

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, September 21, 1961.

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

QUESTIONS.**PLYMPTON POLICE COURT.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH: An amount is set aside on the Loan Estimates for additions to the Plympton police court. I know that the officers at Plympton are experiencing a severe shortage of accommodation. Can the Minister of Works say whether a contract is about to be let for those additions or give any information on the matter?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am not able from memory to answer the Leader's question in any detail, but I will obtain a report for him by next Tuesday.

MUNICIPAL TRAMWAYS TRUST.

Mr. COUMBE: When speaking in this House recently I referred to the desirability of the Municipal Tramways Trust's name being altered to "Metropolitan Transport Trust", still preserving the letters "M.T.T.". My remarks were motivated by the fact that there is now only one tramway system in this State. Is the Premier willing to consider making this alteration in the name, bearing in mind that it would be more in conformity with modern practice and also that about two years ago the Silvertown Tramways Trust (whose name was also anomalous because it operated a railway service) altered its name to Silvertown Transport and General Industries Limited?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The alteration of names is not a simple matter. Quite frequently a large number of documents are made out in the name of an authority, and I would not like to say offhand whether the advantages of changing the name would compensate for the expense and the problems attendant upon altering all the documents, some of which are very important. I remind the honourable member that that is not out of conformity with modern practice, either. He quoted the example of the Silvertown Tramways Trust's altering its name, but I can also quote the example of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, which has not altered its name although it has not been mining at Broken Hill for probably 40 or 50 years.

OFFENCES BY POLICE OFFICERS.

Mr. FRED WALSH: Two police sergeants have been arrested in Adelaide in the past two days. One was charged with garage breaking

and the other with attempted conspiracy and aiding and abetting bribery. The second officer was one of three men arrested together last night. Both officers appeared in the Adelaide police court, one yesterday and one today and in the first case the man's name was suppressed and his occupation not given. I understand that the reason advanced yesterday for that was that the publication of his name would have affected his health. In the second case the man's name was given but not his occupation, although the occupations of the other two men jointly charged with him were given. Can the Premier explain this discrimination?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No. I have no knowledge of these matters. I will make inquiries and see if I can get the honourable member a report by next Tuesday. These matters have not yet come under my notice and I do not know the circumstances of the cases.

KEITH RAILWAY YARDS.

Mr. NANKIVELL: The Keith railway yards are currently being reconstructed. When the plans were submitted to the local authorities they seemed to be completely adequate to meet all the contingencies that might arise in the railway yards. However, South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. in its wisdom has announced that it will erect a silo at Keith and this will mean that whereas adequate provision was made for unloading large tonnages of superphosphate handled through Keith on a spur line, I understand that this line will now be used in conjunction with the bulk handling silo. In other words, there will be the problem of trucking out wheat and also unloading big tonnages of superphosphate on the same line and this would cause a considerable amount of unnecessary congestion in the yard. Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Railways to have this matter investigated under the circumstances that have arisen and see whether these statements are correct and if so whether anything can be done at this stage to change the planning of the yard to accommodate both the people who are requiring superphosphate and the Bulk Handling Company, which will be trucking out wheat from the silo?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will get a report for the honourable member.

HOUSING TRUST RENTAL HOMES.

Mr. RYAN: Will the Premier ascertain from the Housing Trust the principle now being used for the allocation of rental homes; whether the present circumstances of the applicant are

considered, or whether homes are allocated according to the date of the lodgment of the application? What is the present waiting time for a normal allocation?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I can answer the latter part of the question simply by saying that there is no normal waiting time. It would depend upon the circumstances of the applicant, and as every applicant has different circumstances I could not say that a person who applied today for a trust house would get one, say, in 18 months.

Mr. Lawn: Six or seven years!

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: In some instances where a person is well housed and is able to pay the rent it might be quite a long period before he could get a house. In other circumstances, where a person was in dire distress he would get a house much more quickly. The Housing Trust takes into account many factors. It does me the courtesy of sending me once a month a list of the persons to whom it has allotted houses, the dates of their applications, the number of their children, whether they have had any war service, their previous housing conditions and every factor that would have some bearing upon their case. I have not always, but quite often, gone through those lists carefully to see whether there was any application that I would consider to be out of step. I have noticed that the position is that a person who gets prompt attention from the Housing Trust is usually one in grave housing circumstances who would be a satisfactory tenant. However, I will get for the honourable member a report from the chairman of the trust setting out the principles upon which allocations are made.

DANGER FROM PLASTIC BAGS.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: In common with many people and especially the parents of young children, I am alarmed at the danger arising from young children putting plastic bags over their heads. Some time ago, the City Coroner, in giving his finding on a fatality involving a plastic bag, said he proposed to report to the Government on the matter. Has this report been considered by the Government? If it has, does the Government intend to take any action, legislatively or otherwise, to combat this menace?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: As far as I know, a report has not been received by the Government. I may be wrong in that but certainly it has not come to my notice. However, a report in the press did come to my notice and it was discussed in Cabinet. A

number of things can cause danger from time to time to young children. Some years ago (and we still have it with us, though it is somewhat controlled) we had the problem of young children drinking from lemonade bottles in which kerosene had been kept.

Mr. Lawn: And there is the danger of ice chests and refrigerators.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Another problem mentioned here the other day was that of abandoned refrigerators, where the shelves had been taken out and children could get into them and be locked in and suffocate. I am afraid these types of danger will arise frequently. After discussion by Cabinet, it was decided to try to draft a provision to amend the Health Act to enable the Government from time to time to make regulations covering this type of thing as and when it arose. The type of regulation necessary is being studied at present by the Crown Law officers so that, when any of these new dangers arise, a regulation can be drafted to meet it.

I return to the fact that the coroner himself stated strongly that there was no legislative action that the Government could take that could be nearly as effective as education and care by parents. Everyone realizes that. Education and care are essential ingredients if we are to achieve the utmost safety for young children. I hope that the Health Act can be amended this year to enable a regulation-making power to be inserted in that Act to deal with this type of thing as it arises from time to time.

ELECTRICITY TRUST EXTENSIONS.

Mr. NANKIVELL: My question relates to the Electricity Trust extensions to Pinnaroo. When trust officers canvassed this area during 1959-60 they gave the people to understand that the extensions would be completed by June 1961. This included the small, as well as the major, townships along the line. As a result, many people have been hanging on and making do with worn-out batteries and lighting plants, awaiting the time when they would be eventually connected. Unfortunately the position has become desperate for some of them. They do not wish to spend extra money in improving or modifying their 32-volt plants because they know that in the very near future they will be faced with the expenditure of replacing or changing the wiring in their houses for 240 volts. Can the Minister of Works obtain from the chairman of the Electricity Trust a report outlining what the proposed new schedule of connections is for the small townships along the

line, and indicating when they might reasonably be expected to be connected, so that they will know how much longer they will have to wait before getting some alleviation in the matter?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The circumstance that the honourable member outlines is one which unfortunately does occur in the best-regulated proposals, in so far as it is not always possible for various reasons to keep pace absolutely with projected target dates for completing certain works. I appreciate the position in which the constituents of the honourable member are placed. That has happened in other districts where people are endeavouring to make do with old equipment until such time as the trust supply is available. If the houses mentioned by the honourable member are all within townships I think the trust would be able to give a general reply as far as each of the townships as a group is concerned. If he refers to houses on farms and so on, it may be advisable for him to give me the names of the people.

Mr. Nankivell: My question refers to townships only.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Then I think I can get a report giving the information the honourable member desires.

NON-PAYMENT OF FARES.

Mr. LAWN: Yesterday afternoon I received a letter from the secretary of the Tramway Employees' Union pointing out that section 89 of the Municipal Tramways Trust Act provides, among other things, for a penalty of £2 where a passenger avoids or attempts to avoid the payment of a fare. The trust has advised the union that it cannot prosecute in accordance with the Act. Apparently the trust believes that the Act does not give it the necessary power to prosecute. The union points out that sometimes a bus is overloaded to the extent that many passengers are standing and that the odd passenger sitting down does not tender his fare when the conductor passes. When an inspector gets on the bus and finds that this passenger has not paid his fare, no prosecution is launched, but the conductor is reported and when he has had five minor offences reported he loses a day's good conduct pay, which amounts to 70s. The union has asked me to ascertain whether the Act could be amended to give the trust the necessary power to launch prosecutions. The union points out that in Victoria and New South Wales passengers who avoid or attempt to avoid paying fares are prosecuted.

Will the Premier examine this matter and inform me of the position?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes.

RIVER MURRAY WATER.

Mr. KING: On Tuesday I asked the Minister of Works a question about the effect of the Hume dam storages and Menindee lakes scheme on the flow of the River Murray in South Australia. I understand that the Minister now has a report to amplify his reply of Tuesday.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have a comprehensive report from the Engineer-in-Chief which I will make available to the honourable member. It deals with the storage of the Hume dam and with the position of the catchment areas, and it refers to the influence of the River Darling upon the water available. Briefly, the Hume dam was originally designed at 1,750,000 acre-feet but, after a revision of the River Murray Waters Agreement and upon the work of the Snowy Mountains authorities being considered, it was deemed desirable to increase the capacity to 2,500,000 acre-feet. That work was put in hand and was completed recently, I think within the last few weeks. Unfortunately, the rains in the catchment areas have not been heavy this year and at present the Hume dam is only about half full. Mr. Dridan points out, however, that there have been good snowfalls over the catchment areas of the River Murray and it is expected that the Hume dam will fill by the end of November.

