

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, July 31, 1962.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION: TOMATO GROWERS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): I ask leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: My personal explanation is concerned with statements that were made by the member for Gouger in this House last Thursday afternoon during my absence when I was engaged in conference with the Minister of Education. Following upon a meeting held in the Greek Hall, West Terrace, referred to by the member for Gouger, the Glasshouse Tomato Growers of South Australia Co-operative Limited was formed. All statements at the meeting were translated into the Bulgarian, Greek and Italian languages, in order to overcome language difficulties as well as to ensure that all persons present understood what was being attempted on their behalf. Mr. H. Reid Smith, solicitor, drew up the constitution of the co-operative as authorized by that meeting.

The member for Gouger associated my name with that of Mr. Kapisis and, with the protection of the Parliamentary privilege and by inference, the honourable member attempted to smear my reputation. He said:

Kapisis, 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.

The facts, however, are that, during my term as Chairman of the co-operative, it was my pleasure to accept the resignation of Mr. Kapisis. Another statement from the member for Gouger was that the co-operative was milked white and that I was responsible for the co-operative. I believe in the co-operative movement and I willingly accept responsibility for any activities with which I am associated. I was Chairman of the co-operative from August to November, 1960, but, because of pressure of business caused by my appointment as Leader of the Opposition in October, 1960, I was obliged to relinquish the position of Chairman of the co-operative as from November 14, 1960. I was, and still am, held in high esteem by members of the co-operative and have evidence on file to this effect.

The 1960 tomato season was not completed when I resigned but, to the best of my knowledge, all members received payment in full for that season and there was a small trading surplus of £1,200.

An adequate system of accounting was introduced by an efficient and competent firm of qualified accountants whilst I was Chairman, but I am not in a position to know whether this system is still in operation. Surely I cannot be held responsible for the activities within the co-operative in the years subsequent to my retirement, but the results have shown that (1) the co-operative is desirable, even necessary; (2) the growers have received more for their produce because of the co-operative movement. In view of the unwarranted attack by the member for Gouger, I have obtained the latest information regarding the co-operative. It is estimated that it will handle 100,000 half cases in the coming season. It has been forced to restrict membership because more growers have applied to join than the society is capable of handling efficiently. Apparently, the co-operative is still held in high esteem by the growers in spite of what the member for Gouger would have members believe.

I accept the grudging admission by the member for Gouger that I did not request or receive any fee for my services to the co-operative; nor did I accept the kind offer by the co-operative to defray the expenses that I had incurred on its behalf. I do not accept responsibility for the alleged malpractices referred to by the member for Gouger as, if they did occur, they occurred more than twelve months after I resigned from the co-operative.

QUESTIONS.**GRAPES.**

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Following on a question I asked in the House on April 19, will the Premier indicate whether winemakers responded to the appeal by the Prices Commissioner for them to co-operate in purchasing all grapes grown during 1961-62; whether all grapes grown that year were taken by the wineries; what quantity was harvested in this State during that year; and what percentage increase in the price of grapes growers have received since the Prices Commissioner first fixed prices of grapes in 1960?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Following on the honourable member's question, I obtained from the Prices Commissioner a report, which is too long for me to read in

reply to a question. If he or any other member wishes to see the report, it will be available. The Prices Commissioner states:

When final figures become available, it is almost certain that the 1962 vintage will be a record and in the vicinity of 160,000 tons of wine grapes for South Australia. (The previous record was in 1961, 137,053 tons.) With the concurrence of the Government I appealed to winemakers to assist in taking all grapes, and the response was excellent. All wine grapes were finally absorbed. Co-operative and proprietary winemakers played their part equally and towards the end of the vintage practically all wineries were 'bulging at the seams'. The high intake has placed a severe strain on the financial resources of most wineries.

Regarding the second part of the question, he states:

Price increases expressed as a weighted average percentage increase over all varieties which have been gained for growers for the three vintages 1960, 1961 and 1962 are:

	per cent	£	s.	d.
Irrigated areas	19.2	3	6	3 a ton
Dry areas	22.3	5	7	6 a ton

If any member desires to see this report, I have a spare copy for his perusal.

WOOL INDUSTRY.

Mr. HUTCHENS: In the *Advertiser* of July 27, under the heading "Premier's Idea to help Wool", the Premier is reported to have said:

It was sometimes difficult for Governments to determine whether industries really wanted legislation and the extent they were agreed upon it. Commercial activity would probably be governed more in future by agreement between groups of nations. This could cause great problems for some industries and one authority would be needed which could put its case promptly.

I agree wholeheartedly with those remarks. Can we assume that the Premier will take the earliest opportunity to initiate discussion at the conferences that he attends in order to establish the one authority?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government, as a matter of policy, has always supported industries committees to speak for industry. I think honourable members who know some of the problems of legislation realize that the organized authority is always the best authority to speak for industry. Whether it is advisable for an industry to have only one organization is a rather more far-reaching question, because not always are the interests of an industry in Queensland, for instance, the same as those in South Australia. However, it is a good thing for industry and any industrial activity to be organized, but

I reserve the right, as the honourable member reserves the right, when he says it is necessary to have more than one trade union, and I would assume that that reservation is correct.

HIGHGATE SCHOOL YARD.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I have been approached on behalf of the Highgate Primary School Committee regarding the playing area now available in the school yard. Since the construction of the excellent practice swimming pool in the yard last year, the playing area has been considerably restricted. I now understand that there is an opportunity to acquire, by purchase, a property abutting the north-western corner of the yard. Will the Minister of Education favourably consider approving that purchase?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yes. The opportunity has not been brought before my notice, but as the honourable member has done so now I will have investigations made and give the matter my favourable and personal consideration.

ABORIGINES.

Mr. McKEE: Has the Minister of Works, as the Minister in charge of the Aborigines Protection Board, yet had an opportunity to peruse the petition I handed him earlier today, and can he comment on it?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member handed me the petition at lunchtime and I have not had the opportunity to peruse it in detail or to discuss it with the Acting Secretary of the Aborigines Protection Board (Mr. Millar) which I want to do in order to consider whether there are in fact any special circumstances in this case not previously known to the department which may induce us to reconsider. I wish to make one or two comments because I think it would be opportune to do so. First, I hope this matter does not become in effect a trial of strength or a battleground between the department and the people in the area, because if that happens the greatest sufferers will be the people in No Man's Land, so to speak, namely, the aboriginal families, and that would be unfortunate for all concerned. Secondly, I think the apprehension reportedly expressed by the residents in the street is in fact a misapprehension, because I believe they will find that the people it is proposed to house in the area will be acceptable citizens, as indeed has been the case with the 70-odd other families that we have housed in various parts of the State. I also commend

the Port Pirie Corporation for its ready acquiescence in the proposal when it was mentioned. It has been the practice of the department, although it is not necessary, legally, for us to approach local government authorities, to do so out of courtesy. I had hoped the time had come when it would be unnecessary to do this in future, and that we could take for granted the ready acceptance of the local government authority in such proposals.

Finally, I believe this is a golden opportunity for the aboriginal families whom it is intended to settle in the area to prove that they are acceptable as citizens and neighbours and to measure up to all the standards required to make them acceptable citizens. I would think it was a golden opportunity also for the people in the street to demonstrate the well-known Australian characteristic of tolerance and kindness to their neighbours and to show that they too are interested in the welfare of these people and are willing to help them. Under the circumstances I believe that nothing but goodwill and success will result. It is not yet certain that, in fact, four families will be housed. Cabinet has approved the department's purchase of up to four houses, but I am not certain yet that four houses will be available. In the event that they are not, of course, the number of families to be housed will be correspondingly reduced. However, I am not yet able to make a final statement.

Mr. RICHES: Can the Minister of Works, as the Minister in charge of the Aborigines Department, say whether any organization in this State helps provide employment for aborigines or part aborigines who are living in the community with white people? This will be a more urgent problem because of the increasing number of young aborigines (both male and female), who are coming into our towns and who are unable to obtain employment of any kind. If there is no such employment organization, will the Minister consider setting one up?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: There is a very close liaison between the District Welfare Officers in various parts of the State and the Commonwealth Employment Service which endeavours to see that opportunities for employment are not lost. In addition, only recently I arranged with the Ministers in charge of Government departments for the heads of the departments (mainly the employing departments such as the Railways, Highways, E. & W. S. and Public Buildings Departments, which are the main employers of

labour in the Government services) to maintain a direct liaison on a departmental level with the head of the Aborigines Department, so that there would be no loss of time or opportunities and no red tape to go through. This direct liaison would be between the employment officers of those departments and the head of the Aborigines Department. The Commonwealth Railways Superintendent is also co-operative and helpful in working with our Mr. Weightman, the welfare officer at Port Augusta.

Regarding employment for women, other than the liaison with the Commonwealth Employment Office I do not know of any way in which we could further that cause. However, a wide interest in this matter exists among certain members of the public, who frequently inform us of opportunities for employment in various fields. I am willing to examine the honourable member's suggestion, but I consider that the machinery side may be overloaded without improving the result. I will consult with the head of the department to see whether any good purpose could be served by adopting this suggestion.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY.

Mrs. STEELE: I understand the Premier has a reply to the question I asked him, representing the Minister of Health, on whether the Government would offer further scholarships in occupational therapy this year.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Director-General of Medical Services reports:

The Director of Mental Health, the Administrator, Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Administrator, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, were recently asked to advise their immediate requirements and their future requirements of occupational therapists.

He goes on to say:

Because of the need for additional occupational therapists in our hospitals and mental institutions, I think it is almost certain you (the Government) will be asked to approve of this scholarship plan being continued.

HOUSING TRUST PURCHASE HOUSES.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Has the Minister of Lands an answer to my earlier question regarding the transfer of titles on Housing Trust houses?

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS: I cannot accept the statement made by the honourable member for Whyalla last Thursday that the difficulties mentioned are caused by delay in the Department of Lands. The department issues hundreds of land grants for land sold by the Crown, not only at Whyalla but

throughout the State, and these are prepared in the shortest possible time. However, each grant must be prepared in duplicate, each copy must have a surveyor's diagram correctly drawn on it, and each copy has to be signed by the Under Treasurer, the Minister of Lands, and His Excellency the Governor.

Obviously all this takes time, and as the grant is not immediately available, the Treasury receipt, which is issued on payment of the purchase money to the department, has always been recognized as a negotiable title to the land in the interim, and it may be used to register any transaction, such as a transfer or a mortgage. This has been the practice over a long period of years, and as this is generally known by banks and other financial institutions, it would be safe to say that thousands of transactions have been registered in the Lands Titles Office on Treasury receipts.

I have a letter for the honourable member giving full details of the case which he later referred to me. Briefly it may be stated that the Treasury receipt was issued a few days after payment of the purchase money to the department. Subsequent applications for consent to transfer and mortgage were dealt with without delay, and could have been registered on the Treasury receipt.

STANDARD OF ENGLISH.

Mr. HARDING: Recently much press publicity has been given to the way English is being spoken today and figures have been published to substantiate claims relating to the inability of students leaving school to speak correctly and to their carelessness in the use of the language. Can the Minister of Education comment?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I have no particular comment, except that I have heard and read this criticism with interest. I have heard it over many years, and I read and heard it when I was a boy at school. It seems to me that the position has not changed very much in the intervening period.

LABELLING OF GOODS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I have in my possession a sample of towels that are advertised in a Rundle Street store. This sample contains the trade mark of an Australian manufacturer. I also have another towel, alleged to have come from Red China, from which the label has been removed. These towels are being retailed in another Rundle Street store. Can the Premier say whether it is normal practice to remove trade names

from articles and whether there is any means whereby trade conditions can be safeguarded?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government has been examining this problem. A recent practice with imported articles has been for those handling them at this end to remove the original labels of identification after the goods have been cleared through Customs. The only law in South Australia at present—and it is legislation complementary to all States—relates to the percentage of wool that may be contained in any garment. The Department of Labour and Industry has been examining the matter to see whether legislation could be enacted in this State to require commodities to be sold under their original labels. However, I think we will encounter difficulties with such legislation unless all State Governments pass complementary legislation. If they did not, the labels could be removed in another State and we would have no chance of preventing goods from coming here. The honourable member appreciates the practical limitations of section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution. We realize that labels are being removed from goods and that goods are not being sold under the imported label.

