

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, April 18, 1962.

The SPEAKER (Hon. T. C. Stott) took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

QUESTIONS.**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH: According to press reports, when the Premier attended a recent conference on local government he said that he believed the Local Government Act was too big and unwieldy and that its content should be reduced. Can the Premier say whether the Government has appointed anyone to re-draft the Act or whether it has any firm recommendations on the matter, and, if so, what they are? In many of the areas being built up today property is required for church, school and college purposes. As the Act provides for a 75 per cent reduction in council rates on most of those properties, can the Premier say whether the Government intends to fully reimburse local government bodies in respect of those rates?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: My statement to the local government conference was that the Local Government Act at present was cumbersome because everything was set out specifically. When one sets out anything specifically, one reaches the position that every time there is a provision it is a limiting provision. Indeed, the local government conference that I addressed passed, immediately afterwards, a resolution wanting one or two more sections in the Act. As many honourable members on both sides of the House are conversant with the Act, I am sure that every one of them would feel that, if there were more liberty for local government and not so many precise provisions, it would be much easier and more beneficial for local government.

My statement was not that the Government would take away from local government any powers it has at present but rather that by redrafting the Act the Government would not have as many limiting provisions in it as there are at present. As far as I know, the conference has not actually made any recommendation in that connection, but I will follow up the matter and see what the attitude of the conference was about it. I believe that a redrafting of the Local Government Act would be beneficial, but it is a big job that could not be done quickly. As regards the second part of the honourable member's question, dealing with the rates, I shall have to examine that and let him know as soon as I have had a report upon it.

ANGASTON SEWERAGE.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Can the Minister of Works tell me, first, when it is expected that the recently commenced deep drainage scheme to serve a portion of the town of Angaston is likely to be completed; secondly, is it intended that a similar scheme will be put into effect soon to serve the rest of the town?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The original concept of this scheme was that what is known as the Housing Trust area should be sewered because of peculiar problems relating to that part of the town. The laying of the sewer mains through the area has virtually been completed. It is not possible, however, to give services to the area in the way of taking sewage from the area until the treatment plant is completed, and it may take two months or more to complete it. When the treatment plant is ready to receive the sewage, the houses can be connected. As regards the scheme for the rest of the town, the Engineer-in-Chief has made a report on that proposal, which is before Cabinet.

COMMONWEALTH AID FOR EDUCATION.

Mr. HUTCHENS: Remarks made by the Premier at the recent Premiers' Conference are reported in the *Teachers' Journal*, part of which reads:

Mr. Prime Minister, I support Mr. Heffron's general remarks concerning the need for the Commonwealth to assist the States financially with respect to the very big problem that they have at present in financing education.

The report continues:

As far as I know, Sir, there is no suggestion that the Commonwealth will be involved in the actual control of education in the States. I have not heard any suggestion that the Commonwealth will be required to take over active control of education. What we want is financial assistance from the Commonwealth on a national basis to enable us to meet more adequately what we believe to be the requirements of the time and what I consider is one of the great investments for the future.

I am sure that everyone concerned with education will agree with these remarks. Can the Premier report any progress in this respect?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No. This discussion was initiated by New South Wales and was supported by every State.

Mr. Clark: Was that the first time every State supported it?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I do not think so, although I would not be too dogmatic. I think the States have all supported it previously but there has not been as

comprehensive a discussion before and, on this occasion, the States' submissions were listened to more by the Commonwealth authority. The Prime Minister said that he would have the matter examined and, I think, that he would appoint a committee to investigate it. We have not had a reply yet, but I would not normally expect one before May or June when the next conference will be held.

BLACKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I have been approached by members of the Blackwood High School Council regarding the transport of about 25 children who live outside the metropolitan area but who attend that school, which is within the boundaries of the metropolitan area. Under the present arrangements there is no school bus service because of that and the children find it a considerable hardship to get to school. The anomaly is that when they attended primary schools in their immediate areas many were served by school bus transport, but now that they are not it is a hardship. I know that the Minister of Education has been approached by the council on this question, but will he reconsider the matter with a view to changing departmental policy to enable this school to be served by school transport in view of the anomaly that now exists?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I have considered this problem, reconsidered it, and am prepared to reconsider it again. I have had considerable correspondence on the matter from the member for Onkaparinga (Mr Shannon) who, on one occasion, presented a petition to me and who has also discussed it with me. It is not a question of altering departmental policy; it is for Cabinet and Parliament in turn to alter the regulations if policy is to be altered.

Approximately 25 children travel from the Kangarilla-Clarendon area to the Blackwood High School by private bus service and children travelling on the bus and who reside three or more miles from the school receive travelling allowances from the department. The fare from Kangarilla to Blackwood High School is 13s. a week and the parents are reimbursed 11s. 8d. a week of this amount. There have been complaints about the children arriving early for school and arriving home late from the school because the bus conveys students to Urrbrae Agricultural High School, Unley High School and Goodwood Boys Technical High School as well as to the Blackwood High School.

Another complaint is that the children attending Blackwood High School are set down by the bus at the Blackwood Post Office and are required to walk approximately a mile to the school. It is pointed out that children travelling by rail from Belair and other stations to the Blackwood High School are required to walk approximately the same distance from the station to school. Blackwood High School is situated inside the boundaries of the metropolitan area as prescribed by the Education Regulations. It is not the policy of the department to provide transport for children into the metropolitan area and it is not possible to establish a service to Blackwood High School under existing policy.

As the member for Onkaparinga has raised this matter with me on several occasions, including as recently as yesterday, as the member for Mitcham has done likewise, and as the Premier has raised it with me on behalf of some of his constituents from time to time—

Mr. Ryan: It should be a foregone conclusion.

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: No. I have resisted the pressures of these honourable gentlemen because it is a fixed and firm policy that we are not prepared at this time to provide transport services to children coming into the metropolitan area. I will have a proper look at the whole policy again and discuss it further.

MOUNT GAMBIER PULP MILL.

Mr. RALSTON: I draw the Premier's attention to an article in this morning's *Advertiser* regarding the proposed pulp mill at Mount Gambier which states:

The pulp mill project planned for Mount Gambier, in the South-East, is far from being written off, according to Government sources. Previous press comments have indicated that negotiations have been cancelled. This morning's article also states:

A Mount Gambier report published in the *Advertiser* yesterday said that although the purchase of an 850-acre property in the Yahl district for the pulp mill had been settled, all tenders called for work on the mill had been suspended.

Can the Premier comment on these press reports and, if possible, make a statement to the House?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: At this stage I do not want to make a precise statement on the negotiations. Some difficulties arose in connection with the matter and the Canadian company notified me that it did

not intend to continue with the project. However, the Government examined the problem that had arisen and submitted additional proposals to the company. The last communication I had from the company was that those proposals would be examined and that I would be advised in due course. It would be premature to say that the company has actually withdrawn, although it encountered one or two problems—that I do not want to discuss—that led it to revise the position regarding the project.

The position is that this industry would be completely sound. In South Australia we have the only area in the Commonwealth where sufficient timber is available for an industry of this description. We have the raw materials and the products from a factory, if established, would all be consumed within Australia. The project is sound, and whether it is this company or that company that goes ahead I do not think is material; the material thing is, in my opinion, that a project will go ahead.

FRUIT FLY.

Mr. LAUCKE: The danger to our fruit-growing industry is startlingly apparent with the recent fruit fly strike at Merbein, which is only 70 miles from the South Australian border. As one who represents a fruitgrowing district, I ask the Minister of Agriculture, who has just conducted an invaluable campaign to keep this scourge out of our State, whether he can comment following on this strike and whether special action is contemplated to meet the threat.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Agriculture Department certainly regards this outbreak as serious. This area is not unused to having outbreaks, but apparently this is a considerable outbreak which is considered as grave by the department. I do not think I can give more than a general summary of the position, which is that this State has spent about £2,000,000 in keeping fruit fly out of the commercial areas and, although there have been outbreaks in the metropolitan area at various times, there has never been an outbreak in what may be called a totally commercial area. We take every measure we believe it is possible to take and we demand much co-operation from citizens of this State. Road blocks are probably the most important single factor in quarantine. We have permanent road blocks at Ceduna and Renmark and on other major roads leading into the State. Airports and other places of entry are also watched carefully. The position is being examined closely and any possible further measure to protect

this State will be taken. However, the closer we get towards winter the safer we are from outbreaks.

LOMBARD LIMITED.

Mr. BYWATERS: A constituent purchased from Adelaide Television Sales Limited a television set and a refrigerator, traded in an older refrigerator and paid cash for the balance. He has now received a letter from Lombard (Australia) Limited asking for payment for the refrigerator, although he has already paid Adelaide Television Sales Limited. He bought the refrigerator and the television set (on which other action was apparently taken) thinking in good faith that the refrigerator was entirely his, and he is now confronted with an account for £84 that the company has claimed as half of its cost (in effect, half the retail cost) although he has paid the trade-in value of his former refrigerator. He now has 14 days to reply and say what he is going to do. If he does not reply and accept the offer of £84, litigation will be commenced to claim the full amount. This is causing him much concern, as he will have to pay for a solicitor to defend his case. Will the Premier take up this matter and ascertain what the true position is—whether the refrigerator belonged to Lombard's or to Adelaide Television Sales Limited, whether this man is under an obligation, and whether he, like many others who are involved, is obliged to pay this money?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The member for Burnside today brought me a letter dealing with the same matter as that just raised. Although I have not had time to confer on the matter, I understand that Lombard (Australia) Ltd. provided another firm with goods for sale. The other firm sold the goods but subsequently went into liquidation, and now Lombard's is claiming from the purchasers of the goods. I have been given to understand that this is outside the present Hire-Purchase Agreements Act, but it seems that if that is the position it is time for a radical alteration of the law because, in the case mentioned to me by the member for Burnside, the person paid cash for the goods at the time of the purchase and has had the goods in his possession for a year. This person has been told that the firm that sold the goods to him did not own them, but was only financed in their ownership. I am not qualified to speak on the law on this matter, but if that is the law I would say that we must see that it is changed soon. It seems to me to be entirely wrong and it will be detrimental

to the business houses of Adelaide if it is allowed to continue. The Attorney-General is already investigating the other case submitted. If the honourable member gives me details of this case I will see that the Attorney-General's investigation covers what appears to be many cases.

RESERVE BANK BUILDING.

Mr. COURCEL: Some time ago it was announced that the Commonwealth Reserve Bank would erect a large building on the corner of Victoria Square, and a month or so ago an artist's impression of this projected building appeared in the daily press. As this building will accommodate several Government departments, will the Premier say whether he has had any indication from the Commonwealth authorities about its progress, especially about when tenders are likely to be called and whether any completion date can be given?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The construction of the building has been held up because of a shortage of architectural services in the Commonwealth department. I believe the calling of tenders is about six months behind schedule. My latest information was that the Commonwealth Reserve Bank was taking possession of the buildings sold to it by the South Australian Government, that it would demolish them soon, but that there would be some delay before building commenced. The matter is proceeding but, because of the problem relating to architectural services, the development of the project has been somewhat retarded.

WINE GRAPE PRICES.

Mr. CURREN: Will the Premier lay upon the table of this House the reports of the Prices Commissioner following an inquiry which the Commissioner conducted into wine grape prices and related matters in 1961 and 1962?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes, subject to one thing: I am not sure whether in that report the Prices Commissioner discussed the private affairs of any company. Subject to that, I know of no reason why the report should not be available. If the position is as I believe, then I will see that the report is made available to the honourable member; if it contains confidential information I can still make available the recommendations of the Prices Commissioner, which probably will meet what the honourable member desires.

