

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, August 2, 1962.

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

SUPPLY BILL (No. 2).

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the Bill.

QUESTIONS.

LABELLING OF IMPORTS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: This morning's *Advertiser* reports that the President of the Retail Traders' Association of South Australia (Mr. R. B. Craven) has said that the Department of Trade has provided that all goods coming into Australia must be labelled.

Can the Premier obtain advice from the Crown Solicitor's Department, because section 5 (3) of the Goods (Trade Descriptions) Act, 1935, provides:

The Governor may, by proclamation, specify the goods to which this section may apply as and from a date specified in the proclamation not earlier than twelve months after the date of publication of the proclamation.

I know that when goods arrive in this country they must have a label to show where they are produced, and I consider it unfair trade practice for retailers to remove those labels and still leave the stitching attached. Can the Premier give me further information on this matter, if possible by next Tuesday?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: When the Leader asked his earlier question I was aware of the matters that he has now mentioned, but I have not read the report referred to. All the States, after much discussion, passed certain legislation dealing with the labelling of woollen goods and the percentage of wool that garments should contain, and requiring the fabric contained in the garments to be stated. Therefore, in that respect there is no problem with section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution. Our Department of Labour and Industry informs me that goods have come to Australia labelled in order to pass the Customs but have had the labels taken off them subsequently. As far as I can ascertain, there is no law in this State that could possibly police a large quantity of goods coming in from Victoria with the labels removed.

Mr. Jennings: You are up against section 92 again.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes. Not only is section 92 involved, but there is the problem of policing it, and that would depend upon action taken in another State. There are only two ways this matter could be dealt with. There could be a more stringent tightening up of the Commonwealth Customs legislation to provide not only that goods should have labels on them when they arrive, but that they should be sold with the labels on them. The other way would be for complementary legislation to be passed by each of the States of Australia. I agree with the Leader that the problem should be dealt with, because these goods are coming into Australia and being sold as though they were Australian-produced. If all the States passed an Act or issued a proclamation, the matter could be policed in each State. Alternatively, if the Commonwealth took the trouble to tighten up its Customs legislation to see that labels were not subsequently removed, that would do much to help. I am taking some action to see what can be done in the matter.

LANGHORNE CREEK TO WELLINGTON ROAD.

Mr. JENKINS: Will the Minister of Works ascertain from the Minister of Roads whether the Highways Department intends to seal another two miles of the Langhorne Creek to Wellington Road, or alternatively to provide funds to the District Council of Strathalbyn for that purpose? Will he also ascertain whether the Highways Department intends to straighten the bends on the Willunga Hill this year?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will refer both those questions to my colleague.

SWIMMING POOLS.

Mr. TAPPING: In recent years the Government has made grants through the Tourist Bureau towards the construction of swimming pools throughout the State. Overtures have been made to me for one to be constructed in Semaphore. I understand that it will cost about £30,000 to £40,000 to do the job although a certain amount of voluntary labour will be utilized. Although the Government has made grants in the past, will the Treasurer consider making the grants more generous in the future towards the construction of swimming pools?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Unfortunately, this year the Government has to provide for a curtailment in the number of activities in which it has been assisting financially, and in the sums we can make available. The provision made has been useful. It

will be continued. About 30 swimming pools have been established so far, but, if we made available one large sum for one swimming pool, a number of other projects would get nothing at all. I cannot this year alter the present practice.

GOODWOOD ROAD DRAINAGE.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Some few weeks ago I wrote to the Minister of Roads and complained about flooding at the south-western corner of the Garden Suburb along the Goodwood Road. I have received the following reply:

The drainage position in this area is dependent on the construction of Drain 4 along Oaklands, Sweetmans and Daws roads. This drain forms part of the South-Western Suburbs Floodwaters Drainage Scheme, and although of high priority in the scheme it must be delayed until investigations into the River Sturt have been completed and the flood control dam provided.

I accept that explanation but can the Minister say what the time table is for carrying out this work?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I accept the interpretation that the drainage works in the streets the honourable member mentioned are subject to the construction of a holding reservoir on the River Sturt. I think I answered a question for an honourable member opposite yesterday and I am getting some further information for him; but, if my memory is correct, I know that the Minister of Roads and the Commissioner of Highways are the constructing authority for the general scheme. I believe also that the resources of the Engineer-in-Chief are to be used for the construction of the dam on the River Sturt, but I will have the information for the honourable member, and also for the honourable member who questioned me previously, probably on Tuesday.

PORT PIRIE TO PORT BROUGHTON ROAD.

Mr. McKEE: Does the Highways Department intend to carry out the proposed programme for sealing the Port Pirie to Port Broughton road soon?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will get information on that.

SAFETY BELTS.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Police Force installed safety belts in its motor cars? Will the Premier ask the Commissioner of Police whether he favours the installation of these safety belts generally and whether they are considered successful by the Police Force?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes.

NATIVE RESERVES.

Mr. LOVEDAY: The Minister of Works is no doubt aware of the recent press notice concerning the setting up of an additional native reserve just south of the existing native reserve, which is in the north-western corner of my electorate. Will this reserve be inviolate so far as the natives are concerned? The Minister will recollect that prospectors were permitted in the existing reserves to search for nickel and were there for some time. The question of permitting an observatory to be put on a high peak just within the border of the existing reserve is also being considered. Will the new reserve be treated the same, or will it really be kept as a reserve for the natives in that area?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I welcome the honourable member's question because it enables me to define the policy of the department on these reserves. I think the honourable member will agree, on reflection, that it is not possible to prevent the entry or refuse authority to enter reserves without exception, and that it is necessary for proper purposes and in pursuit of proper objectives for people to be given permits to enter reserves on occasion. For example, the weapons research organization must have its officers and officials traversing the area of the rocket range.

I think, too, that it is proper that mineral surveys be carried out from time to time to determine whether or not valuable deposits of minerals exist. But we have frequently had requests from people wanting to enter or pass through the north-west reserve for purposes that do not fall within the essential categories, and those requests have been consistently and repeatedly refused. Only a week or so ago, I had a request from a high official from another State who desired that a party should travel through. It was supported by representations to me made by a Minister of that State. I was obliged to say to the applicants and to the Minister who made the representations to me that the department, supported by myself and the Government, had consistently refused the entry of people into the reserves for purposes other than those considered absolutely essential.

In cases where permits are granted, they are granted to individuals by name and not to a group or company. They are issued for limited periods only or as the requirements of the applicant make it necessary. However, I can assure the honourable member that South Australia is the only State that does

this. The Commonwealth Government does not adhere to this policy, nor does the Government of Western Australia—unfortunately, in my view. The fact that they are, in our opinion, rather lax in the granting of permits makes it much more difficult for us to retain our policy consistently, as we have done. I assure the honourable member that, subject to the provisos I have named, the reserve would be inviolate as far as the natives were concerned, because I believe it is proper that at least the aborigines of our State, and particularly those in a very primitive state, of whom there are still many, should have a piece of country which they can call their own and to which they can retire to perform the ceremonies and rites that are so important to them. Any person who has travelled through the area and has visited the ceremonial grounds will appreciate the wisdom and need for this policy. I assure the honourable member that, despite repeated representations from people interested in going through the reserve for the sake of convenience or out of curiosity, permits are consistently refused.

EYRE HIGHWAY.

