

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, July 25, 1962.

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

QUESTIONS.**MOUNT GAMBIER STONE.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Yesterday, in reply to a question I asked about the use of Mount Gambier stone in school buildings, the Minister of Works said:

In several instances the successful tenderers asked the department whether they could change from Mount Gambier stone to bricks and, after considering the matter, I agreed that that could be done provided that no time was lost and that the contractor undertook the responsibility for the changeover.

Will the Minister say whether, before the decision to change from Mount Gambier stone to brick construction on school buildings was made, the altered plans and specifications were submitted to the Principal Architect of the Public Buildings Department for ratification and whether provision was made for all contractors who desired to do so to submit alternative tenders for brick construction in lieu of Mount Gambier stone?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: As I said yesterday, the responsibility for any work involved in the changeover rested with the contractor and, having in mind his capability, the department accepted his assurance—which, as far as I am aware, has been honoured—that he would accept the responsibility for any slight variations in specifications that resulted from the changeover. That has applied, so far as I am aware, in all instances. I point out that this application to change over is not general: some contractors have not sought any variation, while others have. Where the successful tenderer has sought to change over, the responsibility for so doing has been his and, so far as I am aware, there have been no difficulties in that matter.

GERANIUM AREA SCHOOL.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Can the Minister of Works report on the planning of the new area school at Geranium?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Director of the Public Buildings Department states:

The Public Works Standing Committee has recommended the erection of a new area school at Geranium, and the Education Department has requested the Public Buildings Department to proceed with the detailed planning of the building. It is anticipated that funds will be allocated and construction will commence during the 1963-64 financial year.

PRICES INVESTIGATION.

Mr. HUTCHENS: It has been reported to me—and I must say that I have not seen a copy of the correspondence—that the Premier wrote to the Chamber of Commerce in April this year stating that industrial and commercial buildings did not come within the provisions of the Prices Act. Since then, I have been advised that a contractor submitted a price in a tender for work in connection with a dentist's establishment. The contract, which was accepted and signed, included a clause providing for no variations, and the architect's approval was given for the work. However, the Prices Department, at the request of the dentist, is now investigating the charges. Can the Premier say whether the Act provides for this type of inquiry and, if it does, will he see the contractor concerned so that the contractor may fully explain the case?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: If the honourable member will give me the names of the persons concerned, I shall have a complete report for him tomorrow.

MILK.

Mr. SHANNON: In today's *Advertiser* Mr. Percy Cerutti is reported as having said:

Milk has a psychologically terrible effect on the male animal. It should be banned very early in life.

In view of the serious position that faces the dairying industry in South Australia (and, I believe, in other parts of the Commonwealth as well), can the Minister of Agriculture say, first, whether or not his department has any information on the deleterious effects of the drinking of milk and, secondly, whether (as I suspect) abstinence from milk has some cerebral effect and causes aberrations the like of which we are now having exhibited in the press?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have seen Mr. Cerutti on television, and I have also read his recent remarks as reported in the *Advertiser*. I think that milk is only one of the many items to which he objects. But in any case I do not think there is much threat to the dairying industry just because of what he said. I can only add that, without having consulted the Director of Agriculture specifically on this question, I do not think the department takes a serious view of the threat to the industry.

TRUST PURCHASE HOUSES.

Mr. LOVEDAY: I have had cases brought to my notice of purchasers of Housing Trust houses who must borrow money for the purpose.

Having paid their deposits, some have been unable to complete their purchases for 12 months or more. During that period they have had to pay to the trust monthly amounts, which are classified as interest and are not regarded as payments of interest and principal on the purchase of the house. The delay appears to be in the Lands Department and no lending institution will advance money on a first or second mortgage until the purchaser has a clear title. Could the Lands Department regard such transactions as a priority matter and speed up the clearing of the transfer?

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS: I shall be pleased, if the honourable member will give me one or two cases, to examine them.

KIMBA WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: Now that the main has been extended from Lincoln Gap to Iron Knob, can the Minister of Works say when the promised main will be extended to Kimba?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The department, I know, has been investigating the proposal to extend the main to Kimba. It has been looking at the contours along the proposed routes, of which I think there are two. There is some difficulty in the matter because Kimba is a high point of land—higher, in fact, than Iron Knob. Therefore, in the first appreciation of the project, it appears necessary to have a long rising main all the way from Iron Knob to Kimba, which would be costly to operate. The department is trying to find a point of land adjacent to Iron Knob on which a balance tank could be erected and which could command Kimba on a gravity basis. The department is actively pursuing the matter and, as soon as it can come to some conclusion, I will get a report which Cabinet can further consider for a reference to the Public Works Standing Committee.

FRUIT CANNING.

Mr. BYWATERS: Last year, I asked the Premier to table the report made by the Fruit Canning Inquiry Committee about two years ago. He told me then that because it was confidential and affected certain firms, he could not table this report. Since then, I have had a few requests from people generally interested in the canning industry to see whether at least portions of the report could not be tabled, particularly the recommendations being made by the committee affecting the industry as a whole, not necessarily the part dealing with private firms and of a confidential nature. The

canning industry has, if anything, slipped back since that time and many people in my district, in the district of Chaffey, and possibly in other districts, are concerned about the future of the canning industry, perhaps more particularly as it affects this State at present and the future with the development of the European Common Market. Surely out of that report some recommendations must have been made. Will the Premier at least make an abridged report available to this House so that it can help the industry generally?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I know of no reason why the honourable member's request should not be granted. In the complete report appeared information concerning various firms that I felt we could not in fairness divulge to the public; but, as the honourable member has stated, the conclusions on some of the observations concerning the industry generally would be useful. I see no reason for withholding them. I will have a summary of them made and let the honourable member have it or I will lay it on the table of the House.

LYNTON PLATFORM.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The main hills line runs through my district and is used extensively by passengers from my district. Lynton is now the only station between Adelaide and Belair that has not a permanent conventional type of platform: it still has the old step-down type, which can be dangerous. As Lynton is a growing area, will the Minister of Works ask his colleague, the Minister of Railways, whether a permanent conventional type of platform can be built at Lynton?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes.

NOOGOORA BURR.

Mr. CASEY: Recently, an outbreak of noogoora burr occurred in the Methuen area between Paratoo and Nackara in the north-east of the State. Can the Minister of Agriculture say what steps have been taken by the department for the eradication of this burr?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: This infestation is well known to the department and active steps are being taken to eradicate it. The method of treatment, as far as I can see, has been mostly burning by heaping surrounding timber on the plants, but whatever the full methods were they have eliminated all the plants in the infestation, which was over an area of about 12 acres. There was a wider area with scattered plants, all of which have been

treated, and the sheep grazing on the area have been shorn. The area is being watched because further germinations may occur and these, too, will be dealt with. In addition, the opportunity was given to the surrounding owners of land to study this outbreak so that they could inform themselves what form it took, just in case they saw any further outbreaks.

I asked the Chief of the Division of Plant Industry about the date and origin of this outbreak and, although he cannot answer definitely, it appears to have begun during 1960. Anyway, I can tell the honourable member that the outbreak is well under surveillance.

HAMPDEN WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Several months ago the Minister of Works approved a water reticulation scheme for the township of Hampden and district. Can he indicate when this work will be carried out?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member communicated with my office so I was able to obtain the following report from the Engineer-in-Chief:

On April 6 last I advised the honourable member that a new schedule of rating had been prepared based on ordinary country lands rating, and the same rating for the township as applies to many other towns. On this basis the return from rates would approximate that of the original proposal submitted to, and accepted by, those interested in this extension, and in view thereof Cabinet approved of the work being undertaken. The estimated cost of the proposal is £25,000. The department is already committed to a large works programme and it has not been found practicable to include the Hampden project in the programme for 1962-63. However, later in the financial year, the expenditure on the 1962-63 Loan works will be reviewed and it may then be found possible to commence the Hampden scheme about March or April, 1963, depending on the extent of funds available.

HUNCHEE AND RAL RAL CREEKS.

Mr. CURREN: Has the Minister of Irrigation a reply to the question I asked yesterday about the Hunchee and Ral Ral Creeks?

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS: Work such as desnagging and dredging of these creeks is carried out by the Engineering and Water Supply Department. On inquiring of that department, I found that instructions were recently issued for the desnagging of Hunchee Creek to be carried out as expeditiously as possible, and it is expected that operations will be put in hand soon.

PINUS RADIATA.

Mr. HARDING: My question relates to the impregnation of *pinus radiata* timber. I have noticed recently that electric poles, telephone poles, sleepers, guide posts on highways, and posts used on farms are now being provided in that timber. Dressed *pinus radiata* is being used for building purposes, for flooring, and for other purposes. Can the Minister of Forests say whether the demand is increasing and whether *pinus radiata* is being used in Government buildings as well as for private purposes?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The use of creosoted or treated *pinus radiata* posts is increasing considerably. Recently the department sold some telegraph posts to the Postmaster-General's Department and it may be that we will be selling more in the future. Many radiata pine posts are being used as guide posts on highways, although these were not Government-treated. There are two main methods of impregnating posts, one with creosote, which the Government uses, and the other with water soluble salts, which is used by private interests. The posts treated with salts can be painted, but those treated with creosote are unsuitable for painting; therefore the highways posts are treated with water soluble salts. The Government has decided to install a system of water soluble salt treatment as well as creosoting so that both methods will be available to customers in the future. Creosoting has been a longer proved method, although both methods are suitable for preserving posts.