HARTLEY WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. JENKINS: At present there is before the Public Works Committee a reference for the investigation and report on a water scheme to serve the Strathalbyn rural areas. This scheme falls short by some three or four miles of serving the people of Hartley living along the River Bremer, on which they depend for water for stock and domestic purposes. Failing an extension of the proposed scheme from Strathalbyn to this area, would the Minister of Works consider a pipeline to serve the Hartley people from the proposed new pipeline from Murray Bridge through Kanmantoo to the Onkaparinga River? Alternatively, will he arrange for water to be injected into the Bremer from that pipeline when it operates as that would be of some help in dry seasons?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will refer the honourable member's question to the Engineer-in-Chief for report and let him have any available information at the earliest possible moment.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS.

Mr. LANGLEY: An *Advertiser* report of April 10, under the heading "More Traffic Lights Proposed," states:

The Unley council last night approved a proposal from the Road Traffic Board for traffic lights in Glen Osmond Road at Park Terrace and Fullarton Road and at the junction of Glen Osmond and Kenilworth Roads and Young Street, Eastwood. The Acting Town Clerk (Mr. G. B. Payne) said the lights would maintain the traffic flow along Glen Osmond Road and still protect pedestrians. Mothers of school-going children recently held up traffic at the Young Street and Glen Osmond Road junction as a protest at the absence of lights.

This is an urgent matter, as it affects the wellbeing of the children in the area who attend the Parkside school. Can the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Roads, say whether the councils concerned have agreed on the installation of these much needed school traffic lights, and, if so, when the work will be commenced?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will obtain a report from my colleague for the honourable member.

LONG PLAINS SCHOOL.

Mr. HALL: The secretary of the Long Plains School Committee has written to me regarding the installation of electric power at the Long Plains school and schoolhouse. The neighbouring schools of Windsor and Grace Plains have been connected with power as a result of recent electricity extensions in that

area, but so far Long Plains has not that facility. It is understood that the reason behind departmental thinking is that the Mallala Area School will at some time be built—soon, we hope—and therefore this residence may no longer be required. On the other hand, I understand that it is planned to have a teacher in residence in this dwelling at Long Plains so that he can drive a school bus to the proposed Mallala Area School. Will the Minister of Education investigate this matter and see that the Long Plains school has the same facilities as neighbouring schools?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I shall be pleased to investigate the matter, but I cannot at this stage promise an affirmative reply to the second part of the question. Speaking from memory, I think a couple of years ago Cabinet decided that a limited number of these lighting facilities would be provided to schools throughout the country, and that they would be on a list of priorities recommended by the superintendents of the various branches of the Education Department to the Director of Education, who in turn would supply a list to the Director of the Public Buildings Department. I think that many of these schools have received such facilities during the last couple of years. I will see whether it is possible to comply with the request.

POLIOMYELITIS SERVICES.

Mr. CORCORAN: I believe the original method of making poliomyelitis inoculation services available to the people in my district was in the form of a mobile clinic supplied by the Department of Health. This service has now ceased, and the responsibility for supplying the service has fallen on the district councils. Although the vaccine is supplied free of charge, the services of the doctor necessary to give the inoculation are charged for at the rate of 2s. 6d. for each person inoculated. Other charges, such as for advertisements in the local press, are an added burden on the councils concerned. I believe that the mobile clinic supplied by the department is still operating in the city area, which relieves the City Council of this additional cost now imposed on the councils in my district. Can the Premier, representing the Minister of Health, say whether the department will consider reimbursing the councils concerned for the whole or at least part of the cost of supplying this service?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I should be surprised if the department was

giving to one area a benefit that it was not giving to another. Incidentally, the service provided is part of a nation-wide campaign and not merely something for South Australia, and I would have thought that those services would be provided to all sections equally. I will have the matter thoroughly investigated and advise the honourable member, I hope tomorrow.

SPRINGBANK BUS SERVICE.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Although the area known as Springbank or Panorama within my district has considerably developed and expanded in the last few years, there is at present no public transport there. In February of this year I handed on to the Municipal Tramways Trust a petition, signed by about 200 residents of the area and addressed to the trust, asking that the Hyde Park and Westbourne Park bus service be extended to serve that locality. I had a courteous acknowledgment from the trust, saying that the matter was being discussed with the Mitcham Council. Will the Minister of Works take up with the Municipal Tramways Trust this question as one of some urgency, because of the size of the area and the undoubted hardships now being suffered by people in it through the lack of public transport, with a view to an early extension of the service that I mentioned?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will ask the General Manager of the Tramways Trust for a report on the honourable member's petition.

JERVOIS BRIDGE.

Mr. RYAN: On January 31, 1961, after about a six-year investigation, the Public Works Standing Committee brought down an interim report recommending the building of a causeway as a connecting link between Port Adelaide and Le Fevre Peninsula. The committee considered this a matter of urgency whilst it was dealing with the replacement of the Jervois Bridge. On Thursday, July 21, the Premier made this the subject of a telecast and broadcast, saying that it was a matter of extreme urgency; the Government had considered the committee's report and authorized the Highways Department to proceed with that project immediately. I raised the question on July 26, and the Premier indicated on that occasion too that it was a matter of urgency; the Highways Department had been authorized to proceed with the job immediately. As Cabinet authorized this project nearly twelve months ago, why has the delay occurred? When will the project be started?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I will get a report from the Highways Commissioner. As far as Cabinet is concerned, it is an approved project. I do not know what is holding it up at the moment but I will get a report as soon as possible.

Mr. RYAN: My colleague, the member for Semaphore (Mr. Tapping), and I are concerned with this project. Many times I have raised with the Chairman of the Public Works Committee the matter of a report on the Jervois bridge. On June 21 of last year I was told that a scale model of the tunnel would be available within "three or four weeks" of that date. On August 1 I was told that the scale model would be available "any time now". On September 26 I was told that the model was "now virtually completed" and would soon be available. On November 6 I was told that the matter was still under consideration and that a few weeks' delay would not interfere with the project and might be of some advantage. The investigation has been going on for six years. For a considerable time I have been informed that the model will be available "within three weeks". I do not know the Chairman's interpretation of "three weeks". Can he, at this late stage, say when this model will be available, and can he say anything about the possibility of a report from the Public Works Committee?

Mr. SHANNON (Chairman of the Public Works Standing Committee): I am pleased to tell the member for Port Adelaide the position about this investigation. The honourable member could have looked at the scale model at any time had he applied to the clerk of the engineering staff at the university, but I do not know whether he would have been any the wiser had he seen it.

Mr. Ryan: Have you seen it?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. SHANNON: My committee, through the good offices of the Treasurer, has secured an additional grant for the engineering staff of the university for testing the purification that will be required of the foul air that will accumulate because of the traffic. I understand from Professor Bull that that investigation has been concluded, and witnesses will appear before the committee tomorrow. Whether there will be anything to report to the member for Port Adelaide or anybody else I cannot say at this stage. As the House well knows, the Public Works Committee has an obligation to report to Parliament—not to the Government—and it does not as a rule

come to decisions until it is satisfied that the answer it is going to recommend to Parliament is the correct one. That procedure will still be the committee's policy.

RITALIN.

Mrs. STEELE: During the last Parliament I addressed a question to the Premier regarding the control of Relaxa Tabs, and subsequently I received a report from the acting Leader of the House, the Minister of Lands (Sir Cecil Hineks), to the effect that information had been sought from the United Kingdom but had not yet been received; further, that the Director-General of Health was going to Canberra at that time and was to take up the matter personally with the chairman of the Poisons Sub-Committee. More recently I have had brought to my attention the fact that another drug named Ritalin, which is called an anti-depressive, is available in the chemists' shops, and that this drug is very insidious, habit-forming and readily available to students and others, who are using it in great quantities. First, can the Premier, representing the Minister of Health in this House, tell me whether a report has been received from the United Kingdom from the National Medical and Research Council, and from a similar body in Canberra, regarding the sale or control of such drugs? Secondly, does the Government know of this new anti-depressive, and are any steps being taken to control it?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I know the honourable member will appreciate that this is a matter not normally within my department. I have seen some reports but I cannot say whether regulations have been approved. I will get a report and hope to supply the honourable member with it by tomorrow.

PENSIONS FOR ABORIGINES.

Mr. DUNSTAN: I have repeatedly raised with the Minister of Works the question of pensions for aborigines on Government reserves, and he has said that in any particular case he will be willing to get me the necessary information. I have had cases of aborigines protesting about this system, and only today I had a request from Mrs. Rebecca Wilson of Point McLeay, who asked me to raise the matter in the House today. She asked for the details of pension payments and disbursements made by the department in these pension claims as she has not been able to get any information from the department about the position of her pension.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I shall be glad to get from the department information regarding this lady's case. I do not know whether I should release to her, or indeed to anybody, the particulars of individual cases other than those specifically asked for, but I will take up the matter in her case and give the honourable member a reply. If he would like it given in the House, I could give it here or, if he would like a reply privately, I could do it that way.

URRBRAE AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: My question refers to the Urrbrae Agricultural High School in my district. I have been approached by the school council to ask the Minister of Education when the new buildings for the school, which I understand have already been approved, are likely to be commenced?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: A proposal for substantial additions to the Urrbrae Agricultural High School has been approved by the Education Department. They comprise a large number (seven or eight) of classrooms, a library, a science block, metal workshop, and various other additions, and it is hoped that they will be proceeded with as soon as possible. But, as the honourable member has learnt from the Governor's Speech, the Government this year proposes an all-time record expenditure of £25,000,000 on education, and over £6,000,000 will be applied to school buildings alone. It will not be physically or financially possible to fit within that programme all the proposals of the department for the erection of new buildings and additions to existing ones, and sites for still further buildings. As a result I have asked the Director of Education to consult with the Deputy Director and all the principal officers of the department and draw up a draft programme of works based on strictly educational grounds, in strict order of priority as he and his principal officers see it, as a basis for discussion with me. I shall then be better able to assess the relative merits and urgencies of a host of competing claims for those new buildings and additions to existing ones.

GOVERNMENT BUILDING AT PORT AUGUSTA.

Mr. RICHES: The question I ask is of long standing and relates to the erection of a Government building at Port Augusta to house waterworks employees and officers of the Agriculture Department. The Minister of Works will appreciate that it must be two years or

more since he inspected the existing building with me, since when no substantial progress seems to have been made. Will the Minister obtain a report on the stage the planning has reached and will he ascertain whether provision can be made in this year's Estimates to enable that work to proceed? Some provision has been made in the last two or three Estimates, but there has been no apparent start on the work.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes. I will bring myself up to date on this. I have looked briefly at the Loan Estimate proposals for the coming year and, if my memory is correct, some provision is made, but I will make sure and let the honourable member have a firm reply.

CHOWILLA DAM.