The storages at Menindee have, for the time being (or, at any rate while the lakes are filling) precluded any substantial flows from coming down the river. There is also the problem of evaporation on the Menindee lakes. That, however, will not affect South Australia's water in time of need because the New South Wales Government is obliged to make good the losses that are incurred through that evaporation. It has the effect that the freshets, which normally come down through the Darling when under control and which are of great value to the quality and quantity of water in the Murray irrigation settlements, will, unfortunately, not occur with such regularity in future. The general prospect is that the Engineer-in-Chief does not expect any problem this year regarding full quantities of water being available for irrigation. I will make the report available to the honourable member.

NORTHERN POLICE SERVICES.

Mr. JENNINGS: Some time ago I asked the Premier whether he would investigate the need for added police protection in the northern parts of my electorate. I understand he now has a reply.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Commissioner of Police reports:

North Adelaide, Nailsworth, Prospect, Enfield, Gepps Cross and Walkerville police stations are all located in the area between the Lower North Road and the River Torrens referred to by Mr. Jennings, M.P. The staff at these stations has been increased by 25 per cent during the past four years to meet the ever-increasing demands made upon police services. In recent years there has been a continued increase in the number of mobile patrols in order that the department can give this and other rapidly expanding areas in the State adequate coverage. Future plans for the department provide for the erection of a 24-hour station at Holden Hill in the vicinity of Windsor Gardens. Plans are being drawn up by the Public Buildings Department.

IMPROVED FACTORY WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. RICHES: Today I received a letter from the Crystal Cordial Company Limited, a subsidiary of Pepsi-Cola, operating at Port Augusta. The company has asked that I bring to the notice of the Minister of Works the seriousness of the situation it is facing because of the prospect of an inadequate water supply during the coming months. The letter states:

The story is that since taking over from the South Australian Brewing Company, July 12 months ago, we have carried on the representations originally made by that company with the District Engineer, Northern Water District, Crystal Brook, urging that some action be taken to have a service connected to our factory which will enable us to maintain full production during the summer months, mid-October to early March.

As stated by Mr. Baker, District Superintendent Water Supply, we are the largest consumers of water in the town of Port Augusta, this plus the fact that we have expanded our sales of aerated waters by 80 per cent compared with South Australian Brewery sales should be a contributing factor to some acknowledgment by the Minister.

To enable us to economically use our full staff of 22 bottling continuously for a 40-hour working week we require a flow of 36,000 gallons per hour. Last summer our bottling machine showed a 38.6 per cent efficiency due to insufficient flow of water being available. A request last February made upon the District Engineer for an investigation into our supply resulted in an inspector accompanied by the District Superintendent, Mr. R. G. Baker, making tests during the month of August. The result of these tests we understood were that a recommendation was made

to the District Engineer that a new main was required to replace the existing badly corroded service which is not adequate for the requirements of this factory.

We on our part have had installed in our factory the maximum of overhead storage coupled with pumps to enable us in some part to carry on under the existing conditions, but with the flow of water available we empty two 3,000-gallon tanks in the time it takes to fill one. Under the circumstances we are running a losing race and the overhead storage tanks are rendered null and void. It is earnestly requested that representation be made to the Minister during question time in the House with a view to obtaining a positive answer with regard to the question of the installation and/or replacement of the water mains servicing this section of the town.

Having heard the case put forward by the company, will the Minister have an investigation made and use his best endeavours to see that an adequate supply of water is available to the company this summer?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: If the honourable member hands me the letter I will refer it directly to the Engineer-in-Chief for a report. I will see what is involved, whether a long length of main is required, and just how big is the problem. I will attend to it as a matter of urgency.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION: ELECTRICITY CHARGES.

Mr. McKEE: I ask leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr. McKEE: During the debate yesterday on the Leader of the Opposition's motion about the equalization of electricity charges, in supporting the motion I said that the economic assets of the State should be used to benefit the whole community. The *Advertiser* this morning reports that Mr. Corcoran made the remark. I would appreciate it if the error could be corrected.

BOTANIC GARDEN ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Agriculture) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Botanic Garden Act, 1935-1960. Read a first time.

LAND TAX ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Committee's report adopted.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE BUDGET.

The Estimates—Grand Total, £91,544,000.

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from September 20. Page 839.)

THE LEGISLATURE.

Legislative Council, £12,417.

Mr. TAPPING (Semaphore): First, I pay a tribute to the late Senator Rex Pearson. When I entered this House in 1946 I found him a good friend, and his death is a great loss to the Commonwealth. He played the game in politics and was revered by everyone who came in touch with him and, because of my long association with him, I extend my condolences to his widow, brother and family. The State and the Commonwealth have suffered a severe wrench at his passing.

I feel that I should briefly tell the member for Gouger, from whom we heard a discourse last night, my idea on how he erred. Although any member has the right, under privilege, to make an attack on or castigate any person or organization with impunity, I feel that the member for Gouger attacked the Transport Control Board unjustly. If we carried out his suggestion to sack the board, in its place would be three other men who would no doubt carry out the policy of the Government relating to transport control regulations. So, indeed, it must be admitted by all concerned—and I think also by the member concerned—that if he attacks the Transport Control Board and its policy he likewise attacks the Playford Government, because we cannot divorce the two. We appreciate the honourable member's frankness on some occasions, but he should be fair when he attacks an organization and he should be certain of his facts. He should realize that that organization is only carrying out the policy of this Government.

The honourable member then said that the Railways Department in South Australia would be the best set-up in the Commonwealth, but I cannot agree with that. I have no complaint about the administration of the department, but I feel that the New South Wales administration would surpass the South Australian. However, when he gives credit to the department's administration he must also give credit to the Transport Control Board, because the board's purpose, when originally set up, was to protect the Railways Department to some extent because it belonged to the people, and if the board protects the railways it must protect the economics of the Railways Department and of the State. I feel, therefore, that

on that occasion he unfairly condemned the Transport Control Board. I have no brief for the board's personnel; I believe they are doing the best job they can do, in the same way as we do our jobs here. I think it was unwise for the honourable member to castigate the board, and, as the member for my district, I regret it.

I noticed in last night's *News* a report that the State Government in August this year showed a deficit of £1,200,000. In fairness to all concerned, I realize that the figure quoted in the *News* could be explained away to some extent. Some accounts for ore transportation have not been paid and will not be paid until September, and other items of unusual expenditure will accrue during this month. We can sincerely hope that when the September account is given the figures will improve immeasurably. If the State is to show such a big deficit so early in the financial year it does not auger well for the employment position. Some opponents of Labor have said that the Labor Party has attempted to capitalize on unemployment, but that is entirely wrong, because the Labor Party feels very seriously that we should do all we can to see that something is provided by the Commonwealth and other sources to keep employment in this State at a very high level. I express the wish that the financial position of the State will improve as the months go by, and that sackings in any Government department will be avoided.

Another matter that concerns me is the effect of unemployment upon tenants of the Housing Trust. Many tenants are unemployed and find that they are unable to meet their current rent. A husband and wife receive only £6 2s. 6d. a week as unemployment benefit, and it is obvious that that is not sufficient to meet commitments which are recurring from day to day, particularly rent. In some cases today the rent of Housing Trust houses is £3 15s. a week; that is the rental for many of the new trust houses built at Taperoo and in other parts of the metropolitan area. It is impossible to pay £3 15s. a week out of a benefit of £6 2s. 6d. and at the same time keep body and soul together. Rents will be in arrears. I know that all members, irrespective of Party, desire that the trust's tenants be allowed to remain in their houses and not evicted. I heard it said by the trust 10 years ago that at that stage the arrears of rent amounted to only £156. After so many years of functioning the trust still maintains that it is operating on a business basis, and that it is more concerned about the money than about settlement.

Having in mind the stringencies of the trust and its attitude, I suggest to this House and to the Government that it be asked to commence a form of insurance against sickness and unemployment. I would say that as a starting point the trust should set aside £500 as the nucleus of an insurance fund, and that the trust's tenants be asked to participate on a voluntary basis and to contribute the sum of 1s. a week to supplement the fund. Then, in cases of dire need, sickness or unemployment the money could be drawn from the fund to liquidate arrears. That would protect the trust's business interests and also relieve the tenants of worry. I know of two cases that occurred this week where eviction could have resulted, but luckily the men concerned received taxation rebates which enabled them to pay their rent for some weeks ahead and to make themselves safe for the time being. Many of the people living in these trust houses are ordinary labourers; they have no trade, and because of that they are at a disadvantage in obtaining employment.

Mr. Coreoran: They should not be put out.