Regarding the use of *pinus radiata* in Government and private buildings, a large business in flooring timber has developed. There are other uses to which *pinus radiata* can be put in buildings, although lesser quantities are supplied for these uses at present. These purposes include weather boards, facias, and that type of thing. There is a further use for radiata pine which has not yet been properly developed—its use as structural timber in the form of scantlings, three-by-twos, and so forth. Many problems are associated with producing radiata pine for this purpose and the Woods and Forests Department has been doing much work in producing and testing this type of timber during the last year or two following a visit to New Zealand by some experts from the department. It is vitally important that anything that goes from the department as structural timber shall not be inferior in any way. Many technical difficulties are associated with the production of structural timber and

it is being determined whether the quality is right and the technique right before it is released on the market in large quantities.

RESERVE BANK BUILDING.

Mr. COUMBE: Can the Minister of Works indicate the progress being made with plans for the new Reserve Bank building to be erected in Victoria Square which, I understand, will accommodate some State department offices? When is a start to be made upon this building?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: This project is entirely within the control of the Commonwealth authorities and the Commonwealth Department of Works, and therefore I have no direct knowledge of the plans. It was expected, during the early discussions on the matter, that the building would be in progress by now, but I understand that the Commonwealth department has met with some problems. However, architects from my department have conferred with Commonwealth architects recently in Canberra or Sydney and I may be able to get some information as the result of their discussions. Arrangements have been made for State departments to lease certain areas of the new building when it is completed, but I am not able to inform the honourable member when tenders will be called for the building because it is not under my control.

PARKSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. LANGLEY: The Parkside Primary School is at present being renovated. Can the Minister of Education say whether the toilet blocks will be replaced immediately as they are in a poor condition?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The Director of the Public Buildings Department advises that following a request from the Education Department in March, 1962, to investigate the condition of the toilet facilities in general at Parkside Primary School, an inspection was carried out by officers of his department. He reports that, although extensive plumbing renovations were completed in 1960, the buildings themselves are in very poor condition, and it is considered that any extensive building renovations to the toilets are neither a practical nor economical proposition. He has therefore recommended that the existing toilets be demolished and new ones erected. Plans will be prepared for the work to be carried out departmentally.

GREAT WESTERN BRIDGE.

Mr. RICHES: Although the Great Western bridge across the gulf at Port Augusta is still capable of carrying heavier weights than

another bridge that has been in the news recently, I understand that engineers regard it as having a definite life. About 10 years ago, long-range planning was initiated, and it was then thought that ultimately a new bridge would be erected alongside the existing bridge. Action was taken to secure land to re-site the main road through Port Augusta. A road was surveyed through the centre of the recreation reserve between the high school and the oval. The townspeople were reluctant to let this land be made available without protest, but there seemed to be no other way out at the time. However, with the changeover from coal to diesel operation in the Commonwealth Railways Department, it now appears that it would be better to site a new bridge, if and when it is erected, further north. If this were done existing roads could be used, the length of bridge work would be reduced considerably, and the land set aside for road purposes through the centre of the park lands could be made immediately available for the purpose for which it was originally intended. I am not suggesting that an early start can be made on the bridge, but I ask that a decision be made as early as possible about the route of the road through the town to see whether the land earmarked for road purposes can be returned for use by the high school, the oval, or for adult education programmes. Several organizations would be assisted if this land could be made available. Will the Minister of Works bring my remarks to the notice of the Minister of Roads with a view to having an early decision reached on whether it is practicable to make the park lands available again to the people of Port Augusta?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will certainly bring the honourable member's comments before the notice of my colleague.

NANGULA SCHOOL CLOSING.

Mr. CORCORAN: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked last Wednesday relating to the provision of a school bus for the Nangula area?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The application for transport for the eight children from the closed Nangula School is not approved because minimum requirements for establishing a bus service are not met. However, if Cellulose Australia Limited discontinues providing transport for 37 children from Snuggery whom it has been conveying by bus to Millicent, the Education Department will provide transport to Millicent for these children, including the eight children from Nangula, for the remainder

of the year. In the event of the department providing transport for the children for the remainder of the year, the parents are to be advised that the department is prepared to re-open the Nangula School as from the re-opening of schools in 1963 as an alternative to bus transport if the parents so desire and numbers warrant it. The bus would then be discontinued. However, if Nangula School remains closed, the bus will continue to operate.

BIRKENHEAD BRIDGE.

Mr. RYAN: Has the Minister of Works a reply to a question I asked on July 17 on whether maintenance work on the Birkenhead bridge could be done outside of normal hours to avoid congestion?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Roads, advises that the practicability of re-decking the bascule span of the Birkenhead bridge outside normal hours to avoid peak periods is being investigated, and a further report will be given when a decision is reached.

PARKSIDE MENTAL HOSPITAL.

Mr. DUNSTAN: Some constituents of mine, a relative of whom is in a ward of the Parkside Mental Hospital, approached me in a state of some disturbance at the week-end. On Wednesday last they called to take her out for the afternoon and found that her face was badly bruised. On speaking to the nurse, they were told that she had had a fall, but on returning her they questioned the nurse further as a result of what the patient had said to them, and the nurse appeared to agree that the patient had been assaulted by another patient in the ward. The nurse pointed out that there were only two people on duty in the ward, that there were 40 patients, and that it was difficult indeed to avoid incidents of this kind. The bruises, however, were so bad that the family was most distressed. I understand that they approached Dr. Hoff, who agreed that there was a patient in the ward who was from time to time violent and liable to do this sort of thing. He said that facilities were not available, however, for the transfer of this patient to another ward or for guaranteeing that this sort of thing would not happen in the future. Naturally enough, the family is most disturbed, and I will give the name of the patient to the Minister of Health if he is prepared to see whether this kind of thing cannot be avoided. Will the Premier refer this matter to the Minister of Health?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I will have investigations made and inform the honourable member.

PORT PIRIE FACILITIES.

Mr. McKEE: I have been approached by many people and organizations, including the trade union movement at Port Pirie, and I have received a letter from the Port Pirie Trades and Labor Council about auction sales held in Adelaide of property lost in Port Pirie. The letter stated:

It is a known fact that bicycles, suitcases, etc., and indeed all lost property in this city handed in to the police station is sold at public auctions in Adelaide. We feel that the citizens of this city have the right to bid for such property, and the only way this could be done would be to have such auctions held in Port Pirie.

Another matter that has aroused protest has been the transfer to Adelaide of all registrations of births, deaths and marriages. On this subject, the Port Pirie Trades and Labor Council wrote to me as follows:

Up until approximately 12 months ago a register of such details was kept in Port Pirie at an office in the old court-house building. Now, however, citizens wishing to register these details have to write to Adelaide.

People in Port Pirie are naturally concerned about this.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member cannot debate the question.

Mr. McKEE: As Port Pirie is a city, its people should not be denied these essential facilities. Will the Premier sympathetically consider having these facilities made available at Port Pirie?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I will have the two matters investigated and will inform the honourable member in due course.

BERRI FERRY.

Mr. CURREN: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked last week concerning the Berri ferry?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Roads, states that the Highways Department has no plans for duplicating the ferry service in the immediate future, but investigations are being made.

OSBORNE SOOT NUISANCE.

Mr. TAPPING: A letter I have received from the Taperoo and District Progressive Association Incorporated states:

Once again I have been directed by my association to seek your assistance to obtain some relief for local residents from the soot and dust that is again being expelled periodically from stacks at the Osborne powerhouse. On most occasions these expulsions of soot and

gritty particles occur overnight, and several of the homes in direct line with prevailing winds present a really shocking appearance the following morning. The particles permeate into people's homes, damaging furniture, linen materials and other furnishings and spoiling paint work, both inside and out. . . . There has been some alleviation from this nuisance over the last few months and we had hoped that a permanent arrangement had been made to overcome the problem, but this is not the case. The recent expulsions of waste products from the Osborne powerhouse have been as bad as ever before.

Will the Premier seek a report from the Electricity Trust and endeavour to obtain some assurance in this matter for the people living in the area?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes.

LEAVING HONOURS CLASSES.

Mr. CURREN: In view of the replies given by the Minister of Education to questions asked by the member for Port Pirie and me regarding Leaving Honours classes at country high schools, can the Minister say when an announcement will be made on this question? Parents of students attending country high schools are concerned at the fact that an announcement on this matter is never made until late in the year and they are given little or no opportunity to arrange boarding facilities for their children in the city.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: When a decision is made it will be announced as soon as possible thereafter.

SLEEPER BOOKINGS.

