

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, July 26, 1962.

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

QUESTIONS.

WAR SERVICE LAND SETTLEMENT.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Last Tuesday, I asked the Minister of Lands questions (on notice) relating to Zone 5 of the war service land settlement scheme in the South-East. The replies I received were so brief that they were of very little use, and therefore I should appreciate amplification along the following lines:

(1) Is it a fact that the high cost of development is embarrassing to the Government and is delaying the finalization of valuations and final rents in Zone 5?

(2) Is the delay being aggravated by the South-Eastern Drainage Board's being denied the opportunity of approving assessments for betterment?

(3) When can settlers expect to be advised of the valuations and final rents fixed for war service land settlement purposes?

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS: I ask the Leader to put his questions on notice.

BULK HANDLING.

Mr. HEASLIP: For some time now the Public Works Committee has been inquiring into the advisability of installing bulk handling facilities at Port Adelaide, and I understand that the Harbors Board has been engaged in the planning for this project. Can the Minister of Works say when this project is likely to be recommended?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: On being told by the Chairman of the Public Works Committee that the committee had reached a conclusion on this matter and was recommending the project, I communicated with the General Manager of the Harbors Board and his officers prepared a scheme for submission to Cabinet. The project has now been referred to Cabinet and has been approved in principle, so the work can now proceed. Including the port of Ardrossan (which has plant equipped and operated by the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Ltd.), this is the fifth port in South Australia to be equipped with bulk handling facilities. The Wallaroo, Port Lincoln and Thevenard installations have been completed and that at

Port Pirie is being completed. The Port Adelaide plant will embody some interesting features, because it will be constructed on a new berth on the Port River and opposite No. 3 dock. It will have a berth capable of accommodating large vessels of up to 620ft. long and with a draught of up to 38ft. It will have a loading capacity of 800 tons an hour for wheat and 670 tons an hour for barley. It will also be built so that it can load other bulk cargoes, such as salt, if export operations in that commodity develop later. The plant will also have associated works which are necessary to such an installation. I do not have details of the South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited's proposals, but I understand that the company's Managing Director will be able to make a statement this afternoon. However, the project has been placed before my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, for his formal approval and I understand he is attending to the matter forthwith.

The cost of this project to the Harbors Board is calculated at £803,000, of which about £500,000 will be required in the current financial year. That expenditure includes the cost of dredging works, site formation, and other work. The project was placed before the Government rather late in the financial year and it was found necessary to provide for the expenditure of the money this year and that, because of the late reference of the project, has caused difficulty. However, the matter is being examined by the Treasurer and ways and means will be found to finance the Harbors Board expenditure this year. The Government, as members will appreciate, has fully supported bulk handling projects in this State and, in accordance with that policy, every effort will be made to see that the necessary funds are provided.

WEST BEACH ROAD.

Mr. FRED WALSH: A couple of years ago West Beach Road was reconstructed (to the credit of those responsible), but that part of the road west of South Road for many months has been in a deplorable condition. I understand that reconstruction of the road is contemplated but has been delayed because a stormwater drain and water mains have been constructed. At present the road is practically unusable if vehicles leave the crown of the road. Can the Minister of Works say when it is contemplated that reconstruction of West Beach Road on the west of South Road will be commenced?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Roads, reports that funds are being provided to enable the West Torrens Council to commence this work during the current financial year.

BLACKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: On April 18 last I asked the Minister of Education a question about the transport of children to the Blackwood High School. The Minister said then that he had considered the problem, reconsidered it, and was prepared to reconsider it again. Has he done so and has he now come to a favourable conclusion upon the matter?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: In reply to the first three questions, I have done so but, in reply to the fourth question, I have not yet been able to arrive at a favourable decision. It is part of the larger problem of school transport generally and is at present being investigated in relation to the Estimates. It will be one further worry for the Treasurer later. Perhaps I could, for the information of the honourable member and of members generally, state that legislative authority for the provision of transport for schoolchildren was granted in 1941. The relevant sections of the Education Act are as follows:

Section 32a: The Minister may close any two or more schools and may establish an area school to provide for the education of children previously educated at the schools so closed.

Section 38a: The Minister may, in such manner and subject to such conditions as he thinks fit, provide or arrange for the transport of children to and from any public school or may pay the whole or any portion of the cost of transporting any children to or from any public school.

Section 38a does not deny the Minister power to provide transport into the metropolitan area, but I consider that the policy not to provide such transport, particularly at present, is wise because, without in any way attempting to anticipate the Treasurer's Budget, I know that, even on present figures, school transport of country children this year will cost well over £500,000. This sum will be spent in providing transport for children in isolated areas of the State and for children whose schools have been closed and consolidated to area schools. I believe that this is the proper function of school transport.

If transport is provided for children travelling into the metropolitan area, then the cost of transport will be appreciably

increased. Children travelling into the metropolitan area invariably travel by train or privately operated buses. If the children reside three or more miles from their schools, then they receive the concession of travelling allowances or from free rail passes. Children residing inside the metropolitan area are not eligible for such allowances. I realize, of course, that the question raised by the honourable member in isolation is only a relatively minor one and the costs would be relatively insignificant, but it raises the whole real problem of providing transport for children travelling into the metropolitan area. I suggest that it is beyond the resources of the Education Department to provide these facilities, particularly at present, but the whole matter is now being considered in relation to the Estimates.

HARBORS BOARD.

Mr. TAPPING: On two previous occasions I have referred to the need to increase the number of Commissioners on the South Australian Harbors Board. At the moment, as members realize, it comprises three gentlemen, some of whom from time to time go overseas on business and others may be indisposed, as happens to all people at times. It has been suggested by me in the past that another two men be added to the list of Commissioners, one from the shipping interests and one from the trade union movement in South Australia. Despite the Minister's reply of a year ago, will he reconsider this matter in view of the increased commerce in South Australia and the huge sum involved in Harbors Board expenditure?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: This matter has not been considered recently by the Government. The term of the present Commissioners does not expire for some time although, from memory, I cannot say when. The board is not under any disability because of the absence of one of its members overseas: he will be back soon in any case. During his absence the board has been ably served by Sir William Bishop, who agreed to act as a Commissioner *pro tem*, and the board has not been inconvenienced because of Mr. Commissioner Verco's absence. I do not know whether the size of a board should be determined necessarily by the amount of money it handles. If it were, compared to other boards in South Australia the Harbors Board would be numerically strong. However, I am prepared to consider the suggestion. I think it would be inopportune to make

additional appointments to the board now; indeed, I think it would require legislation for that purpose. When the term of the present board is nearer expiry it may be more opportune to consider the suggestion.

BLANCHETOWN BRIDGE.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Will the Minister of Works obtain a report from the Minister of Roads on the progress being made on the Blanchetown bridge?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will obtain a report from my colleague.

ROAD MOIETIES.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Last November I approached the Director of Lands regarding the liability of property owners for road moieties when the land on which a moiety is charged is subsequently returned to the Crown, and I suggested that the department should either accept the responsibility for the payment of the road moiety to the local council in such cases or should reimburse the previous owner of the property after the land had been resold by the department to a subsequent owner. The Director said this matter would be considered in relation to this year's Estimates. Has the Minister given any thought to this question in connection with the Estimates that will be presented soon?

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS: True, the honourable member did bring this question up towards the end of last session. I took it up again with the Director and I understood that some alleviation had been afforded, but I will obtain a report by next Tuesday.

EYRE PENINSULA RESERVES.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: On Tuesday I asked the Minister of Lands a question about flora and fauna reserves on Eyre Peninsula, and I understand he now has a reply.

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS: The areas referred to have been proclaimed as wild life reserves and have been placed under the control of the Commissioners of National Park and Wild Life Reserves. Prior to this action being taken, the question of the use of the land was carefully investigated on many occasions by the Land Board as well as by a committee specially appointed to examine and make recommendations regarding the future of these and other fauna and flora reserves. The decisions made have been reviewed several times recently, but are still considered to be correct.

CANCER.

Mr. HUTCHENS: A sincere and energetic appeal for finance to assist in the prevention of cancer in South Australia is being conducted in the press, over the radio, and on television. They are advocating the support of the appeal with the slogan, "Present a cheque and have a check up." As this disease is no respecter of age, and large families find it difficult to meet the cost of having a regular check, can the Premier say whether the Department of Health will consider the possibility of a press campaign advising people of the symptoms of this disease in order that they may check and avoid the complaint, if possible?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The most common symptoms have been given considerable publicity on many occasions. In fact, I suppose there has been no other type of investigation more frequently urged or given more publicity than the sort of thing one should watch as an indicator for the necessity of a check. I agree with the honourable member that no publicity would be too much in this particular matter. I will refer his suggestion to the Minister of Health to see if it is possible for him to arrange for a campaign as suggested.

ADELAIDE OVAL LEASE.

Mr. COUMBE: Is the Premier aware of the interest created at the moment among the sporting community in the proposal to renew the lease of the Adelaide Oval, which is in my electorate, and can he indicate whether this agreement is likely to come before the House this session? I understand it has to be ratified by Parliament. Can the Premier say whether it will be a Select Committee Bill and what opportunity will be given to members to vary the measure, if necessary?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have not the information at my disposal to enable me to give a positive reply. I remember that on a previous occasion the question of the Adelaide Oval lease came before the House and I assume that it will have to come before it again. From reading press reports I believe that the negotiations are fairly far advanced. I will get a report on those two questions and make it available to the House, and also on the third question as to whether it will be a Select Committee Bill.