HOUSING TRUST RATE PAYMENTS.

Mr. RYAN: Can the Premier say whether the Housing Trust pays council rates, water rates and land tax, and, if any payment is made, what principle is used to determine the payment?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The honourable member will be pleased to know that the Housing Trust does meet these commitments, the same as other people do, and the basis is the valuation of the property.

IRON ORE DEPOSITS.

Mr. CASEY: Some time ago I asked the Premier whether a contract had been let to the Australian Blue Metal Company for the mining of the rich iron ore deposits in the North-East of this State. I understand that many difficulties are associated with the mining of this iron ore for export to Japan. Can the Premier say whether negotiations are still proceeding between the Australian Blue Metal Company and the Government for the sale of the iron ore from the North-East?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I understand that the Australian Blue Metal Company is not the owner of the lease mentioned by the honourable member. Possibly it was attempting to make arrangements with the owner of the lease whereby the owner

would be paid some additional royalty. At present, sales of iron ore to Japan are extremely competitive and the company concerned is not producing at the necessary price structure. I have been informed unofficially that the company is not carrying on with this project at present.

UPPER MURRAY BRIDGES.

Mr. CURREN: I have received the following letter from the Upper Murray Regional Group of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce:

At the last meeting of this regional group of Chambers of Commerce discussion included the possibility of bridges being constructed in the near future at Berri and Kingston. This was following on a report that, on the completion of the bridge at Blanchetown, arrangements were to be put in hand for their construction. Is this information correct?

The only way I can answer that is to ask the Minister of Works whether this report is true.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The only way I can find out is to ask my colleague, the Minister of Roads, and I will do so.

RAILWAY FREIGHT RATES.

Mr. BYWATERS: A constituent of mine sold a vehicle to a person who defaulted and took the utility to another State. My constituent had to recover the car and, after doing so, transport it back to South Australia from Victoria by rail. He received the account, which amounted to £59 17s. 2d., for freight to bring the utility from Melbourne to Adelaide. He wrote to the Railways Commissioner and claimed that the charge was excessive. He received a letter from the General Traffic Manager to say that most of this charge was from Victoria and that the rate was 3s. 6d. a mile. We want to encourage the use of our railways for cartage and other traffic but this charge seems rather excessive. Will the Premier see whether this charge is excessive and whether these high freight rates between Victoria and South Australia can be reduced?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I realize that the honourable member knows that it is not within the power of the South Australian Government to fix Victorian freight rates which, I believe, are substantially higher at present than ours. However, I shall certainly have the matter examined and, if possible, make some representations on it.

THIRD PARTY INSURANCE.

Mr. LAUCKE: My question concerns the protection of motor car owners and injured persons entitled to claim compensation under compulsory third party bodily injury insurance

in cases where the insurance company covering the risk goes insolvent and is unable to meet its commitments. A person I know placed his compulsory third party insurance with an approved company, naturally anticipating that such approved company could and would meet any obligations that might ensue. This person was involved in a serious motor accident and a claim was made on the company in respect of compensation to an injured third party. The company was found to be bankrupt and the injured party is now claiming on the insured person. In the public interest generally and in the interest of the person to whom I have referred in particular, I ask the Treasurer whether provision exists to meet situations such as the one to which I have referred, and whether, if no provision now exists, such action will be taken as to ensure there is a background for claims by injured parties who are liable for compensation?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: For many years the insurance companies operating in South Australia had to lodge a deposit to ensure their *bona fides* and ability to meet reasonable claims. I think the honourable member will realize that it is not always possible to have a guarantee that will cover every conceivable claim that an insurance company would have. For many years there was a system of deposits for insurance companies in South Australia but, more recently, the Commonwealth Government, which has the power to legislate on insurance, has taken over that function and has arranged for the necessary security for a registered insurance company. The case the honourable member has mentioned has come under my notice. I believe there is a strong case for asking the Commonwealth Government to increase the amount that an insurance company must hold to cover a larger percentage of the claim than at present. The matter is under Commonwealth control and is being examined.

COUNCIL MOIETIES.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Has the Minister of Lands a reply to my recent question about road moieties?

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS: Yes. The amount placed on the Estimates for 1962-63 for roads and other services, Whyalla, includes provision to cover the road moieties in the four cases which the City of Whyalla Commission took up with the department last year. It will be understood that the department must be satisfied that great hardship would be

inflicted on the original holders if legal action were taken by the commission to collect the amounts owing.

PORT PIRIE DAMS.

Mr. McKEE: I refer to a press statement in *The Recorder* last week in Port Pirie. The complaint deals with waste fluid dams behind the uranium treatment plant at Port Pirie. It says:

Some parents in Port Pirie are concerned about the welfare of their children who play at the rear of the uranium treatment plant at Ellendale. Behind the plant there are a number of dams containing liquid waste. The dams were set up by the Department of Mines to hold waste liquids discharged from the treatment plant. In recent months the area has become a haven for children who are possibly attracted by the dark green liquid. Some say the area was regularly patrolled by Mines Department officials until the uranium treatment plant shut down earlier this year. These people claim the liquid is poisonous. Large warning signs have been erected at the edge of the dams which state the liquid was poisonous at the time of discharge. But no-one seems to know if the liquid is still dangerous. One of the warning signs says: "Danger, poisonous liquids—keep clear of dams." Close by there is a dead seagull lying on the edge of the liquid. Despite these warnings, children now play in the area. Since the closure of the uranium treatment section of the plant no poisonous liquids have been discharged.

Will the Premier take up this matter with the Minister of Mines at his earliest convenience?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: There is no need for me to take up this matter with the Minister of Mines in order to say that the children should certainly not be allowed in that area. The chemical residue from the uranium treatment plant would be harmful to children, but notices have been posted for that purpose, and children should not be allowed into the area. I will ask the Minister of Mines to see whether any special precaution should be taken in policing the prohibition but I strongly recommend that parents keep their children from the area. They would be trespassing if they went there, and they should not be allowed there.

HILLCREST PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. JENNINGS: I have been approached recently by the committee of the Hillcrest Primary School in regard to certain activities at that school, amongst which is the provision of extra classrooms for the expected intake. The committee says the shelter sheds and the staff facilities are inadequate and unsatisfactory, while the playing grounds resemble a

series of bomb craters. Because of the peculiar nature of the soil (I have examined it myself) large cracks appear in it at certain times of the year. We took up this matter with the department a long time ago, and it was found that by spreading and mixing sand with the soil reasonably satisfactory results were obtained; but that procedure was adopted only on the oval, which is not the only playing ground. The committee would not have approached me about the matter if it had not previously approached the department on several occasions without being able to stir up much activity. Will the Minister investigate this matter and let me have a reply?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yes, I shall be pleased to do so.

SALE OF DRUGS.

Mrs. STEELE: Has the Premier obtained a reply to a question I asked last week about the control of certain drugs?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Director-General of Public Health reports:

The public should certainly be constantly warned against the indiscriminate use of drugs. For some time now a set of uniform poisons schedules has been under consideration throughout Australia. This will ensure that drugs are under similar controls in each State. The new schedules have been adopted in Queensland and are in an advanced stage of preparation in other States, including South Australia. Consideration is being given to the best means of controlling new drugs until they have been fully assessed. It would be unnecessary and unreasonable to require medical control of a large number of drugs. In the Food and Drugs Act the term "drug" includes not only poisons and potent remedies but simple substances and preparations such as aspirin, dressings, cosmetics and soap. The Advisory Committee on Food and Drugs is constantly reviewing the need for control of drugs of many kinds. The recommendations are promptly dealt with and the Government and Parliament have, as far as I am aware, accepted all of them.

MILK REGULATIONS.

Mr. BYWATERS: The Notice Paper indicates that Metropolitan Milk Supply Regulations gazetted on December 18, 1952, are to be revoked. Will the Minister of Agriculture explain why this is to be done?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: As the honourable member asked me about this matter a few days ago, I obtained a reply from the Chairman of the Metropolitan Milk Board, who states:

The reasons are:

(a) The Metropolitan Milk Supply (Retail Supplies) Regulations, 1952,

authorized the board to make orders on holders of milk treatment licences requiring them, to the extent that they had milk available, to supply milk or cream to any vendor of milk in such quantities and at such time or times as might be specified in the orders.

(b) The Metropolitan Milk Supply (Zoning) Regulations, 1957, authorized the board to make orders directing holders of milk treatment licences to supply milk or cream from day to day to any licensee under the regulations up to the maximum quantity specified in such orders.

(c) The issue of orders on holders of milk treatment licences to supply retail vendors is adequately covered by Regulation 20 of the 1957 regulations, and the 1952 regulations are no longer necessary and are redundant.

The object of the amendment is to revoke the Metropolitan Milk Supply (Retail Supplies) Regulations, 1952.

BLACKWOOD POLICE STATION.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Has the Premier a further reply to my question last week about extensions to the Blackwood Police Station?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have obtained the following report:

The present practice is for the more serious cases arising at Blackwood to be heard at Unley by a magistrate and for the less serious cases to be heard by justices at Blackwood. The number of cases sent to Unley is very few, and the justices have heard 100 to 150 cases a year at Blackwood. Some years ago consideration was given to whether a room for court proceedings should be provided and it was then felt that the amount of work did not justify the expense involved. I still consider this is so. An average cause list of two to three cases a week does not justify the expense of a separate courtroom. The practice of the cases for the magistrate hearing cases at Unley does not arise from the question of accommodation but is in accordance with the practice in the suburbs whereby cases from the general area are brought to a central court. At Unley, for example, the magistrate deals with cases from Unley, Mitcham, Goodwood, Colonel Light Gardens and Blackwood.

ENCOUNTER BAY WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. JENKINS: Some months ago I was told that the new augmentation scheme for the Encounter Bay water district was likely to operate in about November, but I have a letter from the Minister of Works dealing with applications for the extension of that scheme in which he refers to the scheme's operating in the summer of 1962-63. Will the Minister say when the scheme will operate?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I could not, without checking with the department, give a more precise date. However, I think that the two dates given do not conflict, and that the

scheme will probably be in operation by the end of October or early November this year, which would be about the commencement of the 1962-63 summer. However, I will endeavour to get a precise answer for the honourable member tomorrow.

REGISTRAR OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Is the Premier aware that the Acting Registrar of Motor Vehicles joined the Motor Vehicles Department in November, 1953, that in July, 1955, he was appointed Secretary and Deputy Registrar, and that he has acted as Registrar on numerous occasions during that period and since April 30 of this year? I have been informed that Mr. G. C. Stratton, an officer of the Education Department, is likely to be appointed Registrar of Motor Vehicles. Will the Premier say whether this is correct?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: These matters are dealt with in Executive Council and it is not the practice of the Government to announce appointments before His Excellency has approved them. Therefore, I am unable to say who will be appointed. The Leader knows the procedure under which recommendations are made: the position is circularized to public officers; any officer interested may apply for the position; applications are considered; and there is an appeal board to which any applicant who thinks he has been passed over may appeal if his seniority in service or salary entitles him to do so. I cannot say more than that, and I can neither accept nor deny the Leader's surmise.

SOUTH-WESTERN SUBURBS DRAINAGE.

Mr. FRED WALSH: An article in this morning's *Advertiser* states:

A further contract is about to be let for the next stage of the South-Western suburbs drainage plan. A modification to the drainage plan to save £19,000 was announced yesterday by the Minister of Roads (Mr. Jude). Drain 14 will now run from Morphett Road along Cedar Avenue, Diagonal Road, Wilton Avenue and Harrow Road to the sea. The original plan was for the drain to go along Whyte Street.

Will the Minister of Works ascertain whether the alteration to the original design as submitted to the Public Works Committee and recommended by that body will result in more effective control of stormwaters in the south-western districts, or whether certain areas have been omitted from the original scheme and will have to be drained later, perhaps at greater cost?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will submit the question to my colleague.

