

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, July 27, 1961.

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

QUESTIONS.

PETHICK ESTATE.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: My question concerns a section of the land purchased by the Housing Trust from the Pethick Estate, which it was originally planned to be reserved as a tourist or national resort. The Government indicated that it would obtain the Town Planner's assistance in planning the area. The Director of the Tourist Bureau has now suggested that the land revert to the local council for development. In view of the Government's earlier decision, will the Premier ascertain whether the Town Planner can carry out this work, or what will happen to the land?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes.

GOOLWA BARRAGES.

Mr. JENKINS: Is the Minister of Works aware of the ever-increasing number of fishing and speed boat owners and tourist parties passing through the Goolwa barrages at weekends and on holidays? The additional parking area for cars near the barrage gates is appreciated, but all boating parties are expected to return through the lock gates by 5 p.m. If a road could be constructed around the barrage works to enable boats to be unloaded from trailers or to provide access to boats anchored there, it would obviate much of the need for opening and closing lock gates. The works area could be fenced off from the road. Will the Minister examine this proposal?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Engineering and Water Supply Department does as much as it can to encourage interest in the State's large enterprises and welcomes public interest in these projects. It does what it can to provide access to them to enable the public to see what is happening. I am not sure what is involved in the question but I will ask the Engineer-in-Chief to examine it and to let me have his ideas. When I receive a report I shall inform the honourable member.

HOURS OF WORK.

Mr. HUTCHENS: Can the Treasurer say whether it is the policy of the Government to work its employees in areas not covered by awards, due to limitation of the Industrial Code, for 44 hours in a week?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I am not sure what is involved in this question, but I will obtain a report for the honourable member. In general terms, the Government is always most anxious to carry out scrupulously the terms of awards properly made. On all questions of workmen's compensation the Government does, as a matter of ordinary course, pay compensation in many cases where strict application of the Act would not have involved the Government at all.

OUTER HARBOUR FACILITIES.

Mr. DUNNAGE: The local press reported that the new ship *Canberra* by-passed South Australia because the Outer Harbour was not suitable for a vessel of that type. If that is so, can the Minister of Marine say whether it is possible to modify the harbour so that a ship of this type may come to South Australia?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The *Canberra* did not by-pass the Outer Harbour because the harbour was not suitable. In fact the harbour is suitable and there is an adequate depth of water for such a ship to berth. The vessel by-passed Port Adelaide as a matter of economics from the shipping company's point of view. For some time shipping companies have been inclined to take their passengers direct from Fremantle to Melbourne rather than to disembark them at Outer Harbour *en route* to Melbourne. If honourable members care to examine the globe in the Parliamentary Library they will see that it is no further from Fremantle to Melbourne than it is from Fremantle to Port Adelaide in terms of sea miles, therefore the companies prefer their ships to take the shorter route and, if necessary, to return passengers to Adelaide from Melbourne or from Fremantle by air rather than to bring them into the Outer Harbour by ship. The cost of running an ordinary cargo ship of 10,000 to 12,000 tons is about £1,000 a day and I understand that the cost of operating a ship similar to the *Canberra* is about £8,000 to £10,000 a day. Economics play an important part in this matter. I understand from Mr. Sainsbury (General Manager of the Harbors Board), who comes from the United Kingdom, that both the *Oriana* and the *Canberra* now by-pass the port of London. The Port of London Authority recently completed a fine, possibly elaborate passenger terminal within the area controlled by it but that depot has now been closed, the gates locked, and no use is now being made of it. The shipping companies decided to use Southampton as their terminal rather than to take their vessels

into the Thames and up to the area controlled by the Port of London Authority. That procedure has been adopted for the same reasons as these vessels now by-pass the Outer Harbour.

ROYAL VISIT.

Mr. HUGHES: Has the Premier made any approach through appropriate channels for the Duke of Edinburgh to visit South Australia when he comes to Western Australia next year to open the Empire Games, and, if not, will he consider taking steps to do so?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The news that the Duke of Edinburgh was to open the Empire Games was released only this morning and I have not taken any steps in the matter. However, when he came to the Olympic Games it was announced that he would be available only for the function that he was coming to open, and it was considered that if he made a general tour of Australia it would detract from the particular function that he had come to honour. The whole question of Royal visits is in the hands of the Prime Minister. We in South Australia have been concerned about getting someone of some status to open our Festival of Arts next year. Incidentally, that function does not coincide with the Empire Games, and I am not sure whether we will be successful, but we have a request before the Prime Minister for some official recognition of the status of the Festival of Arts by having a distinguished visitor from overseas. Whether it will be possible for that request to be granted I do not yet know.

SOCIAL STUDIES.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Yesterday I was particularly interested in a question asked by the member for Gouger (Mr. Hall), and answered by the Minister of Education, about the growth and influence of Communism in our society. In his reply, the Minister indicated that this matter was to some extent at least covered by the course in social studies in our State schools. I should like to ask a question on two aspects of this matter. Firstly, can the Minister indicate to the House an outline of the syllabus of social studies and, in particular, any text book used for that purpose? Secondly, I understand that he has been requested by people interested in the showing of a film called "The Crowning Experience" to encourage students in the South Australian schools to see that film when it is shown. Does the Minister feel he is able to give that encouragement to the students in our schools?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: Last year I approved a recommendation of the Director of Education that a new course of social studies should be introduced and, accordingly, the Advisory Curriculum Board produced a very modern and comprehensive course. I read that course with great interest and pleasure and approved its printing. It is now in the hands of the Government Printer and I understand it will be ready for distribution next month. I shall be pleased to supply the honourable member, and, in fact, all members of Parliament, with a copy of it, for I think it might add to their education on some matters of mutual interest. It would be too lengthy for me to attempt even the briefest survey because it is a very lengthy document, but amongst the various subjects in the course is civics, which includes the various systems of Government. I think that the member for Gouger would be particularly interested in that. It will be distributed to the teachers in at least all the senior classes of our schools.

Dealing with the other question raised by the honourable member, I am interested in the film to which he referred. A private preview of this took place on Tuesday night; I was not able to attend, but I sent a very able and experienced officer (Mr. Rooney, Inspector of Secondary Schools), who has just returned from a course of study in America. That officer represented me at the preview and will supply me with a report on it. I also had a visit from Mr. Gordon Brown, a Mr. Coulter and a Mr. Cheesman, who discussed the matter with me at great length and supplied me with much literature and some reviews of the film. My impression at present is that it would be of great interest and benefit to the senior scholars in our schools, but I shall wait until I receive an official report from Mr. Rooney through the Director of Education.

TAILEM BEND WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. BYWATERS: I have previously drawn the attention of the Minister of Works to the dual service provided by the South Australian Railways and the Engineering and Water Supply Department at Tailem Bend, where each authority has a system of water reticulation, and I have requested that this be placed entirely under the control of the Engineering and Water Supply Department. The necessity for this is becoming more apparent because Tailem Bend has embarked on several projects and is finding difficulty because of the duplication of pipelines serving that area. In particular, the Lower Murray Districts Hospital

finds that the railways system passes its door, yet it has to get a supply from the Engineering and Water Supply Department some distance away. In addition, my information is that there are no fire hydrants in the main street. Will the Minister take up this matter in order to see whether some uniformity can be achieved by one authority supplying water in Tailem Bend, because people requiring water are not always associated with the railway industry?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will ask the Engineer-in-Chief to investigate the matter and advise me. I am not sufficiently well versed in the history of the development of the town to know the background of the two authorities as suppliers. It is not the only town in the State where the Railways Department has, as a normal practice, supplied its own residences with water. Peterborough was another such town where two authorities supplied water, but that supply has now been taken over entirely by the Engineering and Water Supply Department, and I assume that everybody is satisfied with that arrangement. I am not sure what the occupants of the railway houses at Tailem Bend would pay for the present service and whether they would be detrimentally affected if they were placed on normal rating. That type of thing would have to be considered.

EYRE PENINSULA FARMING LAND.

Mr. BOCKLEBERG: Because so many young experienced farmers on Eyre Peninsula, many with their own plant, are anxious to acquire land, I point out that there are 163,000 acres held as fauna and flora reserves with a 16 inch rainfall. Will the Minister of Agriculture, as Acting Minister of Lands, consider making some of those reserves available for farming?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will get a considered reply for the honourable member.

JURYMEN'S ALLOWANCES.

Mr. LOVEDAY: It was recently brought to my notice that a jurymen had to come from Iron Baron to attend a trial at Port Augusta. The trial lasted for three days and the jurymen was paid £9 for his services but nothing for travelling expenses. Will the Minister of Education take up this matter with the Attorney-General to see whether travelling expenses can be paid to jurymen, particularly in such cases as the one I mention? Is there any delay in payment of jurymen? I understand there used to be a delay of one month

before they were paid. If that is so can the period be shortened because it is causing considerable hardship?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I shall be pleased to comply with the honourable member's request to refer the matter to my colleague but I do not know what the implications of paying expenses will be. A large amount would be involved if we embarked upon it, but I shall be pleased to do what I can to have the matter investigated. Dealing with the second question, I am sure that there would be no undue delay in payment unless there were an administrative accident in a particular case.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

Mr. RALSTON: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question relating to the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act as they would apply to apprentices attending a training school?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: Yes. I have received the following report from the Superintendent of Technical Schools, which reads:

Mr. Ralston has asked whether the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act apply to apprentices injured during their attendance at apprenticeship classes both at day and evening classes; and further that, if they do not apply equally, why is this so?

In the opinion of the Crown Solicitor section 4 (2) (b) of the Workmen's Compensation Act (Act No. 38 of 1953) provides in effect that an employer shall be liable to pay compensation to a workman injured during ordinary working hours on a journey between his place of employment and a trade or other training school which he is required by law to attend or which he attends at the request of the employer. If the injury is attributable to serious and wilful misconduct compensation will not be payable unless death or permanent incapacity results. If the apprentice is injured while attending the trade school the previous opinion that the Government is not liable to pay compensation to apprentices injured at trade school without proof of negligence by the department or its employees still applies.

As far as compensation from an employer is concerned, the position is that the insurance companies in the Fire and Accident Underwriters Association of South Australia in the past have undertaken to pay workmen's compensation to an apprentice injured at a trade school while receiving tuition provided that he was entitled to wages from his master in respect of the time spent at the trade school. I understand that this undertaking is still in force.

The Crown Solicitor further considers that the employer will often be liable to pay compensation if the apprentice is required by his agreement with the employer to attend a trade

school for his employer's purposes, but this would depend on the nature of the agreement in any particular case.