Mr. HEASLIP: I understand that last week the Premier attended a conference with the Prime Minister and other State Premiers at which the Chowilla Dam project was discussed. This project will be of great importance to Australia, and particularly to South Australia. Can the Premier indicate what progress was made in the discussions and say whether the construction of that dam will be possible?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Although there were not lavish reports about the conference, much headway was made. The Government had prepared plans for this dam, which could only be constructed with the approval of Victoria and New South Wales because large areas of land in those States would be inundated. The plans were reported on by the River Murray Commission and a conference was called between South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and the Commonwealth. Without going into all of the issues that were discussed, I can announce that all State Governments now approve of the dam being built as a River Murray Commission project. The Commonwealth Government also approves and is prepared to find 25 per cent of the capital cost. Some matters remain to be determined, and a firm agreement has still to be made. However, the matters to be determined are insignificant when compared with what has already been accomplished. The project now seems assured and I believe that it will proceed early. The terms and conditions will be equitable to all States and the dam will certainly be of tremendous advantage to South Australia in drought years. New South Wales has a couple of financial queries and South Australia has queries on the quantity of water to be provided under the altered agreement. The conference was satisfactory

in every way. It discussed the £100,000 already spent by South Australia on investigational work, and the other States readily agreed that in the event of the project proceeding that sum would be considered as part of the project. I believe that the dam will proceed. It will be of tremendous advantage to the districts represented by the member for Chaffey and the Speaker, and it should be available to meet the critical period for this State in 1970.

TEAL FLAT.

Mr. BYWATERS: I think all members are pleased to note the optimistic reply of the Premier. Because of the clouded position as regards further development and of the concern of the residents about the future of the Teal Flat area, can the Premier at this stage clarify the position as to what is likely to happen to the Teal Flat area proposed as a dam?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The project at Teal Flat was developed as an alternative in case it proved impossible to get the agreement of other States for the Chowilla site. We could go ahead with the Teal Flat project with the approval of this Parliament, without any approval from outside this State, but the Chowilla site involves other States. As that project would involve submerging land in other States, it could not be proceeded with without their approval. If the Chowilla project goes ahead, it will undoubtedly meet all the requirements of this State for at least 30 or 40 years ahead and I do not think that in that time the Teal Flat project will be necessary. However, I am sure that in time the Teal Flat dam will ultimately have to be built but it will become a remote project if the Chowilla project is proceeded with.

ANNUAL LEAVE.

Mr. McKEE: I understand that the New South Wales Government supports a proposal for three weeks' annual leave for workers, and that Commonwealth Government employees and other employees throughout Australia enjoy this provision. Can the Premier say what his Government's intentions are concerning the granting of three weeks' annual leave to South Australian workers?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I understand that the union concerned is subject to a Commonwealth award, but in any event I cannot answer the question offhand. I will obtain a report and, I hope, have the

information for the honourable member tomorrow. If, however, it requires a Cabinet decision, I will forward a reply later.

WHEAT MOISTURE CONTENT.

Mr. NANKIVELL: As the Minister of Agriculture is no doubt aware, wheat grain will not be received for storage at any bulk terminal if the moisture content exceeds 11 per cent: consequently, wheatgrowers are anxiously awaiting results of experiments that have been conducted for about two years by departmental officers at the Wallaroo bulk terminal. Can the Minister comment on this matter or will he obtain a report?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will get a report on the matter.

ELECTRICITY TRUST LOANS.

Mr. JENNINGS: Will the Premier inquire of the Chairman of the Electricity Trust whether its advertising agents would not have much more success—although I believe the trust's loans have been successful recently—if their advertisements were not disfigured by a photograph of the Premier, and whether if the photograph were removed it might not result in a tremendous improvement aesthetically and, further, allay the inevitable suspicion that public money was being used to publicize one Party leader for political purposes?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The honourable member has raised an interesting question. I have considered this matter and have wondered whether I should not receive a fee for permitting the Electricity Trust to use my photograph. It might be possible for me to copyright my photograph and obtain a consideration for its use. I do not know whether the honourable member has noticed that in the latest batch of advertisements the underwriters issued for the loan they tried varying the advertisements somewhat. On some days they used a small photograph, but on others they used an extremely large one. From their experience I think that in future they will retain the large photograph, because they have had far more response when it has appeared.

Speaking seriously, however, I believe it is a great tribute to the Electricity Trust that when loans for similar semi-governmental undertakings in other States with the same interest rates and conditions are being heavily under-subscribed—and one recently received only 43 per cent of what it sought—its loans have always filled before their expiry date.

NEW HEATHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. SHANNON: During the election campaign the Labor Party had a copy of the Mount Barker *Courier* in which appeared a false report about the Heathfield High School now under construction. It was said that it would be declared a metropolitan high school and that the pupils would have no transport provided for them. I telephoned Mr. Richards (Superintendent of High Schools) and got a rebuttal. I rang the editor of the *Courier* and informed him of the rebuttal, but he refused to publish it. There is some concern in the area where the school is being erected. In order that the people there might know the true position, will the Minister of Education set out the facts regarding this new school?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: The site of the proposed high school is not within the area prescribed in the regulations under the Education Act as the metropolitan area, and therefore the school transport service will apply. At this early stage I am unable to say in detail what transport arrangements will be made for the children attending the Heathfield High School. However, when the location and numbers of children enrolled are available services will be established according to the policies and regulations governing school transport. The normal policy is that free bus transport is supplied for groups of not less than 10 residing over three miles from the school or other transport service to it, provided that at least half of them must live over five miles away, and if a satisfactory tender is received. There is a railway siding close to the Heathfield High School. It is anticipated that a number of students from the Upper Sturt and Aldgate areas will travel by rail and will be granted a free rail pass to do so if they reside the required three miles from the school.

There are widespread claims from time to time for still greater transport services for country children and we are only too willing to accede to them as the resources of the department permit. I remind all members, including new ones, whom we welcome, that the school transport branch of the Education Department is a large one. It has now 530 country school transport services, which travel more than 27,000 miles a school day, and serve more than 300 country schools. Nearly 20,000 pupils go to these schools, and the services cost almost £500,000 a year. Next year, with the inevitable extensions in the services, it will cost the State over £500,000. For every extra pound we spend on a school transport service

that pound must be taken from some other branch of expenditure within the department. I feel that these are necessary and deserving services and I am willing at all times to give earnest, anxious and sympathetic consideration to the extension of an existing service, or the setting up of a new one, realizing, of course, that there is a limit to the expenditure that can be devoted to any one branch of the department.

WORLD LAND SPEED RECORD.

Mr. CASEY: In view of the forthcoming attempt on the world land speed record by Mr. Donald Campbell on Lake Eyre in my electorate, in which attempt I am interested, will the Premier say what sum will be allocated by the Government for road construction to the site, and from which department, the Engineering and Water Supply Department or the Highways Department, the necessary road construction equipment will come?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: There is, I believe, every likelihood that an attempt will be made on the world land speed record on Lake Eyre in the honourable member's district. An inspection was made of the lake recently and the project is assured of Commonwealth support in the matter of technical services, such as post office, wireless, and that type of thing. The sponsors of the project requested the State Government to assist and I have discussed the matter with the Leader of the Opposition because an unusual line of expenditure would be necessary. The State Government would be prepared to provide a police escort service to keep the area clear whilst the attempt on the record was made. Although it is an inaccessible place, many people are expected to visit the area to watch the attempt on the record. Many overseas journalists will be coming to the State at that time. The Government would also be prepared to make trafficable the road, which at present is reasonably trafficable, but a small sum may have to be spent on it. The Government would also be prepared to help provide a small causeway over the soft marshy area of the lake. The hard salt crust does not come right to the shore and there is a short distance of soft conditions. We would be prepared to give this reasonable assistance. Extra cost would involve only the causeway, and, speaking from memory, I think it would be about £3,000. I am not sure what would be the cost of the police escort. In any case, it would be only a normal departmental expenditure. The road work necessary between Marree

and Lake Eyre would cost about £3,000, but that would probably have to be done normally in any case.

WHYALLA OCCUPATION CENTRE.

Mr. LOVEDAY: The Minister of Education is aware that for some time negotiations have been proceeding for the establishment of an occupation centre at Whyalla for retarded children. Arrangements have now been satisfactorily concluded regarding accommodation for the centre, and it is intended to open it at the beginning of the next school term, but there seems to be doubt about the provision of a teacher. The local committee, which has been handling the matter, has raised in the meantime over £400, and, as the increasing age of some of the children makes this an urgent matter, will the Minister do his best to ensure that a teacher will be available so that the school can be started at the beginning of the next school term?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I shall be pleased to do so because I have a great measure of sympathy for retarded and handicapped children generally, whether they are handicapped physically or mentally. I would much prefer to exert every possible endeavour to assist one handicapped child than to assist perhaps 100 hale and hearty children. The difficulty associated with these special centres is that only a dedicated class of man or woman is prepared to undertake the arduous and perhaps sometimes not rewarding occupation of teaching these children. We cannot direct them to these particular schools: they are all volunteers and it is not always possible to pluck one out of the air and place him in a particular centre. I am sure the Senior Psychologist, Mr. Piddington, is very anxious, as I am, to have that occupation centre started. I discussed the matter with the honourable member some time ago when I was at Whyalla and I am hopeful of securing the services of a competent teacher soon.

MINOR SCHOOL WORKS.

Mr. QUIRKE: Over the last two years various small works on primary schools in my district have been sanctioned and some of the work has been carried out, but much remains to be done. All the work has been approved, but last year the cupboard was bare and the work was deferred. Will the Minister of Education use every endeavour to have these outstanding works completed in the coming year?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: The question of minor Education Department works really comes within the jurisdiction of my colleague, the Minister of Works, but, from my discussions with him, I know that many thousands of these works are in the course of construction. A tremendous speeding up of the works has occurred and the cupboard is not bare. A vast expenditure of public moneys is being used for this desirable purpose and I am anxious to see more and more of the work done because it spreads the satisfaction to a wider area of the State and to large numbers of members of school committees, parents' and friends' associations and welfare clubs that are doing so much voluntary work and that can see some reward for their efforts if something tangible results. The Public Buildings Department is engaged on tremendous expenditure of money and physical energy in minor works.

ORDER OF ASKING QUESTIONS.

Mr. LAWN: I wish to ask several questions, but firstly I wish to make a statement to you, Mr. Speaker. When you asked members at two o'clock, or shortly after, if there were any questions the members for Whyalla, Semaphore, Gawler, Wallaroo and I all raised our hands indicating that we wished to ask questions. At about 2.30 o'clock I indicated to you again that the member for Whyalla and I wanted to ask questions and you nodded to me. One member has asked two questions since 2 o'clock. The time is now 3.15 and another member who entered the Chamber at 2.30 has been called once and another member who indicated at 2.50 that he desired to ask a question has been called once. We have noticed that. Can you, Mr. Speaker, tell members—there may have been some change in procedure and we would like to know—what will be the procedure in future for them to be called for a question?

The SPEAKER: I admit that today I have a list which is an old list and I intend to bring it up to date. I did make one or two misses and I apologize to the honourable member for that. Does the honourable member for Adelaide desire to ask a question?

COWANDILLA DEMONSTRATION SCHOOL.

Mr. LAWN: I have three questions, and the first is to the Minister of Education arising out a letter I received this morning from the committee of the Cowandilla Demonstration School. The letter refers to certain

property of which the Minister is well aware. I shall not name the property involved, but it is close to the Cowandilla school and representations have been made by deputations and correspondence about the acquisition of this property. The letter states:

A reply was received from the Minister after further application, to the effect that this property would eventually be made available to this school. Application was made to the Education Department approximately eight years ago for the acquisition of this property, which was subsequently approved in Cabinet 18 months ago. There are many other projects involved in the improvement of this school ground, but each have been delayed by the fact that this land has not been acquired thus depriving the children of its use and a ready access to a further section of playing area on the western side of the school property. The committee of the above school would be pleased if you would ask the Minister of Education in question time, why this land has not been made available to this school, seeing that approval has been given for its purchase, and how long we can expect to wait before final arrangements are made and this committee can then make preparations for the development of same for use by the children.