EGGS.

Mr. LAUCKE: Can the Minister of Agriculture explain the recent reduction of 6d. a dozen in the price of eggs to producers? Can he say whether the volume of egg sales on the local market is static or increasing and, if it is static, whether a more imaginative sales promotion scheme could be instituted by the South Australian Egg Board?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will obtain a report from the Chairman of the Egg Board.

ORIENTAL FRUIT MOTH.

Mr. CURREN: In reply to my question about oriental fruit moth, the Minister of Agriculture said that legislation for the purpose of setting up pest boards was being considered. As the people concerned requested this legislation on June 1, 1961, and as the Minister has decided not to assist the eradication campaign financially, can he say when that legislation will be introduced?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I hope it will be introduced some time this session. Whilst the honourable member says that this legislation was asked for in 1961, I point out, lest there is any feeling that a delay will cause difficulty, that the Government spent more than £12,000 in assisting the committee in its past efforts. Indeed, the committee is the first to acknowledge that the efforts made will keep the pest relatively quiescent for some time to come. Whilst I hope that legislation will be brought in as soon as possible, the position is not one of day to day urgency. I have not seen the details of the Bill that is being prepared. It has not yet been discussed and it will have to be submitted to Cabinet, but it is intended to introduce legislation to help cope with this pest.

MORGAN-WHYALLA MAIN.

Mr. RICHES: I am aware of the additional draw on the Morgan-Whyalla main at Woomera, Iron Knob and all northern towns, and the comparatively small intake into the Baroota reservoir. Can the Minister of Works say whether an assessment has been made of the capacity of the main to provide a continuous supply to the northern towns throughout the coming summer? Can he also say whether the interest of the market gardeners in the Flinders Ranges foothills will be fully protected if restrictions are necessary?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I conferred with the Engineer for Water Supply yesterday and he said, in passing, that he was satisfied with

the position of the northern areas for the coming summer. However, he is not so satisfied with the position for other parts of the State because, somehow or other, we do not get much run-off of any use in our reservoirs; consequently problems will have to be met. He is not unduly worried about the northern areas. I did not question him further, but I presume that he believes he will be able to supply them.

The ensuring of a supply for the market gardeners involves difficulties, because in the event of a water shortage the question arises of whom we should restrict in order to protect their interests. That is not so easy. When there is plenty of water it is easy to supply everybody, but when there is not then it must be arbitrarily determined who will have supplies and who will not. I assume that the honourable member does not suggest we curtail the essential water for stock, which the Morgan-Whyalla main supplies to a large extent. He is not suggesting that we curtail the use of water in industry; that would affect employment. He is not suggesting we should curtail activities in suburban and household gardens. It becomes a difficult question to decide who shall be restricted in order that the market gardeners may be supplied. In fact, it is well known that the department does not undertake, as a matter of normal functioning, to supply large quantities of water for market gardening purposes, although where water is available the department does not object to its use for such purposes. As the member for Barossa (Mr. Laucke) would agree, we have entered into satisfactory arrangements with the market gardeners in his district to restrict their use of water, or for them to use it at times when we can supply it. I am not sure whether we could guarantee a supply for the market gardeners in the area the honourable member has mentioned, but every effort will be made to supply them. At this stage I do not foresee any serious difficulties arising regarding supplies from the Morgan-Whyalla main next summer.

FRUIT CANNING INDUSTRY REPORT.

Mr. CURREN: Last Wednesday the Premier, in reply to a question asked by the member for Murray, agreed that an abridged version of the Fruit Canning Industry Inquiry Committee's report should be made available. I have been requested by representatives of the fruitgrowing industry to ask when that report will be available.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have submitted the request to the Chairman

of that committee and have asked him to make a precis of the recommendations, excluding the confidential information. He is doing that and I will inform the honourable member when it is available.

KEROSENE.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice): Is it the intention of the Government to consider making a regulation under the Health Act to provide for kerosene to be coloured blue as an added safeguard?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Kerosene has been declared a dangerous substance under the Health Act. Regulation 171 under that Act requires that—

- (1) no person shall place any kerosene in any bottle or container which is ordinarily used for the packing, storing or delivery of any food or drug for sale, and no person shall have in his possession any such bottle or container containing any kerosene;
- (2) no person shall sell or store any kerosene in a bottle unless the bottle is triangular in shape and green or amber in colour;
- (3) no person shall sell or store any kerosene in a container of a capacity of four gallons or less unless the container is labelled with—
 - (a) the word "Kerosene";
 - (b) the name and address of the bottler, packer or vendor;
 - (c) the words "Caution: harmful if swallowed. Keep out of reach of children" in bold faced sans serif capital letters of not less than 12 points face measurement.

The Department of Public Health has not recommended nor is there at present any proposal to recommend that kerosene be required to be coloured blue as an added safeguard. It is understood that this is not required in any other State.

COTTAGE FLATS.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice): What plans does the Housing Trust have for building pensioners' homes in the Largs North, Draper, and Osborne areas?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: At Le Fevre Peninsula the Housing Trust has, on land from which emergency dwellings are being cleared, set aside several sites for the erection of cottage flats. Whilst some sites will be used

for cottage flats by the trust, it is hoped that charitable organizations will take up other sites for a similar purpose. However, the areas in question are not sewerred at present and building operations will necessarily have to await the provision of sewers, although this matter is receiving attention from the Engineering and Water Supply Department.

SOUTH-EASTERN WATER SUPPLIES.

Mr. Corcoran for Mr. RALSTON (on notice):

1. What was the Engineering and Water Supply Department's assessment for the Mount Gambier water district for the financial year, 1961-1962?
2. What was the revenue and expenditure (debt charges to be shown separately) for the Mount Gambier and Blue Lake water districts respectively, for the financial year, 1960-1961?
3. What was the capital investment in each of these water districts as at June 30, 1961?
4. What was the revenue and expenditure (debt charges to be shown separately), for each of the Mount Gambier and Blue Lake water districts respectively, for the financial year, 1961-1962?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The replies are:

1. £676,784.	
2. Revenue:	1960-1961.
	£
Mount Gambier	69,882
Blue Lake	8,387
Yahl	154
	<hr/> £78,423
	<hr/>
Expenditure (Revenue):	£
Operation and Maintenance ..	50,000
Interest (debt charge) . . .	16,000
	<hr/> £66,000
	<hr/>
Expenditure (Loan):	£44,000
	<hr/>

NOTE: Details of expenditure not available for each District.

3. Capital Investment at June 30, 1961—	
£472,000.	
4. Revenue:	1961-1962.
	£
Mount Gambier	76,458
Blue Lake	8,370
Yahl	171
	<hr/> £84,999
	<hr/>

Expenditure (Revenue):	£
Operation and Maintenance ..	48,000
Interest (debt charge)	18,000
	<hr/>
	£66,000
	<hr/>
Expenditure (Loan)	£77,000
	<hr/>

HOUSING FINANCE.

Mr. NANKIVELL (on notice): What is the number and total amount of outstanding loans made by the State Bank through its Credit Foncier Department for home and farm purchases, respectively?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Board of Management of the State Bank of South Australia advises as follows:

	Number.	Amount outstanding. £
Farming advances . . .	334	249,818
Housing advances . . .	309	684,462
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	643	934,280
	<hr/>	<hr/>

In addition, the following applies to housing loans under the Advances for Homes Act and the Home Builders Fund: 13,811; £24,207,824.

PORT AUGUSTA GAOL.

Mr. RICHES (on notice): When is it anticipated that rebuilding of the Port Augusta gaol will be commenced?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: In connection with the proposed rebuilding scheme at the Port Augusta gaol, the present progress on this work is that approval has been given to proceed with the preparation of detailed working drawings, specifications, etc., for the calling of tenders. It is anticipated that the rebuilding will commence during the 1963-64 financial year.

CHILDREN'S WELFARE OFFICER.

Mr. RICHES (on notice):

1. Has a resident representative of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department been appointed at Port Augusta yet?

2. If so, who is the officer?

3. When is it anticipated that the officer will commence duties at Port Augusta?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The replies are:

1. Yes.

2. Mr. C. A. Blanchard.

3. Towards the end of August, 1962, subject to a residence being available.

STUDENT HOSTELS.

Mr. RICHES (on notice):

1. How many loans have been applied for under the Student Hostels (Advances) Act, 1961?

2. How many loans have been made?

3. What organizations have been assisted by loans under this Act?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The replies are:

1. Seven. (Inquiries have been made by others but on investigation it was found they could not comply with the provisions of the Act.)

2. One. (Two other advances have been approved but the funds have not yet been drawn. The remaining four are at varying stages of preparation of detailed plans and appear, in principle, acceptable.)

3. Churches of Christ Evangelistic Union Incorporated Hostel.

PORT AUGUSTA HOSPITAL.

Mr. RICHES (on notice):

1. Have plans been prepared for a new hospital at Port Augusta?

2. When is it anticipated that plans will be ready for submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works?

3. Will the plans be available for perusal by the Port Augusta Hospital Board when completed?

4. Is it anticipated that a start will be made on the reconstruction this financial year?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The replies are:

1. Preliminary designs together with a detailed schedule of accommodation have been prepared.

2. It is not possible to state when plans will be ready for submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, as this is dependent upon approval of the preliminaries by the Director-General of Medical Services, the priority given to the work relative to other hospital works, and the availability of professional staff.

3. It could be assumed that the Director-General of Medical Services would make the plans available for perusal by the Port Augusta Hospital Board.

4. No; but funds will be available for preparation of plans.

Mr. RICHES (on notice): Is it proposed to make provision this financial year for commencement of the work of rebuilding the Port Augusta Hospital?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No; but funds will be available for preparation of plans.

PORT AUGUSTA ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE.

Mr. RICHES (on notice): When is it anticipated that the new block for teaching boilermaking at the Port Augusta adult education centre will be available for use?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Approval has been given for the erection of a prefabricated boilermaking shop. The first site chosen was rejected because the great amount of ground formation required was considered to be unwarranted. Negotiations have been approved for the purchase of a new site. The boilermaking shop will be erected as quickly as possible after these negotiations have been completed.

PORT AUGUSTA OPPORTUNITY CLASS.

Mr. RICHES (on notice):

1. Is the Minister of Education aware of the need for the establishment, as recommended by departmental officers, of a senior opportunity class at one of the Port Augusta primary schools?

2. What progress has been made with the proposal that such a class should be established?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The replies are:

1. Yes.

2. Consideration will be given to the establishment of such classes when specially trained teachers and suitable accommodation are available.

PORT AUGUSTA POLICE STATION.

Mr. RICHES (on notice):

1. Have plans been prepared for the erection of a new police station at Port Augusta?

2. When is it proposed to call tenders?

3. When is it anticipated that the work will commence?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The current position concerning the new proposed police building at Port Augusta is as follows:

1. Working drawings are nearing completion and approval has been obtained for the specifications for tendering purposes to be prepared by a private consultant.

2. It is anticipated that tenders will be called before the end of December, 1962.

3. Construction will commence shortly after a satisfactory tender has been accepted.

MURRAY HOUSING PROGRAMME.

Mr. BYWATERS (on notice):

1. Is it the intention of the Housing Trust to build more rental homes at Murray Bridge?

2. If so, how many are proposed?

3. How many outstanding applications are there for rental homes at Murray Bridge?

4. Is it intended to build houses for purchase on the fifty pounds deposit plan at Murray Bridge, Mannum and Tailm Bend?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The replies are:

1 and 2. A contract for rental houses at Murray Bridge has just been completed. Whilst the trust has not yet reached a decision in the matter, it is likely that houses under the rental-purchase scheme will be contracted for during this financial year.

3. Eleven.

4. As the scheme for the sale of houses on £50 deposit develops, the trust hopes to build houses under the scheme in various country towns. The extent to which this can be done will depend on the available resources of the trust and the likely demand in the particular town. As the scheme is in its very early stages, the trust has not yet been able to make decisions as to the three towns named in the question.