RADIUM HILL MAIN.

Mr. CASEY: I understand that the Premier has a reply to a question I asked earlier this week regarding the water main linking the Umberumberka reservoir with Radium Hill.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have received the following report from the Director of Mines:

The original intention was to hold the entire 60 miles of pipeline from Umberumberka reservoir to Radium Hill intact for a period of 12 months, whilst a private company prospected in the area for mineral deposits. Failing any worthwhile mineral developments it would then have been disposed of.

However, a subsequent investigation and report by officers of the Engineering and Water Supply Department indicated that at least the first 10 miles of line from Umberumberka was useless, and would need complete replacing. As the first 30 miles of pipeline to Mingary has required a great deal of maintenance over the years, it was then decided to dispose of this section as it stood. Tenders have been called and the successful tenderer notified.

The balance of the pipeline—the useful 30 mile section between Mingary and Radium Hill—is being held until the initial 12 months period expires in approximately six months' time, and consideration will then have to be given to its disposal.

ORIENTAL FRUIT MOTH.

Mr. CURREN: Several months ago a request was made by the Renmark Oriental Fruit Moth Eradication Committee to the Minister of Agriculture for a grant to assist in the eradication of this pest. Will the Minister say whether any decision has been arrived at?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes; I am writing to the committee concerned to inform it that no grant can be given. I am adding that we are closely examining the proposal put by several people from the district represented by the honourable member and neighbouring districts regarding legislation that would enable the growers themselves to deal fully with pests of this nature. The outline of the legislation was discussed by a deputation some time ago, and it is at present in the course of preparation. I have not seen it in its final form, but I expect that a Bill will be introduced this session that will enable the wishes of the deputation to be put into effect.

WALLAROO MINES SCHOOL.

Mr. HUGHES: Has the Minister of Education a reply to a question I asked last Thursday about the Wallaroo Mines school?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yes. The Director of Public Buildings has informed me that an estimate to include the following work has been prepared:

- (1) Renew ceilings to main entrance, sick bay and front porch and repair ceilings in three classrooms.
- (2) Remove the gable protection shelter above the front entrance and make good.
- (3) Renew a total of 286ft. of eaves, gutters and some downpipes at front and rear of school.
- (4) Securely fix all roofing sheets and cappings and birdproof the roof and eaves.
- (5) Provide new septic tank with drainage and disposal installations to boys' and girls' toilets.
- (6) Effect repairs to shelter shed and ablution facilities.

He states that the work is considered necessary and will be carried out as soon as practicable. I have also been advised that a building inspector from the Public Buildings Department visited Wallaroo last week. It is expected that a report on the second part of the honourable member's question concerning plumbing will be available when the inspector returns to duty at head office.

REJECT LEATHER GOODS.

Mr. McKEE: I have been requested by a sub-branch of the Australian Labor Party to bring to the Premier's notice a matter relating to the manufacture of certain leather goods. Will the Premier take steps to see that any manufacturer of articles such as shoes, gloves, handbags, etc., brands these goods with the word "reject" and his name when there is in the goods a defect which means that they are not "perfects", but which is not bad enough for them to be discarded and makes them saleable as rejects?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Most manufacturers of the types of goods mentioned by the honourable member are, fortunately, not in South Australia. A very limited number of these articles are made in South Australia. For some reason Victoria was able to capture the light industries in the early days of the Commonwealth and most of the articles are now made there. In those circumstances any legislation we passed would not have the desired effect.

MURRAY BRIDGE ROAD BRIDGE.

Mr. BYWATERS: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked on Tuesday last relating to the cessation of the painting of the road bridge across the river at Murray Bridge?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Roads, informs me that investigations into alternative methods of cleaning the bridge to prevent contamination of water supply and pastures are being carried out. Under the terms of the contract specification the painting of the bridge was not to be carried out during the months of June, July and August in any case. By then, which I presume to be by the end of August, it is hoped that an acceptable solution to the problem will be found.

MILLICENT HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. CORCORAN: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked on Tuesday last regarding approval for the construction of a canteen and tennis court backstops at the new Millicent High School?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The Public Buildings Department has today advised that the quotation submitted by the school council for the provision of a canteen at the school is satisfactory and, therefore, a subsidy can be granted for this project. The Public Buildings Department has also advised today that the quotation submitted by the school council for the provision of additional backstops for the tennis courts is too high. The school council will be advised that an alternative quote should be obtained.

SALT INDUSTRY.

Mr. RICHES: Can the Premier give the House any information regarding the progress being made in connection with the establishment of a salt industry just south of Port Augusta?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The establishment of a salt industry at Port Augusta primarily depends on exports. The position is that the Australian salt market is already well supplied, because of the development that has occurred. In fact, there is at present in Australia a surplus, and there have been some trial overseas shipments. Any large scale development of salt at Port Augusta must depend on overseas exports. The most likely market is Japan, but Japan is a competitive market, and it will be necessary to place the salt free on board ship at competitive rates. With these two matters before us we have been investigating the large-scale production and

shipments of salt. The Government has indicated to the interests concerned that if an overseas market can be obtained it will provide shipping facilities, and plans have been prepared for the shipment of salt from a deep sea berth. This would involve the establishment of an artificial island, with a causeway leading to it, to enable ships of a capacity up to 48,000 tons to be berthed. In the meantime American experts for the last three or four months have been making a most careful survey of the field. That is how far the matter has proceeded. The whole success of the project will ultimately depend upon whether the authority concerned can get the salt free on board within the range of the Japanese purchase prices. If it can do that, I think there is a possibility of an industry of perhaps 500,000 to 750,000 tons of salt a year. Japan, as a matter of interest, purchases about 2,000,000 tons of salt each year, so there is an assured market, although an extremely competitive one.

PRICES INVESTIGATION.

Mr. HUTCHENS: I understand the Premier has a reply to the question I asked yesterday concerning an inquiry by the Prices Department into a contract for plumbing at a dentist's establishment.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Prices Commissioner reports:

The work referred to concerns plumbing work carried out for a dentist at his surgery at Glenelg. Whilst industrial and commercial buildings are not strictly regarded as subject to price control, certain classes of building and a number of building services including plumbing are still under control. This has been pointed out to the plumbing company who carried out the work.

Section 8 of the Prices Act gives the department the power to call for information on goods sold and services carried out, whether declared or not, and even if the matter were not subject to control there would be nothing to prevent an investigation being carried out, particularly if there was reason to believe that an investigation may be warranted. The contractor concerned will be given every opportunity to state his case and an interview will be granted should he so desire.

COMMUNISM IN SCHOOLS.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Following on the questions asked on Tuesday by the members for Rocky River and Gawler concerning Communist influence in the Education Department and the replies the Minister of Education gave, can the Minister now say whether the Returned Servicemen's League has submitted any written evidence in support of the allegations that were made?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The State President of the R.S.L. (Brig. Eastick) has submitted certain verbal information to me, and this morning he submitted certain written information to the Premier and myself jointly. I intend to refer this information to the Director of Education (Mr. Mander-Jones) for his personal attention, and doubtless in due course the Director will consult me on the matter.

BIRKENHEAD TUG PENS.

Mr. TAPPING: In July, 1957, the Public Works Committee recommended the building of tug pens at Darling Wharf, Birkenhead, and at that stage it was regarded as an urgent matter. I have questioned the Minister of Marine before on this subject, and he has told me that because of lack of co-operation from some of the tug companies it would not be economical to proceed with the project. Will the Minister now consider the matter and see whether he can include the construction of tug pens in the forthcoming Loan Estimates?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: In previous replies to the honourable member on this question I have stated that in the opinion of the Government and some other people whose opinions are valued the provision of tug pens, while being desirable, was not of the order of urgency of many other works which the Harbors Board was obliged to carry out. I indicate, as an example of that, the reply I gave this afternoon to the question by the member for Rocky River (Mr. Heaslip) regarding bulk handling facilities at Port Adelaide. I intimated in the latter part of my remarks that the Harbors Board's finances and its Loan allocation will be severely strained and, indeed, overtaxed beyond its present resources to carry out the works which are absolutely essential if the deadline for the completion of those works is to be met. Therefore, it is necessary for the Treasurer to examine his resources to see just what provision he can make to meet this requirement. I think that in itself answers the question the honourable member has now raised. It would be quite impossible in this year's Loan Estimates for the Harbors Board to devote any of its already overtaxed resources to this project.

AUSTRALIAN BARLEY BOARD.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether or not he has yet appointed a new Chairman of the Australian Barley Board and, if so, can he say who this person is?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The appointment of the Chairman of the Australian Barley Board is made by the Governors of South Australia and Victoria. The appointment of Mr. Strickland, the present Director of Agriculture, was made by His Excellency in Executive Council today.

STICKERS ON WINDSCREENS.

