

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, July 25, 1961.

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

### SUPPLY BILL (No. 1).

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, intimated that the Governor had assented to the Bill.

### DEATH OF HON. F. J. CONDON.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer): I move:

That the House of Assembly expresses its deep regret at the death of the Hon. Francis Joseph Condon, C.M.G., former member for Central No. 1 District in the Legislative Council, and places on record its appreciation of his public services, and that as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased member the sitting of the House be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

I do not believe that any present member of this House was privileged to sit in this Chamber when Mr. Condon was a member of the Assembly, as he was at the beginning of his Parliamentary career, but that does not alter the fact that every member learned to respect the work Mr. Condon did on behalf of his constituents and for this State. I believe that every member of both Houses had the utmost respect and even reverence for that gentleman. I often met Mr. Condon, either in his capacity as a manager for the Legislative Council at a conference or in some other capacity, and I learned to respect his integrity, his ability and, more than that, his great humanity. He was a person who could see the other man's point of view. He was untrifling in his efforts to give service to his country. His loss will leave this State very much the poorer and this Parliament has lost a respected friend.

Mr. Condon had a long Parliamentary career of 37 years, during which time it was never suggested that he was not an entirely upright and honest man. That of itself speaks highly for the standard he sought to maintain in public affairs. Every honourable member knows Mrs. Condon and the family intimately and I am sure I am speaking for all members when I ask you, Sir, to express to Mrs. Condon our sincere sympathy in the loss of her husband.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): I second the motion. Mr. Condon was a member of this House from 1924 to 1927 and subsequently had 33 years as a representative, in the Legislative Council, of

Central No. 1 District. He was also a member of the Public Works Committee for 31 years. That is very long service indeed. The Premier said there was no present member of this House who was a member when Mr. Condon was here, but at least we can claim that some who were members then are still alive.

This, undoubtedly, is another of those sad occasions that occur too often. In less than 12 months, we have had to pay a tribute to two very fine men, both as members and as Leaders. Because of their long experience, they will be difficult to replace. I speak particularly now of Mr. Condon. Undoubtedly, the Labor Party, which he represented, has lost a stalwart. He was most kindly disposed, not only to the members of Parliament but to all people. He was vigorous in the defence of the cause he espoused. He undoubtedly played a prominent part in the State's industrial movement, as well as in its political life. His service was loyal and at all times he acted as a Christian gentleman. I have spoken to Mrs. Condon since her husband's death and she is bearing up well. She recognizes that whilst his death was a loss it was a happy release from his long illness.

Mr. STOTT (Ridley): Our late friend of long standing, Frank Condon, had a long and distinguished public career in South Australia. There would not be a part of the State that would not know his name and would not revere his work. During the many years he was associated with the industrial movement he never wavered from an initial principle of Labor: that the working man's voice should be heard in Parliament. He represented that voice with sincerity and moderation. Indeed, he approached all problems that way, thus earning the respect of all members of Parliament irrespective of political belief. He was a good advocate for those he represented in the industrial movement, and a great fighter for their cause.

He was sick for a long time and although he lingered we knew that death was inevitably near. Nevertheless it came as a shock to know that never again would we feel the presence of Frank Condon in the precincts of Parliament House, that his voice would be forever still, and that we would not again enjoy his pleasant company.

It was fitting that he should be honoured by Her Majesty the Queen because the honour was well merited. No doubt many will be anxious to fill the late Frank Condon's shoes. I hope that whoever does will continue to travel in his footsteps in the march of time

ahead with the same dignity, sincerity and honesty of purpose and that he will do his best to emulate the high public example set by Mr. Condon. His absence will mean a definite loss, not only to the State's industrial workers but to this Parliament. I, too, know Mrs. Condon and met her frequently. She withstood the ordeal at the impressive church ceremony and later at the graveside with courage and bravery. I should like you, Mr. Speaker, to mention that when you write to her expressing the sympathy of this House at the passing of our late friend.

Mr. SHANNON (Onkaparinga): As Chairman of the Public Works Standing Committee, I feel it is incumbent on me to be associated with this motion. This is not customary for private members, but in this instance the members of the Public Works Standing Committee feel that I should refer to Mr. Condon's service on the committee. He was probably the most conscientious and loyal member ever associated with that committee. Frank Condon was to me a personal friend, as is well known to all members. I made no secret of it, nor did he. One does not as a rule make secrets of personal friendships. If one did, they would be difficult to hide, but we had nothing to hide and enjoyed a close personal friendship for many years, certainly long enough for us to discover each other's peccadilloes and weaknesses—characteristics that sometimes break friendships. In our case, no rift occurred during our long association.

I am sure I speak for all members of the Public Works Standing Committee in saying that we realize how difficult it will be to replace Mr. Condon. His experience is not gained in one year, particularly when one is as assiduous as was Frank Condon in his work. It will not be easy to fill the gap left by his death and it will remain for the rest of us to take up the slack. I hope that we will be able to do so.

I express my sympathy to the Opposition. They have had the unhappy experience in the last 12 months of losing two able and distinguished men. One (Mr. O'Halloran) led them in this House and Mr. Condon led them in the Legislative Council. When a Party has its head chopped off it is not easy to find another one. Old heads grow on old shoulders. Experience cannot be bought: it must be accumulated in the hard school of life. I know that this has been a definite blow to the Opposition and, also, to this Parliament because the stronger the Opposition the stronger the Government.

Mrs. Condon, her son and two daughters, have already had my sympathy expressed to them. Theirs is probably the most closely knit family that I have ever known. That family unit included his brothers and surviving sister. That a family should be so closely knit speaks volumes for their worth as citizens.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

[*Sitting suspended from 2.19 to 2.50 p.m.*]

## QUESTIONS.

### CONCESSION FARES.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: At present any person in the metropolitan area in receipt of a pension is entitled to concession fares on the trains and the trams. Can the Premier say whether this concession applies to widows of totally and permanently incapacitated pensioners? I understand that pensioners residing in the country who possess a motor car or do not possess a medical card are not granted concession rail fares for travel to Adelaide. I believed that two concessions each year excluding Easter, Christmas and the Show period were to be granted to country pensioners. Can the Premier say how the concession fares scheme operates and whether progress is being made to extend concession fares to cover buses run by private operators but licensed by the Tramways Trust in the metropolitan area?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I will obtain for the information of members a list of persons eligible for fare concessions as well as the concessions for which they are eligible. Because of the difficulties of administration it was not simple to make an assessment of how to apply the concession. We have been obliged to a certain extent to consider the eligibility provided by the Commonwealth national health services. The answer to the latter part of the question is "No".

### RAIL STANDARDIZATION.

Mr. HEASLIP: The question of the standardization of the Peterborough division of the South Australian Railways has been before the public for a long period. This morning's press mentions that another step has been taken in the standardization of the line from Kalgoorlie to Kwinana in Western Australia. The position has now arisen where it is possible, in the northern areas of South Australia, that the South Australian Bulk Handling Co-operative may have built bulk bins in places where the railway may not in the future operate or where

in fact there may be no railway at all. Can the Premier say whether any progress has been made towards finalizing gauge standardization?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The honourable member says that this morning's press reports that some progress has been made regarding the standardization of the line from Kalgoorlie to Kwinana. I did not see the reference mentioned by the member but I did see a report that the Prime Minister said he hoped to make some decision on the matter in some weeks' time. As far as I know, no decision has been reached on the matter. Honourable members know that standardization in South Australia is the subject of a writ issued by the South Australian Government and that the Full High Court has set that matter down for hearing early in October.

Mr. Lawn: The Government is not going to squib that issue, is it?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: If the honourable member had been listening to what I was saying he would have heard that at the request of the South Australian Government the Full High Court had set down the matter for hearing in Sydney early in October, which was the earliest date on which the Court could hear the issue. Regarding the third part of the question I have had no communication from the bulk handling authority, but I am certain there is no difficulty as far as it is concerned. If information is required as to where the Railways Department will operate in future, it can be obtained from the Railways Commissioner without any difficulty. If the authority appears to be in any difficulty, however, I can get an answer to that question. Substantially the purported agreement between South Australia and the Commonwealth was for the standardization of existing railways. However, I believe two or three minor deviations have been proposed on the Broken Hill line but I cannot conceive that they will be of interest to the bulk handling authority.

Mr. Heaslip: Is there no suggestion of any of them being closed?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The question is the standardization, not the closing, of railways.