SAFETY BELTS.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice): Is it the intention of the Government to give a lead to the general public by installing and using safety belts in ministerial cars?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Government policy was stated on this matter last week.

TRANSPORT COUNCIL.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice): Is it the intention of the Government to introduce legislation during the present session to extend after December 31, 1962, the life and powers of the Metropolitan Transport Advisory Council?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No.

WAR SERVICE VALUATIONS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (on notice):

1. Is it a fact that the high cost of war service land settlement development in Zone 5 is embarrassing to the Government and is delaying the finalization of valuations and the fixation of final rents?

2. Is the delay being aggravated by the South-Eastern Drainage Board 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 Zone 5?

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS: The replies are:

1. No.
2. No.

3. War service land settlement rents are fixed in consultation with the Commonwealth authorities but, as they are based on cost or on productivity, whichever is the lower, final rents for any project or group of holdings cannot be fixed until final costs are known. The stage has now been reached where the State is in a position to discuss these rentals with the Commonwealth.

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 26. Page 286.)

Mr. COUMBE (Torrens): I pointed out last Thursday that all that had been promised in the Premier's policy speech was set out in His Excellency's Speech opening this Parliament, showing what action was planned and giving in detail the specific items. During the election campaign the Premier said that his Government, if re-elected, would push on with an expanded programme of public works to stimulate the economy, create more employment, and restore confidence in the community. This is being done today, and the figures given only last week in reply to a question asked by the member for Adelaide (Mr. Lawn) reveal how unemployment has dropped recently in this State. The figures given to the member for Adelaide, as shown in *Hansard*, indicate that on February 1, 1962, the number of unemployed in this State was 10,261. A comparison at June 1, 1962 (almost two months ago) shows that this figure had dropped to 6,934. These figures include the Northern Territory. I cite them to illustrate how unemployment has dropped in this State.

Mr. Fred Walsh: What was the drop in May?

Mr. COUMBE: I have not the figures.

Mr. Fred Walsh: I'll tell you: there were 48 fewer unemployed!

Mr. COUMBE: The honourable member can make what use he wishes of the figures. The figures that I have (I take them to be the Commonwealth Statistician's figures) show that over the period there were 48 fewer unemployed.

Mr. Ryan: Do you think there should be any unemployment?

Mr. COUMBE: I do not think anyone would advocate unemployment. The Government has, by bringing forward a big public works programme, created hundreds more jobs, especially in the building and allied industries. Figures of employment in the Government service are interesting indeed. In December, 1960, 41,633 wage and salary employees were employed by the Government, and in December, 1961, this number had risen to 44,206. The latest figure available shows that this had increased to 45,415 on May 31 of this year—a considerable increase. Surely this indicates the significant rise in direct government employment due directly, I suggest, to the deliberate policy of this Government of pushing ahead with developmental works of great value to this State—works which, as we have found from past experience, are largely productive and indirectly create further employment.

As I said last week, however, most employment in this State is provided by private enterprise, not by governmental undertakings. This Government has encouraged contract work and the system of tendering for government works in addition to the works normally undertaken by the contracting and constructing departments of the Government. Several firms, many of them large concerns, have come to this State to engage in this type of work and have set up headquarters here. Tenders have been called for many undertakings that will employ hundreds of men. The only limiting factor in this policy, as everyone realizes, is lack of finance, and, until the Estimates are introduced, I cannot say how much will be allocated.

An example of the contract system—which, incidentally, often speeds up the completion of a major work—is the building of a new road through the Torrens Gorge above the projected Kangaroo Creek reservoir. We all know that this type of work is normally done by the Highways Department, and we are all familiar with the great job this department does on our major highways such as the hills road, the South Road and the northern roads. However, this road will be constructed on contract and tenders are now being called for the work to be undertaken by large contractors and civil engineers to plans prepared and supervised by Highways Department engineers. This work will certainly mean the employment shortly of many men. However (and this is important) it will enable the Highways Department to proceed uninterruptedly with its big programme of other major works. I emphasize that this policy of

speeding up the public works programme is having a marked and significant effect on employment in this State.

Another important aspect of this type of work is that, although many skilled tradesmen are employed, many more unskilled or semi-skilled men are required. The latter categories are the first affected when there is a shortage of work. Incidentally, once again there is a shortage of many types of skilled tradesmen. I commend the Government for pursuing its policy of developing the State, of providing more avenues of employment, and of improving the economy, not only of the State but of every one of its citizens.

I shall now give some specific examples. My district, which is largely residential and almost wholly built up, is not a district where one would normally expect big developmental works to occur, yet at least two big governmental projects are planned for it. In North Adelaide work on the new South Australian School of Art is being proceeded with rapidly; the steel work is already up to the third floor. This project is estimated to cost £373,000. I believe a start will be made during this financial year on the new Highways Department building at Walkerville. This structure, of eight floors, is estimated to cost £750,000. It is a major undertaking and is another example of decentralization out of the city. The new multi-storey block for the Adelaide Children's Hospital is being proceeded with. Although this is not being built entirely with Government funds, the Government is greatly assisting the finances of this organization by subsidizing the project on a £2 for £1 basis, and the total cost is expected to be about £2,000,000. One has only to look out of the windows of this House to see Adelaide's tallest building, which is being erected for the Education Department.

On a tour a week or two ago around the suburbs, I was impressed by the number and the quality of new schools being erected. I was also impressed by the hive of industry I saw at Bolivar, where a new sewage treatment works is being constructed. Timber mills are extremely busy, and brickyards cannot keep pace with the demand being made for new bricks for building purposes. I mention these activities merely as examples of this Government's determination to push on with a vigorous policy of public works and through this to raise the level of employment—something we all want to see. These are all solid achievements, and this policy will be readily appreciated

by the people of this State who recognize that, when the building trades are busy, the community as a whole benefits.

Last year in this debate I spoke at length about water supply and pointed out in some detail that by 1970 this State would run out of natural sources of water supply and would face a serious threat to its future if alternative means of supply were not found. I am pleased that the Kangaroo Creek project has been advanced. The Public Works Committee has reported on it favourably, some portions of the undertakings have already gone to tender, and plans for the remainder are now being prepared. This will greatly assist the water position in South Australia, as will other projects that the Engineering and Water Supply Department is currently investigating.

Mr. Shannon: Provided the heavens play their part.

Mr. COUMBE: Exactly. I make no apology if I appear to be continually mentioning the question of water supply, because I think we all appreciate that without water this State, far from continuing its present rate of progress, will stagnate: our progress will come to a halt. It is absolutely vital to our economy and to our very existence that we find new sources of water by 1970, which, after all, is only eight years away. We must have further sources of water readily available by that time.

Last year I spoke about the desalting of water, what research was being done overseas on it, and its application. I am delighted to find that the Engineer-in-Chief (Mr. Dridan), who is now on an overseas visit on behalf of the Government, is to investigate, amongst other things, the desalting of water for commercial use. Since I made those remarks last year, many friends, engineers, and other interested parties have spoken to me on this subject. All this indicates not only that work is being done in this field but that there is a realization that this type of project must be proceeded with in this State sooner or later. Governments and water authorities overseas and in Australia are staggered by the impossible loads being imposed on the supply systems of large cities by just one modern trend in our living conditions. I refer to air-conditioning. I mention this as one small example of the waste of water. Here in the city of Adelaide water consumption, due to the air-conditioning of the many large multi-storey buildings being built today, will almost double. Every large building erected today is air-conditioned, because this modern innovation is demanded.

Much water is used to cool warm air, and cool air is accepted as a splendid thing because it provides greater comfort to the clients and to the staff as well. I suggest that the tragedy in a country like Australia, with its water-hungry conditions, is that almost all water used goes down the drain and runs to waste. With air-conditioning, after the water passes through the cooling machine it runs down the drain. In some overseas countries legislation has now been brought in to control this waste. That is done by compelling air-conditioning units to be constructed so that the water is passed through and through again over the apparatus, with only dissipation and evaporation having to be made up.

Mr. Quirke: You would need refrigeration, wouldn't you?

Mr. COURCELLE: No, it is simply done by having water-cooling towers. As far as I can ascertain, this function is not controlled in South Australia. Such legislation of other countries should be examined by this Government with a view to its introduction here to prevent just one example of needless waste of such a precious and irreplaceable commodity.

Another summer has come and gone and once again Adelaide and suburbs, despite a record low in reservoir levels, was spared water restrictions. Full marks to those responsible in the Engineering and Water Supply Department for enabling this to be achieved. Adelaide was one of the few mainland cities to escape this unpleasant happening. Even Melbourne, which is notorious for its shockingly wet weather—and Melbourne, incidentally, has ample supplies available—this summer had the most stringent water restrictions ever imposed. A total ban on garden watering except at odd hours, and then by hand, was the order of the day. Why was it necessary to introduce those restrictions? Mainly, it was because of the limitations of the reticulation system. Here, because of the excellent planning and work by officers of the Engineering and Water Supply Department, that condition has been avoided. Such a state of affairs was made possible, I suggest, by this Government's forward thinking and planning, but also as a result of this Parliament year after year voting adequate funds to enable these works to be carried out. When the Loan Estimates are introduced this year, I consider there must be a greatly increased amount for this line, for not only the metropolitan area but the whole State, because we are growing and expanding and going further out from the centre of supply. I think it would be a

tragedy if this work were to be curtailed at this stage. It was announced only last week, in the very middle of winter, that pumping of water to Adelaide through the Mannum-Adelaide main might have to be resumed. I suggest that such an announcement emphasizes the drastic position of our water supplies today.

Mr. RICHES: Is there any suggestion of delay in the work?

Mr. COURCELLE: I have not suggested that, but I do suggest that when the Loan Estimates are introduced such a line should, if possible, be expanded so that work on our metropolitan and country reticulation systems, and also the country trunk main systems, may be continued and increased. It is significant that of all the many and varied references to the Public Works Committee, by far the largest single type of reference—in fact, I suggest it would be one in three of all the references—deals with water supply. Members may check that by looking at their files and at the annual report of the committee which I think is to be prepared next month.

Mr. Fred Walsh: The committee has had a few schools to deal with.

Mr. COURCELLE: I suggest that the largest group of items deals with water, and certainly the honourable member, who is my colleague on the committee, would agree that the total funds recommended by the committee for water supplies would probably be more than for any other type of reference. It is most significant that these references are continually coming before the committee. I commend the Government for what it has already done in this important field. I trust that the Treasurer, in his annual review of the Budget and the Loan expenditure for this department, will be generous and sympathetic, as far as funds will permit. I certainly urge the continuation of the present policy in this regard, and I think all honourable members will do likewise.

In this debate several references have already been made to the work of the Housing Trust. I mentioned this subject briefly last Thursday, when I commended the work of the trust and pointed out that this was its twenty-fifth year of operation. I now wish to mention a slightly different aspect of its activities, namely, the building of flats. I realize that not everyone likes flat life and that a separate home with its own garden is the best place in which to bring up children, but for many couples flats near the city satisfy a need in the community.

I realize that in Adelaide we do not take to flat life to the same extent as do many people in Sydney and Melbourne.

Mr. Millhouse: Why is that?

Mr. CUMBE: Perhaps the honourable member can enlighten me on that when he speaks. It may be that we have a different outlook, but it is a fact that we do not have as much flat life as other cities with larger populations. This may or may not be a good thing. Many single people seek flat accommodation. It is not generally realized just how many flats have been built by the Housing Trust. To June 30, 1962, 923 two and three-storey flats and 808 pensioner or cottage flats had been completed. An additional 171 three-storey flats are now being constructed at Brooklyn Park. Naturally, with the passing of time, and the inner suburbs filling up, the trust is forced to go further afield—away from the city into the fringe of the outer suburbs—for land on which to build houses and flats. As houses are built further and further out, the greater are the occupants' difficulties with transport, especially cross transport, and the dearer the fares become. Ironically, in the city and the inner suburbs we have large pockets of old and dilapidated houses, many substandard and some condemned, but they are still occupied. Surely we have the opportunity to replace some of these with groups of flats that would provide better amenities and conditions to the tenants.