Mr. TAPPING: No, they should not. However, in an endeavour to help both the trust and the tenant I seriously suggest that the trust be invited to form this fund as a voluntary insurance system. In the event of unemployment or sickness, the fund could be drawn upon to liquidate arrears of rent, and when a person returned to work or was restored to good health he could start again without any arrears. It is a worry for people to owe money, and it is particularly bad when the person concerned has nothing to look forward to in the future. The method that I have mentioned is not a new one: it has been used by furniture retailers in Adelaide for some years. We often see advertisements to the effect that if a person buys furniture from a certain firm on time payment, in the event of unemployment or sickness his account will be deferred until he resumes work or becomes well again and no interest will be added. This is quite a good scheme. If it could be carried out in the same manner with the Housing Trust it would protect the trust from bad debts and the tenant from the worry that occurs in such circumstances.

Last Saturday a contest was held for the Legislative Council No. 1 district. I think that without exception we can say that every member will be disgusted at the poor poll. The response of the people of South Australia, and particularly of those in the district concerned,

was very poor; only 4,100 people, or 9 per cent of the electors, voted. However, when we analyse the position I think we can pardon some of the people who did not go to the polls. The state of the roll was shocking. There were 56,000 people on the roll, which, according to the information on the roll itself, was made up to August 6. I do not entirely blame the Electoral Department for this position, because we have arrived at a stage where the Upper House roll counts for nothing at all. The onus is put upon a person to enrol, and if he does not do so no-one seems to care. From my personal observations when going around the different booths in Semaphore last Saturday, I found that in many instances women who were qualified to vote were debarred from doing so because their names were not on the roll. I found one person had left his previous address 34 years ago, but his name still appeared on the roll under that address. Whereas the House of Assembly and the Commonwealth electoral rolls are kept up to date, the Legislative Council roll is in a shocking condition. In another case a man had shifted 24 years ago, but his name still appeared under the old address. In another instance, a woman who re-married 12 years ago is on the roll under her first married name and again under her second married name, and thus she has two votes. We also see instances of a section of an area being given wrongly as the address, such as Glanville instead of Ethelton. The spelling of streets is also sometimes wrong.

For many years my Party has advocated the abolition of the Upper House in this State. The matter was considered in New South Wales some time ago, but to my disgust the people at a referendum turned the proposition down. It was found that big business in New South Wales had spent thousands of pounds advocating the retention of the Upper House there; the Labor Party could not counter such a heavy financial impact and the Upper House was retained. In 1922 Queensland abolished the Upper House and there has been no move either by the Labor Party or the Liberal Party to bring that House back, because the people realize that the Upper House is a waste of money, and that the Lower House is sufficient to meet the position; and that is how it should be. We should be guided by the fact that New Zealand, a very progressive nation, is served by only one House of Parliament. It is disgusting that in the South Australian by-election last week only nine per cent of those entitled to vote went to the poll, and on my estimate 15 per cent of those who went

to the booths could not vote because they were told that their names were not on the roll. It is said that many people are not interested either in State or Commonwealth affairs. What else can we expect when these conditions obtain? We should attempt to bring these matters up to date and interest the people in the affairs of the State and the Commonwealth.

The condition of the Legislative Council roll in South Australia is a disgrace. Some years ago the Hon. R. S. Richards was sent to England by the Government on a mission and while there he met several Indian students and discussed politics with them. They asked whether it was true that in South Australia there were severe restrictions on the franchise and when he said that that was so they were shocked and said that the position pertaining here would be the worst in the world because people over 21 years of age could not have a vote for the Upper House. It is true that there is only one political Party in Russia, but at least all persons over 21 have a vote. In my opinion there is not much difference in the position relating to our Upper House and that in Russia. I say that, although I have no liking as a rule for the conditions pertaining in Russia.

Previously I have raised the question of our mental institutions and I feel I should do so again. I consider that the Commonwealth Government is lacking in its financial support to the South Australian mental institutions. The Budget shows that for the upkeep of Parkside £743,000 is allotted for the current year and for Northfield £433,000; in other words, a total of £1,176,000 for the two hospitals. In view of the financial plight of South Australia compared with that of other States, it is time that the Government and this Parliament insisted that something should be done to alleviate the burden associated with mental sickness. This is a national matter and the position should be considered from that angle. A few years ago when Mr. Menzies brought down a Budget to increase the excise on beer, spirits, cigarettes and tobacco, the people were told that it was to be only of a temporary nature. If the people of Australia thought that some of that excise money was to be used to help those suffering from mental illnesses, they would not mind so much; but that temporary imposition has apparently become permanent. All that the Commonwealth Government does in regard to these institutions is to subsidize on capital construction cost; no help is given to the patients or to the State Government for maintenance. It is true

that because of modern drugs being used for mental patients there has been a vast improvement in their physical and mental condition; so much so, that many of them have been discharged permanently, and others are allowed to leave the institution perhaps for one day a week or one day a fortnight. Unless they have money with the Public Trustee or receive assistance from some estate, their position is a very sad one. Some of the people from my district have left one of these institutions without any pocket money at all and may try to make contact with friends. Some had been in one of these institutions for 30 years, but they had no remuneration or pocket money when they left. It is true that sometimes the inmates are taken on a bus trip to the beaches and to other places and that the institution gives them 5s. for spending, which is some help.

It is also true that persons in such institutions cannot qualify for a pension. Some of them are more than 60 years of age, but because they are inmates they do not qualify for a pension. I believe that a pension should be granted. If they were allowed half the pension for pocket money, and the remainder was paid to the State Government, that would relieve the Government's financial burden in running these institutions. My suggestions are both humane and logical. When the Premier some time ago replied to a question by me on this matter he said that as far as he knew Queensland mental hospitals were recognized by the Commonwealth Government more than those in South Australia in connection with administrative costs. I do not know what that means. If the South Australian Government persisted in its approach to the Commonwealth Government, the State might get some relief from this burden. More important, these inmates should receive some money so that they may enjoy some of the decencies of life, as we do. The fact remains that no money is given to them for this purpose, and this must be embarrassing; not only must it undermine their health, but also aggravate their complaint.

Mr. Corcoran: There could be nothing worse.

Mr. TAPPING: That is so. It could also be wrong morally, because if a woman leaves one of these institutions for a day's outing and she is without money the moral reaction could be pretty bad. We should follow this matter up and see if the burden on the State and also on the people concerned could be alleviated. Another matter concerns the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department. Because

of the unemployment position in South Australia, I found from my observations that certain people who need relief are being refused it because of certain circumstances. As I mentioned in a previous speech, when a husband and wife are unemployed they receive from the Commonwealth Government £6 2s. 6d. a week. Normally, these people would receive some relief from the Welfare Department. I had one case brought to my notice last week, one of three in the last two months, where the person sought relief, but his application was rejected. After the case had been considered, the following letter was sent by the department:

After considering your case for relief, it has been rejected because you have a T.V. set. I mention this case of a person who bought a television set two years ago. It is a 17in. set and its resale value would be low—possibly £10 or £12.

Mr. Lawn: He thought he had a good and secure job.

Mr. TAPPING: Yes. If a person, either by hire-purchase or by cash, wants to buy a television set for himself with which to entertain his family at home in a decent manner, he should be encouraged and not discouraged.

The Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department, following its policy, says, "Before you can qualify for any consideration for relief, you sell the television set and we will consider your case then." The set has no resale value so, as a result, this person is penalized.

Another point is that, if a person applies for relief and he is buying a television set on time payment, he, too, will not be accepted; but, if he can arrange with the suppliers of the set to stand over the account until he resumes his employment, he qualifies. But this person I have mentioned and others too, because they have bought television sets out of their savings to entertain their families and keep them together in a decent environment, have been deprived of relief. That is wrong. I ask the Government to reconsider its policy in this matter. The letter that came from the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department to this person said that he "possessed a luxury article". If a man buys something with which to entertain his family and keep it within the four walls of the home, it is not a luxury; it becomes as much a necessity as a washing machine is.

In a previous debate this session I referred to this State's need of a rescue organization to try to counter loss of life in the sea. Because

of the nature of our coast line, it is safe to assume that these tragedies will occur and cannot be prevented. But, when a person or persons are missing, there should be machinery in this State, as there is in New South Wales, to expedite search and rescue operations in an endeavour to save life. On March 1 in South Australia some lives were lost off Port Lincoln and also at Outer Harbour through delay in search operations. Whilst I do not suggest that immediate attempts would have saved lives in those cases, the fact remains that they may have been saved. With our experience and background, we should look ahead to the preservation of life. When I examined the scheme for New South Wales, I made it clear that, if such a scheme were set up here on a voluntary basis, it would cost the State nothing. Any voluntary organization set up would do its best for humanity. I wrote to the Chief Secretary about it. The Police Department says that it has the necessary organization but there is the question of an aeroplane. In New South Wales co-operation operates in such a manner that in an emergency such as I have mentioned an aeroplane is called into action forthwith and every effort is made to save life. I suggest something on a voluntary basis if established here would not cost the State anything. I know that people will give it their wholehearted support.