Mr. RICHES: Will the Minister of Works ascertain from the Minister of Roads whether any special provision is being made to ensure that the Eyre Highway is trafficable for people travelling through to Perth for the Commonwealth Games? Is it envisaged that special patrols will be provided, and has any thought been given to providing ambulance services in case of accidents?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: This matter has been considered by the Premier in association with the Western Australian authorities and various matters have been referred to myself and to the Minister of Roads. As a result of all the representations that have been made, traffic to Perth during the Commonwealth Games will be facilitated in every way, and the interests of travellers will be completely safeguarded. The road is in good repair and we have gone to much trouble and expense to ensure that water supplies will be available at depots that have been established. The Highways Department will have graders in the area to maintain the road's good condition. The efforts of the Government and the Royal Automobile Association will ensure that traffic can proceed smoothly and safely.

RIVER TORRENS FLOODING.

Mr. COUMBE: The storm on Tuesday and yesterday resulted in the River Torrens flooding for the first time in four years. Some time

ago damage was caused to properties adjoining the river in the Walkerville district and properties were disappearing into the river. Can the Minister of Works obtain a report on the damage caused by this recent flood and will he ascertain whether damage to properties has been aggravated by the unnatural deviation of the river because of the operations of sand-washing plants on its banks and also because of the activities of the East Torrens Municipal Destructor?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: So far I have not had any report from the Engineering and Water Supply Department on the damage. No doubt if there was any serious damage I would have heard of it. However, as the member has asked for information, I will call for a report to determine whether any material damage has been caused and whether the factors he mentioned have contributed to such damage.

COUNTRY POWERLINES.

Mr. QUIRKE: Can the Premier say whether the Electricity Trust lets contracts for the erection of electricity transmission powerlines and, if so, whether subcontracts have been a success and have expedited the building of the rural expansion electricity powerlines, known as the single wire earth return lines? Is the Electricity Trust short of staff to expedite the erection of these lines?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have not that information before me, but I will see that I have a report for the honourable member by next Tuesday.

COUNCIL MOIETIES.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about council moieties?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Railways, informs me that within the cities of Mitcham and Marion substantial areas of land are held by the Railways Commissioner in connection with projected railway development. The said land was acquired initially by the Housing Trust and, whilst held by the trust, was ratable. Rates paid by the trust were reimbursed by the Railways Department. Acquisition of the land took place piece-meal during a long period and included, in some instances, land surplus to railway requirements which has subsequently been developed by the trust or sold again. Land specifically related to the projects has now been transferred to the Railways Commissioner and, in consequence, has ceased to be ratable.

except for certain allotments which have been leased by the Commissioner. The terms of such leases include the provision that the lessee shall pay rates and taxes. It is the policy of the department to pay moieties to local governing authorities in respect of land which is revenue-producing. It is also the policy of the department to lease all land held for the various projects, in the category indicated, until such projects are implemented. For the reasons set out, the Commissioner is unable to agree to the payment of moieties or *ex gratia* payments in respect of land, held by the Railways Department in either municipality, which is not revenue-producing.

LEAVING HONOURS CLASSES.

Mr. HUGHES: Will the Minister of Education outline any proposals that the Education Department may have for establishing Leaving Honours classes in country centres in 1963?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I regret that I am not yet able to do so. As soon as I am, I will make an announcement.

WALKERVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to a request I made some time ago for the provision of new toilet blocks at the Walkerville Primary School?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member raised this matter during the latter part of last session or early this calendar year. It was fully investigated and it was decided that it would be advisable not to attempt to repair the existing toilet facilities but to replace them with a new toilet block, resited to give a better service. Plans and specifications for the toilet block are being prepared and funds will be provided this financial year to enable the buildings to be erected.

ENCOUNTER BAY WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. JENKINS: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked last week about the Encounter Bay water supply?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Engineer-in-Chief reports that the only remaining work to complete the augmentation scheme for the Encounter Bay water district is at the Goolwa pumping station where the contractor has yet to install pumping plant, and the department has to lay the suction main and construct the suction structure. It is planned to complete this work by the end of October next and the scheme should be in operation early in November.

MITCHAM CROSSING.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: About two or three weeks ago there was a nasty collision between a car and a "red hen" at the Wattlebury Road crossing on the main hills railway line at Mitcham. This collision merely highlighted the danger normally associated with level crossings and the particular danger at that crossing, especially because of the slope of the road down to the railway line. Will the Minister of Works refer to the Minister of Railways my suggestion that something be done to make this crossing safer? Will he also ascertain the general policy of the Railways Commissioner regarding level crossings?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

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

(For wording of amendment see page 182.)

(Continued from August 1. Page 357.)

Mr. BYWATERS (Murray): I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply as amended. I add to what has already been said by several members my expressions of sympathy to the families of deceased members of this House and another place. I do not think it is necessary for me to mention every name, as I know the people concerned will accept the sympathies of all members of this House. Congratulations have been extended to various people associated with this House and in the main I support these. However, I should like to refer particularly to the new member for Light who so capably moved the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I feel that in the honourable member we have a man who appeals to all members. He seems to me to be a very good type of person, and I think that he will contribute successfully to future debates in this House. From what I have been told of his past history, I believe he will always conduct himself in the manner to which this House has always been accustomed and in the best tradition.

Yesterday the member for Mitcham said that the amendment moved by the Opposition was purely a stunt, and others have said it too; but I deny that. The honourable member also said that it was moved to embarrass you, Mr. Speaker, but I refer members to the debate in this House last year on the Land Tax Act Amendment Bill. All members on this side of the House were not satisfied with the Bill and expressed themselves in no uncertain manner.

I remember what I said during the debate but, so as not to weary the House, I shall read only the last paragraph:

This legislation will be only a start because similar problems will arise in future. The Bill does not answer all objections and most members who have spoken have indicated features of the Bill that they do not like. The legislation will be of a temporary nature only, and it would be appropriate to refer it to a committee of inquiry.

I said that last year, long before it was suggested that there would be any attempt to embarrass you, Sir. Continuing, I said:

The Government should consider this because the proposals are causing concern not only to primary producers but to business people and householders who own small blocks of land. I support the Bill hoping that it will be satisfactorily amended in Committee.

As members know, the Bill was not satisfactorily amended in Committee, so on this occasion we are asking for an inquiry by a Royal Commission because of the concern felt throughout the State about the present system of land tax. I do not think anyone can deny that. I know, Mr. Speaker, that experts have tried to embarrass you, whereas we are only novices in this field.

Much has been said, not only in this debate but on other occasions, about our present electoral set-up. So much has been said that on this occasion the Government is worried about it. Since the election there has been much comment about it and the newspapers are very much on the side of the Labor Party in asking for a redistribution of boundaries. Wherever members go they hear this. Many people who previously took no notice of the situation are now most interested in what is to take place, and this applies not only in South Australia but in other States. Recently I visited other State capitals, where many people to whom I spoke referred to it. Last year the member for Adelaide read what was known as Psalm 151, an addition to present psalms written by a clergyman in my district. This man has since moved to Victoria, but he still maintains an interest in the political situation in this State, and he sent me what he has termed "a new song", which I should like to read to this House.

Mr. Riches: How about singing it?

The SPEAKER: Order! Singing is not allowed in this Chamber.

Mr. BYWATERS: I appreciate that, because I know how badly members sing the *National Anthem* at the end of the year. However, I shall recite the new song:

The people shall sing a new song—their hath marked on the ballot with a number. Their choice hath been counted. Wondrous truths hath been revealed unto them. The promises are weighed and found wanting.

How the mighty hath fallen. The Government crasheth to the ground. Sack cloth and ashes and Opposition benches should henceforth be their lot. But democracy vanisheth from the face of the earth.

The greater 56 per cent of the people ruleth not for they electeth not a majority to the House. There is loud wailing and gnashing of teeth. They cry unto North Terrace. Wherewith shall justice be done and righteousness heard?

Depart O ye 34 per cent from the comfort and ease of the Cabinet benches. Depart and rule us not. Prosperity vanisheth and the people riseth up and voteth Labor, Judgment falleth upon your heads. Henceforth repent and obey the will of the humble.