It must be borne in mind that census figures reveal a movement away from the city and inner suburbs to newer housing areas. The city proper is being denuded of inhabitants. The savings in travelling time and costs to the occupiers would be considerable, whilst to the Government and public utilities—transport, water, power, gas, telephone and sewers—the savings would be worth while, as these services already exist, whereas in the new housing areas they have to be provided at high cost. Groups of substandard houses exist in Adelaide, Hindmarsh, Norwood and parts of my electorate. This could be a worthwhile project for the trust. Other States are already engaged in similar projects. In New South Wales and Victoria are larger groups of poorer type dwellings than here, possibly because those States were industrialized much earlier than South Australia.

Mr. Hutchens: We hope to reach that stage of industrialization.

Mr. CUMBE: I hope so, too, without the blot of substandard housing that exists in the Eastern States. I have been through many of these areas and have been appalled at the

living conditions. Perhaps when these houses were erected they were all that was offering, and perhaps they were regarded as first-class houses, but today they are deplorable. The following is an extract from the report of the New South Wales Housing Commission for the period ended June 30, 1961:

Slum clearance activities included the acquisition of additional areas at Redfern and Waterloo; the clearing of a major site at Redfern for a multi-storey block of 284 flats, for which tenders will be called early in the new financial year; commencement of demolitions of slum dwellings in the first section of Waterloo where building operations are also scheduled to commence in 1961-1962; the completion of 39 flats and three aged units at Glebe; and the advancement of construction towards early completion of the balance of the 430 multi-storey flats at Surrey Hills and a five-storey block of 35 flats at Redfern.

It is significant that the districts mentioned are old and contain many slums where living conditions are poor and delinquency is prevalent. These slums are being progressively replaced by large blocks of multi-storey flats. In the report of the Victorian Housing Commission for the same period, the following appears:

An agreement between the Commission and the Melbourne City Council was made whereby the council gave £100,000 for each of the next three years to assist the Commission in its acquisition of slum areas within the municipality. The Commission sold a large block of 512 acres of land in North Melbourne to a group of builders for redevelopment work. The areas proclaimed and acquired for the past year totalled 24 acres in the inner suburbs.

In Victoria 143 families were moved from reclaimed areas into commission dwellings and building work was commenced on 10 large sites in the inner suburbs. Many other areas are being investigated. I am not suggesting such grandiose and large-scale schemes as these, because those cities with their older settlements and concentrations of larger populations have rendered slum demolition a necessity. However, in Adelaide and, as I have suggested, in parts of Norwood, Hindmarsh and my own electorate, the trust should examine the possibility of purchasing groups of the poorer type houses, particularly as their capital value would be low. The trust has legislative power to do this work. With a bold plan the trust could demolish those houses and build groups of multi-storey flats, as is being done in New South Wales and Victoria and, in fact, in most large cities overseas. This would be a worthwhile contribution to the housing problem, especially

with the inclusion of a number of single person flats and flats for aged persons. At the moment not enough of these are being built to accommodate all the applicants that we have, unfortunately, with us. I strongly commend this proposal to the trust and the Government. I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply in its original form, so ably moved by the member for Light.

Mr. TAPPING (Semaphore): I support the Address in Reply and the amendment attached to it. First, like other members, I offer my sympathy to the widows and relatives of some of our friends who have passed on. It seems that every year in the Address in Reply debate it is our solemn privilege to refer to this circumstance. I commend Mr. Edmonds for his service in another place for a number of years. He gave sterling service to the Parliament of South Australia, and his memory is revered by all who knew him. Mr. Anthony, too, gave ideal service in the Upper House. In fact, at one time he was a member of this House. I refer to him particularly because I was conversant with his contribution to the work of the board of Townsend House at Brighton. For many years he was the President of that body and gave outstanding service to help the people there suffering from various disabilities.

Last, but not least, I refer to the passing of Ernie Stephens, who was a member of this House for about 24 years, representing Port Adelaide. We know that in the last three or four years of his service in Parliament he suffered some disabilities and, whilst here, he gave his service at night and at other times when he should have been home resting himself, possibly recuperating. I join with other members in expressing my sympathies to the families concerned.

I congratulate the mover of the motion, the member for Light (Mr. Freebairn). I was, as were others, impressed with the able manner in which he moved the motion: the brevity of his speech, the knowledge of his subject, and the way he spoke. Although it may seem strange that I should say this, I think that he has a bright future in this House of Parliament. It was also a pleasure to hear the member for Angas (Mr. Teusner) make a lengthy discourse in seconding the motion, which he did so well. As other members have mentioned, we have known the honourable member as the Speaker of this House and, because he held that office, he was denied the right to contribute to any debate. I was impressed both with his material and with the way in which he put it over. I congratulate

him on a job well done. I must admit at this stage that I was disappointed to learn early this session that the member for Angas was, shall we say, taken from the Speakership to become Chairman of Committees. When I say that, I do not reflect upon you, Mr. Speaker, but I think it was wrong that a man like the member for Angas, who had given such sterling service to Parliament and his Party, was relegated to a more humble position than the one he occupied previously.

Mr. Ryan: That is what happens when the Government has not a majority.

Mr. TAPPING: That is one of the penalties of the Parliamentary system. With other members, I congratulate the Minister of Education (Sir Baden Pattinson) and Lady Pattinson on his knighthood and the honour that Lady Pattinson so richly deserves. I have felt for some time that the Minister of Education performs a most difficult task. All members, irrespective of Party politics, will agree that any person occupying the position of Minister of Education must make many sacrifices. In departments other than Education, much income and revenue is to be derived through various channels, but this department has little or no income. It carries out invaluable work for the good of humanity and of future generations in this State. I am glad of the honour that Sir Baden has received for his sterling service to South Australia and South Australians.

Referring to the members who entered this House this session, I first pay tribute to my good friend the member for Millicent (Mr. Corcoran) who, I consider, made an excellent contribution some days ago to the debate on the Address in Reply. It is also gratifying to observe that his good father, who gave such worthy service to this House for many years, was in the gallery to see the young man perform so efficiently in delivering his speech. He spoke as one who, I claim, will have a long service in this House and, in the years to come, could be a member of a Labor Cabinet. I wish him well.

The member for Unley (Mr. Langley) came here as a man internationally famous as a cricketer and we waited expectantly to hear some of the things he might show us in the political sphere. Those who listened to his contribution last week must have been deeply impressed because he spoke of something about which he knew. One of the outstanding attributes of a member appearing here for the first time should be that in his maiden speech he speak of those matters with which he is

conversant. The member for Unley on this occasion showed us his ability and how it will improve with the passage of time. So far, we have heard nothing from the member for Chaffey (Mr. Curren) but I understand he will make his maiden speech within a few days. However, his manner in asking questions of the various Ministers must have impressed all members, proving beyond doubt his capacity and ability to represent the district of Chaffey. I hope he does so for many years to come.

At this juncture I express my disappointment (and, in saying that, I make an understatement) at the very poor contribution to this debate last week by the member for Gouger (Mr. Hall). I do not desire to refer to his comments about my Leader, because in a personal explanation this afternoon my Leader aptly answered the charges but, when I spoke previously when the member for Gouger made the same type of contribution to a debate in this House, I expressed my grave disappointment that a man so well educated and with such integrity should resort to things of that nature. He should consider the people he represents and express his desire for progress in his district, but the member failed to do that. Let me try to give him some fatherly advice so that next time he rises he will bring before the House something concrete and not be personal, as he was on this occasion. I have faith in him and hope he will improve as the years go on, because he is a youth, as yet.

Mr. Lawn: The honourable member is being generous.

Mr. TAPPING: This fatherly advice can be accepted as such. It is regretted that the honourable member used the occasion to refer to some political moves of the Labor Party for, whatever was done, it was for the benefit of the State. I refer to our moves on land tax and for the reduction of country electricity tariffs. At the 1959 election the Leader of the Opposition and every other member of the Labor Party in going before the people said the same kind of thing. We have always been consistent in thinking of the country people as being in the same category as those in the city. So Labor on this occasion has merely carried out the desires of members of the Party, a policy we have enunciated for many years.

Mr. Clark: And to the satisfaction of the general public.

Mr. TAPPING: I am glad that the honourable member mentioned that, and the people of South Australia aptly showed their confidence by giving the Labor Party on this

occasion a vote that must be considered a vote of confidence. I think that members, irrespective of Party, will agree that the election of March 3 was a triumph for the Labor Party in South Australia. I was impressed, with my colleagues, in going around the country to find how many people were reacting to the operations of the Playford regime, and how disappointed they were with the Playford Government in more ways than one. Since 1938 it has been the practice of most Liberal members seeking Parliamentary honours to pin their faith in the Playford administration rather than in the people in their districts and a statement of their Party's policy. I remember that some years ago the Labor Party played no small part in Gladstone when the member for Rocky River was returned to this Parliament. It was most noticeable at the polling booth that the person seeking votes for Mr. Heaslip said, "Vote for the Playford Government". That did not apply to the Labor Party and we asked the public to vote for our principles and objectives. The time has arrived when the people of South Australia are thinking, "This is becoming monotonous. Let us give Labor the opportunity to govern under the policy which it has enunciated so fairly and honestly."

I feel that there have been defeats of Liberals because of their continuing to pin their faith in Sir Thomas Playford instead of asking, "What shall we do for our district?" Members on this side are behind their Leader 100 per cent and it is on Labor's policy that we stand or fall. The policy enunciated by my Party has never varied over the years.

Mr. Millhouse: You have never varied that policy?

Mr. TAPPING: We do not intend to vary our policy. We believe in the policy of assisting the people in the country and the metropolitan area without discrimination. Our policy is based on Christian principles and I firmly believe that. Following the election on March 3, as honourable members know, the Playford Government was returned to this House as a minority Government. During the last four elections Labor has received many more votes than the Liberal Party, and during that nine-year period it was known as a minority Government. The position was even more accentuated in the last election, because not only did Labor receive more votes in the aggregate, but came back with one more member in this House than did the Liberal Party. I must repeat the sentiments

expounded by the member for Wallaroo (Mr. Hughes), who said most clearly that the Party with the greatest majority, except in the case of a coalition, should be the Party to govern. I could never concede that the present Government is the result of a coalition. I remember reading in the history of Victoria that there have been frequent coalitions comprising the Country Party and the Liberal Party and sometimes the Labor Party and the Country Party. They were true coalitions, but for the South Australian Government to bring in two Independents to its support could never come under the definition of "coalition", and this has not been appreciated by the public.

I predict that, if an election were held here next Saturday, the Labor Party would gain at least another one or two seats. I am guided by the fact that recently there was a statement in the *Advertiser* regarding a Gallup poll conducted by Morgan Enterprise throughout Australia which indicated that, compared with one taken almost nine months ago there had been a further waning of support for the Liberal Party throughout Australia. Since 19 members have been returned to this side of the House, the feeling in the Party under our Leader has never been better. We have a united desire to do the best we can to take over the Treasury benches. To do that we must have unity, and we have that unity and honesty of purpose. I consider that when we take over the reins of Government the public will feel pleased that at last we have been given the opportunity to do so. I hope that this House will soon see fit to approve an Electoral Bill that will have for its purpose a degree of equality. Under the present set-up it is a fact that the Labor Party is at a disadvantage, yet despite the gerrymander it was able to increase its numbers in this House, and it should be the Government. The Liberal Party has resisted an alteration of the Constitution on the basis of one vote one value. We told the people this before the election and we were returned because of our honesty of purpose.

In this morning's press appears a statement by speakers for the Liberal and Country League that an appeal is to be lodged against the possible loss of the Commonwealth seat of Boothby because of suggested alterations in boundaries. I think it is fair to say that because of the suggested alterations the present member for Boothby (Sir John McLeay), who is Speaker of the House of

Representatives, may lose his seat. Members on this side have argued (and I agree) that the definition of boundaries under the Commonwealth set-up is most democratic, when a comparison is made with the State set-up. It cannot be denied that there should be designed an equitable system of election. The Liberals are now quibbling about the probable loss of Boothby. It goes to show their inconsistency.