Mr. HARDING: Until recently it was the custom for people living at Naracoorte and adjacent to the Victorian border to be able to book sleeper accommodation at Naracoorte, but it is now necessary for those bookings to be made through either Adelaide or Mount Gambier. Will the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Railways, take the matter up with his colleague and inquire why the change was made?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes.

GAWLER BY-PASS.

Mr. CLARK: I understand the Minister of Works has a reply to my recent question about the Gawler by-pass road.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Roads, states that the Gawler by-pass road is expected to be opened to traffic early in 1963. I presume it is the calendar year that is referred to.

TAPEROO RAILWAY CROSSING.

Mr. TAPPING: I understand the Minister of Works has a reply from the Minister of

Railways concerning the need for a warning device at the Taperoo railway crossing.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Railways, has informed me that the Port Adelaide Corporation made representations in a letter dated May 5, 1961, for the installation of warning lights at the crossing known as Gedville Road crossing, on the Outer Harbour line. Conditions at the crossing were investigated, and the Port Adelaide Corporation was advised in a letter dated June 29, 1961, that evidence did not support the allocation of a high priority to such installation as a departmental project. An undertaking was given, however, to divert materials procured for similar projects of higher priority to the Gedville Road crossing provided the Port Adelaide Corporation defrayed the actual cost of the installation.

The corporation made a further submission in a letter dated April 18, 1962, following the receipt of which conditions at the crossing were again investigated. It was found that there was no significant change in the circumstances, and the corporation was advised accordingly. The Railways Commissioner regrets that he was unable to agree to the request for installation of automatic warning devices at this crossing.

MELBOURNE EXPRESS TIME TABLE.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I realize that an express train does not stop at every station, but since the time table for the Melbourne express has been revised the people living between Tailem Bend and Keith are deprived of a daily return train service unless they go to the inconvenience of catching a train at 2 a.m. and returning about the same time. These people have requested that the Minister of Railways be asked to request the Commissioner to reconsider this matter with a view to permitting the Melbourne express to stop to pick up and let down people at the Coonalpyn siding upon request only. Will the Minister of Works take this matter up with his colleague?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on the motion for adoption, which Mr. Frank Walsh had moved to amend.

(For wording of amendment see page 182.)

(Continued from July 24. Page 234.)

Mr. HUTCHENS (Hindmarsh): Yesterday, when the House was gracious enough to grant me leave to continue my remarks, I was about to draw attention to the many references in

His Excellency's Speech to a great number of items. These included land settlement, minerals and oil, full employment, higher standard of living, improved education standards, other social services, decentralization, water supply, railway rolling stock, finance for house building, air pollution, industrial hygiene, status of aborigines, price and rent control, electoral, and the strong and varied economy. These items, 15 or so in all, were referred to before we had one line regarding the Government's positive intentions. In making these comments, I want it clearly understood that I am not reflecting upon His Excellency; in fact, I believe that we are greatly honoured at being served in this State by a person of the high calibre of our present Governor. Last year when I was in Hong Kong with Mr. Ball, the Clerk in another place, so many inquiries were made about Sir Edric Bastyan, our present Governor, and so many kindly remarks were made about him that one could not but appreciate that he was a man well respected, a man of great courage, and I feel that we are most fortunate in having one of his calibre as our Governor.

As regards the nature of the references to the many items, they were a glorious example of vagueness, simply pious propaganda in an endeavour to pander to the people in an attempt to retain the 34 per cent of the electors. Paragraph 7 refers to "an expanding strong and varied economy". What does this mean? I know that the Liberal Country Party, the half-sister to the Liberal and Country League, seems to be master in providing a varied economy. We fully appreciate that under their reign it means more for those who have much and less for those who have little. Surely if we are going to produce a strong and sound economy it means that the State depends upon its internal and external trade. As I remarked yesterday, all the speeches so far in this debate have dealt with rural industry. I shall say one or two words about rural production and shall express concern at the inability of the State to develop its rural production in keeping with the decline in the value of money and the expanding population.

I do not disagree with much that was said yesterday by the member for Albert (Mr. Nankivell). I can support much of what he said about the primary producer, but surely our economy is determined by our ability to produce for sale in other countries and the ability to sell. Our whole security is based on those facts. Undoubtedly our economy depends

largely upon our rural production because it is that that is supplying our export trade. Let us then remember these words:

It is the policy of my Government to develop an expanding and varied economy.

Let us look at paragraph 5 of the Governor's Speech:

My Government continues to encourage land settlement particularly in relation to areas which in the light of scientific knowledge are capable of economic development.

Here I take my friend the member for Albert to task because I believe we have to do much more about closer settlement in this State. We must put more people on the land if we are to get rural production. I do not underestimate the difficulties of developing the State agriculturally. Let me assure my honourable friend who is shaking his head that, of 380,000 square miles of land, only about one-half is used for pastoral and agricultural purposes. Only 20 per cent is deemed suitable for cultivation. I acknowledge all those facts.

Mr. Harding: How much of the State has a 20in. rainfall?

Mr. HUTCHENS: Do not hasten me. I have not overlooked this point. One-third is sandy desert, gibber plain and salt pans. Coming to the interjection of the member for Victoria (Mr. Harding), 83 per cent of the State has a rainfall of less than 10in. (I acknowledge that fact) while 9½ per cent has a rainfall of only between 10in. and 15in. I think that answers the question. They are the difficulties, but I submit that we should be doing better. I submit further that we must do better. The numbers of rural holdings are a matter of concern. I shall not go back into the dim past but will quote figures in relation to the immediate past 10 years, or a little more.

In 1949-1950 the *Pocket Year Book* shows that we had rural holdings amounting to 27,900, and 45,651 people were employed or were employees on those holdings. In 1959-60 (I will quote an increase in holdings) there were 28,527 but there is an alarming decrease in the number of employees, for we have only 36,358. During that period the Commonwealth Government had made available to South Australia about £17,000,000 towards soldier land settlement, making possible more than 900 settlers taking up land under that scheme. If we exclude the number of soldier settlers made possible under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme, we are down about 300 over that period; yet the Government is going to continue "to encourage land settlement"! There is no justification for such a statement. To what

extent is there any encouragement about it? The Government cannot claim that it has not the power, for I have read carefully Part X of the Crown Lands Act. We had powers to enable the purchase of land at an honest valuation by the board. It is not just I as a member of the Australian Labor Party who says this. I quote the Auditor-General's report of 1961, which says:

Land repurchased for closer settlement. The accounts of this undertaking record the financial transactions under Part X, Closer Settlement of the Crown Lands Act, which provides for the acquisition of lands consisting mainly of large estates and their subsequent allotment in suitable holdings for the purpose of extension of agriculture and closer settlement.

Continuing, it says:

There have been no major acquisitions of land for these purposes for some years.

I referred to the Auditor-General's report for 1959 and read the following:

There have been no major acquisitions for closer settlement since 1947.

I agree that acquisition, in itself, is not the answer. The control of land sales and land prices is of major importance because the basic factor in production costs is the price paid for land. That cannot be denied. Despite vigorous opposition from my Party, land prices have been decontrolled. I am concerned about the economy of the country and if we permit production costs to soar to the stage where a producer cannot make a profit it is detrimental to the State. It is easy to say that it is difficult to control prices because of section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution, but land cannot be shifted from State to State. We could have controlled the price of land to the advantage of the State.

Mr. Nankivell: I cannot understand your reasoning. You say that the cost of land is the biggest cost in production and that people who own their land freehold are in difficulties. How does the cost of land affect them?

Mr. HUTCHENS: That is a proper question. Assessments for land tax purposes are based on recent sales—and sales of land from all parts of the State are considered—and taxation is crippling many of our primary producers who have owned their land for a long time.

Mr. Jenkins: Who gets the big prices for land?

Mr. HUTCHENS: If members opposite interjected one at a time and did not sing in discord I could try to answer them. I am glad that I have them excited: I hope I can get them thinking. A big reaggregation of land has taken place in areas where it should not

have been permitted. A person who has a small farm to sell is naturally going to accept the highest price he can get, and then desert primary production. I know that from experience, and I can quote my father as a glorious example. In 1911 my father purchased a small farm of 1,000 acres in the Rocky River electorate. To say that it was heavily mortgaged would be expressing the position moderately. He went through the 1914 drought, and in 1916 made the property freehold. Just before his death in 1917 he was preparing to purchase another farm on which to establish his family later. People in that area were prepared to carry on with primary production, but the high land prices tempted them to sell. During the recent State election I was in that area and passed through Black Rock where my people lived. Within 16 miles of the town there are at least 12 farms that are no longer occupied but are owned by persons who do not live on them or are owned by big companies situated in Adelaide. Those farms are used as grazing properties. In past years they produced a multitude of primary products.

Mr. Harding: What is the rainfall in that area?

Mr. HUTCHENS: Under 10in., although in a good year it may get 16in. Those farms produced many and varied products. We were milking 60 cows on the average. We had some irrigation. That land was sold in 1917 for less than £4 an acre, but it now sells at £14 an acre. The price of land makes it impossible for a person to carry on dairying in that area.