As attendance by apprentices at evening classes at trade schools does not take place during ordinary working hours, the Crown Solicitor is of the opinion that the employer would not ordinarily be liable to pay workmen's compensation if an apprentice is injured whilst attending evening classes or journeying thereto. In giving this opinion the Crown Solicitor points out that the only circumstances in which the employer could become liable in respect of attendance at evening classes is if the contract of service specifically provides for such attendance. He goes on to say that such circumstances do not apply to indentures of Apprenticeship in the form prescribed by regulation under section 26 of the Apprentices Act, 1950. The attendance at evening classes is required by the operation of that Act only as an incident of apprenticeship.

RECREATION AREA.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: In view of the announcement that appeared in yesterday's *News* that the Mitcham Corporation did not desire to accept the terms of an offer in relation to a certain area proposed for recreational purposes, is it likely to be offered to the South Adelaide Football Club or any other club that may wish to accept such an offer?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The present policy of the Government has been designed to assist councils to increase the area of land available for recreational purposes in their areas. The policy that has now been pursued for some years is to make the councils a grant of 50 per cent of the Land Board's valuation of an area approved for purchase. We always require advice from our officers as to whether the area proposed is suitable for recreational purposes and, where we get a favourable report upon the desirability of the land, we have made grants for the purchase of the land to the extent of 50 per cent of its total purchase price. Two important matters are involved. First, we have always had the council as the controlling authority of the area; secondly, the area is to be available for the recreational purposes of the community. The honourable member's suggestion is slightly different from that because it would make the land available to a sporting authority rather than to the district council, and it might not necessarily be available to the public as a recreation area, except perhaps upon payment for entrance to the area. The honourable member will see that there are two slight differences. I do not want that to be construed as meaning that we have always insisted that admission to every function on a recreational area shall be

without charge, because the requisite facilities for organized sport could not be obtained under those conditions. If a proposition is submitted to me in writing, I will have it examined and advise the honourable member after Cabinet has decided on it.

WATER METER READINGS.

Mr. TAPPING: A regulation of the E. & W.S. Department provides for 14 days in which to appeal against a water meter reading. A number of cases have come to my notice in which the consumer was absent in the country, perhaps on annual leave, or was indisposed, the time allowed for appeal expired, and those concerned believed that there had been an over-reading but it was too late for them to lodge an appeal. Will the Minister of Works or his department consider extending the period beyond 14 days in order to overcome some of the disabilities I have mentioned?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I think the honourable member would agree that generally it would not be desirable to extend the time for appeal beyond 14 days, as that, in normal circumstances, would be a reasonable time for appeal. However, the department has never ruled out of order appeals which, for some good and proper reason, have been delayed beyond the time stated in the notice (14 days). I assure the honourable member that in many cases where appeals against a consumption allegedly recorded have been made, where I have been made aware of the appeal and some dispute arises as to the actual consumption, I have examined the docket and the readings and have also discussed with the officers of the department the case in question. In most cases we have been able to reach a conclusion satisfactory to the department and to the ratepayer. I prefer that the statutory period of 14 days be retained on the understanding that where for some good and proper reason the appellant has not lodged an appeal within that time his case will still be heard.

COUNTRY INDUSTRIES.

Mr. McKEE: In reply to a question I asked earlier this session the Premier said that he would discuss with the General Manager of the Broken Hill Associated Smelters the development of industrial activity in Port Pirie. Has he had that discussion and what is the result?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Last week I met three representatives of B.H.A.S. and discussed the future of Port Pirie. Unfortunately, because of the tragic death of

Mr. Robinson, officers who, I had hoped, would attend the discussion were not present. However, we discussed matters regarding the welfare of the industry at Port Pirie and decided upon one or two ways in which the Government could help the expansion and development of associated industries. At the moment I cannot take the matter further. I assure the honourable member that the Government will do its utmost to help the company to expand in Port Pirie. The company has been told that that is our desire. One or two matters involve Commonwealth policy, but when something of note is decided I will inform the honourable member.

SCHOOL CANTEENS.

Mr. RYAN: Yesterday, the Minister of Education said that school committees could apply for a pound for pound subsidy for school canteens. Where there is insufficient room for a canteen to be located in a building of a new school, will the Education Department provide a pound for pound subsidy on the erection of a building for a canteen and on the equipment therefor?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: Yes. Every application is treated on its merits, but we would not be prepared to subsidize an unnecessarily elaborate or expensive building when money is required for so many more urgent needs. Generally, and in many instances, we approve a subsidy for an entirely new building. On the other hand, this morning I approved a subsidy to a Mount Gambier school for the use of temporary premises. Later that school will receive a subsidy for a new building.

Mr. CLARK: In new high schools canteens are frequently housed in rooms which later will be used as classrooms, but which are vacant when the school is opened. This sometimes means that costly equipment has to be shifted later. Can the Minister say whether consideration has been given, in the original planning of a school, to providing for rooms that could be used specifically as canteens?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: No general provision has been made, but in some larger schools, particularly secondary schools, provision has been made in the plans on the assumption that a canteen will be required in the future. We allow every latitude for a school or school committee to use any available room after the canteen has been approved in principle.

DUCK SHOOTING SEASON.

Mr. JENKINS: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to the question I asked on June 21 about altering the opening date of the South Australian duck shooting season to coincide with the Victorian season?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have a lengthy report from the Director of Fisheries and Game that I will make available to the honourable member. However, I shall read some extracts from it. It states:

The Fisheries and Game Department has little evidence on the kill of ducks in the South-East corner of the State during the four days between the South Australian and Victorian duck season openings. However, it is believed that the figure of 50,000 ducks killed over the four days in this area is excessive. It is an established fact that the kill of ducks is highest on the opening day than on any other day of the season. This is due to the heaviest concentration of shooters on this day and the previously undisturbed concentration of waterfowl in the wetland areas.

American figures show that two million shooters take ten million ducks annually, which gives five ducks a year for each shooter. This means that the problem of maintaining the essential breeding populations of waterfowl at a level that will provide a surplus for the use of an increasing number of sportsmen is a very real one indeed. Until more positive guidance can come from the work that has started, there is no real justification for a radical departure from the present system of a fixed season.

In assessing the influence of Victorian shooters in South Australia, it should be noted that it is doubtful if more than 500 of the 22,000 licences issued in the year went to Victorian shooters. The records can be checked to fix an accurate figure if this is required.

COOBER PEDY SCHOOL.

Mr. LOVEDAY: I understand that an arrangement has been made that two acres of land on the desired site at Coober Pedy will be made available for a school to be erected there. The use of the community hall for school purposes is resulting in considerable inconvenience. Can the Minister of Education say whether the school to be placed there will be erected this year?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I am not aware of the exact position. As the honourable member knows, Mr. Whitburn, who was Superintendent of Rural Schools, has been appointed Superintendent of Primary Schools and Mr. Fitzgerald has been appointed Acting Superintendent of Rural Schools. I do not know who is dealing with this matter now. However, I know that Mr. Whitburn was

favourably disposed to the project and had reported so. I will obtain a report for the honourable member by next Tuesday.

TRAVELLING SALESMEN.

Mr. BYWATERS: Much publicity has been given by the press to the selling of encyclopaedias to parents by travelling salesmen. The case I have in mind particularly is the Australian Educational Foundation (Southern) Pty. Ltd. I understand the Minister had that case before him recently. Although this publicity has been given, high pressure salesmen are still talking ladies into purchasing these books and when their husbands arrive home they are dissatisfied with what has happened. A gentleman recently came to me with this problem and asked whether something could be done about it. I took up the matter with the Attorney-General to see whether it was covered by the Hire-Purchase Act, under which both husband and wife have to sign the agreement. The honourable the Attorney-General said it was not classed as a hire-purchase agreement. Can the Minister of Education say whether the Government could introduce legislation to make it compulsory for both husband and wife to sign such agreements?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I shall be pleased to discuss the matter with the Attorney-General to see whether legislation is necessary or desirable, but I am afraid that we cannot do much to instruct every housewife in the State. I have made numerous public statements on this matter from time to time at the request of various honourable members on both sides of the House and on my own initiative. Further, over a year ago, I placed the matter in the hands of our able and experienced Deputy Director of Education (Mr. Griggs) who has been dealing with numerous instances. He has issued circulars to the heads of all schools, warning them of what is being done by these travelling salesmen. The matter has been circularized in the *Education Gazette* and all the known victims have been written to by or on behalf of Mr. Griggs. He also sought the co-operation of the Commissioner of Police and I know that the Deputy Commissioner (Mr. Leane) took direct action in several cases. I shall be pleased to confer once again with the Attorney-General, but I think it is rather a question of the gullibility of somewhat ignorant people for whom I have the greatest sympathy.

TRAIN COMMUNICATION.

Mr. BYWATERS: Last year I advocated some form of communication by radio on long railway trains because of the distance between the train crew and the guard. I understand that an experiment is taking place in this regard, particularly on the desert line. Will the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Railways in this House, obtain information from the Commissioner of Railways of the department's intention in this regard? Will the radio communication I have referred to be used on trains throughout South Australia?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will ask for a report.

THIRD PARTY INSURANCE.

Mr. McKEE: Earlier this session I asked the Premier a question regarding a discount on third party insurance premiums for accident-free drivers. The Premier then said that the Insurance Premiums Committee expected to meet but that, owing to the absence of a member, it had not met. Has the committee been able to meet and has the Premier a report?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The committee had some meetings and reported on one of the two topics the Government asked it to reconsider, that is, whether the margin granted on compulsory insurance was not too high. The report was that the margin was not too high and that it should be maintained. The other matter that the Government suggested the committee should examine has not been reported on. That was whether or not it would be possible to weight insurance premiums so that persons who consistently had no claims would gain some advantage in their insurance rates over those who had proved themselves to be costly through negligent driving.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: HON. SIR CECIL HINCKS.

Mr. KING moved:

That three months' leave of absence be granted to the honourable member for Yorke Peninsula (Hon. Sir Cecil Hincks) on account of absence from the State on public business.

Motion carried.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on the motion, which Mr. Frank Walsh had moved to amend by inserting the following new paragraph:

1a. This House condemns the unjustified action of the Government—

(a) in making available officers of the Crown to prepare evidence and to appear

before the Federal Arbitration Commission in support of a differential Federal basic wage for Adelaide, so that eventually it would be reduced to 90 per cent of the Sydney basic wage,

- (b) in joining forces with the Employers Federation of South Australia and the South Australian Chamber of Manufacturers in their application to reduce the living standards of the people of this State.

(Continued from July 26. Page 119.)

Mr. LAUCKE (Barossa): I have much pleasure in supporting the motion, as originally submitted to this House, for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Speech with which His Excellency opened this third session of the Thirty-Sixth Parliament. Yesterday I listened attentively to the speech of the honourable the Leader of the Opposition and was gratified to note that he could find little on which to criticize the Government effectively. I regarded his speech as one of necessarily passive endorsement of Government policy and achievement. He finally moved an amendment, the wording of which has a familiar ring. It harks back to the motion for adjournment regarding the basic wage case on October 6, 1960. That motion was then aptly described by the member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Shannon) when, on interjection, he said, "This is the dark horse of Frome."

