

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, August 24, 1960.

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

QUESTIONS.**BIRDSTVILLE TRACK.**

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I noticed in the press that on his return from an inspection of oil exploration possibilities in the north recently the Premier said he would see whether more money could be made available for the improvement of what is known as the Birdsville track. I agree with the necessity of improving that very important road in that area. Has the Premier been able to finalize arrangements for making additional money available? Also, will he consider making additional sums available for other important roads in the north-east of this State during the coming financial year?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I think every honourable member realizes the necessity of having good means of communication in our pastoral country. Unfortunately, relying on the old droving methods, every time there was a drought and the Birdsville track was closed large numbers of stock perished, stock that were very important even if they were only brought down in store condition, because they could have been fattened in inside paddocks. As a result of modern methods, it is now possible to transport stock for long distances provided road access is available. This is being done in the Northern Territory, and the Commonwealth is doing much with this method of road transport for stock. Last year we completed a road up the Strzelecki Creek to the north-eastern part of the State, which was used successfully to bring down stock in a heat wave, proving conclusively that even in the most adverse conditions stock could be delivered if the road access was available.

Since my return from the north, I have taken up with the Highways Commissioner the provision of additional money for the improvement of the Marree to Birdsville road. Some work has already been done on the Marree end of it, but the section from Goyder Lagoon to Birdsville still requires much work before it will be trafficable under reasonable conditions. I understand that the funds already available for work in the outback areas are sufficient to maintain the men and plant available for the remainder of this year. In any case, I am given to understand

that summer conditions are not the best in which to undertake the work in the north-eastern part of the State. I assure the honourable Leader that not only will the matter be kept in mind but a satisfactory solution will be reached soon.

DUTCH MIGRANTS.

Mr. DUNNAGE—In today's *Advertiser* appears a report from Canberra headed "The Housing Finance Query." This matter was brought up in the Commonwealth House by Senator Buttfield, when she asked why money was not made available by the Dutch Government for housing in South Australia. The report says:—

The Minister for National Development (Senator Spooner) believes there is "no reason" why the Dutch Government should not invest money in housing in South Australia.

It continues later—

Senator Buttfield said the Netherlands was investing £2m. in housing for Dutch migrants in Australia, but most of the development was in New South Wales and Victoria.

I cannot understand why the Dutch Government has not seen fit to spend its money in South Australia, although I have heard a rumour that it was so satisfied with the work of the Housing Trust here and the way the Dutch people had been treated by the Housing Trust that it felt it was not necessary to intrude upon housing problems in South Australia. Is there any truth in that rumour?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—In all, 120,000 Dutch migrants have come to Australia since migration from Holland was instituted after the second world war. Of that number, 20,000 have been established in South Australia.

Mr. Shannon—That is double our quota?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—It is very much more than our quota. I have been officially informed that the Dutch migration authorities are satisfied with the progress of migration here and with the settlement of Dutch families in South Australia. I have been informed also that there has not been the difficulty with Dutch migrants in getting houses in South Australia that there has been particularly in New South Wales. I believe, however, that in future on the migration plan a percentage will be available to South Australia. I have heard, not officially but unofficially, that the Dutch Government is making some contribution to housing here, and a percentage of the money will be made available to South Australia.

TONSLEY SPUR LINE.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Has the Treasurer a report on the question I asked on August 10 about the fencing of land reserved for the Tonsley spur line near the Mitchell Park boys technical high school?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Deputy Railways Commissioner reports:—

This department has not as yet erected fencing on the common boundary between the Mitchell Park boys technical high school and the land required for the construction of the Tonsley railway. However, it is the policy of this department to construct fencing, to the departmental standard, on the boundaries of railway land, and if such fencing is considered satisfactory by the Education Department, the work could be undertaken. It is not possible to indicate when the construction of the Tonsley railway will be commenced.

DOG REGISTRATION FEES.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked yesterday about dog registration fees?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—When I attempted to answer the question yesterday I said that I believed some action had been taken, but I did not have the details available. The Act was amended in 1957 to provide for the annual licence fee for a male dog to be increased from 5s. to 10s., and for a female dog from 7s. 6d. to 15s. The fee for non-payment within 31 days of due time of the registration fee was increased from 1s. to 10s.

ALIENS' LAND TRANSACTIONS.

Mr. MILLHOUSE—The Act to repeal section 24 of the Law of Property Act has now been proclaimed and aliens no longer need apply to the Minister of Lands for permission to enter into land transactions. Can the Minister say how many applications his department received while it was necessary for aliens to so apply, and how they were dealt with?

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS—The number of applications received was 43,250, of which 41,980 were approved, 217 declined for various reasons, 123 deferred, 440 withdrawn, and 490 lapsed. Those approved were for New Australians who had not been naturalized.

LIGHTING OF VEHICLES.

Mr. LOVEDAY—Can the Premier say whether, when the Road Traffic Act is being considered this year, special consideration will be given to the provision of special warning lights on the rear of stationary motor vehicles or vehicles about to be stopped?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I think that matter has been referred to the

State Traffic Committee for report. Suggestions for improvements to the Road Traffic Act constantly come before the Government and I have asked Sir Edgar Bean to complete his Bill now so that it will be available for consideration this session. There will never be a time when we are free from suggested improvements and it is better that we consider this legislation rather than wait until all possible suggestions come forward. I point out that this year we have a very heavy legislative programme, including the Road Traffic Act, which is a large and contentious subject upon which all members have a considerable knowledge, as evidenced from their speeches from time to time; so I think it would be advisable to make an early start on this measure, otherwise we may be sitting until Christmas.

Mr. SHANNON—Has the Premier referred to the State Traffic Committee two questions I raised earlier this session: the first, that any vehicle parked in any highway, street, or road should have parking lights visible on it, and the second, as to whether there should be zones wherein it would be an offence to drive with a vehicle's lights on high beam (in other words, low beam traffic areas)? One of the greatest causes of accidents is glaring head lamps, which constitute a greater danger than vehicles parked without lights.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The first matter has been raised by way of question several times this session and I believe it has already been referred to the State Traffic Committee for recommendation. I know that the second question has been considered and I believe that the proposed Bill may provide that it will be an offence to drive on the high beam in all places where the present speed limit of 35 miles an hour obtains. I will check on that for the honourable member and advise him in due course.

PORT PIRIE HIGH SCHOOL LAND.

Mr. McKEE—I believe the Minister of Lands has a report about the transfer of land from the Port Pirie Trotting and Racing Club to the Port Pirie high school.

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS—Yes. The Port Pirie Trotting and Racing Club has agreed to make portion of its land available for an extension of the school's playing fields. As the land has been vested in the club pursuant to the Port Pirie Racecourse Site Act, 1946, the club has no power to transfer the land, and enabling legislation is required. Cabinet has directed that the necessary legislation be introduced and a Bill is now being prepared to be brought before the House.

MURRAY RIVER LEVELS.

Mr. KING—Can the Minister of Works indicate the possible effect on river levels of waters coming down the tributaries of the Murray?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—This morning I obtained from the Engineer-in-Chief his present view on the prospective level of the river in the near future. He suggests, from information available, that the level will be about 22ft. 3in., which is about the same height as that reached in 1958 when the peak at Renmark was 22ft. 1in. The information available at present is not conclusive and each day that passes makes a better estimate possible. I believe an honourable member in another place has a question on notice about this subject and possibly by next Tuesday the information available will be more conclusive.

GLANVILLE-ETHELTON WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. TAPPING—My question relates to the poor quality of water being supplied by the Engineering and Water Supply Department to some people living in the Glanville and Ethelton area, who complain that the water is badly discoloured (brownish in appearance) and that if left in a container overnight a sediment accumulates in the bottom of the vessel by morning. Is the Minister of Works in a position to comment on this and, if not, will he get a report for me?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will get specific information regarding this area. As far as I know, the discolouration is most likely to be caused through some departmental activity in cleaning pipes or changing or renewing mains. I will get a report and advise the honourable member in due course.

ILLICIT WINEMAKING.

Mr. FRED WALSH—In yesterday's *News* appears a statement by the president of the Winemakers Association concerning a complaint of illicit winemaking and the sale of such wine. The article refers to the unhygienic conditions under which this wine is made and the disadvantages to the trade arising from its sale. Another aspect from a layman's point of view is the unfair labour conditions associated with making this wine. I believe that these exist; I could not prove it in respect of the sale of the wine, although I could in regard to its manufacture in certain instances. Will the Premier call for a report on the prevalence of illicit winemaking and its sale and on the steps taken to suppress it, if it exists in any magnitude?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—This matter was brought before the Government some time ago by the member for Burra (Mr. Quirke). It has also been mentioned to me personally by winemakers' associations and it is at present being investigated by the Chief Secretary. One or two problems connected with it are not easy of solution, but an investigation is taking place and I hope soon to be able to state what action, if any, the Government intends to take.

DISTRICT COUNCIL BOUNDARIES.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I have been informed that some time ago a petition was presented from residents of the area for the alteration of the boundaries of the Waikerie and Morgan Councils to annex an area from one council to another. I believe the decision was referred to a magistrate, an inquiry held, and a report presented. So that I shall know what has transpired, will the Acting Minister of Local Government lay the papers, particularly the evidence and the report, on the table of the House?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I do not know whether the report has yet been received by the Government, but I will check and advise the Leader tomorrow.

RUSSIAN TIMBER IMPORTS.

Mr. HARDING—This morning I heard a news flash from the A.B.C. that a Russian ship was unloading millions of super feet of Baltic Cedar at Port Adelaide today and that another batch of between 10,000,000 and 12,000,000 super feet would be coming later. Does the Minister of Forests know anything about this? If so, will he state what effect these imports are likely to have on the soft-wood forests of this State?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I heard the news report mentioned. Some months ago a question was asked about importing Russian timber to South Australia, and I received a letter from a firm of importers, but I shall have to find the letter to connect the two incidents. If the letter is relevant I will bring it for the honourable member.

PORT PIRIE COURTHOUSE.

Mr. McKEE—Will the Minister of Works say whether tenders for the new courthouse at Port Pirie have been finalized and when the work is likely to commence?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Tenders were considered by Cabinet on Monday, and a decision was taken. A contract is in the course

of being let to the successful tenderer. I am not able to say precisely when the work will commence, as that is in the hands of the contractor. This morning I asked my office to advise the Corporation of Port Pirie and the honourable member that the contract had been let, so he will receive written intimation in due course.

BACILLUS FOR CATERPILLARS.

Mr. KING—Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to a question I asked some time ago about the control of caterpillars by bacillary means?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—The honourable member asked a question about microbial insecticides, and I obtained a reply from the Agriculture Department that is too long to read in full. The first paragraph states:—

Microbial insecticides consist of live microbes that are used to wipe out crop pests by spreading infectious diseases among them. They present a new approach to pest control. The microbes contained in these insecticides are bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoa or nematodes—the same major groups of organisms that cause diseases in other animals and plants. Yet, as far as is known, microbes that attack insects are harmless to other forms of life.