#### FULHAM GARDENS SEWERAGE.

Mr. FRED WALSH: At the end of last year a petition was presented from certain residents in the Fulham Gardens area for the sewerage of that area. This petition was supported by representations by me and subsequently I was advised by the Engineering and Water Supply Department that a report was

being called for. Can the Minister of Works say what are the departmental plans for the sewerage of this area?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member was good enough to let me know in advance that he intended to ask his question and I obtained the following report from the Engineer-in-Chief, which sets out the present position:

The sewerage of the Fulham Gardens area is dependent upon the provision of sewers in the adjoining areas of Henley Beach East and Grange East. The areas fringe the Kirkcaldy Beach Road and, although thickly settled, are very flat and difficult to sewer. To provide for these districts, which formerly mostly comprised market gardens, a scheme is being prepared to sewer a large area which could be described generally as lying to the south of Royal Park, including Seaton and Fulham Gardens and the district to the east of Grange and Henley Beach. The scheme is now reaching finality and it is expected that the Engineer for Sewerage will be able to submit his report, together with estimates of cost and revenue, in about three months' time. As the estimated cost will be about £500,000, it will be necessary to refer the scheme to the Public Works Standing Committee for inquiry and report.

#### PRINCES HIGHWAY

Mr. SHANNON: Residents in the hills would be less than grateful if they did not appreciate what has already been done to improve the Princes Highway as far as Crafers, but, unfortunately, it has removed the bottleneck from Glen Osmond to Crafers. Present talk in the hills is that the Government has reached the end of the work it intends to do in this matter. The plan has been called "grandiose", but I do not agree with that because it is a realistic plan to continue the road around the back of Crafers and across to Stirling East and down to Verdun. The suggestion is that the programme will not be proceeded with because the cost of the work already done has scared the Government stiff and it will not go any further. I do not believe that, but I ask the Premier, representing the Minister of Roads, to make a specific statement on the question. Pending the time when the new highway leading from Crafers to Murray Bridge is completed, will the Government consider the desirability of restricting the movement of heavy vehicles and semi-trailers on this road at week-ends, especially on public holidays and Sundays?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Regarding the first part of the question, the Government has been continuing with a survey for the continuation of the road; it does

not intend to finish the job at Crafers, as stated by the honourable member. The road will be continued, and I hope that a fairly substantial amount of work will take place this financial year. Money has been provided for a considerable amount of work, and I believe it will be accomplished. We have had some delays in the surveys and in acquiring the necessary land, but these matters are receiving attention. Regarding the latter part of the question, this matter has not been officially before Cabinet. I have had no direct representations on it, except on one occasion when, I think, the honourable member made a similar request in this House. I will have the matter placed before Cabinet in due course.

#### INSURANCE LIABILITY.

Mr. LAWN: Has the Treasurer a reply to the question I asked on June 20 regarding the insurance liability on policies taken out with a company that has now gone bankrupt?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have had this matter investigated and I have received a report from the Crown Solicitor regarding it. It is not normally the practice of the Government to provide Crown Solicitor's reports on matters affecting the individual rights of persons, but in this instance I am prepared to show the honourable member the report if he wishes to see it. Speaking generally, the company concerned was a New Zealand company operating in Australia, with limited operations in South Australia. The company has failed and steps are being taken for it to go into liquidation. The persons who were insured under the policies issued by the company would have to prove their cases to the authority that is winding up the company and if they prove their cases they may share in the distribution of any assets. I will show the honourable member the report, although I think that anyone who may be involved in this matter will probably have to wait a long time before any settlement can be obtained, as the ramifications of the company are very wide indeed. We, in South Australia, have no jurisdiction over the matter.

Mr. LAWN: For some time I have held the view that all insurance should be the prerogative of either the State Government or the Commonwealth Government. In view of the question I asked on June 20 and the Premier's reply today that one insurance company is now insolvent, with the result that the persons who had insured with the company are now personally liable for claims, can the Premier say, particu-

larly regarding compulsory insurance such as third party insurance, whether Cabinet will consider setting up a State insurance office and, as in Queensland, make it compulsory for such insurance as third party or workmen's compensation to be taken out with that office?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I do not think the honourable member's suggestion would effect a cure. I point out that the biggest impact of the affairs of the company referred to is not in South Australia but in the eastern States, including New South Wales, where Government insurance organizations operate. I believe the biggest impact of all is in Sydney, where there is a full scale Government insurance office. I do not think the honourable member's suggestion would solve this problem.

Mr. Lawn: It would if it were compulsory to insure with the Government office.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: In any event, the Government does not intend to legislate for a State insurance office.

#### TRAWLER FISHING.

Mr. JENKINS: My question relates to the proposed sale of the Commonwealth experimental trawler *Southern Endeavour*. Can the Minister of Agriculture tell the House anything about the exploration of fishing grounds and the activities of this vessel in the Great Australian Bight? Can he say whether the fishing grounds that have been exploited are likely to be fished economically in the future, whether there is likely to be a sale of this trawler to South Australian fishing interests, and what the future of fishing in the Bight will be?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: This enterprise is entirely a Commonwealth one: it is financed entirely by the Commonwealth Government. A company called the Southern Trawler Company has been set up under a fund and has been fishing for about 18 months with one trawler. The company now proposes to offer the trawler for sale. It may be said that, in many ways, the enterprise has not been financially attractive, but that does not give the full picture. A trawler operating on its own is at a disadvantage, perhaps, compared with a system whereby more than one trawler shares the same shore facilities. Tremendous difficulties have been met in the experience required to fish in the Bight: the type of fishing necessary, the type of net, the adjustments, and so on. One fact that emerges is that fish are there in reasonable quantities. More than that I could not say, but certainly

good quantities of good quality fish have been found. I do not think there should be any wild statements as to the great amounts available, but the trawler has been coming in consistently with good hauls. I certainly hope that some trawling enterprise will continue, based on Port Adelaide, because I believe that the longer it goes the easier it is to sell the fish caught, the more the techniques for catching the fish will improve, and the more efficient will be the operation of a trawling company. In other words, I think the future should hold better prospects than have been shown in the past.

#### VENEREAL DISEASE.

Mr. HUTCHENS: According to a recent press statement, Dr. McQueen stated, in a news letter to local councils, that the incidence of venereal disease noticeable in other States was becoming evident in South Australia. The report says that this disease is not classed as an infectious or a notifiable disease in this State, but implies that it is in other States. Can the Premier, representing the Minister of Health, say whether the Government will consider bringing the South Australian law into line with that of other States by making this disease a notifiable disease in order to try to restrict its spread?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This question has been considered in this House over a number of years. Because of the nature of this disease, there have always been two views as to whether we would get better control by making it a notifiable disease or by securing better co-operation from people concerned. My latest information is that most States do not make this a notifiable disease. Cabinet has had no evidence of a great increase of this disease in this State, except for one instance brought to our notice when appropriate steps were taken. I will have the matter examined.

#### EGG MARKETING.

Mr. LAUCKE: Following on my question of June 21, in which I referred to the wasteful interstate movement of eggs, the Minister of Agriculture stated that, at a meeting of the Agricultural Council to be held shortly thereafter, the matter of egg pulp distribution and movement would be discussed. Can the Minister say whether that meeting has been held and, if so, what has been the outcome of it?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: A meeting was held in Sydney to discuss the marketing of egg pulp and the problems were fully and frankly discussed by the respective Ministers

and the officers of the egg marketing authorities. The problem is not easy because egg pulp marketing within each State is difficult to achieve, and the South Australian position in particular is different from that obtaining in other States because, whereas South Australia once produced all the egg pulp for the Commonwealth, we are now put in a somewhat difficult position to sell egg pulp within our own borders only and nowhere else.

The meeting was cordial and constructive and came to the general agreement that something should be done. It requested the chairmen of the various egg marketing authorities to meet with a view to reaching agreement. Speaking from memory, I think they were asked to report to the Agricultural Council. In any case, they are arranging meetings. I know they tried to arrange one recently, but failed. When the meetings will be held I do not know but a general summary of the answer to this question is that some progress has been made and, in particular, there is a spirit of general desire for agreement to be reached on reasonable grounds.

#### HIRE-PURCHASE.

Mr. STOTT: Some abuses of the hire-purchase legislation have become apparent lately in a few businesses. Does the Government intend to introduce an amendment this session to overcome these abuses and tighten up the hire-purchase legislation to make it more equitable?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have had no request whatsoever for any alteration of the Act which, as the honourable member knows, is substantially a uniform Act applying in all States. In those circumstances, I do not know of any amendments that will be brought forward. At present we are anxious to sustain employment if we can and anything that would retard sales at this time would not be in the national interest.

#### JERVOIS BRIDGE.

Mr. RYAN: On Saturday morning, July 1, the Jervois Bridge was closed for two or three hours to all traffic owing to a report that it was not safe for traffic. On the Monday morning the Highways Department had a gang of men repairing the bridge. As conflicting and confusing reports are being circulated by various experts as to the safety of persons and vehicles using this important contact bridge between LeFevre Peninsula and Port Adelaide, will the Minister of Works supply a full and

comprehensive report by the Highways Department on the safety of this bridge in the future?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague the Minister of Roads is at present absent but I will seek the information the honourable member desires and bring down a report.