Mr. Quirke: It is only a right of appeal, isn't it?

Mr. TAPPING: They have the right of appeal. There should be some consistency in this matter. If the Commonwealth boundaries are to be adjusted, I consider that the Liberal Party should be consistently supporting the Labor Party in its desire to introduce a plan based on one vote one value.

I now refer to the following report in the *Advertiser* of April 10, which emanated from Canberra and was headed "Drift to cities continues":

Victoria is the State with the highest concentration of people in the capital, 65.25 per cent of the State's population. South Australia follows with 60.66 per cent of the population concentrated in the Adelaide metropolitan area.

Mr. Jennings: That would not include Elizabeth.

Mr. TAPPING: That is so. If Elizabeth were included the position would be worse. I am pointing out that two Liberal Governments in South Australia and Victoria have obviously done less about decentralization than the other States. On all occasions on the hustings at election time the Labor Party has brought before people the need for decentralization, and they agreed to it at the last State election. The Premier tells us that we have an Industries Development Committee investigating the matter, but that is only a sort of secondary consideration. The Labor Party believes there should be a commission of experts that would know all the needs of the people, where water and fuel supplies were available, and where there were concentrations of population. If the Labor Party is returned at the next State election it will introduce true decentralization. A letter to the editor in the *Advertiser* of July 27 was headed "Parliamentary Representation" and stated:

Sir—In attempting to justify the electoral gerrymander the Liberal and Country League Government claims that the 2 to 1 country representation is necessary to avoid over-expansion of the metropolitan area at the expense of country development. Unfortunately for the exponents of this theory, the

imbalance of development has steadily worsened during the whole of the period that the gerrymander has been in operation.

In the Premier's own district formerly flourishing orchards and gardens have gone out of production, vegetable growers frequently find their produce unsaleable, even at extremely low prices.

No encouragement has been given to finding outlets for surplus production of vegetables, and processed vegetables have been imported from overseas to the detriment of local producers.

While the State Government is not responsible for these importations, no protest has been made to the Federal Government regarding them. The country districts need, not more, but better representatives in Parliament.

It was signed by L. Neighbour of Carey Gully.

Mr. Quirke: The South Australian Government had nothing to do with that. I will tell you who was responsible.

Mr. TAPPING: He said the State Government had made no approach to the Commonwealth Government to rectify the matter.

Mr. Quirke: Neither did any other Government for a very good reason.

Mr. TAPPING: I am concerned about the State Government, and the State Parliament of which I am a member. No overtures were made to rectify the anomaly mentioned in the letter I quoted. It has been said from time to time by members of the Liberal Party, including the Premier, that there has been rapid progress in South Australia in recent years, but that progress has been achieved despite the Government. It has all been due to circumstances. In 1943 the late John Curtin introduced in the Commonwealth Parliament a Bill to bring about uniform taxation. This was an important matter. Prior to 1943 South Australia was in the doldrums, because Victoria and New South Wales had concentrations of population in a smaller area than had South Australia, where the population was scattered to a great extent. Prior to 1943 the company tax in Victoria was 4s. 3d. in the pound, whereas in South Australia it was 7s. 3d. Under such circumstances how could we get industries to come to this State? After 1943 every State had the same rate of company tax, and money came from all parts of the world to South Australia, because geographically it was a good State, and the company tax was the same here as in other States. That is why South Australia made the progress, and thank goodness she did. Similar circumstances were the reason for the progress made in Western Australia.

Mr. Ryan: They change the Government occasionally in Western Australia.

Mr. TAPPING: It will change here again. We shall come back to Labor. On many occasions the Labor Party has advocated the creation of a public accounts committee. Some members may not appreciate my bringing up the matter again, but it is important that I do so. About nine or 10 years ago the late Mr. O'Halloran, then Leader of the Opposition, moved for the creation of such a committee, and Opposition members gave logical reasons why we should have one. We have all read of the need for such a committee in the Commonwealth sphere. From time to time the Commonwealth committee has discovered anomalies and scandals of no mean order. I need only instance the Bell Bay aluminium plant, where about £1,000,000 went in the wrong direction. I do not in any way disparage public servants in South Australia, but a public accounts committee would be the guardian of the public purse in this State.

I refer to the duties of Ministers increasing, with more delegation of their duties to public servants. New South Wales has 16 Ministers; Victoria 13 plus an Assistant Chief Secretary; Queensland 11; Western Australia 10, yet it is a smaller State than South Australia; Tasmania nine, and it is a very small State; and South Australia with a population of almost 1,000,000 people has only eight. The human frame can stand only so much. Because of the present position our Ministers are bound to delegate some of their work to public servants, but many matters now delegated should be looked at more closely by the Ministers than is the case. When members ask questions in this place the replies are given by Ministers reading what other people have compiled. I want to be assured that, when a Minister reads a report as the reply, it is something he has perused and found to be correct. It should not be a reply that Jones has compiled. The reply should come direct from the Minister, not second-hand. Because of the growth of the State, the number of Ministers in South Australia should be increased to 10 to ensure that some of the work now delegated to public servants is done by Ministers. They should have the final say when it comes to replies to questions asked by members of Parliament.

The appointment of a public accounts committee is essential because of the quantity of work referred to the Public Works Committee. Hospitals, schools, reservoirs and sewers are now commonly referred to the Public Works Committee for report and the committee is

doing yeoman service and has no political tie-up. It is working for the people of South Australia and acts as a guide to Parliament. However, although the Public Works Committee may recommend that certain work be carried out we have found, after evidence has been taken and a recommendation has been made, that the plan for some work has been varied and costs have been altered. A few years ago the late Hon. Frank Condon referred in another place to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which is now one of the best hospitals in the world. Originally, the cost of building that hospital, as recommended, was £2,500,000 but eventually it cost £4,000,000. Admittedly, there were additions to the hospital as originally planned, but the final building was nothing like the first plan submitted to the Public Works Committee. A public accounts committee could examine matters of this nature, and report to Parliament on deficiencies. In that way the committee would be a safeguard for the people of the State.

The House has also been told that in some cases the Public Works Committee has recommended that a project should be undertaken with certain materials, for example Mount Gambier stone, but a different material has been used. If it were necessary to vary the type of material the project should again be referred to the Public Works Committee for a further report. This business should be conducted in an open-handed manner, not in a half-hearted way.

I have often voiced alarm at the wholesale demolition of houses for service stations. I vividly remember, about three years ago, that the Premier told the House he had come to an understanding with oil companies in South Australia to build a certain number of service stations in keeping with the population growth of the State. However, although that gentleman's agreement exists, it has been broken. In my constituency, in Port Adelaide, and along the Port Road, wholesale demolition of houses has occurred. In one instance five good houses were demolished. The member for Torrens this afternoon spoke about the demolition of houses in his district and the member for Hindmarsh referred to the demolition of substandard houses in his district. In one case, of which I have knowledge in the district of Semaphore, five houses were bought by a company. Each property had a 20ft. frontage and £4,500 was paid for each, although the houses would be worth no more than £1,500. These inflated values have repercussions.

First, councils operating on improved land values rating, such as Port Adelaide, would take the price paid as a yardstick when assessing values for adjoining properties, and rates in the area could increase considerably because of the false position created by the inflated prices paid by oil companies. These prices could also affect land tax and water and sewerage rates. Discussions are taking place between the Western Australian Government and oil companies to see whether something can be done in that State to stop the demolition of good houses. Our Housing Trust is doing a sterling job building houses in an effort to overcome the shortage, but its attempts are being nullified by the wholesale demolition of houses by oil companies. In many cases people lose good houses. In effect, we are maintaining the *status quo* and are not progressing with housing. I appeal to the Government to endeavour, if not by legislation then by some understanding with the oil companies, to overcome this position.

Last week I asked a question relating to the Harbors Board Commissioners. I hasten to assure the Minister of Marine that the reply he gave me was most satisfactory, as he said that it would be wrong to consider this matter before the tenure of the present Commissioners' term of office had expired, but I reiterate some statements I have previously made in this House. I say now, with even more force, that a Harbors Board comprising three Commissioners is not large enough because of the magnitude of the work contemplated by the State. Previously, I referred to the Melbourne Harbors Trust which comprises seven members. A most pleasing aspect of the trust in Victoria is that it includes one representative of the shipping interests and one of the Waterside Workers' Federation.

Mr. Ryan: And he was the board's Vice-Chairman.

Mr. TAPPING: He was Mr. Cummings, who was highly regarded by the trust in Victoria. We must face up to the requirements of this position and enlarge our Harbors Board to at least five members. I do not in any way reflect on the present members of the board, but occasionally some must go overseas on business or to increase their knowledge on certain aspects. Yesterday, Mr. Verco, a member of the board, returned to South Australia from overseas after some months' absence. No doubt Mr. Verco absorbed much worthwhile knowledge from which we will derive benefit, but my point—and I was concerned about this in 1946—relates particularly to the time when it

is necessary to change the personnel of the board. The late Mr. C. B. Anderson, who was the Railways Commissioner, retired at the age of 65 years and was thereupon immediately appointed by this Government to the South Australian Harbors Board. That was my first objection. I believe it is necessary to apply the old axiom "horses for courses". Mr. Anderson was an excellent officer in the Railways Department, but he was not necessarily the man for the Harbors Board position because that work requires special training. The question of economics is involved. That is why I advocated that a man from a shipping company or a representative of the waterside workers with firsthand knowledge would contribute to a common pool of thought that could not be obtained from three men lacking that knowledge.

Often a man reaching the retirement age has rendered wonderful service and Mr. Anderson endeared himself to the people of South Australia because of his business-like administration. Mr. Verco is a businessman attached to a big emporium, and is a man of sterling character. There is no doubt about his ability and business acumen, but, as he has only a secondhand knowledge of marine matters, his appointment is unwise. On the board also is Mr. Carl Meyer, about whose ability there is no doubt. He is largely responsible for the progress made on the Greater Port Adelaide Plan. When Mr. Verco was overseas, Executive Council appointed Sir William Bishop as Acting Commissioner. Sir William has a record unequalled in this State for his knowledge of finance, but I do not think he has the desirable knowledge of marine matters. We should be consistent and appoint men with firsthand knowledge, whether shipowners, shipping company employees, or waterside workers. In Victoria members of the board receive £400 a year, and the same applies in this State, so it is almost an honorary position; I do not suggest that any of these men have benefited financially. We should increase the number of Commissioners and always choose men with business acumen and knowledge of harbour matters. As an investment of millions of pounds is involved, the right men are needed to do the job.

In the 1920's, the then member for Port Adelaide, Mr. John Price, from time to time brought before a Labor Government, and then a Liberal Government, the need for a graving dock (or dry dock) at Port Adelaide. Over the years ships such as the *Minnipa*, *Moonta*, and *Morialta* have been bound to go to

Victoria for overhaul; the same now applies to the *Troubridge*. This is necessary because there is no slip at Port Adelaide big enough to accommodate this type of ship. Because of our geographical position, Port Adelaide would be the ideal site for a graving dock. This was advocated in 1922 and 1925 by John Price, and a small sum once appeared on the Loan Estimates for this purpose, but with a change of Government the project was scrapped entirely. Because of the increase in population and the growth of commerce, I believe the Harbors Board should seriously consider including a dry dock in its scheme of harbor development, as it must cost the company operating the *Troubridge* much money to send the ship to Melbourne. The crew must go with it, and there is a loss of time and trade resulting in an increase in freight and in the price of commodities to the people. Let us face up to this problem and seriously consider constructing a graving dock to overcome some of the disabilities I have mentioned.

Mr. Jennings: Now that you have mentioned it, it should be in the next policy speech.

Mr. TAPPING: Then I should be proud to have mentioned it. I shall now deal with the Jervois bridge, a hardy annual. Since the present member for Port Adelaide has been in this House he has often raised this subject but has made no great progress. However, it will come because he is a persistent gentleman. With a little patience, we will get it. The Jervois bridge was built 84 years ago and, because of reports about a year and a half ago that the bridge was unsafe, the Tramways Trust decided to divert buses over the Birkenhead bridge. Since then the Tramways Trust has been the victim of circumstances. The journey over the Birkenhead bridge takes five or six minutes longer, resulting in increases in costs, and there have been hold-ups due to the opening of the bridge. I have seen buses held up for three or four minutes waiting for the bridge to return to its normal position.