It was then a political stunt, intended to disparage the Government and timed just before the Frome by-election. It was a stunt which was almost, but not quite, successful and, without intending any derogatory reference to the member who now holds Frome, I say that the very fine margin at the last by-election will be offset in my Party's favour further next March. I confidently anticipate that, in spite of dark horses, Frome will be represented by a Government supporter next year. It was a dark horse then but it is a dead one now. This sort of thing coming from responsible men nauseates me. Do we believe in a system of arbitration in which both sides of a question are heard before a correctly constituted impartial tribunal, or do we believe in arbitrary one-sided action, in the law of the jungle, as it were?

Mr. Loveday: Do you believe in Government interference in the Arbitration Court?

Mr. LAUCKE: I shall answer that in a moment. The main criteria for any wage-fixing tribunal are, firstly, the capacity of industry to pay and, secondly, the costs of living. If we give credence to those criteria, as every responsible person and all who believe in arbitration should do, then this amendment becomes

irresponsible and ridiculous. As an employer, the Government must naturally be a respondent. It does not advocate a reduction in wages.

Mr. Loveday: Not much!

Mr. LAUCKE: It merely wishes to see that the arbitration system functions and that wages are adjusted in accordance with the real costs of living. Regarding the cost of living as between States, it is always open to the Arbitration Commission to adjust the marginal rates between State and State, with direct bearing on the living costs. The umpire is there to decide the issue. The State is a big employer of men and women and has a responsibility to be represented in arbitration tribunals, which are impartial. We have the Arbitration Commission—

Mr. Bywaters: Do you believe it is cheaper to live in the country than in the city?

Mr. LAUCKE: I prefer to abide by the decision of the umpire, and if the tribunal should find that wages should be higher in this State than in other States, all well and good. I do not believe in low wages: I believe in the highest wages industry can pay, always having in mind what it costs to live. The arbitration set-up that we have now is a good system. You yourself, Mr. Speaker, know very well that for many years we had turmoil and an atmosphere of distrust between grower and maker in the grapegrowing industry because there was no authority to whom the grower or the maker could go for an impartial direction as to what would constitute a fair price for grapes. It was only when we had a system of arbitration that we achieved a situation that has been most beneficial to both the grape-grower and the winemaker. I believe in abiding by the decision of umpires who are—

Mr. Jennings: On your side!

Mr. LAUCKE: Not a bit. An impartial tribunal can study all the facts and make a final decision without coercive action by anybody.

Mr. Loveday: There should be an award for all rural workers, then.

Mr. LAUCKE: My observations are that when labour is required on farms, the remuneration is invariably higher than the basic wage. I warmly congratulate the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) on the excellence of his speech when moving the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. It was one of the finest speeches I have heard in this House relevant to an Address in Reply motion. He

brought to it that depth of thought which invariably characterizes his speeches in this House.

Mr. Ryan: It was a very Liberal-minded speech.

Mr. LAUCKE: He is a good Liberal and a good member. He did justice to this important occasion, in which, firstly, we desire to express our thanks to His Excellency for a gracious service rendered, and, secondly, we advise His Excellency of good intention to work to the best of our ability while in this place. Thirdly—and this I always admire in these draft Addresses—we refer to the Divine Providence necessary to guide us in our deliberations. The member for Torrens did justice to every portion of that Address.

I also compliment the member for Chaffey (Mr. King) on the able way he seconded the motion. His contribution, too, was a scholarly one, and I compliment him on it. In His Excellency's opening words he welcomed the opportunity of addressing members for the first time and looked forward with keen anticipation to his sojourn in South Australia. There will be a ready reciprocation of those sentiments both here and throughout the State, arising from a spontaneous acceptance of a gentleman whose natural qualities made strong appeal to all South Australians immediately on his arrival. I believe that we are singularly fortunate that we have a gentleman of his personal charm, ease of approach, outstanding ability and wide experience to represent Her Majesty in South Australia. I trust that the expectations of Sir Edric and Lady Bastyan of happiness are fully met and that in these internationally troublous times the influences for good which come from an association with people of like ideals and interests, such as the people of Great Britain, may further cement those ties during the period of their sojourn here.

In the late Governor-General (Viscount Dunrossil), whose untimely passing we all mourn, we had one who did undoubtedly cement Commonwealth understanding and ties. I pay my humble tribute to the memory of that great Parliamentarian and administrator, a kindly man of great humanity who served the institution of Parliament and the cause of democracy magnificently.

In recent days we have had cause to lament the passing of an outstanding member in another place. On Tuesday moving tributes were paid to his memory in this Assembly and in the Chamber in which he worked for so

many years. As the late Hon. Frank Condon was almost a legend in the flour milling industry and intimately known to my family long before I became an operative miller, I feel a kinship to him peculiar to those who have worked in the common interest through many years, and I wish today to personally pay my tribute to him. This good man served those he represented, and the State, well indeed. My late father and Mr. Condon were life-long friends, differing widely in political ideology yet finding common ground for a firm friendship arising, I have no doubt, from a mutual respect for honesty of purpose. Mr. Condon had friends throughout the milling industry in Australia, employer and employee alike, all on the same basis of respect. As with the older men of the industry, so it was with those of my generation. We all held the late gentleman in high esteem, as a forthright and constructive advocate for mill employees for over 50 years in his capacity as honorary secretary of the Federated Millers and Mill Employees Association (South Australian Branch). The late gentleman achieved much in the interests of employees and the general stability of the milling industry. He was firm and direct in his approach and preferred round table discussions to lay the foundations for conditions that were later to be ratified in court. It was largely due to him that employees in the milling industry were granted long service benefits through mutual agreement as between employer and employee organizations long before such benefits were available under most other awards. Throughout the years of Mr. Condon's work on behalf of the employees not even a single day was lost in the milling industry through strike. This in itself speaks volumes for the capacity of the man to achieve the goals he set out to win, sternly and with great determination, but never with that bombast or arbitrary demand that is prone to raise the ire and opposition of the person to whom this type of approach is directed. I pay my respects to the memory of this worthy man.

I congratulate warmly the honourable member for Onkaparinga, Mr. Shannon, for his well merited distinction in the New Year's Honors List. Through many years of excellent service, both as a member and as chairman of the Public Works Committee, this gentleman has rendered sterling service. It was good to see this service acknowledged by Her Majesty in the New Year's list.

His Excellency's Speech is a factual statement concerning the State's affairs generally.

These speeches always remind me of a chairman of directors report on a company but, whereas the affairs of one company may have a restricted interest, this Speech embraces the diverse range of activities of all the State. I should like to read paragraph 37 of the Speech, which reads gratifyingly to those who wish to see the business of the State run on sound business principles. This is a most revealing paragraph, perhaps the most important in the whole Speech.

In September last, my Treasurer presented a Budget of revenue and expenditure estimating a surplus of three hundred and twelve thousand pounds. As a result of the excellent season and continued careful control of expenditure a substantial improvement on that estimate is now anticipated and, indeed, has enabled my Government to make a special grant of one million pounds for the provision by the Electricity Trust of a transmission line to the South-East of the State, as well as to offset the deficit outstanding from the last financial year and probably the whole of the deficit funded in 1959.

It was a pleasing prospect back in September last when a surplus was then anticipated. We find now at the close of the financial year a position much better than that anticipated optimistically in September last. We find that in 23 years of the administration of the finances of this State by the Treasurer there has been complete balance between revenue and expenditure, a mighty fine achievement conducive to confidence in this State as nothing else could possibly be. Nothing succeeds in a rapidly developing State such as South Australia more than the finances being kept trim and sound. This Government entertains no silly ideas of finance. Its down to earth common-sense in balancing the Budget for 23 years is worthy of the highest commendation. I offer my personal congratulations to the Treasurer.

The same high tenor of achievement marking the administration of the State applies to all the various Government departments. Let me briefly and at random look at a few of these factual statements, not thus far refuted by the Opposition. The Government continues its policy of fostering and encouraging the orderly development of the pastoral industry. The development of land for war service land settlement is being continued. Three important long-term research projects covering the spheres of wild life management and fisheries were commenced during the current financial year.

Mr. Jennings: What is the honourable member quoting from—notes of a Liberal speech?

Mr. LAUCKE: I am referring to the Governor's Speech. These statements can be challenged if the honourable member wishes to try. Water requirements in irrigation areas continue to be met. Drainage works in both eastern and western divisions of the South-East were continued during the year. Mineral production for the past year both in quantity and value constitutes a record, the nominal production value exceeding that of the previous year by more than £1,000,000. State forests continue to flourish and log production is expected to exceed 190,000,000 super ft. The Government continues to expand and improve water and sewerage supplies and facilities in both metropolitan and country areas. Negotiations are proceeding with the States of New South Wales and Victoria to establish on the River Murray a dam capable of impounding some 4,750,000 acre feet. The Government has continued its activities in connection with the development and improvement of roads. The Electricity Trust has had a particularly successful year. The Education Department has been expanded to cope with the growth in its activities. All those are indisputable facts that reflect great credit on the Ministry—

Mr. Jennings: Which wrote the speech!

Mr. LAUCKE: Certainly, but let those who can deny the truth of the factual statements. I feel that our greatest concern for the future, to maintain a buoyant economy, is to see that we have outlets for our products of both primary and secondary industries. The prospect of Great Britain entering the European Common Market has serious implications for the Commonwealth. Although I appreciate that this is a matter essentially under Commonwealth direction, it does affect vitally our own interests in this State. I should like to indicate through a few figures just what is entailed in the possibility of Great Britain's being forced to join the European Common Market. Australian trade to the extent of £170,000,000 could be adversely affected were she to join this market. Britain took 90 per cent of our exports of canned fruits last year, 85 per cent of our butter, 75 per cent of our wine, 70 per cent of our lamb, canned meats, apples and pears, 50 per cent of our sugar and dried fruit, 30 per cent of our beef, and 20 per cent of our wool and wheat. Regarding wheat (and its disposal to Great Britain is worth £14,000,000 annually) Australia now enjoys duty-free entry with guaranteed minimum sales of 750,000 tons annually. Without special arrangements, wheat production might be increased still

further in the United Kingdom and our wheat might be subject to import levies and import regulation and our exports could be substantially reduced, if not eliminated. A disturbing feature is that France, through a bolstered wheat industry, can supply the British market.

Mr. Shannon: How much does the French Government pay the wheatgrower to grow wheat?