#### FREE FERRY CROSSINGS.

Mr. BYWATERS: Recently, the Treasurer announced that there would be free ferry crossings in future across the River Murray. We are pleased to hear this for I have advocated this for some time. Can the Treasurer say just how this proposal is to be implemented and what procedure will be adopted? Will the local council still control the punts? How will remuneration be provided?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Obviously, the financial responsibility must be taken by the Highways Department. The instructions by Cabinet were that the Highways Department should negotiate new contracts with the local council. Some contracts terminated this year and some had to be re-negotiated. I believe that the system is already working. I will get a report for the honourable member.

#### TIMBER PRICES.

Mr. RALSTON: Has the Treasurer the report that I asked for in a recent question relating to the wholesale and retail prices of *pinus radiata*?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have here a report that I will make available to the honourable member. The department fixes the margins above the wholesale price and the merchants are required to observe them.

#### PARKING.

Mr. HARDING: Parking is a problem in all capital cities and in today's *News* this problem is mentioned. In view of the Premier's long experience in this House, can he say whether suggestions or recommendations have been made that a large parking establishment be built over the platforms and railway lines between the railway building and Morphett Street bridge?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes. This matter has been taken up with the Railways Commissioner in regard to another project, and he objects greatly to any building being placed over his lines. In any case, because of the requirements involved, the cost of placing it over the lines would be great.

#### BAROSSA VALLEY OLIVE PLANTATIONS LIMITED.

Mr. TAPPING: I desire to refer to a project known as the Barossa Valley Olive Plantations Ltd. A constituent, who lives at Semaphore, invested £550 in this enterprise and now realizes that his investment could prove worthless. I communicated with the Attorney-General on June 26 and received a reply that, as the enterprise was subject to a police investigation, the matter was *sub judice*. While the Attorney-General's contention is logical, undue delay might prove disadvantageous to unfortunate investors. Will the Minister of Education ascertain whether the police report can be expedited?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: Yes.

#### ODNADATTA SCHOOL BROADCASTS.

Mr. CASEY: Can the Minister of Education say what steps are being taken to provide students of the Oodnadatta school with school broadcasts now that the land line from Adelaide to Alice Springs is to by-pass Oodnadatta?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I have not the information before me but will obtain it and let the honourable member know.

#### LONG SERVICE LEAVE.

Mr. McKEE: In the *Advertiser* of June 27 the Minister of Labour and Industry warned employers that action would be taken against those who did not comply with the State's long service leave law. He said that departmental inspectors had reported instances where leave had not been granted and where records had not been kept. I have heard of employers trying to avoid obligations. Can the Premier say whether any action has been taken against such employers and, if not, what the Government's intentions are?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government does its utmost to ensure that all laws passed by Parliament are enforced. When any offence is reported to the Government, appropriate action is taken. That does not mean that in every instance a prosecution is launched, because sometimes a person acts innocently with no intention of breaking the law. I am sure the Minister's warning will acquaint employers with their obligations. I point out that it has become rather difficult to administer the Act because many unions have contracted with employers outside the Act.

Mr. McKee: They were trying to obtain better provisions.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: They reached agreement with the employers and that has made the Act more difficult to police.

#### SPORTING IDENTITY'S ARREST.

Mr. DUNSTAN: For some time in my district there have been complaints about the way the police use that section of the Lottery and Gaming Act which enables police to move on people who are alleged to be loitering. I have brought certain of these complaints to the Police Commissioner's notice. One incident that received considerable publicity involved a prominent sporting identity. On the published facts it would appear that the person concerned was in no way at fault and that what occurred was an improper use of this section of the Lottery and Gaming Act. Consequently, on June 30 I asked the Premier to obtain a report on this matter. Has he that report?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes. This matter came before the court and the police withdrew the prosecution and apologized to the person concerned. The apology was accepted by the counsel for the defendant and the matter was settled. I point out to the honourable member that the police have been criticized, particularly by racing authorities, for not taking sufficiently strong action to prevent illegal gaming and the police have strengthened their action. Members will recognize that it is difficult to detect illegal gaming and Parliament has given the police extensive powers.

Mr. Dunstan: You are not suggesting that this matter had anything to do with illegal gaming!

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I am telling the honourable member what the law is, if he likes to listen to me for a moment. If he does not, I am just as happy because it will save me the trouble of explaining it to him. What I say is that under the Lottery and Gaming Act extensive powers have been given to the police and these powers are necessary if illegal gaming is to be prevented.

#### TROTTING LEAGUE CHARGES.

Mr. QUIRKE: I have an extract from a newspaper, the name of which I do not know, headed "South Australian Trotting League. Notice to Owners, Trainers, Reinsmen and others whom it may concern", which, under the subheading "Licences", states:

All applicants are urged to make early application in order to avoid congestion and to permit them receiving consideration as soon

as possible. Each licence holder will be required to pay an amount of £2 as subscription to "The Australian Trotting Register" in addition to the licence fee.

I have also received the following letter from a constituent:

The South Australian Trotting League (Inc.) have recently announced that they will not issue to trainers and drivers their new season's licences which are now due unless or until trainers and drivers pay an additional fee, which is a £2 compulsory subscription, to a paper called *The Australian Trotting Register*. This paper is owned and edited by private enterprise in Victoria and commenced publication about 12 months ago in opposition to the *Australian Trotting Record* which has survived for half a century without any of this blackmail type of support. I, together with some others, have raced, trained and driven trotting horses for a number of years entirely as a sport and now to be compelled by the controlling body to support a paper which we don't want seems very unfair. Would you please investigate the legality of the Trotting League being allowed to do this?

Will the Premier investigate this matter and obtain a report?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes. The matter has not previously come to my notice and I will refer it to the chairman of the Betting Control Board for a report.

#### ELIZABETH FIRE STATION.

Mr. CLARK: Recently I received a letter from the Premier, dated April 18, referring to a petition I forwarded him on August 22 last year about a permanent fire station at Elizabeth. He informed me that the Fire Brigades Board had re-examined the question and in accordance with the Act it proposed to constitute Elizabeth a fire district. The Premier also told me that the board was providing for the fire station buildings and for the purchase of fire appliances. Can the Premier tell me what progress has been made in this matter?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: As I previously told the honourable member, the Fire Brigades Board consists of representatives of local councils and of insurance companies. The only person on the board who is in any sense a Government representative is the chairman. Normally the board does not submit its administration to the Government. Its recommendations are submitted properly to its own local government authorities. I will endeavour to get additional information for the honourable member, but I doubt whether the matter has gone much further than when I sent him the letter.

## DOVER GARDENS SCHOOL.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I direct the attention of the Minister of Education to a report in this morning's *Advertiser*. Apparently released by the corporation of Marion, it refers to an outbreak of hepatitis at the Dover Gardens primary school, which is in the Minister's electorate. Will the Minister say whether he is still waiting for the Department of Public Buildings to erect extra toilet facilities at the school?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I freely acknowledge and am aware from personal observation that there is a shortage of adequate toilet facilities at the school mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition. The Education Department is also aware of this shortage. Some time late last year the Public Buildings Department was asked to provide additional facilities and I have been advised recently that tenders will be called next month for a new toilet and ablution block at the school. Of course, when the proposed new infant school is provided the position will be considerably improved. I very much regret it if there has been a case of hepatitis at the school, but I have no doubt that the position is being examined by the department at the moment. I do not know whether there is any relation between the lack of toilet facilities and that outbreak, but prompt steps are being taken by the department to see that the position is rectified as soon as possible.

## TRADE MISSION.

Mr. JENKINS: I refer to the possible entry of Britain into the European Common Market. Having regard to the possible effect on our export trade generally if Britain joins that market, particularly the effect on our dairying and other industries (because we sell something like 60 per cent of our cheese overseas, and that industry is only typical of all primary industries), will the Premier say whether he considers it prudent, economical and practicable for South Australia to embark on a sales campaign in South-Eastern Asian countries by using a trade ship? If that plan is too costly, will he consider forming a sales commission embodying Government representatives and representatives of the Chamber of Manufactures and of particular industries in order to get in early to capture the eastern markets whether or not Britain enters the European Common Market?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The question of overseas trade is normally controlled by the Commonwealth Parliament.

However, I naturally favour the development of any markets that would be available to us. The reason we have sent our dairy produce to Great Britain for so many years—and that has been our traditional market—is that most South-Eastern Asian countries have a very low standard of living and consequently are not able to purchase high-priced commodities. That problem is one which, even if all steps possible are taken to develop markets, will not be solved easily. I think that we have not yet got the full implications of Great Britain's possible entry into the European Common Market, and until that position is clarified I doubt whether we could do anything to develop an alternative market in South-Eastern Asia.

## OUTER HARBOUR ROAD.

Mr. TAPPING: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked on June 21 regarding the road to the Outer Harbour along Victoria Road?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Roads, has forwarded a report from the Commissioner of Highways indicating that it was hoped to include provision for the construction of a second carriageway along Victoria Road in the 1961-62 Estimates, but owing to the lack of funds this work had to be omitted from the programme. Plans for the work have been prepared, however, and it may still be possible for the department to at least make a start during the present financial year. The Commissioner states that an earlier start could only be made at the expense of other works for which funds are allotted to the corporation by the Highways Department.