Mr. Ryan: And some employees of the trust were penalized because, through no fault of their own, they were not running to schedule.

Mr. TAPPING: Yes, I know from observation and from complaints received that the bridge opens at any time to let small boats pass under it. When a bus is held up, 50 or 60 employees working at Birkenhead or Port Adelaide are often late for work. Vehicles weighing more than five tons are not allowed to cross the Jervois bridge, and those using it are restricted in speed to 15 miles an hour.

In 1955, when I was a member of the Public Works Committee, this matter was referred to that committee. The chief witness was Mr. Richmond, then Commissioner of Highways and an able man, and he said that, although the Birkenhead bridge was giving satisfaction, by 1958 or 1959 it would reach its total capacity and usefulness. He did not then visualize that the Jervois bridge would give the trouble it is now giving and that so much traffic would be diverted. Even on what he said, the Birkenhead bridge has reached its capacity and another bridge is needed to ease the burden. I urge the Government to construct another bridge alongside the Jervois bridge. I think the first thing that should be built is the causeway from the old Port Road to Bower Road in the Semaphore district, which was recommended by the Public Works Committee.

Mr. Ryan: It has not been started yet.

Mr. TAPPING: No, I am sorry to say, but it is necessary to prevent the bottleneck at the Black Diamond Corner. The Jervois bridge is necessary, because Semaphore has developed and will develop further. The southern part has been developed by the construction of trust houses and the setting up of industry, and another bridge must be built on the present site.

Mr. Quirke: On the present site?

Mr. TAPPING: Yes, or adjoining it.

Mr. Ryan: Don't say anything about the Public Works Committee!

Mr. TAPPING: No, its members are men of great integrity. The Port Adelaide Council supports the move for another bridge, and I know the member for Port Adelaide agrees with the committee, as I do, that it is an urgent matter. I am concerned that the Jervois bridge may break down completely. The span is good but, if one gets into a dinghy and looks at the approaches from underneath, one can see the decay in the piles and cross-pieces. Unless something is done soon, we may be sorry about our inaction. I make a final appeal to the Government to treat this matter as urgent, because the people want something done. Indeed, from the safety point of view it is highly desirable that something be done.

In conclusion, I refer to the Learn to Swim campaign, which for a number of years has been conducted in this State under the auspices of the Education Department. Recently I read in the *Advertiser* that the Minister of Education (Sir Baden Pattinson) had attended a social arranged by the South Australian Amateur Swimming Association. In his speech to that

gathering, the Minister said that, since the introduction of the campaign about seven years ago, 254,000 young people had been taught to swim. This is a wonderful result, and I commend the Education Department for the part it has played. When the scheme was first discussed, I attended a meeting, representing the swimming association, with the Minister and the Director of Education, and I recall vividly that whilst the Minister was favourably disposed towards the idea the Director was of the opinion that the Department was doing as well as it could. I also recall the Minister saying that that was not good enough. Shortly afterwards the officer in charge of physical instruction (Mr. Butler) was told to go ahead with plans, and now we see the result: 254,000 pupils have been taught to swim as a result of this State-wide campaign.

It is rather alarming that after having paid that tribute to the department I have to quote figures of death by drowning in South Australia. In 1959, 13 persons were drowned as a result of accidents with boats and 28 persons were drowned by other means, making a total of 41 deaths. In 1960, the picture is even worse. Drownings from boats totalled 21 and other drownings numbered 27, making a total of 48. In 1961, 22 persons lost their lives by drownings from boats and 48 persons were drowned by other means, making a total of 70. I suggest that the drive by the Education Department is not yet having its full effect, because children are generally taught to swim at a tender age and almost all the people who lost their lives in recent years were of mature age. If the department continues this campaign, I think the number of drownings will decrease. In conclusion I thank members for having listened to me with so much attention. I trust the comments I have made will be heeded by the Ministers and all others concerned.

Mrs. STEELE (Burnside): I rise with pleasure to support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. In doing so I congratulate the mover and seconder, the members for Light and Angas. I agree with other members that we were most impressed with the sincerity with which the member for Light (Mr. Freebairn) moved the Address in Reply. For me it was a pleasure to hear the member for Angas speaking as the seconder of the motion because I had not previously had the opportunity of hearing him make an address of any length in this House, and I found the subjects upon which he spoke and the information which he gave to the House of great interest indeed.

I congratulate members opposite who have already spoken in this debate, particularly the member for Millicent (Mr. Corcoran). As the member for Semaphore said, it must have been a proud moment for his father, the ex-member for Millicent, who was sitting in the gallery. I thought, listening to the honourable member, that we could look forward with much pleasure and anticipation to hearing him speak on future occasions. I also extend my congratulations to the Minister of Education (Sir Baden Pattinson) on the knighthood which was conferred on him by Her Majesty the Queen. I consider that this, while being a personal tribute to Sir Baden, is also a tribute to the members of the teaching profession, both the top executives and the rank and file members, because during the time that Sir Baden has held the portfolio of Minister of Education great developments have taken place in this field. I am sure that Sir Baden himself would acknowledge that his honour was a tribute to the whole teaching profession.

I would refer, like other members, to the number of times upon which, when a session is opened in this House, we have unfortunately to refer to the deaths of sitting members or of members who have recently retired. In this respect, I associate myself with the remarks passed by other speakers. Despite the comments that we sometimes hear from those who are perhaps ill-informed or not very aware of the part members of Parliament play in the community, I consider that members of Parliament—and I have found this in my association with members of this House—are hard-working people indeed. The members whose deaths we lament at this time have given themselves unsparingly in service, not only to their community as representatives in Parliament but to the State as a whole. Mr. Speaker, I also extend to you my congratulations on your elevation to the high post of Speaker of this House.

Some weeks ago I visited Western Australia. This visit was in the nature of an annual holiday, but usually on these occasions I make it not only an occasion for recuperation and recreation but an opportunity to study what is being done in other parts of the Commonwealth, and to me it is an education. To go to Western Australia at present is an eye-opener. That State, which has long been one of the more backward States of the Commonwealth, is emulating South Australia in attracting capital and industry, and from the Kimberley district in the far north to Bunbury in the south much industrial activity is taking

place. Of course, in recent months the great mineral resources of the Pilbara district have been opened up. It is difficult to gauge what effect that will have on the economy of Western Australia, because according to geologists it has limitless possibilities. I consider that what is being done in the north-west of Australia is of great interest to every person in the Commonwealth, because development there must ensure our security in the north. Western Australia has copied South Australia in the way it has attracted capital and industry; I think it is a good thing that this is happening, because development in one part of the Commonwealth cannot but benefit greatly every other part of Australia.

One feature that interested me was the development of various places in Western Australia as tourist resorts, particularly the reservoirs. I commend this to the Government because we do not do enough to make our reservoirs places of beauty and attractive to visitors. The Serpentine dam, the most recent of Western Australia's reservoirs, has been surprisingly developed with the expenditure of only £5,000. Trees have been planted with almost reckless abandon; a beautiful kiosk has been erected; lovely drives and walks have been created; and stonework has been provided. It is a place of beauty. Undoubtedly Western Australia has been spurred on by the fact that the Commonwealth Games will be held there later this year, and it is trying hard to ensure that people take away lasting memories of some of the beautiful parts of Western Australia. I believe that in the Mount Bold, South Para, and Myponga reservoirs we have the potential for development as tourist attractions. I was pleased to hear the Premier say recently that the Kangaroo Creek reservoir, when constructed, will be one of the most beautiful in Australia. We can do much more to develop our reservoirs as tourist attractions.

Mr. Riches: Don't forget the Flinders Ranges!

Mrs. STEELE: The Flinders Ranges are undoubtedly beautiful, but I am suggesting that we should do more to develop our reservoirs as tourist attractions.

Mr. Millhouse: You are a native of Western Australia, aren't you?

Mrs. STEELE: Yes, but I keep that quiet in South Australia. When I visit other States on my annual holidays I look to see what is being done there because I believe we can learn much that can be useful to our own State. I am a loyal South Australian in that regard. On my coming to and going from the

city each day, and particularly at night, I traverse Dequetteville Terrace. Probably one of the most dangerous intersections in or around the city is the intersection of Dequetteville Terrace, Bartels Road, and Flinders Street, Kent Town. I am tempted to say that it is only by the grace of God and traffic coming from the east that one can possibly travel south-east along Dequetteville Terrace between five and six at night. Unless traffic is coming from the east, eastbound traffic simply cannot cross the intersection. I refer this to the appropriate authorities. Can this matter be examined by the Road Traffic Board because it seems that it is difficult for the Kensington and Norwood Council and the Adelaide City Council to agree on what should be done for the best, but something should be done about this dangerous intersection.

May I deprecate the manner of the visit to and the subsequent statement to the press concerning the Parkside Mental Hospital by the Hon. Ruby Hutchinson of the Western Australian Legislative Council. To me it was exploitation of a visitor by the Opposition in the worst possible taste, as well as a discourtesy to the public health and mental health authorities of this State. I can well imagine the outcry there would have been in New South Wales, with its Labor Government, if a Liberal member from this State had copied the example of Mrs. Hutchinson there. Indignation on the part of the Government there would have been justified. The member for Stuart (Mr. Riches) introduced me to Mrs. Hutchinson as the member for Burnside. Of course, as all members know, Parkside is situated within my electorate. I spent some time in conversation with her during which she told me that she had been making a survey of mental institutions in the various States. It would have been a simple courtesy to me as the member for the district had she intimated her intention of visiting Parkside.

Mr. Riches: I thought she had already visited Parkside.

Mrs. STEELE: No, she went the next day. The press stated later that she had visited Parkside on the Thursday and I met her on the Wednesday. My point is that although we are well aware that an overhaul of mental institutions is necessary in South Australia, a report has already been submitted to the Government on necessary improvements. Dr. Cramond, a most able and enlightened authority in this field of medicine, will, as a result of a recent visit to New Zealand with two competent

architects from the Public Buildings Department, report further on the building or rebuilding and rehabilitation of our mental hospitals. I do not think we are in any need of, nor do we desire, the type of deprecatory comments from a visitor who, obviously, was serving the ends of the Opposition.

The main topic on which I wish to speak during this debate is broadly related to that part of His Excellency the Governor's Speech which concerned the Government's intention to amend the Industrial Code. I shall speak briefly on the subject of noise. Noise is becoming increasingly accepted—however unwillingly we may accept it—as a feature of modern life. It adds to the strains and stresses towards which human beings are being increasingly subjected. How much more can we take, and is noise a necessary part of man's genius and inventive skill, so that as more and better machines are invented we have to put up with more and greater noise? For instance, the noises we associate with our daily life are the rumble of traffic; the ear-splitting staccato of pneumatic drills; the thump of pile drivers as they put down foundations for large city buildings; blasting of quarries; and blaring from radios and television sets in shops. We are all familiar with these noises. Who does not come to resent the shattering of the quiet of their homes in their leisure hours—if they have any—by the persistent ringing of telephones? Until a few years ago we put up with the clanging of trams, but they are now virtually a memory in South Australia, except for the tram that travels to Glenelg. The odd thing is that we are all prepared, up to a point, to accept these noises as a necessary part of progress, when, in fact, they should stimulate us to use the brains and skills of our scientists, engineers and architects to subdue the monster (and I call it that advisedly) which is threatening the physical and mental health of every man, woman and child in the community. Noise is one of the greatest menaces of our time. Its physiological and psychological effects on health are being increasingly recognized.

Mr. Jennings: Keep your voice down!

Mrs. STEELE: I am sorry if I am offending the honourable member. Strangely, we have become reconciled to and have adapted ourselves to noise by day. The problem of noise at night is not so easy to accept because of the physiological and psychological effects on sleep. Without adequate and restful sleep our work by day is impaired and this is reflected in the inefficiency of our performance.