Mr. Nankivell: Would not that be a relative value—£4 then, £14 now?

Mr. HUTCHENS: There is no argument in relative values because if the price of land renders it impossible to produce profitably relative values cannot be argued. We must look to our exports. It is agreed that our rural and mineral production determine our export trade. I have some figures relating to the value of our exports. In 1950-51, they were worth £107,000,000; in 1951-52, £97,000,000; in 1952-53, £122,000,000; in 1953-54, £110,000,000; in 1954-55, £95,000,000; in 1955-56, £97,000,000; in 1956-57, £122,000,000; in 1957-58, £99,000,000; in 1958-59, £90,000,000; in 1959-60, £90,000,000; and in 1960-61 (and I am indebted to the member for Rocky River for this figure), £116,000,000. These figures have been taken from the *Pocket Year Book*, and it is acknowledged that the main items of export are our rural and mineral products.

Mr. Nankivell: You cannot say that the volume of production has decreased.

Mr. HUTCHENS: I can, because I have figures on that aspect, and I can quote authorities. Figures don't lie. The honourable member says that I cannot say that the volume of production has decreased. In some lines it has, although in others it has not. I will make some comparisons because I believe they will help. In 1949-50, the basic wage was £6 6s., the average wage was £8 15s., the total value of exports was £63,932,116, and the population was 600,000. In 1959-60, the basic wage was £13 11s., the average wage was £19 (more than double in both cases), the value of our exports was £90,825,819, and our population was 900,000.

Mr. Nankivell: You have established that the cost of production has gone up.

Mr. HUTCHENS: I have established that, and that production is not keeping pace with the increase in the value of money.

Mr. Nankivell: The volume of production has increased by 50 per cent.

Mr. HUTCHENS: It has, but the value of money has decreased by 100 per cent.

Mr. Nankivell: What about the volume of production?

Mr. HUTCHENS: I am dealing with values alone. I have no figure to establish whether or not the volume of production has increased.

Mr. Nankivell: If the price has gone down and the volume has increased, that evens it up.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HUTCHENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The honourable member misses the point. There has been a decline in the volume of exports of flour, butter and cheese and in the value of exports of butter, eggs and flour.

Mr. Nankivell: I am not arguing about that; I agree that returns have decreased, but production has increased.

Mr. HUTCHENS: I am not denying that real production has increased, but it has not increased in proportion to the increase in price and the decrease in the value of money. We must do much more to increase our production, which has not increased as much as it should have done. A point that should be exercising our minds is that the world needs food and that there are great markets for us everywhere in the world. It is a case of now or never for Australia.

Mr. Quirke: Where can I sell 1,000 tons of dried fruit?

Mr. HUTCHENS: That is a problem I acknowledge, but I shall try to offer a solution to our problems. It may be said that if Great Britain enters the Common Market we will have a much greater surplus of some

primary products. I do not pose as an expert in this field, but as a layman I shall make some humble observations. I am convinced that England will join the Common Market; I wrote home last year saying this. I say that not only will she join but that she must join, as France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg, are pressing her to do so. We must be prepared to find markets and we must have the goods to meet the supply. Of course, we must not forget that preference is not all the one way and that the great need of the world is food. This need exists in most countries, including British Commonwealth countries.

Let us not forget that this is a rapidly changing world and that there is much greater conflict than many realize between those who represent the cause of freedom of the individual and Communism. In this conflict, nationalism will play a mighty role. I agree with the member for Burnside, who said that Papua and New Guinea was not ready for self-government, but world politics will demand that this come about much sooner than would now appear possible. If our near neighbours in the north develop as rapidly as I am convinced they are capable of doing, our security will be in the food we produce and in our friendly understanding towards them. Our people must be told there is no easy path for us; I say this after giving it much consideration. I do not think there should be a reduction in our standards; rather, there is a strong case for a higher standard of living.

For us to play our part in the peace and progress of the area of our immediate influence, I believe that in the next decade we will have to double our population. Perhaps that is a surprising statement, but it will have to be accomplished in 30 years at the most. To do this, it will be necessary for us to increase our per capita production and stop pretending. We will need to spend much money and to encourage investigations into the desalting of sea water as an economic project. We will have to agree to spend money in searching for oil, and hope to discover it. I also think that arrangements will have to be made with the International Bank to enable us to sell to under-developed countries. There must be a move from Governments. In fact, the whole propaganda machine would do well to embark upon a scheme and state the facts of the challenge that is ours. Although this State, like the rest of Australia in some respects, is making rapid progress, it must be acknowledged that we are in the infancy of our development and we are in grave danger of

progress being impeded by the very nature of the propaganda which says that all is well. This encourages the development of a now too-well established enemy—complacency. Some may say that this is a Commonwealth matter. It is a case, I believe, of something for all or nothing for anyone. It is a challenge to all, from the Commonwealth to the individual. Words about full employment are not enough; every person capable of being employed must be employed, and every hand not engaged is a dangerous hand.

This brings me to another point which is largely related, I believe, to our rural development. I refer to decentralization. I have briefly drawn attention to a number of items that I maintain must be considered if we are to be assured of a strong economy. Decentralization is of great importance in the provision of a balanced rural and industrial development. I know that the Government agreed—it may be said under pressure—to set up a committee to investigate the possibilities of decentralization. It was a pleasing step forward, but I submit that it is only playing with a problem of vital necessity. I am not alone in this contention. Sir Douglas Copland, in an article in the May *Financial Review*, gave some alarming facts about this important problem. He pointed out that in the period between the last two censuses (1954 to 1961) the population of Australia had increased from just under 9,000,000 to just over 10,500,000, which represented an increase of 2.4 per cent a year. Over the same period the population of capital cities rose from 4,850,000 to 5,900,000.

Decentralization, like many other great needs, is beyond the limits of a State Parliament operating under an outmoded Commonwealth Constitution. I know that there is a projected committee for the purpose of advising on rural industry development and decentralization. This is to be a committee of experts. However, with all due respect to the experts, they are, as a general rule, far removed from the people. I suggest the setting up of a Commonwealth-wide co-ordinating committee consisting of Government and Opposition members taking common action to promote rural industry and the decentralization of industry and population. I believe that any move of this nature is to be one not so much of compulsion as of encouragement, and I further believe that in making such a move we must have the support of most of our people. I consider that members of Parliament, irrespective of the political cause they represent, are far closer to the people than are the so-called experts, and they should unite

from every State in the Commonwealth and, with members of the Commonwealth Parliament in a committee, make recommendations. I consider that this would overcome many of our difficulties and enable us to meet the challenge that is ours and provide for the development of road and railway services and the co-ordination of those services. It would be able to provide for the uniform presentation of many of the concessions that my friend, the member for Albert (Mr. Nankivell), asked for yesterday.

The Commonwealth Parliament could provide, by agreement, a differential depreciation or tax allowance to rural industries, particularly those engaged in the processing of goods in the area where they are produced. I acknowledge that this would automatically reduce the revenue received from taxation and other charges, but the promotion of decentralization and rural development would so strengthen our economy that the cost would more than be repaid. This may sound a little extravagant to some, but I feel most concerned about it and I consider that now is the time to act, because the call and the challenge is ours and if missed it will be a tragedy.

We must not lose sight of the changing trade pattern that demands the discarding of petty parochial pride and prejudice. We must become concerned for the welfare of the nation and co-operate in a plan not only for self-sufficiency but to provide purchasing power for the nations that are to be our customers. That is why I suggest a comprehensive committee. In the future it might mean that we will have to refrain from manufacturing many lines that would be profitable to those engaged in such manufacture, because we will have to supply purchasing power for those who we hope will be our customers, and we can only steer the people into accepting these things in the interests of the nation when their representatives make those recommendations. That is why I urge that members of Parliament comprise the main part of such a committee.

It is unnecessary for me to say that national development requires that individuals be fully developed and healthy in mind and body, and this naturally turns one's thoughts to education, hospitalization and other services. I do not wish to talk about other services, but I should like to say a few words about education. I have a deep appreciation of the difficulties associated with the rapid increase in our school-going population. The experience I gained last year shows me that the world is awakening and in fact the younger people are very much awake to the value of education.

I found that in places like Thailand and Malaya young people were willing to make almost any sacrifice in order to receive a degree of education. They are planning and talking on street corners and in restaurants about building their nations, and they are equipping themselves. In many of these areas they are having two schools a day—the first school assembling at seven o'clock in the morning and being dismissed about mid-day, the second school starting in the same building at one o'clock in the afternoon. In many cases there is a third class, which meets for adult education in the evening.

I appreciate all that has been done in South Australia and would urge those in charge of our propaganda machines—the press, the radio, and so forth—to draw attention to the great possibilities of adult education. I know the Minister would be grateful if greater emphasis could be placed on the value of what is available for adult education. Many secondary schools have a number of night classes. Many people attending those classes gather great knowledge, which will be used for the benefit of the State.