The report goes on to state that some success has resulted from the use of microbial insecticides on white cabbage moth in California, and that a number of other insect pests have been controlled by the same means. Many of the insect pests that are of interest here, such as Oriental peach moth, are not in the list of diseases that have so far been controlled by this means. The honourable member also asked whether these insecticides would affect cactoblastis, the parasite that controls prickly pear; no information is yet available on whether cactoblastis has been affected by microbial insecticides.

COLOUR SLIDES FOR SCHOOLS.

Mr. LOVEDAY—Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question regarding colour slides in schools?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The visual aids section is slowly building up a library of 35 mm. colour transparencies. There are 74 sets available that have been distributed to all schools with projectors. The section has neither the personnel nor the equipment to do more than a very limited amount of this work. Colour is much more expensive than black and white and is therefore used only where it is essential for the proper presentation of the material. Duplicating in quantity involves complicated procedures, expensive apparatus,

and highly trained personnel. The section does reproduce a very limited amount, but relies mainly upon interstate and overseas establishments for multiple copies of suitable material. There is not much of this available. Sets of slides and coloured filmstrips are purchased by the section for inclusion in the loan library. Where the material is of general use multiple copies are purchased for resale at cost to schools. If the demand for colour transparencies is to be satisfied it will be necessary to reduce the black and white output and curtail activities in other services. The staff and facilities at the moment cannot cope with extra production.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION: SOUTH-EASTERN DRAINAGE.

Mr. HARDING—I seek leave to make a personal explanation regarding a report in today's *Advertiser*.

Leave granted.

Mr. HARDING—Yesterday afternoon, I asked the Minister of Lands a question about the drainage of the South-Eastern division. Part of the Minister's reply has been misreported in the *Advertiser*. First, the figure of "700 acres" should read "700,000 acres." Secondly, "350,000 cubic feet" should read "350,000 cubic yards."

DECENTRALIZATION.

Adjourned debate on the motion of Mr. O'Halloran—

That in view of the alarming concentration of population in the metropolitan area of South Australia, an Address be presented to the Governor praying His Excellency to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon—

- (a) whether industries ancillary to primary production, such as meat works, establishments for the treatment of hides, skins, etc., and other industries for the processing of primary products should be established in country districts;
- (b) what steps should be taken to encourage new secondary industries or branches of existing industries to establish in country districts;
- (c) whether more railway construction and maintenance work could be done at established country railway depots;
- (d) what housing provision should be made to assist a programme of decentralization; and
- (e) what amenities, particularly sewerage schemes, are necessary to make country towns more attractive?

which the Hon. Sir Thomas Playford had moved to amend by striking out the words "in

view of the alarming concentration of population in the metropolitan area of South Australia, an Address be presented to the Governor praying His Excellency to appoint a Royal Commission" and inserting in lieu thereof the following words, "this House requests the members of the Industries Development Committee, acting as a Special Committee,"; by adding the following paragraph at the end of the motion—

(f) whether any, and if so, what legislative action to encourage the establishment of industry in country areas is possible or desirable;

and by adding the following new paragraph at the end of the motion—

That, subject to the provision of moneys by Parliament for the purpose, each member of the Special Committee be paid a fee of three guineas in respect of each sitting of the committee attended by such member.

(Continued from August 17. Page 654.)

Mr. SHANNON (Onkaparinga)—I think I should speak on this matter before the Leader closes, and I do not think I should apologize for saying a few words on this rather important motion. I do not intend to debate the merits of the Leader's motion or the amendment of the Premier. I do not think that aspect needs much debate because, after all, both seek to achieve the same object. However, I think it would be unwise not to say a few things about what the State has achieved in this field.

South Australia has the very doubtful privilege of having its markets for its secondary industries situated mainly on the eastern seaboard of Australia. We do not enjoy a large home market, and our local manufacturers have to look to Melbourne, Sydney, and the cities that occupy our eastern seaboard as outlets for much of their output. It obviously is a very great disadvantage when a manufacturer has to compete with similar industries situated nearer the markets in either Victoria or New South Wales. Despite the disabilities, South Australia has been able to advance in the field of secondary industry probably at a greater rate *per capita* than any other State. In fact, I believe certain people in the eastern States are jealous of the effects that have been achieved in this field through a very energetic and forthright Government seeking to pursue every possible avenue to establish in South Australia industries that will be of some great service to the people of this State.

I suggest that some of the major reasons why South Australia has been successful in attracting industries here are, firstly, that we

have advanced our ability to supply power to industry in any corner of the State. With the grid system established by the Electricity Trust, power is available wherever industry desires to establish itself, whether on the river or in the hinterland, in the South-East or in the north. Power and water are the two fundamental things. Almost the same thing can be said regarding water supplies. Much of South Australia is a very dry and almost arid region from the point of view of natural water supplies. The River Murray is our one main source. That is our real reservoir, and this Government has gone to no small cost to bring at least two mains from the Murray to make certain that industry, when established, can be sure that it will never suffer from lack of water. The Government at this very moment is preparing a third pipeline from the Murray to augment the supply to the northern areas, where such rapid expansion in secondary industry is taking place at the head of Spencer Gulf. I believe Port Augusta will receive some benefit from what happens around the head of Spencer Gulf, for I do not think that town can be left out, any more than can Port Pirie.

The industry that is expanding so rapidly in and around Whyalla results from our iron ore resources at the top end of Eyre Peninsula, and it will create a boom that will extend beyond that area right down to Adelaide and will be felt right through the whole of our economy. That, I suggest, has been done by a Government that has a vision of the future for the State. It takes into account the things that really matter when it comes to developing South Australia's probably rather meagre resources. The only one major thing of real importance that we have in this field of industry is a very large deposit of iron ore, some good and some not so good, but now, fortunately, all available for industry. By virtue of certain research work done by the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, we can say that we can use these low grade ores.

We have not been asleep regarding industries ancillary to the primary industries. In fact, the Government has probably given greater incentives to private enterprise to enter the field of country killing works than any other State has given. We have offered greater incentives to get such killing works established. Kadina was one of the first examples, but that faded out. The second one went to the South-East, either to Naracoorte or Penola. I do not know whether or not that has faded out yet, nor do I know whether Mr.

Popp will come good or not. At the moment he is the only man who knows and he will finally decide; it is his money that is being invested there, and despite the encouragement given by the Government to establish such killing works we still do not have one. I do not know what more assistance can be offered Mr. Popp. He is being offered a share in the metropolitan market, as were the Kadina people, for those killings which are not suitable for export through being bruised or otherwise rejected. I do not think there is much more we can do in the way of encouraging the setting up of country killing works than we have done. If anyone has such an idea I would almost make the promise that Tom Playford would be happy to hear it and, if it is reasonable, to act upon it.

Other lines in primary industries offer opportunities for secondary industries to establish in conjunction with this primary production. I will not encroach upon the member for Chaffey's preserves in this matter. I compliment him on the fact that he, probably more than any other man, has seen to it that we have had established the necessary works for the treatment of his own fruit in his area. No man that I know of has been more energetic than has Mr. King in securing this cannery. That has been done by a backbencher of this Government, which, I think, by inference at least, has been charged with being a little dilatory in getting our country areas served by various types of secondary industry.

I think that is a good example of what can be done and what has been done under the existing governmental direction and legislative set-up. Whatever findings we may get from an investigation, there will be some difficulty in finding new ground or some new move that could be made either from the point of view of administration or legislation that will give us hope of getting industries established in areas other than the metropolitan area or our industrial centres such as Port Pirie and Whyalla. Certain factors about the establishment of industries are well known to most people. Firstly, the industry itself, since its funds are involved in the undertaking, wants to be sure that its capital will not be lost. Such an industry would like—and I think it is entitled to seek—a reasonable return on its investment, and I do not believe anybody is a better judge of the prospects of such an establishment than the people who find the money for it. I should never like to get people into trouble by establishing them in an area

where probably they would not make a success of their business, for that would be the worst kind of advertisement for us. Nobody likes to see a failure. I believe the present Government and its policy will secure industries allied not only to primary industry but to the type of secondary industry that serves primary industry. We have a few of them in the country—they are not all in the city. For instance, a few manufacturers of agricultural implements and the like are not in the metropolitan area.

An important factor in South Australia (and especially in this field) is our good relations between employer and employee. I pay a tribute to the unionists of this State in that regard. We have probably more soundly led people in that respect here than in any other State. There have been fewer unnecessary holdups of any kind in South Australia than in other States.

Mr. Jennings—Then why don't you treat them better?

Mr. SHANNON—They are treated very well. They are so well treated in this State that they do not need to come begging cap in hand to the Government for justice. I am only saying that the rank and file of those employed in industry are obviously much more contented in their employment in this State than they are in other States.

Mr. Fred Walsh—There hasn't been a month pass in the last year when there has not been a deputation of workers to some Minister or other.

Mr. SHANNON—I agree. I should agree also if the honourable member went on to say that they get a better hearing here than they do in other States. They are not shown the door as quickly as they are in other parts of the Commonwealth; they are given a good hearing.

Mr. Loveday—But they want results.

Mr. SHANNON—They are obviously getting results. The honourable member can study the statistics in this field and draw his own conclusion. Any honest man would draw the conclusion that, where man hours lost to industry are measured, South Australia comes out on top; we are the best of the lot. It is obvious that relations between employer and employee in South Australia are good. I pay a tribute to those directly responsible for the direction of labour here. I shall not speak at length on this motion because the Premier has forecast an extensive legislative programme this session, and honourable members must proceed with the debate on the Loan Estimates so that

works in certain districts shall not be held up and men possibly put out of jobs there.

Mr. Jennings—You would work them 24 hours a day.

Mr. SHANNON—I suggest to the honourable member for Enfield that he take note of the comments passed not in South Australia but in Victoria and New South Wales about the success that South Australia has achieved in the field of secondary industry.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition)—First, I want to recognize the appreciation shown by the Premier when speaking on this motion last Wednesday. He expressed some words of congratulation to myself on the motion, but he tried to cloud the issue by saying that they were earned by the fact that I had changed its substance. That is not correct. I have moved three motions in this House down the years. The first was moved in 1950, shortly after I had become Leader of the Opposition. It lapsed because time did not permit its being discussed. What is known as the "guillotine," relating to private members' Bills, fell and my motion was one of the most important items that succumbed as a result of being placed on the tumbrel. Again, in 1952, the motion was debated and lost; and again, in 1957, there was a debate, and the motion was lost. But, very fortunately, on this occasion the Premier has agreed, subject to amendment, to this important motion. To put the record straight, I want to show honourable members what little difference there is between the motion that I moved and the motion as it will appear if it is amended in conformity with the wishes of the Premier. My motion states:—

That in view of the alarming concentration of population in the metropolitan area of South Australia, an Address be presented to the Governor praying His Excellency to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon—

- (a) whether industries ancillary to primary production, such as meat works, establishments for the treatment of hides, skins, etc., and other industries for the processing of primary products should be established in country districts;
- (b) what steps should be taken to encourage new secondary industries or branches of existing industries to establish in country districts;
- (c) whether more railway construction and maintenance work could be done at established country railway depots;
- (d) what housing provision should be made to assist a programme of decentralization; and
- (e) what amenities, particularly sewerage schemes, are necessary to make country towns more attractive.

The Premier came along with his amendments, and the only thing he struck out of the motion I moved was the preamble:—

That in view of the alarming concentration of population in the metropolitan area of South Australia, an address be presented to the Governor praying His Excellency to appoint a Royal Commission.