When an important matter such as this is brought to the notice of the House—I have been here for 15 years and seen this happen many times—often the spoken word is disregarded. The time has arrived when the Ministers of the Crown or the Chief Secretary should peruse some of the speeches (if not they themselves, then an officer could do it for them) to find out if a certain point raised had some substance in it and, if so, to consider whether any action should be taken. I think this is a worthwhile suggestion. Since I referred to this matter in the last debate, two more lives have been lost. Last Sunday's *Mail* reported that two adults and four children in a bondwood boat measuring 15 or 16ft. were missing at Outer Harbour. I think that people acting like that are entirely wrong and it may be necessary to have some sort of legislative control to the effect that a boat must pass some sort of test. Imagine a bondwood boat going out from Outer Harbour for three or four miles with six people aboard! It is just looking for trouble. Whilst those people who were reported missing were recovered two or three hours later, it could have been another tragedy. This matter must be

seriously considered. The police will do what they can, but the Navy, Air Force and the Harbors Board must get together to evolve a scheme to put into operation in an emergency. These things will continue to occur because of the state of our coast line.

I desire now to acknowledge an amount of £22,500 that has been granted in this Budget to the District and Bush Nursing Society in South Australia. This is a noble society because, in the main, it serves people with no means at all—pensioners and so forth. It seeks no fee or reward. It is a fine institution of which we are proud. I know it will continue to extend its work throughout the State. Therefore, the £22,500 is useful. The society has many branches. As a member of the Semaphore branch, I wish to express my appreciation on behalf of the people of Semaphore for what the Government has done on this occasion. I also express gratification for the inclusion of an amount of £15,000 for the South Australian Spastic Welfare Association, under the heading "Operation Desperation". This home at Woodville is doing a wonderful job with dark children coming down from Alice Springs and further afield to spend a month or two down here. They are educated and helped to enjoy life as far as their disability allows them to. I have been to the home many times and seen the delight in the eyes of these children being cared for by the spastic home at Woodville. The Government should be commended for doing that. The Minister of Education has played his part by going down there and seeing first-hand the need to educate these children, despite their disabilities. Because of the good grace of the Minister of Education, the department has provided a full-time teacher for them. I hope that some of the sentiments that I have expressed will be considered by the appropriate Minister. I support the first line.

Mr. COURCE (Torrens): It is about time somebody got up in this debate to give a little credit where credit is due, and to correct some of the incorrect statements that have been made. I want to give some credit to the Treasurer and this Government for bringing down such a Budget. We have had criticism to the effect that a deficit Budget should have been introduced but I believe the Government has shown courage at such a time in introducing a balanced Budget. Yesterday, incorrect statements were made by the Leader in his speech, and I shall comment upon some of them and, if possible, correct them. I listened attentively yesterday

to the Leader and was looking for some constructive criticism of this Budget, as it is one of the obligations of his office to criticize, but I did not find anything constructive. The criticism was there all right but it was carping all the time. I remember the other day the member for Adelaide (Mr. Lawn) quoted from Jeremiah, but if ever there was a jeremiad of a speech it was the Leader's yesterday. His was certainly the speech of one crying in the wilderness, and the farther he went the more he became lost. Surely anyone knowing anything about sound finance and good housekeeping must agree that the Budget has been balanced. It has not been balanced for some years because of the financial position of the State. From a sound business point of view the Treasurer of any State has an obligation to try to balance his Budget, and that has been done this time by our Treasurer, yet the Leader of the Opposition criticized him for doing it. In fact, he advocated a Budget with a deficit. I suggest that he would have been the first to complain if Loan expenditure had been reduced in order to make up a deficit.

Mr. Millhouse: Probably he did not understand the matter.

Mr. COURCE: Yes. The Leader cannot have it both ways. If we increase in one direction we must cut in another. The Budget provides for an expansion in almost every Government department. Practically all departmental votes have been increased, not only to cover wage increases but for expansion by various departments. This Budget follows the trend that we had when we considered the Loan Estimates earlier this session. Revenue funds have been used to develop public works, which in themselves will produce desirable employment. It will be useful and permanent productive work. I emphasize "permanent" because the work will multiply and create more benefits to the State. By making use of as much Revenue money as possible the Government is spending on these public works with the deliberate aim of creating employment, yet the Leader of a responsible Party advocates a deficit Budget, which would mean less Loan money available next year for public works.

At this time last year the Treasurer budgeted for a surplus of £312,000, but since then we have had a wonderful season. Nature was most bountiful with the result that some departmental revenue rose splendidly. The Railways Department and the Harbors Board had to move a record grain harvest, which

resulted in the State's revenue being increased considerably. The actual surplus was £2,188,000. Of this amount £1,000,000 was allocated to the Electricity Trust for the construction of a new power line to the South-East. Of the remainder, £311,000 was used to pay off past debts, and under the Public Finance Act £877,000 was used to recover Loan Account advances. For the last 23 years South Australia has had the benefit of Sir Thomas Playford as Treasurer, and during that time Loan money has not been used to finance Revenue deficits. In some years the estimates have been exceeded and in other years not reached, but over the 23 years all the accounts have been balanced. That is a remarkable achievement and more credit should be given to the Treasurer and his Cabinet colleagues.

Mr. Quirke: That's a funny one. We are about £200,000,000 down.

Mr. COURCE: Wait awhile. The Leader of the Opposition had a few words to say about the power line to the South-East. He said that the allocation of the £1,000,000 was a shrewd move on the part of the Treasurer and his advisers, and that it was nothing more than a book entry. He suggested that the money would go to the other States, and that there would be no fillip in employment and productivity in this State now or soon.

Mr. Bywaters: The contract has been let.

Mr. COURCE: I am referring to what was said by the Leader of the Opposition. His remarks can be read in *Hansard* if members want to check them. He also said that the £1,000,000 should be used to ease unemployment in this State instead of ear-marking money for future investment. Yesterday he wearied us in making these statements. Most of the survey work on the line has been done and the contract has been let for a substantial part of the work. It is estimated that of the £1,000,000 at least £600,000 will be spent in this financial year. It is now September and the Revenue Estimates will not be passed for several weeks. Electricity Trust contracts are let by public tender, and in this case the contract has gone not to South Australia but to New South Wales, because a large contractor was not available here. I understand that, apart from some prefabrication, all the major work will be done in South Australia, thus creating employment for South Australians. All the surveys have been completed and the work is about to start. The Leader criticized the expenditure of money on this project, and suggested that it should be

spent "here". I do not know what he meant by "here", but I wonder whether he wants the work done at all.

Mr. Fred Walsh: What work are you referring to?

Mr. COURCE: The construction of a power line to the South-East. All the assembly work of this contract will be done in South Australia. Consider the enormous amount of civil construction work and erection work involved in this project. Camps will be established and many men will be employed on erection and construction work. Money will be spent in country towns along the route of the line and local traders and shopkeepers will welcome it.

Mr. Millhouse: Do you know where the work is to start?

Mr. COURCE: I understand it will start at the Millicent end and work towards Keith. Country towns will welcome the work, but apparently the Leader will not because he suggests that the money be spent elsewhere to relieve unemployment. The power line is an example of the Government's creating employment. The Leader's remarks are inconsistent. How do they square with his avowed policy of decentralization? Doesn't he want work in the country? How do his remarks level with his comments yesterday about country electricity tariffs? Doesn't he want the country to have greater development? He criticizes the Government for being positive and putting into operation a scheme that will create employment and put money into the country.

Mr. Ryan: Who voted against giving the country cheaper electricity rates?

Mr. COURCE: Rubbish! I referred earlier to the expansion of the Government's social service departments. Several have received remarkably increased allocations this year. For instance, in what is called the field of law, order and public safety there is an increase of £310,000—12 per cent above last year's actual payments. I welcome this increase. We have a good Police Force consisting of many well-respected officers and it is encouraging to note the Police Commissioner's recent comments that the force is receiving more recruits and is rapidly reaching its full establishment.

The Education Department is another social service. Our population is increasing at an annual rate of about 2.75 per cent and the general price level by about three per cent, and although the State's revenues tend to increase more slowly, education today requires an annual increase of about 10 per cent. Under

the Education Department's Miscellaneous line—which covers votes for special bodies and charitable organizations, in respect of which members make strenuous representations every year—an increase of £656,000 is proposed, representing an increase of 24 per cent over the previous year. That indicates the awareness of this Liberal Government of the need for an amelioration of the hardship accruing to some people in our midst—a recognition that it is the Government's duty to help people who are in unfortunate circumstances. I give full credit to the Government for its action. Allied with this is the vote to the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department, which is 14 per cent above last year's. These increases to our social service departments indicate that the Government is sympathetic and that it is led by a sympathetic Treasurer. Although we are not always successful in our representations for added social service grants, this is a worthy vote.

In the Treasurer's statement we see special mention given to two items: oil exploration, and the Australian Mineral Development Laboratories. These are small projects now, but they have a mighty future. I have indicated my interest in oil research in South Australia. It is vitally important to our future, and I am pleased that the Government is giving financial as well as physical support through the Mines Department officers to all genuine attempts at oil exploration. I was interested recently when the Treasurer agreed to my request for a report to be brought down for the use of members regarding the work done in South Australia on oil exploration by private companies and by the Mines Department. This publication has received many favourable comments. One cannot afford to ignore this promotional work. Unfortunately, one could spend millions on it and get nothing. However, one might strike it lucky and get oil. What an advantage that would be to South Australia. This work must proceed and I am glad that the Commonwealth Government is making increased subsidies available to the companies undertaking this work.