Mr. LAUCKE: It is a completely bolstered industry and is totally uneconomic. I fear that with the opening for France to dispose of more wheat to the European market we will be detrimentally affected. Our annual beef and veal exports are worth £24,000,000, but if a common agricultural policy were formulated Australian suppliers would eventually lose the right of free entry and their preference over foreign suppliers, Argentina for instance. Continental countries would get duty-free entry while Australian meat would pay a duty or import levy. Australian mutton and lamb would have to face a tariff of about 20 per cent instead of getting free entry.

In past years our canned meat exports to the United Kingdom have been worth about £10,000,000 annually. We enjoy a 20 per cent preference on canned meats, but without special arrangements our canned meat would not enter duty-free. Our fresh apple and pear exports are worth £5,000,000 annually and are duty-free. They enjoy a preference in season. European Common Market suppliers would get free entry and Australian apples would pay an eight per cent duty and pears 10 per cent. That holds serious implications. Canned fruit and juice exports, worth £11,000,000, are now granted free entry and a preference of about four per cent, but with a Common Market, Continental fruit would be free and Australian fruit would pay 25 per cent. Our dried vine fruit exports, worth £4,000,000, now enjoy free entry with a 2s. (sterling) per hundredweight guaranteed preference on currants and 8s. 6d. on raisins. Without those safeguards Australian producers would lose free entry and face a tariff of about nine per cent.

With these facts in mind we must give more thought to our near northern neighbours as an outlet for more of our primary products. It is interesting to note how the near Asian markets have increased in recent years. It is surprising how our flour exports have increased, to Malaya especially. During and shortly after World War II Ceylon became the largest single flour buyer from Australia. It took 200,000 tons a year. A third of our total

flour exports go to Asian countries. If a small country like Ceylon can take that quantity, what unlimited openings there are in Asiatic countries, provided their living standards are such that enable them to purchase from us.

This morning I was reading a report from the office of the High Commissioner for the Federation of Malaya which stated:

The Colombo Plan attained its tenth year of international co-operation on July 1, 1961. It marked an important milestone in one of the most significant exercises in international co-operation existing between nations of the world. It is a partnership designed to wipe out poverty and to bring about prosperity in South and South-East Asia. The countries taking part in the Colombo Plan are from South and South-Eastern Asia, Australia and New Zealand, Europe and North America. From the beginning the Federation of Malaya has strongly supported the Colombo Plan and is proud of its association with other countries in this friendly and helpful partnership. It has the highest regard both for the ideals and achievements of this plan. The Federation of Malaya has benefited greatly from the operation of the Colombo Plan. Under the plan 140 experts have come to Malaya to assist local personnel in various fields: 850 Malayan men and women have been given facilities to study in Colombo Plan countries. The Federation has also received important equipment for fishing co-operatives as well as technical aid for the University of Malaya.

The Prime Minister of the Federation, Tunku Abdul Rahman, said:

I hope that the member countries of the Colombo Plan, thinking as one, will always work to give a lead in all international forms to get practical solutions to economic problems in this area.

If we can build up the economies of the Asiatic countries, we will have a limitless market. In the seven months from December 1, 1960, to June 29, 1961, Australia exported 262,362 tons of flour, of which 65,750 tons went to Indonesia and 84,719 tons to Malaya.

Mr. Ryan: How about Red China?

Mr. LAUCKE: I have not those figures. Red China has been a helpful customer for flour, but more particularly for wheat.

Mr. Ryan: Do you believe in trading with Red China?

Mr. LAUCKE: Undoubtedly.

Mr. Ralston: As a matter of commerce or policy?

Mr. LAUCKE: You cannot consider the internal political affairs of a country. If it wants to buy goods, there should be no investigation of its political ideals. I believe in trade. Trade well and easily made is one of the finest assurances against war. During those seven months we exported 36,000

tons of flour to the United Kingdom. That market has been decreasing drastically in recent years. From South Australia we exported 35,466 tons of flour, of which 23,500 tons went to Indonesia and Malaya. Members can see how important this market is. If Ceylon can become the biggest user of Australian flour, then, given the economic background, those countries to our north can ensure a buoyant primary industry for Australia for many years ahead. There will be an ever-growing market available to us. I pay a tribute to the Department of Trade officers in Canberra, who work in close co-operation with millers on the Australian Flour Export Promotion Committee to facilitate sales to these Asiatic countries. The trade ship *Straat Banka* had an excellent booth about the flour industry and its tour has led to many inquiries. Once a taste is established for a certain food, the demand for it grows. When a flour mill was recently erected in Hong Kong the milling trade thought that this would be a serious blow to Australian exports but what did we find? Exports of flour increased and bran and pollard, 40 per cent of which is at present exported, has been requested for Hong Kong. This has boosted the production of the local mill. When demand is generated it continues to grow through usage and that is important when we examine prospects for the future trade of our mill. Create a demand—create a taste! Rather than having a recession in trade through any activity of local industry in those areas it seems that there is such a huge population to satisfy that in actual fact overall trade increases both for the exporter and the local manufacturer.

Mr. Loveday: Does demand increase when wages are reduced?

Mr. LAUCKE: If wages are reduced, demand is naturally reduced. That is why I believe in the highest wage industry or the economy can pay. I do not want low wages because that is not a good thing. The more money we have in circulation the better it is, but costs must be examined too. It is not the number of pounds, shillings and pence that counts, but it is what it will buy. That is the important thing.

Keeness in overseas markets calls for the greatest possible degree of efficiency in production and handling and I pay a tribute to the excellent activities of the Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited in South Australia. The handling of wheat, barley and oats in

bulk reduces costs and that is reflected back to the growers in the final realization to them. The Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited has, in my opinion, done a first-class job in reducing costs through its system of bulk handling in this State.

I compliment the Treasurer on the proposed £500,000 repayment guarantee to Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited as part of the £1,000,000 to be advanced to this authority by the Commonwealth Trading Bank. I have a few figures on wheat handled in bulk over the last season. The last crop was the largest since 1931. Receipts by the Australian Wheat Board (Pool No. 24) last year totalled 46,300,000 bushels. This was 65 per cent higher than the State average of 26,000,000 bushels over the last 10 years and that harvest naturally placed a severe strain on the silo system.

Mr. Hughes: We can handle it at Wallaroo.

Mr. LAUCKE: And very well, too! The system had an aggregate capacity of 16,000,000 bushels. It redounds considerably to the credit of bulk handling, with rapid rail and ship handling, that it took delivery of 23.4 million bushels. This was about half as much again as the silo capacity and reflects a remarkable achievement. Bulk was received at 41 centres last season. In addition 3,000,000 bushels of barley were converted from bag to bulk on Eyre Peninsula and at Ardrossan and handled into holds and, in addition, shipments of bulk barley were made *ex* Port Lincoln and a further 6,000,000 bushels of bagged wheat was converted to bulk over installations. I understand that negotiations are proceeding for three more cargoes of oats to be sent in bulk over the installations of Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited.

For the whole year 90 vessels were loaded from terminals covering 600,000 tons of grain. The savings to growers in this type of handling cannot be over-estimated. There is a saving right from the harvester to ship's side. On the other side of the world where people receive bulk wheat they receive it as they wish to and there will always be bags for certain areas to cater for the demand in bags. I am pleased to see that a 12-cell installation of 1,000,000 bushels has been recommended for Port Pirie. This will be a boon to growers in the Pirie division and further afield. The handling rate there will be 400 tons an hour which is excellent by any standard throughout the world. I understand construction will commence in September and the installation is scheduled to be completed in 13 months. In

addition to the Port Pirie silos the capacity of the terminals at Wallaroo, Ardrossan, and Port Lincoln are to be increased (and probably a further 15 country cells) which adds up to a completely successful story and acceptance of the bulk system is evident from the number of farmers participating as members. They represent about 95 per cent of all wheat farmers in South Australia and they have thus far subscribed £1,940,000 in tolls. In the last pool (No. 24) alone they paid £712,000. That is a jolly fine investment for ease in the handling of wheat and at a much cheaper rate than was generally possible hitherto in bags.

At 12 country centres wheat was received under premium for flour millers. A total of 1,889,000 bushels was received for which a premium was paid by millers and Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited facilities were available at the various points in the system to enable this wheat to be segregated for the farmer to receive a premium on it.

There are a few further items on which I wish to remark, one being that of the beautification of our main roads and highways, particularly the **highway running through Elizabeth**. That highway has a median strip right from Pooraka to Elizabeth and a little beyond which lends itself admirably for tree and shrub planting. I commend the Salisbury District Council, Advertiser Newspapers Limited, and the Highways Department for putting into effect a fine scheme for the beautification of this highway by planting trees and shrubs right along the road. I hope that other local organizations will follow the example being set so well on that road at present. The Salisbury district council is doing a fine job—I note as I pass along that road—in caring for these young trees and shrubs. It is no good having a beautification scheme and then, having planted a tree and said a little blessing over it, to forget about it. That is not being done in this case, for the trees are well planted with mounds around their bases to enable watering to be done; they are staked and they are carefully tended. I can visualize in a few years time a big improvement in the aesthetic beauty and value of that highway because of this scheme.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Government for last year purchasing an area of natural bush land near Humbug Scrub for the purpose of providing a national reserve. I have had thus far no opportunity publicly to thank the Government for acceding to a request to buy this land.

Since the original acquisition of 1,142 acres, another 400 acres has recently been purchased, which means that more than 1,500 acres of land will be devoted to recreational purposes ultimately, and this will be a boon to Tea Tree Gully, Modbury, Elizabeth, and Gawler. It is indeed a far-sighted policy that has led the Government to buy this land. I commend the Government for that, and I am indeed pleased to note that which is being done generally to ensure adequate playing areas and open spaces.

Mr. Speaker, this Speech reflects creditably on the activities of the Government since last session. There is indicated in it the same firm and good approach to future activity. I commend the Government on its submission, and I have much pleasure in supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. CASEY (Frome): In rising to address the House I join with other members in welcoming His Excellency (Sir Edric Bastyan) into our midst. In the short time His Excellency has been with us he has won the confidence and admiration of everyone with whom he has come in contact. I take this opportunity of wishing Sir Edric and Lady Bastyan a happy stay in South Australia. I also join with previous speakers in paying my respects to the wife and family of the late Mr. Frank Condon. This is my maiden speech in the House and I am conscious of the fact that my predecessor (Mr. O'Halloran) achieved a high standard of representation in Frome. He held the seat from its creation until his untimely death last year. He gave unexampled service to this House, to this State, to his district, and to the Labor movement. I am not unmindful of human frailties, but I assure you, Sir, that my constant attention will be given to my duties both in the interests of the people of Frome and the Labor movement.

