in the House, it undoubtedly would be necessary to have an election, because I cannot see the honourable member or many of his colleagues being able to form a Government.

#### HOSPITAL CHARGES.

Mr. RICHES—The Premier replied to an earlier question concerning the attitude of the Government when a notice of motion is tabled in this House for the disallowance of a regulation. I understood him to say that if a notice of motion were given to disallow a regulation the Government would not take action until the House had dealt with the matter. Regulations have been gazetted concerning increases in hospital fees, and these regulations are causing much concern in districts served by public hospitals. Would the Premier's earlier answer apply to this matter, and if a notice of motion is tabled asking the House to disallow those regulations, will the Government withdraw the increases until the regulations have been considered by Parliament?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The two things are not analogous. The earlier question concerned regulations regarding safety chains, some of which involve a heavy expenditure on equipment that may not ultimately be required. The regulations regarding hospital fees prescribe a payment for a service, the cost of which is very much more than the charges provided in the regulations. If the regulations were to be disallowed it automatically would be necessary to curtail that service.

#### SOUTH-EASTERN POTATO GROWERS.

Mr. HARDING—A copy of a letter I have received from the secretary of the South-Eastern Potato Growers Association has been sent also to the members for Millicent and Mount Gambier. The original letter, which has been shown to the Minister of Agriculture, seeks assistance for potato growers in the South-East, particularly regarding freight charges, the grading of potatoes and other matters. Has the Minister of Agriculture anything to report on this matter?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I am making investigations at the request of the members concerned. A complaint was made that the potatoes were damaged on the railways, but a report I received from the Minister of Railways states that the merchants in Adelaide were approached about this matter and had no complaint whatever to make about it. I understand that the potatoes delivered in Mount Gambier before the departure of the morning train will be in Adelaide by the next morning. I have now left this matter with the Potato Board for its comment. Should there be any evidence of complaints of damage I shall be pleased to receive them, but investigations have shown that there has been no such damage. I will obtain a final report for the honourable member as soon as possible.

#### PORT AUGUSTA HOSPITAL.

Mr. RICHES—Will the Minister of Works obtain a report on the progress of work at the Port Augusta hospital, particularly on when the maternity wing will be completed? I think the Minister knows the unhappy situation that has arisen at that hospital because of delays. I am not apportioning blame, but I should like to know how far the work has progressed and when it is expected to be completed.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I am rather glad that the honourable member is not seeking to apportion blame in this matter, because much has been said and much exaggeration indulged in. I will seek from the Director of Public Buildings an up-to-date report and next week let the honourable member have some information on the expected completion date of the maternity wing.

#### CURTAILMENT OF LOAN ESTIMATES.

Mr. RYAN—The Lieutenant-Governor's Speech referred to the fact that the Loan Estimates for this year are to be cut from £29,000,000 to £27,000,000, a reduction of £2,000,000 in works considered to be less urgent. Although the Premier may not be able to advise the House what is considered to be the less urgent work to be eliminated from the programme, will he advise the House whether any urgent school buildings have been deferred because of the lack of finance and the curtailment of the Loan programme?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—If my memory serves me rightly, the Education Department had no cut whatsoever. In fact, I believe a slight increase was provided for the department because of the urgency of certain works. I will obtain a precise answer for the honourable member.

Mr. RYAN—In last year's Estimates an amount of £144,000 was set aside for initial expenditure on seven secondary schools, including the Port Adelaide girls' technical school, a project that was approved by the Public Works Committee two or three years ago. On seeking information as to when it was thought that the work would commence in this financial year I was informed that no tenders had been called and that the department did not intend to call for them this year because of the lack of finance. Will the Premier say whether that was a true statement when related to the answer he gave to my previous question?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—There is no contradiction in the statements. The Education Department has money allotted to it under a Loan programme and it establishes a priority, which it gives to the Minister of Works, for the building of schools. There is nothing to prevent the Education Department, if it feels that it is necessary, from altering the priority, and, in fact, it is altered frequently. It sets out a priority for guidance purposes, but frequently adjustments are made to it because of emergencies arising. I will ascertain the position in relation to the school mentioned by the honourable member.

#### CHARGES AT NORTHFIELD WARDS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (on notice)—

1. What number of beds are provided at the Northfield Wards under the Hospitals Department for aged and chronic cases?

2. What charges are being made per day to—

- (a) those persons who are in receipt of age or invalid pensions.
- (b) those who are not covered by hospital benefits.
- (c) those who are covered by hospital benefits.
- (d) any who may not be in receipt of either age or invalid pensions?

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

1. The number of beds provided at the Northfield Wards under the Hospitals Department for aged and chronic cases is 193.

2. It is assumed that the information sought in question 2 applies to the aged and chronic cases at Northfield Wards referred to in question 1.