## TIMBER CONTRACTS.

Mr. RALSTON: Has the Minister of Forests a reply to my recent question regarding Woods and Forests Department's timber contracts and the necessity for a clause providing for periodical reviews of price?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The chairman of the Forestry Board has reported that long term agreements have been entered into with the Australian Particle Board Company and Apcel Limited and those agreements provide for review of prices as time or circumstances may require.

## LOXTON BLOCK REVALUATIONS.

Mr. STOTT: Has the Acting Minister of Lands a report on the revaluations of blocks in the Loxton soldier settlement area?



The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The report provided by the Director of Lands is as follows:

There has been no revaluation of war service holdings in irrigation areas. Valuations of 147 holdings in the Loxton irrigation area have been completed, in addition to those at Loveday and Cooltong, the position being that valuations in all areas are up-to-date, and inspections for valuation purposes are being carried out progressively as the assistance period for each holding is declared. Although there is no statutory provision for appeals against valuations, it has been agreed by the Commonwealth and State that an opportunity for reconsideration should be allowed where a settler can furnish substantial evidence to show that the valuation for his holding is too high or that an anomaly exists. A simple statement that the valuation is too high is not accepted as sufficient grounds for further investigation. Reconsiderations are carried out on the same basis as that used in the original valuations, that is, in terms of the war service land settlement agreement, having regard to conditions in the industry generally.

Reviews of valuations are restricted to the evidence submitted by the settler, and where specifically claimed, consideration is given to any decline in plantings between the date of inspection for valuation and the date of notification. So far 59 applications for reconsideration have been received from settlers in Loxton area. In 21 of these cases the investigating committee has completed its examination and the settlers will be advised of the decision as soon as possible.

#### SPEED LIMIT THROUGH ELIZABETH.

Mr. LAUCKE: As one who uses the magnificent Main North Road through Elizabeth I experience, in common with all other motorists, the annoyance of an unreal speed limit of 35 miles an hour. Can the Treasurer say whether the appropriate authority will consider raising this speed limit to a more reasonable level?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Last year the Government introduced legislation to establish a board that would have power to vary speed limits outside the normal limit, where considered desirable. I will refer the honourable member's question to that board.

#### BOLIVAR TREATMENT WORKS.

Mr. RYAN: On June 21 I asked a question regarding the future programme in the change-over of the metropolitan sewerage system. Has the Minister of Works any information on the proposed subdivision of the metropolitan area into four sections during the next four years?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have a report from the Engineer-in-Chief which, I think, contains the information the honourable member desires. Briefly, the programme as set

out in this report is divided into four stages. I will provide the honourable member with a copy of the report. Stage 1 is divided again into three subheadings, as follows:

- (a) Salisbury-Elizabeth main sewer—proposed completion date 30/6/62. Part of the necessary financial provision is being sought in the Loan Estimates for 1961/62.
- (b) Adelaide-Bolivar Main Sewer (first half). Proposed to call tenders early in 1962.
- (c) Treatment Works (various). Proposed completion date 31/12/63. Contracts already let for various items of plant. Tenders for buildings to be called in October, 1961.

On completion of Stage 1, it would be possible to take sewage from Salisbury, Elizabeth and areas in the vicinity of Parafield. Sewerage from other adjoining areas can be connected as construction of sewer proceeds southward. Stage 2 is:—

- (a) Adelaide-Bolivar Main Sewer (second half). Planned completion date 30/6/66.
- (b) Treatment Works—further provision. Planned completion date 30/6/66. Specifications are being prepared for mechanical equipment included in this stage.

On completion of stage 2 all sewage can be diverted to Bolivar works and existing sewage farm abandoned. Stages 3 and 4 comprise further additions to treatment works. Planned completion date is June 30, 1968. On completion of stage 3 the works will be able to generate all their own power requirements, and stage 4 can be finalized as required.

I impress upon the House that these project times and dates are provisional, but we hope to adhere to them. The programme must depend on various factors. The principal one is the financial provision that Parliament makes from year to year towards the completion of this programme. Secondly, its progress depends upon development that may occur in and around the areas to be served during the interim period. In the case of nearly all development extending over a period of time, whether it be in a country town or in the metropolitan area, it does bring new factors into consideration in the progress of the scheme, and some may affect its progress. I have given the honourable member the outline that the department proposes at this stage, and that is as far as we can go.

#### CORNSACKS.

Mr. HEASLIP: My question concerns the increasing costs of primary producers over which they have no direct control. I refer in

particular to the likely costs of superphosphate and cornsacks. Cornsacks are still used extensively by primary producers, particularly wheat-growers, although in a diminishing quantity, but all primary producers have to buy superphosphate in cornsacks. If there is an increase in price, they have to pay that increase. Can the Treasurer indicate the likely cost of cornsacks for the coming year and what effect a possible increase will have on the cost of superphosphate for primary producers?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The honourable member mentioned this matter in the House last session and I got the following report from the Prices Commissioner:

With regard to what will be next year's prices of new cornsacks, the following information is submitted:

(a) Bag merchants and superphosphate companies buy as separate groups on the Calcutta market. In arriving at a season's price each group takes a weighted average of their own stocks on hand and the buying prices of the season's requirements of each of its members. Prices fluctuate considerably and as the groups often buy at different times average landed costs vary.

(b) Cornsack Group (bag merchants).

(i) Last season's price was 39s. 3d. per dozen to farmers.

(ii) For next season approximately 15 per cent of requirements have been purchased to date. On recent quotes, the selling price of new cornsacks would be about 44s. 9d. per dozen but merchants are hopeful that the trend over the next few months will be downward as prospects for the jute crop are good, and if this eventuates, next season's price will be close to that of last season (39s. 3d. per dozen).

(iii) As only 15 per cent of requirements have been purchased to date, and the price will not be decided until September, it would be unsafe to give a firm forecast of next season's price except to say that it would not exceed 45s. per dozen and could well be nearer to last year's price of 39s. 3d. per dozen to farmers.

(c) Superphosphate Group (superphosphate manufacturers).

(i) Although the superphosphate group's average landed cost of cornsacks for the 1960-61 season was 35s. 7d. per dozen, the industry was only allowed 30s. per ton (12 bags to the ton) above the unbagged price so that the prices could be kept the same as the previous season.

(ii) For the 1961-62 season 90 per cent of requirements have been purchased to date as an average landed cost of 43s. 1d. which is an increase of 7s. 6d. on last season's bag costs of 35s. 7d. a dozen (only 30s. was allowed).

If the industry is allowed to recover this increase it would mean increasing last year's allowable margin of 30s. over the unbagged price for sales in new cornsacks, by 7s. 6d. to 37s. 6d. However, by the time buying is completed, the average landed cost could be 1s. less, which may mean an increase of 6s. 6d. per dozen on the actual cost of 35s. 7d. for the present season.

In effect the amount of 5s. 7d. which was absorbed for the current season can continue to be absorbed for the new season. Such being the case, the increase would be confined to approximately 6s. 6d. per dozen.

#### LONG FLAT BRIDGE.

Mr. BYWATERS: I understand that the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Roads and Railways in this House, has a reply to my question about the bridge over the railway line at Long Flat. I, as member for the district, was disappointed that I did not receive earlier communication about this answer, as everybody in the district seemed to know about it except the member for the district. May I have the reply now?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I was unaware of the matter raised in the latter part of the honourable member's remarks. I received the report only yesterday to give it to the honourable member today, so I take the earliest opportunity of replying to his question.

I took this matter up with my colleague, the Minister of Roads, who informed me, just before he left for the north, that a contract had been let to Wilckens & Burnside at a lower figure than those obtainable when tenders were called previously. The Mobilong Council is now prepared to increase its contribution and, therefore, the Commissioner of Highways was able to recommend approval. It is anticipated that the work will commence shortly.

#### WHYALLA WEST HOUSING.

Mr. LOVEDAY: I understand that today 16 Housing Trust houses are ready for occupation in Whyalla West, but they have no water, power or roads. I believe 137 Broken Hill Proprietary Company applications are outstanding. Although the company has a first priority on every new trust house built and on every one becoming vacant at present, this means that apart from this arrangement there is no provision whatever for people coming into

the town, working for services other than B.H.P. Co. Will the Premier see whether anything can be done to alter the present arrangements with a view to stepping up whatever is lagging in the programme, as there appears to be some delay which, in view of the slackness in the building industry, for example, might be obviated?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This matter is governed by an Indenture Act ratified by Parliament under which the Government is committed to building a specified number of houses annually for the B.H.P. Company. The number is specified as 300 a year.