Mr. Bywaters: You know what they say to public speakers in Texas: if you don't strike oil in 20 minutes, stop boring.

Mr. COUMBE: Before one gets oil he has to get gas, and we make our own here. I desire to refer briefly to the Australian Mineral Development Laboratories which have now completed their first year under their own administration. They were previously run by the Mines Department but are now conducted

jointly by the South Australian and Commonwealth Governments and the mining industry. The work performed at the laboratories has won Australia-wide recognition. Not only is research work carried on but the laboratories undertake exploratory and treatment work. Several members of the mining industry have spoken to me and commented on the work done at the laboratories. It was not possible to do that work previously, but now with the new arrangement and the new financial structure the laboratories are achieving valuable results, the benefit of which will be felt throughout Australia for years to come, because the laboratories work for the whole of Australia.

Of the many hospitals in my district the largest is probably the Adelaide Children's Hospital. This year the Government has increased its grant to that hospital and the hospital authorities are grateful to the Government for making a special grant towards this new building. Actually the hospital is not the Adelaide Children's Hospital: it is really the South Australian Children's Hospital because children from all over the State are treated there. The hospital is doing a mighty job and provides certain facilities, not available elsewhere, for the treatment of certain complaints and disabilities. The hospital authorities are embarking on a large and ambitious programme necessitated by advances in science, increased population, and other factors.

Recently the hospital acquired a block of land that was sold by the St. Peters Girls Collegiate School, which has now moved into the district of Burnside. At the back of the hospital members may now see a tremendous hole that has been dug by bulldozers and excavators and steel is now beginning to rise. This year the Government has voted £400,000 for the rebuilding programme at the hospital. It is expected that building will be spread over several years but the grant of £400,000 is in addition to the £100,000 advanced last year to get the thing going. To the end of this financial year £500,000 will have been advanced to the hospital for that work and the Children's Hospital authorities and auxiliaries, of which the members for Stirling and Onkaparinga are prominent members, are grateful for the help given. This grant is additional to the ordinary working grant, which has been increased by £30,000 to £524,000 this year.

I welcome this Budget because it follows the trend of the Loan Estimates. It will give a fillip to local employment and provide funds

and work to increase the labour force in South Australia. The Government has given a positive lead to other sections of the community and the Budget will inspire confidence. We need confidence in the community today and the Government has provided support for the confidence we need. I have much pleasure in supporting the adoption of the first line.

Mr. CASEY (Frome): Whilst I agree with much contained in the Budget there are a few sweeping statements that the Treasurer delights in making from time to time. For example, we read in the *Advertiser* of September 15 that he said four important negotiations were going forward for the establishment of new industries in South Australia. These statements read well and I trust the Treasurer is sincere in making them. However, he has made similar statements in the past which have turned out to be not true. I think time will tell in these matters. From a practical point of view, as I see things, there is a great future for the iron ore deposits that are being found in ever increasing quantities in the north of this State and in particular in my electorate. Over the past six months we have known that Japanese interests have been inspecting these deposits for the purpose of shipping the ore to Japan, provided of course that the ore is suitable for that country's requirements.

Unfortunately, the Japanese require very high grade ore which can be fed straight into their furnaces and they require millions of tons of this high grade ore. The export of iron ore may be practicable in some instances but, on the whole, I advocate the exportation of steel, which finds a ready world market. In addition, we have our own home market. Steel is still being imported into this country, but while we have iron ore readily available in millions of tons why should we not use it for the production of steel and thus create a new industry in South Australia. Let me give some idea of the quantity, quality and location of some of those deposits of iron ore with which I am directly concerned. I quote from the Mines Department's *Geological Survey*, which covers known iron ore deposits in South Australia outside the Middleback Ranges. The first reference is to Razorback Ridge which is estimated to contain over 200,000,000 tons of 28-30 per cent iron. The location of this is south of Yunta, which would be approximately 56 miles from Peterborough by rail and 136 miles to the nearest seaport of Port Pirie. That line is a direct line. The major known deposit is Razorback Ridge, where beds dipping 40 per cent aggregate up

to 500ft. in thickness over a length of up to 12,000ft. The outcrop is 200 to 300ft. above plain level with no overburden problems whatsoever.

Dealing with the reserves, there are 100,000,000 tons above plain level plus 35,000,000 tons per 100ft. below plain level. Smaller additional tonnages are available in the district. The second deposit is in the Cutana area not far from Radium Hill where about 1,000,000 tons averaging 45 per cent iron ore is located. On the opposite side of the railway line, to the north, we have another 400,000 tons of 50 per cent iron ore which is just below plain level.

Mr. Hall: What grade ore do importers of other countries require?

Mr. CASEY: The Japanese require between 56 and 60 per cent for their blast furnaces. They feed iron ore straight into blast furnaces and it is necessary to have this high percentage for that purpose. There are also two pinnacles of magnetite and hematite capable of yielding 70,000 tons of 66 per cent iron ore above plain level. The Mines Department's report continues:

Simple quarrying operations could produce additional small tonnages of, say, 40 per cent ore which could also be treated at a central plant.

An industry, such as that set up by the Government at Radium Hill, can be a great asset to this State especially when we consider that raw materials are readily available, that there is a world market and a home consumption market for the product, and that transport facilities are so readily available. From the summary I have just read it can be seen that millions of tons of iron ore are available. It is not particularly high grade ore, but the Americans are now using low grade ore in most of their steel plants. As the iron ore in this area is easily accessible and as a railway runs through its heart and links up with large towns and then goes on to a port, I urge the Government to take the initiative in this matter with a view to establishing a steel works there with the object of exporting steel rather than iron ore. If the Broken Hill Proprietary Company were approached but refused to establish a plant (and this is possible, as it is tying up in Whyalla and in Western Australia) overseas interests could be approached. Failing that, there is no reason why the Government could not show an interest, as it has done at Radium Hill. That project has been a money spinner for this State. It could be said that Port Pirie is a suitable site. Then, of course,

there is Peterborough, an established town which has Murray water and which is a railway junction with lines serving the north, south, east and west of the State.

My opinion about the railway transport board is directly opposite that of the member for Gouger. Although I know he would not say what he did without having concrete evidence, I have had experience with this board and have nothing but praise for it regarding sheep transport. For example, late last year or early this year about 3,500 sheep were transported by train from the north-east to the lower south-east of this State in 33 hours. That would be a record for any State, and no losses were incurred. Unlike the member for Gouger and his constituent, the owner was not disillusioned; rather, he wrote to the board thanking it for its fine effort.

Mr. Quirke: Didn't the railways do that job?

Mr. CASEY: Yes, the railways. I did not mean motor transport; I meant railway transport. The member for Gouger mentioned the railways and said it would not supply trucks because of footrot.

Mr. Hall: The board would not supply a permit for road transport.

Mr. CASEY: Then I have made a mistake. I praise the Government for its wisdom in purchasing suitable premises for the Tourist Bureau in other States. I think suitable premises are essential for people interested in visiting South Australia and seeing its beauty spots, particularly as the Flinders Ranges are becoming world-famous. However, we must not forget that in this vast continent some people have no knowledge of beauty spots in other States. Recently I spoke to a person who advertises our beauty spots and he told me that when he mentioned the Flinders Ranges to a business executive in Sydney he was asked, "Where are they?" and somebody else said, "Just outside Adelaide". Purchasing suitable premises for tourist activities is a wise step, because, as has often been said in this House, the tourist trade can mean a great deal to the financiers of the State. The Flinders Ranges, with their unusual beauty that appeals to most tourists, will attract more people and will therefore benefit the finances of the State. I support the first line.

Mr. BYWATERS (Murray): First, I shall comment on one or two previous contributions to this debate. Last night we heard an excellent, well-prepared and well-documented speech by the Leader of the Opposition. The

Advertiser, which usually does not print as much as members of the Opposition would like, gave him a good coverage, thereby acknowledging that his speech deserved much support. This paper mentioned many of the subjects he raised.

Mr. Clark: The press gave the other honourable member as much as he deserved.

Mr. BYWATERS: Whether the *Advertiser* thought his speech was worth printing or not is up to that paper; but I shall have more to say about that honourable member later. The Leader has been criticized for some of the things he said last night. It was rather interesting to hear the remarks of the members for Gouger and Torrens who criticized the Leader for his opposition because, in effect, that is what they were doing. After all, this side of the House is always recognized as the Opposition, and members on this side have every right to express an opinion on behalf of those people who are not represented by this Government.

Mr. Ralston: The majority of the people of South Australia.

Mr. BYWATERS: Yes. The remarks of the Leader last night may have been critical in some instances but in the main they were very constructive. The point the member for Torrens raised this afternoon in relation to the criticism about the £1,000,000 given to the Electricity Trust is not valid. The Leader said:

Naturally, we are all pleased that at some time in the future the South-East is to be provided with a power line, but surely the aim of any Government should be the maintenance of full employment.