I regret that the school teachers today are suffering because of a recent statement, for I have no reason to believe that they are otherwise than loyal and conscientious members of our community, many of them making sacrifices far beyond what they are called upon to do by the terms of their employment, for the development of our young people, our State and the Commonwealth of Australia. Associated with these schools are school committees and school councils, which have greatly assisted the development of our education. I am conscious of the fact that not only have I received a letter from the Secretary of the School Teachers Association, on its behalf, but I believe the member for Mitcham (Mr. Millhouse) has received a similar letter, in which we have been requested to support an appeal for an additional grant. I do not wish to give the details of the letter and, like the member for Mitcham, I am confident that the department under the Minister deeply appreciates the value of these bodies with their limited amount of money, which they are using with much wisdom for the development of education. I am sure the Minister will, with us, appreciate their work and do all he can to assist these bodies that have helped the schools so well during the past. The amount of money that they are responsible for raising is not the all-important thing, but what they are doing to

inspire the children, the students, to develop themselves in the best interests of the State is worth considering. They are anxious and desirous of setting up a headquarters in the city. I shall not say that it is possible; I will leave it to the good judgment of the Minister, confident that wisdom will prevail and, if it is at all possible, he will endeavour to assist them in their ambition to set up a central office in South Australia. Sufficient has been said on that and I will leave it, with confidence, to the Minister.

Another important branch in our education system is the student teachers. Again, I appreciate the financial difficulties but submit that there is a case for consideration of the amounts granted to our student teachers. I have discovered, and have had many parents tell me of, the great difficulties met with by students in the Teachers Training College in trying to exist, particularly those unable to reside at home. Therefore, I would urge the Minister (he may have done so already) to consider the possibility of increasing the allowance so that these people may be able to live decently and study without concern; and, not only this, but that it may encourage others who are not as well off as they would like to be to come in and take part in training in the Teachers Training College. I do not want to stipulate where the money is needed. I think possibly the Minister and his department are more able to say where an increase is best suited, but I know that some increase is desirable.

I have dealt with rural areas and rural production to a large extent but, as a metropolitan member, I feel I would be failing in my duty if I did not draw attention to the need for town planning. I understand from a report that I have read from last year's proceedings that the honourable the Treasurer in replying to a question last year to the then member for Unley (Mr. Dunnage) said that a town planning report would be available in March or April of this year. The cost of producing this plan and a report would be about £28,000, and it would be something out of the box. Apparently, they were not able to produce a report but recently, from the press, I notice that the Attorney-General stated that the report was now with the printer and should be available some time this year. I hope it will. With the rapidly changing world around us, we have to move quickly in town planning and do something effectively in the not too distant future. We have to plan for motorways, overways and freeways. To give some idea

of the nature of these overways, I should report what I saw last year. In Los Angeles we stood on an overway with eight lanes on a Sunday afternoon and counted the traffic passing under it in a given minute. In one lane 70 vehicles passed under us in a minute. We counted another minute and 72 vehicles passed under us in that minute. In England, to give another example, the M.1 motorway from Birmingham to London, an eight-lane road, with 12ft. lanes, travelling for a distance of 72 miles, cost about £23,000,000. In Australian currency it would be about £29,000,000. The longer we leave the planning and acquiring of land for these overways and motorways necessary in the not far distant future, the more costly they will be. So we have to plan. But, when the plan is to hand, what then? If one saw some of the cities in other parts of the world with overways and underways, one would gather some appreciation of the great cost that will be ours in the not too distant future. As far as I know there is no body to implement the plan. In our metropolitan area we have 22 councils with populations ranging from 5,000 to 69,500 and rates ranging from £69,000 to £825,000. The community interests vary considerably. They are alike as the Eskimo and the Australian aboriginal. Can we expect these councils to agree on a co-ordinated plan?

Parliament should take steps to establish a metropolitan authority to co-ordinate the plan. It should comprise representatives of the State Government, local government, industry and commerce, and should include the Town Planner. This would be a co-ordinating body to build on the blueprint. The Planning Institute of Australia (Adelaide Division), has made some strong and valuable recommendations. It advocates the setting up of a metropolitan planning authority with power to prepare and review the overall detailed planning scheme for metropolitan Adelaide, to control the development of metropolitan schemes, to acquire and dispose of land, to control funds for useful planning purposes, and to exercise interim control. These suggestions are important. The cost of the plan—and £28,000 has been mentioned as only part of the cost—warrants the appointment of an authoritative committee to put the plan into effect. This should be appointed promptly.

In my electorate, which is one of the oldest in South Australia, are many narrow streets and lanes, particularly in Brompton and Bowden, where industry is developing rapidly. Big

buildings are being constructed and huge plants are being installed. If this land has to be acquired for overways in the future I shudder to think of the cost if this industrial development continues. A co-ordinating committee should be able to reserve those areas now so that they will not have to be acquired later when industrial progress would be hampered and the cost considerably increased.

I join with the Leader of the Opposition in his tribute to the Town Clerk of Adelaide (Mr. Veale), for his work in facilitating the movement of traffic in the city. Since Mr. Veale's return from overseas, where he gained much experience, he has done much to aid our traffic flow, and he has also recommended schemes that have added to Adelaide's beauty. We have parks and gardens of which we can be proud. Adelaide is sought by tourists. It is a much greater tourist attraction now than it ever was and Mr. Veale is to be complimented for his wonderful lead. The tourist trade in other countries boosts their economies considerably. It is amazing what can be sold as a tourist attraction. Undoubtedly there are some beautiful places in other parts of the world, but we have tourist attractions that could be sold. The Flinders Ranges, for instance, are of a type that cannot be found elsewhere. The know-how to sell these tourist attractions is all important. I have a great admiration for the Director of the Tourist Bureau (Mr. Pollnitz), but we should make the best use of our tourist attractions to encourage people here. We would be well advised to send Mr. Pollnitz overseas to study the ways and means of attracting tourists and of selling our tourist attractions. Among those who would come here would be those who might be enticed into spending money to develop our tourist trade.

Reference was made in His Excellency's Speech to our water supplies. I am thankful that I have had the opportunity of going overseas and observing developments, particularly in relation to fluoridation. It has been strongly advocated that our water supplies should be fluoridated. I was originally sympathetic to that proposal, but having studied water supplies, where fluoride has been administered, in other parts of the world, I shudder to think of what would happen here if we adopted the proposal. The cost would be colossal, and it would be unnecessary. In Canada householders were asked to replace all their galvanized pipes with copper pipes. I ask the South Australian public to consider this carefully before they sign petitions asking for fluoridation. Those people who believe that fluoridation is of value

—and I do not argue that point—should consider purchasing products that contain fluoride before asking the State to put it in our water supplies, particularly when that water is used for feeding stock and for industrial purposes. A small percentage of the water coming through our pipes is used for home consumption.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: About a half per cent.

Mr. HUTCHENS: Yes. I shudder to think of the cost to the State and the individual in view of the slight advantage to be gained. An accumulation of fluoride in a galvanized pipe can cause corrosion and if taken in an overdose by an individual it can affect that person's reasoning for a time. We should mark time on this question and I hope the public will seriously consider it before advocating the fluoridation of our water supplies.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: Has any action been taken in Canada to remove fluoride from the water?

Mr. HUTCHENS: I believe there has been some such move but I am not sure of the facts. I understand there has been a strong advocacy to remove it.

Mr. Quirke: It has been done in some States of the United States of America.

Mr. HUTCHENS: It has proved to be economically unsatisfactory, and unwarranted from a health point of view.

Mr. Quirke: I suppose they get cheaper teeth from the dentist.

Mr. HUTCHENS: After I was told this, I made some casual observations and found that the percentage of people wearing dentures in the parts of the world where there was fluoride was no lower than in South Australia. However, I have no statistics to support that impression. I express my appreciation to both newspapers in this State for the attention they have drawn to the scandalous rents being charged in some parts of the metropolitan area.

Mr. Clark: Not only in the metropolitan area.

Mr. HUTCHENS: I agree that scandalous rents apply not only in the city. Recently, in reply to a question I asked, the Premier said that it was not so much a question of housing as of excess rents, but I do not agree: one cannot exist without the other. If people have cheap houses in which to live they will not pay excessive rents. In the *Sunday Mail* on June 30 it was disclosed that rents of £5 and £6 a week were being charged for hovels. This paper reported that a spokesman for the rent control section of the Housing Trust said:

All or nearly all the tenants were Australians. But £4 a week for one room is not uncommon with multiple lettings. Many landlords beat rent control by insisting that tenants sign a lease. Then we are powerless to take action under the Rent Control Act. Landlords had been able to get high rents because of:

The big increase in population.

The right of landlords, in more recent years, to charge what they liked under a lease.

The activities of some letting agencies, which got more commission for the higher rent.

On July 6 the *Advertiser* took up the matter as follows:

It is also claimed that local councils have ample power under the Health Act and the Housing Improvement Act to ensure that houses regarded as unfit for habitation are demolished or renovated. Others say that this is a haphazard, piecemeal approach and that the problem can only be dealt with effectively through a properly planned programme of re-development controlled by a single authority, such as the S.A. Housing Trust . . .