The by-election campaign in my electorate was, by South Australian standards, a lively one. As the electors of Frome were asked to decide on their future representative on a number of issues of policy, it occurs to me to take this opportunity—the first available to me in this House—to deal briefly with some of them. The Premier made statements in my district that call for examination. When in Peterborough he said that he believed the Commonwealth would reach a decision within a few weeks to have the work on standardization of the gauge from Broken Hill to Port Pirie

started as soon as possible, that the workshops at Peterborough would be involved in building part of £6,000,000-worth of diesel rolling stock, and that the town would progress as never before. I should like to point out that several weeks ago one of the largest drapery and furniture stores—Ryans, which I believe is part of David Murray—closed down. It means that today there are four empty shop frontages in the main street of Peterborough.

The *News* carried headlines on the Premier's statement, in big black letters:

750 men to work for eight years on South Australian rail link. £21,000,000 Broken Hill-Pirie job.

Members will find that in the *News* of November 3, 1960. The report stated:

The Premier said he expected to hear within two or three weeks from the Federal Government on plans now being considered by Federal Cabinet for the rail standardization project. The Premier said that immediately the plan was approved the State Government hoped to call tenders for the rollingstock replacement of locomotives, freight trucks and passenger carriages to equal capacity of those at present in service on the Peterborough division. He said an early start on rollingstock replacement would enable this equipment to be put in service before the completion of the rail laying, with a saving of £10,000 a week to the South Australian Railways. At present the South Australian Railways in this division was using steam locomotives, the economics of which did not match the change to diesel operation in other South Australian Railway Divisions. Specifications were already drawn up by the South Australian Railways for these rollingstock requirements.

There was proved to be no foundation for the Premier's flamboyant forecasts. In fact, it was later revealed that the Premier was at one stage subsequently willing to bargain a postponement of railway standardization in return for Commonwealth support for one of his Murray dam proposals. The *Advertiser* of Friday, December 2, 1960, reported:—

As a result of the Cabinet's discussions and future talks between the Prime Minister and Sir Thomas Playford would emerge the priorities for South Australian works, for which the State is now seeking special aid, will be in this order: firstly, purchase of diesel locomotives for use on the Port Pirie-Broken Hill line; second priority, building the River Murray dam to guarantee the water supply of Adelaide and other South Australian areas served by the Murray; third priority, standardizing the Port Pirie-Broken Hill line and a connecting link with Adelaide.

I do not know where the diesel rolling stock is number one priority in South Australia today for the Broken Hill line, because the last contract let by the State Government for the

purchases of diesel engines is going on to broad gauge. Today we see that the Rail Standardization Agreement is not being proceeded with by the Government in Canberra, although the Premier has so consistently urged a return to that agreement. Not even one of the 750 men the Premier mentioned is working in Peterborough. Indeed, the Premier at the very time the election was pending had moved before the Arbitration Commission to reduce progressively the wages of workmen in South Australia and at the outset the Crown counsel supported the employers' application to reduce the country workers' wage rates from 3s. below city rates to 12s. below city rates.

The Premier also threatened to act to prevent the diversion of zinc concentrates from Broken Hill to Cockle Creek in New South Wales, but that diversion is going on. I was in Broken Hill not long ago and spoke with the manager of the Silverton Tramways. It is clear that it is going to go on even further carrying greater loads between Broken Hill and Cockle Creek. As the mining of ore has not increased in Broken Hill, the tonnage transported on the Broken Hill to Peterborough rail link has fallen, and will continue to fall, appreciably. If the Premier has taken action, he is very reticent about it. Usually, he is only too willing to take the public into his confidence and tell them not only what he knows for fact but that his wildest dreams are already realities.

At Quorn the Premier spoke of two enormous enterprises that were contemplating coming to Adelaide and were in direct negotiations with him. Apparently, the negotiations were so secret that the electors could not be told what they were, but that was eight months ago and we still have not been told. The electors, and particularly the people of Quorn, are certainly curious (they have reason to be) on this matter. At that very time the Employers' Federation was in the course of proving before the Arbitration Commission that this State's rate of industrial growth in the last decade had been consistently the worst in the Commonwealth. At Hawker the Premier said he was confident that the Commonwealth would honour its obligation to complete the north-south line within a reasonable time, and he understood that unofficial work on the line was being done between Marree and Alice Springs. I can assure honourable members that his understanding was absolutely wrong, because it is not being done and there is no sign that the Commonwealth will honour its contract on the north-south line.

The Premier has used the threat of legal action in the matter so often to prise unrelated concessions out of the Commonwealth that his public confidence must have been unrepresentative of his private thoughts on the matter. The Premier also said at Hawker (and it is to be noted that he said it in Hawker and not in Quorn) that Quorn, which was in difficulties when the rail was diverted, was now full of optimism in its new role of a tourist town. But Quorn is not full of optimism: the community leaders of that great old town eye the future with much uneasiness. Quorn has sought every assistance in trying to find suitable local small industries and it has so far not succeeded. The Liberal members who attended a recent meeting on Quorn's future failed to make one concrete suggestion. I know because I was there.

At Leigh Creek the Premier maintained that the present electoral system gave justice to the sparsely populated areas. It does not. It does a disservice to the people of this State to suggest that the interests of people in sparsely populated areas are opposed to the interests of the rest of this State. It is in the interests of the people of this State that the development of South Australia be taken as a whole, and it is to be noted that Australian Labor Party representation in this House represents not only the overwhelming majority of electors of South Australia but also well over half of this State in area, including the great majority of the sparsely settled areas.

Let me turn now to matters of vital importance to my constituents, since it is evident that they came to the same conclusion as I on the Premier's election campaign. In Quorn, Hawker and the surrounding areas of the northern plains, the vital need, as is the need in the whole of Australia, is water. If there were an adequate water supply, nothing could hinder large-scale development in this area. The area bordered by Bruce, Hammond and Melrose needs further investigation by the Government. This area has a sub-artesian basin but indiscriminate boring over the years has proved detrimental to the supply of water from these bores. The water has a low salt content and is excellent for the irrigation of lucerne which at the moment is grown on a small scale. We have only to consider that in some areas of irrigated pasture in Australia, particularly in New South Wales, which I saw only last year, 35 to 40 sheep an acre were being carried.

Proposals have been made from time to time to build a large-scale dam in the Flinders. The Aroona Dam, a small project, has provided

Leigh Creek with a valuable water supply, but a large-scale project could transform the Flinders area. Anyone who has seen the creeks in flood in this area must realize the vital need for water conservation. In my opinion, enough water flows to waste there to satisfy many requirements we are asking for today.

I ask the Government to consider immediately harnessing an area in the Flinders. The same area needs sealed roads. The Flinders Ranges can become South Australia's major scenic tourist attraction. I have absolutely no doubts about that whatsoever. They are unique in formation and unmatched in beauty but, if we are to attract tourists there, we must have adequate first-class roads and first-class accommodation for all classes of tourists. We lose tourists in that area because of the state of the roads. Last week I spoke to dozens of tourists at Hawker. They believe that if better roads were provided in the Flinders Ranges, an unlimited number of tourists would visit there.

During the election campaign the Premier told the people of Quorn that they must help themselves in this matter. The people do help themselves, but this is not merely a local issue. Tourism can become a major industry and the tourist trade can be of inestimable value to the State and through the increased spending which must result. A typical example is the small town of Hawker which has a flourishing though small passing trade. Nevertheless, that trade will boom. It is a matter of urgency that adequate sealed roads be provided in the Flinders Ranges. If the Treasurer claims that money is not readily available he should press for an alteration of the formula under the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act. It is absurd that Western Australia should have so much money available for roads that it is improving existing first class roads whilst South Australia has not the money for such urgent projects as I have mentioned.

Another matter requiring the immediate attention of the present Government concerns the Cockburn power supply which is controlled by the South Australian Railways. Cockburn is subject to extreme heat in the summer and low temperatures in the winter. It is situated on the Peterborough to Broken Hill railway line and is on the border of South Australia and New South Wales. At present the power supply to that town is cut off at 9 a.m. every day except Monday, when it is left on until 10 a.m. to assist the housewives with their washing. It is not restored until 4 p.m. in the winter and 5 p.m. in the summer except on

Mondays when it comes on at 1.30 p.m. to help the housewives complete their ironing. Cockburn and Burns, a small town adjoining Cockburn but over the border, have a population of about 250, including between 40 and 50 school children. The centre is a vital link in the railway system, but it is denied this fundamental amenity that is available to almost every other town in South Australia.

Like myself, the late Mr. O'Halloran was a man from the land. He knew and loved the land. Nothing caused him greater concern during his term in this House, nor gives me greater concern, than the reaggregation of land into larger holdings, thus denuding country areas of their farming population and decreasing family holdings. Family life in rural holdings is the best basis for a stable, moral and democratic community. However, there has been a steady drift from the land, especially in the northern areas where small men are gradually being squeezed out by big men. In the district and town of Carrieton the population in the past 35 years has declined from 1,200 to 400. Since 1946-47 there has been a decrease in the occupiers of rural holdings of 3,520 males and 1,099 females. The number of males on rural holdings, including non-paid relatives and employees, has decreased from 38,128 to 34,968, and females from 4,974 to 3,625. Today there are 1,249 holdings fewer than in 1953-54, although the acreage has increased by 1,730,371 acres. Closer settlement has been taking place in the south, so how much more have northern holdings increased in size?

A scheme on our Statute Book for many years provides for the purchase of land for graduates of the Roseworthy College. It was designed so that young men who qualified with diplomas of agriculture could be provided by the State with the wherewithal to go on the land. However, nothing has been spent on that scheme for years and under present conditions it is virtually impossible for a young man to set himself up on the land.

Yesterday I listened with interest to the question put by the member for Gouger (Mr. Hall) to the Minister of Education. Whilst he appreciated that youth today is faced with the dangers of Communism and suggested that the school curriculum should have some well defined teaching on those dangers, he did not mention the part independent schools are playing in Christian education. I believe that Christian education for our youth is the greatest bulwark to Communism the free world has. Civilization has to choose between belief

in God and atheism. Which is it to be? The Education Act of 1872 made education compulsory for all, but free only for those who accepted the State's secular system. Judge Higinbotham, who is renowned for his wisdom and foresight, said this about the Act:

It is wholly beyond the power of the State to educate the children in the proper sense of the word "education". I believe the most the State can do and therefore all the State ought to attempt to do is to instruct the children.

We have only to read overseas reports on education to find that in places like Canada the Royal Commission on Education in 1959 found that the predominant view in the United Kingdom in political, ecclesiastical and educational circles is that denominational schools are desirable and even essential to the best in education. Any help the Governments of today can give to independent schools will bear fruit in the years to come and I strongly advocate that a share of tax revenue be allocated to the education of children in independent schools.

In Scotland, for example, the full cost of education in independent schools has been paid by the Government for 43 years. Scotland is not bankrupt but, as we are all aware, the Scots are not noted for financial folly. In Ireland, which is a very poor country by our standards, the Government provides an educational system even more generous than that of Scotland. A return to the British way of life in education is long overdue in this country. I support the adoption of the Address in Reply as amended.