That was the text of the Leader's argument about this £1,000,000. What he said, in effect, was that £1,000,000 had been made available to the Electricity Trust in March this year when, as we know, unemployment was—as it still is—increasing and was becoming a problem and a real threat to the State. He advocated that that £1,000,000 could have been spent at that stage to assist unemployment. Surely that is a just criticism. Surely it is practical that money should not lie idle for several months, as it is likely to do, for it is possible that that work will not commence until early next year.

This money could have been spent on relieving unemployment. There has been no criticism of this extension to the South-East, for members on this side want to see progress. The criticism of the member for Torrens that the Opposition does not want to see this

extension is therefore not valid. We do want to see this extension, because we know it is in the interests of the State's development; we are anxious to see this work carried out and the country people getting the benefit. Any criticism in that regard was totally unwarranted. The member for Torrens said the Leader was wrong in advocating a deficit Budget. If the Leader is wrong in this instance many other people have been wrong also. A number of Commonwealth Treasurers in the past have budgeted for deficits, and, according to the member for Torrens, they must have been wrong too.

Mr. Hall: There is no relationship between the two.

Mr. BYWATERS: The little boy across the street says there is no relationship. Where does the State get its money, anyway?

Mr. Hall: Exactly!

Mr. BYWATERS: It gets it from the Commonwealth Government. This State Government always advocates the return of the Menzies Government; it is always asking for more money, and rightly so; we have a country that needs developing. The Treasurer goes to Canberra each year to get a grant and he is told how much he will get, and he is always asking for more. We do not complain about that. We on this side of the House are asking for more because we want to see more progress; that is natural. We find that this Government supports the Menzies Government because it is the same political colour, and that is logical; but it is the Commonwealth Government that provides the money so that this State's Budget can be presented each year. Let us look at some comments that have been made in the past in the Commonwealth sphere, not necessarily by Labor people or people who support the Labor Party. I have here the editorial from the *Financial Review* of August 24, 1961—and I do not think anyone will suggest that this is a Labor publication—which states:

Mr. Calwell's analysis of the economic state of the nation on Tuesday night was sound; his criticism of the Government's responsibility for the slump was correct but moderate; and his proposals for a "recovery" Budget if a Labor Government was elected in December were no more than could be justified by the seriousness of the position. He has therefore made a good start. It will now be up to him and to the Party he leads, including those elements which in the past have espoused impractical and extreme financial policies, to continue the trend towards more thoughtful, well documented analyses and proposals.

Those remarks cover both angles. It goes on:

There need be no fear that this course will deprive the Opposition of ammunition to shoot at the Government's economic policy. The facts of the slump and of the Government's failure to understand the dangers in a situation that Government policies precipitated are so damaging that a moderate, thorough exposition of the situation will find ready public acceptance. The first key point in Mr. Calwell's economic analysis was his view that "the loss of production is running at about £200,000,000 a year. Gross national production could be raised immediately by at least three per cent without the slightest danger of precipitating a dangerous boom or inflation. There is more than three per cent of unemployment of labour in Australia today and there is very much more than three per cent unemployment of capacity in our factories." This is a modest assumption. Gross national product in the June quarter was running in money terms about one per cent below the level of the June quarter, 1960, and in real terms probably three per cent below that level. So a rise of three per cent in our £7,000,000,000 a year gross national product here and now would do little more than bring national production back to the level of a year ago. And by now there are probably something like 60,000 more people in the work force than a year ago and the capacity of our factories is greater than it then was. Mr. Calwell could have raised his figure to nearer £300,000,000 loss of production without putting himself in danger of being called extreme.

The second key section in the speech said that "the Budget Speech need never have been made, for all the effect it will have on improving the loss of employment and production in Australia today. Unemployment, although much higher than the Government's figures suggest, will remain high. The Budget has done nothing to restore confidence" and "the Government's policies are causing a reduction in the whole desire for, and scope for, economic growth in this country." If there were some signs that the Government was alive to the dangers to the economy and was making some effort to overcome them, Mr. Calwell's points would lose much of their force. As it is, they gain force when the negative nature of the Government's policy is understood. This brings us to Mr. Calwell's proposal, a carefully worded one, in which he says, "If we win the coming elections . . . we will increase the deficit to £100,000,000 if necessary so as to help the unemployed."

Some people criticized Mr. Calwell's statement at the time, but here is the *Financial Review* praising it and saying his idea is practical. It goes on:

As Mr. Calwell pointed out, the cash deficits for which Sir Arthur Fadden and Mr. Holt budgeted, in 1958-59 and 1959-60 respectively, were both very large in relation to the negligible overall deficit sought this time.

Members will therefore see that budgeting for a deficit is not unusual. It is sound Government policy, particularly in times such as these

with the unemployment position as it is. This is what the Leader was drawing attention to last night, and in view of the unemployment position those remarks were warranted. If people are unemployed the whole economy suffers. We cannot afford to have men out of work on the street and doing nothing when they are willing to work. We must have those people in employment to boost the demand for our products, so that in turn we will have more money coming back to spend on Government works; that is sound common sense.

I consider that the member for Gouger (Mr. Hall) in his speech last night showed plainly his instability, immaturity, and even irresponsibility when he criticized a group of people who could not defend themselves. It has always been accepted in this House that we can attack and criticize the policy of the Government and the Ministers because they have the opportunity to reply, but public servants have no such opportunity. Here we have a member of Parliament attacking people who have no right of redress and suggesting that they are responsible for the spread of foot rot in sheep, when he has no foundation for such a statement. Because of his outburst last night, the prestige of this House suffered considerably, in that he attacked a man of the capabilities of Mr. Holden, Secretary of the Transport Control Board. As Mr. Casey and Mr. Tapping have said, he is a man doing his best in carrying out the Government's policy. If any honourable member objects to Government policy, he is entitled to express his opinion. If he desires to have the Transport Control Board abolished, particularly if he is a Government supporter, the remedy is in his hands; but to criticize individuals who are carrying out Government policy in a genuine way is very unjust.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: You realize that the Transport Control Board is appointed under the Road and Railway Transport Act?

Mr. BYWATERS: I realize that the board is there to protect the railways' interests.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: It is not under Government direction.

Mr. BYWATERS: It is indirectly, because the railways' operations are under Government direction, and I should say that in this case the Government's policy of maintaining the railways is being upheld by the board. Mr. Hall complained about the transport of stock by the railways. The Transport Control Board in issuing permits has full regard to the urgency of the position. I have often taken

cases to the secretary of the board, and although my request has not always been granted, at all times I have been treated most courteously by the secretary and found him most co-operative. When I have had a case that warranted attention by the board, it has gone as far as it could. I appreciate its work, even if I disagree with it at times. It is rash for any honourable member to criticize people who cannot reply. Mr. Hall referred to the board's propagating foot rot, and he also mentioned that the Agriculture Department was trying to eradicate it. I know that the eradication of foot rot is costly, and that the department is doing its best. I refute the honourable member's statement that the Transport Control Board is propagating this disease; it is unthinkable to suggest that.

This morning I made inquiries to ascertain the position. The South Australian Railways Department looked into the problem in 1957 as to whether it was disadvantageous to transport sheep infected by foot rot in railway trucks. The following information was obtained as a result of investigations conducted in Victoria and New South Wales:

The Victorian newspaper "Stock and Land" published (possibly late in 1956 or early 1957) the following comment: "An experiment carried out by the New South Wales Department of Agriculture has shown that for all practical purposes sheep vans play no part in transmitting foot rot from infected to healthy sheep. In the experiment, which was conducted at the Department's Veterinary Research Station, Glenfield, a number of sheep very badly infected with foot rot were maintained in a sheep van along with healthy sheep. Both lots of sheep were left in the van for nearly seven weeks, but it was impossible to transmit foot rot to the healthy sheep. The experiment was conducted because representations had been made to the department to have sheep vans cleaned and disinfected each time sheep were removed from them."

If it is suggested that the railway trucks were responsible for spreading the disease, the same could also apply to road transport vehicles. In New South Wales reference was also made to the Glenfield experiment in a letter to the New South Wales Railways in 1956 stating, "The transmission experiment conducted at Glenfield Veterinary Research Station with sheep vans has been concluded. It is fortunate that the evidence indicates that sheep vans do not play a part in the transmission of foot rot." Here, again, we have evidence showing that what the honourable member said does not happen. Let us look at the position in South Australia. The Railways Department has made available to the Agriculture Department vans to enable it to

carry out experiments and it has received no complaints whatsoever from the Agriculture Department about sheep vans spreading foot rot. I rang an officer of the department and was told that they had no complaint regarding the transport of sheep by the railways in relation to foot rot and remarked that they had received the utmost co-operation from the railways. If the department receives any complaint that sheep with foot rot have been transported in their vans the vans are fumigated to the satisfaction of the Agriculture Department. On the one hand we have Mr. Hall saying that stock inspectors had told him that foot rot was spread by the transport of sheep in railway vans, and on the other hand we have the Agriculture and Railways Departments both convinced that this is not the case, and they are convinced on the evidence that has been compiled. When I was talking to the Railways General Traffic Manager this morning he assured me that if they were notified of any diseased stock being transported in any of their trucks, the trucks would be fumigated, and therefore there would be no likelihood of the spread of disease as suggested by the honourable member. Here we have an illustration of a member coming to Parliament and making unjust criticism to the effect that he wants these men dismissed from the board merely because they are carrying out the policy laid down. They are there to protect the South Australian Railways. Whether or not we agree with the system of the Railways Department and their efficiency does not enter into this argument. We know that those men are there to protect the interests of the railways and, to the best of their ability, they will do that.