The fact that he is accepting all the major parts of the motion, which seeks to establish the principles conducive to the needs of the decentralization of industry, is positive proof that the preamble was justified. However, I am not in the least worried about the preamble. After all, that does not mean a thing. It is the body of the motion that really matters.

The Premier has not justified his objection to the appointment of a Royal Commission. He said that he had no faith in Royal Commissions, in view of his experience of Royal Commissions all over the world and in this State; that he preferred something different. But I would point out that the Industries Development Committee, to which this important inquiry is to be referred if the motion as amended is carried, is a Royal Commission. There is not a scrap of difference between what I propose and what the Premier asks the House to accept. The Premier suggests that we should accept the Industries Development Committee as a substitute for the Royal Commission, and his amendment is as follows:—

That this House request the members of the Industries Development Committee, acting as a Special Committee, to inquire into and report upon—

He incorporates paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) of my motion and then adds new paragraph (f) as follows:—

(f) whether any, and if so, what legislative action to encourage the establishment of industry in country areas is possible or desirable.

He then adds a further paragraph:—

That, subject to the provision of moneys by Parliament for the purpose, each member of the Special Committee be paid a fee of three guineas in respect of each sitting of the committee attended by such member.

Whilst his suggested amendments are ancillary to the inquiries, they need not have been specified. The point is that a committee will inquire into whether something should be done, and if something should be done, it must necessarily be done by this Parliament. I am rather happy that the motion is to be amended to enable the Industries Development Committee to conduct the inquiry. I toyed with the idea of inserting a provision that the inquiry should be made by that committee, but I concluded that that would probably not be acceptable to the Government because the Premier, if he had

any sympathy for my move, would want to have a hand in the creation of the commissioners. I am glad that my original idea is now to be accepted.

I have the greatest confidence in the Industries Development Committee. I know something of its activities, as I was a member of the original committee appointed under the Act. One of the greatest services it rendered to South Australia was in assisting the cellulose industry, which is of great value to South Australia at present. I shall not refer to the long list of industries which have been the subject of inquiry by this committee and which have proved such a success. The member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Shannon) apparently had a spare oar and, because the boat was travelling smoothly, decided he would put his hands to that oar. Fortunately he did not wreck the ship, although I believe that was his desire.

I am pleased that the motion looks like being carried. It has been near and dear to my heart, and to all members of the Opposition, for many years. We have preached in season and out of season the need to encourage population and industries to go to our country towns. This Government claims that under the leadership of its Premier it has done mighty and majestic things, but every one of the matters mentioned by Mr. Shannon this afternoon was in accordance with Labor's policy. It was the adoption of Labor's policy that made all these things possible, and this afternoon, after 10 years' agitation, another of Labor's suggestions is being adopted by the Government. If this had been accepted in 1950 we would have made great progress towards the goal this motion seeks to achieve. I accept the amendment with pleasure and look forward to the time when, as a result of the inquiries to be undertaken, this State will enter a better and more balanced era of industry and population.

Amendment carried; motion as amended carried.

LOTTERY AND GAMING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 17. Page 659.)

Mr. DUNSTAN (Norwood)—For the reasons I have already given I support the second reading of this Bill.

Mr. FRED WALSH (West Torrens)—I support the second reading of this Bill with some diffidence, not so much in principle, but

because, by its very nature, its contents are somewhat complicated. If it passes the second reading possibly it can be amended to be brought more in keeping with my views. This subject is a vexed matter in the eyes of certain people, and certain sections of the community tend to look at it purely from a moral point of view. I do not want to debate that aspect; we are all entitled to our views on the moral aspect, but I do not think morals come into the matter any more than they come into any other form of gambling. I realize that this is not considered to be gambling, although it will be covered by the Lottery and Gaming Act.

The objection that is usually raised is that it will create a greater facility for gambling. I do not know that it will, as it is common knowledge that what is contemplated in the Bill already exists in practically every sphere of our social life. Sweeps are held by different institutions. I do not wish to make more than a passing reference to the Melbourne Cup, which was mentioned the other day by way of interjection. I do not think any establishment in the Commonwealth that employs any number of people does not conduct a small sweep on the Melbourne Cup, and that is accepted. If sweeps are wrong on other things they are equally wrong on the Melbourne Cup. We must look at this matter in the knowledge that the things contemplated in this Bill are indulged in today by the organizations that the honourable member hopes will be able to conduct them legally.

Apart from religious organizations, many organizations of a public character, including sporting bodies and school committees, regularly conduct raffles. Few schools in this State do not have some money-raising raffles to provide amenities for pupils and, in many instances, for staff. I believe that the department or the Government should provide these amenities and that they should not be the responsibility of school committees; however, school committees accept the responsibility, and this is generally applauded by the Education Department. Nobody will deny that these committees do a good job. True, they can raise money in different ways. For instance, they can have small fetes with trading tables of goods donated by local residents and business people and those interested in the welfare of the school and children. However, an investigation will show that little is raised from this source, particularly for the larger schools—by which I mean high and technical high schools. These

conduct something on a bigger scale. Because of keen competition by fund-raising organizations and school committees, they are compelled to work out schemes to bring in more money from their efforts. Every member knows that in some part of his district sweeps or things close to lotteries are being conducted by various school organizations.

Mr. Quirke—Raffles?

Mr. FRED WALSH—Call them what you like; they amount to the same thing. Because of keen competition among these fund-raising organizations, bigger and better prizes must be provided to encourage people to participate. Few people will give something unless they have some prospect of receiving something in return but, if they are offered a chance to obtain some gain, they are prepared to participate. As a result, students attending the schools benefit and the Government benefits in turn because it is required only to subsidize the amounts raised on a 50-50 basis. That is the way in which we should view this matter.

I received a letter from an organization for which I have the utmost respect, but I regret that I am unable to agree with the views expressed. I do not think these people should object on the ground that what this Bill provides will be the forerunner of a State lottery. If that happens, let us meet it when it comes; however, this will be no more a forerunner of a State lottery than the gambling introduced under the Lottery and Gaming Act. The very nature of the Act itself implies something in the nature of a lottery. It is difficult to differentiate between a game of chance and a game of skill. Anyone who says that horse racing is a game of skill is the world's worst judge.

Mr. Quirke—You are not accomplished, at any rate.

Mr. FRED WALSH—I am an authority. When I make a modest investment I know it has to be my lucky day before I will win. It would be foolish to bet on knowledge of racing, as often horses are not allowed to run according to form. If they were it would not be necessary even in South Australia, where everything is supposed to be run honestly, to swab horses on occasions. In Sydney every placed horse in a race is swabbed, but in South Australia and Victoria this is done only spasmodically, and horses can run last one day and win a similar race a week later without any suggestion of swabbing. Such horses win by some miraculous change of form and nobody, even those responsible for the sport, wants to investigate.

Starting price bookmakers are blamed by racing clubs for keeping people away from racecourses. The clubs should start at their own end because not a Saturday passes without someone commenting on the conduct of horse racing. There are three stewards to attend to these things and to control horse racing in a way that the general public expects it to be controlled but, although they occasionally take action against trainers or jockeys, appeals are usually lodged and invariably the committee of the South Australian Jockey Club either lifts the expulsion or reduces the period of suspension. As this goes on time after time, I suppose the stewards wonder what they should do. The net result is that a suspension usually lasts for three months at the most unless what the person has done is so bad that in any other sphere a long term of imprisonment would be warranted. Generally, suspension is for only a month and it is not worth appealing against it, so the stewards get the impression that their verdict is accepted. I make these comments because the people conducting horse racing do not carry out their duties properly and the Government should interest itself in the way it is run. This applies to any form of so-called sport where gambling is indulged in and the Government gets some pay-off.

Every other State in Australia runs a State lottery. I am not advocating that in support of this Bill because, when the time comes, I will express an opinion according to the circumstances as I see them at that time. However, I ask members to compare the psychology that exists in the minds of certain people in South Australia on this matter—and one could perhaps say in the mind of the Government—with that in other States, every one of which has a lottery, the proceeds from which go to charitable institutions, particularly hospitals. That does not apply in every instance, but it does apply in the main. I do not subscribe to that, for I believe the establishment of a hospital and its maintenance are things for a Government to look after. Everybody should be taxed, not just those who indulge in some form of lottery for the purpose of raising money.

It is difficult to understand why we in South Australia seem to stand out from the rest of Australia in many things. It would probably be out of order for me to make comparisons in other things, so I will devote myself to the contents of this Bill. The Deputy Leader proposes something that in the last two or

three years has been clamped down on by the Police Department as being an illegal act. He desires to legalize such a lottery, and to ensure that it is properly controlled and that no dishonest practices are indulged in. The Bill also ensures that the benefits accruing from such a lottery will go to the right people, and that no individual person will gain. We seem to be entirely different from the other States in this matter. It is true that we have a badge day every Friday.

Mr. Quirke—That is a lottery, too.

Mr. FRED WALSH—No, it is not a lottery. Certain organizations that have a permit to run a badge day will sell badges for 6d., 1s. and 2s., and certain of them for special charities have badges for as much as 5s. and 10s. I do not attribute any ulterior motive to the people organizing these things, but only last Friday I approached one of the girl sellers and said I would have a 2s. one, and she said, "It does not matter what you take, you can give what you like." What does that leave itself open to? Some bright lass or boy might volunteer to sell badges for the day, and what check is there if that person wished to pocket some of the money? I say there definitely must be a symbol given for the sum paid, so that the confidence of the public may be gained.

Mr. Millhouse—That is the first time that has happened.

Mr. FRED WALSH—No, it is not; only about three months ago I had a similar experience just outside this building. It would seem that rather than go to the expense of buying the better class badge for the different amounts that may be subscribed, some organizations have the one symbol and a person can give what he likes.

Mr. Millhouse—At least, you will admit that it is a very unusual procedure.

Mr. FRED WALSH—True, I have only noticed it in the last three months. Last Friday was the most recent occasion, and it brought the matter home to me more clearly, particularly as I knew of this Bill's existence. I ask honourable members to regard the Bill as one that is seeking to provide something whereby people who desire to indulge in a lottery in order to subscribe to a cause can do so. No pressure will be put on any people, and no stigma can possibly attach to them if they indulge in such a lottery. Usually these lotteries are kept within a certain circle, and no doubt the same thing will happen in the future. I fail to see why we should not have similar

legislation to that of other States, not only in such a matter as this but generally. Why we should set ourselves up as being more saintly, or more godly, or being a better class of people than the rest of Australia is beyond me. I do not subscribe to that view, but I believe some people do.

Mr. Quirke—More subject to temptation.

Mr. FRED WALSH—There may be a greater weakness on the part of the South Australian people that they cannot withstand the temptation in these matters and have to have money taken from them. One might just as well say that we should close all hotels and breweries, so there would not be the temptation for people to drink.

Mr. Shannon—Unhappily, there's a small section that even says that.

Mr. FRED WALSH—I should not like to see the honourable member's Bill rejected. It could be amended in Committee, if necessary, and I do not think people would be any the worse off if it were passed.