Mrs. STEELE (Burnside): I rise with pleasure to support the Address in Reply as originally moved and seconded so capably by the honourable members for Torrens and Chaffey. I think that when His Excellency the Governor opened Parliament earlier this year he confirmed in all of us the opinion which we had formed when he first arrived in this State. The way he presented his Address made us feel that he was a worthy successor to those representatives of Her Majesty the Queen who had set such a high standard before him in South Australia. I think that from the moment he stepped off the ship at Outer Harbour he and Lady Bastyan endeared themselves to the people of South Australia, and I know from a conversation I had with him how keen he and Lady Bastyan were to visit outlying parts of the State. I can imagine the pleasure that this week's visit to Port Augusta has given to them both.

Like members who have preceded me in speaking on this debate, I wish to pay my

personal tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Frank Condon who was Leader of the Opposition in another place. He, on my entrance into this House, extended to me the hand of friendship and kindness and was most anxious to proffer any help he could to me, and I might say the same of the late Leader of the Opposition in this House (Mr. O'Halloran). I take this opportunity to pay my personal tribute to them and to express my sympathy to their families.

I wish also to pay a tribute here to a woman who recently died in South Australia. I refer to Miss Dorothy Marshall who was the organizer for some years of the Women's Agricultural Bureau. South Australia has lost a fine woman in Miss Marshall who endeared herself not only to the country women of this State, with whom she so frequently and intimately came into contact, but also to women throughout the metropolitan area who learned to know her worth. She will be sadly missed and it will be hard for her successor to live up to the high standard she set in this extension work of the Agricultural Bureau. Now, may I add my congratulations in this place to the honourable member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Shannon). I congratulate him on the high honour which Her Majesty the Queen conferred on him earlier this year.

Recently I had the pleasure of an interesting and informative trip to the territories of Papua and New Guinea, and on my way there I travelled through the three eastern States. I felt much pride, not only as a member of this Parliament of South Australia, but as a member of the Liberal and Country League, at the favourable comments I heard everywhere expressed on the reputation that South Australia enjoys all over the Commonwealth and on the high estimation in which the Premier of South Australia is held. There is no doubt that people look with a rather envious eye towards South Australia and the tremendous economic and industrial advances it has made over the years during which it has been governed by a Liberal Government with Sir Thomas Playford as its leader.

I was interested, while travelling through the Australian States and availing myself of the opportunity of visiting the State Parliament Houses, to be told, not once but many times, that it was entirely due to the astuteness of the arguments put forward by our Premier at the recent Premiers' Conference and Loan Council meetings that an extra £5,000,000 was forthcoming to the States.

Although I realize that the responsibility of administering the territories of Papua and New Guinea is that of the Australian Government under a mandate from the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations, I believe that we as Australians have a vital and responsible interest in this great land mass that lies to the north of Australia. In this shrinking world with the great powers struggling to assert themselves and with the communistic powers in particular striving for footholds nearer and nearer Australia (indeed, anywhere they can get them in the Pacific areas), I believe that we should know far more about these places than we do. The Australian public generally is singularly uninformed about New Guinea, its potentialities, and its political character. I could not help realizing, when I was contemplating making this trip and sought an atlas to find out exactly where I was going, how very much closer Australia is to New Guinea than we fondly imagine.

When I left Sydney and travelled north by train towards Townsville and Cairns, I realized that the distance from the mainland to Port Moresby represented only two hours' flying time. I realized then, and even more when I arrived in the territory, how vulnerable Australia would be if New Guinea were occupied by a power not friendly to Australia. The whole point is that we are now being pressed in the United Nations to give to the natives of New Guinea their independence within 10 years or a little more. Had we, for instance, been able to do in the period between the two World Wars what we have been able to do in the period since the last world war, I think perhaps the natives of New Guinea would be nearer independence than they are today. But, when we realize that Indonesia is striving to get a foothold in Dutch New Guinea at the urging and insistence of the Communist powers and how close it is to Australia, then I feel it imperative that we be much better informed and take a much greater interest in that country.

The fact of the matter is that at present there is a great feeling of insecurity about both the economic and political future of the Territories, and the staple products of New Guinea, which are copra, coffee and cocoa, are at an all-time low. We here in Australia should be trying to do our best to help the economy of this country.

In his speech the honourable member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) mentioned water supply as one of his main topics. Also, the member for Chaffey (Mr. King) dwelt at length on this

problem. I am reminded, as the member for Burnside, of a quotation from Browning, in which he said:

I have shed sweat enough, left flesh and bone
On many a flinty furlong of this land.

During the last summer I had a rather acute problem in trying to ease the problems that the people in the upper foothills were facing in regard to water supply. It is interesting generally to note that, whilst I was in Queensland and New South Wales, people asked me how it was that South Australia, which was considered to be one of the most waterless States of the Commonwealth, was yet the only State during recent summers that had not had to impose water restrictions. When I was in Brisbane I was taken out to visit the University of Queensland—which, by the way, is a most magnificent group of buildings, ever being increased—and I found that the great court there had to be watered by hand because in July water restrictions have for many years been in force. At the same time we know that both Sydney and Brisbane have not had the advantages of sewerage services on anything like a comparable scale with those provided in the metropolitan area of South Australia.

Turning to my own electorate, Burnside, one of the difficulties that aggravated the paucity of water supply in the upper foothills area in the last summer was, of course, the fact that despite many warnings people had gone beyond what was considered a safe limit to supply water and sewerage facilities to new residents and, whereas a few years ago before the great increase in buildings in those areas the limited number of householders had enjoyed a satisfactory supply and pressure, now of course increased demand for existing consumers and the people who have come there in the last few years to live has had the effect of dispersing the supply, consequently reducing the pressure.

This area around the foothills from Campbelltown to Mitcham was originally supplied by the Millbrook trunk main. In the early days this trunk main, which has a capacity of about 8,000,000gall. a day, was quite capable of maintaining supplies and pressures to the area concerned. However, as development took place, the trunk main became overloaded, and a storage reservoir was constructed at Wattle Park with a capacity of about 17,000,000gall. Other service storages were later constructed in the form of tanks to give additional help. Those are located at Campbelltown, Woodford, Burnside, Woodley, Springfield and Mitcham. Further housing development took place and, as the existing consumers used more and more

water, the demand exceeded the capacity of this trunk main and the service storages. So pumping plants were then successively established at South Park, Torrens Park, Mitcham, Springfield and Thorndon Park reservoir. All these pumping plants pumped water from either the Happy Valley or Hope Valley reservoirs to the high level areas, and their total capacities became nearly three times that of the Millbrook trunk main itself. Last summer all these pumping stations, with the exception of Mitcham and Springfield, operated for 24 hours a day, and the Millbrook trunk main itself was discharging continuously at its utmost capacity. The demand through the continued heat waves of last summer exceeded the capacity of the Millbrook trunk main and the reserve storage tanks at Wattle Park, Campbelltown, Woodford, Burnside, Woodley, Springfield and Mitcham were drawn upon. The result was that, with the high level of consumption, some of the consumers on the very high levels had depleted supplies and were at times without water during the hot periods of the day and the evening because everyone wanted water at the same time.

In an endeavour to meet the problem faced by those people on the higher levels, the Engineering and Water Supply Department last year laid a 12-inch main from Springfield tanks northward to take over some of the areas supplied from the Wattle Park and Woodley tanks. This helped considerably to maintain supplies. Now, in another move to help people in these high level areas, a 24-inch diameter main is being laid from the Springfield to the Clapham tanks, where a large pumping station is also under construction. This project, when completed, will pump water from the low level Happy Valley system to Springfield so that more water can be given to the high level areas.

There are, of course, some small areas that cannot be helped from the existing or older storages and, to help these out, tanks have been provided at Stonyfell, where the supply is pumped from the Millbrook trunk main to a small storage tank. It is much the same at Beaumont where it comes from the Woodley service tank to the Sunnyside tank, and the last one is at Burnalta along the bottom portion of the upper Greenhill Road, where the supply is pumped from Burnside to a small storage tank. The whole position is that this supply is satisfactory only if the land is not more than 650ft. above sea level. Two higher level isolated tanks are depending for their supply on the Burnside and Woodley tanks and,

when either of those empties, people in the higher levels cannot get water. Other moves of the Engineering and Water Supply Department are to replace old mains in many of the areas of the eastern suburbs. It has recemented *in situ* the main along Victoria Avenue to serve Dulwich, Rose Park and Kent Town. Some mains in the lower foothills areas are being pressure-metered with the object of ascertaining where economies can be made and older mains replaced with larger ones so that they can improve the pressure in those areas.

I have mentioned that at some length so as to give some explanation of the difficulties faced by people in these higher level areas of Burnside, and to inform the House of the part that the Engineering and Water Supply Department has played in trying to meet the emergency, and what plans it has for the future.

The member for Chaffey (Mr. King) briefly referred to what was being done for mentally retarded children in his area. The department is to be commended for its decision to establish an occupation centre at Berri. I congratulate the Minister and his department for the successful Education Week held during the last week of April and the beginning of May. No previous Education Week was as successful. Throughout my electorate there was a vastly improved understanding by the general public of what was being done in schools and educational establishments. Parents' interest was particularly marked. I made a point of going to every school in my district, with one exception, during that week and was surprised at the interest being taken by parents and was impressed by the displays of work being exhibited in all the schools.

To elaborate on what Mr. King said about the occupation centre at Berri, I think that perhaps we do not understand how fully the Education Department is playing its part in this specialized field. We often hear of subsidies being given by the Government to all manner of voluntary organizations that are providing specialized education for the children in their care, but sometimes we forget that the Education Department, in its own right, has pioneered many of these special branches that are being provided for handicapped children. For instance, there are 32 opportunity classes in South Australia—23 in the metropolitan area, five in the country, and four in the Northern Territory for which we assume responsibility. In those classes 760 children are being educated under the care of 31 trained opportunity class teachers who, incidentally, receive a loading of

\$40 on their salary for undertaking this special work. These classes are available to children who need help for a variety of reasons: because of illness, because they are not physically strong, and because they have minor defects of hearing, sight or are afflicted with cerebral palsy, because they have difficulty in coping with pressures in a big group or are mentally disturbed and come from broken homes. The average intelligence quotient of these children is between 70 and 90, and their ages range from eight to 12 years. Usually they come on from infant schools. If it is found that they are unable to cope, they are transferred to opportunity classes where many of them pick up the lag and return to their normal grades. Those who do not, go to special classes for senior girls and boys. There are 11 of these in the metropolitan area, six for boys and five for girls.