- (a) The charge made to those persons at Northfield Wards who are in receipt of age or invalid pensions is 60s. per day less the hospital benefit deducted

from the account. A notice is attached to all accounts indicating that in cases of financial hardship special consideration will be given to pensioners and other patients, and notices to this effect are also displayed prominently at the Hospital. Pensioners who are not covered by hospital benefits are charged according to their financial circumstances (that is depending on the amount in the bank, the extent of income, if any, in addition to their pension, and any commitments which they may have, with a minimum charge of 10s. per day (reducible, however, below that in exceptional circumstances). This is equivalent to a charge of £3 10s. per week (virtually a food charge only) compared with a normal pension of £4 15s. per week. For those pensioners who are covered by hospital benefits, the amount of benefit will normally be accepted in full payment of the hospital account. For a payment of 9d. per week (1s. 6d. for married couples) a hospital insurance cover of 28s. per day may be obtained, quite apart from the basic Commonwealth benefit of 8s. per day, which is deducted from the hospital account.

- (b) The charge made to those persons who are not covered by hospital benefits is the same as for (a), viz., 60s. per day. If these persons are able to prove that they are not in a position to pay the full hospital charge, they have their account reduced according to their financial circumstances, and in accordance with the new remission scale approved by Cabinet.
- (c) The charge made to those persons who are covered by hospital benefits is also 60s. per day. If the amount of benefit is less than the hospital charge the account may be reduced according to their financial circumstances, and in accordance with the new remission scale.

The general section (other than the infectious section) of Northfield Wards has not been approved by the Commonwealth for the purpose of the payment of special account benefits generally, and therefore patients there, who are in the special account for hospital benefits, can only receive

the additional Commonwealth benefit of 12s. per day through the approved organization, which, together with the basic 8s. per day deducted from the hospital account, makes a total benefit of £1 per day, but cannot receive the "fund" benefit of 16s. per day unless they are accepted individually for special account benefits by the Commonwealth Director of Health, pursuant to section 82 E (2) (b) of the National Health Act.

- (d) Persons who may not be in receipt of either age or invalid pensions are charged at the rate of 60s. per day. If these persons are able to prove that they are not in a position to pay the full hospital charge, they have their accounts reduced according to their financial circumstances (including any hospital benefits), and in accordance with the new remission scale approved by Cabinet.

#### CHARGES AT ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (on notice)—What charges are being made per day at the Royal Adelaide Hospital to—

- (a) those persons who are in receipt of age or invalid pensions?  
 (b) those who are not covered by hospital benefits?  
 (c) those who are covered by hospital benefits?

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

- (a) Persons who are in receipt of age or invalid pensions, in common with all other inpatients at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, are charged at the rate of 60s. per day less the hospital benefits deducted from the hospital account. This charge operated from February 1, 1960, following a decision of the Government that pensioners should be charged for hospital treatment. The rate of 60s. per day is an initial charge only as a notice is attached to all accounts indicating that in cases of financial hardship special consideration will be given to pensioners and other patients. Notices to this effect are also displayed prominently at the hospital. Pensioners who are not covered by hospital benefits are charged according to their financial circumstances (that is depending on

the amount in the bank, the extent of income, if any, in addition to their pension and any commitments which they may have, with a minimum charge of 10s. per day (reducible however below that in exceptional circumstances). This is equivalent to a charge of £3 10s. per week (virtually a food charge only) compared with a normal pension of £4 15s. per week.

For those pensioners who are covered by hospital benefits the amount of benefit will normally be accepted in full payment of the hospital account. For a payment of 9d. per week (1s. 6d. per week for married couples) a hospital insurance cover of 28s. per day may be obtained quite apart from the basic Commonwealth benefit of 8s. per day which is deducted from the hospital account.

- (b) The charge made to those persons who are not covered by hospital benefits is the same as for (a)—viz., 60s. per day. If these persons are able to prove that they are not in a position to pay the full hospital charge they have their account reduced according to their financial circumstances and in accordance with the new remission scale approved by Cabinet.
- (c) The charge made to those persons who are covered by hospital benefits is also 60s. per day. If the amount of benefit is less than the hospital charge the account may be reduced according to their financial circumstances and in accordance with the new remission scale. It is still possible for those who are fully insured to make a profit on their hospitalization because the maximum total hospital benefit is £23 16s. per week compared with the hospital charge of £21 per week.

#### RETRENCHMENTS.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—(on notice)—

1. Have any Government employees been retrenched since January 1, 1960?
2. If so, from which departments?
3. What number were retrenched from each department?
4. Were these men employed on revenue or loan works?
5. Are any further retrenchments contemplated?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—No permanent employee of the Government has been retrenched since January 1, 1960. However, some employees of the Engineering and Water Supply and Harbors Board Departments have been discharged because of the completion of the loan works on which they were engaged. It is not anticipated that any permanent employee will be retrenched although a number of employees may be discharged by the Harbors Board as the construction work for which they were engaged is completed. I have not given the actual numbers, as sought by the honourable member. Speaking from memory and my information is approximately right, I think that to date 163 employees of the Engineering and Water Supply Department and 8 to 10 of the Harbors Board have been retrenched.