If the Minister is unable to reply offhand will he, as soon as possible, forward me a reply?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: Following correspondence, a deputation, and a personal visit by myself to the school, I obtained Cabinet approval about 18 months ago for the acquisition of this property and I am surprised that it has not been acquired. There must be some breakdown in negotiations of which I am not aware. I shall be pleased to comply with the honourable member's request for a detailed investigation, and I shall reply to him by letter.

OLD GLENELG RAILWAY LINE.

Mr. FRED WALSH: On February 13 the *Advertiser* reported that the Premier, in his policy speech, said the Government intended to construct a highway as soon as possible along the route of the old Glenelg railway line. I recently received complaints of the dust nuisance at the intersection of five streets that cross the old Glenelg railway line about 200yds. south of West Beach Road. A road of sorts has been made, but it has not been properly constructed or sealed and it is probably being used without authority. The road has been created as a result of traffic crossing there and that creates the dust nuisance. I understand that the council is agreeable to sealing the roadway but as the route may soon be used for the construction of a highway the council

is not at present prepared to do anything about the matter. Is the Premier able to say whether this work will be commenced in the next financial year?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Two or three matters are associated with this problem. Anyone who has travelled on Anzac Highway is aware of the serious bottleneck at Keswick where two roads converge on the bridge. It is desirable to take some of the heavy traffic from the Anzac Highway (which, incidentally, ultimately serves South Road) to another crossing over the railway line; I think the place proposed is the Hilton bridge. Already some survey has been made of the route to be traversed. Unfortunately, before the Government knew what was taking place, many years ago the Tramways Trust sold one or two sections of the old railway line to private enterprise, so they are not actually owned by the Government at present. Steps are being taken to see whether it is necessary to acquire those sections or whether the route would be more conveniently placed in another direction. I will try to obtain a time schedule of the work for the honourable member.

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. COUMBE: Due to the long summer this year, concern has been expressed about the level of the reservoirs and the extensive pumping from the Murray at considerable cost. Is the Minister of Works aware that during the recent Festival of Arts many interstate visitors coming to this State, and to Adelaide in particular, expressed surprise and envy that many householders were fortunate enough to be able to use sprinklers on their gardens whereas in other States their use was restricted? Will the Minister explain the present state of the metropolitan water supply and indicate what the position is likely to be in the next few months?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The reservoirs that serve the metropolitan area fell to their lowest level this year on March 25, when the total held was 2,809,000,000 gallons. Since that date cooler weather has enabled pumping through the Mannum-Adelaide main to more than replace the water used, so that since then the reservoirs have gained slightly because pumping at full rate has more than offset consumption and evaporation. On April 13 we reduced pumping to three units out of the four and commenced off-peak pumping which, of course, reduced the daily quantity being pumped. Since then consumption has slightly exceeded the quantity being pumped. The

reservoirs now hold over 2,900,000,000 gallons, which is well above the essential safety limit, and I think it is certain now that there will be no difficulty in maintaining full supplies until the onset of winter. Of course, we will not have much intake into the reservoirs for a little time after the winter rains come because the catchment areas are dry and need a thorough soaking before there will be any run-off, but we have got past the difficult stage and there will be no difficulty in supply from now on.

I heard the comments of several interstate visitors to Adelaide in recent weeks. When I recently attended the Institute of Engineers dinner, the President of that body commented on our water supply and expressed surprise that in this dry State and in this dry year we had been able to maintain full supplies. Indeed, he needed some little convincing on my part. Only this morning a person who had visited another State returned and informed me that the watering of gardens is permitted only by means of a hose held in the hand for two hours each evening in Melbourne, or at least in some parts of it. I think I should pay a tribute to the Engineering and Water Supply Department in this State for the excellent job that has been done; to the people who have planned and carried out the enterprises that have provided us with water; and to the people who work the machinery and take care of the pumps right down through the line to the river and in the operation of the system generally. I believe it reflects great credit on all concerned; not forgetting the State Government, which has planned this project.

DISTRICT COUNCIL BOUNDARIES.

Mr. CURREN: My question relates to the hundreds of Pooginooke and Markaranka, recently included in the Waikerie District Council area and now known as Taylorville Ward in that district council. In the latter months of 1959, a petition sponsored by the Morgan District Council and signed by residents and occupiers was presented to the Minister of Local Government praying annexation of the area to the Morgan District Council. A counter petition sponsored by the Waikerie District Council praying annexation to the Waikerie District Council was also presented. A magistrate's court of inquiry was held on June 1, 1960, after which this area was placed under the Waikerie District Council. On May 8, 1961, a petition signed by 80 per cent of ratepayers, owners and

occupiers, and representing about 80 per cent of the ratable land in the area, was presented to the Minister of Local Government praying severance from the Waikerie District Council and annexation to the Morgan District Council. As this latest petition has been rejected, I have been asked by the ratepayers concerned to take up this matter. Will the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Local Government, lay on the table of this House a full report on all the matters to which I have referred?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will refer the whole question to my colleague, the Minister of Local Government.

GAWLER ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE.

Mr. Clark: My constituents are most grateful for the new school at Evanston and for the first stage of the new high school, but they are still most concerned about what appears to be undue delay at the Gawler Adult Education Centre. I know the Minister of Education has agreed sincerely with me before that this is a necessary school. I was informed some time ago that because of its cost it was to go to the Public Works Committee for investigation. Has the Minister of Education any information about this matter, or, if not, can he find out when the project is likely to be referred to the committee?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I cannot give any precise details except that I know the Education Department, the Director of Education, the Superintendent of Technical Schools and I were disappointed that it was not included in the list of works last year and even in preceding years. I assure the honourable member that it will be included in this year's programme because it is long overdue and because it is one of the most popular in this State. I am sure it is under the most capable supervision that could be desired of anybody in this State.

SPEEDBOAT ACCIDENT.

Mr. TAPPING: I desire to refer to an incident that occurred in the Port River adjacent to Snowden's Beach on Sunday afternoon, April 8, when a young woman aged 19 years sustained serious injuries because of the indiscretion of a speedboat driver. May I hasten to say that most of the speedboat owners operating on the Port River are members of the Adelaide Speedboat Club, which governs, by domestic regulations, driving in a hazardous fashion which may injure some person or damage another boat. In this case

the person responsible for the mishap was not a member of the Adelaide Speedboat Club. I have had protests from the Port Adelaide Rowing Club and people who swim near the bank at the Snowden's Beach area about the dangerous practice indulged in by these speedboat people. This is really a Harbors Board matter, and I believe there will be an increase of the hazard because more motor boats are appearing on the Port River almost weekly. Will the Minister of Marine take up this matter with the Harbors Board and get a report from the board, and from the police if necessary, and bring down a recommendation which may be the means of eliminating some of the practices to which I have referred?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The whole matter that the honourable member has raised is full of difficulties. The first question that arises is whose prerogative it is to use any given part of the Port River, or any part of any sheet of water. I have had numerous recommendations made to me by skin divers, water skiers and speedboat owners, all of whom feel that they have a right to the unrestricted use of what nature has provided. It becomes a question of attempting to make some assessment of the rights and privileges of various groups and individuals. That is the overriding difficulty in all these things. In this particular case I am not aware of any of the details, except what I read in the press. It appears that a collision occurred and that a young woman was injured. Suggestions have been made from time to time that even water skiers should be banned from that part of the river, that it was an admirable site for speedboat trials and so on, but the same question that I have already enunciated arose.

The Harbors Board has made one or two suggestions that water skiers and speedboats should not be permitted on this stretch of the Port River because of the hazard to major shipping. Difficulties have arisen in that regard and it was suggested, for instance, that these people should be obliged to conduct their sport in some other part, perhaps in the North Arm or in that vicinity. The whole matter is one of considerable difficulty and in my opinion resolves itself in the exercise of reasonable care and forethought on the part of all concerned for other people's rights and privileges. Unfortunately, of course, there will always be infringements of alleged rights and privileges by some people. As requested, I will obtain a report from the General Manager of the Harbors Board and examine it carefully to see if it contains any matters on which

action can be taken, because I am just as anxious as anyone to minimize hazards and, if it is feasible with human nature as it is, to prevent accidents happening.

WALLAROO HARBOUR.

Mr. HUGHES: Has the Minister of Marine received a report from the General Manager of the Harbors Board regarding the deepening of the berths and making a new channel in the Wallaroo harbour; and if so, will he make it available to me? If not, in view of the time that has elapsed since the first investigations were made, will the Minister take steps to have the matter speeded up?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: At the time the deputation saw me some time ago I indicated that it would be necessary to wait for a time before very much research could be done in this matter. Despite that, much work has been done and there are proposals that a better route may be available for the channel than has been used previously. I believe that the Harbors Board visited ports on Yorke Peninsula last week, but I am not sure whether its members went to Wallaroo or not. The inquiries are not being delayed. I would hope that an interim report, if not a final report, would be received shortly. As soon as this is received, I assure the honourable member that I will discuss it with him.

COONALPYN POLICE STATION.

Mr. NANKIVELL: A line for the erection of a police station at Coonalpyn has been on the Estimates for the past two years, but for various reasons this project has been held up. In view of the vital need of this station, which would be at a point situated 30 miles from another station and would be in a township with a hotel, will the Premier see what can be done to expedite the erection, if it is possible, in the very near future?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. LAWN: Can the Premier indicate when the next sittings of the House will commence?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: There are two matters on the Notice Paper which the Government requires to be cleaned up. These are the Supplementary Estimates, which are quite urgent, and a small Supply Bill to tide us over the period until the House meets again, so that there will be no holding up of supplies. I do not think these matters are contentious and I feel they could quite easily be dealt with this week. In that case the House will probably meet again on July 17.

RAILWAY STANDARDIZATION.

Mr. JENKINS: Recently the Premier had discussions with the Prime Minister regarding the standardization of our railway gauges in the northern area. There was a statement in the press on these discussions. Will the Premier amplify what took place?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I had a conference with the Prime Minister. I have placed before the Commonwealth a specific proposal for work in connection with this matter. The position is that this project would take approximately seven years to complete, and I have suggested to the Prime Minister an expenditure of a little more than £2,000,000 a year by the Commonwealth. Members know that the Commonwealth has already approved for this year an expenditure of £1,325,000 and for the following year a similar amount, and I have suggested that there would be in addition to that approximately £900,000 for road construction. In the project suggested was an amount of £440,000 for broadening the railway gauge between Terowie and Peterborough so that there would not be a double change when the other line was completed. I believe that the suggestions received favourable consideration. They are of course subject to the Commonwealth financial review that is now being prepared. I believe they are urgent in two respects. Firstly, they would provide us with a most valuable link to the eastern markets and, secondly, they would provide substantial employment for unskilled labour, which is one of the chief problems in this State at present. The answer to the question is that a project has been submitted to the Commonwealth Government and is, I believe, being considered sympathetically.