Consideration is being given to having special classes to take care of these children after they have passed through these senior classes. In addition to these classes there are remedial classes—seven in the metropolitan area and two in the country. These are for children who have average ability or better but who need help in the basic skills of reading, writing, arithmetic and spelling. The children spend only part of the day in these remedial classes, but through these classes a valuable contribution has been made to these children's educational development. In addition there are two remedial teachers in the Psychology Branch of the Education Department, and children from schools in the metropolitan area go into the department once a week to receive special assistance. If they need further investigation they are often referred to specialists in the department.

Another branch in which the Education Department has been the pioneer is in the field of occupation centres. There are two of these at present in the metropolitan area—one at Woodville and one at Kent Town—each with 55 pupils and six teachers. These children are unsuited for either normal or opportunity classes. They are never likely to become normal citizens and will need some help or supervision all their lives. At these centres they are trained to live better and are helped to adjust themselves in a group. They are taught how to look after themselves. Here social attitudes are cultivated and the children are taught the simple skills of reading and writing. They are given physical training and are taught some craft work that will lead them to manual skills which can be used later in

sheltered workshops. These children are now permitted to stay in these centres after 16 years of age: in fact, they are often permitted to remain until 20.

Within the last year the Mentally Retarded Children's Society of South Australia has opened up a big industrial centre to which the children can go when they leave the occupation centres and where they are trained in simple jobs that help them to complete contracts won from city businesses and organizations. This is a going concern and it is most heartening to see the pleasure the children derive from being employed and from picking up their small wage at the end of the week, which is paid from the profit of this undertaking. All the children are, of course, in receipt of invalid pensions. This move has met with much success and has led to the establishment of this type of sheltered workshop. I understand that approval has been given to the Education Department for the purchase of land and the erection of a building to provide sheltered workshop accommodation for this particular age group, but meanwhile the society is continuing this industrial centre. Unfortunately, there is a big waiting list for entry to occupation centres and approval has been given to establish two more centres; one in the northern districts and one in the south-western districts. Eventually one will be established at Elizabeth in addition to the one which is about to be opened at Berri to serve the Upper Murray districts.

The Education Department pioneered the idea of speech and hearing centres within or attached to normal primary schools in the metropolitan area. We have two of these, one at North Adelaide and one at Woodville. We also have special classes at the Croydon boys and Croydon girls technical high schools. The children pass on to these schools from the speech and hearing centres and are able, if they have the ability, to proceed to Intermediate or Leaving standard. In any event, the girls are trained for commercial work and the boys for apprenticeships. Many of these children have been placed in industry and are more than holding their own with normal children. In addition, the Education Department provides a teacher at the hospital school at Estcourt House and that caters for convalescent and orthopaedic cases. That school has 50 children and three teachers. They are the fields in which the Education Department controls the schools, but there are many institutions where subsidies are provided for voluntary organizations that undertake the respon-

sibilities of providing the type of education required for children within their care.

One field in which it is hoped that something will be done soon is that of the dually handicapped children: those who suffer perhaps from a combination of blindness and deafness or are cerebrally palsied or have a multiplicity of handicaps. At present no school and no trained staff are provided to give the training these children need.

The other point I wish to mention that was dealt with by the Governor in his Speech is that this session a Bill is to be introduced to deal with Public Service superannuation. As honourable members well know, ever since I have been in this House, I have been supporting an investigation of the Superannuation Act with a view to improving the benefits to be derived by public servants. It was, therefore, heartening to read that, following the promise made during the last session of this Parliament, the matter was to be investigated this session and that it was one of the items listed in the Speech.

Finally, I was interested, when in New South Wales at the week-end on my way home, to read an article entitled "Car crash damages anomaly—wife cannot claim." On reading it through I realized that there was agitation in New South Wales for an amendment to that State's Third Party Act which covers exactly the same type of situation that is covered in our Motor Vehicles Act and which was a result of an amendment introduced during the first session of this Parliament. That amendment made it possible for a spouse to sue her husband through an insurance company for any damage caused where they were involved together in a crash. I was pleased to know that South Australia had this provision in its relevant Act and that we led the way and had done this before New South Wales got around to it. I was amused to read in an article which was attributed to the general secretary of the N.R.M.A. (Mr. Richards) that he should say, "The moral seemed to be that you always had to take out someone else's wife."

The Speech made by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Edric Bastyan) when he opened this third session of the 36th Parliament indicates the sound position of the State and, as I said when I first rose, South Australia is the envy of the other States and of people in other parts of the Commonwealth. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply as originally moved.

Mr. BYWATERS (Murray): I support the adoption of the Address in Reply as amended by the Leader of the Opposition. I congratulate our Leader on the excellent way he presented his case on this, the first time he has spoken on the Address in Reply as the Leader of our Party. I believe that I am echoing the sentiments of everyone in the House when I say that I feel it was the finest address he has given in this House, at least in my time. He handled his position bearing the extra burden of the responsibility of his office in a capable manner of which we on this side of the House may be proud.

His moving an amendment to the adoption of the Address in Reply is justified. We drew the attention of this House to this matter last year. It was necessary to do so because it was through the efforts of the Labor Party and the trades union movement that the workers, particularly in the country area in which I am most interested, were not deprived of money they were receiving. Indeed, they received more than they would have had prior to that debate.

It was the intention of the Employers Federation in co-operation with the Government to have the basic wage differential fixed at 12s. in country areas and this would have reflected great hardship on the people I and other country members represent. It was most significant that the only member on the other side of the House to debate the matter was the Premier, and he was hard put to justify the action of the Government.

I was interested this afternoon to hear the comments of the member for Barossa, whom I always respect in this House for his sincerity. He has always been an able debater, but his attitude this afternoon on our amendment was hard to understand. He claimed that this amendment was one that was put up by way of election propaganda and that the move we made last year was, in effect, propaganda for the by-election of Frome. If he says that, he could also refer to the Governor's Speech as being election propaganda for the Government and also to the fact that the statements made by the Premier prior to the Frome by-election were propaganda for that election.

Mr. Lawn: And every Friday night.

Mr. BYWATERS: It happens so frequently over the radio and in the press that I do not think that is a valid reason for the member for Barossa being nauseated unless he shares our sentiments on occasions when we are in a similar position. This afternoon we were treated to a fine maiden speech by the member for Frome and he is going to be a great asset

to this House. He talks with a clear diction and could be heard by all and, in addition, he possesses a pleasant voice to listen to. He possesses a definite advantage in that direction. The material he used was sound and I am sure his representation since coming into this House and the diligent way in which he has applied himself to his electoral duties will assure him a long term in this place.

We were all saddened to learn of the death of the late Hon. Frank Condon, who was Leader in another place. Many sentiments have been expressed, and I can only add my little piece to what has already been said of his sterling qualities. The fine tributes paid by members opposite were appreciated on this side of the House. We will all feel the loss of his guidance and leadership very much indeed.

We are all aware that His Excellency's Speech is merely a statement of Government policy, but this is the first time Sir Edric Bastyan has delivered an opening Speech. May I say that it was a pleasure to listen to him because he, too, has a pleasant way of speaking. He has commenced his term in South Australia in a way that will endear him to the people of this State.

The member for Barossa (Mr. Laucke) said it was pleasant that this year the Government had shown a surplus, and that it was through good Government that this had come about; but that is a matter of opinion. It does not strike me that saving money by not spending it is good Government. We could all become very rich indeed if we did not spend our money, and that is what has happened. The *News* yesterday and the *Advertiser* this morning dealt with that matter. The *News* report states:

When the 1960-1 Budget was prepared, Treasury officials expected to receive about £2.5 million from harbours undertakings during the year. But final harbours receipts totalled £2.7 million. June receipts totalled £260,000.

It goes on to say:

Underspending on previous Budget estimates occurred in several fields of social services. These were: Education, Science, Art and Research—payments by Government totalled £15,617,000, which was £198,000 below the total budgeted for.

Surely we all know that there is a need for expenditure on education, for we are all calling out for more things from the Education Department, and to save money in this way does not reflect great credit on the Government. I think we should have spent more on

education rather than less. The *News* report continues:

Law, order and public safety—payments totalled £3,641,000, or £29,000 below the estimate. Medical, health and recreation payments totalled £8,728,000, or £253,000 down on the estimate.

These savings in expenditure are not a good thing, for it means that a saving is effected only because the work has not been done, and I do not think that is a very good way to balance a Budget. The need is for more expenditure, and because of the crying need for development the Government should make sure that it balances its Budget not by failing to spend amounts which it has allocated for certain purposes. On occasions, some works are not ready to be done, and that money could quite easily be expended on other things which we know are urgent and which have been asked for by the various departments and by the people of various districts. I maintain that the member for Barossa did not have a very good case to hang on to in that regard.

The member for Barossa also stated that the European Common Market would make a difference to our primary producers, and I think we all agree with that. He went on to say that there was a growing market in South-Eastern Asia. I think we are all fairly conscious of that, for it has been mentioned in this House by various members on many occasions. When the Premier was asked on Tuesday whether he would consider sending a trade ship to South-Eastern Asia he said:—

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 being the case, I think it is time we had a world market to provide for these people overseas a share of the world's wealth. It has been stated that there is a fear of Communism, and I venture to say—and I believe most thinking people would agree with me—that the cause of Communism has been greatly advanced because of people being under-privileged and under-nourished. I think it is time we seriously looked to the provision of food for the various Asian people, not at the cost as we know it today but as a world venture, who are not as privileged as we are. We know that the practice of dumping produce in various countries from time to time has been criticized. I feel that their inability

to pay the prices we have been used to is no excuse for our failing to feed them.

I appreciated the member for Barossa's remarks when he said he favoured trade with Red China. He pointed out that he did not consider that politics was a valid reason for withholding trade; there was a need, the market was there, and he naturally supported it. It is interesting to note that a few years ago when this comment was passed and was made Labor policy at the Hobart conference, the Opposition came in for much criticism from members of the Government and people associated with them, such as members of the Democratic Labor Party. They said our policy of supplying Red China was one which associated us with Communism, yet today we find that our own Wheat Board is supplying Red China and, of course, we all commend it, because the need is there and the market is there.