About a dozen a year are demolished in some council areas through action under the Health Act or the Housing Improvement Act. This week it was reported that Hindmarsh Council may ask the State Government to undertake a slum clearance project. Twenty-two years ago a Building Act Inquiry Committee reported that 993 of the 3,402 houses in Hindmarsh Council area were substandard. It considered that 327 of them should be demolished.

In the *Sunday Mail* of July 7 appeared the following:

In the story, a rent control spokesman said a case had been found of a husband, wife, and three children being charged £4 a week for one room. He said the rent control had often found cases of £4 to £5 a week being charged for three-room and four-room "hovels", and £8 to £10 a week for four-room and five-room houses of average standard.

Comments today were: Australian Pensioners' League secretary, Mr. C. R. Ash: It is a true picture of what is going on. We have seen many instances of poor and elderly people living under bad conditions and being charged exorbitant rents. Cheap but decent accommodation is terribly scarce. Some people are glad to pay £3 a week for a garage to keep a roof over their heads. The rent control is doing a good job curbing landlords, but its hands are often tied by the right of landlords to charge what they like under leases. Meals on Wheels social worker, Miss C. G. Morphet: There are still people living under appalling conditions. More smaller homes at modest rentals should be built by the Government. This should not be left to a section of the community such as the churches.

These are not statements made by me or my colleagues; they are statements made by our newspapers, which are alarmed at the appalling conditions under which people live. In my electorate are many of these unsatisfactory houses, and they have not been built recently—they have been there

for a long time. When explaining the Housing Improvement Bill in 1940, the Premier said:

Behind the cold figures of the statistical table contained in the report of the Building Act Inquiry Committee are distressing facts which affect the day by day lives of thousands of our fellow citizens. Very many of these influences can only have evil effects.

They are strong words, but later in his speech he used stronger words when he said:

We ought not to shut our eyes to them. Even if thousands of people will endure them without a murmur, it is wrong for the community as a whole to allow such conditions to continue for a moment longer than it is obliged to. Bad housing conditions harm not only the persons who have to live under them but also the rest of the community. Particularly in these days, it is above all things essential that every man and woman contribute the best of which they are capable to the service of the whole. We cannot afford to allow even a small section of the population to live under conditions which must impair their morale and their efficiency. No-one can deny that bad housing has evil effects on the people.

These, too, are strong words. The Premier also said:

So far, we have been concerned with the individual substandard house. It is obvious to anyone who pays a visit to localities where there is any aggregation of these houses that there are areas where conditions cannot be permanently improved by pulling down a house here and there and repairing some of the others. Numbers of poor dwellings crowded together on very small allotments situated in narrow streets and lanes constitute "slum pockets" . . . Part IV of the Bill provides that the Governor may, on the recommendation of the housing authority, declare by proclamation an area to be a clearance area. This would be one of the local concentrated points of the congested and thoroughly bad housing to which I have referred. Its size would be limited.

From the press and the statements I have just quoted, many of these houses apparently still stand in Hindmarsh, and they are in poor condition. I know that constituents of mine are compelled to pay £5 and £6 a week for these houses and £4 for a single room because there is just nowhere else for them to go and there is no efficient rent control.

Mr. Jenkins: Wouldn't those people be paying these amounts to some of your other constituents?

Mr. HUTCHENS: Probably they would be paying them to some of my constituents whom I do not desire to protect. The Premier said in this House that those people should not be protected, and he pretended to set up an authority to cure this state of affairs for all time.

Mr. Ryan: I am glad you said "pretended".

Mr. HUTCHENS: I said it advisedly. These conditions are there, and nothing is being done about them. The councils are limited in what they can do. Why then do we not give authority to somebody to clear these areas where that is necessary and to re-introduce adequate powers of rent control? I know that some people have invested their money in houses and that they have to be protected, but there is no justification for hovels being let at £5 and £6 a week. I urge the Government, while it is the Government, to do something for these poor unfortunate people and to rectify a condition that is detrimental to South Australia and to its people. Let us awaken to our responsibilities and provide decent houses for decent people in order that we may build a decent State.

To do this, of course, we have to do one or two other things. For some time we have been talking about an Act to provide a clean area. We make comparisons and we say that the air here is not as bad as it is in some other parts of Australia, but comparisons are odious and it is not a matter of what the conditions are like today but of what they will be like tomorrow. The member for Mitcham (Mr. Millhouse) lives in the hills, and he would be able to see the smoke, dust, soot and sulphuric acid fumes drifting over the city. Nothing is done to control this. When I was in Edinburgh (Scotland) I saw a huge housing estate and an industrial estate side by side, with thousands of houses in a smokeless area. I was told that the provision of such a smokeless area is easy and not costly. The member for Semaphore (Mr. Tapping) mentioned the problem of smoke this afternoon, and it is one that is more serious than many of us care to realize. We talk about lung cancer being caused through smoking, but here we each take into our body about 3,000 gallons or 35 lb. of air a day, which is about seven times the weight of the food we eat. I do not wish to quote authorities on this, but it has been established by authorities that this is detrimental to health because it causes certain nervous complaints, catarrh, sinus, and lung troubles. It is most unsatisfactory to the people who have to live in these areas. In that part of Woodville which I have the honour to represent, some people have put their life's savings into costly houses, and the smoke drifting down from adjacent factories and depositing sulphur and tar is causing corrosion and sweating and deterioration of walls of their houses. I consider the time is long overdue when we should have a Clean Air Act, and it would be

better to impose some small cost upon our industrial concerns now rather than to allow the continuation of the most unsatisfactory, dangerous and displeasing conditions that we have to suffer.

I support the move for the amendment of the Address in Reply. I believe that the present imposition of land tax is detrimental to our endeavours to increase rural production, and that the time is long overdue for a new method of assessment. It is difficult in these times to assess unimproved land values in rural areas, and I think some members on the other side of the House will agree with that contention. In many reasonably developed rural areas, men have put in plant and other improvements and these have been considered when fixing the price paid. It is, therefore, difficult to arrive at what is actually an unimproved value of a farm property in an established area. In practice, land tax is being assessed on recent sales. I urge members to support the amendment in order that our primary producers may pay land tax in accordance with their means. In this way we will encourage rural development and the development of our economy.

Mr. Riches: Since you have been here have you ever known one Liberal member to vote for a motion that would reduce costs of farm production?

Mr. HUTCHENS: I am afraid that I cannot give what I would deem a satisfactory answer to that.

Mr. Shannon: If some Labor members had their way they would stack land tax up a bit higher still.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Hindmarsh!

Mr. HUTCHENS: I do not object to interjections, but I do object to statements that contain no element of truth. Although I represent a metropolitan district, I am conscious that our economy from our export trade depends on our rural production.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Do you favour freehold tenure?

Mr. HUTCHENS: That is another matter altogether. I believe that, if a man can get a stake in this country by owning something, it is all the better for the country.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Do you favour freehold tenure?

Mr. HUTCHENS: Of course I do. I want to pay my respects to a number of our new citizens. Many of those who have come to this country have proved themselves worthy citizens

and an acquisition to the country. I particularly express my appreciation—I would have done so last year had I been here—to the Ukrainian community in my area which has done a mighty job in the advancement of the district. Those people have thrown in their lot with the Australian community; I trust that many other groups will be encouraged to do the same thing, and I am confident that if they do this country will develop and become the country we desire it to be. I have pleasure in supporting the motion as amended.

Mr. JENKINS (Stirling): I support the motion and congratulate the new member for Light (Mr. Freebairn) on his maiden speech in moving for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I also congratulate the seconder, the member for Angas (the Hon. B. H. Teusner). I commend the new member for Millicent (Mr. Corcoran), who did an excellent job in his maiden speech. I am sure that he will be a worthy successor in this House to his much esteemed father, with whom I have been friends for many years. We had the honour to serve in the same battalion in France during the First World War. He is a grand man and one whom I am proud to call a friend.

It was refreshing to hear the new member for Millicent refer to the fishing industry. He said that the Government had not been very helpful in assisting fishermen to purchase their own vessels. The purchase of such vessels is a risky investment indeed, and the Government must be wary of what it does in the matter. It has done much in forwarding the interests of the fishing industry. It assisted Safeol, one of the best marketing organizations in the State, to become established. The South Australian Fishermen's Co-operative Ltd. now handles almost all the fish caught in South Australia, as well as doing much to provide the needs of fishermen. The tuna fishing industry in South Australian waters was promoted by the South Australian Government, because it made available about £30,000 to finance the purchase of a tuna fishing cutter, *Fair Tuna*, which was the first to start tuna fishing in our waters. If it had not been for the Government's interest in the matter following on the refusal by people in the eastern States to help, the industry would not have been established here. Since these people have got over their teething difficulties in the first year they have gone along very well. This year 3,715 tons of tuna was caught in South Australian waters and processed mainly by Safeol at Port Lincoln. In the last few years the fishing

industry has come into its own, and about £12,902,000 was the return from the export of fish and sales on home markets in Australia during 1960-61. South Australia was second on the list for soft fish, New South Wales being the first. Taking into account crayfish, Western Australia moved into second place with South Australia taking third place.