Mr. RICHES: I refer to the following passage in His Excellency's Speech dealing with the Port Pirie to Broken Hill line:

My Government has placed a proposition before the Commonwealth for the standardization of the railway gauge on the Port Pirie to Broken Hill line, which is essential to our industrial well-being.

In the press have appeared statements by Mr. Wentworth and other prominent people who claim that there is no reason why that work should not be done concurrently with the Western Australian standardization proposals and that South Australia would suffer if it were not proceeded with. Can the Treasurer make a statement on the proposition that the State Government has placed before the Commonwealth Government? What is the present situation? Have proposals for standardizing the

line from Port Pirie to Adelaide been considered?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The High Court decision in this connection was to the effect that the State Government had no authority really to determine the rate at which the Commonwealth Government would have to proceed under the Standardization Agreement, so that the rate at which the project, as it stands at present, proceeds is a matter largely for the determination of the Commonwealth Government. As I ventured to say in answer to a previous question, the project before the Commonwealth Government at present is for an order for the standardization of the railway line between Broken Hill and Port Pirie. A period of seven years is proposed for the completion of the work. It does not include Adelaide to Port Pirie but does include, as I have previously mentioned, the small section of line between Terowie and Peterborough.

MOUNT GAMBIER HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. RALSTON: The provision of change rooms and toilet facilities at the playing fields of the Mount Gambier High School is a most urgent matter and should not be delayed any longer than is absolutely necessary. These facilities were provided for in the report of the Public Works Committee on this school, and were also included in the plans and specifications prepared by the Public Buildings Department. The change rooms are entirely apart from the main buildings, and without question could be tendered for separately. In view of the urgency of this matter, will the Minister of Education consider recommending that a separate tender be called for the erection of the change rooms and toilet facilities? Provision for these buildings was made on the Estimates for 1960-61 and also for 1961-62, so it can be seen that there has been some delay.

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I understand that the headmaster and the members of the school council and school committee are negotiating with the Director of Education to have these change rooms and toilets built on a subsidy basis, and that the Director has taken this matter up with the Director of the Public Buildings Department. However, as soon as I receive a report on the matter I will communicate by letter with the honourable member.

IRON ORE DEPOSITS.

Mr. CASEY: I understand that the Australian Blue Metal Company is interested in the iron ore deposits at Olary in the north-east

of this State. Although these deposits consist of only about 1,000,000 tons, they are high grade and suitable for export. Can the Premier, representing the Minister of Mines, say whether agreement has been reached between the Australian Blue Metal Company and the Government regarding the disposal of this ore? The transportation of the ore from Olary to Port Pirie would create much employment on the railways in that area.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The honourable member is correct when he says that that company is interested: it has been investigating the possibilities of exporting from that area. As he has mentioned, the material is high grade but there is not a large lode. Experts from Japan have been here. Associated with the project there is a much larger one under investigation involving the use of lower grade material at Yunta, where there is a large deposit. It was considered that it might be possible to work a project starting with the high grade material while the recovery plant for the lower grade material was being established. The Railways Commissioner has made some reduction in freight rates to try to meet the overseas price conditions, and I have had some discussions regarding the loading equipment to be established at Port Pirie. Although no definite decision has yet been made, the investigations, as far as I know, are proceeding satisfactorily.

TEA TREE GULLY SEWERAGE.

Mr. LAUCKE: With the rapid increase in the number of houses in the Tea Tree Gully district, serious problems are arising in the disposal of septic tank effluent. The concentration of houses in areas where the soil type generally is not conducive to any dispersal of effluent is accentuating the problem, and the need for deep drainage within the near future is quite apparent. Will the Minister of Works inspect the area and note the temporary expedients being adopted to meet the situation, even in this dry period of the year? Will he do that with a view to giving early consideration to the provision of a sewerage system in the district?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will confer with the Engineer-in-Chief, his assistant, or the Engineer for Sewerage (Mr. Murrell) to see whether any of those officers are conversant with the conditions in that area at first-hand. If they are not, I will ask them to make themselves conversant with the conditions, and if it is possible for me to have a look at the area myself I will do so. I will certainly at

least confer with the responsible heads of the department to ascertain their knowledge of the area.

NORWOOD DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

Mr. DUNSTAN: For some time provision has been made on the Estimates for the Marryatville Infant School. The parents of children attending the Marryatville Primary School are anxious to know when a start will be made on the new infant school, as it has not been commenced in accordance with the last forecast by the Minister of Education in the House. I also seek information about the Norwood Girls Technical High School. At the end of last session I raised the question of the plans for rebuilding this school. The overcrowding at the school has now become so bad that the overflow is catered for in the Baptist church hall, which is on the other side of the Parade. This is an old hall; it is not really adapted for educational purposes, and is away from the school site altogether. Up till now, the school council is not aware of any comprehensive plan for the rebuilding of a fair conglomeration of buildings on the original site. I am also concerned about the question of toilet facilities at the East Adelaide Primary School. I raised this matter in the House some time ago, and the Minister then gave some urgent attention to the matter and some repairs and renovations were made. However, the parents of scholars at the school have complained to me that some fairly antediluvian lavatories at this school create a health hazard for some of the children. This is an old-established and big school, and I ask the Minister to give some further attention to completely renewing the toilet facilities there.

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I am aware of the first two matters raised by the honourable member. The Marryatville Infant School is considered necessary, but it is not as urgently necessary as so many others and unfortunately it has been displaced in the order of priority by some other projects that have come crowding in on it as a result of the building activities of the Housing Trust and these large private sub-divisions, which result in a shifting of population and the consequent necessity to put other projects on a higher priority. However, the question will be considered again in the revised list I spoke of earlier this afternoon. Regarding the Norwood Girls Technical High School, I know that the Superintendent of Technical Schools is preparing what I consider is a comprehensive plan, and I think that is urgently necessary. I hope to get some further

information on that as soon as possible. I thought that the question of toilets for the East Adelaide Primary School had been satisfactorily disposed of last year. I am sorry to hear that that is not so and shall make further investigations to see that the conditions to which the students in the honourable member's district are objecting are remedied.

PORT PIRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. McKEE: Can the Minister of Education say what is the position regarding the new primary school and technical school at Port Pirie?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: No; I am sorry that I cannot. I can only repeat what I have said in reply to a couple of previous questions: that the Director of Education is preparing the plans or the proposals for this year's building programme and I hope to have it finalized within the next week or so in order that I can submit it to my colleague the Minister of Works. After that I hope to be able to make some more definite announcements about the many urgently needed school buildings.

WHYALLA DEVELOPMENT.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Can the Minister of Lands say whether any consideration has been given to the request contained in a letter of April 4 from the City of Whyalla Commission suggesting an amendment to Act No. 3 of the Crown Lands Act which would enable the Housing Trust to do certain things at Whyalla that would be of considerable advantage to the development of the city?

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS: The position has been considered to a certain extent by the department, but because of the position of the House recently it has not been proceeded with. I will now give it my attention.

The bells having been rung at 4 p.m.:

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

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

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

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

(Continued from April 12. Page 14.)

In Committee of Supply.

Grand total, £1,290,000.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): As has been usual in the past, the Supplementary Estimates are placed before us to provide the Government with additional appropriation in order to finance the various works, but in view of the serious unemployment position in this State I would have expected to have seen something a little more stimulating than what the Government has put before us on this occasion. As a matter of fact, the Supplementary Estimates before us bear a very marked resemblance to Supplementary Estimates in previous years. Whilst it does not concern the Supplementary Estimates, it is of interest to see what the Government proposes doing with the increased housing loan allocation of £1,036,000. There is no doubt that the building industry is in a very depressed condition at present and that any stimulus the Government can give is sure to be beneficial. However, this stimulus from the Government is essential, for I pointed out at the commencement of this financial year that the Government last year, on a *per capita* basis, completed five per cent fewer houses through the Housing Trust than it did five years ago.

Recently, the Auditor-General drew attention to the operations of the Housing Trust whereby it appears that the trust has paid excessive prices for land in the Smithfield area; and also (apparently as a matter of Government policy, and in order to lessen the criticism because of the lack of action by the Government in overcoming the housing shortage in this State) that the trust has been forced to over-extend its building programme with the result that too many houses are in the course of construction as compared with completions. This has had the result of funds invested in the Housing Trust's programme incurring interest commitments, but, because the houses have not been completed, there is no offsetting rental payments or mortgage instalments. I sincerely hope that the Government will rectify this position in the near future, and concentrate on having houses completed with the object of satisfactorily housing the population of this State.

From time to time the Government's policy has been to drastically curtail building operations because the trust has over-spent; consequently many houses are not completed until

approval for further expenditure is granted. The Government should seriously consider requiring the Housing Trust to insist that its contractors pay appropriate award rates to their employees. That situation must obtain if we are to get value for the money expended. If the present situation continues we will reach the stage when young persons will not train to become building tradesmen and our housing will suffer as a result.

The State Bank has certainly been lagging with Loan finance for many years as the result of inadequate funds, and we have frequently drawn the Government's attention to this matter, but it has taken many years before the Government has been prepared to admit that there has been any lag in finance for housing. I was very disappointed at the niggardly hand-out to the building societies of only £36,000. Many worthy persons are members of these building societies and they require housing accommodation. It is certainly a rebuff from the Government when such a small amount is allocated to them towards their building programme.

The Treasurer tried to imply that his Government had done much ground work prior to the allocation of Commonwealth funds in order to implement the decisions of the conferences in February last, but I emphasize that I have been attempting for more than 12 months to persuade the Treasurer to take action to alleviate the present unemployment position in this State. Until the Commonwealth and State Governments received severe condemnation from the electors at the most recent elections no action was taken. It is small comfort to persons who have been unemployed or on short time for periods up to 12 months to now be told that the Government is taking immediate remedial action. If action similar to that being taken now had been taken in March last year we would not be in the present unsatisfactory position. However, as I said earlier, the Supplementary Estimates are unimaginative, and the Government is still prepared to ride on the backs of the local councils in alleviating the unemployment position. The Supplementary Estimates total £1,290,000, but £645,000 of it is creamed off to Loan funds. We are not given any details of how this money is to be spent, except the brief mention that £385,000 will go to the Engineering and Water Supply Department, £230,000 to the Public Buildings Department and £30,000 to minor activities.

Surely all members should be given the opportunity to vote on the full amount before

us rather than have more than half the allocation siphoned into the Loan fund pool without our having any say as to how it is to be spent. This method rather savors of similar action by the Government in the past, when it has sought appropriation but the allocation has been designed in such a way that the Treasurer has still retained the funds even although Parliament has approved that the money should be spent in the interests of the community. As I said earlier, councils are expected to alleviate the unemployment position because they are expected to increase their borrowings by £800,000, which is an increase of two-thirds on the borrowing programme envisaged at the commencement of this financial year.

I do not agree that the councils should be expected to assist in relieving unemployment without receiving Government grants for the purpose. It should not be necessary for them to raise the money needed by increasing the rates. If we are ever to relieve the present unemployment position, which we have had long enough, we must not expect the ratepayers to provide the money. The answer is to give the councils Government grants. The provision of labour will be a difficulty. I do not think that 10 men experienced in council road work could be obtained from the employment office. Why should ratepayers be expected to pay the interest on money borrowed by councils in an attempt to relieve the unemployment position? We read in the press recently of three councils that want to start a building programme. One wanted to borrow £80,000 to build municipal offices, but some people said that instead of the money being spent in that way it should be spent on the construction of roads and footpaths. We should approach this matter in a proper way and not permit further borrowing and taxing by councils. They should be given Government grants.