The workless, he is not lazy, he requireth only capital and it appeareth not. Neither doth it seem there shall be any relief except a new voice be heard and the Opposition becometh the Government.

Hear this and obey, O you who hath only the minority support. Let the will of the people be done. Let the worker find work and let the homeless find home. Grow food, cast abroad the water from the rivers and lakes and develop the land which lieth to waste. Feed the peoples of the world and much good shall come henceforth and for evermore.

The country towns cry out in the anguish of their pain. Industry cometh not to them and they faint. Their youths depart in the glory of their manhood to the great city to search for the work that is not and goeth astray.

Let the new day dawn and bring forth what the people desireth that they may shout and sing and clap their hands and make a joyful noise after a day's work.

The Hon. B. H. Teusner: Was that written by a minister of religion?

Mr. BYWATERS: Yes.

The Hon. B. H. Teusner: He had better change his calling.

Mr. BYWATERS: He feels competent to write it and I think he has expressed what is felt by many people, not only in this State but in many parts of the Commonwealth. At the last election we saw some changes in this House. I have already referred to the new member for Light. He only replaced a member on the Government side, one who unfortunately fell from grace in the Government's eyes. We on this side of the House have three new members. The members for Millicent and Unley have already contributed to this debate, and in my opinion they did

so very effectively indeed; and we will probably hear from the member for Chaffey next week. Each of those members has already contributed in other ways to the success of his district. It is pleasing to know that two of these new members were responsible for winning seats previously held by the Government, and I know those members will represent their districts well. Last week the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) said:

It is interesting to note that of the members of the Parliament that expired in March, 1956, half are not here today, either through death, retirement or defeat. This reflects on the toll taken of members by leading a public life.

In 1956, when I first entered this House, I was one of nine new members, but today only six of us remain; two of those members have died and one has been defeated. That is an example of the things that happen and the toll that is taken of members in this House; it is not altogether a permanent vocation.

I shall comment on one or two remarks made by the member for Gouger. I can only say that his speech was full of inaccuracies and half-truths. Yesterday the member for Port Adelaide (Mr. Ryan) effectively showed just how inaccurate it was, particularly his references to the Labor Party's action on the election of the Secretary of the Waterside Workers' Federation. He also spoke of his attendance at the Australian Institute of Political Science Summer School with his colleague, the member for Mitcham. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend that school, although I should have liked to do so. I have here the book to which the member for Gouger referred. Apparently the member for Gouger was happy to allow Mr. Hawke to say what he had to say on that occasion, without challenge, as was the member for Mitcham. It is interesting to note some remarks of the member for Mitcham on that occasion. In the discussion stage, after one of the papers had been read, he said:

I listened with the greatest respect to Professor Arndt's proposal for some kind of overall planning but I feel that there may be one fatal objection. He mentioned it but merely stated the problem without attempting to answer it. I refer to the fact that in Australia most people prefer three-year Parliaments.

I think that is adequately borne out. He went on:

This period is simply not long enough—as Professor Arndt himself acknowledged—to put into operation a four or five-year plan. I believe that President de Gaulle has a seven-year term, which makes it a good deal easier in France to obtain continuity. As a

practising politician I am acutely aware of the vagaries of the electors and I cannot believe that there will ever be sufficient courage or sufficient co-operation from either side in Australian politics to be able to achieve continuity.

Mr. Jennings: In other words, he wants another couple of years.

Mr. BYWATERS: We have had a Liberal Government in this House for many years. I do not know how much longer the member for Mitcham requires, but it appears from his remarks that he is looking for an extended Parliament.

Mr. Fred Walsh: The Liberal Party tried it.

Mr. BYWATERS: Yes, very much to its sorrow, as was proved some time later. The only thing I can think of is that the member for Mitcham realized that the writing was on the wall for the forthcoming elections, and that he thought it would be nice to have a few years longer.

Mr. Millhouse: That all sounds very interesting, but I assure you that those thoughts were absolutely absent from my mind.

Mr. BYWATERS: I am pleased to hear the honourable member's assurance on that point. However, I did note what the member for Gouger said on that occasion, and some of those remarks, too, were not truthful. The member for Gouger—and this is recorded in *Hansard*—said:

Let us consider a conference of the Australian Institute of Political Science held in Canberra early this year that was attended by Mr. Millhouse and myself. It was a non-Party convention at which invited speakers of various shades of political opinion spoke. One of the gentlemen who addressed us was Mr. Hawke, who I believe is an advocate of the Australian Council of Trade Unions. He is a most vitriolic and able speaker and it would appear that he was trying to create hatred in the community. Reference was made to the decline of income in country areas. He contended that this problem should be met by having fewer people in country areas. The speech will be printed in book form. What do members opposite say now about closer settlement? Do these members claim that the A.C.T.U. does not have much influence on the Australian Labor Party? We know very well that the decisions of the Federal Labor Conference are binding on all States.

I asked him at that stage what he thought of Mr. Bury, and he said that they represented opposite extremes.

Mr. Clark: Mr. Hawke was not representing the Australian Council of Trade Unions at that conference.

Mr. BYWATERS: No. I want to point out one or two of the things Mr. Hawke said on that occasion. The only references I can find in the book appear to have nothing whatever to do with what the member for Gouger would have us believe. Mr. Hawke, dealing with rural aspects, said:

Which leads directly into the second reason why in this society we have not a vague, general, but nevertheless helpful sense of community of purpose. And that is that not all organized political parties recognize the essential conditions of economic growth for Australia. The fundamental condition, of course, is that our expansion should be in terms of secondary and tertiary industries with greatly expanded rural production coming from increased productivity associated with a declining rural population.

Mr. Loveday: That is a little different from what we were led to believe.

Mr. BYWATERS: I can only go by what I can find in the book; perhaps a little later the member for Gouger might be able to read into something that is here what he claimed was said.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member for Gouger would be out of order in making a second speech on the Address in Reply.

Mr. BYWATERS: He could, by way of interjection, contradict what I am saying. Mr. Hawke continued:

This has, in fact, been the basic pattern of Australia's expansion in the war and the post-war period. This is recognized by the two major political parties in this country, however ineffectively in fact the Liberal Party may have operated within this basic conceptual framework. (I am not suggesting that the Australian Labor Party is without weaknesses in the implementation it has given and would give to this basic tenet.)

The Liberal-Country Party Government has, however, remained in office, a minority government, after perpetrating the economic blunders resulting in the human suffering to which I have referred, because it has received the support of a tightly-organized minority political group which categorically rejects this basic condition of Australia's economic growth. (And Mr. Francis really should remember this fact when he speaks of the increasing difficulty of Australian Governments being displaced!) This is the group, its meagre parliamentary representation reduced to one in the recent elections, with whom a leading speaker at this summer school is closely associated. I refer to Colin Clark; his actual association with this Party and its perverted programme for Australia was in fact manifested in the nonsense of which he delivered himself from this platform at the opening session of this summer school. And this is nonsense to which predominantly I referred in opening this discussion.

This is where the honourable member is getting confused.

The SPEAKER: I take it the honourable member is quoting all this?

Mr. BYWATERS: I am quoting from this book and interpolating my own words.

The SPEAKER: You are going to read the lot?

Mr. BYWATERS: Yes.

The SPEAKER: As long as you are quoting from it that is all right.

Mr. BYWATERS: Yes.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: Would it be appropriate, to save the honourable member's reading it, to have it inserted in *Hansard*?