Mr. CORCORAN (Millicent)—I do not want anybody to be under a misconception regarding my attitude to this Bill, which I support because I feel that it will legalize a practice that has been carried on by certain sections of the community down through the years. The practice will now be controlled, and any dishonest practices that might have been indulged in will be eliminated by this control. Under the Bill people will not need to be afraid of detection in conducting a raffle. I do not expect everyone to support me in my view. This is a non-Party matter, and members are at liberty to form their own opinion about it and to adopt what attitude they care to. I can see no wrong in legalizing a practice that has been indulged in, because provision has been made in the Bill to eliminate any possibility of dishonest activity. I therefore hope the House will carry the second reading, and if any member desires to amend it in any way he may. We may pave a path for people to follow but the people who wish to follow another path will do so. I maintain that a man is master of his own destiny and captain of his own soul. I have much pleasure in supporting the Bill.

Mr. JENNINGS (Enfield)—I, too, support the Bill. Certain members have said various things about this measure. I think the member for Semaphore (Mr. Tapping) said he supported it with reluctance and the member for West Torrens (Mr. Fred Walsh) said that he

supported it with certain misgivings. I do not agree with either of those terms. Although I support the Bill, I certainly do not do so with any great enthusiasm, but merely in the hope that some members who have better ideas about it may do something about their better ideas in the Committee stage.

I am sure (although there is no way of knowing) that members of Parliament would take more raffle tickets a week than anybody else in the community. We have all done so, because it is a part of our job to take them. We know we are obliged to do it at every Saturday afternoon fete that we attend, and I therefore think it is humbug for us to oppose the second reading of a Bill like this when we know that, more than anybody else in the community, we contribute to this so-called social evil. I do not know whether the Bill, when passed, will achieve its objectives, but if it passes the second reading let those who have better ideas about it move amendments in Committee. The remarks of the member for West Torrens reminded me of the old saying that horses have too much sense to gamble on human beings.

Mr. QUIRKE (Burra)—On a matter such as this I always like to indicate my intentions regarding the vote and as I see nothing wrong with this small Bill I support it. I can truthfully say that from the thousands of raffle tickets I have purchased in my lifetime I have gained four dressed fowls, one pumpkin, and a bunch of turnips. Apart from that I received no pecuniary benefit whatever, but I had a lot of fun and the money I have put into those raffles has possibly helped many worthy causes. I intend to continue doing that. Throughout the length and breadth of South Australia, football clubs, coursing clubs, racing clubs, school sports organizations, continentals and fetes are all doing this. They have all sorts of ways of getting round the problem—for instance, a bottle with some string or shot in it. People are invited to guess how much something weighs—I believe it is legal. I have never been successful myself in that. I believe it is, in fact, a guess.

Mr. Shannon—Your luck has been in games of chance, not in games of skill?

Mr. QUIRKE—Yes. I see nothing morally wrong in it. After a close examination of my conscience, I do not think I have deteriorated in any way by giving a sixpence, shilling or two shillings towards those things. I do not think I have done any damage to the

people running them. I can see much material evidence around the country of buildings and other amenities that are there partly as a result of this type of activity. People take pride in them. Nobody in this debate has shown that it is morally wrong to do it. We hear over the air constantly this reminder: "Thank God South Australia is not as the rest of men!"—that because you live in South Australia you cannot go along, pick out a piece of paper, write some names on it and put it in in the hope of getting a trip to the moon. You cannot do anything like that in South Australia, but you can in every other State. Why? Is it because we are so prone to infection from this so-called evil that we have not the resistance to the disease that people in other places have, and therefore we must be protected by Statute from something that is amongst us all the time and cannot by any stretch of the imagination be stamped out, even if that is desirable? Because we have a simple thing like this, like other honourable members I do not think this goes far enough. I see nothing wrong with a raffle. I like to see people having a raffle. Providing it is for some organization that will give a book of signatures, as is done today, let them do it. That is my attitude towards it.

This Bill does not go very far. It says that, with the consent of a Minister of the Crown, once a year an organization can have some form of lottery. What sort of lottery—numbers on a wheel with a ticket for each number on the wheel; somebody spins the wheel and when the right number comes up he gets a dressed fowl? I got three fowls in one night in that way and thought it was a good idea. On another occasion I gave a dozen bottles of wine as a prize—and I won a bottle of cool drink! Anybody can balance that out if he likes. I was glad of the cool drink—it was all right. Did I do anything wrong? I did wrong in as much as I broke the law every time I did that, but I think that law is an ass in any case. Silly laws like that that cannot be policed are bad laws. That is all there is to that. I want to make on thing perfectly clear: we often hear talk of a major lottery, a State lottery—that if we had State lotteries we should have bigger and better hospitals, but I do not believe that. I am not against a lottery, and should not care if a lottery was held here in South Australia; it would make no difference to me. I should probably put in a few shillings now and again.

Mr. McKee—How much goes out of the State?

Mr. QUIRKE—A lot goes out of the State. I am not one of those who say—and those who listened to me yesterday will know the reason—that we can get better hospitals only if we have a lottery. I do not believe that; that is the wrong method of approach. Have a lottery if you like, but do not use that as an excuse or reason for having it.

I support this measure because for the life of me I cannot see anything wrong with the idea that people should be able, even without the consent of the Minister of the Crown, to have a simple thing like a little game of chance somewhere. All our life is a game of chance. Think of those people driving home on the main roads on a Friday night. One wonders whether they have a reasonable chance of getting home. That is a game of chance, when people are anxious to get home, particularly to the country. For instance, imagine the North Road at about half-past six on a winter's night, when it is drizzling with rain; then try to estimate one's chances of getting home safely. Life is a gamble and a chance. People get knocked down crossing the street. The Australian is a man who will take a chance. For the most part, Australia is great because men have taken chances; that is undeniable. What is the difference between taking a major gamble in relation to wind and weather, rain, hail, sleet, snow and frost, and putting two shillings in for a cabbage or something being raffled? On other occasions I have seen men in conditions different from those that we enjoy today playing "two-up" or "housie-housie" on board ship when time hung heavily on their hands. I would like to be a realist in these matters; I see nothing wrong with that. I am prepared to take a chance every three years myself when I go before my constituents. I may be doing that just now by saying what I do. However, I will take that chance and support the measure.

Mr. BYWATERS (Murray)—This is a social question. I appreciate the views of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and all other honourable members in this regard. So that my vote shall not be recorded silently, I say now that I oppose the Bill because I believe in direct giving rather than in the system advocated by the Deputy Leader. To clear up one point mentioned this afternoon in relation to raffles at various organizations that I attend, whenever I am approached in that regard I give money as a gift; I refuse to have my name included in the raffle book. Because of the approach, I donate. I believe in that.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Edwardstown)—It would appear that I am fighting once again a lost cause. The Premier said—I am quoting from *Hansard*—that he had fully expressed his views on this matter previously. I accept that. His other reason was—

I know it would cause considerable concern to many people who are opposed to this type of legislation, particularly as it is posed on the ground that it is charitable in its disposition. It is not charitable in its disposition, of course, but will result in heavy expense out of the funds collected.

I want to correct that, because I do not believe it is true. My experience has been that the prizes distributed at various functions have been a gift from the word "go." It is a question of fund-raising. An article is given and raffled, as it would be under the terms of this Bill. Consequently, it is a clear profit.

Another reason that the Premier gave for his opposition to the Bill was that the Chief Secretary was opposed to it. I readily accept the views just given by the honourable member for Murray (Mr. Bywaters), and I extend the same privileges to all honourable members as I should expect to be extended to me when considering social questions. I have never sought to convince anybody on principles in that regard. Therefore, I expect that nobody will try to force me to change my views.

The honourable member for Semaphore (Mr. Tapping) considers there are not sufficient opportunities for the smaller organizations, that they should be entitled to run more than one lottery a year. But that is only a machinery clause. My views are expressed in this Bill. If its second reading is approved, it can be amended wherever desired. The honourable member for West Torrens (Mr. Fred Walsh) probably has other views about making this measure more elastic. I am concerned with the second reading. Generally, this Bill has been given much thought, although it does not cover all that I would desire to have covered. The honourable member for Whyalla (Mr. Loveday) put things on an even keel in his speech.

I do not intend to be influenced one way or the other. I contradict the circular I received signed by certain leaders of religious organizations. I desire not to impose my thoughts upon these people, but to indicate that, even if this Bill is eventually passed, there is no need for any of the signatories to this circular to participate. After all, it is the freedom of the people that concerns me in these matters.

I paid particular attention to the wording of the Bill. I am willing to accept what the Premier has said already on that: that he believed that I attempted and succeeded in setting out the purposes of the Bill. He gave me full marks for that. In relation to interstate competitions, if this Bill succeeds on second reading, there is still room for other amendments to be considered. Clause 3 (7) of the Bill could be amended to provide for a relaxation of freedom in that direction.

I have already referred to the competitions that were conducted by the Vacuum Oil Company and by Ampol Petroleum Ltd. The winning numbers in the Ampol *Treasure Chest* were drawn in another State, and if a motor registration number corresponded with a winning number the owner received a prize. Persons were not obliged to buy tickets or to purchase additional petrol or oil. The *Pick the Players* contest is supposed to be a test of skill, but if it is I should like to see the definitions of "skill" and "chance."

Our Police Force has a vice squad and according to press reports last week-end it arrested 13 persons for illegal bookmaking, which is also an offence under the Lottery and Gaming Act. If the Government is short of funds then I suggest that if this Bill is not accepted the vice squad tours the suburbs and investigates all so-called tests of skill conducted by football and cricket clubs, charitable organizations, and bodies working to procure better educational facilities.

I hope that we never again experience a situation where organizers of competitions are advised by the Crown Law Department not to draw numbers but to ask entrants to give something a name and make the contests legal. I have already mentioned the appeal for the Adelaide Children's Hospital when persons were asked to name a house. I was not trained as a solicitor and consequently do not possess a legal mind, but if this Bill is not passed I suggest that those bodies seeking to raise funds put a length of cotton in a jar and ask people to use their skill in either determining the weight or the length of the cotton. Perhaps they may prefer to put grains of wheat in a jar and ask people to use their skill in estimating the correct number. I suggest, however, that in most of such competitions the winner will be decided by the number that is drawn from a barrel. If members want to enable persons to participate legally in the competitions now conducted they should support the second reading.

The House divided on the second reading:—

Ayes (12).—Messrs. Clark, Corcoran, Dunstan, Jennings, Lawn, Loveday, McKee, O'Halloran, Quirke, Ryan, Tapping and Frank Walsh (teller).

Noes (22).—Messrs. Bockelberg, Brookman, Bywaters, Coumbe, Dunnage, Hall, Harding, and Heaslip, Sir Cecil Hincks, Messrs. Hutchens, Jenkins, King, Laucke, Millhouse, Nankivell, Nicholson, Pattinson and Pearson, Sir Thomas Playford (teller), Messrs. Ralston, Riches and Shannon.

Majority of 10 for the Noes.
Second reading thus negatived.

LOAN ESTIMATES.

In Committee.

(Continued from August 23. Page 735.)