Mr. Loveday: It is 500 now.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: In the Act the number is specified at 300 a year for 10 years. The company said it could absorb more labour at Whyalla if the number were increased. In the first year we built more than 300 and in the next almost 400. This year we are aiming at 500. We are, in joint of fact, exceeding our actual commitment in order to provide accommodation for people who are prepared to go to Whyalla to work. However, it is inevitable with such a big programme that all public utilities cannot be provided simultaneously with the completion of the construction of houses. In Brisbane, for instance, 60 per cent of the houses are unsewered. A similar percentage applies to Sydney. Half of the houses in one capital city have no permanent water supply. Every effort is being made to ensure that services will be connected as soon as houses are ready for occupation.

#### ABATTOIRS BOARD.

Mr. STOTT: I understand that the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board has investigated whether there should be an alteration of market days for calves and pigs and whether the ring selling of cattle should be abandoned in favour of pen selling. Several organizations have expressed concern at these proposals. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether the board intends to adopt these proposals and, if so, when?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board was established under its own Act of Parliament. It conducts its own affairs. As Minister of Agriculture, I am informed of the board's general intentions. The board has been pursuing a policy of improving its works and has made certain proposals. However, the actual

details have not been finalized and until they are I cannot say what will be done. I will refer this matter to the chairman of the board for comment.

Mr. STOTT: I understand that the board has a report on the administrative aspects of the proposals. No doubt the Minister has that report. Does he intend to table it in Parliament?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have seen the report. It belongs to the Abattoirs Board and unless the chairman wishes it to be tabled I should not be inclined to do so.

#### HOSPITAL RATING.

Mr. LAWN: I have received the following letter from the Thebarton Town Clerk:

This council has been advised by the Hospitals Department that it is proposed to determine the amount of £1,992 as payable for hospitals rating for the year 1961/62. This amount is an increase of £354 on the previous year and an increase of £563 on the year 1959/60.

The previous rate of .914 pence in the pound has been used as the basis for determining the amount and the increased water works assessment has also been taken for rating purposes. The council feels that with the increased assessment the rate in the pound should have been reduced. It would be appreciated if you would take this matter up with the Minister of Health to see if some relief can be given to councils.

Will the Premier take this matter up with the Minister of Health or can he answer the request now?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I am fairly conversant with this matter. It is not the usual practice when councils increase the assessment on any building to decrease the rate automatically so that the owner pays the same amount. Usually when the assessment increases the total amount payable increases. That, of course, is what has happened here. The same rate has been applied to the assessment. Incidentally, that rate of .914 pence has applied for many years and I doubt whether any other rate has remained so constant. It is not an unfair rate. It is only about 50 per cent of what the rest of South Australia is paying at present. The country rating is much higher. Under those circumstances I cannot give any assurance that the rate can be altered. It is only a small fraction of the total cost of the hospitals the Government is maintaining in the metropolitan area.

#### SOLDIER SETTLEMENT RENTALS.

Mr. RALSTON—I refer to annual rentals payable on holdings allotted to returned soldiers

under the War Service Land Settlement Agreement. Can the Minister of Agriculture, representing the Minister of Lands, say whether, when the annual rental of a holding was finally fixed, it was determined on a percentage amount of the capital value of the holding as developed, and if so, what percentage was used to determine that rental? If that procedure was not adopted how was the rental determined? I realize that this question is asked without notice and in the circumstances may present some difficulty to the Acting Minister. If he cannot answer the question now I would appreciate his obtaining the information at the earliest opportunity.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I do not know whether I shall be able to obtain the information required by the honourable member because it is not usually the practice of the authorities to give details of how they arrive at the final rentals. The final rentals are the subject of agreement between the State and Commonwealth authorities.

#### LYRUP WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. STOTT: Some investigation has been made by the Engineering and Water Supply Department in relation to Salt Creek supplying the area of Lyrup with more water. I understand that a departmental report has been made on this matter. Has the Minister of Agriculture a copy of the report?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The creek mentioned by the honourable member when he asked a question on June 20 was Pike Creek. It provided more water for Lyrup and the reply I have at the moment is that the settlers' proposals are being considered.

#### MOUNT GAMBIER WATER STORAGE.

Mr. RALSTON: Recently the Department of Mines made tests at Lake Terrace, West Mount Gambier, on behalf of the Engineering and Water Supply Department to determine whether a 2,000,000gall. water storage tank could be installed there as some arrangement was essential to the satisfactory supply of water in the higher areas of the city. Can the Minister of Works say whether these tests have been completed and, if so, were the results satisfactory?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Speaking from memory, I know that extensive testing of this proposed site has been carried out. It is on a steep slope and is in an elevated position which, as the honourable member indicated, was necessary to command the area to be served. The testing showed that certain modifications to the proposed foundations were probably

necessary. I do not think there is any doubt that the tanks will be built on that site. Any further necessary testing will be to determine the nature and substance of the foundations required having regard to the nature of the soil on which they are to be placed. The honourable member can be assured that the tanks will be built on that site and no difficulty has been encountered that cannot be overcome in a reasonable time to get the scheme into working order.

#### POTATO PRICES.

Mr. TAPPING: I refer to the Potato Board and its method of price fixation. In last Friday's *News* Mr. R. A. Carman, the vice-president of the South Australian Mixed Business Association Incorporated, is reported to have said:

At Wednesday's Melbourne market the price was from £46 to £50 a ton. The present ruling price in Adelaide is £64 15s. a ton delivered. Mr. Carman concluded by saying that the public was being exploited. Will the Minister say what powers the Potato Board possesses on wholesale and retail price fixation and can he indicate the methods used by the board?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will obtain a report for the honourable member.

#### METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. What amount has been paid as remuneration for their services since May 5, 1960, to members of the Metropolitan Transport Advisory Council pursuant to section 9 of the Metropolitan Transport Advisory Council Act, 1954-1960?

2. What matters have been referred to the Metropolitan Transport Advisory Council pursuant to section 12 of the said Act, since May 5, 1960?

3. What reports have been made by this council pursuant to section 12 of this Act, since May 5, 1960?

4. What other duties, if any, have been carried out by the members of this council in their capacity as members, since May 5, 1960?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The replies are:

1. Chairman—£408 6s. 8d.; members—£233 6s. 8d. each; total—£875.

2. None.

3. None.

4. None, but there may be a reference shortly.

## PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS.

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

Tod River Trunk Main Replacement and Enlargement,

Waikerie Irrigation Area Pumping Station, Laboratories at Northfield for Department of Agriculture.

Ordered that reports be printed.

## ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Consideration of Committee's report.

Mr. CUMBE (Torrens): I appreciate this opportunity of moving the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Speech with which His Excellency the Governor opened this third session of the thirty-sixth Parliament on June 20 last. At the outset I want to express, on behalf of all members of this House, our extreme pleasure in hearing His Excellency open his first Parliament in such a splendid manner.

Whilst we heard His Excellency express on both his own behalf and that of his wife his pleasure at and deep appreciation of the warm welcome they had both received on and since their arrival here, I wish to express our keen delight, and that of all the people of South Australia, that Sir Edric and Lady Bastyan have been chosen as representatives in this State of Her Majesty the Queen.

We, in this House, appreciate the constitutional connections between us and the Governor. We remember the many fine occupants of that high office in the past and we look forward with pleasure to cementing still further those connections with Sir Edric and Lady Bastyan. We wish them well during their stay with us.

Now that our new Governor has arrived, has been sworn in, and has opened his first Parliament many people tend to forget the fine work done since the departure of Sir Robert George by the Lieutenant-Governor Sir Mellis Napier. Time and time again over many years Sir Mellis has acted in this capacity and has done so with dignity, kindness and credit both to himself and to his office. He has carried out these onerous duties in addition to his responsibilities as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of South Australia. The thanks and deep appreciation of all members of this House and the citizens of South Australia go to Sir Mellis Napier for a job well done.

The Speech with which His Excellency the Governor opened this session of Parliament followed the traditional pattern because it reviewed the progress of the State during the past year and it foreshadowed legislation the Government intended introducing for our consideration.

It did, however, strike a note of confidence in the ability of the State to overcome the problems we are facing today. It announced a deliberate policy of increasing employment by pushing ahead with major public and productive works. That means that this Government has plenty of confidence in the future and is doing its utmost to help things along and to give a spur to business activity.

In reviewing the progress of the past year there was sounded no note of complacency, but rather one of deep satisfaction with the results of pastoral production and harvest—a harvest yielding an all time record of 100,000,000 bushels. Besides this, properties have been built up following the disastrous drought of the season before, and the outlook for this year is surely one of sound optimism. It will be interesting to read the Budget figures when they are presented later to see just how much increased revenue has been earned by our railway system and by our Harbors Board in moving this harvest for this year. These increases, of course, must have a big bearing on the financial position of this current year, and it means that we have got away to a good start.