Mr. BYWATERS: I will read it. It does not continue much longer. I know that the honourable member for Gouger (Mr. Hall) would like to know what is in this book, because he said he did not have it. It is here for him if he would like to read it afterwards. It continues:

The economic programme of this party—of Colin Clark—is one which sees Australia's development in terms of reduced development of, and dependence upon, secondary industries which should receive less and less tariff protection. Our population, which should be boosted by the appropriate migration policy, should be increasingly directed to the land—the economy of the peasant plots. This is profoundly absurd and dangerous. Indeed, the absurdity of this doctrine has perhaps never been better highlighted than by Colin Clark himself in the days when he knew the truth. Appearing as a witness in the 1938 Western Australian Basic Wage Case he said: "This decline in the number of primary producers is a world-wide phenomenon. It is difficult to find any country, except certain impoverished countries, in which the number of primary producers is increasing or has increased either during the last few years or, to take a longer view, for the last 30 or 40 years. The ratio of primary producers to the population has declined in every country except the Irish Free State where the population has been declining . . . It is a natural tendency and is a measure of the community's efficiency . . ."

That is as far as Mr. Hawke quoted anything relating to rural industry in his speech. If anyone can find in that any criticism of country people, as suggested by the member for Gouger (Mr. Hall), then his interpretation is different from mine.

Mr. Clark: That sounds rather the reverse of the argument put forward there.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Murray.

Mr. BYWATERS: Having said that, I add that I am extremely disappointed with the way in which the member for Gouger

tackled the debate. When he came into this House, he came in with the reputation of being a very well educated young man, and I expected from him something far better than we have been treated to in recent debates.

I now refer to the European Common Market, because this has been a subject of the debate that we have heard. One or two speakers, including the member for Gouger and the member for Rocky River (Mr. Heaslip), stressed just how the Common Market would affect particularly the member for Chaffey (Mr. Curren) and myself in relation to the falling off of sales on the British market through the termination of the present tariff protection, and the fear that is causing. The member for Chaffey and I are very much aware of the future of the canning industry, the dried fruit industry and other industries in our districts. We do not need to be told by members opposite what is going to take place: we are fully conscious of it. If these suggestions are made to try to make us feel that we do not know much about the position, then those making them are sadly misled. I feel their main objective was in relation to the proposed 35-hour week and the policy of the Australian Council of Trade Unions. They could possibly have had the same thought about increasing wages during that time. On both those grounds they are trying to create the impression that the primary producer will be hit by these things.

I wish now to quote, from the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission's Basic Wage Judgment, a statement by Dr. Coombs, the Governor of the Reserve Bank. This is the report of the Commissioners, who are referring to what he said in a debate when, in Western Australia, he spoke to the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, in Perth, on August 26, 1959. Dr Coombs said:

The tendency of prices to "creep" upwards in periods when total demand is not excessive and even when it is mildly deficient derives in part from the attitudes of people—those who make decisions in business and those whose passivity towards such decisions reduces the natural resistance to higher prices. Let us look for a moment at some of these attitudes and consider how far they are wisely based and in the interests of those who hold them.

Consider the pricing policies of industrialists and traders. No doubt some degree of competition prevails over a wide range of industry and commerce but there are degrees of monopoly and tacitly accepted practices which mean that prices are determined by management rather than by the market for a wide range of goods and that within significant margins producers can decide at what

prices their goods shall be sold. In these circumstances the policies of the management are important.

First, management appears to assume that increases in costs should and can be passed on—and so far as can be judged from the evidence available it appears to be broadly true that in Australia such increases in manufacturing and distributive industries can, in fact, be passed on. Whether this is due to a high degree of monopoly in our industrial structure, elements which are being increased by the current popularity of "take-overs", or to inadequately developed "price-consciousness" on the part of our consumers is difficult to judge. But it tends to make our industries less responsive than they should be to measures which by increasing productivity could reduce costs or alternatively avoid their being increased.

A similar attitude seems to prevail towards the results of improvements in productivity. In manufacturing industry, especially, there is a strong trend towards methods which reduce the unit cost of production—sometimes in quite dramatic terms. It is hard, however, to find examples of products which as a consequence are sold to the consumer at lower prices. Manufacturers in such circumstances will sometimes produce a better article at the old price—they will frequently produce a more elaborate article or one which is more expensively advertised or sold with more elaborate and prestige building services. The trend over recent years for the costs of advertising, packaging, and retailing to absorb an increasing proportion of the final selling price to the consumer is a clear indication of the industrialist's conviction that to reduce prices is not good business.

The report continues a little later:

Similarly we must face the fact that there are marginal producers, some of whom may be soldier settlers encouraged to go on the land by governmental policy.

It is apparent that the high costs of the primary producer are not borne out now by his remuneration or by the hours of work that the primary producer's employees are putting in. This is borne out by the costs that are passed on by the manufacturers of the articles the primary producer needs. This is forcing up the primary producers' costs. Dr. Coombs points out that this is not necessarily so when wages increase or when hours of work decrease.

Mr. Fred Walsh: Wages follow prices.

Mr. BYWATERS: Yes, in the main. Nevertheless this is used as the reason for prices increasing. It is entirely wrong, as Dr. Coombs points out in his report. The Government should examine the cost position and should take drastic action when excess profits are being made to the detriment of primary production. The European Common Market concerns all members greatly and is causing some disruption in the Liberal Party in

Canberra. There was a division of opinion in the Commonwealth Cabinet until a Ministerial head was chopped off.

Mr. Clark: There still is a division of opinion.

Mr. BYWATERS: I believe so. Many people in other countries are not firmly convinced on the Common Market question. We do not have to wait to see the effect of Britain's entry into the Common Market. The price for sultanas has already dropped heavily overseas, and that has happened without the Common Market's influence.

Mr. Quirke: It has had some effect on the drop.

Mr. BYWATERS: I do not think it has. What is causing the drop in prices overseas is the fact that in most countries primary industry is heavily subsidized. The English primary producer has never been so heavily subsidized as he has been since the war.

Mr. Nankivell: Not on sultanas!

Mr. BYWATERS: I am now referring to prices generally. Other countries can export much more cheaply than we can, despite our present tariff protection. This is borne out by an article in this morning's *Advertiser*. Under the heading "Less Trade with Sterling Area" the following appears:

Australian overseas trade swung away from Britain and the sterling area to a marked degree last financial year. This is disclosed in an analysis of Australia's overseas trade in 1961-62 by the Commonwealth Bureau of Statistics. According to the bureau's figures, sterling countries provided only 42.4 per cent of imports and took only 32.7 per cent of our exports. The figures in the previous year were 44.3 per cent and 43.3 per cent respectively.

The article has much more to say about the position. Our markets are dwindling in Europe and this is causing much concern and worry. We are all conscious of the parlous position of our fruit canning industry. Regardless of what the Common Market will do to us in the future I deplore the fact that we have been referred to overseas as a nation of squealers. This description has possibly been fostered by the visits overseas of Mr. McEwen and Mr. Menzies. We should be looking to our markets instead of waiting for Britain's entry into the Common Market.

In common with other members I am gravely concerned at the number of companies that are being liquidated. Many companies have ceased operations and many people have suffered as a result.

Mr. Quirke: What types of company?

Mr. BYWATERS: Many, but particularly electrical and motor companies. One man who worked for me, and who now lives in the district represented by the member for Eyre, wrote to me about an experience of his. He purchased a Holden station sedan for about £1,200. He traded in a Ford for which he received about £500. He paid the balance in cash and thought that the car was his. The firm he purchased the car from subsequently went insolvent and he received an account from a finance company for the full purchase price of the Holden. No allowance was made for his trade-in. Members can imagine his concern and worry. Other members have referred to the activities of the Adelaide Television Sales Ltd. which went insolvent and which, through fraud and dishonesty, had robbed people right and left. These things should not happen. A person should be able to go into a business house, pay cash for an article, and know that it is his, but the position is not so certain today, and much faith in business houses has been destroyed. Many legitimate companies are suffering as a result.