State Bank, £3,566,000.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—In 1958 the Homes Act was amended to increase the amounts that could be advanced for the purchase of houses, although no loan was to exceed £3,500. Yesterday, the Treasurer said that more than 50 per cent of the advances made for houses from the Superannuation Fund were for the purchase of existing houses. Is the Treasurer sure of those facts? Will the Treasurer state whether the bank is able to make available for the purchase of a house any money that is not tied to the provisions of the Homes Act? He said that the bank had been directed to channel its money for new housing, but did the Government channel £250,000 through the bank to erect the Hotel Australia? Will he state whether any provision could be made through the State Bank to enable people to purchase existing houses in inner suburban areas with a reasonably good equity?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—I thought I made this matter quite clear last night but I will give the honourable member some supplementary information that will be set out in *Hansard* so that members will be able to see the various headings under which money has been made available for housing in this State and the volume under the various headings. This will set out clearly what has been done in relation to housing and show how and to what extent the various schemes have been used.

Firstly, I will deal with expenditure by the Housing Trust on the erection of dwellings, including land, roads and drainage. The Housing Trust buys land as broad acres

and develops it because in this way it gets building sites much more cheaply than if it had to purchase allotments. In 1958-59 the amount spent by the trust was £10,360,000, and in 1959-60, £10,700,000. This year the amount provided under the various headings for the trust, together with its internal repayments that it is allowed to use again and its semi-Governmental borrowings, is £11,660,000. Advances made for the purchase of houses by the Savings Bank under the Homes Act in 1958-59 amounted to £3,812,000; in 1959-60, £5,000,000; and in 1960-61, £5,000,000. Under the Homes Act the Superannuation Fund made available £1,088,000 in 1958-59, £1,264,000 in 1959-60, and this year it is estimated that £1,350,000 will be made available. Under the Advances for Homes Act, the State Bank provided £3,127,000 in 1958-59, £5,015,000 in 1959-60, and this year it will make available £5,050,000.

The Housing Trust, under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, made available £1,406,000 in 1958-59, £932,000 in 1959-60, and this year the sum will be £1,000,000. The Home Builders Fund, which is State Loan fund money provided to building societies under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, made available £227,000 in 1958-59, £430,000 last year, and this year the amount will be £430,000. Under the Homes Act loans of £1,838,000 were approved in 1958-59, £4,650,000 in 1959-60, and this year the amount will be £5,000,000. Government guarantees in respect of these loans were for £350,000 in 1958-59, £971,000 in 1959-60, and they will total £1,000,000 in 1960-61. This Act, unlike many other Acts that assist housing, enables the Government to assist without having to advance the big bulk of capital cost. Since it was passed 11,370 people have been assisted to purchase houses, either new or secondhand, at a total purchase price of £18,832,000, for which the Government guarantee has been £3,689,000.

I have set out these facts so that members can see the relative activities from year to year. In these Estimates £300,000 is provided for the ordinary finance of the State Bank. This institution, in addition to conducting an activity for the Government under the Advances for Homes Act, also undertakes general banking business and makes loans to all classes of borrowers. It is making a considerable sum available for personal loans; it will make up to £500 available as a personal loan, not under the Advances for Homes Act but under its ordinary banking

legislation which enables it to carry on its banking business. This year £300,000 will be provided to the bank to enable it to expand its activities under the State Bank Act.

The honourable member said that £3,500 was the upper limit of loans by the bank for housing but, as far as I know, no loans in excess of £3,000 have been made. While so many applicants were seeking loans of £3,000 I discouraged the bank from advancing more than £3,000 because, if it had lent £3,500 in a few cases, someone would have got nothing at all. Although the bank could have lent more from its own money, as far as I know its loans have been limited to £3,000 each.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Would it be possible for the bank to advance money from the £300,000 to purchase existing houses? Will the Treasurer suggest to the bank that it consider that, instead of directing that no money is to be made available to purchase existing houses. Some people have to seek temporary finance as a result of delay at the Lands Titles Office. I do not reflect on the administration of that department, as I know it has been short-staffed and grossly overworked, and that its accommodation is not entirely satisfactory. Other people have paid a deposit but are continuing to pay rent, and I should like an assurance that those people in their turn will be recognized as having purchased a new house, even though they have to carry on this temporary finance for 12 months.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—When I spoke on this matter last night I thought I made it clear that the Government did not regard as old houses those that had been purchased by the original purchaser in circumstances when he had obtained temporary finance to tide him over pending receipt of his loan. In fact, only this morning I approved of many such loans. I think it would be advisable for anybody contemplating temporary finance to inform the bank that he is doing so. Temporary finance has not been regarded as something to hold up a loan. A house is a new house to all intents and purposes when it is built by the purchaser and, pending the finalizing of his loan, he has received temporary finance. The receipt of such temporary finance has never been held to disqualify him in that respect.

Mr. QUIRKE—I accept everything the Treasurer has said regarding houses in the city that have been lived in, but I cannot accept his statements as applied to country towns. In one country town 14 houses are for

sale, 10 of them highly desirable houses and the other four not so good. One of those houses, which I know very well, is a house of 10 rooms with a self-contained flat, with plenty of room for a family as well as the flat to provide income. Although the price of this house is only £4,000 it cannot be sold. Many inquiries have been received from people who wish to buy it, but they cannot get money from any of the organizations the Treasurer has mentioned. Some would advance money, but by the time they have supplied what is necessary in the city there is no money left. The Superannuation Fund lends very little money outside the metropolitan area, except to country members of the fund. There is a vast difference between the conditions in the city and those in the country. No-one wants to build 10 new houses in that town. Ten perfectly good houses are already there which people wish to buy and live in, yet the money is not available. I ask the Treasurer to consider this matter.

Mr. RYAN—I accept the Treasurer's statement regarding the granting of loans to people who have availed themselves of temporary finance, but I ask that the applications already lodged with the various banks be expedited, for the longer the period that elapses before the loans are granted the more difficult the financial position of these people becomes. The position regarding waiting time is deteriorating. The Savings Bank accepted applications during the last financial year and undertook that the loans would be approved during that financial year. It also told applicants that they could obtain temporary finance to complete building if they so desired, and that possibly the loans would be approved and taken over by the bank by the time building operations were completed.

We only have to look at the *Mail* every week-end to see pages and pages of advertisements to the effect that builders will commence building or supply a house on a "no deposit" basis, or that a block of land will suffice as a deposit. However, the moment the contract is signed the builder stipulates where the purchaser must apply for the loan and arranges temporary finance. This temporary finance is all-important to the individual today. I know of cases where people have been told that their loan will take 12 months to come through, and in the meantime they have paid £36 10s. a month for temporary finance.

The Treasurer referred yesterday to some companies supplying temporary finance on a flat interest rate. Unfortunately, people do

not realize what they are letting themselves into when they accept temporary finance on a flat rate of interest. I bring to the notice of the Treasurer the extreme urgency of any scheme to expedite the granting of the loans that have been promised to these people who have been forced into signing agreements with builders for such temporary finance. In most cases that finance has been arranged through hire-purchase companies at exorbitant interest rates. Those people who are paying £36 10s. a month over the 12 months period for which they have arranged temporary finance are not reducing the principle by as much as one penny. It is apparent that as time goes on we will find an increase in the lag between the application and the granting of a loan. I understand that from last February onwards the waiting period was expected to be about four months, but it is now 12 months and it appears that during this financial year it will become 18 months or even two years. It may be said that if people have to wait that long they should not enter into contracts, but people who want houses want them urgently and in an effort to get them they fall for these financial tricks of temporary finance, which is all they are.

Mr. McKee—The thimble and pea trick.

Mr. RYAN—It is more than that, because at times a person can win the thimble and pea trick, but once a person seeks temporary finance he has no hope of winning and the rope is around his neck until the bank can alleviate his position. This matter is extremely urgent because these people are being exploited.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Government would be happy to approve all loans right now if it could. Honourable members will surely realize that the Loan Estimates for this year are not yet passed and the Government has no authority to spend any money at all. Much more important than that is that the loans have not yet been raised from the public; therefore, if we passed this big volume of applications straight away we would immediately find ourselves in default in providing the money because, until that money is raised through the Loan Council and provided to us, we obviously cannot spend it, nor can we spend it then until we have the approval to do so. I hope that as soon as the Loan Estimates are approved we shall be able to approve 200 applications a month. I am sure that after the Loan Council has approved the allocation Commonwealth money will be available for use in financing approved housing. Although many people went to the State Bank on the

first day for the purpose of submitting applications, many had only a hazy idea of the money they wanted and where they would build. In many instances the necessary form could not be filled in because the applicant had not given sufficient thought to what he wanted. It would not be possible now to give mass approval for a house-building programme because until these Loan Estimates are approved no money is available. Some of the interest rates on temporary loans are excessive by any standard. I strongly advise applicants not to enter into temporary loan transactions until they are sure that the rate of interest is expressed and regarded as reasonable.

Mr. Ryan—Some institutions will not give you the information.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I think one institution is advancing money at an interest rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, which is the real interest rate. If the honourable member desires it I shall get further information on this matter for him. I like to keep interest rates down, and I do not even like one of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Often the rate is not properly understood by an applicant and sometimes it is not $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent but $14\frac{1}{2}$ per cent real interest. In some instances it is higher.

First line—State Bank, £3,566,000—passed.

Highways and Local Government, £250,000.

Mr. LAUCKE—I have noticed that the material used in the construction of many roads has not been sound and solid, and rather inferior. It is fundamental that departmental inspectors ensure that only the best materials are used in road construction, particularly foundation work. This is important in view of the high cost of building roads. The use of inferior material is false economy.

Mr. FRED WALSH—For about three years I have advocated alterations to the Underdale Bridge on Holbrook Road. The department did not see eye to eye with me in the provision of a footway, but it has now decided to reconstruct the bridge. This necessitates the reconstruction of parts of Holbrook Road, and although the Engineering and Water Supply Department has had the project in hand for about six months the work has not yet been completed. It is pleasing to see the item on the Loan Estimates. When will the work on the bridge be started?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—An amount of £30,000 is provided for the bridge. The work is definitely on the programme for this year.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Why are the bridges over the River Light at Linwood and over

the River Wakefield at Undalya to be reconstructed? Have they become unsafe or is the reconstruction due to the widening of the roadway? They are dangerous places and people must drive slowly over the bridges, but if they could be retained as they are for a year or so the money now being provided for their reconstruction could be spent elsewhere.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—It would be false economy to delay their reconstruction because they are badly aligned and have been the scene of numerous accidents.

Line passed.

Lands, £61,000—passed.

Irrigation and Drainage, £825,000.

Mr. BYWATERS—The sum of £20,000 is provided for the provision of a stock and domestic water supply at Mypolonga, which does not now have such a supply, whereas other settlements do. I am pleased to note the provision of money for the commencement of the work. The dairymen now have to rely on using water that is not of good quality. When is it likely that the work will be commenced?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I cannot tell the honourable member the commencing date, but it is proposed to start the work this year. How far specifications and contracts have gone I do not know, but I will get the information for the honourable member.

Mr. KING—Can the Treasurer tell me anything about the amount of £5,000 set aside for the construction of Chaffey drains?

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

Mr. HARDING—People in the South-East are delighted at what is being done to drain their area. The drainage in the wetter portion has resulted in the sheep being healthier, and cattle have never done so well. The work is of great benefit not only to the South-East, but to the State as a whole.