The member for Wallaroo (Mr. Hughes) had much to say about dredging at Wallaroo to enable larger vessels to enter that port for the loading of grain. That suggestion could be investigated because I feel that there is merit in what the honourable member said. He pointed out that dredging would benefit the primary producers. That might be so, but I should like to hear more about what is involved in his dredging suggestion. It might involve more than the dredging of the berths. It might be necessary to deepen the swinging basin and the approach channels, which might involve the expenditure of so much money as to make the proposition uneconomical. It might be better to spend this money on the provision of water and electricity supplies and roads. I shall be interested to hear the report by the Minister after the matter has been investigated.

I was pleased, with other members, to hear that Her Majesty the Queen will visit South Australia next year. During the 1954 visit the time available in South Australia to Her Majesty was so short that she was unable to visit many country areas. For instance, she could not come to the South Coast. I have applied with other members and mayors of various towns for her to visit more country districts this time. I have suggested to Mr. King, the Director of the Royal Tour, that she visit the South Coast by making a trip through Stirling, Macclesfield, Strathalbyn, Goolwa and Victor Harbour, and return to Adelaide through Yankalilla and over Sellicks Hill. This would provide a tour of real interest to her, for she would see some of our most beautiful and varied country. She would travel through the hills, across the plains, and along the coast, and would see something unequalled perhaps anywhere else in the world. Such a trip would be of great interest to Her Majesty and she would receive a royal welcome from all the people *en route*.

I join with other speakers in congratulating the Minister of Education on receiving his knighthood. This high honour was conferred on him by Her Majesty, and we all trust that he and Lady Pattinson will live for many years to enjoy the honour.

Mr. Speaker, our congratulations also go to you on being elected to such a high office. Because of your many years as a member in this House the knowledge you have gained about procedure will stand you in good stead.

I support the suggestion made by the member for Angas (the Hon. B. H. Teusner), that the Clerk of the House of Assembly (Mr. Combe) should go overseas to gain further information about procedure at the House of Commons, or wherever he may be sent, so that we may be able to maintain modern trends in this House. It was about three or four months ago that Mr. Teusner and I first discussed the matter.

Mr. Riches: He might learn something about democracy.

Mr. JENKINS: That is so. The pattern of the Leader of the Opposition's speech was to belittle the Premier and the Government in their administration of various matters. I refer particularly to the Electricity Trust and the Housing Trust. The Leader of the Opposition said that the Government was not properly looking after the interests of the people in matters of housing and electricity supplies, but I believe that both trusts have done an excellent job, and we should not be ashamed of what they have done. I do not think that the extensions of electricity supplies that have taken place would have been possible but for the complete understanding of the position by the Premier and his co-operation with the Electricity Trust. I am more concerned about the satisfaction that has been expressed in my district with the extension of electricity supplies than I am of the condemnation by the Leader of the Opposition. Seven or eight years ago the only electricity enjoyed in my district was that supplied by local private companies, which did not have the ability to supply electricity to the extent required. There were restrictions on the appliances and tariffs were high.

I had a lot to do with the taking over of the electricity company in Victor Harbour. At that time I was Mayor of that town and had several conferences with the Premier, the Chairman of the Electricity Trust and the Chairman and members of the board of the company conducting the electricity supply there. I know exactly how much effort and desire the Premier put into introducing an electricity supply into my district. Had it not been for him and his understanding, we should probably still be without electricity on the scale we have it today. That electricity supply moved first into the Strathalbyn district and extended through it. Five or six years

later it extended into the Victor Harbour area and the whole of my district. When extensions now planned, one into the Currency Creek area and one into Hindmarsh Island, costing about £40,000, and a few other minor ones, are completed, the whole district will be electrified. My people and I are delighted about it because it gives the women in the houses of the country people some of the amenities enjoyed in the metropolitan area. It has also helped the rural industries in no uncertain manner. The electricity has been linked to premises all along the systems available in my district; it has increased productivity mainly in the dairying industry to a great extent and taken much of the drudgery out of it as well. One turns on a switch and has power available immediately. My constituents are highly delighted with that.

The Leader of the Opposition had much to say about the South Australian Government, the Housing Trust, and the propaganda the Premier has used with promises of things to happen many years hence. The Leader of the Opposition compared housing in New South Wales with that in South Australia, but I do not think there is anything to be ashamed of in South Australia in housing, particularly regarding the Housing Trust.

Mr. Frank Walsh: What sections did I compare?

Mr. JENKINS: New South Wales, the Leader said, had channelled £153,000,000 through the Commonwealth Bank into building societies.

Mr. Frank Walsh: Quite right.

Mr. JENKINS: One reason why this has not been done to any extent here is that the people of South Australia do not like the idea of building societies: they seem to prefer to go direct to the Commonwealth Bank, the Savings Bank, the State Bank, or to approved lending institutions to get their mortgages rather than deal with building societies.

I should like to compare something of what has taken place in New South Wales with what has happened here. New South Wales has a population of 3,800,000 as against 990,000 in South Australia. We have to look at the percentages. I got hold of the New South Wales Housing Commission's report for 1960-61 and compared it with the South Australian Housing Trust's report for the same year. Here are the numbers of houses built by the two bodies. The New South Wales Housing Commission, in 1958-59, built 3,171 houses, flats or pensioners' houses. For the same period the South Australian Housing Trust built 3,142 houses. For 1959-60, the

New South Wales Commission built 3,502 houses while South Australia built 3,174. In 1960-61, New South Wales completed 3,153 houses while South Australia built 3,314—161 more than New South Wales for that year. But, taking the three years and adding them together, New South Wales completed 196 more houses than South Australia did. Taking the percentage of population into account, I do not think we did too badly.

I also examined the cost of building in New South Wales compared with that in South Australia and one or two other States. Our houses in South Australia are mainly of solid construction, brick or stone, compared with those of the other States, which favour veneer—their best type of house—and timber frame with asbestos. We have some of the latter here but ours is mainly solid construction. Here is a comparison of prices a square, taken from our Auditor-General's report dealing with Housing Trust activities in South Australia from 1953 to 1961. South Australian brick construction cost £278 a square. New South Wales brick veneer (which is not the same because there are only one row of bricks outside and timber frame inside) cost £325, a difference of £47 a square in South Australia's favour. In Victoria the cost is £300 a square compare with our £278, while in Canberra the cost is £405 a square compared with our £278.

In Western Australia they can beat us on solid construction: the cost there is £257 compared with our £278.

Mr. Riches: Do these figures take into account the cost of the land?

Mr. JENKINS: No, that does not include the cost of land. That is stated in the Housing Commission's report. The honourable member can see it in both the reports. We beat New South Wales in 1960-61 by 160 more houses built by our Housing Trust than their Housing Commission—and that in spite of the fact that within that year 15,482 applications for new houses were received by the Housing Commission, and the commission stated that over 80 per cent of them were acceptable. It was not because there was no need for houses that less were built in that year. So I do not think we have anything to be ashamed of there.

I shall now touch on one or two matters concerning my own district and mention mainly the water position there. I am pleased to be able to say that we can look forward to much improvement soon. The Encounter Bay district water scheme should, I believe, operate some time during November this year. That will be

a great relief to many people in my district, and many of them on high ground who are unable to get water through lack of pressure under the old scheme will probably come into this and be able to get water. Those waiting to build, of whom there are many, will now be able to avail themselves of water that will be, I take it, available to them. Many other considerations stem from this, one being the fact that the Engineering and Water Supply Department will not need to pump further supplementary water from the bores behind the Hindmarsh Tiers into the system that affects the Hindmarsh Valley reservoir and serves the district. The bores have been there to maintain a water supply but, even with them, the water has been low in the reservoir at the end of a warm summer and the water position has become precarious. This excellent new scheme will take care of that. The water formerly pumped from the bores will now become available to those people needing it for irrigation on their own properties; the river will be allowed to run down in full flood and those depending on that water for their irrigation (of whom there are many these days) will have no further worries in that regard for at certain times the river had been taken into the reservoir and those people depending on that water for irrigation had had to go short. They will now be able to make full use of it.

The Strathalbyn area, with which I have been concerned for many years, will, I hope, get relief soon. The Public Works Committee has taken evidence on a scheme to cost about £370,000 and I hope that something will be provided in this year's Estimates to allow a commencement of this work. I have spoken frequently of the disabilities under which many of the farmers in the Milang, Langhorne Creek, Belvidere, Finniss, Bletchley, Strathalbyn, Sandergrove and Woodhester areas have been working. The water upon which they depend is mainly taken from bores which contain a salt content ranging from 600 to 900 grains. When the surface water, which has been used for stock purposes, gives out—and there is not much surface water because of the unsuitability of the land as a catchment area—the stock deteriorates rapidly. Fat lambs fall away quickly and cows, which have been using the surface water, go dry. The milk flow stops almost immediately, with a big loss to the farmers. When the scheme is implemented it will afford great relief to these people.