I think it is the Government's fault for permitting this. Our present company legislation is ineffective. Let us consider a hypothetical case. Two men—Brown and White—decide to set up in an electrical business. They have a few pounds between them. They purchase land for £1,000, erect a building costing £5,000 and stock it with goods valued at £2,000: they are in business. Over the years they build up good book debts valued at £2,000. They probably have an overdraft of £2,000 and they probably owe £2,000 to the various companies that supply them with goods. They have, in effect, £4,000 in liabilities and £10,000 in assets. They say, "Our business needs expanding. How will we do it?" While they are trading as Brown and White, if anything goes wrong with the business they are liable to their creditors. However, they decide to form a company and call it "Brown and White Company Limited". Immediately they do this the complexion changes. They take out two £1 shares in the business, and that is all they are liable for. If they become insolvent, that is the only claim that can be made against them. They put in assets worth £10,000 and goodwill valued at another £10,000 and, according to them, their assets are then £20,000. They advance £19,998 as a loan to the company, so they have a loan of £19,998. They then increase their overdraft, and the lending

authority believes that, because they have just bought a lovely new house and want a new motor car worth about £4,000, they are doing fairly well. They are more modest than the man from Adelaide Television Sales, who bought one costing about £11,000! They then want a yacht, already owning a racehorse or two, and before long they are in financial difficulties. Eventually they go into liquidation, and the only claim against them is in respect of the two £1 shares; people can whistle for the rest. They can claim as debtors to the extent of the amount they have lent to the company, although in effect they did not have it in the first place to lend—it was only a book entry.

This is what is happening, and limited companies were not intended to work that way. They were intended to provide protection for people who invested in genuine companies with genuine capital so that the investing public would not have to pay more than the amount invested if the firm failed. One can imagine how unfair it would be for a person investing £10,000 in a company to find after everything was wound up that he could lose everything he had because he had no protection. This provision has been abused, however, by rogues, some of them being known confidence men and racketeers, who have started companies with the express purpose of robbing innocent people. We know of cases where this has been done in this State; two men who were associated with a vending machine company are now serving gaol sentences, and the people who invested money in that company are much sorer and wiser now. The Government knows that these things are going on, and I believe there is an obligation on it to introduce legislation to correct these practices. This sort of thing is not new; it has been going on for several years, yet the Government has done nothing about the matter. Uniform companies legislation will be introduced in this House some time. It was introduced in other States last year, but it has not been introduced here yet. It was supposed to be introduced last year but, because of something the Government did not like, it has not yet been introduced. We do not know whether it will be introduced this year, but, if the Government does not intend to go on with that legislation, it should do something to protect these people.

I was interested to hear the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) refer to the Government's policy of contracting for Government works, but I cannot agree with his remarks.

Although the contract system works satisfactorily in some cases, in others it works to the detriment of the State. I was interested to hear the member for Burra (Mr. Quirke) refer to the contract system used by the Electricity Trust. I oppose this, as I believe the trust is not providing a service as good as it was when it did the work itself, and I have instances to prove this. When the trust did all the work, many more men were employed than at present. Also, companies that have never been associated with South Australia are being given contracts and, because of this, most of the money is going out of the State. This in itself may not be a real problem, but I think we should give South Australians as much work as we can to alleviate the unemployment position.

A firm known as Transfield, which is an Italian company operated from New South Wales, was given a £1,000,000 contract which, I think, could have been adequately covered by employees of the trust. I have nothing against this firm, as I believe it could be a capable firm. When the Premier has been questioned about this matter he has said that the contract system is cheaper by far than work done by day labour. I cannot agree with that, and he has not been able to prove with figures or facts that that is so. With the former system of day labour employed by the Electricity Trust, I believe it did a better job. Most extensions in my electorate were done in this way; the smaller extensions are now being handled by contract. In some instances the contractor puts in what is known as the dead wire and men associated with the trust must complete the work. At Mannum there are only four members in the gang. The gang has been depleted because of the contract system and, when there is a storm, the men are sorely pressed to do the work.

Mr. Loveday: Do the contractors always have to use skilled labour to do the work?
Mr. BYWATERS: No.

Mr. Nankivell: But the work has to pass inspection.

Mr. BYWATERS: Yes. I am pleased at this interjection. The trust has had to employ more inspectors to ensure that the work is carried out properly because in some cases it has been dissatisfied.

Mr. Loveday: Can't that inspection ensure absolute safety?

Mr. BYWATERS: It did not in one instance in Victoria, where the work was done in the same way. It was found some time after inspections had been made and there had been a breakdown that wooden pegs had been

used instead of steel pegs. This is something we will have to avoid. I am perturbed about the contract system because in places like Mannum, with only four men, the gang is expected to carry out the live wire connection, which leaves the town without proper service. I am receiving complaints from people everywhere about services, such as inspections, being behind schedule because of this, and I sympathize with the employees of the trust. The member for Torrens said the work could be done more cheaply by contract, and on this aspect I shall now read from an article that recently appeared in a newspaper about work done in New South Wales, where Government labour is used. The article, under the heading of "Public Enterprise in New South Wales", and written by Robert James Heffron (Labor Premier of New South Wales), states:

How Labor builds the big dams: The New South Wales Conservation and Irrigation Commission is one of the most efficient constructional authorities in Australia. Costs of the big projects it has carried out for the New South Wales Labor Government compare favourably with sums paid for similar jobs to private firms of world reputation. It cost £13,000,000 to build Glenbawn dam and at that expenditure it is the cheapest large earth-filled dam built in Australia. The figure of £13,000,000 which covers every penny spent on the dam is equivalent to 26s. 7d. a cubic yard of material in the embankment. Eucumbene dam, at Adaminaby, which was built by the Snowy Mountain Hydro-electric Authority, is slightly smaller than Glenbawn. It cost £16,500,000, exclusive of land resumption and township removal, equivalent to 36s. 2d. a cubic yard.

It can be seen that the Government-operated one is cheaper than the contract one.

Mr. Quirke: Are they both earth-filled dams?

Mr. BYWATERS: Yes, apparently. The report continues:

Eildon dam in Victoria cost £26,000,000 to build, or 39s. 2d. per cubic yard of embankment, but still 34s. 4d. if township removal and road and rail relocation are omitted. It exasperates me, in view of these facts, to hear people, usually our political Opposition, say that we should do all our State public works by contract. Here is an indication of the pattern of costs. The payment to contractors at Adaminaby was about £8,000,000 and at Eildon it was more than £19,000,000. Instead of wasting money the New South Wales Labor Government built Glenbawn dam on the day-labour system, cheaper than comparable dams built at least partly under contract. Let us look at the comparative picture. The Commission has done work at Lake Menindee. Gammell and Hickey and Utah Construction Company did work there under contract and the costs on each job were more or less equivalent. Recently the Government

let a contract to the Utah Company to dig an entrance channel at Lake Victoria, while the Commission continued with the Menindee Lake project. It is interesting to compare the costs of the company and the Commission. The Lake Victoria contract provided for a payment of 2s. 8d. a cubic yard. By contrast the Commission at Menindee was shifting the same type of earth and doing the same kind of work on the anabranch at 1s. 11d. a cubic yard.