I was interested to see that the Children's Hospital has been allocated a further £100,000, but I am wary of the Government on this matter. This could be another example of the Government appropriating funds for expenditure but still retaining them in the Treasury. According to information I gathered, which information I passed on to the electors recently, the sum of £1,000,000 was transferred from the Treasury to the Electricity Trust. I have not heard of its being spent, and this Children's Hospital allocation may be something similar, but I do not know. The reason for my suspicion about the Children's Hospital is that at the commencement of the year

we appropriated £400,000 as a contribution to the Children's Hospital building fund. The hospital is a worthy institution and essential for the well-being of the children in our community who are unfortunate enough to require hospital treatment. I favour helping the hospital to expand at the speediest rate possible. In order to adequately consider this line, I would like to know how much of the £400,000 appropriation the Children's Hospital has already utilized, and I would also like to know when the extra £100,000 is likely to be spent.

I would like an answer to all these matters before the Supplementary Estimates are finally dealt with. When members seek information it should be made available to them readily.

The Treasurer informed us regarding the Hospitals Department that an additional £40,000 was required, and that £20,000 of it was needed mainly for additional staffing at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. At the commencement of this financial year we voted £799,000 for this hospital to cover salaries and wages, which was an increase of 10 per cent on the previous year, but it appears that when-

ever Supplementary Estimates are placed before us additional staff is required at that hospital. In view of the running costs of this hospital being high in relation to the number of patients treated, I consider that the time is fast approaching when this hospital will have to be reviewed to learn why this particular project of the Treasurer is continuing to incur exorbitant costs.

In regard to education, and excluding salaries and wages which the Treasurer informed us are placed in Supplementary Estimates solely to relieve the Governor's Appropriation Fund later in the year, the Supplementary Estimates on this line are similar to those placed before us in earlier years. It is interesting to see, however, how this is another department of the present Government where the expenditure is continuing to mount; for example, with primary schools contingencies we appropriated £342,000 at the commencement of this year, which was an increase of nearly £25,000, but, for some reason, a further £15,000 is now required. The same applies to the other contingency lines under Education as set out in the following table:

Contingency line.	Appropriated 1961/62. £	Increase on 1960/61. £	Further provision now required. £
Area schools	95,000	8,942	5,000
Boys and Girls Technical High Schools ..	211,000	44,324	10,000
High Schools	480,000	43,930	10,000
Recruitment and training of teachers ..	73,000	5,492	5,000

Our expenditure is certainly continuing to mount on educational commitments, but is the Government overcoming the shortcomings of our education system? I do not think it is necessary for me to answer that question because results speak for themselves and parents of any of our school children are all well aware of the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing in our schools today. I learned with some interest this afternoon from the Minister of Education, when he replied to certain questions, that he now admits that he cannot spend the £6,000,000 appropriated under last year's Loan Estimates for school buildings.

The Hon. B. Pattinson: I did not say any such thing. I said entirely the opposite—that it won't go round.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I am prepared to tell you now that I said you could not spend the amount you received from the Loan Estimates last year for school buildings in the

12 months, and I repeat that you cannot spend it and you claimed this afternoon, if I heard you correctly—

The Hon. B. Pattinson: You certainly did not hear me correctly or if you did hear me correctly you did not understand me correctly.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: If I heard you correctly I understood you were now going to bring down a plan or a proposition to erect buildings you have already promised to have erected.

The Hon. B. Pattinson: I said the £6,000,000 would not be sufficient.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I am prepared to tell you that you cannot spend it on school buildings in 12 months.

The Hon. B. Pattinson: We shall see.

Mr. Dunstan: He has not spent it on the things Parliament voted the money for.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: It is nearly time you looked to see where this money went and I hope, when the information is brought here,

you will be able to tell the Committee the number of contracts let in the 12 months from July 1, 1961, to June 30, 1962.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the honourable member to address the Chair.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I am not personally debating the question with the Minister, but I am seeking information. If I have to personally speak to you, Mr. Chairman, I hope the Minister will be able to hear my voice. I still question whether the Minister will in the 12 months spend the £6,000,000 appropriated for school buildings and I hope that the Minister will be able to supply information of the number of contracts let from July 1, 1961, to June 30, 1962. I hope, too, that he can inform the Committee of the amount spent in progress payments out of the appropriations on contracts, that is, the difference between the capital cost of the contracts and the amount spent on progress payments to June 30, so that members may see what surplus is left out of the £6,000,000.

I am also interested to know how much longer we shall have to wait to know what has become of the schools in my area. How much longer do we have to wait before the department decides whether it will spreadeagle more buildings over a limited area or whether it will build some substantial school buildings? I do not need to particularize, but one school that comes readily to mind is Forbes. I have raised this matter on many occasions and recently received information from the Minister—whom apparently I am not even allowed to look at—who answered my inquiry on education matters in that area. Unfortunately, the department is not able to purchase any land to relieve the congestion. I can only assume that the Minister will be able to give a definite report when the House next meets as to what is to become of that school and whether we can expect further substantial and permanent buildings to be erected so that the headmaster may have a reasonable opportunity of visiting classrooms without having to walk so far in the course of his duties. Perhaps the Minister can give some further consideration to that department in order to relieve the position.

The increase of £15,000 under "Agriculture Department" is one of those things which cannot be anticipated accurately when preparing the Estimates, and it relates to the control of oriental fruit moth and san jose scale. However, this should not mean increased expenditure for the Agriculture Department, because more than this amount should be saved

from the £119,000 allocation that we provided at the commencement of this year for fruit fly control. I have no objection to this increased allocation. On the next line, however, referring to the Mines Department geological and geophysical survey, I am not so happy. At the commencement of this year, we appropriated £155,000, which was an increase of £35,300, or about 30 per cent, on the previous year, and now the Treasurer informs us that he requires a further £30,000. This increase seems excessive, and I should like a further explanation of why the increase of £65,300 over and above the expenditure for last year is required. The Treasurer has provided us with a general explanation, but, in view of the large proportionate increase, I should like further details.

The handout to the Railways Department of £30,000 is most niggardly. Railway revenue this year is buoyant, and I estimate that it is at least £800,000 up on our revenue for last year. In the Railways Department, there is adequate potential for immediate works to be carried out by the Government with the object of relieving the unemployment position. However, the Treasurer has seen fit not to allocate any additional finance in this direction. I am concerned about how the £645,000 that is to go into the Loan Account will be spent. I believe we should be entitled to some further explanation in this matter. I understand that the payment of £30,000 to the Railways Department is a special grant to facilitate work on the Thevenard line. I have indicated on many occasions, and I repeat, that if the unemployment position is to be relieved a greater allocation will have to be made to the Railways Department. This will assist also in ensuring the safe working of tracks on the West Coast. Do I need to give any further instances? The *Weekly Notices* published by the Railways Commissioner, or with his authority and approval, clearly indicate the poor condition of railway tracks. Because of that, I believe there should be a greater allocation from these funds to the Railways Department.

Under "Minister of Roads" the Treasurer requires an additional £15,000 for the Public Parks Act. However, when the Estimates were presented at the beginning of this year, we granted an increase from £14,386 to £37,500—an increase of £23,114. I should like further information on why an additional £15,000 is now required.

I consider it would be much better for the Treasurer on future occasions, when he requires

Supplementary Estimates to be passed by this Committee, to present them in such form that members are able to make comparisons between how much of the original appropriation has already been spent and how much was provided in the immediately preceding year. Also, if a large proportion of the supplementary expenditure is being creamed off to the Loan fund pool, we should at least be in a position to know how our expenditure on Loan works compares with the original Estimates; and as a Parliament we are entitled to know where the revenue appropriations go after being approved for transfer to Loan funds. If this information was provided for members, they would be able immediately to assess whether the additional amounts proposed were reasonable or otherwise.

I should think that, if this Government had efficient control of the Treasury finances, it would be in a position to inform all members of the expected financial outcome for this financial year as a result of the Supplementary Estimates being passed. Instead, we are told that it is not possible to forecast with any accuracy the final outcome of the year's finances. Surely it is not much use introducing Supplementary Estimates if the Government is not prepared to tell us what it hopes to achieve in the final result.

In conclusion, I point out that, whilst the Treasurer put forward Estimates to the value of £1,290,000, £970,000 is a direct grant by the Commonwealth Government, which leaves only £320,000 being financed from the resources of this State. Also, £645,000 is being transferred to the Loan Fund pool so that all members are being denied the right to have any say in how this amount is to be spent. It is rather a matter of executive control of the State *via* a proposed Loan expenditure instead of a democratic vote by Parliament as a whole as to the best method of disbursing the Supplementary Estimates for the benefit of the community as a whole.

Mr. LOVEDAY (Whyalla): In supporting the Leader, and in looking at this list of Supplementary Estimates, one or two things come to my mind. I realize that much of this money is intended to relieve unemployment. In considering that, it occurs to me first to ask whether any analysis has been made of the unemployment position, from the point of view of the skills or otherwise of the people unemployed and of their location at this moment, because it is obvious that, if money is just put out on various projects without regard to those points, it does not necessarily have the

maximum beneficial effect in relieving unemployment. So far, I have heard nothing along those lines.

I think it is obvious that, if money is provided for the relief of unemployment, so far as possible it should be spent on projects that need the money and at the same time should be spent in places and in directions where the unemployed can be best employed and can be available. Many unemployed people are obviously not able to travel away from their homes unless they are assisted to do so. I have heard nothing along the lines whether any analysis has been made of this position in regard to the allocation of the money. If we could have some information on that, I should be pleased.

I noticed that the Leader of the Opposition commented regarding the allocation of money for work by councils. I agree with him that had this money been provided to councils by way of a grant rather than a loan, it would have been more greatly appreciated. On the other hand, councils are faced with the position that they are usually over-borrowing, and when they come to borrow they often meet with strenuous resistance from ratepayers, who realize that the loan has to be serviced from an addition to their rates. We find the problem of insufficient finance for council work everywhere. Councils have to borrow to a large extent to carry out their work. Consequently, had grants been made available instead of loans for this work, I am sure that many councils would have been more ready to apply for the money, rather than build up their responsibilities in respect of servicing loans. I feel that these two matters are of special interest to honourable members.

Mr. DUNSTAN (Norwood): I agree with what the Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Loveday have said. In a district like mine where there are many working-class people living close to the centre of Adelaide I am very much concerned to find that there seems little alteration that I can discern in the employment position. I have a stream of people coming to my house every night still seeking work. Many of them have some training, but there is no employment available to them in the Norwood district and none that I can find provided by these Estimates.

The Treasurer said that one of the best ways to deal with the unemployment position was by using moneys allocated to the State Bank from the special grant for housing under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement.

I cannot find from people in my district who have made applications to the State Bank that there is any vast improvement in the situation. There is still considerable delay in granting money to people who have applications in as owner-builders. I had a recent case brought to my notice and it is typical of many. These people have had an application lodged for a considerable time. They were told that they should get their framework up. They did this and then they were told that they must get the roof on. They did that and then they were told that they must wait six months for the loan. So, they sit there with half a house erected and with no money to complete it. I find that when young married couples apply to the State Bank for assistance, because of the income requirement stipulated by the bank the majority do not qualify for a loan because they simply do not have the required clear income per week, which the bank demands for such a loan. It amounts to £16 a week clear.