Mr. FRED WALSH: I understand the Premier has a reply to the question I asked last week concerning the placing of stickers on motor cars for breaches of parking by-laws.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes; I have received the following reply from the Town Clerk (Mr. Veale):

I acknowledge your letter of July 18 with which was enclosed a cutting from *Hansard* containing a question asked by Mr. J. F. Walsh, M.P., with regard to the placing of "stickers" on motor vehicles. In reply it is advised that, on occasions, the fact that a "sticker" has not been visible on a motor vehicle has subsequently been stated as a defence in court proceedings and a lenient view has been taken by the magistrate. This demonstrates that the leaving of a "sticker" is regarded as being important, both by the driver of the vehicle and by the court, in order that the driver might receive a notice at about the time of the breach.

The practice of placing the "sticker" under the windscreen wiper rather than sticking it to the windscreen has grown up in recent years as motorists have expressed the view that the scraping off of the gum is inconvenient. Very few complaints have ever been received and the inspectors, who are car-minded, are extremely careful about this. The possibility of using sellotape to adhere the "stickers" at two corners has been tried, but this has been found difficult for motorists to remove. The general practice is to place the "sticker" on the left-hand side of the windscreen from where all particulars are taken from the registration disc. In a few narrow streets, such as Exchange Place, Commercial Place and French Street, where there is no footpath, the inspector has to lean across the car to see the registration disc, and in this instance he may place the "sticker" on the driver's side. The ungunned "sticker" is usually removed by the driver. The "sticker" is placed on the vehicle as an indication, to provide the driver with an opportunity to review the breach, the time and the place.

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 25. Page 265.)

Mr. HALL (Gouger): I have much pleasure in supporting the motion for adoption of the

Address in Reply. I am particularly pleased to be able to speak from this side of the House. I was pleased that this Parliament met early after the election and that my Party received the necessary voting strength on the floor of the House to continue to govern. I hope—and I have good reason to believe—that we shall be able to provide the same good administration this State has enjoyed in the preceding three years.

Much discussion has emanated from various uninformed or mistaken quarters regarding which Party should govern. This statement is borne out by the fact that the member for Adelaide, when he spoke earlier this year, supplied us with figures of the number of electors required to elect a Labor and a Liberal member respectively to this Chamber. I do not intend to go into this question deeply, because it is filled with many imponderables and should take into account the number of contested and uncontested seats. The member for Adelaide produced a most erroneous report, from which he showed that in the 1959 election—and the same comments apply to the 1962 election—10,882 votes were required to elect a Labor member to this Chamber, and 6,746 votes to elect a Liberal member. The honourable member's method of obtaining these figures was to totally disregard uncontested seats and take the number of votes cast, dividing them by the number of members. Although the member for Adelaide failed to correctly add up the number of members in this Chamber, the matter of one or two members does not make any difference to the argument. The member then divided the number of votes gained by the number of seats contested, but his use of that method has no meaning at all.

If the correct method is adopted, on the same figures as those given by the member for Adelaide, we will arrive at this result. A total of 11,560 votes was required to elect a Labor member and 10,461 to elect a Liberal member. Therefore, there is very little difference in the number required by either Party. I wish to correct any misconception that may have been caused by the production of that erroneous set of figures, because the member's statement could be quoted elsewhere. I invite members opposite to correct my figures if they are able to do so, but my figures have been taken from those supplied by the member for Adelaide.

I sincerely congratulate the member for Light (Mr. Freebairn) on the way he moved

the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I am happy to know that he is sitting next to me and that he represents an adjoining district. I know how well the member is regarded in his district and the hard work he has done since taking office. One could be excused for thinking, from the way he delivered his maiden speech, that he had been a member of this Chamber for many years.

I also express my pleasure at hearing the member for Angas (the Hon. B. H. Teusner) speak from the floor of the House. This was the first time I have heard the honourable member speak in that capacity and I appreciated his considered and well delivered words. I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your election to the high office you now hold, and I know you will uphold the dignity of the office in the same good manner as did your predecessor. I congratulate the other new members who spoke for the first time: they spoke extremely well.

I am sorry that we had a division of opinion on the first day of the session when members opposite refused to attend Government House. Their action created much disgust in the public mind and people in my electorate disapproved greatly of Labor members choosing our Vice-Regal representative as an object for political tactics. We deplore the fact that members opposite did not attend Government House on the opening day and that they chose to display placards in this Chamber.

As we speak again in this debate, some of us regard this occasion as a yearly stepping stone or chapter in the political year. We tend to look back at the last Address in Reply and to note the intervening events. I look back with some pleasure, but with some dismay, at the two major topics I dealt with last year. I note, with much pleasure, the operations of the Electricity Trust and the Government's recently enunciated policy concerning country tariffs. I recall that last year I told the House why, over a period, the trust should equalize city and country tariffs and how this step would become more feasible as capital investment in generating equipment became heavier. However, the Government's step to reduce country tariffs has gone far beyond my wildest dreams and I congratulate the Government and the trust on their efforts, which have been made possible by the efficient management of the trust. The reduced tariffs will mean much to those areas farthest from the city. Those people will be pleased to know that their tariffs will be only 10 per cent more than the city

tariffs. That step provides me with much pleasure although I know that after I spoke in the debate last year the Opposition made a political move to embarrass me and other members who spoke on the subject. Despite those political moves from a Socialist line of thought we have seen this advance brought about by good administration, by a close examination of policy, and by the provision of benefits whenever possible. This is the first major step in the programme.

Dealing with the subject of Communist infiltration into trade union management in Australia, I cannot regard that subject with pleasure. We can, however, on a national front be happy that at least the Secretary of the Waterside Workers' Federation is a non-Communist. His election is a great victory for the whole of Australia. I am dismayed when I am told that no Labor member of Parliament stood up in Australia at any place and openly and publicly supported Mr. Fitzgibbon in his candidature for the secretaryship of the Waterside Workers' Federation. It is sad that a man not only has to fight the Communist infiltration into this country, as Mr. Fitzgibbon has done, but has to do that without the support he should have. That was my point last year: it is support from people we know are not Communists and who should be supporting the anti-Communist candidates on our various industrial fronts. I hope this matter will not be forgotten and that those who are not so well placed to give leadership in these matters will think sincerely about it and give leadership when it is needed. I sincerely hope that the member for Port Adelaide will get out and do his bit.

Mr. Ryan: I have probably done as much as the honourable member ever will.

Mr. HALL: I trust that when the time comes again, if he did something to support the successful candidate for the secretaryship of the Waterside Workers' Federation, he will keep it up, but I have been reliably told that no Labor member supported the successful candidate. If he did, I should like to hear of it. I am told that unity tickets have been circulated in South Australia since I spoke last year.

I am happy to know also that we shall have the Broken Hill to Port Pirie railway line standardized and that we have for the moment forgotten the subsidiary lines which, apparently, have been holding up this project. We should look at the big line, the Port Pirie to Broken Hill line, and get that job done;

we can argue about the smaller lines after the main job is completed. I trust that this project will not be allowed to lapse when the Broken Hill line is standardized, but that the work will go on until Port Pirie is connected to Adelaide with a standard gauge.

Mention has been made several times this session of the use of *pinus radiata* in many of our Government buildings. Each time we have visited a Government timber mill (and we have been twice recently to the South-East) we have been shown *pinus radiata* of a high quality and yet, if one goes to the furniture factories of this State or into the shops, one does not see it. In the very places where a good quality timber is needed, in the construction of present-day furniture, it appears at times that some of the worst timber imaginable produced in the South-East is used in the furniture offered for sale in our shops at a high price. I am sure that not enough is being done to ensure that the good timber milled in the South-East gets through to the consumer in these highly priced articles. It may be all right to use inferior timber in a railway sleeper, where the labour content in its production is not great, but a piece of furniture, which must be processed and manufactured and is of a relatively high price, is a different matter. Its value is being destroyed in many cases by the use of inferior *pinus radiata* timber. I will not purchase a piece of furniture that has *pinus radiata* in any important structural part. I am sure many people are taking that attitude. The sooner more of the public take it, the sooner will it be realized that we need a better selection of timber for furniture manufacture.

During the last 12 months much more nonsense has been talked about decentralization. Apparently, we have, by setting up this special committee on decentralization, created a type of hysteria throughout the country: there is even some idea of setting up a lottery. Whether or not that comes under the Industries Development Committee I do not know.

Mr. Millhouse: I think the honourable member is exaggerating.

Mr. HALL: The honourable member himself is on this committee and knows the type of application that is made. Many of them have been genuine attempts to find out something.

Mr. Millhouse: Not what you call "hysteria".

Mr. HALL: Well, they are very far-fetched, shall we say. It appears that we are creating

a feeling abroad that we can have decentralization and that the cost does not matter. That is the feeling in the countryside and it is engendered by some members opposite. For instance, the member for Wallaroo (Mr. Hughes) seems to imagine that costs do not matter much, that decentralization is the main thing, and that costs can be looked at afterwards. Of course, the things that are produced must be bought by the public. Somewhere in all this, the inefficiency involved in some of these schemes must be passed back to the community. Whilst I commend any move for a general decentralization of industry, surely we must once again look at it on an economic basis. I trust that the report of the Industries Development Special Committee will stress the need to view the problem economically, to look at any possible moves from an economic point of view because, after all, we cannot these days tolerate inefficiency in the matter of transport and obtaining raw materials.