It leads to a deterioration of general health. Anyway, insistence on some measures for relief from noise must come from the community itself. Indeed, such agitation did last year result in the passing of the Noise Abatement Act in the British Parliament. The Parliament is at present awaiting the report of the committee that was set up to investigate this whole problem of noise and noise control.

In the United States, the city of Memphis, a city of comparable size with Adelaide, first instigated action as far back as 1936 with the setting up of a representative committee which instituted a campaign of public education, and introduced regulations which were both practicable and enforceable. The result is that today the people of Memphis accept the control of noises at all times as entirely reasonable and natural and have won for themselves, or for their city at least, the title of America's quietest city—though I understand that this is somewhat in dispute. However, the regulations there are both interesting and amusing, ranging as they do from banning noises in the home between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. to making it compulsory for all police horses to wear rubber shoes. Further, building operations cannot be undertaken between 6 p.m. and 7 a.m.; fire engines may not be raced; horns on cars are strictly for emergency use only; and yelling, shouting, hooting, whistling and singing in the streets are completely banned—so it sounds a very dull place.

Mr. Loveday: Do they permit a 21-gun salute?

Mrs. STEELE: I should not think so. The British Noise Abatement Society, formed two years ago, regards 95 per cent of noise as preventable. Flushed and satisfied with its efforts, which led to the legislation passed in Britain last year, the organization is now working hard to achieve an international law against all excessive noise. But the instances I have given in both the United States of America and the United Kingdom relate, in the main, to community noise and, irritating and distracting as this type of noise may be, it is not the serious problem that noise in industry poses for those who realize what an increasing health hazard it presents.

In the United States of America and on the Continent (but particularly in the United States of America) much research involving the expenditure of vast sums is being undertaken in this field and, although there is still much to be learned, the engineering and medical know-how acquired in the past decade is enabling procedures to be set in motion for

protecting the majority of industrial personnel exposed to a high noise level. Noise, by the way, has been defined as "unwanted sound", and the higher the pitch of the sound, the more irritating and damaging it tends to be. Workers prone to occupational deafness are those employed in boilermaking, panel-beating, drop forges, employees using band-saws, or working in close proximity to generating machines, ventilating systems and air-conditioners or machines using compressed air.

It is rather interesting to note that there are some sidelines to this point that I have just made. A friend of mine before the war was employed at one of the big industrial undertakings in this State on a bandsaw. He was surrounded by other employees using bandsaws, and he told me that they all found themselves at the end of the day lip-reading one another because they could not hear a thing through being deafened by the noise of their machines. It is interesting, too—and this is near to home as far as I am concerned—to know that the people in the Magill area living adjacent to the Magill electricity substation have to put up with the very low frequency hum of the generators in that substation. When I have been in that area, I have found it particularly disconcerting, and I realize it must be a particular hazard to these people. The Electricity Trust of South Australia is, I understand, concerned about this problem of these low frequency noises emanating from substations, and it is experimenting because it finds that the noise wells up over the enclosure around these substations.

Another interesting thing is that at one time deaf people were employed on panel-beating, for instance, and in these noisy industries because it was thought that it could do them no harm: they could not hear anyway and, therefore, their hearing could not possibly deteriorate. That is wrong, because these days we know that these people have what we call residual hearing—that is, islands of hearing where they get certain parts of words and sentences—and panel-beating and heavy industries like that completely destroy any residual hearing they may have.

If we go back to Biblical times, we know of course quite well how the walls of Jericho fell because the continued pitch of a particular sound shattered and brought down the walls of that city. So one can imagine what the effect of prolonged noise at a certain pitch would be on the human body and on health. Paradoxically, jet noises have not produced the difficulty they might have, because it was

appreciated that jet machines would produce sound in excess of 145 decibels. A decibel is the unit used for measuring the volume of sound. The level of 145 decibels is greater than the threshold of pain, which is rated at about 135 decibels. Because of this, steps were taken at the commencement of the employment of jet engines in aircraft to do something to eliminate this problem, which could of course impair the hearing of personnel employed in the factories producing jet engines. So all sorts of special steps were taken to eliminate this problem.

Of course, these days there are special bays for the testing and maintenance of jet engines. Research is conducted into screening the escaping of noise. Jet airfields are sited a long way from densely populated areas, which is a contradiction to the siting of the West Beach airport, where jets are using an airfield only four miles from the city.

Sir Frank Whittle, the inventor of modern jets, in a letter to *The Times* recently said that, as long ago as 1936, he invented a design for a silencer for a jet aircraft, but it was not being used. But Mr. King, of the Department of Mechanical Engineering in the Adelaide University, told me only last week that silencer kits were now available to aircraft companies using jets, at a cost of £150,000 a kit for use in the older type of jet with no modification for the control of excess jet noise. Paradoxically, we are not very much concerned with the problem of jet noise. As regards just what has been ascertained in the research programmes undertaken in the United States of America, I am greatly indebted to Mr. R. B. King, who is lecturer in Acoustic Engineering in Adelaide University, for the information he has given me and for the interesting and valuable conversations and discussions that I have had with him on this subject.

What is suggested to try to control, eliminate or abate this noise problem in industry? I shall, if I may, quote from a paper given by Mr. King recently at a luncheon in Adelaide. He says:

The last 10 years have seen an amazing expansion of activities in the field of noise and vibration control. Dozens of engineering, medical and psycho-acoustic research centres and testing laboratories have been established in U.S.A., U.K. and on the Continent. Reliable high quality instrumentation (the bugbear of the 1940-1950 decade) has now become readily available.

In many of the States of the U.S.A. specific zoning ordinances have been established to

limit the growth of noise nuisance in residential and commercial districts, due to existing and proposed factories.

What are the things suggested as a result of these research programmes? The first step—and this has had the wholehearted support of industry in America, where hundreds of thousands of pounds has been devoted by industry to these research programmes—is an audio test prior to employment. Sooner or later this will be the accepted procedure in all heavy industries. It has been established by many authorities that 25 per cent of the community has a hearing loss of some sort—quite unrelated to any work, involving noise, in which they are engaged. Secondly, the research workers suggest a noise abatement programme and bringing into consultation acoustic engineers and architects for the study of this programme in all its facets. They suggest the use of ear protectors such as plugs, muffs and helmets, which all tend to muffle the damaging high frequencies. They have instruments which they take into factories to measure the noise and to find out what jobs have potentially dangerous noise levels. These must then be defined and the noise eliminated or controlled. Occupational hearing loss can stem from exposure to continued noise at a hazardous level. Alleviation can take many different forms. For instance, heavy units of machinery can be incorporated in vibration mountings. Thirdly the researchers advise alterations to existing machine mountings from rigid to resilient supports resulting in reduced high frequency noise.

Fourthly, they isolate high frequency noise by enclosing it, but complete sealing is absolutely necessary. To make this sealing more effective still, machines are housed in buildings where there are double walls with an air space between. Fifthly, they treat walls to reduce reverberant noise. The average wall reflects 90 to 95 per cent of noise whereas an effective acoustic material will absorb up to 95 per cent. Sixthly, there must be effective maintenance by means of lubrication where there are rubbing surfaces and also by adjusting parts which are unbalanced. Seventhly, segregation—at a correctly computed distance—of noisy machinery from a worker or group of workers is advocated. It has been established that workers subject to much high frequency noise should be given the opportunity to change to less noisy processes from time to time and their rest periods should all be spent in quiet surroundings. Eighthly, there should be modification of equipment to eliminate the intensity and frequency of the noise produced.

These precautions will not prohibit the occurrence of deafness, but may delay the onset of industrial deafness and decrease the degree of permanent damage. This has been done in America, but what is being done in Australia? It may interest members to know that the first acoustic laboratory ever attached to a university in Australia is in the process of being established at the Adelaide University. This problem of noise, which is a real health hazard and a nuisance in the broadest sense, results in impaired hearing, irritability, insomnia, nervous strain and headaches. This is exercising the minds of the staff of the Adelaide University's Department of Mechanical Engineering. There is to be set up at the university a complete acoustic laboratory, the first of its kind in Australia. Already it is the only university providing a comprehensive undergraduate course in engineering noise and vibration control. Increasingly in recent years, this department has given valuable advice to Government departments, professional and industrial organizations and local government authorities on all aspects of noise and vibration control, whether they be physiological, legal, architectural, or engineering. It should therefore be interesting to honourable members to know that the Universities Commission of Australia has granted the Adelaide University £8,000 for the purpose of setting up this acoustic laboratory in the Engineering Department. Following the granting of this sum, Mr King invited leaders of industry in South Australia to meet him at the university and he told them what it was proposed to do at the laboratory and what had already been done under a similar research programme in the U.S.A.

As a result of that meeting, leaders of industry subscribed funds to enable Mr. King to visit the U.S.A. and Great Britain to study this problem of noise abatement, and he has come back to the university to implement a similar plan here. He is hopeful of a further grant coming from the Universities Commission, because much more finance will be needed to complete the scheme. He told me that at the moment he has about £6,000 worth of equipment in his laboratory.

What is the purpose of this noise abatement programme, and where does industry come into it? I hope to explain to members what an important type of research this is for industrial development in South Australia. At present, just as industry in the U.S.A. was rather hesitant about accepting this new type of engineering development, so industry in South

Australia is somewhat hesitant to accept the research programmes and to co-operate because of the fear that it will be penalized by heavy expenses in meeting compensation for industrial deafness. If the various steps which have been employed in the U.S.A. and which have become the accepted policy of most States there as relating to workmen's compensation are taken here, then I feel sure that industry will profit in South Australia, but it will have to initiate the various steps I have spoken of. For instance, if pre-employment auditory examinations become the pattern in South Australia and compensation is not payable until retirement or six months after the termination of employment in a certain industry, then big industry will co-operate in a properly planned and co-ordinated programme to eliminate, control or reduce excessive noises. I refer again to the paper written by Mr. King where he says:

In most of the United States and in the provinces of Canada, workmen's compensation laws have been modified to allow for occupational deafness as it is called, as distinct from deafness due to violent injury or traumatic deafness. This has resulted in better co-operation between management, the medical profession and the trade unions in the control of this disease.

Although it may involve great expense in setting up these measures such a plan will protect against employers having claims for industrial deafness foisted on them when they feel, in all fairness, that the worker became deaf in his previous employment. The safeguard would be, as in the U.S.A., for the compensation to be paid on retirement or considered six months after the termination of the employment in an industry where there was heavy noise. This would allay the fears of industrialists and encourage them to participate in any noise abatement programme. Victoria has a Noise Abatement Committee, and no doubt it comprises representatives of all the people I suggest would be interested here, such as the Department of Health, medical profession, legal profession, university, Commonwealth Acoustics Laboratory, which is doing a great amount of research, employers and employees. If the same pattern were followed as that which has been adopted in the United States of America and Great Britain, committees would need to be set up in the various States to give a boost, as it were, to the formation of a national committee for the control or abatement of noise in industry.

Regarding the compensation payable for deafness caused through the impact of heavy noise

in industry, it is considered by some authorities that unless the noise is in excess of 100 decibels and has been endured for not less than 90 days no claim for compensation for industrial hearing loss should be entertained. In most of the states of the U.S.A. and the Canadian provinces workmen's compensation laws have been modified to allow for compensation to be paid for occupational deafness. If we are to get anywhere with the problem—and we could save industry many thousands of pounds—it will be necessary to have a committee that in some way is tied up with the Standards Committee of Australia, because I understand it sets the pattern for almost all the standards adopted by the States. It follows that if such a committee were set up, comprising people interested in this problem, all matters could be considered and there would be a concerted move for an Abatement of

Noise Act and better zoning of industrial areas. No doubt some attention will be given to this matter in the report of the Town Planner in an effort to protect people from noise emanating from heavy machinery of all kinds. There is a need to incorporate in the Industrial and Building Standards Codes control of noise and vibration, in order to give a guide to professional engineers, doctors and architects interested in this question of industrial deafness. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. RYAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.25 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, August 1, at 2 p.m.