Mr. Loveday: That is after all commitments?

Mr. DUNSTAN: Yes. We have young couples with children in that position. Many young couples in my district need assistance desperately, but that assistance is not forthcoming. I find that young couples who can take advantage of the improved terms for loans announced by the Treasurer in his policy speech prior to the last election are very few indeed, and that the benefit to be given to these young people under that promise seems fairly largely an illusory one. The accommodation position with these young couples in my district is now desperate. It is impossible to find within the district of Norwood, which is still largely a rental housing area, accommodation for a family at less than £4 10s. a week, and finding such a place is like finding a diamond mine. There are very few of them. I know of people trying to live on social services and the small grant they get from the Children's Welfare Department who are paying £6 6s. a week for a part house, and that is the average expenditure.

The housing situation is not getting better. At the same time, many of these people are unable to find work and they need accommodation. They have to try to meet their position from the pittance they receive from the Children's Welfare Department. There is neither housing nor work available for them. I cannot find that the amount disclosed in these Estimates will make any great difference to the work position. The Government announced that more men were to be employed

by the Engineering and Water Supply Department and following that I rang the department and said, "I have a list as long as my arm of people in my district who are looking for work. Can you take anyone on?" and I was told that they were full up. That announcement was about as useful to relieve the unemployment position in my district as another announcement the Treasurer made just a week before the elections. I was very interested in this, because I saw an ABS Channel 2 telecast of the Treasurer in the Candidates Session, and in the course of his remarks he said that the Government was very concerned about unemployment and that it had a number of plans for coping with the unemployment position in this State. It was negotiating with a number of new industries that were coming here which would assist to relieve unemployment. The Treasurer said that the following morning he would be completing arrangements for the establishment of a new industry at Elizabeth and the next day it was announced in the stop press of the *News* that this new industry was a subsidiary to Harcastle Engineering—National Springs Pty. Ltd. at Elizabeth. On the Wednesday morning in the *Advertiser* there were large headlines to the effect that the new industry at Elizabeth would assist unemployment in this State. So, I rang the industry and said, "I am pleased that you are going to cope with some unemployment. I have many people in my district who are trained in the metal trades. How many of them could you employ?" and they replied that there was much unemployment at Elizabeth and they were full up. When I asked how many men they would be putting on they said, "Three or four"; so I then inquired of the Secretary of the Federated Ironworkers Association, which covers this business, what this factory was. The Secretary had a look at his files and his report was that in fact at this factory there were only 15 employees. The new industry consisted of the placing of two new machines in that small existing factory; one worker for each machine was being brought from Sydney, and they were taking on two additional South Australian workmen for each of those machines.

This is not coping with the unemployment situation, and I do not think it is very much assistance to the unemployed in South Australia that great announcements are made as to future employment here on the basis of new industries which are as infinitesimal as the placing of two new machines in a very small

existing factory in Elizabeth. I see figures released by the Minister for Labour and National Service about the unemployment situation, and he tells us that it is vastly improved and that South Australia is very much better off than it was previously. However, I find that those figures include none of the migrants who have come to this State, and who have never had a job. I have many of them in Norwood; half of the community of Benevento seems to have come to the district of Norwood.

Mr. Jenkins: You have most of the 100,000 unemployed in the whole of Australia!

Mr. DUNSTAN: I have not as many as that, but I assure the member for Stirling that there are sufficient unemployed in Norwood to give some concern to anybody who has any heart or any compassion, and facetious remarks from people like himself do not help their plight.

Mr. Jenkins: We have had a few from the honourable member, too, and that doesn't do any good for the unemployed.

Mr. DUNSTAN: I am certainly not making any facetious remarks about the unemployed. If the honourable member thinks that in referring to the Treasurer's announcement about the new industry at Elizabeth I was being facetious, I assure him that I was not.

Mr. Jenkins: Not much!

Mr. DUNSTAN: No, I was not; I do not think it is a subject for laughing; I do not think it is funny.

Mr. Jenkins: Who's laughing?

Mr. DUNSTAN: The honourable member was making facetious remarks a few moments ago, and then he accused me of doing so. I do not know what the honourable member thinks he is doing. Where are we going to find work for these people? I cannot find that it is roped with under these Estimates at the moment, and I cannot find that the present unemployment figures released by the Minister for Labour and National Service include these many migrant workmen who have been here for many months and never had a job. Those migrants are not included in the unemployment figures: according to the Minister for Labour and National Service they are not unemployed because they are in receipt not of unemployment benefit but of special benefit, so he does not include them in his figures. However, they are unemployed. Those people are human beings, and they badly need work. How in the world they are able to cope on the present miserable pittance of special benefit, with the desperate needs of their families, is

often beyond me. I know some of them have assistance from their families and other members of their community. I have priests in my district who are desperate to get financial assistance for unemployed people there, and they are simply unable to raise enough in church moneys to cope with their plight.

The unemployment situation here is still desperate. The provisions that are made in these Estimates, as the member for Whyalla so cogently pointed out, are not such provisions as will make any significant difference to this situation. As far as I am able to judge, the situation will continue where in the crowded metropolitan districts we will still have unemployment for a considerable time. I can find no factories in my district which are putting men on, but I can find numbers of factories which are putting men off; and employer after employer in my district is complaining to me that in fact the announced return to prosperity in Australia and easing of the credit situation is not occurring in their businesses. Numbers of factories in Norwood are on part-time.

I hope to hear something from the Government at some time which is a little better than what is contained in these Supplementary Estimates or in the announcements of the Treasurer to which I have referred, and which will deal with the unemployment situation. The plain fact is that so far we have heard nothing from the Government of South Australia that will cope with the desperate plight of so many of these people.

Mr. RICHES (Stuart): I rise to speak to a couple of lines I would not have addressed myself to but for the turn of events this afternoon. I notice that in the Supplementary Estimates additional money is to be made available for educational buildings. This gives me the opportunity to state a case for my own electorate in that regard, something I was not able to do because of the effluxion of time at question time. I judge from the remarks of the Minister of Education, in his replies to other questions, that the Education Department is having great difficulty in providing the buildings necessary for educating the young people of this State, and that he is calling together the heads of departments for the purpose of drawing up a priority list for the construction of buildings.

I am not sure that country school committees, high school councils and adult education centres will be fully aware that the priorities in relation to the construction of

buildings for the ensuing year will be determined in the next few weeks. It also occurs to me that Parliament may not be sitting again until July 17, so this is the opportunity for me to bring publicly under the notice of the Minister the requirements of buildings, for Port Augusta at any rate. I emphasize the need for an early start on a new adult education centre building for that town, a building which has been promised by the superintendents and by departmental officials but which has been held up, I understand, because, amongst other things, of some query as to the best possible site. I ask that when the heads of departments meet and consider this priority list, the work that has been asked for from Port Augusta on a new adult education centre, and the work at the Port Augusta Central Primary School, will not be overlooked.

I add my voice to the opinions already expressed that more immediate relief could have been given to the unemployed if the Government had made funds available, as requested by the Municipal Association and other local government bodies, to provide employment on the spot, where people live, on works that could be carried out by semi-skilled or even unskilled labour. My experience has been that in a number of trades there is a demand, even today, for skilled men, but that the people who are suffering the saddest plight—and I do not think that situation has been overstated in any respect—are those who may be categorized as semi-skilled and unskilled. I cannot speak for the city, but I can speak for the territory that I know, and that is the experience there. We in Port Augusta have had to establish an unemployment relief committee. That committee issues food to men coming through in search of work and to local men who need work, and we have had to reduce the amount of food issued so that it now consists only of pasties and tea, and only one issue a day. The applicant must have his meal ticket endorsed by the police. Even with that measure, I was told on Monday that the committee had completely exhausted all its funds. We are appealing to the churches, the unions and societies such as St. Vincent de Paul, which have helped out and contributed funds in the past, to give us another hand-out to meet this situation.

Some of this obligation is, I believe, rightly the responsibility of the Commonwealth Railways. Men go to Port Augusta in search of work. Sometimes they are taken on but they have to remain a couple of days in the town

waiting for a train, and somebody has to provide food for them while they wait. Last week I had to sign a chit for 237 tickets. On Monday I was informed by the local manager of Forwood Down & Company Ltd. that he was having three applications a day from men looking for work, and that one man comes from Quorn every second day asking whether a job is available for him. That is the situation brought to my notice that I have to deal with and I should be surprised if that were isolated. I suggest that some of this money, instead of being paid out of general revenue and set down specifically for the relief of unemployment, could have been spent to better advantage and given more immediate relief had it been made available for works that could have been put in hand immediately throughout the State. I doubt whether there is a local council anywhere in South Australia that could not provide work next week if the finance were made available.

Parliament after this week will not meet again until July and I want this point of view considered by the Government in the meantime. It is not to do directly with any line of the Supplementary Estimates but is a matter of vital importance to South Australia: that is, the reference in the Governor's Speech to the proposal to spend £150,000,000 on the construction of the Torrens Island power station, which has been described as the biggest industrial project in the State. Is any Government money going into that project? If it is, I ask that the Government consider altering the Act so that that project may be referred to the Public Works Committee for investigation and report. Parliament has recognized over the years the soundness of the decision of Parliament to refer all works incurring expenditure in excess of £100,000 to the Public Works Committee for investigation and report back to Parliament. I have heard that committee commended over and over again for its work. Parliament as a whole subscribes to the wisdom of that provision. When the Electricity Trust was set up time was the essence of the contract, and the Electricity Trust expenditure was excluded from those provisions.

I do not intend to go over past history but thousands of pounds could have been saved in dealing with the smog at the Port Augusta power station alone had there been an independent inquiry by the Public Works Committee. My point is that this proposal to construct a new power station at Torrens Island is probably sound from the point of

view of the Electricity Trust and certain other people, but not from the point of view of the State as a whole. I believe that decentralization is worth while even if it costs something. The engineers in the Electricity Trust in drawing up their programme will naturally concern themselves with the production of electricity at the cheapest possible rate: it is not their business to take into the accounting anywhere along the line the value to the State of decentralizing industry. If this new power station could be erected at Wallaroo, a regeneration of industry and life in that part of South Australia far exceeding anything it had ever known would be brought about—and that is worth something to South Australia. The value of decentralized development of that nature should be taken into account by somebody somewhere along the line. I am not satisfied that that is necessarily the responsibility of the engineers of the Electricity Trust but, if this matter were referred to the Public Works Committee, it could be examined from every aspect, representatives from that district could give evidence, and other evidence could be obtained. That committee could be trusted to evaluate the worthwhileness of decentralization, which does not necessarily show in the planning of the Electricity Trust.

The power station could go to Port Pirie. I have here set out from the Electricity Trust the requirements necessary—location, area, proximity to water and other requirements necessary to the establishment of this new station. It seems to me that practically every requirement asked for and listed is available around the ports of Spencer Gulf. A project involving the expenditure of £150,000,000 is far too big to be allowed to proceed farther in its developmental stages without reference to some committee like the Public Works Committee.

I draw the attention of the Committee to the extraordinary fact that any other public work requiring an expenditure of at least £100,000 has to go before this committee. We all agree that that is sound and that, as a result, the State has been saved many thousands of pounds expenditure. Yet not thousands or hundreds of thousands of pounds but £150,000,000 is to be spent without the project's being referred to anybody for investigation and report. It is not clear to me at this stage how this £150,000,000 will be raised. I feel that somewhere along the line the Government will be asked to raise a fair portion of it. For that reason I ask that this matter be referred to the Public Works Committee for

investigation and report before the Government is definitely committed to Torrens Island as the final word in the location of that power station.