What was the public reaction to this Speech? What was the impression gained by the people, the workers and the community? Let us look at the comments of our two daily newspapers as reported in their leader columns the next day, *i.e.*, Wednesday, June 21. The *Advertiser*, always noted for its sober and careful appraisal of the facts, said:

It is plain that with the resources at its command the Government is striving with some success to provide extra work. The additional sums being made available for privately-built houses, and the expansion of the S.A. Housing Trust's operations, should combine in the next few months to give a major impetus to the building industry here. The Government, too, has approved a large-scale construction programme for schools and other public buildings.

Thus the Government is mitigating the effects of the economic recession and showing initiative in expanding the State's essential services. Its prudent management of finances in the past year or two has enabled it to do more in this field than seemed possible even a few months ago. There is no sign, however, of a slackening of efforts to ensure the State's continued

prosperity. In plans for water storage, forestry, coal production and mineral search lies an assurance of further growth.

The *News* really spread itself in its editorial and made these comments in its leader column devoted entirely to this Speech. The report is headed in heavy full type, "Now it's full speed ahead." It went on:

It was like holding up a mirror and reflecting the image of our future . . . a future of limitless possibilities. We speak of the picture painted by the Governor, Sir Edric Bastyan, and the Premier, Sir Thomas Playford, at the opening of Parliament yesterday. The financial year ahead is one vast crammed programme of development throughout South Australia. Government finances are in an extremely sound position due to careful planning in the past—planning that is paying off doubly in the present more difficult period.

As a consequence, despite its large degree of dependence on the motor industry, South Australia is weathering the emergency "very well indeed," as the Premier puts it. Development scheduled for the next 12 months bears this out most strikingly. Everywhere, and in a great multiplicity of spheres, thousands of men and women will be employed in expanding the economy.

These are not my words, but the words of a responsible newspaper. The editorial continues:

Among the big projects is a large timber pulp industry to be established in the South-East, leading to an extensive development of forestry and allied industries. Construction of silos for the bulk handling of the State's greatly increasing cereal crops will be pushed ahead. There is every possibility that the Japanese will enter into an agreement to exploit and buy our previously untapped deposits of iron ore.

Important electricity projects are now in hand for the provision of power for the new steelworks at Whyalla and the new oil refinery at Port Stanvac—with no increase in householder's tariffs. And then there is the big housing programme. The coming year's allocation of housing funds will amount to £24,600,000. A number of new public buildings will be undertaken, the new multi-storey Teachers Training College will be started, and the Magill Reformatory building will be replaced.

Further, and importantly, the State Government believes agreement will be reached with New South Wales and Victoria on the 4½ million acre-foot Chowilla dam on the Murray above Renmark. The conservation of water is one of this State's biggest problems. It is at the very basis of industrial expansion. Thus, agreement on building of the Chowilla dam is vital.

There are many other facets to this picture of our future . . . smaller and subsidiary developments that are, nevertheless, important to the whole. They are all set for expansion. There can surely be no doubt in anybody's mind about our future here in South Australia, and in Australia as a whole.

*The signal now is "Full Speed Ahead".*

These newspapers are responsible bodies, and it is both interesting and heartening to see their reaction and interpretation of this programme as formulated by the Playford Government. As we look through this Speech paragraph by paragraph, department by department, we must be struck by the number of times the words "expand" and "develop" appear. There is hardly a paragraph where these words do not appear. Most departments are planning to extend their activities, and this, of course, is as it should be. The Government has done its part and has given the lead. In fact, since the beginning of this year, as part of its deliberate policy to encourage employment, the work force of the Government has increased by about 1,000 persons, and if we consider all the trainees and other persons that the Government employs from time to time in various sections of its departments we find that this number has now increased by about 3,000. This is evidence of the Government's deliberate policy of encouraging employment.

It is now for the private sector to do its share, and it is pleasing to note that this is already occurring and, in fact, accelerating. Private home building is increasing rapidly, and the building industry in the City of Adelaide is really busy with multi-storey buildings going up all round the place and many more announced or planned. It was announced in Canberra only yesterday that the number of permits issued over Australia for home building and flat building had increased rapidly. In April of this year the total permits issued were 5,000, and in June of this year they had risen sharply to 8,000. Besides this, the Playford Government has now announced a sharp increase in the number of Housing Trust houses being built. In fact, the Premier a few moments ago indicated this in a reply to the member for Whyalla which indicated only one facet of the trust's activities.

This is a sign not of stagnation but rather that of companies and people prepared to get on with the job of expanding the State, and this is what I meant when I referred to the views expressed in our two newspapers. We on this side of the House are proud to be associated with such a developmental programme as outlined in the opening Speech, and we wholeheartedly support the Playford Government in its policies and plans. These plans are made possible as the result of good foundations laid over recent years by solid and far-seeing Government administrations, and supported by the people who have time and

again returned a Liberal Government to office and who will, I emphasize, continue to return a Liberal Government while such energetic and progressive programmes are put before them. I have mentioned briefly some building activity and some industrial projects that are really big money in anybody's language. The Broken Hill Proprietary Company is to spend about £50,000,000, the oil refinery is to cost about £18,000,000, and the proposed South-East mill about £13,500,000.

It was announced last week in the press that the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline duplication, now before the Public Works Committee, would cost about £18,500,000 over a number of years. This is by far the largest and costliest project of this department referred to the committee and is indicative, with all these other private projects, of the magnitude of works of various types now being undertaken in our State. These undertakings will give a big fillip to employment and must be considered with the Government's public building programme already announced.

Mr. Lawn: What happens to unemployment in the meantime?

Mr. CUMBE: This Government has put forward a positive programme to take up the slack of unemployment, and the plans already formulated by the Government are such as to increase employment. They are positive plans to overcome this problem.

The 13-storey teachers' training college building is already at tender. The police building will follow and the Blanchetown bridge tender has been let, together with a large programme of school buildings, costing between £5,000,000 and £6,000,000 and already authorized, of all types all over the State. That is the type of thing I am suggesting the Government is doing deliberately to create employment, and it deserves full credit for its efforts in that direction. Last week I looked at the brickmaking industry and found that many brickworks were working flat out, in contrast to the position several months ago. In fact, several works cannot now keep up with their orders. Many builders have full order books, and this position is improving daily. The employment position in the building industry in the future seems assured and this, in turn, affects dozens of other trades and sub-contractors. If the building industry is buoyant, many other sections of the community will benefit because it is one of our basic industries.

The references to the State finances in the Governor's Speech are a complete vindication of the Playford Ministry's decision two years ago to abandon the comparative security of the Commonwealth Grants Commission in favour of a greater degree of financial independence. There were, possibly, some members opposite who did not agree with that view at that time, and there were some who said, or hoped, it could not be done.

During the 1959-60 drought, severe strains were put on our Treasury to maintain this position, which we just managed to achieve. However, owing to the last bountiful season and prudent housekeeping, this position has now brightened considerably. Revenue from Government departments increased sharply last year, and today it is planned to wipe off recent deficits and in addition make a special grant of £1,000,000 to the Electricity Trust for a power line from the Adelaide Hills to the South-East. Even if nothing else was mentioned by His Excellency, this financial position alone should be hailed by all South Australians as a worthwhile achievement.

It is particularly comforting to us on this side who supported the Ministry at that time in its decision to be independent, and it inspires considerable confidence in this State's ability to forge ahead, to develop, to expand, and to weather any more storms or droughts as they come along in the future. Recently, a publication reviewing the position here in South Australia called us "solid and stable". We could alliterate this into "solidity and stability in the southern State". This position of solidity and stability can easily be substantiated in many ways, one being the report that in 1960 there were once again fewer industrial disputes and less working days lost in South Australia than in any other mainland State. This surely must indicate the good industrial relations that exist in this State, and is a tribute to the attitude generally adopted by all sections of industry.

Going back to the financial provisions, the Treasurer must derive much satisfaction at this healthy trend in our State's finances, and I now pay a special tribute to his work in this regard. We all know that Sir Thomas has often been eulogized for his outstanding work as Premier of this State over many years, but too often his work as Treasurer has been overlooked. I know that his Ministers and members on this side of the House are particularly pleased that this move for independence two

years ago has paid off, and that we are not now so completely beholden to Canberra as we were. There are too many people who, in my opinion, look to the Commonwealth Government for pay-outs for everything under the sun and, whilst I realize that under the Constitution, the Financial Agreement and even uniform taxation we rely a great deal on the pundits in Canberra for our financial existence, I am happy that we have been able to throw off at least some control and show that we in South Australia have a mind of our own.

The anticipated Budget position was announced last week by the Treasurer when he said he expected a surplus of £1,188,000 after allocating £1,000,000 to the Electricity Trust for the South-East trunk power line. The Treasurer must be justifiably proud of his record that over the past 23 years that he has been State Treasurer our revenue and expenditure have completely balanced out. What a wonderful record this is! The Treasurer is noted for his careful attention to costs and the application of sound business principles to government. This surplus tells the story; it speaks for itself. These are facts of solid achievement and not theories and "isms" of fanciful socialistic economy. As I said, this surplus speaks for itself.