However, some areas need more water. The member for Murray (Mr. Bywaters) will be interested in this, because he knows that there is a move afoot to have a petition presented

to the Minister of Works for a water supply for the Monarto, Brinkley and Hartley areas. I suggested two or three proposals to the Minister. One was that the proposed Strathalbyn scheme be extended, but that proved to be prohibitive in cost. The second was that when the new main from Murray Bridge through Kanmantoo to empty over the Mount Barker Range into the Onkaparinga commenced operating in about 1970 a spur line be run off to serve this area. Engineers believe that that, too, will be too costly. I also suggested that the main could probably discharge some water into the Bremer River so that water could flow down the stream, but that was not a satisfactory proposal either. Last summer the Bremer went dry, except for one or two water holes. The Agriculture Department's advisers informed the people who were maintaining stock on this water that they should not use it because the water was highly contaminated, possibly due to the discharge of effluent into it from the pyrites mine at Nairne and from one or two meatworks in the hills. If that were the position, there is not much hope of these people getting much help. However, I hope that one of these schemes can be more closely examined to see whether it is possible to provide these people with some water supply for stock and domestic purposes. The Brinkley area is in such a position, with the extremities of the scheme, that there is little water available during the hot days for stock. This is probably due to the rapid build-up of population around the Murray Bridge area through which the mains pass.

As a result of electricity extensions through my district, most people who have riparian rights to streams have connected electricity to their pumping plants and are wisely growing all the summer fodder they possibly can under irrigation. Riparian landholders are entitled to take domestic and stock water provided they do not deny water to the persons downstream from them, but they are doing that. They are taking not only stock and domestic water, but are using water for irrigation, and this has posed a problem and has imposed a hardship on people downstream. Some people who purchased land behind the land held by those with riparian rights have been granted easements to the stream and have installed pumping plants with six-inch mains and are irrigating their properties. That is all right when plenty of water is flowing down the stream, but in a dry season—as have been the last three years—people downstream, who have costly plants, cannot get water and their crops die. There have been injunctions, writs of restraint and threats

of writs of restraint, and the position is likely to become aggravated as people come to appreciate the value of summer fodder and irrigation. I do not know the answer, but I have suggested that the Minister should examine establishing some type of control, possibly by appointing a water board comprising representatives elected by the people. This board could ensure that everybody got a fair share of the water. Dams could be constructed and water pumped into them in the winter when water is available and going to waste. Water could thus be conserved for those people who are denied it during the summer months. I realize that this proposal would be costly.

Mr. Ryan: How much would it cost?

Mr. JENKINS: It would depend on the type of dam constructed, its holding capacity and various other factors. If water were conserved in a few dams of 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 gallon capacity, it would serve many people in the dry summers. I hope the Minister will examine this proposal because I believe it has some value. Although the provision of roads and bridges is proceeding in my district I urge the Minister of Roads to try to seal more of the Wellington to Langhorne Creek road. I know that it has been argued that not much traffic uses that road, but the traffic is increasing. Many people who come here from Victoria *via* the Princes Highway like to cross the punt at Wellington and travel through Langhorne Creek to Adelaide. It is a rough road. Two miles of it were sealed last year and I hope that at least a similar distance will be sealed this year. This would be appreciated by people who reside the other side of Langhorne Creek and who suffer considerably from dust in the summer. In the winter, when there is any rain, the road is filled with potholes. This is discouraging to visitors and is a disability to school buses and those who transport their produce by road. I appreciate the fact that four bridges have been built in the Strathalbyn area in the last year or two. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. LANGLEY (Unley): I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply as amended, and join with previous speakers in their expressions of sympathy to the widows and families of recently deceased members. It was with pleasure that we heard the announcement that Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh would visit Australia, and that South Australians would be given a chance to greet them. Having had the pleasure of meeting both on several occasions,

I know that their personality and charm will endear them to the people.

I congratulate the Hon. Sir Baden and Lady Pattinson on the honour that has been conferred upon them. In my short time in this House the Minister of Education has always been helpful in his endeavours to provide better facilities for schools.

During the election campaign I spoke with thousands of electors in my district and this down-to-earth approach was appreciated. The courteous manner in which they received me indicated a keen interest in political matters, and the support given me on election day has inspired me to devote my time and energy to district matters and to the State in general. Unley contains many newcomers to Australia who are fitting into our way of life and taking part in many matters of local interest and proving worthy citizens of this old district.

May I now mention a new industry that has recently commenced operations at Finsbury? This is the Dalco Steel Descaling Company, which employs eight men at present and which hopes to increase its staff and buildings. The help given by Mr. Campbell (Engineer for Water Supply), Mr. Hodgson (Engineer for Water and Sewage Treatment), Mr. Nottage (District Foreman of the Electricity Trust's north-west area), and Labor members was very helpful to me in my efforts to secure the establishment of this industry.

I listened with interest to the member for Barossa (Mr. Laucke) concerning his suggestion for a free lending library in his district. The Unley district is confronted with similar obstacles to those the honourable member mentioned. The cost of erecting a building and stocking it with books seems a waste when buildings could be converted to house subscription and free lending libraries. These libraries have different functions, and the Unley people would benefit if they had the choice of these libraries.

Education seems to be a topic on everybody's lips these days. Great strides have been made in giving the children better facilities. In the Unley electorate are some of the oldest schools in the State. They lack modern structural design, and toilets and out-buildings are in need of repair. At present several of the schools are in the process of being renovated, and I assure the Minister of Education that the school councils and committees deeply appreciate these improvements. The advent of migrants has had much influence on the schools in this area. The educational standards will help the migrants to mingle with Australians and understand our way of life.

The young children will learn quickly, provided that the best conditions are provided and kept up to date whenever possible. Splendid work is being done in the Unley electorate for the safety of schoolchildren. The co-operation of the Highways Department, the Unley City Council and the Burnside City Council has meant that road traffic at every school on a main road will be controlled by traffic lights. The last stage is the installation of lights at the intersection of Glen Osmond Road and Young Street to help children attending the Parkside Primary School and the Roman Catholic Convent School. Tenders will soon be called for this work which, when completed, will afford great relief to all concerned. One must admire the women folk who have worked well to ensure the safety of the pupils.

Recently I referred to restrictive trade practices that are being engaged in by monopolies. Throughout my district and the State the small man is being jeopardized in his competition with these vultures. Although the member for Port Pirie (Mr. McKee) referred to this matter last year, the practice continues and is worsening. It is incredible to think that a company like Rothman's will supply a nationwide store like Coles direct from its store in this State and then tell the agents supplying the storekeepers, who compete with Coles, that their needs cannot be supplied. The small businessmen are looking to this Government for help, and they expect it.

Mr. Lawa: They will not get it!

The SPEAKER: Order! Interruptions are out of order when a new member is speaking.

Mr. LANGLEY: In the peace years since the Second World War there has been a rapid advance in the use of electricity. Whilst the increased use relates to the whole State, much thought must be given to the usefulness and evils of electricity. Whether in the country or in the city, electricity is an essential service readily used at work and in the home. But what of the dangers that arise from its misuse and from carelessness? Let me refer to some of the advances in electrical usage. In the country it has greatly aided the productivity of rural and dairy farms. Water pumps, electric motors, electric saws and milking machines are but a few of the aids. The replacement of home-lighting plants by an uninterrupted flow from the Electricity Trust has also been a boon. The man on the land must benefit from these services, but I question whether he understands the harm that can be done if they are not properly installed.

In the city, industry is much better supervised, and maintenance men are available

immediately to remedy a fault. However, what of the householder? Many appliances are bought ready for use, and neither the salesman nor the clients think how the articles are to be used in the home. Frequently, homes are not correctly wired to cope with the increased loading. Most houses nowadays would have at least four electrical appliances, and often more. The days of the householder with only an electric iron and toaster have disappeared; nowadays the loading is increased by the use of water heating and kitchen appliances (including electric stoves), television sets, and many other things. The same applies in industry where the use of electrical equipment is gaining ground through the introduction of new ideas and modern machinery. A power point with a three-pin outlet does not necessarily have an earth-wire connected to it. Many houses contain these power points, and consequently the number of electric shocks is increasing. This is particularly so in older houses. In this respect houses built nowadays conform to the Electricity Trust's regulations, which are more rigid than formerly.

Any person is free to install additional power points in his house, but there is an inherent danger in this because the jobs are rarely inspected and the workmanship can be slapdash. It is true the Government acted on this matter and I suggest that the following reforms are necessary: first, all electricians should be licensed; secondly, apprentices should receive licences on completion of their indentures after passing an examination and trade test; thirdly, every job should be examined by the Electricity Trust; and fourthly, the trust should make periodical inspections. From my experience I know that many people want the assurance that their electrical installations are safe, and as electricity covers most of the State the fundamentals I have suggested would be of value to householders and tradesmen alike.

I thank the people of the Unley electorate for their support. I will carry out their wishes to the best of my ability. I also thank all honourable members and members of the House staff for their kindness and assistance.

Mr. HALL secured the adjournment of the debate.

SUPPLY BILL (No. 2).

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.52 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, July 26, at 2 p.m.