The CHAIRMAN: For the information of members, I propose to submit the lines to the Committee *seriatim*.

CHIEF SECRETARY AND MINISTER OF HEALTH.
Hospitals Department, £40,000; Miscellaneous, £100,000—passed.

TREASURER AND MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION.

Miscellaneous, £645,000.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Can the Treasurer say whether the £645,000 will be used on works that can be commenced immediately? I have in mind sewerage schemes and other works that could employ unskilled labour. Will some of that money be used by the Railways Department which, I notice, is not to receive a big sum? Will any special grant be made to local government?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer): The Commonwealth has made this money available to the States for expenditure in boosting the general economy, and to put more money into circulation. The £645,000 is to be spent on projects that have been approved by Parliament. As members know, the rate of construction of works is determined by the finance available. This afternoon members have asked the Minister of Education about various schools and have complained that although money has been provided on the Estimates the work has not proceeded. All of this £645,000 will be used in employment-promoting works, but they will be works of value to the community. The money will not be wasted in cleaning up gutters, for instance. The money is allocated under two headings: firstly, to the Engineering and Water Supply Department and, secondly, to the Public Buildings Department. The Engineering and Water Supply Department can employ a bigger percentage of unskilled labour than any other department. Many departments use only skilled labour. Members are aware that any building project not only employs labour directly but it starts a chain of sequences that are good from the viewpoint of labour production, and that is why money will be used by the Public Buildings Department. We can organize the expenditure of this money quickly because we have works planned and works already in progress that can be expedited. Money can be spent only once and it is being spent to the best advantage in providing employment.

Mr. RYAN: I take it that the money will be spent on works already approved by Parliament?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes. Line passed.

MINISTER OF WORKS.

Engineering and Water Supply Department, £150,000.

Mr. RYAN: Before the election of March 3 the Government publicized its intention of placing unskilled labour back into industry. Under a three-inch headline in the press the Treasurer and the Minister of Works announced that men would be placed in work immediately by the Engineering and Water Supply Department and they referred to two projects that would be used for that purpose. One of the projects mentioned concerned me: the commencement of a sewerage scheme for Woodville Gardens, Mansfield Park, Ottoway and surrounding districts. However, on making representations to the Minister of Works, who had referred to this scheme as proceeding immediately, I was informed that I had misread the press statement and that the project was not to be commenced immediately because at that stage it had not been submitted to the Public Works Committee. I wholeheartedly support any proposal designed to re-employ men, but I condemn the Government for making false promises—and it is amazing that they are made immediately before an election—to employ men, and for announcing the projects on which they are to be employed when subsequently we are told that the works are not to be commenced immediately and that they have been misquoted in the press. If the project I mentioned has not been referred to the Public Works Standing Committee it obviously cannot be included in a programme for this financial year. Obviously it could not commence before the 1963-64 financial year. In view of what has happened, it is no wonder that the people on March 3 so strongly voiced their opinion of the Government.

I thought, when the Treasurer announced that he would get about £1,000,000 from the Commonwealth, that those schemes which were considered urgent and would employ unskilled labour would have been included in the Supplementary Estimates. I asked the Treasurer about the matter so that I would not be misinformed, and he told me that the amount referred only to work that had already been approved, and that the money had already been appropriated. That means that we are duplicating the appropriation of money for the one

project. The Government gives false publicity about these matters and builds up the hopes of unemployed people. Are we to be misled in this way? The Leader of the Opposition has pointed out that even in the last 12 months some work approved has not been carried out and the Loan money received has only covered up for money already appropriated. I will not take this sort of thing from any Government.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: It would have been useful had the honourable member known what he was talking about. It would have enabled this item to be dealt with more intelligently. It does not cover the work mentioned by the member for Port Adelaide. An additional sum of £60,000 is provided for salaries and wages, £60,000 for cost of materials, services, machinery hire and general expenses incurred for the operation and maintenance of the Adelaide water district, including the Mannum-Adelaide main, and £30,000 for cost of materials, services, machinery hire and general expenses incurred for the operation and maintenance of the Tod River Water District. The Government cannot proceed with certain works until reports on them have been received from the Public Works Committee. The Government intends to proceed with the work mentioned by the honourable member, subject to a favourable report from the committee. I am informed that a report is expected to be available in time to allow an amount to be placed on the Estimates for next year. I cannot guarantee that, because we have to wait for the report from the committee. Last year in a difficult period the State Government employed 2,500 additional people, not 500. The honourable member should compare that with what was done in other States.

Mr. RYAN: I want to refute some of the statements made by the Treasurer. I was dealing with the item under discussion. The Treasurer publicly said that he would get £1,000,000 as a supplementary grant from the Commonwealth to boost employment in South Australia. Does he deny that?

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: If the honourable member wants me to deny it I will deny it. I was going to a conference and said I was hoping to receive that money.

Mr. RYAN: The Treasurer said he hoped to receive £1,000,000 as a supplementary grant from the Commonwealth, and it was publicly announced that certain projects would be paid for out of that money.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: That is not right.

Mr. RYAN: The 500 men were to be employed on one of the projects. Immediately I received the information I wrote to the Minister of Works saying that I was vitally concerned about the unemployment position and that a definite project should be put into operation to employ 500 men immediately. I object to reading public statements and then being told that I misquoted them, and that there was no hope of there being an immediate project.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I again say that it is a pity the honourable member did not know the facts of the case, because the Government employed more than 500 men in anticipation of the Commonwealth grant.

Line passed.

Public Works, £145,000—passed.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

Education Department, £120,000—passed.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FORESTS.

Agriculture Department, £15,000—passed.

MINISTER OF MINES.

Mines Department, £30,000.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: We shall be able to get the second seismic survey plant in operation earlier than was expected when the Estimates were considered last year. This is high expenditure, and it is true, as the Leader of the Opposition said, that the sum spent on mineral surveys is increasing rapidly. Because of the discovery of oil in Queensland, any sum spent on a positive search for oil in this State is money well spent.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS.

Railways Department, £30,000.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: This proposed expenditure is to come from Commonwealth funds. Is there any possibility of the £645,000 mentioned earlier, or any of it, being used by the Railways Department or is it earmarked for some other purpose?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This additional money came to hand and the Government considered where it could be used best and most rapidly. Regarding Loan works and general appropriations, the Railways Department appears to have no requirement for additional money over that provided by Parliament at the appropriate time last year. However, the Engineering and Water Supply Department reached a position where it was over-spending and needed more money. The sum of £20,000 is for an unusual item that was not before the Committee when the Estimates were

considered last year, that item being the extension of the railway line to Kowulka out from Thevenard to enable another company to operate gypsum leases and extend the production of gypsum. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited has large leases there and may open them up for the shipment of gypsum to other States and overseas. A road or a railway line must be constructed and the Government believes that the raiiling of this material to Thevenard would be more advantageous and more in the general interests of the State than if it were transported by road. To enable that to be done some extension of the railway facilities on the Thevenard line would have to be undertaken and that is the background of the matter. This is a new item that has never before been considered when Estimates were before the Committee and it arises out of the hope we have of opening up this industry and raiiling about 50,000 tons of material annually.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF ROADS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Miscellaneous, £15,000—passed.

The Chairman having reported to the House:

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I move:

That the Standing Orders be so far suspended as to enable the resolution to be at once received and considered and all necessary steps to be taken for the introduction and passage through all stages of an Appropriation Bill without delay.

In moving this motion I point out that there is urgency in connection with it. The money is required for the purpose of works and progress and upon which there is a sum to be expended.

The SPEAKER: I thank the Treasurer for that explanation but I draw attention to Standing Order 459 which states:

In cases of urgent necessity, any Standing or Sessional order may be suspended on motions without notice, provided that such motion has the concurrence of an absolute majority of the whole number of members of the House of Assembly.

Motion carried.

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1).

The Supplementary Estimates were adopted by the House and an Appropriation Bill for £1,290,000 was founded in Committee of Ways and Means, introduced by the Hon. Sir Thomas Playford, and read a first time.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is based upon the Supplementary Estimates which have been dealt with by the

House. Clause 2 authorizes the issue of a further £1,290,000 from the general revenue for the purposes set out in the Supplementary Estimates. Clause 3 appropriates that sum and sets out the amount to be provided under each department or activity.

Clause 4 provides that the Treasurer shall have available to spend only such amounts as are authorized by a warrant from His Excellency the Governor, and that the receipts of the payees shall be accepted as evidence that the payments have been duly made. Clause 5 gives power to issue money out of Loan Funds or other public funds if the moneys received from the Commonwealth Government and the general revenue of the State are insufficient to meet the payments authorized by this Bill. I commend the Bill for consideration of members.

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

SUPPLY BILL (No. 1).

In Committee of Supply.

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

That towards defraying the expenses of the establishments and public services of the State for the year ending June 30, 1963, a sum of £6,000,000 be granted: provided that no payments for any establishment or service shall be made out of the said sum in excess of the rates voted for similar establishments or services on the Estimates for the financial year ending June 30, 1962, except increases of salaries or wages fixed or prescribed by any return made under any Act relating to the Public Service or by any regulation or by any award, order or determination of any court or other body empowered to fix or prescribe wages or salaries.

Motion carried.

Resolution adopted by the House, Bill founded in Committee of Ways and Means, introduced by the Hon. Sir Thomas Playford, and read a first time.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It provides for the appropriation of moneys so that the Public Service of the State may be carried on in the early part of next financial year. Clause 2 provides for the issue and application of £6,000,000, which should suffice to meet the normal expenses of the Public Service in July and the early part of August. As further supply will be required early in August it will be necessary to introduce a second Supply Bill in July. Further Bills may be necessary to enable the Public Service to carry on until Parliament has considered the

Estimates of Expenditure and passed the Appropriation Bill for the financial year 1962-63. Clause 3 provides for the payment of any increases in salaries or wages which may be authorized by any court or other body empowered to fix or prescribe salaries and wages.

The Bill is in the precise form of the ordinary Supply Bill except that it provides a much smaller amount than is normally provided. The reason for that is that Parliament will be meeting early in July, and, secondly, in recent years there has been quite a change in the practice regarding Loan Council meetings. Previously, we have sometimes had to wait until July or even August before the finances of the State for the year could be determined, but more recently the Loan Council has been meeting in June and that enables us to discuss the position early in July. It is intended that the House will meet early in July, by which time I hope that details of the financial provisions for the year will be available for honourable members.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): Despite the Treasurer's explanation, I still wonder why it will be necessary to introduce another financial measure in July. When Parliament resumes we will proceed with the Address in Reply debate, which normally takes a considerable time. I am concerned to know what is in the Treasurer's mind regarding how and when the next supplementary provisions will be needed.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I think the second reading statement is rather optimistic. The present annual appropriation is about £86,000,000. Statutory authority exists for about £26,000,000, so actually it would be necessary to provide for expenditure of between £5,000,000 and £6,000,000 a month. The amount appropriated by this Bill will provide for one month's supply, so if we meet early in July we will have to consider another Bill of this description fairly early. The sum mentioned in this Bill will carry us on until Parliament has another opportunity of meeting.

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

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

The Legislative Council notified its appointment of sessional committees.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 6.1 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, April 19, at 2 p.m.