As a result of this reputation of our Treasurer, South Australia today is rated highly both in other States and overseas as a sound investment area by big industrial and commercial concerns.

Mr. Fred Walsh: What about the other States?

Mr. CUMBE: If I may repeat what I have already said: in South Australia the reputation of our Treasurer has built up over many years, and this State has attracted many great industries. Investment has come here from overseas and from other States.

Mr. Fred Walsh: To Adelaide!

Mr. CUMBE: I am talking about South Australia, where there has been large investment. Much of that was for the country areas—£50,000,000 for Whyalla, £18,000,000 for Port Stanvac and £13,500,000 for the South-Eastern mill. They are not in Adelaide: they are in South Australia. The reputation that has been built up is of incalculable benefit to South Australia. There is an old saying that nothing succeeds like success: there is an even better saying, that nothing succeeds like solvency.

I turn now to the State's development and to a consideration of what steps the Government

is taking to further this. Firstly, let us consider water supplies. Whilst some of my remarks will apply to the whole State, I shall make special reference to the position in the metropolitan area, with particular emphasis on future needs. Special mention is made in the Governor's Speech to certain plans and projects. The member for Chaffey will no doubt refer to the Chowilla dam project on the Upper Murray when he seconds this motion. The Speech mentions expansions and extensions to services.

Despite an all-time record in the number of subdivisions and buildings requiring connections in and around Adelaide, few people have been unduly delayed for water and sewerage connections. I pay a special tribute to the Minister of Works, his engineers and staff for the magnificent way in which they have faced up to this colossal task. Both in Housing Trust and private development schemes, the installation of services has kept pace with demands. The Department has been working at top pressure to meet requirements. Recently I saw the work being undertaken at the Christies Beach Housing Trust area, and at Salisbury, Brahma Lodge and Para Hills housing estates. I know that the member for Gawler appreciates the work being done at Elizabeth—a major undertaking in itself.

During the last 10 years there has been a phenomenal growth in the demand for water in the metropolitan area. Two factors have combined to cause this large increase: a rise in population from 434,000 to 582,000 and a rise in the average daily per capita consumption from 77 gallons to 107 gallons. During this period the annual water consumption has risen from 12,250,000,000 gallons to 22,330,000,000 gallons, a rise of 82 per cent although the population has increased by only 34 per cent. The number of new water services laid has amounted to 52,451, bringing the total to 177,451, and the length of water mains has increased from 1,682 miles to 2,293 miles.

The cost of water has a big bearing on this rate of increase, as at about sixpence a ton it is easily the cheapest commodity we can buy. In fact, in relation to the rise in cost of other goods and materials and the average wage level of the community, the cost of water is cheaper today than 10 years ago. This undoubtedly encourages the prolific use of water, especially in home gardens and lawns. Extensive use of gas and electric hot water systems has also increased the per capita consumption. The water that runs to waste through heat losses in pipes in thousands of homes represents a considerable quantity daily.



Add to this the increasing use of air conditioning and altered social habits, and the per capita gallonage increase becomes startling. If this rate of growth continues—and there is no reason to assume otherwise—a far-sighted and vigorous programme of development of our water resources will be essential.

During recent years we have seen a number of major developments. In fact, the harnessing of additional sources of supply has been in progress continuously for many years. This, of course, accounts for the fact that Adelaide was able to weather the record drought of 1959 without any water restrictions. I believe we were the only State to achieve this feat. The Mannum-Adelaide pipeline first delivered water to the metropolitan area towards the end of 1954, and since then it has been progressively extended to improve the distribution of the water. South Para reservoir was completed three years ago, and has since supplied large quantities of water to the metropolitan area and to the Lower North. Myponga reservoir is nearing completion and will provide the requirements of the rapidly-developing area extending from Hallett Cove to Normanville, including the oil refinery at Port Stanvac. Mount Bold reservoir is being raised to increase its capacity by 5,000,000,000 gallons. Additional pumps are being installed on the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline to increase its capacity from 52,000,000 gallons a day to 66,000,000 gallons a day.

Recently the Premier announced that plans were being prepared for the construction of a high dam on the River Torrens above Castambul to provide a new reservoir with a capacity of 5,500,000 gallons, and he had previously announced that investigations were progressing in connection with a second pipeline from the River Murray to Adelaide.

In 1953 Adelaide had reservoirs with a total capacity of 14,000,000,000 gallons and no pipeline from the Murray. With the works completed since that year, those now under construction and a new reservoir on the Torrens, it is likely that by 1965 Adelaide will have reservoirs with a total capacity of 41,700,000,000 gallons (including South Para), augmented by the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline with an annual capacity of 24,000,000,000 gallons. These developments are reassuring and show that the Government is fully alive to the importance of planning the conservation of water well ahead of actual requirements.

Turning now to the provision of water supplies, we all acknowledge that water is without a doubt our most precious commodity. With-

out it we cannot live, let alone progress and develop. This State is probably worst served of all States for natural water resources, and yet through the far-sighted planning of this Government and its predecessors, coupled with the ingenuity of our engineers, 96 per cent of all people in this State have reticulated water available at their taps. No other State can approach this record. This is specially significant when we realize that only 4 per cent of the State enjoys an annual rainfall in excess of 20 inches, and yet, apart from householders, water is supplied under pressure to innumerable pastoral holdings and also to large industrial undertakings. It has meant the opening up of land, some in remote areas, which would otherwise have remained out of production. It has also enabled this establishment of industries, using large quantities of water, that could not have come here if a ready supply had not been available.

In the next 20 years, however, our metropolitan and outer suburban area population will have risen, according to all the experts, to about 1,000,000 people and our water consumption will rise proportionately. We will have come to the end of our reservoir building programme because we will have run out of sites and streams. Under the River Murray Waters Agreement we will probably not be able to pump much more water from the River Murray after the operation of the second pipeline to Adelaide. Where then are we going to get more water to maintain our population and our industries? Obviously the only way we can get more water is to treat salt water for desalination.

Water supply has been described as the life blood of a nation and I certainly agree with that, but I believe that before long we must turn our attention to other means of obtaining water. The most promising means is by desalination, which is the treatment of salt or brackish water to remove salts in order to turn otherwise useless water into irrigable and useable water. Many experiments are being conducted on this subject, but research has been bogged down because of the high cost of distillation and conversion. If a fraction of the moneys that have been spent on nuclear research and space travel were spent on water treatment, the world as a whole would be a better place to live in, and mankind would receive more benefits.

Whilst not denying the necessity and desirability of nuclear research and the advantages such as nuclear power, to be derived from these

studies, surely at this stage more benefits could be achieved from watering the arid surfaces of the earth and so raising living standards than from putting a man into orbit or sending a rocket to the moon. If some of the money spent on sending an astronaut into space had been devoted to providing water for dry areas much more good would have been accomplished.

It is both interesting and heartening to read of the work being done in America on desalination of water, and many methods have been tried and many articles have been written on this research work. I have, in my briefcase, a great file of articles dealing with the work of the Americans but I shall not read them although they are available for any member who may desire to peruse them.

The United States Government might greatly step up its investigations into ways of producing fresh water economically from salt or brackish water. Until recently, it has been spending less each year on these investigations than it spends on the building of one bomber. Many scientists have long felt that salt water conversion offers the most sensible way to make use of the slumbering genie of atomic power. In fact, the development of an economical way to convert salt water with or without atomic energy could do more to transform the world than atomic energy is currently achieving.

Conversion of salt or brackish water into fresh water on a millions-of-gallons-a-day basis already is taking place in such arid places as Aruba in the West Indies, and Kuwait on the Persian Gulf. This Office of Saline Water of the United States Department of the Interior has pilot plants operating and is building five demonstration plants to test, on a fairly large scale basis, five of the most promising methods. These methods all involve either taking the water out of the salt, by either distillation or freezing or screening the salt out of the water, as with a membrane process. The plants will be located at such places as Freeport, Texas, and San Diego, California.

The cost of this work is still a problem, but it is within sight of becoming attractive in many places where water is short. Today it costs only one-fifth as much as it did in 1950 to obtain 1,000 gallons of fresh water from the sea. The Director of the Office of Saline Water is now confident that the office can produce 1,000 gallons of water for \$1 or about 10s. That is still too high to appeal to most water users. However, in a few years he hopes to reduce the price to 40 cents a 1,000 gallons,

which would make it appealing to many water-short cities.

It is doubtful whether in our lifetime the price can ever be reduced enough to be economical for American farmers in arid areas many miles away from a coast. The cost would have to get down to about a nickel for 1,000 gallons for inland consumers; but it is conceivable that within the coming decade the cost may be brought down to about 20 cents a 1,000 gallons, which would make it attractive for irrigation in some water-desperate countries.