Many reasons have been given for the Government's loss of two seats in this House. No doubt many more will be given. A deliberate campaign is abroad to talk about anything but real politics. I am sure that one reason why political meetings are not so well attended as they used to be is that members of Parliament and other candidates (some of them, at least) will do anything but really state their true policy. They run from it; they are fugitives from their policies. Nowadays it has become a matter of promises and not policies.

Mr. Shannon: Do you think these amendments are being moved now in that spirit?

Mr. HALL: Undoubtedly it is a matter now of policies versus promises. What we need is a return to politics. Let us talk politics, and not go to a meeting and say: "I am a good fellow; I'll do a good job when I get there." That, of course, has reacted against candidates, as the Opposition well knows. The last thing they want to do when they go to country electorates is to discuss the policy to which they are pledged.

Mr. Loveday: Would you be an authority on what constitutes real politics?

Mr. HALL: I can only quote from reports in the Labor Party's official papers.

Mr. Fred Walsh: At least we are game enough to publish our policy which is more than the Liberal Party is prepared to do.

Mr. HALL: Our policy is freely available and at a far cheaper price than the *Labor Party's Principles and Platforms*.

Mr. Millhouse: The Labor Party's platform costs 5s.

Mr. HALL: That is an inflated price and it could be considerably reduced. While some members opposite travel through the country preaching decentralization others in the city are seeking for the greatest centralized Government that this State has seen. Apparently the Labor Party's country members are to preside over the dissolution of those districts. That is Labor's policy, but its members would run miles before they announced it in country areas. Not long ago one of Labor's policies was the abolition of State Parliaments.

Mr. Millhouse: Some members opposite still preach it.

Mr. HALL: I think that policy has since been removed, but the member for Mitcham may correct me. At a Labor Party conference in Canberra one of the suggestions was to clothe the Commonwealth Parliament with unlimited power and to authorize it to create States having delegated constitutional powers. Is that much different from the old principle of abolishing State Parliaments? I cannot see any practical difference.

Mr. Millhouse: It is the same.

Mr. HALL: Yes. Is it in the interests of country districts to destroy this Parliament? That, of course, is the Labor Party's policy. We do not want a member to retain a grip on a country electorate merely because he says, "I will do a good parochial job for you", which can be done under the Liberal Party's administration, but what would be the position under the Labor Party's control? Its policy would be put into operation. Its policies are well hidden today, but they would be brought forward.

Mr. Fred Walsh: The final decision would rest with the people.

Mr. HALL: The people should be told the position, but they are not being told at present. We urgently need a return to true politics. We must get away from promises that eventually can only bankrupt the States and the Commonwealth. I am sure many members opposite would not retain their seats if the contents of the book I have mentioned were known by the electors.

Mr. Fred Walsh: Why don't you go into their electorates and tell the people?

Mr. HALL: I am starting to, but members opposite should be honest and tell the electors.

We are not afraid of our policy and it is available in North Terrace for anyone to see. Members opposite are fugitives from their policy. It is interesting to study the amendment before us, and to consider the peculiar timing of its introduction. Apparently the landholder has at last become the concern of members opposite. It is very touching. In political matters it is wise to study records because swift changes are often made for the sake of expediency. It is interesting to examine what some members opposite have said during the short time I have been here. What have they said previously about primary production, about which they have said so much during this debate? On November 19, 1959, a Succession Duties Act Amendment Bill was discussed. That measure was designed to afford relief to landholders who were suffering because of the high valuations being placed on properties. The member for Adelaide (Mr. Lawn) said:

It is as dirty and filthy as any legislation I have seen introduced in this House.

That was his opinion of a measure designed to assist primary producers. My next quote is not abusive, as was the last, but reveals a lack of comprehension. The member for Norwood (Mr. Dunstan) obviously did not understand the difference between primary and secondary industries. He said:

The inflation in the values of these businesses—

and he was referring to hotels and news-agencies

—has been no less than the inflation in land values. This may well be because of the shortage of hotel businesses in city areas, owing to our local option poll system which restricts the number of licences, but apparently these people are not to be given the concession that is to be given to primary producers by this Bill. Where is the difference?

That was the question he asked: where is the difference between a hotelkeeper and a primary producer? What is the difference between interests selling on a market that can be loaded according to their costs of production and interests that are bound in their costs of production to buying and selling on overseas markets? The member for Norwood said that he believed that succession duties on a property valued at more than £6,000 should be heavily graduated, but what sort of farm can be purchased for £6,000 today? He also said that he believed that succession duties should be progressively heavy. He is a member of the Party that is moving to amend the Address

in Reply motion. His beliefs express the attitude of members opposite to primary producers. He concluded his remarks in 1959 by saying:

I have said sufficient to show that I oppose the Bill.

Last year we dealt with a Land Tax Bill and this goes right to the heart of this speech. The member for Rocky River (Mr. Heaslip) was supporting this worthy move and by interjection, referring to the primary producer, the member for Port Pirie (Mr. McKee) said, "He can afford to pay it." On page 785 of *Hansard* we find the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Frank Walsh) trying to widen the scope of the Bill to such a degree that it would be destroyed. I remind the honourable member of one of the choicest remarks that he has made since I have been a member. This goes back to October 8, 1959, when Mr. Walsh, as Deputy Leader of the Party, was speaking on betting taxation and advocating the removal of some part of it. I asked him by interjection, "Where would you get the alternative finance?" and his famous reply was, "I would take some from the primary producers". Let us not forget that.

Mr. Frank Walsh: Are you still primary producing?

Mr. HALL: I think that is self-evident. I hope that the honourable member's definition of "primary production" is the same as mine. If it is, my answer is "Yes". I consider that the needs of the primary producer in relation to the land tax question and the anomalies that exist have been used in a political stunt.

Mr. Ryan: Are you afraid that the Commissioner of Taxation might investigate?

Mr. HALL: If this had been a genuine move, it would have been included in a measure that could be accepted by the Government. Is this suggestion acceptable to any Government? In his proposed amendment of the Address in Reply Mr. Walsh included the following:

2a. We express regret at the failure of your Excellency's advisers to make any reference to the need for a review of land tax.

The Opposition's proposal is not something that the Government could accept. The very real needs of the primary producers have been used as a political stunt and the amendment has not been put forward in an acceptable form. The honourable member has asked the Government to support a motion of no confidence in itself.

Mr. Ryan: You will not have the numbers to defeat it without the help of someone else.

Mr. HALL: It should be thrown out of the House.

Mr. Ryan: By the whole 18!

Mr. HALL: By the majority of the House. It ties in with the record appearing in *Hansard*. The problems of the primary producers have been used in such a way that no genuine attempt is before us from the Labor Party to rectify these problems. In this House we have heard the call for closer settlement and I believe it was mentioned in this debate by the member for Hindmarsh (Mr. Hutchens). I will not go into the question of whether his statement is hard to justify or not. Is it not a question of what size properties members opposite have in mind? The member for Norwood (Mr. Dunstan) had in mind a property worth £6,000 when he said that succession duties should be heavily graduated. Do honourable members opposite consider that a property worth £6,000 could be subdivided? Their idea of a property which could be subdivided is well below any size property which could be subdivided economically. Let us consider a conference of the Australian Institute of Political Science held in Canberra early this year that was attended by Mr. Millhouse and myself. It was a non-Party convention at which invited speakers of various shades of political opinion spoke. One of the gentlemen who addressed us was Mr. Hawke, who I believe is an advocate of the Australian Council of Trade Unions. He is a most vitriolic and able speaker and it would appear that he was trying to create hatred in the community. Reference was made to the decline of income in country areas. He contended that this problem should be met by having fewer people in country areas. The speech will be printed in book form. What do members opposite say now about closer settlement? Do these members claim that the A.C.T.U. does not have much influence on the Australian Labor Party? We know very well that the decisions of the Federal Labor Conference are binding on all States.

Mr. Bywaters: What do you think of the position of Mr. Bury?

Mr. HALL: These two gentlemen represent opposite extremes.

Mr. Bywaters: The honourable member is quoting the words of a person and saying that he is our mouthpiece.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HALL: We have Mr. Hawke saying that there should be an aggregation of rural land. I consider that the Labor Party's proposed amendment to the Address in Reply is a political stunt. Then there is the advocacy of the 35-hour week, which would mean disaster in the irrigated river districts, as the members for Murray and Chaffey know, yet they do not tell their electors what they are pledged to support. There is silence; they know they are pledged to support a 35-hour week.

Mr. Fred Walsh: We do not deny that, either.