Line passed.

Woods and Forests, £1,300,000.

Mr. LAUCKE—The information supplied on this line shows that the sum of £3,161,000 is available for the departmental programme, and that administration and miscellaneous expenditure will amount to £360,000. I notice that £250,000 is to be met from the working account. I cannot understand why this amount is included in the total expenditure. Can the Treasurer explain the position?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—For many years the Woods and Forests Department has been run on Loan account and separate from the Budget. This has meant that the profits—and it has been an extremely profitable department—have been ploughed back for the extension of forests, the building of saw-mills, housing, etc. We reached the position that the profits were actually gaining on us and we had a Loan account that was getting into credit. The Grants Commission did not take a kindly view of it and wanted us to do something slightly different. In those circumstances we made some adjustments. At present the Forestry Department runs two accounts—a Revenue account and a Loan account—and it ploughs some profits back into those accounts. It also pays to the State about £300,000 towards the general revenue of the State. Those transactions were made that way because the Grants Commission at that time pointed out to us that we had this enormous asset as a Loan account, but that it was very fast getting into profit.

Mr. RALSTON—I refer to the line on page 7, "Land purchases, £25,000." Is this amount for the purchase of land to be used for planting purposes only or is some amount included for the purchase of land for the extension of the Central No. 1 sawmill at Mount Gambier, which has about reached its expansion limit on its present site? When introducing these Loan Estimates the Treasurer said that, if an amount was provided in the Loan Estimates, the Public Purposes Loan Act permitted the Government to spend a much greater amount than that approved for a particular purpose. If there is a practical proposition, will it be considered in this connection and under the Public Purposes Loan Act?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—What the honourable member says is correct, always subject to one consideration: that, if the expenditure on the purchase of land is increased, some other line has to be decreased accordingly to balance the finances. The Public Purposes Loan Act unfortunately does not provide cash; it only enables the Government, if it has an insufficient vote for a specific purpose approved by Parliament, to provide what is needed and make a saving somewhere else, making an adjustment for that purpose. The relevant section says that, where there is an approved purpose and the approved purpose is one that Parliament has specifically approved by a vote of money, if Parliament has not provided sufficient money for that approved purpose the Treasurer may apportion some more

money for that purpose—but, of course, always having to live still within his general appropriation. Here, the £25,000 is for the purchase of land. I know of no proposition now for the purchase of land for any other purposes. We have been offered a large piece of land during the last few days. It is good land but highly priced, and I think the decision of Cabinet will be not to purchase it because it is suitable for other purposes. We have always regarded forestry land as having a good utilization value for land of a not particularly high grade. I think the price suggested was £38 an acre. Probably Cabinet will not approve that purchase.

Mr. HARDING—The log timber output for 1959-60 was about 170,000,000 super feet. It is anticipated that the output for the current year will increase by 13,000,000 super feet. It has been the policy of the State Government to process about 50 per cent of its timbers. I notice this year that the Government will process considerably more than 50 per cent; it will be more like 60 per cent. This is probably one of our most valuable primary industries. We can get generous Government assistance for decentralization for private enterprise, yet today I have a letter from a local mill which owes the department about £1,600 and cannot proceed. It does not seem right. Will the Minister of Forests say what assistance can be given to the private mills called upon to process this 78,000,000 super feet coming in? Can some financial assistance, if required, be given to the private mills processing this millable timber for the Government?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Forests)—The honourable member referred to the case of a private mill, but with incorrect facts. We have discussed this matter closely with him. The last thing I said to him was that I should be glad to see him again to discuss it further. The indebtedness that he refers to is inaccurate: it is a much greater figure than that. Many other facts have to be considered before a specific case of that sort can be used. According to the Treasurer's remarks when introducing the Loan Estimates, a log capacity of 112,000,000 super feet will be processed in Government sawmills, and 78,000,000 super feet will be treated by privately owned plants. I do not know that a privately owned plant wants many more logs than that but, whenever the Government has erected its own sawmills, on each occasion there has been a dearth of private milling

capacity to deal with the timber becoming available. It is difficult at this stage, having got three large Government mills in operation, to restrict their log intake. On the other hand, I do not know of any cases on a wide scale where mills want more timber than they are getting. However, if they do and if the honourable member will bring me the cases, I will look at them to see if more log licences can be granted.

Line passed.

Railways, £2,625,000.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—On page 8, £43,000 is provided for new residences. The Housing Trust purchased land in the Brighton, Marion and Mitcham Corporation areas, much of which has been transferred to the Railways Commissioner. Does the appearance of this figure of £43,000 indicate that more houses will be built on that land?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—So far as I know the land will not be used for houses.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Many people have inquired about this land. Can the Treasurer indicate the purposes for which the land will be used?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I am not sure whether I would be in order in answering the question because the land was purchased about 12 years ago and the item appeared on the Loan Estimates then. I thought the reply I gave to a question recently would have enabled the honourable member to have drawn a conclusion. Immediately after the war the Government took steps to purchase areas of land which it knew would ultimately be required for public purposes. That was a wise step because it has saved enormous expenditure and it will enable us to plan for the orderly growth and development of the metropolitan area. The Government purchased at a low capital cost sufficient land to enable the duplication of the road from the abattoirs to Gawler. The price for such land today would be prohibitive. The land the honourable member is interested in was purchased at the request of the Railways Commissioner to meet the future needs of his department. If I were to outline the precise route of a future railway line, persons who held land that has not yet been acquired would immediately increase its price. I do not think the House would want me to outline plans for future railway lines in areas where all the land that may be needed has not been acquired.

Mr. QUIRKE—I am concerned with the debt charges on the funds employed in the Railways

Department. Would it be possible to evolve some means of lifting those debt charges, possibly by transferring them to some general account, to enable the department's balance sheets to appear in a more favourable light? The railways serve the whole State and compete effectively with other forms of transport, and it is unfair to permit these debt charges to hang around the neck of the department in perpetuity.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The honourable member's suggestion has been considered frequently. If we transferred the debt from the Railways Department account to the Treasury account it would not alter the State's financial result. Each year we have made an assessment of the amount that the Railways Department should be recouped for carrying so many commodities below cost. As a result of public policy the railways have for years been asked to carry commodities at unprofitable rates and each year the department is recouped an amount equivalent to that considered appropriate, having regard to the services rendered. Last year I think the amount transferred to the Railways Department account was over £4,000,000. That does, in point of fact, set the department's finances out in true form.

Mr. TAPPING—An amount of £862,000 is provided for the purchase of 22 suburban diesel rail cars. Members welcome this expenditure. In the last couple of years the railways have shown enterprise and many patrons have been won back. I believe more patrons could be won by reducing fares. At peak periods carriages are over-crowded, but in off-peak periods the carriages carry only about 20 per cent of their capacity. If fares are increased and patronage decreases, that is not good economics. By making the services more attractive, patronage and revenue will increase. The department should re-introduce excursion fares at weekends and on public holidays. Many people would use the services in visiting the hills and distant parts of the State. I believe many more would use the rail car service to Outer Harbour, which attracts many tourists. Increased fares have forced people to use motor vehicles, with a consequent increase in road accidents, and others have combined to use taxis for transport to the city.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—An amount of £470,000 is provided for ballasting, relaying, buildings, platforms and stockyards, station yards, signalling and safety devices, main lines, bridges and culverts, drainage, etc. I presume there will be a rehabilitation programme for certain lines, but I am mostly concerned with the

relaying of the Cockburn line, which has earned much revenue. Is that work to be continued and, if possible, speeded up? Secondly, a railway union has suggested that the Eyre Peninsula railway needs rehabilitation and wishes to know if anything is proposed for that area.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I believe that the portion of the line referred to by the honourable member is that portion on the Broken Hill line with 50 lb. rails and if that is so the Railways Commissioner is programming to have the 50 lb. rails completely removed in about 18 months' time. That work will go ahead in the near future.

The Eyre Peninsula line is a slightly different proposition and one that is causing some concern because it was anticipated that when the standardization agreement became effective we would be able to send over for the lighter gauge railway on Eyre Peninsula some of the heavier lines being replaced. That was done when the South-Eastern line was standardized. We were able to purchase from the standardization committee a considerable quantity of lines and, I believe, sleepers which were perfectly good. They were used to improve the Eyre Peninsula railway, which is not subject to the standardization agreement. I hope that practice will be continued. I have been able to reach a fairly good agreement with the Commissioner regarding the maintenance of his works and ways this year and he has expressed the view that it is quite satisfactory.

Line passed.

Harbors Board, £1,275,000.

Mr. McKEE—I am pleased with the amount allocated to Port Pirie for wharf reconstruction and the removal of the railway lines from Ellen Street. The people are happy that this work is to be carried out at last and they are confident of their future and that of their children. When the work is completed Port Pirie should be in a position to attract industry because it will be a first-class port and it is expected that the Government will give full assistance in that direction. I ask that the Harbors Board give consideration to amenities in changing rooms for water-side workers at Port Pirie. The wharf amenities there are possibly the worst in the Commonwealth and when the reconstruction work is carried out that work could also be put in hand.

Mr. MILLHOUSE—How many industrial sites have been sold in connection with the Greater Port Adelaide Plan and at what price have they been sold? I also ask whether

a sum equivalent to the proceeds of the sale is in fact being applied to further development work in Port Adelaide.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I can get that information for the honourable member. The General Manager of the Harbors Board discussed with me the question of the sale of land and I expressed the view that the important thing was to see that the land that was developed was used for the purpose of establishing industry and not for the purpose of speculation by land agents. The Government is most anxious to see that the persons who purchase the land are *bona fide* promoters of industry. The land is extremely favourably placed and, at the price at which the Harbors Board is selling it, it is a reasonable proposition. The Harbors Board is subject for its Revenue and Loan funds to the State Budget and Parliament through the Minister of Marine and it has no right to spend money without the approval of Parliament. The Board cannot sell land and spend the money without the approval of Parliament.

Mr. Millhouse—I asked whether an amount equivalent to the proceeds of sales is being applied to further developmental work in Port Adelaide.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The amount provided on the Loan Estimates is very much greater than anything that would be returned from the sale of land. The amount provided is well over £1,000,000.

Mr. Millhouse—Only £130,000 is provided for Port Adelaide.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Port Adelaide cannot be isolated and the fact that there is £1,250,000 available to the Harbors Board indicates that we believe it will be able to provide something in the way of a contribution to Loan funds by the sale of land. We have probably got development of land in this area at present, two to three years ahead of requirements. It is not a pressing job by any means.

Mr. TAPPING—A sum of £55,000 is provided for land acquisition at Port Pirie but I doubt whether that applies to Port Pirie. Could the Treasurer give me some information on that point?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will see if I can get some information for the honourable member.

Mr. McKEE—Is the amount of £17,000 provided for bulk handling installations and additional shipping accommodation intended for Port Pirie? At this stage I should like to thank members of the Public Works

Standing Committee for their efforts on my behalf over the past 12 months. They have been very helpful and I appreciate that.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I think the work is to be done at Thevenard.

Line passed.

Engineering and Water Supply, £9,130,000.