To enable members to appreciate what the Americans have done in this matter I have a few notes which I shall read. They refer to the legislation that has been introduced in America. The first is an extract from a paper on saline water conversion. It states that, recognizing the urgency of augmenting the supply of fresh water to meet the demands of the expanding population, industry and agriculture of the United States, Congress in 1952 enacted the Saline Water Act, "to provide for research and development of practical means for the economical production, from sea or other saline waters, of water suitable for agricultural, industrial, municipal and other beneficial consumptive uses, and for other purposes."

Under this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through such agencies of the Department of Interior as may be appropriate, is authorized to direct the whole performance of the Act. Hence the Office of Saline Water Conversion was set up within the United States Department of the Interior to administer and co-ordinate the research and development programme. The original Act provided for an expenditure of two million dollars over five years.

The work got under way, good progress was made, and in 1955 the Act was amended to provide for additional funds, the effect of the amendment being to make available \$10,000,000 for research and development during the years 1953-1963 inclusive. Under the increased appropriation, good and promising results were achieved and it was decided to put certain of those which gave promise of ultimate economical results into production tests in reasonably large scale operation.

In 1958 the provisions of the Act were further extended by a joint resolution to provide for the construction of demonstration plants for the production, from saline or brackish waters, of water suitable for agricultural, industrial, municipal and other beneficial

consumptive uses. Under this amendment, the expenditure of a further \$10,000,000 was authorized to be spent in the construction of demonstration plants, such plants to be in operation and then sold by the Department of the Interior by 1965. The amendment provided for the erection of five pilot plants, and specified broadly their type and their locations. That is the way the Americans went about setting up this research and investigational work which has now produced quite good practical results.

Coming back to South Australia and the remarks I made earlier about our water supplies for the future, I consider it is time that attention was directed in coastal areas to the local conversion of sea water to augment our supplies of fresh water. Here we are in the fortunate position of being able to draw on the experience of the United States and other overseas countries, where costs of conversion are now almost down to a level commensurate with current costs of natural fresh water in some remote parts of this country. I believe that too much emphasis is being placed on the comparison of conversion costs, actual and projected, of sea water against those applicable to conventional surface water catchment and reticulation. One criticism I make of this basis of comparison is that the latter costs in most cases are not strictly true costs today in the sense that the conversion costs are. In most areas, sources of the cheapest water discovered years ago have been exploited first and are being utilized to full capacity and capitalized over a longer period. A truer comparison would be to compare present costs of conversion (which will reduce in future) with future costs of natural surface water which must increase in future. This would be a more reliable comparison, and in these terms converted water costs could be economical.

As I see it, treatment of water would be undertaken to augment existing and conventional means of supply and reticulation. In some country towns near the sea, such a scheme could probably be used to advantage to save costly pipeline and pumping installations, or at least to reduce some of these costs. In towns like Port Pirie, Port Augusta and Whyalla, where waste heat is available from large industrial plants, this heat could be used in generating power at very low cost for this process. This definitely brings this idea within the realms of real possibility, not only in the cost of the water but in savings in capital charges.

America is not the only country looking at this problem of de-salination; scientists in Britain, Russia, Italy, Japan, Algeria, Mexico, Morocco, South Africa, Spain and Israel, and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in Australia, have all made important advances in this field recently. I feel that this method surely will have to be used here in South Australia before long, and I am pleased to hear that some officers recently sent abroad by this Government are to look at this problem amongst others. The Commonwealth Government is vitally interested in this subject, and Senator Spooner (Commonwealth Minister for National Development) recently said that his Government is keeping a close watch on all technological advances in desalination of water. At the new University of New South Wales a number of scientists, in conjunction with Prof. Munro, Prof. Baxter and Mr. J. Beale, a leading Sydney consulting engineer and State Liberal Parliamentarian, have set up the Water Research Foundation of Australia specifically to investigate this problem. This foundation has been recognized by the Commonwealth Government and the State Governments of New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia. I eagerly await the return of our officers and their report and recommendations to this Government.

An interesting feature of this work is the reclamation of valuable minerals as a by-product of some of these plants I have mentioned earlier. As the cost of demineralized or clean water is at the moment prohibitive, this may well be an avenue where nuclear or atomic power when fully developed could be used for peaceful and useful purposes. Nuclear power could possibly be used here in years to come when it has been developed to the stage of replacing conventional methods of steam-raising for electric power generation. Solar energy is another source of power being currently examined. Whatever is the outcome of this work, I feel that the position in a few years will become so acute and urgent that we cannot afford not to undertake some of this work ourselves.

Unless we can find, by 1975, some alternative source of water, we will not be able to feed our present population, let alone provide for our rapidly increasing population. Our social habits are changing, and we are using more water per person in the metropolitan area than we were 10 years ago. I therefore strongly urge the Government, upon receipt of a report from the Director of Mines and other officers

now abroad, to take all possible steps to vigorously pursue the research into, and application of, de-salination of salt and brackish water and so plan ahead that our natural and vigorous progress will not be retarded.

The reference in the Speech to the activities of the Electricity Trust make interesting reading, as the full impact of this body's contribution to the development of the State is not generally realized or appreciated. The Speech pointed out that the average price of electricity had been steadily reduced since 1953, and that no likelihood of any increase was foreseen. This is truly an amazing achievement in a period when costs of materials and labour have risen considerably. When it is realized that in the last 10 years the units of power sold have jumped from 364,746,844 to no less than 1,451,761,587, it can be appreciated what an efficient concern this is. The trust today provides the cheapest power on average of any State in Australia except Tasmania, where they have hydro-electric schemes. In addition, by exploiting Leigh Creek coalfields, we are importing only about one-sixth the amount of coal from Newcastle that we were 10 years ago, despite an increase of power output of over four times in the same period. What a wonderful record that is.

Mr. Fred Walsh: Yet some members on the Government side opposed the taking over of the electricity undertaking.

Mr. COURCEL: I was not here then. The point I make is that the trust is doing a wonderful job, and it has my full support.

Mr. Ralston: Do you know the production costs per kilowatt hour at Port Augusta?

Mr. COURCEL: I have not got the figures here. I should have thought the honourable member would be more interested in Mount Gambier. An interesting feature which reflects our increasingly higher standard of living at a time when our population is increasing is the increased consumption of electric power per capita in this State. The average consumption per domestic consumer has risen in 10 years from 1,170 kw.h. to 2,520 kw.h. This increase in domestic use per person is indicative of the use of more appliances (many of which are made in South Australia) and reflects the greater ability of our people to purchase and enjoy these facilities. This means that our standard of living is continually rising. The trust deserves the highest praise for its contribution to our economy in providing adequate supplies at cheap rates, so helping our community and attracting industries to establish in South Australia.

I have mentioned today only two of the main activities in the State—water and power. I could continue for some time if I wished. I could talk about the increased efficiency of our railway system since the introduction of the diesel locomotive and the expansion of the Harbours Board, which has recently been completing the roll-on roll-off ship installations at Port Adelaide, Kingscote and Port Lincoln. It will shortly be starting the bulk handling facilities at Port Pirie. We read about the silos for handling wheat and barley to be built and the proposed major road building; the forestry expansion in the South-East to cope with production, and the proposed new pulp mill to be erected there costing £13,600,000; and the continued search for oil and minerals in this State. I could also mention the programme of the Education Department, in itself a huge undertaking, involving a cost of between £5,000,000 and £6,000,000 for building more and more schools.

In that respect, I pay a special tribute to the Minister of Education and the officers of his department. Since the Minister's appointment, the department has made the most spectacular advance in its history, and at a time of special difficulty in providing for the unprecedented increase in the school-going population and not merely the buildings, where, incidentally, many radical changes in design have been incorporated and standardized, thus enabling these buildings to be built faster.

Mr. Fred Walsh: On whose recommendation was that?

Mr. COURCEL: Credit must go to the Public Works Standing Committee for many of the recommendations. There have been improvements not only in the buildings themselves but also in the method of staff promotions, in the changes of curricula introduced in recent years and in the teaching methods and outlooks that have been introduced, which would have been unsupported only a few years ago. I know that members of this House appreciate the way in which the Minister himself has brought a new concept into the administration of this department, including the important idea of using high and technical high schools at night-time to promote adult education. I pay this special tribute to the Minister and his staff for the wonderful way this work has been formulated, especially in the last few years.

All these references to the various Government departments tell the story I started off with, of all departments keeping up with the

progress and latest advances in science and technology. These schemes and undertakings are not vote-catchers: they are designed deliberately to create employment to help the people of this State and to make South Australia a much better place to live in. I know that these improvements are appreciated by the general public.

In conclusion, I reiterate what I said at the outset: the Government is to be commended for bringing down such a fine and courageous programme of public and productive works as outlined in the Governor's Speech, especially at this present time. I know that this bold developmental and positive plan will be hailed

by all responsible persons and bodies in all sections of the community, so I conclude by saying that now is the time for all of us in our own way to do our part, to get on with the job of making this Australian nation and this State really great. It is with great pleasure that I move the adoption of this Address in Reply.

Mr. KING secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.20 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, July 26, at 2 p.m.