Mr. HALL: But not one member opposite will tell the Australian people that. Let us get to a specific case in which the socialistic fairy wand was waved over some agricultural pursuits. In 1960 a group of tomato growers came to my house and asked for my assistance to set up a co-operative to market their produce in the Melbourne market. I promised to assist them along certain lines. The first meeting took place in May or June of that year at the Virginia hall, and, having been asked to do so, I chaired the meeting. In this area people of many nationalities are engaged in tomato growing, and everything put before the meeting had to be translated into at least three languages. There was dissension among the growers, and the meeting was most difficult to chair. After this I spoke at several other meetings, saw people at my home, and concluded that well over 50 per cent of the rank and file of growers knew nothing about setting up their co-operative. There were five or six die-hard leaders, some of whom did not have the high character needed to operate a co-operative. I persevered with the movement because of the fine men who made up the main body of growers. There was a great deal of cross current within the group, which comprised the vast majority of growers in the area and some from the metropolitan area, including the district of Edwardstown. I am sorry the Leader of the Opposition is not in the Chamber to check the story.

I made two visits to Melbourne on behalf of these people, and on one visit a building adjacent to the Victorian market, the rental of which was £2,500 a year, was selected. I interviewed the City Clerk of Melbourne (Mr. Rogan) and established that the need for this co-operative existed. To my mind it did exist, although it appeared to me that it would be difficult to get it in motion. With four of the growers, I obtained a lease of the building for a term of some years and, as the co-operative

was not then formed, the four men personally signed the guarantee for the lease money. The guarantee was to be made over to the co-operative when it was fully set up. I sought advice from other members of Parliament who had been closely associated with forming grower co-operative movements, and they all advised me to seek the one man in this State who was an expert on these matters to set up the co-operative. They told me he had handled all other co-operatives in the State.

I made arrangements for the growers' leaders to meet this man and for the co-operative to be set in motion. However, some of these leaders were in this thing for their own benefit, as I well knew, and they refused to meet the man recommended to me to set up the co-operative. We were to meet him on a Saturday morning. On the Thursday night these men interviewed the member for Edwardstown, and on Friday rang me to say they would not meet the man I had recommended. On the Sunday they held a meeting in the Greek hall on West Terrace under the leadership of the then Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who is now the Leader. I attended as a spectator and sat in the body of the hall. Most of those in the hall knew little about the language or about setting up a co-operative. They were looking for leadership, yet what they got was a statement by the then Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who said: "Gentlemen, if you form this co-operative it cannot fail." I wish he were in the Chamber now to hear this. He said this to growers who knew nothing about co-operatives and who had not been subjected to the rough and tumble of commercial life. They only knew how to grow tomatoes. They were led by a man named Kapiris—a man out to help himself, who joined forces with the then Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Kapiris, a wrecker of anything that does not serve his own interests, joined with the honourable member and, to say the least, they seemed to get on well together. A co-operative was formed there that night, and someone went around taking the money. I told the men they would not have enough money to feed and clothe their children if they ruined their markets. I lay the blame for the co-operative on the present Leader of the Opposition, as it was formed under his leadership and guidance. He was solely responsible. As a member of this House for many years he should have known what was the right thing to do in forming a co-operative. I do not know how long he remained in the co-operative, but there was a

photograph in the *News* with the caption that he was to get £1,000 a year as its chairman. I think publicity frightened him out of the job. I know that he did not take the money but the co-operative was milked white.

Mr. Ryan: You are not accusing him of milking it white?

Mr. HALL: I am accusing him of being responsible for the co-operative. He was the guiding factor. The co-operative was a failure. The Leader of the Opposition left it or was kicked out: I was told that he was kicked out. He cannot go to Virginia with any confidence of coming back without some bodily injury.

Mr. Fred Walsh: You had better not go to Edwardstown.

Mr. HALL: Forty-six members of the co-operative petitioned the Registrar of Industrial and Provident Societies for the affairs of the co-operative to be investigated by an investigator appointed by him, and this came about. Mr. Winter made the investigation, and I have a copy of his report. It is a public document and it deals with the history of the formation and failure of the co-operative, without, of course, saying who was the political lead in it. It states:

The society was formed in August, 1960, to market the produce of its members and since incorporation its activities have been restricted to the Victorian market, in which area it leases premises. In addition, the society handled fruit of non-members on a commission basis, although during the glasshouse tomato season (September/December) that which is handled for non-members is relatively small. Prior to incorporation its members made their own arrangements with Victorian merchants and to a large extent took what was given them, which left a substantial margin for the merchants. Since incorporation, although the society has traded at a loss, and, as a result, a number of members remain unpaid for deliveries during the last season, it has been successful in obtaining better prices for its members. For this reason, it is my opinion that it is in the interests of the glasshouse tomato growers of this State, whether members of this society or not, that they combine in some manner to market their produce in Victoria. . . . However, if it is to re-establish and operate satisfactorily it will be essential that the society maintain greater control at the point of sale and generally organize its affairs in a more businesslike manner. . . . Supervision of the Melbourne store was left to the members of the committee, none of whom was really trained for the task, who made trips to Melbourne during the season and presented reports to the committee. In addition, members of the society acted as market surveyors and reported to the committee on ruling prices,

condition of produce, both on arrival and when sold and generally in regard to stock and sales without any authority to interfere with the running of the store.

Then the report refers to the machinery aspects of the co-operative movement. It continues:

I am of opinion that whatever is lost was lost in Melbourne and as manager Muir is responsible.

Regarding the deficiency, the investigator states:

I am not able to state precisely the extent of the deficiency but I can prove that between weeks ended September 16, 1961 and December 30, 1961, £139,032 was received and £135,563 was banked, and that during the season 3,200 half cases of tomatoes were delivered into the Melbourne store, for which the proceeds have not been accounted.

Then followed a general recording of how the losses could have occurred, because of improper accounting of sales. It is thought that much money disappeared because of the manager's inefficiency. He was at one time apprehended but he has been released pending the gathering of further evidence. Regarding the deficiency, I called on one of the committee members last Monday and he told me that the figure was just over £20,000. He himself lost £300 each year. That is, he lost £300 out of 10 glasshouses. Is he being victimized? He lost £600 in hard cash. This is the fairy wand that was waved over the glasshouse community at Virginia. It is not what is taught and then recited around the district. It is the actual result of a dedicated socialistic approach towards a grower co-operative movement. It was said, "If you form the co-operative it cannot fail". These are words that mean something. It is not good enough that these people should have lost so much money. They wanted leadership and we had the present Leader of the Opposition joining with a man of dubious character when it comes to promoting grower interests. He joined with that man and formed the co-operative, but he was completely outside an understanding of tomato growing. He should not have been, for he has some tomato growers in his district. This is a calamity of major proportions. This was real politics, and I mean politics that are practised. The Leader of the Opposition stands responsible for the early failure of the society, because of his lack of proper supervision. That is all I have to say about the matter and it should be sufficient to warn any primary producer that if he grasps the tail of the socialistic tiger for assistance it will turn and destroy him. I am sorry that the Leader of the

Opposition has not been present to hear my remarks but he can read them and I shall be pleased to hear his comments later.

I forgot to mention that the co-operative has been reformed. The man with whom the Leader dealt has been thrown out, and I have high hopes for the future of the co-operative. The losses have been spread over future years, and the co-operative has agreed to pay the growers over the next two years. I have high hopes that the co-operative will succeed because it has been removed from socialistic politics. I have great faith in the present leadership of the co-operative. It has been a hard lesson to learn over two years by not getting the right man to lead. The question of leadership in this matter goes right back to my journeys to Melbourne on the growers' behalf. As a matter of fact, the Leader said that he had written two letters on behalf of those gentlemen and spent several minutes pointing out how valuable those letters had been to the society. We went to Melbourne and secured a lease of the building for £2,500 a year. The four people guaranteed the lease, and that was to be transferred to the co-operative. That lease was never legally transferred, and recently some of those four gentlemen have come along and said, "We actually leased that building, and we want it from the co-operative." It is only because of the fact that there is a record of the co-operative's paying the lease over the last two years that it will retain that building. That small but important matter was never attended to in the initial stages. I do not wish to say any more about this matter. May that co-operative prosper under the decent leadership it now has. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. CLARK (Gawler): I rise to support the amended motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I assure the House that I have no intention of being controversial today or of trying to make my speech on the interjections of members opposite. I congratulate the new members who have come into this Chamber and also those who hold new offices, and I offer my sympathy to any who have been displaced from their previous offices.

Most sincerely, I congratulate the mover and the seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I consider that the member for Light, who moved the motion, did an excellent job. I have known this young

man for a considerable time, and I think he gave us every indication in his speech that what he will say in this House in future will be well worth hearing. It was very good also, Mr. Speaker, to welcome back to the floor of the House the member for Angas (the Hon. B. H. Teusner), whose remarks were most interesting. It is nice to see him back with us, even if possibly we might deplore the reasons that removed him from the Speaker's Chair. I was most interested also, as I think most members would have been, in the addresses delivered during the last few days by two other new members—the member for Millicent (Mr. Corcoran) and the member for Unley (Mr. Langley). I think that, in the eyes of all, the member for Millicent in his speech lived up to the tradition that was so ably set by his father over a number of years in this House. The member for Unley showed us that not only did he have much prowess on the sporting field but that he will have just as much within the four walls of this Chamber.