#### ACTION AGAINST NEWS LTD.

Mr. LAWN (on notice)—Is it the intention of the Government to continue proceedings on the sole surviving charge against News Limited.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The jury at the trial referred to considered its verdict for the statutory period of four hours without coming to a decision. They were granted an extension of time and, after a further period of fifty minutes, returned verdicts of not guilty on eight charges and they disagreed on the remaining charge which was thereupon made a remanet for the next (April) session of the Criminal Court by the Trial Judge.

#### PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the following reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence:—

Millicent Primary School (Additional Building) (final).

Sewerage of West Beach Area, Lockleys and Brooklyn Park.

Ordered that reports be printed.

#### SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

The Legislative Council notified its appointment of Sessional Committees.

#### SITTINGS AND BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD moved—

That during the present session, unless otherwise ordered, the House meet on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in each week, at 2 o'clock.

Motion carried.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD moved—

That during the present session, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and after the 6 o'clock adjournment on Wednesdays, Government business take precedence over other business, except questions.

Motion carried.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer) brought up the following report of the committee appointed to prepare the draft Address in Reply to his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech:—

May it please Your Excellency—

1. We, the members of the House of Assembly, express our thanks for the Speech with which Your Excellency was pleased to open Parliament.

2. We rejoice in the recent engagement of Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret and tender to Her Royal Highness and her fiance our warmest congratulations.

3. We assure your Excellency that we will give our best attention to all matters placed before us.

4. We earnestly join in Your Excellency's prayer for the Divine blessing on the proceedings of the session.

Mr. NANKIVELL (Albert)—I appreciate the honour of being asked to move the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Lieutenant-Governor's Opening Speech. There are several matters of State and national importance that have occurred since last session to which I want to refer. We all join with His Excellency in hailing the birth of a second son, Prince Andrew, to Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, and in offering sincere congratulations to her Royal Highness, Princess Margaret, on her recent engagement. These are both matters of great significance within our Royal Family—the family which stands at the head of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

I also pay a tribute to Sir Robert and Lady George who, during their term of about seven years, travelled extensively throughout the State and by their friendliness and charm endeared themselves to most South Australians. We were indeed sorry to see them leave, but, in the absence of a Governor, we are fortunate in having a most gracious personage in Sir Mellis Napier to act as Lieutenant-Governor.

The opening of the Adelaide Festival of Arts marked the first public duty in Australia of our new Governor-General (Viscount Dunrossil) and it was a task that he performed with distinction. The Festival was an unqualified success and we are indebted to its organizers for the manner in which they helped

to enhance the reputation of Adelaide as a city of culture.

I take this opportunity of expressing to members on both sides my appreciation of the friendly manner in which they received me and the assistance they gave me in my first session. I particularly thank the Ministers for their kindly and tolerant co-operation on all matters concerning the wellbeing of my district. It was most gratifying to see the Minister of Lands justly rewarded by Her Majesty for the long and loyal service he has rendered this State as a Minister of the Crown. I am sure all members join with me in extending congratulations to Sir Cecil. It is also pleasing to see the members for Semaphore and Enfield one more gracing the benches opposite.

I pay a tribute to a man whose absence from this Chamber is a great sorrow to me, as I am sure it is to all members. The death of George Hambour took from this House a fearless individualist, an honest man, a friendly man, and a man of high principles with a strong sense of justice. His passing has deprived the district of Light of a worthy representative and, like many others, I have lost a friend and I join with the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Burra in extending sincere sympathy to his wife and family.

When we look at the things most sought after in a democratic way of life we find that they are a home, the freedom to speak and think freely without fear, the right to be independent, the right to be ambitious and have the opportunity to acquire greater skill in trades and professions so that one can gain a greater reward for one's labours, and, last but by no means least, security for our old age. Surely these are ideals sought after by all free peoples and it is the responsibility of good government to assist them by maintaining a balanced and prosperous economy in which free business enterprise can expand, because prosperity and progress are founded on the prosperity and progress of free enterprise, not upon public and Government works, although these, of course, are related to progress. I believe that we should gauge our standard of living not so much on our wages but on the standard of services provided to the community.

By providing a climate in which free enterprise can expand, and by maintaining stability of government, Australia has been able, during the past decade, to develop at an almost unprecedented rate. The population has increased by 2,100,000. It has now passed the

10,000,000 mark and we have not only housed, provided educational facilities, hospitalization and transport for the people, but have found employment for an added 1,000,000 people, whilst at the same time providing domestic services at a rate almost equal to demand, and all this has been done whilst we have enjoyed a rising standard of living. This has been a major undertaking. It has meant long vision and foresight, and this Government has not been found wanting. It has provided conditions to attract industry despite natural disabilities and in so doing has been responsible for some wonderful feats of construction and engineering in its major public works. Let me cite the construction of Elizabeth, the Morgan-Whyalla and Mannum-Adelaide pipelines, South Para reservoir, Leigh Creek coal field and Port Augusta power stations, with the subsequent tremendous programme to reticulate electric power throughout the State; and there are others in prospect, or in the course of construction, all aimed at overcoming our State's natural disabilities so that it can continue to expand industrially.