Mr. LOVEDAY—The sum of £150,000 is provided for the Lincoln Gap to Iron Knob pipeline. When will this money be spent and when will the pipeline be completed? Will the Engineering and Water Supply Department be responsible for the whole of the construction?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Speaking from memory, I believe the time is 18 months and the money this year will be largely spent on materials. Before a job of that type can be commenced it is necessary to let contracts for pipes and materials. The actual welding of the pipes and putting them into position is undertaken by the department.

Mr. SHANNON—I thank the Government for providing money for a scheme that has been long awaited in my district. We also appreciate the provision made for the Clarendon, Belair, Blackwood scheme which will be linked to the Heathfield tank. A small amount has been provided for raising the Mount Bold reservoir dam. It is a pity that we could not foresee the fortunate year we were to have because if the work had been done we could have impounded more water. When we have this extra capacity at the reservoir it should result in cheaper water for the metropolitan area but £25,000 will not take us much further in the matter.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The department is unable to do any work there at present because the reservoir is running over but some grading has been done. It is doubtful whether any more work will be possible this year. The connection mentioned by the honourable member would mean a considerable advance in supplying the Adelaide Hills areas, but I do not know when that matter will be referred to the Public Works Standing Committee.

Mr. HUTCHENS—I refer to the item "Cement lining *in situ*" for which a sum of £16,000 has been provided. I understand that this is for repair work and not for new work in the Barossa water district. When this method was first tried in the metropolitan area many people argued that it would not be satisfactory, but experience has shown that it is satisfactory and economical.

Mr. LAUCKE—For the South Para reservoir, £23,000 is provided. The Treasurer said

this was to be used, together with £5,000 provided for the Barossa water district, to increase the capacity of the reservoir by 1,500,000,000 gallons without any additional load being placed on the bank. As the increase in capacity is so great for such a small additional expenditure, I should like the Treasurer to give further information.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I know the honourable member will realize that the additional capacity is greater because the extra water held is held over the whole area; it is the easiest capacity to get. The engineers have said that this will not jeopardize the banks. The spillway will cost an insignificant amount compared with the extra quantity that will be held.

Mr. RALSTON—The sum of £84,000 is provided for the Mount Gambier water district, which the Treasurer said was for tanks, mains and electric pumping plant to improve supplies. Recently, a substantial area on the northern slopes at Mount Gambier has been subdivided, but building cannot proceed until it has a water supply. Will the Treasurer say how many tanks will be constructed, where they will be situated, and what areas they will serve?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Minister of Works will be able to give details of the works. These are service tanks rendered necessary because of rapid expansion in the district and their purpose is to maintain pressure at peak periods. This is not a big project.

Mr. JENKINS—The Milang scheme has operated for four or five years; can the Treasurer say why £4,000 is provided this year?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I shall have to obtain that information.

Mr. BYWATERS—The sum of £20,000 is provided for the Murray Bridge water supply, some of which the Treasurer said is for a chlorinating plant. Is it intended to chlorinate the Murray Bridge water supply in the next year?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—It is the policy of the Government and the department to chlorinate water from the Murray River; this has been done at every service tank. I shall see if I can obtain details for the honourable member.

Mr. RYAN—The Treasurer said that the ultimate cost of the Bolivar treatment works would be about £11,000,000. As only £310,000 is provided this year, can he say when the

work will commence and when it will be completed? People in Athol Park and Woodville Gardens cannot obtain sewerage connections because the system is overloaded. They were told three years ago that they would be connected within three years, but this small sum leads one to believe that they will have to wait many years for this to be done.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Public Works Standing Committee report on this matter has been tabled only recently, and I advise the honourable member to study it as it sets out the evidence and plans for the proposal. It is an entirely different scheme from that originally proposed by the department: it is much larger, is in a different location, and will serve a larger area. This is regarded by the Government as an urgent project, and the fact that an amount has been put on the Estimates so soon after the report has been given by the committee shows that we are anxious to proceed with it. The Government, with the limited amount of money available, intends to push on with the work. Although it is a long-term project, the work is designed so that the system can be used and developed in stages, the same as is done in a power station. It will be possible to use this scheme in some areas before it is completed.

Mr. BOCKELBERG—I appreciate the expenditure of £454,000 on the Tod River water district, but, in view of the discouraging report given by the Minister of Works yesterday about Kimba, I should like a sum added to this provision for a supply from the Murray to parts of the district that cannot be watered from the Tod supply.

Mr. RALSTON—This year provision is made for sewerage at Naracoorte and Port Lincoln and for preliminary investigations. Although £20,000 appeared on the Estimates two years ago for investigations at Mount Gambier, and £2,000 was provided last year, nothing specific is provided for that area this year. Can I assume from this that the plans are fully completed and that the department is ready to go ahead with the scheme as soon as funds are available, or is part of the £52,000 to finance further investigation?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The committee that investigated the priorities of this work from a health point of view gave first priority to Naracoorte, second to Mount Gambier and third to Port Lincoln or Bordertown—I am not sure which. However, Mount Gambier was second. Some extensions have been requested at Naracoorte because of the

rapid development in the town, and that work must be completed before the team transfers to Mount Gambier. It has always been intended that Mount Gambier should be proceeded with when the scheme at Naracoorte is completed, and that intention has not been altered.

Mr. HARDING—I am pleased that the Naracoorte scheme will be proceeded with. The Naracoorte South school will be on the outskirts and I should not be surprised if it became necessary to have a new extension as far out as the South Bore.

Mr. MILLHOUSE—This year £1,600,000 will be spent on Adelaide sewers, including £303,000 on sewerage of new areas. A large and important part of my district—Blackwood, Belair, Eden Hills and Upper Sturt—has no sewers, yet it is within a few miles of the General Post Office. This area is growing quickly, it is of extreme importance, and the people have been asking for sewerage for a long time. I appreciate the large amount to be spent on water supplies in this district, but I also know (because the Government has said it on a number of occasions through the Minister of Works) that it is not possible to sewer the hills area until the Clarendon water scheme is completed. All I ask is that the Government will not forget this important part of the metropolitan area which at present is unsewered, and that its turn will come soon.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I can only assume that the honourable member would not allow the Government to forget it if it tried to.

Mr. BYWATERS—I am not aware what priority sewerage of Murray Bridge has under the health report that has been furnished, but it is entirely a septic tank area. Because of the nature of its clay subsoil, difficulty is being experienced, particularly this year, with excess water. The high school oval is cut out of an embankment and as a result water is seeping through it. We have noticed in places that one only has to dig a foot or so into the ground to strike water, because the water table has risen with the amount of flushing from the septic tanks, and this is becoming a great problem. I draw the Government's attention to this difficulty, and ask that, if the priority is not particularly high, it will consider the matter in the future because it is desirable that this area be sewerred. Has the Treasurer any information as to what priority Murray Bridge has?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—This question arose some time ago, and if I remember rightly not a very high priority was set down by the committee at that time.

Mr. Bywaters—I think the position has altered since then.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I believe there was not very much pressure from Murray Bridge at that time. In fact, I think it expressed the view that it desired not to go in for a heavy rating contribution because its septic tanks at that time were performing satisfactorily. The Minister has made a note of the matter and it will be examined and the honourable member advised in due course. I remind him that as the matter has lapsed for some considerable time it would be advisable for the local government authority itself to apply because a fairly heavy rating contribution would be involved.

Line passed.

Public Buildings, £7,700,000.

Mr. CORCORAN—Can the Treasurer say what major additions are to be made to the Millicent primary and high schools, and what the cost of those additions will be?

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

Mr. RALSTON—The sum of £5,000 is provided for the conversion of the old hospital at Mount Gambier to nurses' quarters. The Treasurer has said that the new hospital will have a capacity of 217 beds. In the new nurses' quarters there is accommodation for 120. I have been assured by authorities both here and at Mount Gambier that it is desirable to provide accommodation in the ratio of one nurse to one patient. The conversion of the old hospital to nurses' quarters would provide accommodation for an additional 50 nurses, and it therefore means that the total accommodation for nurses would fall far short of what is desirable for the new hospital. In fact, it would provide only about half of what ultimately would be required. Can the Treasurer say whether this conversion is temporary, whether the Government intends to build another nurses' block to accommodate 100 to 120 nurses, and whether the conversion is part of a long-range view with something else in mind? In a few years the patient accommodation will be rather taxed. I presume that the sum of £5,000 is a nominal amount to start the project.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The hospital that has been built at Mount Gambier is very large for a country district. I do not expect for one moment that it will be full for

a considerable time, and under those circumstances the full nursing staff obviously will not be required for some time. The Minister of Health makes a practice of taking any additional accommodation into account before a scheme to build very large quarters for nurses is recommended. Some patients at this hospital come from the Millicent district, but in future such people will be treated at Millicent where a major hospital is being erected by the corporation and the Government under the subsidized hospitals scheme. The matter will be examined from time to time and any necessary action taken.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Various schools in my electorate are to have additions made to them, and these additions have been justified by increased population. The most modern primary school of any is erected at Mitchell Park and the school committee is very pleased with the environs. Last year the Government set aside certain sums for such major works, but projects have been held up through builders going into liquidation. Egarr & Sons may be able to pay 17s. in the pound after their affairs are wound up, and one unfortunate subcontractor has had to face another serious setback after doing a major job on behalf of the Government. Provision was made in the two preceding years for certain projects. Will money be made available this year to complete those works? Will the Government get that money from another source? What protection will the Government give to the subcontractor?

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

Mr. FRANK WALSH—If I were asked to solve the problem relating to subcontracts I would say that day labour should be adopted. I do not reflect upon the ability of the contractor who recently completed the Mitchell Park primary school as to the payment of his subcontractors. If the Government is not prepared to adopt day labour in its contracts, will the Treasurer give some guarantee, particularly to the building fraternity, that subcontractors shall be paid in full for work they perform? I do not know how some subcontractors are able to keep solvent when a contractor does not pay. When a contract is signed for a Government building the Government is aware who the subcontractors are and I should like to know what protection will be afforded these people, irrespective of the jobs involved.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The proposition put forward by the honourable member is that the Government should in some way or other become liable to pay commitments that

may be incurred by a contractor to a subcontractor. The Government is involved not with the subcontractor, but only with the principal contractor, whom the Government expects, when he accepts a contract, will complete the work satisfactorily. I do not wish honourable members to think that the Government accepts tenders if there is any doubt as to the ability of the builder concerned to do the work either from the point of view of skill, organization or financial resources. Every contract is examined by the department concerned, which has to give a recommendation on the tender, which then goes to the Auditor-General for examination. He adds his comment to the tender before it goes before Cabinet. All contracts are scrutinized as closely as possible. If it is found that a contract is seriously out of line with the estimates and with the price for other tenders, then the Government immediately examines that activity with more than ordinary care. If the estimate is seriously out of line it may be that the tenderer has made a mistake and that he cannot stand up to his tender.

I refute the idea that the Government always accepts the lowest tender. I should think that in more than half the tenders coming before the Government the lowest tender is not accepted. A special committee has been appointed to go into the question of whether a contractor has the necessary resources to carry out the job. The Government does not want a job half-completed and then the work discontinued: it wants the work completed. What the honourable member has suggested is completely outside the province of the Government. If a tenderer were going insolvent and the Government gave him preferential payments, I should think it would become seriously involved. It could not favour one creditor as against other creditors. Most contractors also have private work as well, and their losses may not be accruing on Government work.