I offer my sympathy to the relatives of several former members who have passed on. I refer in particular to the late Hon. Harry Edmonds. I was reminded only yesterday that last year he moved the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply in the Legislative Council, and this year we find we are regretting his death and sympathizing with his relatives. I also offer my condolences to the widow and family of the late Mr. Ernie Stephens (as we all familiarly knew him). He was a member of this Chamber for many years, and we found him a good supporter and worker for any cause in which he believed. His passing is a great loss to us. Let me also refer to the death of the late Hon. Ernest Anthony. I had the privilege of serving with him on the Subordinate Legislation Committee, and I learned to value and appreciate his friendship. Those members have gone from us, and we deeply regret it.

It is pleasing to be a member of the majority Party, even though we have been denied the fruits of victory. I think it was the member for Gouger who said that it was nice to be sitting on his side of the House, and quite frankly I admit that I would have preferred sitting on the other side of the House and being given the opportunity of studying the geography of this Chamber from a different angle. I thank the member for Barossa (Mr. Laucke) for the trip he took us on. I enjoyed the trip from Greenock to Adelaide; I think it was a good idea, even if it possibly

fell rather flat somewhere along the line. I admit that I was disappointed that he hurried through Gawler, which I think is a very good town indeed. Obviously, the member for Barossa could not find very much in that town to help him make his point, and that, of course, was unfortunate.

I wish to deal with a matter which, even if it is not of much interest to members, could be of some importance and provide food for thought. As members well know, the problem of meeting education needs throughout Australia has disquieted me for many years. I make it plain that I am dealing with the position in general and not as it applies to South Australia particularly. I hope to give some sort of picture of the position throughout the Commonwealth. Incidentally, I sincerely congratulate the Minister of Education (Sir Baden Pattinson) on the very great honour recently conferred on him by Her Majesty. I believe that this is an honour not only to the Minister himself as a man but to the department he controls, and I believe that both are well worthy of that honour.

A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of reading an interesting series of articles entitled *The Crisis in Education*. Those articles were printed recently—I think in June of this year—in the *Australian Financial Review*. I urge members to read those articles if they can do so, because they are most informative. They appeal to me particularly, for rather obvious reasons, because they stress the points and, indeed, draw many of the same conclusions that for years I have been expounding in this House and outside. I say that in all modesty: I am not boasting about it. Quite frankly, I admit that for the speech I intend making this afternoon I have borrowed some of the ideas contained in those articles. I hope to show that there is an education crisis in Australia, although I do so reluctantly because no-one would wish to do so. However, I believe there is a most urgent need for us all to realize it. I consider that more money must be spent, that the existing sources must be re-organized and new sources tapped, but I doubt whether this will be done. This is most urgently needed now, particularly at the tertiary level of education, and unless we act immediately we cannot hope to hold our place in the future amongst the world's advanced countries, with which we suffer by comparison at present.

Mr. Speaker, I have here a diagram showing the comparison of the amounts per capita spent on education in Australia and other

countries, and I ask permission to have it incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

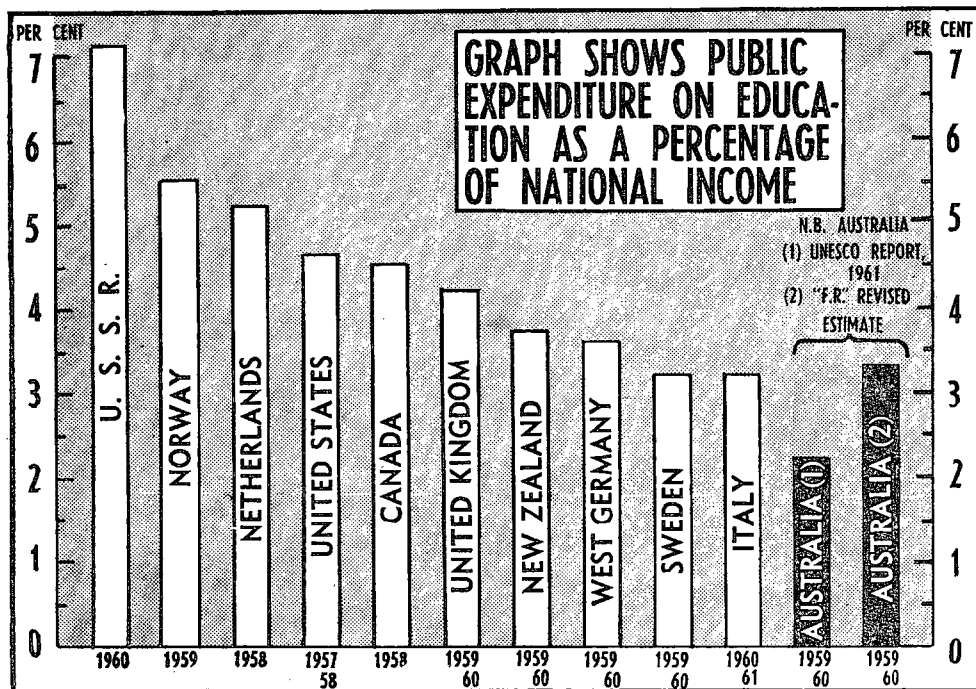
The SPEAKER: Will the honourable member have it sent up to the table?

Mr. CLARK: Yes. I ask that it be incorporated in *Hansard* so that it may be available for members to draw their own conclusions. Its incorporation will save my speaking at length to explain the subject. In conjunction with my remarks the graph will show much more clearly the argument I am advancing.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member seeks leave to have this document incorporated in *Hansard* without its being read. I draw attention to Standing Order 135 (a) which states:

Where a member, in speaking to a question, refers to a statistical or factual table relating to the question, such table may, at the request of the member and by leave of the House, be inserted in the Official Report of the Parliamentary Debates without being read.

Leave granted.



Mr. CLARK: This is a revised comparison bringing up to date the figures supplied by the 1960 report of the United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization. It has been revised by experts in connection with the paper from which I am quoting—the *Financial Review*—and was published in that publication. This shows public expenditure on education as a percentage of national income. Indeed, if members study it they will note that Australia does not appear in a favourable light compared with other countries. I have asked for the document to be incorporated in *Hansard* and hope that members may study it. It indicates several points to which I should like to draw attention. Australia's spending on education from national income has increased from 2.2 per cent in 1950-51 to 3.4 per cent last year. Even if this figure is revised upwards so that

we can include expenditure on education from Loan Funds, the figure lags sadly behind countries with comparable living standards.

We find that about £180,000,000, representing about 3.4 per cent of our national income, was spent on education in 1959-60. This is a much lower figure than that spent in the United States of America, Norway, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Western Germany, Canada and the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics. If we think that we can make this picture look a little less gloomy by including the sum spent by parents on books and school requisites, etc., that will not make it much less gloomy. Let us cast our minds back a few years to a period that many of us would rather not remember—the 1930's. Our comparative expenditure was then much worse.

Obviously, this means that much of our higher rate of expenditure on education in recent years has gone into the colossal back-lag and this applies particularly to capital assets. This position was caused by the hungry 1930's and the war years. After all, we know full well that during the depression years the capital needs of the Australian education system were almost completely ignored and, sadder still, those years resulted in a lowering of teaching standards.

I shall now quote from the *National Report on Education* that was released last year by the Australian Education Council. In part, that report states:

The steady advances of the early part of this century were seriously interrupted by the recession of the 1930's and by the stringent economies of Second World War. During the whole of that period few new schools were built and few teachers were recruited. Only the decline of the birth rate in the same period and the consequent falling off in enrolments enabled the school systems to carry on. From that period there began a cumulative delay in the improvement of educational facilities and programmes and in the replacement of obsolete classrooms and equipment.

This report is not uninformed carping criticism from unqualified and biased outsiders: it is from the Ministers and Directors of Education of all States, and figures confirm their statements.

However, the legacies of the 1930's and the war years cannot be completely blamed for the present crisis. If we examine the position we find that three trends have amplified the crisis and focused attention on it: the growing proportion of children who stay longer at school; the post-war birth rate increase; and the influx of migrants (whose birth rate is also high). Possibly we could add a very laudable point: the increase in those desiring adult education for themselves either through classes or correspondence. In no other State has there been such a genuine interest in adult education as in South Australia. When checking the increase in the number of children who stayed longer at school I found that in New South Wales, in 1948, 9.4 per cent of secondary school pupils stayed at school until reaching the Leaving Certificate standard. The latest figures reveal that 18.4 per cent now stay at school until they reach that standard. A similar trend exists in other States and although the percentages vary they would be similar.

In 1950, secondary school enrolments in Government schools throughout Australia totalled 178,250, but by 1960 the figures had

rocketed to 400,000 and, indeed, the South Australian increase has been the highest of any. This is an Australian increase of 125 per cent in 10 years and it applies only to secondary schools. During the same period the Australian increase in primary school enrolments has been 52 per cent. We must remember, too, that the increase in private schools has been similar. Parents, boys and girls have exhibited a genuine interest in remaining at schools longer and this is demonstrated particularly in the secondary school figures I have given. Personally, I am glad that that is so.

To be just (and I want to be just this afternoon; I shall do my best to be), the net expenditure by the States in the same period rose from £46,300,000 to over £184,000,000. That is a tremendous increase in expenditure; but we must remember that, if we adjust this to the inflated value of money over the same period, the real expenditure will be about one and a half times the 1950 figure. This does not correspond favourably with the increase in our national income over the same period. Even though we have spent this enormous sum, I think members, and Ministers of Education in all States, will agree that this has not been enough to meet new demands and to get rid of the large accumulation, in many States at least, of makeshift, substandard and completely obsolescent school equipment. In many cases it has not been enough to provide for new and improved techniques in education, which are most urgently necessary.