It appears from the Auditor-General's Report that this Parliament is making £3,500,000 available this year for working expenses for the railway system in South Australia, yet a member of the Government, which provides the money for the railways to carry on, is doing something adverse to its very existence—criticizing the Transport Control Board. The sooner the member for Gouger grows up and plays a part in this House that is not destructive (as he endeavoured to be last night, and on other occasions, too) the better it will be for his own self and peace of mind. I make that suggestion, hoping he will note it.

A matter that affects not only my electorate but other country electorates as well (and particularly those near Adelaide) is the poultry industry, which at the moment is having a lean

time. It has been established by the Agriculture Department that it costs about 2s. 6d. a dozen to produce eggs—and that is with the utmost regard for efficiency. Where poultry farmers are not efficient, it will probably cost them much more. But today we are reaching the stage where the price of eggs is falling below the cost of production. The member for Barossa (Mr. Laucke) brought this to the notice of the Minister of Agriculture yesterday, and I brought it to the notice of the Premier when the Minister of Agriculture was not present one day. I asked him whether he would investigate this position. I have no complaint against the Egg Board as it is set up. It has done everything in its power to achieve stability in the economy of egg production, but some factors are causing concern, one of them being that the charges seem to be excessive. For instance, I have here a return from a firm in Adelaide showing that a certain gentleman sold 270 dozen eggs, giving him £52 12s. as his gross return; but after he had had a large amount deducted (over 12 guineas), his net return was only about £40. So approximately one-quarter of the gross amount he received has been deducted, he receiving only three-quarters of the gross amount. As the member for Barossa said yesterday, this creates a problem for the production side of the industry. I hope something will be done to ensure that it does not suffer. The whole position should be examined to see whether the cost structure (including selling costs, floor costs, and particularly freight costs) could be reviewed with the idea of reducing these overall charges, because I can see that some of these small producers will go out of production. They will be closing down, which, in turn, will affect the whole industry.

I have here instances of various firms' returns that would bear out the facts of the case I have just given, but I do not intend to take it further at this stage. I draw this matter to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture because I hope to interview the Egg Board soon to get some of these problems explained so that producers' minds can be put at rest and the whole position alleviated. Another point (which is not easy to overcome) about the marketing of eggs is the problem of the various States competing with one another. The member for Barossa has mentioned many times (and he is right) the competition (and, in many cases, the unfair competition, South Australia being not exempt from this) between the various State egg

boards. The only answer is to have a Commonwealth Egg Board, set up and administered entirely by the Commonwealth with State representation, rather than the individual States handling their own arrangements.

Mr. Harding: Why not have an equalization committee?

Mr. BYWATERS: An equalization committee would possibly be the answer. What the answer is I cannot say, but something must be done. The member for Victoria (Mr. Harding) is right. He, too, is concerned about this. Others also are concerned about it because so many districts are affected. The present system is not operating to the best advantage of the producer. I understand that at the moment eggs are going out by semi-trailer to New South Wales; they have already been released by the Egg Board. Who is getting the advantage of that I do not know, but certainly the producer is not getting the benefit of any increased return. I understand there is a shortage of eggs in New South Wales. If some profit is to be made, this profit, under the Egg Board or an equalization scheme as suggested by the member for Victoria, could return to the producer instead of to one section of the industry which, I suspect, would be the merchants in this case. I put that forward as an alternative and hope that this will be looked at conscientiously. I trust that the criticism I offer will be constructive and hope that we shall mete out to the producers a better return than they are now receiving. I know that we have to average the price over the year, but this is the time of the year when producers are naturally at the peak of the season. When prices get higher, they are up against it because they have not the quantity available, so it is necessary to stabilize this industry before it is too late.

Turning to the South Australian Railways, I commend the Railways Commissioner for taking to heart the need for communication between the engine crew and the guard at the other end of the train. With diesel locomotion, the trains are very long. On the desert line when a guard has to leave his brake van and go on to the station, the engine is possibly out of sight by the time he returns. It may be because of a curve that he cannot see the engine and signify by a light that he has reached his brake van. The guard has sometimes been left behind. I know that we have reached only the experimental stage in this matter, but I am pleased that something is being done. I make a plea for

the same thing to be done on other lines. I hope the work will be expedited so that the same troubles will not exist in the future.

Insufficient attention is being given to railway passenger traffic. Few people travel by train to Adelaide from Murray Bridge and Tailem Bend. A bus service runs from those towns and is doing very well. As many as 40 to 45 passengers can be carried on the bus. I think the reason why more people do not travel on the train from those towns is the higher fare and the fact that the train leaves about an hour earlier than the bus. Both the train and the bus arrive in Adelaide at about the same time. In the winter sometimes people have to travel from Murray Bridge in a cold and draughty railcar or an old type carriage. At other times they travel in the Bluebird, which is always warm and has luxury conditions. However, no-one knows just when the Bluebird will be used.

More consideration should be given to the people who want to travel from those towns by train. The railways would be supported more if the fare were more in keeping with that charged by the bus service. More comfort and less travelling time would be invaluable in meeting the bus competition. Railway revenue would be increased. I suggest that the Railways Commissioner take notice of these remarks. It is pleasing that the Railways Department's deficit is being reduced. I think the system is run as efficiently as possible in catering for people not catered for by road transport. Mostly road hauliers can select the goods they want to carry, but the railways take all types of goods: the railways are owned by the people and if they are not patronized more it means that more must be paid in taxation. Despite what the member for Gouger said about the railways, we should patronize them wherever possible.

I am a member of the National Fitness Council, having been appointed by this Parliament. The council was pleased that its grant this year had been increased to £12,000. Last year the amount was £9,000, and although only an extra £1,000 increase was promised the council received a further £2,000. The council members were pleased with this assistance. There is a need for more money and I think the Minister appreciates that. Facilities are at the disposal of the council to help in the overall running of the needs of youth. It helps largely in connection with administration and advice, but it cannot give all the assistance it would like to give to youth organizations.

It has been unjustly criticized for not financially assisting worthy objects in some areas, but the money has not been available to do it. I pay a tribute to the staff of the council for their great interest in helping youth. They are doing all they can and are going the extra mile in doing things outside their normal time of duty. Frequently the director, the assistant director and the outside personnel render this extra service in order to help. The service could be extended if more money were available.

Mr. Clark: They are doing something really worthwhile.

Mr. BYWATERS: Yes. They are co-ordinating the youth organizations that are working particularly well. Last week the council received a letter expressing appreciation of the assistance given to an organization by making available council facilities at South Terrace.

Mr. Tapping: They have an outstanding director.

Mr. BYWATERS: Yes. All the staff are very good, and on behalf of the whole council I express thanks for the additional grant this year and look forward to more in the future. In addition to what the staff does, Mr. Lovegrove has recently conducted camps and has instituted a new venture, named the Arkaba badge course. This is really a new course and it has caught the imagination of youth, because it is a challenge. The way to capture the imagination of youth is to present a challenge. In our youthful days we had the spirit of adventure. If we had more of it now we would not have so much delinquency. Let youth express itself by means of adventure: it will build up moral character, which would be something worthwhile. I support the first line, and shall make further remarks when we discuss the individual lines.

Mr. LAUCKE (Barossa): I have much pleasure in supporting the adoption of the first line of the Estimates. I have no doubt that were it not for the sound direction of the State's finances over the last couple of decades, a financial statement embracing funds of the magnitude of these Estimates would have been quite impossible. For the current year receipts in the Consolidated Revenue Account are estimated to amount to about £91,500,000, which is greater by about £5,250,000 than last year. The amount that is expected to be received and expended in this financial year is interesting, particularly if related to the figure that

applied 20 years ago. Within the figures before us is encompassed a history of the State's progress. We hear so often words of condemnation of the Government, but when one examines facts and figures they reveal a story that reflects most creditably on the Government in the last couple of decades.

We hear comparisons between that which this State provides to its citizens and that which is provided in the eastern States. I vividly recall a recent statement by a prominent Opposition member which was scathing in its criticism of what the Government had done, and which was completely destructive in its verbiage and quite baseless. I have some figures which indicate just what has been achieved through a decent, sound financial administration of the State's finances over the last 20 years. In 1939 when our present Treasurer presented his first Budget in this House it was for an amount of £13,100,000. His Budget last year was for £85,516,029. This represents an increase in that period of approximately 650 per cent. When these figures are compared with the New South Wales Budgetary figures we find that in the much vaunted State of New South Wales—

Mr. FRANK WALSH: On a point of order Mr. Acting Chairman. I do not wish to interrupt the honourable member, but we are entitled to a quorum and I draw your attention to the state of the Committee.

A quorum having been formed:

Mr. LAUCKE: New South Wales is the home of Australia's secondary industry. In 1939-1940 the New South Wales Budget was for £58,742,588 and for the year ended June 30 last it had increased to £175,539,847, an increase of approximately 300 per cent. In that period South Australia advanced by 650 per cent in its financial position compared with the earlier period, whereas the much vaunted New South Wales advanced by only 300 per cent.