We must expand when we look ahead and see that in Australia today there are 909,000 children between 10 and 14 years, 1,000,000 between 5 and 9 years, and 1,040,000 under 5 years. We are now facing up to the problem of educating these children, but within five years we shall have to guarantee employment for an additional 650,000 persons and, by 1970, 1,250,000 persons. By 1970 we will be faced with a further increase in the demand for housing and domestic furnishings caused by an increasing number of newly married couples requiring to set up homes of their own. Last year 84,000 homes were built in Australia, but by 1970 it will need to be 100,000 per annum to meet both new and replacement demands.

All this presupposes that we can continue our present rate of expansion and maintain our present high standard of living—and it is high when we consider that today there is a motor vehicle to every 3.8 persons and a car to every 5.6 (placing us fourth in the world after the United States of America, Canada, and New Zealand), one refrigerator to every 3.3 persons (roughly, one to every family), one washing machine and one telephone to every five persons, and 71 per cent of the people now own their own homes. This is not just because rental homes are in short supply, but because conditions and finance permit people to be independent. We have had full employment and a low overall average of about 2 per

cent unemployment. The figures for this State are even better, as highlighted in His Excellency's Speech—about .3 per cent. I admit that statistics might be subject to anomalies, as pointed out by the member for Port Adelaide last session, but nevertheless they are remarkably good.

The ability to maintain this rate of expansion, with increasing living standards, has been brought about by several factors. Firstly, Australia has had 10 years of high prices for primary produce, coupled with good seasons, and a world market destitute of foodstuffs, fibres and raw materials, as the result of six years of total war. Secondly, sound and stable government has provided enticing conditions for the establishment of industries; guaranteed some measure of security for the overseas investor; and maintained the maximum safe level of investment in Government works and services which, at 25 per cent of our national income, is the highest level of any country in the world. To exceed this level would, in itself, be inflationary, according to Colin Clark. Thirdly, we owe a lot to Australia's strategic position in relation to Asian markets, with cheaper delivery costs and, in some cases, cheaper production costs, coupled with tariff concessions to British Commonwealth countries so far as the subsidiaries of European and American firms are concerned. This has in a large measure encouraged them to invest in Australian industry.

It is the combination of these factors which has undoubtedly been responsible for Australia having undergone a major industrial revolution, quite contrary to pre-war contentions that such development was not only impossible, but impracticable. But I contend that had the policy towards this development been less enticing, and had industry been kept subject to threats of socialization, high taxation or even profit taxes, then these contentions might have been correct. For there is no doubt that we owe our expansion, to a large measure, to 10 years of sound Federal Government administration and Liberal and Country Party administration. But can we continue to expand at our present rate and maintain our accepted standard of living in view of the increasing tempo of inflation? It is all very well to say a creeping inflation of 3 per cent per annum is good, or to say that other countries have experienced the same thing. I have seen it quoted recently that retail prices in Australia have risen by 8 per cent since 1956, those of the United Kingdom by 7 per cent,

and those of the U.S.A., Canada and New Zealand by 11 per cent; therefore everything is all right. It is not all right. What they forgot to say was that during 1959-60 their figures remained constant whilst those of Australia rose a further 3 per cent. This is unfortunate because our prices had been rising more slowly than those of other countries and had they continued stable would have soon become competitive on world markets. Such competition on a wide market alone assists in bringing down prices and costs, as it permits the maximum advantage to be obtained from continuous runs of individual items of production. Further, competitive prices remove the fear of import competition from other than cheap labour countries. They also remove the fear of price inflation.

If we are to restore balance to our economy it cannot be done by telling the farmer to be more efficient so that his prices can become more competitive. The Australian farmer is already one of the most efficient units of farm labour in the world, being second only to the New Zealand farmer; and he will undoubtedly work longer hours if necessary in an endeavour to maintain his present returns. It cannot be done by raising salaries and wages; it cannot be done by reducing public works and essential services, but it can and must be done by reducing prices and thereby reducing costs. Let us not be carried away with any grandiose ideas about Australia being an industrial country, or being in any way self-supporting. Australia still depends for its earning capacity of overseas credit upon the primary industries, and let us not overlook the simple fact that wool alone contributes 48 per cent to our overseas funds. But even wool will only continue to command the market so long as it is competitive in price with other fibres. The export of metals and metal manufactures has increased by 3 per cent in 10 years and that of other exports also 3 per cent, but 79 per cent of our export income is from primary produce. And let us not be misled by the state of our overseas balances, for in only three years out of the last 10 have we had true surpluses. In fact, there has actually been an overall deficit of £1,100,000,000 despite import restrictions, but this has been masked by an inflow of capital and accumulated profit of some £1,200,000,000, and although this money has helped to make our development possible we must not lose sight of the fact that it also increases our indebtedness, and interest must be met from our overseas balances. We are becoming increasingly aware that it is

harder to dispose of our primary surpluses—the wheat surplus in Australia alone exceeds 100 million bushels. Fresh fruit, canned fruit, dairy products, and even beef and mutton are becoming more difficult to find markets for. The market is also becoming more competitive, and the buyer can be more selective so far as both quality and price are concerned.