Yet much has been done or attempted. There is no question about that; I am not denying it. In Australia, and in South Australia, some fine new schools have been built, but we must ask the question: how many more are needed? As I have said so often before and will continue to say, money cannot possibly be found by the States to do all they want to do, even less what they should do. After all, one fault still largely to be remedied in our schools is that classes are far too large.

Let me quote again from the *National Report on Education* issued by the Education Council, which is a council comprised not of laymen but of Ministers and Directors in all the States, men who know the problems and what they are talking about. This report, issued in 1961, says:

As a working rule educational administrators aim in Australia at present at a maximum class size of 40 in primary schools and 35 in secondary schools.

The report goes on to say that this size is larger than many teachers can cope with, and certainly larger than the inexperienced teacher can cope with. It continues:

But this represents the best balance that can be anticipated at present between what is educationally desirable and what is practicable with the resources of accommodation and staff either available or in prospect.

The report goes on to make the inevitable conclusion (inevitable, of course, on the figures) that efforts to cut down large class sizes have not proved effective—simply because the resources are not available. The report adds that many Australian teachers in the States are, unfortunately, not really qualified to do the job they are doing. I am not saying for a moment that many of them, although not qualified, are not doing their very best to do an excellent job, but I am making the point straight from the report that many Australian teachers are not qualified to do the very important job they have to do.

I have tried to make it clear that primary and secondary education has dire problems. We all know that increasingly so in the next few years the strain on tertiary education will be even greater than it is now. We must remember that there has been a growing awareness of the importance of education in the community and an ever-increasing desire for it. If anything proves that, it is the increasing desire of adults to better themselves by obtaining adult education. Of course, that is most commendable.

University enrolments indicate the problem at the tertiary level. I have the figures of enrolments in Australian universities. In 1951 the total enrolments in the universities were 31,500; last year they were 60,500. The reason was that for so long university education was, at Government level and certainly at Commonwealth Government level, almost entirely neglected. After the Murray Report in 1957, however, the Commonwealth Government was apparently shocked into action, which resulted in the States Grants (Universities) Act, passed in 1958, under which the Australian universities in the three years 1958, 1959, and 1960 received £47,100,000 from Commonwealth and State sources. But an examination of the plight of the universities shows that the Act came too late and, big as the amount is, it appears too small to undo the ill effects of the war years and those years of neglect and, at the same time, to give an opportunity to the young people to go to the universities and to absorb the tremendous increase in enrolments. We must conclude that it is urgently necessary that we

devote more of our national income to education. I am much afraid it is unlikely that this will be done as long as the Commonwealth Government has the power to shirk all direct responsibility for primary, secondary and technical education. At present, as honourable members know, the Commonwealth Government refuses to help directly except through the States Grants (Universities) Acts and the Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme. If members will take the trouble to check the number of Commonwealth scholarships allotted, they will agree that with our increasing population the number of scholarships is now much out-of-date.

Unfortunately, on recent statements, the Commonwealth Government does not further intend to play a more active role in education. But pressure may soon force its hand, pressure of a sort different from that exerted in the past: that is, the pressure of some parents of children who, although matriculated, are unable to find a place in a university. Let me, for example, cite the worst case—Victoria. In the current year, 655 of those who matriculated for the university and who were anxious and willing to go to a university in Victoria found that they could not be accommodated in Melbourne or Monash Universities, simply because there was not the accommodation or the teaching staff there to look after them. That could happen here. Indeed, we know that in some faculties, although there has been no definite refusal to take students, some restriction has been imposed even in our own university, and it could be worse. It is a grave and serious occasion indeed for these young people. Everyone will agree that there never was a time when education was needed more. We hear that every day from the man in the street when he comes to see us about something and expresses the wish that he had the opportunity for more education.

We may well ask: what of the future? There is no doubt that there is, and increasingly will be, a growing demand from industry and commerce for higher qualifications in this more and more complex modern society of ours. Social pressure for longer periods of education is mounting. It is expected that, by 1970, about 13.5 per cent of the 18 to 22 years age group in Australia will be enrolled at universities and that, by 1975, 19 per cent will be seeking to enrol. These figures compare with seven per cent at present.

The picture of our secondary schools is also grim. The approximate enrolment in 1960 was 400,000 throughout Australia and it is

expected that, by 1965, it will be 490,000 and, by 1970, 575,000. If we regard these figures and their implications in money and physical resources, how can the States from their own resources adequately look after the increased financial responsibility it will mean? Let me summarize the position. At all levels there has been and will continue to be a huge increase in enrolments. We are confronted with a big back lag in capital expenditure. Children are remaining longer at school. Years of inadequate spending have weakened and strained Australian educational facilities in buildings, equipment and, in some States, in teachers. Our universities and other tertiary institutions are being subjected to the same strain.

Although I have not attempted to deal with it in detail, because it is a complex question, one of our first concerns should be a drastic overhaul of our technical education to bring it into line with the ever-widening horizons being created by the increases in technology and automation in industry. In future years we will live increasingly by automation, electronic computers and electronic brains. Our prosperity will be vitally dependent on whether or not we have a continuing and adequate supply of highly-qualified and skilled manpower. I have been informed by knowledgeable people that industry in Australia is already being handicapped and hampered by a scarcity of the right type of technically trained people. I am told that we urgently need an increasingly large group of people trained to such a technical level that they can fill the ever-widening gap between the tradesman and the technologist. This, of course, will demand the expenditure of more money.

We must come to the inescapable conclusion that the Commonwealth Government must make finance available. No matter how hard the States plan and work, they cannot possibly provide sufficient finance from their own resources. So far as education is concerned, we have no cause for complacency. These matters should be of grave concern to all members. The case I have put forward is factual. I have gone to much trouble, but I have not singled out South Australia for harsh words. I have tried to paint the Australian picture as accurately as possible. I leave it to members to draw their own conclusions. All will agree that our fate as a nation is in the hands of our young boys and girls—our future citizens, future members of Parliament, clergymen, doctors, and so forth. We must do everything possible to ensure a bright educational future for this nation.

It is significant that members opposite have so far in this debate avoided speaking on the Opposition's amendment. The member for Gouger spoke at length about what has been said and done by members of the Labor Party, but he never debated the amendment. We seek nothing new in our amendment. Most of us advocated its purpose last year when we debated a measure that was supposed to afford people some relief from land taxation.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: What is your attitude to the freehold tenure?

Mr. CLARK: I entirely favour it. Anyone who represents a rapidly developing area as I do, and as do other members on both sides, must realize that a complete overhaul of the system and the rate is long overdue. I remember you, Mr. Speaker, referring to land tax last year and saying:

We have to analyse this Bill to see if it strikes the right note, and I am certain that it does not.

I was of the same opinion. The Labor Party still holds that view and that is why we have sought to amend the Address in Reply. When we debated this matter last year I thought that the Government's benevolence then did not mean much, and what has happened since confirms that view. Some people have the impression that land tax is something new, but it was in existence long before the birth of Christ: it was levied in China in about 2000 B.C. If we study clay tablets we find that a whole system of land tax applied in Mesopotamia centuries ago. Land tax was introduced in England in 1692, and in 1798 it was made a redeemable rent charge, which is virtually what it still is in the United Kingdom.

It is interesting to note that our land tax is based, in the main, on ideas introduced by the French during the French Revolution. It may seem peculiar to some that this Government should support the principles of liberty, equality and fraternity, but it does so in this instance. The French idea originally was to impose land tax to discourage the formation of over-large estates and to prevent land from being kept out of production, both of which are laudable aims and probably the only valid excuse for levying land tax at all. I do not claim to be an agricultural expert, of whom there are many in this House, but it seems to me that when land tax is increased, costs of production must rise. It seems obvious that where the domestic producer is exposed to foreign competition in his own country or on world markets, the price of his commodity is

fixed largely by factors over which he has no control. Hence, the burden of a steeply increased land tax rests particularly on the primary producer, and of course it affects every householder, particularly in areas like mine where development and subdivision have taken place. I spoke in the same strain last session, and I have not changed my mind since. In places close to such development, and others not so close, the land tax has been ridiculously inflated and council rates have rapidly followed suit, as one would expect. I can name people in my area, at Salisbury particularly, who have virtually been driven out of production because of the steep increase in land tax. One expert told us last year:

It is unfair for a primary producer who has perhaps been farming on his land for a number of years and who intends to continue to do so, to find himself suddenly faced with a great increase in his land tax merely because the general area in which his land is situated happens to have increased in value as subdivided land.

That expert was the Premier, and therefore I think that we could be pardoned for expecting him and his members to support our amendment. At least we could expect that some members opposite would bother to debate it. I trust that during the remainder of the debate we shall hear some genuine comment from Government members on this issue, which we regard as important. We on this side have come to the conclusion that only a Royal Commission can go fully into the whole basis and the incidence of land tax. I am reminded forcibly, Mr. Speaker, of what you said last year on this matter:

No honourable member can deny that the present method is wrong. It is wrong, and a committee should be established to find out where it is wrong and to right the wrong.