I shall not weary the House further except to say that the report shows that New South Wales can do the work more cheaply. I shall now deal with New Zealand, where the Benmore hydro-electric project is now under construction at Otamatata in the South Island. This big project is being constructed on the Waitaki River which is fed by Lakes Tekapo, Pukaki and Ohan. These lakes, in turn, are fed from snow and rain falling in the Southern Alps, a high mountain range running almost the full length of the South Island. In October, 1957, the Government decided to go ahead with construction, at an estimated cost of £36,400,000. Benmore will be capable of generating more units of electricity than any other single hydro-electric project in New Zealand or Australia. The size of the dam places it in world class. It is as large as any earth dam in the Southern Hemisphere. The dam will contain 15,400,000 cubic yards of material, will have a structural height of 360ft., an overall crest length including intakes and spillway of 2,600ft., and a base width of 1,600ft. The intake structure will supply six penstocks, each 17½ft. in diameter. The head or vertical distance the water will flow from the intakes through the penstocks to the powerhouse will be 305ft. Each of six turbines will drive a generator of 90,000 kilowatts. Total peak output will be 540,000 kilowatts.

The lake formed behind the dam will extend some 18 miles upstream, will have an area of 34 square miles, or more than 21,000 acres, and will contain one and a half times the amount of water in Wellington Harbour. The power generated is to be transmitted to the North Island *via* a submarine cable under Cook Strait. Emphasis is placed on the fact that this is purely a New Zealand Government Ministry of Works project. No outside contracts or contractors have any part in it. In spite of an abnormally wet season, the work is proceeding smoothly, being, as at May, 1962, 18 months ahead of schedule. The cost, because of favourable progress being made, is now reduced to between £25,000,000

and £26,000,000, a very considerable saving for the Government. It is indeed a wonderful saving for the nation as a whole, as it will permit other pressing developmental works to be undertaken which would have had to be postponed owing to financial considerations. They have a work force of 1,000 men on the job, on which, till May, 1962, they had suffered only one fatality, and there has not been any industrial unrest whatever. On present indications it is expected that by the time the job is finished further savings on the original estimate will have been made.

The large fleet of vehicles used throughout the area use 4,000 gallons of diesel distillate and 2,000 gallons of petrol daily. These are just a few brief figures on this big undertaking, which makes me feel that our Australian Government, through its various departments, should seriously consider and examine the idea of emulating this method before handing out large contracts to outside firms who appear, from the foregoing, to wax wealthy from this generous form of hand-out without question.

I think this latter example shows just what can be done by Governments doing their own work and their own contracting: much money can be saved. I hope the Electricity Trust will consider this matter of contracting, because we must develop our electrical undertakings in this State more and more. I give the trust full marks for what it has done, particularly with the single wire earth return system in our country areas, but I consider that greater efficiency could have been achieved had day labour been employed. All this day labour would have been that of active union workers, working under proper conditions, and they would have been much happier in employment than out of work as many are today.

Recently I had the privilege of going through New South Wales and seeing some reserves there. I was astonished at the area under reserve so close to the city of Sydney. The large reserve only 15 miles out of Sydney is a place to which people can retreat for peace and quiet. This is something that we have provided to some extent in this State, but I consider we have not done enough. Last year the member for Barossa was successful in encouraging the Government to purchase an area near Humbug Scrub. I commend him for his efforts, because he certainly had to work hard to get the Government to accept his proposal. Now that it is an accomplished

fact the Government is proud of its achievement. Another area the National Fitness Council was interested in acquiring was the Kyeema prison farm—a large tract of heavy scrub. As it is handy to the city it is ideally situated. The Lands Department's proposal was to divide this area up amongst various farmers, and if that had been done it would have been lost for all time. It is clear that this area will greatly benefit the State. Here again, much talking was necessary before the Government would agree to the proposal. It agreed, and we give it full credit for that. It, too, is proud that it has retained that land. We need to conserve large areas for the future welfare of this State.

I mentioned in a question to the Minister of Lands (Hon. Sir Cecil Hincks) yesterday the position regarding the Deep Creek reserve on the South Coast. I know that the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. D. N. Brookman) in his district has looked at this area. Without having asked him, I consider that he must be impressed with this lovely great expanse of country but, unfortunately, some people would like to destroy these natural beauties. We have in that area some of our almost extinct fauna, and we want to preserve these for the future. This is a lovely area. I was pleased to hear the Minister of Lands say yesterday that he sent his departmental officers down there to get a valuation of it. I sincerely hope that the Government will not allow this land to slip from its grasp because, once it goes, it can never be reclaimed and can never be brought back to its present state. A large area has already been cleared and this is therefore lost, so let us not lose the little bit that is left. We shall need this area for future generations.

There is no doubt that in a country like Australia with its wide open spaces we should have more of these areas where people can get away from the hustle and noise that the member for Burnside (Mrs. Steele) referred to the other day, and enjoy a little solitude in some of these places. It was interesting to note in the Premier's announcement a fortnight ago that he referred to having passed over certain tracts to various district councils. This is a good thing and I commend the Premier for having done that. I hope he can find other tracts with which he can do likewise.

Some councils have claimed that they cannot develop the areas they have been given. I remember one referred to as The Gums, which, it has been claimed, the council cannot accept because it cannot develop the land. This area

could easily be left in its natural state because it is handy in a metropolitan area to have pieces of land, known to everyone and close to the city, so that they can be there for people going for a drive on a Saturday or Sunday or even on a week night to get away from all the noise and frustration they must endure during the day. So I trust that surveys of these areas will be made for, if that is not done, I am confident that the generations to follow us will criticize us much for having allowed these areas to slip away.

In association with the National Fitness Council, I have been the President of its Camps Committee. I think something should be done to develop camps more than has been done in the past in this State. I had the opportunity of going out to one of the camps of the New South Wales National Fitness Council. It has a large area in beautiful surroundings where it has modern camps. I asked them how they got the money for this, and they said they got it from the Government; the Government there sees a future in camping. That is a business proposition for the Government, and it is right behind it. It works through the Education Department, and trained teachers in physical education are also members of the Education Department. They help in the work of the National Fitness Council camps. Schools send children away to these camps during their school-time. While I was there at one camp, 200 schoolchildren were enjoying a week's nature study there. They were well looked after and had trained personnel to look after them, all belonging to the Education Department.

That does not apply here. We do not during school-time send any of our children away to these nature study camps. Besides encouraging nature study, these camps have a twofold purpose: they encourage these children to learn to live with other children, which is a good thing. This is one thing I was interested to hear the Director of the National Fitness Council in New South Wales and the Director in Queensland say: that they received money from the Loan programme; they were on the Loan allocation. That does not happen here. That is something which the Government could not because this is an investment. It would not lose by it: it would gain. The untold privileges and advantages created by people using those camps cannot be reckoned in terms of hard cash. Their buildings are still there and under the Loan programme this would be a worthwhile proposition. If we can improve

our camping facilities in South Australia, I think we should.

Some churches have developed good camps. I know that even some private organizations run camps, not so much in South Australia as in other States, but there is a distinct need for camping areas. This is borne out on every holiday when there is not a camp available anywhere in South Australia unless one reserves a camp early. I have known of people six months before their holiday trying to get a camping area for a school, but they have been unable to get one because they have been taken long before by someone else.

Mr. Riches: Many hire woolsheds.

Mr. BYWATERS: Yes, that may be so. I am not aware of that so much, but we do know that many of these camps are substandard. They are purely makeshift; they have no conveniences in them.

There are two fundamental points about a good camp; one is good accommodation and the other is good food. Good food can be taken to a camp. Water must be available but good accommodation and food are essential to a successful camp. Time was when it was said that people should rough it and sleep out in the open and on bare boards. It is better to sleep in the open than on bare boards or in unsavoury conditions. For these reasons, there is a need to build up the camps to make them of a better type. We, as the National Fitness Council, should have the funds available so that we could lead the way in camps. If we had £20,000 today, we could make a better camp of our Mylor site, an ideal site, which could be compared with camps in other States. The fitness reports coming in are not good. We realize that there is a need to develop our fitness. We know that we have the opportunities and the organization to do it; only the money is lacking. If the Government can consider these things and my plea that it should advance more money for camping in this State, it will be amply rewarded. It will be a good investment for the Government.