If a subcontractor doubts the solvency of a contractor, he has two or three immediate remedies. Firstly, he can demand that the contractor make some security over to him to cover what he is doing. He could get a procurement order signed by the builder himself giving him the first call on money coming from the Government in connection with the work. The honourable member is incorrect when he says that the Government knows the subcontractors. Frequently, when a tender is let the Government does not know who they are, although it may learn as the work progresses.

I cannot remember an occasion when the names of subcontractors have been disclosed to Cabinet. That applies not only to Government buildings, but also to other buildings being erected. Actually the Government is engaged in erecting only a small proportion of structures being built. If a subcontractor has any doubts as to the contractor he should inquire before he makes available any goods or services.

Mr. HEASLIP.—Although the name of the Gladstone high school is not mentioned in the list of school buildings, I understand that a new dual science unit is to be built at Gladstone during the coming year, but the area available is very small. Originally there was sufficient area for recreation purposes, but year after year additional temporary classrooms have been constructed. In 1940 the local district council made a gift to the Education Department of a site that until this year had been occupied by the Wheat Board, which I understand is vacating it this year. It would be a great pity if a solid construction unit such as the dual science unit should be constructed on the old site. I should like the Minister of Education to explore the possibility of the new unit being erected on the new site rather than on the old site, which is already overcrowded.

Mr. CLARK—I notice included in the schools in my district new primary and infant schools at Elizabeth Downs, Elizabeth East, Elizabeth Park, Elizabeth Vale and Evanston; technical high schools at Elizabeth for boys and girls and major additions at Elizabeth for boys and girls, and a high school at Elizabeth. Listed among major additions to schools is work at the Gawler high school. There is so much cramping at the existing high school that it would be difficult to find room for additions, so I am glad that a new high school is to be built. I have an affection for the school, which I attended, as did the Speaker.

Mr. Shannon—There is a lovely site for the new school.

Mr. CLARK—Yes. If land for the school had been purchased earlier the site would have been even better because some of the land most suitable was secured for a denominational school. The sum of £10,000 is to be spent on the adult education centre at Gawler. Last year about £25,000 was provided for centres at Gawler and Mount Gambier. I do not know whether all the money was spent at Mount Gambier but very little was spent at

Gawler. The adult education activities at Gawler have been astounding. The principal has introduced many innovations. I think it is the best centre in the State. I hope a start will be made on the project this year. Gawler is also to have new police buildings, and at Elizabeth there is to be a combined police station and court house. I was told today by representatives of the Salisbury District Council that they are somewhat concerned about new schools in the area south of Salisbury. They fear that if land is not secured soon the price of it eventually will be very high. I am extremely pleased with what has been done in my district.

Mr. RALSTON—In explaining the Loan Estimates the Treasurer said that 19 schools would be constructed with Mount Gambier limestone. Of course, I am pleased about that, and it shows that the Public Buildings Department regards the stone highly and is prepared to pay for it to be brought to the metropolitan area. Can the Treasurer tell me why the Mount Gambier technical high school is to be built with timber and not local stone?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will get a report on that matter. The Minister of Education says that it is probably due to the time factor.

Mr. RYAN—I notice that £180,000 is to be spent on the dental hospital. Two or three months ago one of my constituents told me that the waiting time for dentures at that hospital was about two years. I verified that statement by inquiry at the hospital. In the early part of this week I was told that the waiting time, especially for pensioners, is now much longer. One pensioner told me that she had to wait three years in order to get new dentures. Will the proposed expenditure at the hospital reduce the waiting time for dentures, particularly for aged people, and for those who cannot afford to go elsewhere for them?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will not say that the proposed expenditure will cut down the waiting time, but I will get a report for the honourable member.

Mr. JENNINGS—I notice that the Hillcrest primary school is not mentioned in the Loan Estimates. It is a prefabricated building, and I wonder whether it will be replaced by a permanent structure.

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

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, £4,040,000—passed.

Grand total, £30,772,000, passed and Committee's resolution adopted by the House.

PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL.

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

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution:—That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to authorize the Treasurer to borrow and expend moneys for public works and purposes and to enact other provisions incidental thereto.

Motion carried.

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

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It appropriates the moneys required for the works and purposes provided for by the Loan Estimates which the House has considered. Clause 3 defines the Loan Fund. Clause 4 provides for borrowing by the Treasurer of £25,967,000. Clause 5 provides for the expenditure of £30,772,000 on the undertakings set out in the first schedule to the Bill. Clause 6 deals with expenditures on Loan undertakings which were not included in the Public Purposes Loan Bill (No. 2) of 1959 but which were subsequently authorized by warrant given by His Excellency the Governor under powers conferred on him by the Public Finance Act.

Clause 7 makes provision for borrowing and payment of an amount to cover any discounts, charges and expenses incurred in connection with borrowing for the purposes of this Bill. Clause 8 makes provision for temporary finance if the moneys in the Loan Fund are insufficient for the purposes of this Bill. Clause 9 authorizes the borrowing of £10,000,000 for the purpose of carrying on Loan works at the commencement of next financial year and until the Public Purposes Loan Bill for 1961 is considered by the House. Clause 10 deals with the duration of certain clauses to the Bill. Clause 11 directs that all money received by the State under the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act shall be credited to a special account to be paid out as required for the purposes of the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act. Clause 12 provides for this Bill to operate as from July 1, 1960. I commend the Bill for consideration of members.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

COUNTRY HOUSING ACT AMENDMENT
BILL.

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

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution:—That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Country Housing Act, 1958.

Motion carried.

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

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It is a short Bill and will, I believe, meet with the approval of all members of the House. It has a little history behind it, in two respects. I remind honourable members that some years ago, when the Commonwealth Government made an interest free grant of some £360,000 to the State, Parliament approved a country housing scheme for pensioners, widows and persons of limited means by providing that houses would be available in country areas, offsetting what the Housing Trust did in the metropolitan area; that these houses would be available at one-sixth of the family income, or £1 a week; that the Housing Trust would administer the scheme without charge; and that all rents collected would be paid into a revolving fund for the erection of further houses from time to time. The type of house designed for the scheme was, I think, very suitable, being of solid construction and most comfortable. I have heard that they have been very important in solving some social housing problems in country areas.

Mr. Quirke—It was one of the best things ever done for the country areas.

Mr. Clark—They are very popular.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The houses have been built in as many country areas as possible, but all the £360,000 has now been spent. Speaking from memory, I think that the total number of houses erected was about 140. Of course from time to time as the rents become available to the Housing Trust they will be used for building additional houses in perpetuity. It will be in years to come a very important social housing scheme for the country areas.

I have been looking round for some additional funds to augment the scheme and enable building to continue under it. Having examined the funds established in the Treasury for various purposes, I find that the fund

established under the Homes Act has now reached a total of £99,700. We have never made a loss under that scheme, so that fund has not been in any way called upon. Indeed, with the inflationary rise in the value of houses, it is very hard to imagine that there will be any losses under the Homes Act because houses that we guaranteed for, say, £1,750, £2,500, or even £3,000 at the start of the scheme today are currently valued at probably £4,000 or even £4,500. As far as I can see our guarantees against losses are safe. I believe that it is appropriate for us to use the £100,000 at present in the Home Purchase Guarantee Fund for extending the country housing scheme. It will augment the £350,000 previously made available and will provide for about 40 more houses.

I do not think there is any need to fear that we may make losses under the Homes Act, but if we should, by the time a call is made on the fund it will have accumulated sufficient to meet it. This money will be made available on precisely the same conditions as applied when the £350,000 was made available, and rents from the houses will go into a fund to provide additional houses in future.

Mr. Jennings—Put the Parliamentary Superannuation Fund into it too.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—As far as I am concerned the Parliamentary Superannuation Fund has a few contingent liabilities.

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

EVIDENCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson, for the Hon. B. PATTINSON (Minister of Education)—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Recently an approach was made by the Government of India through the Federal Department of External Affairs with a view to seeking reciprocal arrangements with the Governments of the Commonwealth and the Australian States for the mutual recognition of notarial acts. The Notaries Act, 1952, of India confers on the Government of that country power by administrative act to declare that notarial acts lawfully done by notaries in any place outside India shall be recognized within India if that Government is satisfied that by the law or practice of that place the notarial acts done by notaries within India are recognized in that place.

My Government considers that in view of the expanding commercial relations between India and Australia, it would be desirable to facilitate the judicial and official recognition in this State of the notarial acts of Indian notaries. The desirability of such recognition is also felt by Their Honors the Chief Justice and the other judges of the Supreme Court and by the Crown Solicitor. In considering the representations of the Indian Government, however, my Government has felt that instead of limiting such recognition to the notarial acts of Indian notaries the law should have a wider application and facilitate the recognition of notarial acts by notaries in any place proclaimed to be within the Commonwealth of Nations. This course would enable that recognition to be extended not only to India but also to other places within the Commonwealth of Nations after the Government has satisfied itself that suitable reciprocal legislation has been enacted in those places.

This Bill is accordingly designed to achieve that object. The provisions of section 67 of the Evidence Act extend *inter alia* the provisions of section 66 of that Act to notarial acts performed outside the State. By virtue of the provisions of those sections judicial and official notice may be taken of the signature and seal pertaining to a notarial act performed in any place outside the State by any of the persons mentioned in paragraphs (a), (b) and (b1) of section 66 (1) or by any person having authority to perform notarial acts in that place if he purports to have that authority by virtue of the law of a foreign country under the dominion of Her Majesty; or by any person purporting to have such authority by virtue of the law of a foreign country not under the dominion of Her Majesty, if such authority purports to be verified by any of the persons mentioned in paragraphs (a), (b) and (b1) of section 66 (1) or by the certificate of the superior court of that place.

India is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations but is no longer under the dominion of Her Majesty and the discretion to take judicial and official notice of the signature and seal of

an Indian notary on any document notarially attested by him can have effect by virtue of those provisions only if the authority under which the notary performed the notarial act purports to have been so verified. If India were under the dominion of Her Majesty, however, such notice could be taken of the notary's signature and seal without any such verification.

Clause 3 adds two new subsections to section 67 of the Evidence Act, 1929-1957, which in effect extend the discretion to take judicial and official notice of the notary's signature and seal on any document notarially attested under the law of a place declared by proclamation to be a place within the Commonwealth of Nations to which the new subsection (1a) applies, whether or not the notary's authority to act as such has been so verified. The clause further provides that a proclamation may be varied or cancelled by a subsequent proclamation as the Governor thinks fit, thus enabling, in appropriate cases, the withdrawal of facilities for the judicial and official recognition of notarial acts performed in places where the reciprocal legislation has been repealed or so altered as to warrant such withdrawal.

Mr. DUNSTAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

AMUSEMENTS DUTY (FURTHER SUSPENSION) BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 11. Page 581.)

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition)—It is with supreme pleasure that I support the Bill. As a representative of the down-trodden proletariat who, in the old days, made their modest contributions through their visits to places of amusement, I am pleased that the suspension of amusements duty is to continue until 1964.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 8.28 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, August 25, at 2 p.m.