That is why the Opposition is seeking a Royal Commission. We want to find out where the present system is wrong and to right the wrong. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion as amended.

Mr. COUNBE (Torrens): I support the motion and, in doing so, briefly add my congratulations to those who deserve them and who have been adequately eulogized by earlier speakers. I add my regrets because of those members who are no longer with us. I also offer my best wishes to you, Mr. Speaker, on your appointment. I hasten to congratulate the mover of the motion, the member for Light (Mr. Freebairn) on his careful and studious speech delivered in a confident yet unassuming manner. Likewise, it was a

delight to hear from the member for Angas (the Hon. Mr. Teusner), who seconded the motion. It was the first opportunity that half the members had had to hear him speak from the floor of the House. Usually we had heard him only from the Chair.

It is interesting to note that of the members of the Parliament that expired in March, 1956, half are not here today, either through death, retirement or defeat. This reflects on the toll taken of members by leading a public life, but on a more positive note it indicates the infusion continually of new blood, new vigour and fresh points of view into this House, and that surely must be a good thing for this country. I welcome the new members to this Parliament and congratulate those who have returned from the old Parliament. Those new members who have already spoken have shown in their maiden speeches excellent promise that they will be acquisitions to this Chamber.

Turning now to His Excellency's Speech, one notes that it is divided very clearly into sections. Each phase of the State's activities is dealt with comprehensively and the Speech not only reviews last year's activities as a whole and in some detail, but announces and outlines plans for future expansion this year, not only in the legislative field, but also in the sphere of developmental works. As this was election year, the Speech quite rightly mentioned the implementation of those matters that the Government said it would do if returned to office.

On the subject of housing, the Government announced a new deal for young married couples—advances up to £3,000 to give them the opportunity to build at a repayment rate of only 2s. 6d. weekly for every £100 borrowed; and in the event of the breadwinner dying, the loan will be wiped off in full. This is one of the greatest examples of social legislation in our history—introduced by the Liberal Party, mark you, and not the Labor Party. It was announced by the Government before the election as a plank of its platform. I did not hear that type of thing suggested by the Labor Party. The Liberal and Country League believes in encouraging home ownership. Our friends opposite seem to be opposed at times to an increase in the number of people owning their own houses, whereas the L.C.L. believes in encouraging home ownership. I believe sincerely that home ownership is an important aspect of this State's legislation. It is the best way to keep families together and to create community

life. This item was in the Governor's Speech, and it is as promised before the election. This legislation is to be introduced later this session. In fact, it is on the Notice Paper today.

To carry this policy on home ownership still further, the Government announced just recently a further plan. A scheme is to be instituted by the Housing Trust whereby houses will be sold to people in the lower income brackets for a deposit as low as £50. The sale price of the houses under this scheme will be in the price range from £3,400 to £3,800, and weekly repayments of interest and principal will be from £3 15s. to £4 a week. In other words instead of paying weekly rent, the person concerned will be paying off principal and interest and acquiring equity. The term will be up to 40 years. Although the minimum deposit is £50, a greater deposit will be accepted; the maximum term is 40 years, but may be less, according to a person's means and desires.

I emphasize that this scheme will be a substitute for existing rental schemes. Applicants who wish to obtain rental houses will still have an opportunity to do so, but the Housing Trust will not be working on large-scale rental schemes in the future after its present commitments have been completed. This scheme will provide an opportunity for people to own their own houses and establish their own equity. Perhaps many of these people would otherwise never be able to own a house. I, like other members, have seen the tragedy of people paying rent all their lives and still not owning a pennyworth of the houses in which they have lived. I welcome this as a great movement forward to encourage house ownership and provide an opportunity for people in the lower income groups to be in the happy position of being able to own equity in a house. These moves are a fitting reminder, I think, that the Housing Trust is 25 years old this year, as it was set up under the Butler Government in 1937.

As an example of the efficiency and high repute of the trust, two extracts from the Auditor-General's report on its activities are most relevant. The Auditor-General, who must periodically investigate the affairs of the Housing Trust, said that, although the trust's building costs had risen throughout the period under review, they were, with one exception, still lower than those of other States of the Commonwealth. He also said that the finances of the trust were sound. I believe that these statements reflect great credit upon the officers

of the trust. Many, if not all, members of this House have from time to time had occasion to approach the trust on behalf of constituents, and I am sure they have all appreciated the efforts of its officers to assist them in trying to obtain accommodation, although they have not always been successful—far from it. However, the trust's officers co-operate to assist members, and I commend them, from the General Manager down, for the way in which they have operated the trust for the last 25 years. My remarks apply also to the trust itself.

This afternoon we have heard some pertinent remarks about education, especially technical education. Before the last election this Government said that it would spend money to expand education in this State by enlarging existing schools, building new schools, and training more and more teachers. The Governor's Speech also mentions this, but I cannot deal with it in detail because, until the Loan Estimates are before members, I do not know exactly what amounts are to be provided this year. However, last week, when I toured the metropolitan area, I was struck by the many schools of various types under construction and was forcibly impressed by the high quality of work going into them. I am speaking only of the metropolitan area, about which I know more than I know about the country; I leave it to country members to speak about their districts. I pay a high tribute to the officers concerned with the design, planning and oversight of the construction work carried out by the Public Buildings Department. I know that they are overworked and have a big programme of works to meet, but some of their planning of school buildings is first-rate and I believe that pupils, teachers, parents and the public generally appreciate the type of school being erected, especially some of the high schools and technical high schools.

The Government also said at election time that, if elected, it would institute a search for oil and minerals. Only a fortnight ago, to confirm this promise, the Premier, on returning from a trip to the north-east of the State where he had investigated the research into oil exploration, announced a decision to procure extra seismic survey equipment to accelerate greatly the investigational work in this field. I am sure that this will meet with the approval of all members. We all know how much equipment has been procured by the Government in past years. In today's press it was reported that

higher subsidies would be paid by the Commonwealth Government through the Department of National Development, showing that the Commonwealth Government intended to support this work. Apparently this has paid off in Queensland, where the Moonie strikes have occurred, and I believe that in due course we will be fortunate enough to have a strike in this State. I know we all hope that this will happen, and I support this plan to provide extra equipment to undertake this work. If we do not find oil, it will not be for the want of trying, as we are certainly doing everything we can to expedite this work.

At election time the Premier, speaking on behalf of this Party, announced an expanded road building programme and the undertaking of new water conservation and reticulation works. These matters are mentioned in His Excellency's Speech. Without going into detail I say that what this Party promised at the election it has already set out to do. It has set out to honour its promises and undertakings—in fact, to continue as forcibly as it could its remarkably outstanding and successful programme of past years in providing, through development, a strong, expanding and varied economy. I believe that any Government worth its salt must, in a State such as ours, continue to provide money for developing a strong, expanding and varied economy.

His Excellency's Speech stated that the Government would consult with the Opposition on electoral reform before bringing down legislation on this subject, and it has done just that; but with what result we have as yet to see. That may come later. I welcome the announced decision to set up a department to be called the Premier's Department. The development of new industries in this State is vital to our economy and to the maintenance of a high level of employment. Whilst the Government cannot directly create industries except by opening up new avenues of employment and by investigating new processes, most employment in this State is created and provided directly by private enterprise. Industries now being established at Whyalla, Elizabeth, Port Stanvac and other places will bring great benefits to this State. They will lift the level of employment and soon lead to the establishment of associated industries and local centres of trade.

The sole function of the Premier's Department will be to secure new industries from

other countries and other States—and locally too—and to assist them in their initial stages of development here. For some years this work has been done by the Treasury Department and its officers. They have done it while performing other duties, and a magnificent job has been done. Many of our soundly established industries are a testimony to the enthusiasm and zeal of these Treasury officers. It is intended that the new department shall concentrate solely on this work, and co-operate with other departments and authorities in advising on locations, resources, conditions, housing, transport, roads, power, gas, water supplies and allied matters. It should also have liaison with Commonwealth, State and overseas representatives of people seeking opportunities for business enterprise in this State.

I feel that this department could profitably look at another aspect of our economy. It could make a survey of our imported commodities to see if we could not in some way, wholly or partly, manufacture them locally. If such a survey were made I think there would be surprising results. Many goods now imported could be made here if the technical know-how were made available, and it would mean the employment of South Australian workmen. Similarly, if the department could co-operate with the Commonwealth Department of Trade an investigation could be made with a view to boosting the export of manufactured goods. That matter has been exercising the minds of many manufacturers because of the possible restrictions that might follow the entry of Great Britain into the European Common Market. This is a type of assistance that our manufacturing industries are seeking. I am sure that the move would be welcomed by industrial and commercial leaders in South Australia. They would surely co-operate wholly with the department. This is another example of the Government's desire to create a balance between our primary and secondary industries and make our manufacturing sector more self-supporting. Whoever is appointed as the head of the department will have a mighty job ahead of him, and I wish him well. If the job is done properly, and I believe it will be, great benefits will come to the State. I ask leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.49 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, July 31, at 2 p.m.