Mr. Riches: Does the Council give any thought to hikers' camps, as New Zealand has?

Mr. BYWATERS: Yes. We have considered it and in some instances, through youth hostels associations, we have available some places now. Most are old places that are, in the main, not of the best standard, but they provide a roof over the campers' heads. Most camps are equipped with running water, and their facilities are at least such that they

are able to get by. I feel that in South Australia our standard is not up to what it should be, particularly when compared with what they do overseas. Photographs show that some youth hostels associations' places overseas are really good. Some of our places, with money spent on them, could be improved and made much more attractive than they are. Facilities exist for hikers, but we need more.

Mr. Riches: Where are they now?

Mr. BYWATERS: We have a chain of them in the Adelaide Hills. We have one at Mount Lofty, another at Mylor and another at Lobethal. We had one at Norton Summit but, unfortunately, it has been closed. At Beachport, in the South-East, a house is available, and a fine camp will be established at Crystal Brook. I pay a tribute to Councillor Nicholls of the Crystal Brook Council who has undertaken the development of an area known as Bowman Park as a camping site. This will be available for hikers as well as for full camps.

May I now refer to a few district matters? Water supplies are the concern of most country members. I have pleaded for extensions of reticulated water schemes to various areas in my electorate and it is pleasing to note that the work done by the central committee in connection with the Tailem Bend to Keith scheme is meeting with success. The Minister of Works yesterday referred to the work on a pumping station at Tailem Bend, scheduled to commence soon. I hope that the position at Tailem Bend and Cooke Plains will improve as a result. The member for Stirling (Mr. Jenkins) referred to the Monarto people needing water, and I hope that the Government will consider that project.

The scheme for a main from Murray Bridge to Adelaide will benefit people *en route*. I look to this scheme to help people in the Callington area who have been long suffering. Their only supply, apart from carted water, is useless underground water that is high in salt and mineral content. They have to cart water even during the winter months. I hope that the proposed scheme will not be long delayed and that these people will receive the reticulated supply to which they are justly entitled. The Mypolonga settlement has been without a reticulated supply since its inception. This area has since come within the metropolitan milk supply area and consequently must comply with certain requirements. A continuous water supply is essential. Residents of this area applied for a supply and thought that it had been granted, but the

costs were higher than expected and the matter has had to be re-examined. I hope that the Government will press on with the proposal and that the Minister of Lands will see that it comes to a proper conclusion and that these people get water. Many of them can see the river from their holdings, but because they are not able to put pipelines across the Government land for their own schemes they depend entirely on the Government's putting in a scheme for them.

Some areas in my electorate are not served with electricity, but I am pleased that the Electricity Trust will extend supplies into the Mallee lands and that Claypans, Forster, Bow Hill and other isolated settlements will receive a supply in 1965. The people in these districts now believe that they are gradually getting facilities approximating those enjoyed in city areas. The road from Murray Bridge to Mannum has been beset with difficulties, because of various pressures that have been brought to bear. However, work is proceeding on the road and I hope that the Minister of Roads will note my comments because both councils are anxious to press on with the formation of the road in the winter so that it can be sealed in the summer.

Mr. Nankivell: Has all the land been purchased?

Mr. BYWATERS: Yes, and it is being fenced at present, but the grant has not come forward to enable the formation work to be done. The councils are anxious to complete this road, which is a dust bowl in the summer and terribly rough in the winter. The road from Mannum to Purnong is being gradually sealed by the Mannum Council, but the Marne Council has not yet been instructed to proceed with its work. This is an exceedingly popular area at week-ends as much of it is devoted to pleasure resorts. Councillor Kroehn, who resides there, is a man of vision. Although I do not agree with him politically I applaud him for the work he has done. He has provided look-outs where the road overlooks the river, including one where the Marne River joins the River Murray. He has done this at his own expense because he is conscious of the need for developing the area.

It has been suggested that a road should be provided from Blanchetown down the east side of the river, and this could link up with the Purnong to Mannum road, and could extend through to Murray Bridge. This would be a most attractive drive. Great progress is being made in this area with the planting of planned orchards and vegetable gardens. It is

an area with a future. Much of the future potential of South Australia lies in the River Murray areas, particularly in the lower reaches of the river which are close to the metropolitan market and which have easy access to the eastern markets that are now being supplied by some growers in the area.

The Murray Bridge adult education centre has grown beyond comprehension. When it commenced, had we thought that it would progress from a class 3 to a class 2 centre we would have been extremely happy, but within two years it has developed to a class 1 centre and has a total enrolment of 2,500. The enrolment is growing every term, but we are still using virtually the same facilities that we had when the enrolment was 250. This is not good enough. The Minister of Education has said that there is a big potential for adult education in South Australia, and he is sympathetic toward it, but little has been done in providing adequate facilities. Buildings have been erected at the high school, but little has been done in providing buildings specifically for adult education. The member for Gawler has been most interested about this matter and I was pleased to hear his statement, because I knew that it was borne out by facts. Gawler has waited a long time for a centre to be built, and Murray Bridge has also suffered in this regard. Although it is intended that this work shall be done, year after year passes but it does not reach the Loan Estimates. I appeal to the Minister of Education and his department not to neglect this need which is so pressing in my district—the need for proper accommodation for classes and for the staff operating the centre. The full-time principal's room is 8ft. x 8ft., which is not big enough, and the assistant's room is even smaller. They should have better facilities and, if it is not too late, I ask that an amount be placed on this year's Loan Estimates for this work.

For some time we have been promised a new high school at Murray Bridge. Last year it was placed on the Loan Estimates without a figure against the line. I hope it will be placed on this year's Loan Estimates, as the expansion has been great because of the advent of school buses bringing children from country areas and because children are staying at high school longer than they did previously. Temporary buildings have been erected which have completely obliterated the original brick building. Unfortunately, these temporary buildings tend to become permanent, and we hope that before long we will have a good high school in that area. I could refer to many other

schools in my electorate, but others wish to speak in this debate this afternoon.

Mr. HARDING (Victoria): I have much pleasure in supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply as originally moved. People in this State are proud of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Bastyan, and members are pleased that His Excellency opened this session of Parliament and with the Speech he made. This is probably the shortest Speech that I have heard since I have been in this Parliament. In his Speech His Excellency mentioned housing, water and electricity, and probably they were in their order of importance to this country. I congratulate Sir Baden Pattinson on the honour bestowed on him by Her Majesty. This honour is greatly merited because of the outstanding work Sir Baden has done in fostering education in this State.

I congratulate the mover and seconder of this motion. I believe the member for Light has a wonderful future in this House, and I join with others in expressing pleasure at hearing the wealth of information given by the member for Angas. Most outstanding in this debate has been the reference to the primary producer and his costs. In 1960 I spoke at length about this matter, about the problems facing primary producers and about the reasons why in all parts of the world the number of rural holdings was decreasing. The member for Hindmarsh mentioned only one State, but I shall give the figures of all States for the year 1960-61. In New South Wales there were 76,871 holdings, an increase in 12 years of 2,568. It is amazing that in Victoria the number should have decreased by 2,826 to 69,223, as I believe that State claims to have settled more men on war service blocks than have all other States on the mainland. In that 12-year period holdings in Queensland increased by 1,304 to 43,155; in South Australia by 601 to 28,711; in Western Australia by 2,168 to 21,922; and in Tasmania by 538 to 11,201. The Australian total of rural holdings was 251,982—an increase of 4,827. An article in the *Advertiser* recently stated:

About 832,000 disillusioned Americans left the nation's farms last year as rural population continued to dwindle. The rapid technological progress made since the Second World War is generally held responsible for wiping out thousands of small farmers. Associated factors are over-productivity of the prosperous minority and the rising cost of farm equipment. The census bureau in Washington estimated in mid-March that 14,803,000 people lived on rural farms in the United States in 1961, or about one person in every 12. Since 1940,

20,000,000 people, or 50 per cent of the farm population, have turned their backs on the land and joined the stream flowing into rapidly growing cities. Behind them they leave "agricultural ghost towns".