Mr. Hall: That is a startling comparison.

Mr. LAUCKE: Yes, and it is factual.

Mr. Quirke: We got a pretty late start.

Mr. LAUCKE: Exactly. When the New South Wales Budget was about £58,000,000 it had a population of 2,766,000. Our population was then 599,301. Our population has increased to just under 1,000,000—it has almost doubled in the period—whereas New South Wales has increased in population by about 1,000,000, which is a one-third increase for the same period. When I read the recent criticism by the member for Norwood of the

achievements of this Government and his statement that we were below other States in every instance of Governmental activity he quoted, I felt I should examine figures to determine the correct position. The figures are, I think, most revealing and the position at which this State has arrived is, in no small measure, due to the soundness of administration by successive Governments which have come from the Liberal and Country League in South Australia. When the Treasurer introduced his first Budget on September 26, 1939, he said:

The honest way is for us to do our utmost to balance our accounts and to live within our means.

This approach has been basic in our State's finances ever since and it has engendered confidence in local investors and in investors from other States and overseas. I will expand on this because it is relevant to the documents before us. When the Treasurer referred to the need for balancing Budgets—which he has done over the period of his office as Treasurer—he also said that there were three other important things we must keep in mind. The first was to administer the finances of the State carefully and that has been proved from a complete balance in the line accounts and in the Budgets over the years. The second was to make the fullest use of our natural resources, and I refer to the fact that we have developed our natural resources agriculturally to a degree that last year South Australia produced a cereal harvest of over 100,000,000 bushels and had a sheep population of 15,000,000. That indicates an intention to make the fullest use of our natural land resources and that has been done either in a mineral form or in production from the soil.

The Treasurer then referred to the need to do all in our power to encourage industry to come to South Australia. In 1939 the gross value of our industrial output was about £37,000,000, whereas last year the figure was over £400,000,000. These references are the background to the document now before us and prove that this State's policies over the years have been extremely successful and at present when storm clouds and heavy winds are blowing economically, it is because we have our finances in good trim that we can confidently ask and expect that there be confidence in the future. I think, at present, that the greatest disservice one could do to this State would be to cry depression. There is no need whatever, in my opinion, to refer unduly to a situation that exists temporarily when we have in the background a financial position and the

results of past good investment to ensure a prosperous and progressive future. I compliment the honourable the Treasurer on having been able to produce a Budget of such nature and magnitude.

I refer to the activities of the Agriculture Department, with special reference to the absence of fruit fly in this State last season. In the accounts we notice that last year £28,400 was expended by the department, not for compensation on account of fruit that had to be disposed of because of infestation, but to pay for road blocks, inspections and other activity necessary to prevent the incidence of fruit fly. I believe that the campaign to eradicate the Mediterranean and the Queensland fruit fly in South Australia has been most effective and of real value to the State. The action of the department in keeping so determinedly on the trail of any possible infestation in South Australia has been one of the finest contributions to the State's economy, particularly regarding fruit production, that has ever been made. So far, the State has paid out £1,990,000 in its fruit fly eradication work. That money is minute when placed against the prospective crippling of our fruit industry were fruit fly to get a hold here. In the Agriculture Department's activities in research centres, which this year will cost just under £100,000, I again see proof of past good investment in research in this State. I have in mind the evolution of certain varieties of wheat emanating from the Waite Research Institute, and more especially of certain varieties from Roseworthy Agricultural College, particularly the weapon varieties, which have been of real benefit to the wheat-growing industry in this State. They have led to higher yields per acre and in many instances they are rust-resistant types that are sought overseas in their particular categories of softs or medium hards. Research, and that alone, has enabled these varieties to be available to farmers. When we bear in mind that we are dependent for our overseas credits on our rural products, research work to ensure an expanded volume of exports does, indeed, become a first class investment.

Mr. Clark: It is a pity Roseworthy lost its principal.

Mr. LAUCKE: Yes, Dr. McCulloch is an excellent gentleman who did much for agriculture generally in South Australia during his period as head of Roseworthy College. I wish him well in his new activity in New South Wales. One other matter concerns me as a

country resident in respect of community activities in country towns. I refer to the difficulties being experienced by institutes. Institutes are the gathering places for the local community whenever there is any public social or educational activity. The venue for those activities is always the local institute. Over the years they have become a definite part of the way of life of country people. They have provided excellent library facilities—fiction and periodicals in the main, I concede—but there seems to be unnecessary antagonism between those who direct institute affairs and those controlling the free lending library system. That antagonism is deplorable in my opinion: there should be co-operation. Both systems are there for the good of the people and each has a part to play in the welfare of the people. Were it possible in some way to bring together this admirable free library system and the institutes system, I have no doubt that the expectations of the Government in disseminating good books throughout the State would be furthered rapidly. There are nine free lending libraries in South Australia, but there could be many more. If the institutes could work amicably with the Public Libraries Board and other organizations and officials to arrive at a state wherein we could have institutes and free libraries together, we would have extended, I think rapidly, the free lending system.

The Hon. B. Pattinson: I could not agree more. I am glad the honourable member has said this publicly.

Mr. LAUCKE: I thank the Minister. If the local institute is under the direction of a board of trustees and its premises are not owned by the local council, it cannot then be the venue for a library. The institute must be vested in the council before a free lending library service can be set up in the building. At Greenock (my home town) there is an excellent institute with a well-equipped and well-stocked periodicals and fiction library. The committee is most desirous of retaining its own ownership rights, as it were, on behalf of the people of Greenock and district and does not want to cede it to the council in any way. It wants to retain its autonomy as a committee but finds that in so doing it cannot qualify to have a free lending library in that building.

This is a small community and it cannot afford to rent a building or rooms in the town. The committee would like to have a fiction library available to its subscribers, and I do

not think fiction should be free; a subscription could well be required for that type of book. It would be a good idea if in another part of the building a second room provided a free lending library section. Both libraries would then be under the same roof, and there would not be a discordant note in a community where there is a division between those favouring the retention of an institute and its library and those favouring a free library.

The present system is not conducive to good relations within a community and is not assisting to direct the cultural activities of a given area to one centre. The local institute could well do with the rentals now being paid to an external party. We must bear in mind that there has been a lack of revenue for civic centres in the country because of the falling away in attendances at local picture shows and because of the advent of television. However, I believe that television should be ancillary to reading and, like the Minister of Education, I think it will be so in the long run. I think this is so because it will be the greatest assistant to a wider body of readers in directing to their attention books that can be found in our libraries. Ultimately it will be of real assistance to our libraries and institutes, but temporarily the institutes are suffering from lack of income. Bearing in mind the vital importance of retaining civic centres within our towns, I can visualize a fillip being given to them if we can have this desirable co-operation between subscription libraries and public libraries.

I now refer again to a matter that concerns me keenly, as I am one who believes in enterprise being conducted as far as possible by the individual. I refer to a transport service that operates between the metropolitan area and Tea Tree Gully, Modbury, Highbury and Hope Valley, and to the intention of the Municipal Tramways Trust to take over part of the routes now served by Bowman's Bus Services. In this I sense a wrong intrusion on individual rights, when any bureaucratic authority can, without compensation, just walk in and say, "As from a given date we will be taking over that which you have been attending to for quite a while. We are taking it over definitely and arbitrarily."

Mr. Fred Walsh: Despite the inefficiency of their services?

Mr. LAUCKE: No, this service has been a reasonable one.

Mr. Fred Walsh: I am speaking of private suburban bus services.

Mr. LAUCKE: I am referring at the moment only to Bowman's Bus Services, which caters for the Tea Tree Gully district.

Mr. Fred Walsh: The principle you are advocating applies generally, doesn't it?

Mr. LAUCKE: Yes, but where the service is reasonable and meets the full requirements of the people I can see no objection to its continuation. If it were not to provide a service equal to that provided by the M.T.T., or if it were unsatisfactory to the inhabitants, the M.T.T. should come in and take it over. That is fair. However, I am concerned that after 25 years of pioneering and providing a service to outlying areas (for only a small remuneration over the years), when the situation improves and the population increases to such an extent that it is a reasonably profitable undertaking, the better paying sections are being taken over by this insidious encroachment, leaving no pioneering to be done by the "take-over" authority. So long as the private company can maintain an adequate service to the more sparsely populated parts and so long as the intruding authority is not prepared to go out on those

uneconomic runs, then the better paying runs should be left to the private company.

Mr. Fred Walsh: Put it in reverse in respect of the railways and road transport today: the railways did the pioneering.

Mr. LAUCKE: I concede that, and they are still doing the pioneering today with freight cartage for the benefit of the State. However, in the case to which I am referring private enterprise did the pioneering. In conclusion, I refer to the proposed development of the Para Wirra National Park near Humbug Scrub. The announcement about this was indeed pleasing. I have no doubt that what appeared only a few years ago not to be an immediate requirement by 1961 is now found to be required today. I commend the Government for pursuing a policy that will develop this recreational area much earlier than I had expected. I have much pleasure in supporting the adoption of the first line.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.58 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, September 26, at 2 p.m.