Today, because our economy has been temporarily off balance, the principle we are striving for could be in jeopardy because if our prices cannot be reduced to competitive levels, we will inevitably be priced out of world markets. Some say the answer lies in subsidies, but farmers do not want subsidized prices from preference and, after all, how absurd it would be to subsidize the goods which provide us with the wherewithal to trade just to protect high levels of profit in industry. Anyway, where do subsidies come from other than from inflationary note issues, except from taxation or reduced social services, neither of which is very palatable?

We only have to look at the situation in the United States of America and Great Britain, both of which subsidize their agricultural industries, if we want to get this idea in true perspective; and we see that Great Britain intends to reduce its rural subsidies this year by some £9,000,000. This will affect the guaranteed price of sheep, wool, milk, eggs, wheat, barley, oats, and sugar beet. This is because of the heavy burden they place upon the taxpayer. Let us look at the position in the United States.

The following is taken from the *Sunday Denver Post* of February 28, 1960:—

President Eisenhower stated in Congress on February 9 this year, "The Government sustains a net cost of more than one thousand dollars per minute or 1.5 million dollars every day of the year round to stabilize wheat prices and incomes." The President further figured that the Government had 3.5 billion dollars invested in wheat, that is, approximately one-third of the money it has tied up in all price-supported crops. He challenged Congress to find some means of answering this problem before it collapsed under the pressure of public indignation, "hurting thousands of farming people in the process."

In Australia we shall be faced with very much the same thing. Subsidies are not the answer. Therefore, I pose this question—How can we overcome this problem and increase our export income when markets for primary products are becoming increasingly harder to establish and maintain, particularly when unfavourable terms of trade could quickly make matters worse? I admit we are developing our mineral resources, and many of us



recently heard the Prime Minister rhapsodizing upon the theme, the Romance of Mineral Development, but we must not lose sight of the cold fact that even these must have markets and that these minerals must be sold before they return anything to the country. There is just one way that would permit us to continue at our present tempo and that is the discovery of oil in marketable quantities, but failing that, there is only the cold reality that if we are to increase our export income by some 60 to 70 per cent in order to provide the estimated requirement of an extra £250,000,000 a year over the next five years we must reduce costs and prices of our exportable primary products and further reduce those of our manufactured goods to levels which are competitive by world standards. That is, we must provide more goods for the same money, not the same quantity for less money. As I see it, the present position has been brought about largely by several factors, the first of which is possibly the unrealistic approach to wage fixing by the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, which apparently makes adjustments according to the ability of the industry to pay and not according to the productivity of that industry. Nobody could ever justly deny the right of a working man to increased wages because of his increased skill or increased productivity but, overall, most of the people who receive increases are not producers of goods but providers of services. This means dearer services and more money in circulation to buy about the same quantity of goods. The margin for skill, or the definition of skill, is obviously too broad; its application is too broad, at any rate, because if wage increases were based on productivity increases more goods would be available and there would therefore be less need to fear inflation.

Secondly, there is a lack of what we might consider to be free competition. With free enterprise we like to have free competition to fix our prices, but in both buying and selling we see rings and trade protection groups fixing prices and millions of pounds being spent in advertisements and free hand-outs when, after all, the best sales promoter really is price. Because of price-fixing by industry we are forced to maintain and justified in maintaining, a price control department to give the buyer some measure of protection from undue exploitation, which could easily happen.

The third factor is what appears to me to be an unjustly high profit margin in many industries. I shall say more about this later.

Another factor is that industry feels a greater responsibility to its shareholders than to the community and therefore, instead of attempting to absorb rising costs, it passes them directly to the consumer. I admit that in some cases greater efficiency may have resulted in prices not rising but it has never resulted in their falling to any marked degree—not to my knowledge, at any rate.

I am not an economist but I believe that our present inflation, although apparently a wage inflation, has been brought about largely because of a profit inflation that has been stimulated by hire-purchase and easy credit. Otherwise, we would undoubtedly have had some indication of buyer resistance to prices before now. I am convinced that the practice of building up undistributed profit reserves is being overdone. Most companies with large reserves still show good yields on shares at parity but the inflated value of the share is largely due to restricted shareholdings or to the prospect of bonus hand-outs which, after all, are capital disbursements. It is these hidden reserves over and above the provision of wages, salaries, working costs, depreciation, overhead and dividends that promote the formation of monopolies and combines. This is dangerous.

I contend that all companies should be given liberal depreciation allowances to permit them to keep their equipment up-to-date, and they should also be given some relief from special types of tax. Increased depreciation allowances would also increase their efficiency and productivity. The practice of making capital disbursements means that the majority are contributing for the benefit of the minority. These capital issues are tax free but, although accepted as good business practice, I contend that a greater proportion of expansion should be financed by public issues thereby permitting a wider field for investment at parity prices.

Because industry has been able to finance and expand in this fashion, I am convinced that it is now in a position to consolidate and lower some prices or at least to maintain prices at the present level. However, if industry is not prepared to co-operate, it is obvious that the Government will have no option but to resort to indirect means, such as permitting a larger inflow of imported goods to offer keener competition, or to direct means of exercising control through legislation and specialized forms of taxation.