I think we all share the view that in Australia we have a wonderful country indeed, and I think that we are naturally proud of the developments that have taken place over the years. I do not think that we as an Opposition have ever expressed ourselves against these developmental moves; we are always pleased to see progress. In this State, which is a young one, as the country of Australia is, there is still a very big need for further development. The member for Frome (Mr. Casey) pointed out the various needs of his far-flung electorate. We know of the need for better water supplies and also the need for conservation of water and the standardization of railways. Mention has been made of the dam on the River Murray. The only thing stopping these things is a shortage of money, yet we find that during the war years we prosecuted a war with some £6,000,000 a week being spent on defence. In addition, we reduced our debt overseas and were able to help other countries by direct gifts, and at the same time we put our country in a very stable condition. If this can be done in war-time, surely it can be done in peace-time. The use of our own national credit in this regard would do much to provide for the work that is required. A little while ago the common cry here was that there was a shortage of materials and labour. That excuse can no longer be used, because we find today that good men and women who are unemployed through no fault of their own are anxiously looking for work. We know that they are unemployed because of the policy of the Federal Government, and its credit squeeze. As intelligent people surely we realize that

when manpower and materials are available the lack of money should not be a reason for work not being done. We have a wonderful State and if we do not develop it and provide food for ourselves and other people we are not fulfilling our task as we should do. There are constitutional difficulties between the Commonwealth and the States, but when the States are unanimous amongst themselves they can approach the Commonwealth for something to be done. By using all our manpower, materials and money we should do all we can. People in other countries are watching our open spaces and undevelopment. National credit should be used to provide employment and amenities, as well as food supplies for ourselves and the people dependent upon us. Recently a former Australian ambassador to Rome said, after traversing the Murray Valley, that our exports were barely keeping pace with the primary products that we imported. He said that many of the primary products being imported could be produced here if we went the right way about it, and that our water and land should be fully used. The member for Frome referred to untapped land in his area and said that holdings are becoming larger and more desolate. The water supply in South Australia must be used more and more to the best advantage.

The damming of the River Murray has been talked about and I believe the scheme will come to fruition. Every effort should be made to conserve water but it is useless to conserve water upriver if at the same time we allow much water to run out to sea. About 8,500,000 acre feet of water passes Murray Bridge annually and most of it goes out to sea. We propose desalination of water, yet we allow much water to run out to sea. It does not make sense. A former member for Murray in this House, Mr. R. L. McKenzie, was outspoken about the Moorlands coalfield, and when I came here I decided to ascertain the true position about the field. I had long talks with the Mines Department and the Director at the time was most helpful to me. He advised me not to overdo stressing the coalfield as the previous member had done, because he thought there was no need for it. He said, however, that when it was necessary to supply power to the river areas and the South-East it would be time to urge the Government to do something about the Moorlands coal deposits. Most of them are in the district of the member for Albert, but some are in mine.

Mr. Millhouse: Do you think the deposits are an economic proposition?

Mr. BYWATERS: That is a good interjection. For the honourable member and me to say that it is an economic proposition is rather ambiguous, but it is a matter that should be explored, and I suggest that it be done. There is a move to construct a power line to supply the South-East. Much progress has been made in supplying electricity through the Mallee areas to Pinnaroo, besides places in the Lower Murray area. This justifies a fresh investigation into the Moorlands coalfield. I raised the matter earlier this session and it was interesting to note that the Mines Department had similar views, because about a week or so ago all members received a *Mining Review* indicating that the Moorlands field was receiving consideration. Page 60 of it said:

Scout drilling has been undertaken adjacent to the proved coal basins about the margins of the outcropping bedrock and also in a more haphazard fashion westerly near Elwomple and Monteith . . . Work completed to date indicates that brown coal capable of extraction by open-cut methods exists in six discrete basins. Tonnage of coal proved in these areas totals 31.75 million tons. The ratio of overburden (cubic yards) to coal (tons) *in situ* is 5.12:1. The irregular distribution of the seams and the generally wide spacing of the bores precludes any possibility of high-accuracy estimates at this stage and a more detailed picture of seam behaviour particularly at the margins would be required before mining operations could be undertaken. The tonnage estimates, however, would not require to be greatly modified should additional boring be undertaken. Should a regional power-station be established to burn Moorlands coal large supplies of fresh water are available at Tallem Bend, the most logical site. Utilization of local clays, limestones, sand and possible recovery of sulphur might develop as a result of the coal being recovered.

It appears that we are approaching the time when the Moorlands coalfield can be looked at again. With the extensions around that area and the future development of the South-East the Government could well consider the position again. In conjunction with the member for Albert, who has some coal deposits in his area, I should be pleased to see something come of it. The Mines Department is there for that purpose and does an exceptionally good job; because of this I feel it is interested sufficiently to find out whether it is possible to develop these deposits for a power station rather than have the electricity brought by heavy lines from Port Augusta or through the Adelaide hills to that area.

We are all aware of the progress made by the Electricity Trust in recent years. Although some members were hostile to it in the early

stages, it has proved its worth and has developed areas that otherwise would not have been developed. It has proved that a Government undertaking can be successful and a great asset to a State, which would not have been developed to the same extent by private enterprise. However, I have one criticism about the system relating to new extensions. Recently the trust has used the contract system for new extensions. Only one firm in South Australia is undertaking this work, so most contracts are let to firms in eastern States. Because of this, our young workmen are not getting all the work they would otherwise get from the trust. A new extension between Mannum and Swan Reach is being undertaken and an Adelaide firm was the successful tenderer, but I have been informed from reliable sources that it did not have trained men or equipment to carry out the work as efficiently as the trust would have done. It had to obtain advice and borrow equipment from the trust. The depot at Murray Bridge was once recognized as a depot for new work, but this, like other country depots, is now purely for maintenance work. Although once 27 men were working for the trust on maintaining and erecting lines, now only 12 are there doing maintenance work.

Mr. Nankivell: What about the work at Pinnaroo?

Mr. BYWATERS: I understand a maintenance depot will be set up at Lameroo.

Mr. Nankivell: I know that. I asked about the Murray Bridge gang constructing the extension to Pinnaroo.

Mr. BYWATERS: That was done by reduced manpower and because of it the work in other areas is being neglected. I know that the electrical contractors in Murray Bridge are perturbed because maintenance workers are away from the district so much that they are not able to get a service as good as they got before, and I am pleased that the trust intends to have a depot at Lameroo. This may relieve the position at Murray Bridge. However, most of the big lines are being constructed by contract work and I feel that a better and more efficient service was provided when the work was done by the trust's own men. This has been noticeable, particularly in irrigation work. When the trust carried out the work the men helped the consumers with advice in installing their pumps. They were anxious to co-operate to give a service. It is understandable that a person doing this work to a price cannot give such good service. The system of letting contracts rather than training men and then employing them is a backward step. In the

early stages men were trained by handling dead wires, but now they have mostly to handle live wires, and there is no training for country men to enable additional young men to be employed. It has been proved that climbing electricity poles is a young man's job. Eventually the older men will retire and there will be no young men to take their places. People along the river were pleased to know that the Government intends to provide free ferry crossings over the Murray.

Mr. Clark: Are you sure that is going on?

Mr. BYWATERS: I have been told that it is. I can see difficulties but the Government has promised it and I think it will honour its promise. However, this is a complete change of policy, as on many occasions when we have asked for a free service our requests have been rejected. Before I entered this House various councils pointed out that people crossing by ferry were at a disadvantage compared with those travelling by road. The Premier has now said that it is necessary to give free ferry crossings because of the money the Government will spend on the Blanchetown bridge. That is a good argument, as the people who use that bridge will be at an advantage compared with those crossing by ferry. However, this has happened for years to people crossing at Mannum, Jervois, and Tailem Bend by ferry compared with those crossing at Murray Bridge, and almost every year I have mentioned this matter.

The procedure that will be adopted by the Government to implement this policy concerns operators, as it has been rumoured around the district that the Government intends to call for tenders and, as its usual policy is to accept the lowest tender, unqualified ferrymen could get the contracts. I have tried to obtain information about this from the Premier but I have not been able to get it. The men already operating ferries are, by their experience, qualified operators and I urge the Government, if tenders are called, to ask that proof be given that the tenderers are qualified. In the last few years two accidents have happened on ferries along the river and we do not wish another accident to happen. Where the lives of members of the public are concerned it is essential to have qualified people. If tenders are called, the person selected should at least pass a test satisfying the Highways Department officials that he is qualified in this regard. I believe it is necessary that, before any man takes control of a ferry, he should have some experience with a qualified operator. For this reason, I hope that what I have

previously mentioned will be considered when tenders are called.

Another thing that concerns me, and other members of this House (and, apparently, the Premier) is the fruit canning industry of this State. It must have concerned the Premier to some extent because he appointed a committee two years ago to look into the whole canning industry. My information is that representatives of all sections of the fruit canning industry were called to give evidence before this committee. I have been endeavouring to get a reply from the Premier about the tabling or making available to the public of the recommendations of this committee but each time the Premier has informed me that because of the confidential nature of the report it would not be wise to make it available. Surely, in view of the money spent by this committee, to which we all agreed, some report should be made available to Parliament. The people who gave evidence before this committee should know that their efforts were not in vain. Surely the people concerned, for instance the growers, should know whether this inquiry would benefit the whole industry. Yet we have had no word on it. No report is in and we are not getting any information about it. The whole industry—the canners themselves, the can-makers and the fruit-growers—is concerned. The Government is in duty bound to let the people know the committee's recommendations.

There is some feeling because of the unfair competition in the industry. Only this year one of these larger producers of canned fruit had to sell at a lower price because he could not get sufficient plant accommodation, yet one of his competitors who was guaranteed by the Government could get that accommodation and compete unfairly with that other industry. A small industry in my electorate started last year and applied for assistance from the Industries Development Committee; but this request was refused and it could not get sufficient money this year. Because of that, it has had to sell in advance of its canning at a price that turned out to be lower than it otherwise would have been. If other industries are able to do this, it is unfair competition and is causing much concern to the industry as a whole.

The canning industry with a little co-operation could become successful as a result of the increased demand for fruit

overseas and within our own country but, if this price-cutting continues—and certainly one reason why it must cut the price is to get money back to continue its operations—then that is a very poor state of affairs indeed. The committee's rejection of a request for approval for finance to be made available to the Murray Bridge Cannery caused much comment in my electorate. In fact, the mayor at a council meeting, as reported in the local paper, was caustic about the Industries Development Committee for its delay in providing what was asked for. Whether this be so or not, many people in my electorate are asking why, having read the Premier's statement, this was brought about. Many have referred to me the question of other industries being supported by the Government whereas this small one in Murray Bridge is not.

We know that an industry of this nature was established on the upper river without any reference to the Industries Development Committee. It was handled purely on a banking basis. The State Bank of South Australia provided the finance. That being so, it is argued, if one industry is treated like that, why not all sections? We all know that one firm was guaranteed by the Government through one bank in South Australia for a large amount and yet many other large industries associated with the fruit canning industry have not been able to get this accommodation and have been penalized through lack of finance. The question being asked is: If one can get it, why not the others? The Government is responsible for seeing that, if this fruit canning inquiry committee has been provided with all the evidence and inquired into all the sections of the trade, the public of South Australia is told the result; otherwise, we can set up inquiries but no-one will ever hear about them and it will be a sheer waste of money. There are a few other matters relating to my district that I could dwell on, but at this stage I feel that I have spoken long enough. I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply as amended by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. HALL secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.19 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, August 1, at 2 p.m.