Nobody can deny that our whole economic future will depend largely on the way in which we adjust ourselves to the present crisis,

but the problem is one for secondary industry to face; it cannot be met entirely by our primary industries, in which the position is becoming acute. Costs are high and rising, and overall prices are falling. It is not necessary for me to point out that we are at a geographical disadvantage in our major markets. Admittedly, because of improved markets for dairy produce and a good season in 1958, last year was one of our best income years on record for export income, which was estimated at about £900,000,000, but we were selling the produce of 1958. This, in conjunction with the continued inflow of investment, has provided us with good overseas balances. However, as far as rural industries are concerned, this has been largely due to increased production and not increased prices, hence the increased gross profit bears no relation to true net income.

When speaking on this debate last year I pointed out that costs had risen by 48 per cent and prices had fallen by 53 per cent since 1953, and this trend has continued. Since 1950 the national income has increased from £3,129,000,000 to £6,197,000,000 in 1959. In 1950 income from primary produce constituted 24 per cent of the national income, with an estimated income of £751,000,000, but in 1959 this figure had fallen to about eight per cent, or about £408,000,000. Most of this change in the relationship of primary produce to national income has been brought about by marked increases in the development of industry, but overseas receipts have not changed greatly as a result of this development because development is not associated with export industries; hence our primary produce still provides 80 per cent of overseas income.

Figures produced recently by the Bureau of Economics show that interest on capital investment in land has now fallen to 4.1 per cent on mixed farming properties and to less than .5 per cent on grazing properties. This in itself is indicative of the true position in agricultural investment today. However, we still hear much in Parliamentary and industrial circles about special taxation depreciation allowances, freight concessions and concessional registration fees offered to primary producers. Many people in industry are obviously jealous and wish that they also enjoyed these advantages, just as primary producers wish that they had the margins of profit of secondary industry. After all, what they get is only chicken feed compared with what is permitted under the present company tax laws.

These special taxation depreciation concessions—primary producer concessions, ironically enough—were of most benefit to people other

than primary producers, namely, those seeking to capitalize excess income by land development and who in so doing raised both the price of virgin land and the rates of contract work to an uneconomic level. If land values are accepted as those determined by market value, then, as I have just pointed out, farms today do not pay very low interest on capital. When we buy a farm we buy ourselves a job. Prices paid bear no relation to productivity, and high prices are either paid by a neighbouring farmer who could write it off over his whole area, or by people who have received inflated values for land sold for sub-division, as a hedge against inflation. In the first instance, the price might be justifiable, as I have pointed out, when spread over the whole capital value of the holding, but in the others it is not, and unless farmers realize that they must relate purchase price to productivity, they have no one but themselves to blame for the over-valuing of their properties for probate and land tax purposes.

The present and impending wage and salary rises are hitting very solidly at State finances. There is no doubt that had South Australia sought to become a non-mendicant State under normal seasons and conditions, this step would have been universally hailed, but, instead, it is being used unjustly in many quarters to criticize this Government. As can be seen from the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech, the works programme has to be curtailed by £2,000,000 to balance the present deficit. Revenues must fall still further as a result of last season, as the figures for the first half of this year include the transportation of the balance of the 1958 season's crop. Present holdings are only 9,000,000 bushels of wheat, 7,500,000 bushels of barley, and 2,500,000 bushels of oats, as against last year's figures of 32,000,000 bushels of wheat, 37,000,000 bushels of barley, and 12,000,000 bushels of oats, or less than one-third of last season's harvest to be transported this year on our railway transport system. Further, late payments on previous barley pools, coupled with a bigger wool clip, have enabled farmers to meet commitments, but despite the Government's optimism I expect the real impact of 1959 to be felt about July or August of this year, whichever way the season breaks. In the face of this, it is most commendable that the Government has not seen fit to raise the cost of most services. The Electricity Trust power rates have not been raised. Hospital fees have risen markedly, but, as has been pointed out by the Treasurer today, they are not beyond the pockets of most people, even now.

In summing up, I would say that the things we value most today are in danger because of a quickening rate of inflation. These inflationary trends are dangerous, not only because they could make our costs of production so high that we could have difficulty in earning the overseas funds necessary to finance our expanding economy, but because they also jeopardize further the rights of the people who are forced from necessity to live on fixed investment incomes. At present, to increase pensions, although very necessary, would in itself be inflationary. This problem cannot be met by our primary industries, whose efficiency can be improved very little, and who have to sell largely upon world markets and pay the costs imposed by protected home industries. The answer lies in reducing prices, thereby reducing costs, and giving the consumer more goods for the same money. This is the problem to which the manufacturing industry must face up, and either voluntarily or involuntarily correct its actions. The increase in wages of 15s. last June, followed by 28 per cent marginal increases, has forced the Government into reducing expenditure upon public works in order to balance its Budget, and I believe that the overall picture is that revenues will be down in this half-year by comparison with the last half of 1960, because of the greatly reduced harvest.

When the Hire-Purchase Bill was introduced in this House last session I did not have the pleasure of speaking to it, but I was most gratified to see that the Government intends to reintroduce hire-purchase legislation this session, and I hope that its terms will be widened to incorporate the so-called extended credit. During the last quarter of 1959 hire-purchase rose to the magnificent total of £396,500,000, and in December alone it reached the record figure of £11,400,000, involving 135,960 new agreements. These figures are not altogether comprehensive, either, as they only include transactions undertaken by hire-purchase companies, and do not include the hire-purchase and credit operations of retail stores. Hire-purchase notes and debentures now create a major channel for investors, offering a wide range of maturities and rates of interest depending upon the length of the loan. These avenues of investment have had quite an effect upon Government loans, and it is quite evident that the restriction of overdraft advances has not in any way inconvenienced hire-purchase firms. The freezing of an increased proportion of bank reserves has meant that borrowing on overdraft is now greatly restricted, and people are being forced

to use this more costly means of finance. Because of the entry of hire-purchase into almost every field, and because it is unrestricted, it could have been expected that because of competition competitive rates would be maintained, but it would seem that the demand for credit is so great that competition is having little bearing upon the actual rates charged. Not only is hire-purchase the poor man's overdraft, but it is fast becoming the rich man's, also. It now absorbs more than 7 per cent of all real incomes, that is, income after the payment of income tax. The largest amount of borrowing is done in the car and machinery fields, which comprise some 68 per cent of the total lendings, and I can see no reason why the State banking institutions could not enter this field, when new plant and vehicles are concerned, as a means of increasing State revenue and imposing certain restrictions upon hiring charges. With any legislation relating to hire-purchase, it is neither practical nor realistic to try to protect the hirer from his own folly, but I do believe that increased deposits might act as a slight deterrent, and I firmly believe that both the form and nature of agreements need some policing, as does the manner in which insurance cover is undertaken.

I commend the Department of Health for the wonderfully efficient and effective job it has carried out with poliomyelitis immunization, and the effective manner in which it appears to be dealing with tuberculosis, once an almost fatal disease, but one which is now being detected and effectively dealt with in its early stages.

I was also pleased to see an increased allocation made for education which, as I pointed out earlier, is now having to cope with an increasingly large volume of young children. I hope that rural or area schools will still continue to receive favourable consideration as I have been particularly pleased to see the standard of work and the wide curriculum provided at these schools. They are being supervised extremely well and are playing a big part in providing much needed secondary education in country areas. I am particularly indebted to the Government for the firm assurance that the new area school at Coomandook will be ready to open in February, 1961.

Housing I also made passing reference to earlier. Until recently, this has been largely financed by Commonwealth Government grants to the States and also provided for through such lending institutions as savings banks, building societies, life assurance firms, etc.;

but now we find specialized landbrokers and speculators also entering the field. There is no doubt that at present subdivision of land has run rife and bears no relation to demand for immediate requirements but is largely speculative. And, Sir, what security have people investing in such ventures other than areas of land acquired at inflationary values?

I realize that only metropolitan subdivisions come under the control of the Town Planner and have to comply with certain requirements, but I feel that some measure of control is highly necessary in order to bring the country expansion of the city within the reasonable compass of the possible provision of services, for unless this is done it will be both impracticable and irrational to expect such services to be stretched over many miles at great public expense to serve a restricted number of people. At present the application for blocks is at a rate 10 times that of requirements, and enough blocks are available for 20 years' development at the present rate of building. Yet new subdivisions are being opened up and land 20 miles either side of Adelaide is being offered and sold at figures varying between £750 and £1,000 an acre for the purpose of subdivision. The amount of speculation is indicated by the fact that only about one block in 10 is built upon. This speculation is making it harder for people requiring land to build upon to purchase a block within range of future service extensions without being forced to pay an exorbitant price.

Mr. Quirke—Much land is being put out of production, too.

Mr. NANKIVELL—Much valuable agricultural land is being put out of production, with a consequent inflationary effect on land values when these people seek to reinvest in primary production. I hope that it is proposed to bring the country subdivision within the compass of the Town Planner and that something of this nature is envisaged in the amendments to the Town Planner's Act that are to be brought before this House.

I should also like to commend the Highways Department on the quality of the "drag coated" main roads it is constructing. These are excellent highways. At present the department is engaged upon the work of consolidating Dukes Highway. I am still hoping that before the road is completed more serious consideration will be given to the provision of transport parks. Wide shouldering is not sufficient because a stationary transport on the edge of the road is still a potential danger to

passing traffic. The inclusion of such facilities would be a great asset in the future on both old and new highways. I should also like to renew my plea that consideration be given to providing a main road between the river districts and the South-East to facilitate the movement of both stock and perishables, as well as providing a tourist route for tourists in the Murray regions seeking an alternative return route. Such a link would be invaluable and would no doubt greatly assist the expansion of the towns through which it passed.

The reticulation of Electricity Trust power is still being intensified throughout the country areas, bringing many welcome amenities with it. I have drawn the attention of the General Manager of the Trust to the need for power to reach the Narrung area by 1962—when this area comes within the city milk licensing area—and I hope that the Government will see fit to ensure that allocations are made to enable this work to be carried out accordingly.

I should like now to refer to another progressive step taken by this Government in its Prisons Department—that is, the construction of the Cadell Prison Farm. We are also told in His Excellency's Speech that it is proposed to institute cottage homes as a means of dealing with juvenile delinquents. Much of the problem of crime is due to maladjustment in society. The objective of punishment should be constructive and reformatory, not punitive. It should endeavour to provide an atmosphere that encourages confidence, that will assist people who have fallen into crime to fit back into society without any feeling of bitterness or hardness towards society. If this can be done, the State will reap the biggest reward, as reformed criminals are no longer a cost to the State. Confirmed ones are. After all, a man is not sent to gaol to be punished: the detention in itself is his punishment. I most sincerely hope that farms on similar lines are developed to cope with our juveniles as prisons make criminals, they do not break them. I hope we shall not build any more prisons of the type we have built in the past.

In conclusion, I pay a tribute to the Engineering and Water Supply Department for the magnificent manner in which it coped with a major water shortage in a drought year. The decision to commence pumping on the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline last June has proved to be a wise and vitally important one for the State. Had it not been made, Adelaide would have had insufficient water to provide for other than domestic purposes. The metropolitan reservoirs have a total capacity of some

14,020 million gallons, and this will not be increased until the Myponga dam is completed and the level of Mount Bold reservoir raised. In June last year there were only 2,960 million gallons in these reservoirs and 2,000 million gallons of that was below outlet levels and could not be used. This left 960 million gallons of available water and, as the intake figure for 1914 was only 2,000 million gallons, it was considered unlikely that, if there were a drought year there would be more than 3,000 million gallons in storage by the end of the catchment period. The estimated figure for water requirements was 24,800 million gallons and it was estimated that to obtain this, in addition to that water available in the reservoirs, 1,600 million gallons would be required from bores, 1,800 million gallons from South Para reservoir, and 1,800 million gallons from the Mannum pipeline. It is interesting to check these figures with the actual water used during the nine months period between July and March. They were: from reservoirs, 2,776 million gallons; from bores, 1,950 million gallons; from South Para reservoir, 1,780 million gallons; and from the Mannum pipeline, 13,200 million gallons. This was a truly magnificent effort brought about largely by the efficient manner in which the pumps were serviced and operated during the peak loading periods between July, 1959, and February 15 this year. There was no need to impose water restrictions because the pipeline was able to maintain water supplies at 67 per cent of the total supply. It supplied water for private gardens and market gardens and for use by sporting bodies and industry. The Mannum-Adelaide pipeline also played an important part in providing water for country areas and it pumped 700,000,000 gallons into the Warren Reservoir system last year. That reservoir, in turn supplied the Barossa Valley and Yorke Peninsula. Had not Yorke Peninsula been partly supplied from this source it would have been supplied from Bundaleer Reservoir, which is itself fed from the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline, and that would have necessitated the imposition of water restrictions in the Mid-North.

There is no doubt that the River Murray is fast becoming South Australia's life-line and that the quantity of water available through the Murray and Darling Rivers will largely determine the future development of this State. By 1970 we will have committed all the free water available to South Australia under the River Murray Waters Agreement—some 600,000 acre feet—but the water from both the Murray

and Murrumbidgee Rivers is becoming less readily available as a result of the extensive development of irrigation projects in New South Wales and Victoria. The supply of water will be restricted even more if New South Wales and Victoria construct more weirs on the upper reaches of the Murray. Those States are entitled to construct more weirs but the levels of Lakes Albert and Alexandrina may be lowered without resorting to artificial means. Further, the Snowy River water is not now likely to reach South Australia in any quantity following alterations to the plans for that scheme. The construction of a dam to ensure a reserve supply of water for this State is therefore of the utmost importance. I am indeed happy to see that the Government expects the plans for the proposed Taillem Bend to Keith scheme to come before the Public Works Committee this session. This pipeline will not only greatly influence the future expansion and development of the township of Keith, but also enable the safe development of a large area of the upper South-East, which, although it enjoys good rainfall, is at present retarded by an inadequate supply of stock and domestic water.

I support the proposals for the development of a farm at Bolivar along lines similar to that of the Werribee Research Farm which makes valuable use of sewage effluent to irrigate large areas upon which many thousands of cattle are fattened annually for the Melbourne market. This could prove a valuable asset to the State and at the same time make full use of an otherwise unwanted volume of water which would no doubt have been drained into the sea.

This year will be a difficult one for State finances. I believe that the Government is endeavouring to face the problem and balance the Budget by its proposals to cut public works. This is a regrettable step, but in the face of economic developments it is unavoidable. I hope, however, that it may be only a transient step and merely a pause in our rate of development. I have great faith in the future of Australia and the State of South Australia.

I have much pleasure in moving the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr. DUNNAGE secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.35 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, April 6, at 2 p.m.