Today 53 per cent of American farmers produce only 8 per cent of the country's rural products. Most of these "bread-line" farmers are on marginal or worn-out land, and have been unable to grasp, or afford to put into practice, the new farm technology. Falling prices have also pushed them down the road to disaster.

South Australia is still ahead in one important aspect. Just as in the army one man in the front line means employment for seven to 10 other persons, so a successful farmer indirectly provides employment for probably 50 other people. It is important that we keep our people on the land. Having had a life-time of experience on the land, I believe that now is not an opportune time for land settlement. Ten to 15 years ago it was estimated by the Commonwealth and State Governments that it would take £20,000 to £25,000 to establish one settler on the land, whereas today it would cost £30,000 or £35,000 to settle a person on virgin land. We have other far more important and urgent projects at this juncture than trying to settle more people on the land. I maintain that it is the responsibility of this Government, with the aid of the Commonwealth Government, to keep on the land the people who are already there, rather than to put more on the land but have more flocking away to the city. I do not wish to reiterate what has already been said several times. All members know that our overseas funds brought Australia £1,071,000,000 this year, and that the rural contribution to that was £791,000,000. That was an increase of £91,000,000 over the 1960-61 returns.

I have mentioned costs, and with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I should like to read something on this aspect from an authentic source. I support some of the remarks of Opposition members when they say that not all this cost has been brought about by wage increases. An article in the booklet *Premium* states:

Australia's "cost problem" is something we are always hearing about; more often than not those talking about it come back to the theme that most of the trouble is due to the wage increases workers have been exacting. The table on this page suggests, however, that we will have to look beyond the simple claim that "it's all due to the workers" for a satisfactory explanation of our price record in the last decade. As the table shows, the International Monetary Fund's Index of wages for the three countries, Japan, Australia and West Germany, indicates even faster

growth in wages in Germany and Japan than in Australia over the decade ended 1960. In West Germany wages rose by 106 per cent and in Japan they rose by 124 per cent. In Australia, on the other hand, there was a more modest increase of 91 per cent. But when we come to retail prices the picture looks decidedly different. Obviously, however, one reason for our very much faster rate of price increase over the decade as a whole has been not so much the relative size of the wage increases we have granted to our workers, as our relative failure to raise productivity. The graph records the German performance in prices and productivity over the decade. Two things stand out. In the first place, German wages have risen very quickly.

The figures are interesting. The Australian wage increase was 91 per cent, and the increase in retail prices was 76 per cent; in West Germany the wage increase was 106 per cent, while the retail price increase was only 17 per cent; and in Japan the wage increase was 124 per cent and the price increase was 51 per cent. The report continues:

As we have seen from the I.M.F. figures, wages in Germany have risen noticeably faster than in Australia. Second, there has clearly been a very high rate of advance of productivity in West Germany during the decade. This rate of advance we have simply failed to match.

That is the problem. It is not how much we receive in wages, but how much we produce.

Mr. Quirke: How much we have to spend to live!

Mr. HARDING: That is so. Another big expense the farmer has to bear is the high cost of superphosphate. My superphosphate bill for 1960-61 was £1,400, and for this year it will be more. My account for petrol and fuels of all kinds last year amounted to £1,100, and my expenses for wages were £2,000, so needless to say there was no profit. That is the reason people are forced against their wishes to leave the land.

I am pleased to see that the Government is very conscious of the need for setting aside large areas in the South-East for flora and fauna reserves. About two years ago the Government set aside 3,000 acres for this purpose, and that has now been taken over. Fire breaks have been prepared all around this land. Only last week a deputation waited on the Minister of Lands, and as a result he has earmarked 5,800 acres in one block for a future flora and fauna reserve. That is very pleasing. I am proud to say that in my opinion the potential of the electorate of Victoria is greater than that of any other electorate in the State, and that it is a diversified potential. Everything is there in that electorate. There is intense interest in

boring for oil, and we are grateful to the Government for its assistance with the seismic work and for meeting some costs involved. As regards afforestation, the Government is preparing and hoping to plant up to 6,000 acres a year to keep ahead of what is taking place, and what is likely to take place, in the milling of *pinus radiata*. Victoria is an interesting electorate to be in. It is known as a very wet one—and Millicent is wet—but, if one notices the great areas of pine plantations, to substantiate what I have already said about the potential of the district of Victoria one will see there are more forests in my electorate than there are in all the other areas of South Australia; that is, more than half the forests of South Australia are in the electorate of Victoria.

The Woods and Forests Department's total holding is 273,281 acres. The total area held by private concerns amounts to 40,872 acres, making a total of 314,153 acres. When these forests were first planted they were planted around swamps and today the Woods and Forests Department, if it wanted to, could almost go through those forests and plant what was once permanent swamps. Later, I intend to speak about water in the South-East—surface water, sub-artesian water, and artesian water. I should like honourable members to remember then what I am now saying about the forests.

From reliable sources it is admitted that, with the planting of forests with radiata pine, until it reaches the age of 30 years those forests will absorb 14in. of water a year over the whole area. In other words, in the first year it would absorb practically no water but, by the time it reached maturity, it would probably be using 20in. of rain a year over the whole area. That means that it would absorb 635,000 gallons of water a year, or 1 lb. of dry matter or timber would require 300 lb. of water. So that water, even in the South-East which is very wet country, is essential to plant pines.

An estimated 40 acres of radiata pine forest provides employment for one workman. With the advent of a large paper pulp mill, the employment position could rise to one man for every 25 acres of forest. *Pinus radiata* timber is only just beginning to come into its own. The Housing Trust is using huge quantities of it for its houses, particularly for flooring and other purposes. I note that the latest use of it is for outside fences. Impregnated *pinus radiata* is used for posts, which are sawn on

four sides. It is also known that the Postmaster-General's Department is using this timber in a big way for telephone poles, and the Electricity Trust is using *pinus radiata* for its purposes. The Railways Department is experimenting with it, so there is a tremendous demand for this timber.

I should like to read a cutting from the *Stock and Station Journal*, which is as follows:

Radiata Pine telephone poles go to P.M.G. New-look telephone poles of decay-proofed Australian radiata pine will soon become a part of the roadside scene. The Postmaster-General's Department is taking delivery of its first major order of the new preservative-treated poles. The manager of Softwood Holdings Ltd., Mr. R. W. Page, said in Mount Gambier that the first consignment of an order for 3,000 30ft. poles had been shipped to Adelaide and Melbourne. This first major order followed a recent statement by the South Australian Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Mr. J. R. O'Sullivan, that treated pine poles would be used exclusively in the future. Mr. O'Sullivan commented that recent tests on these new pressure-treated poles showed they were as efficient as steel poles and showed an appreciable reduction in cost.

Referring now to underground water, I may say that the first conference on underground water took place in Sydney in June, 1959. It was attended by representatives of the Commonwealth and State Governments. While a more or less complete general picture of available and potential water resources of Australia exists, much remains to be done with regard to the location and development of subsurface supplies (artesian, sub-artesian and ground water) in view of their importance as the basis of settlement over large areas of the continent. The extent of the artesian basins, particularly the Great Artesian Basin, has been fairly and accurately determined, and the use of sub-artesian is extensive and more development is possible. So it can be seen that we have artesian and sub-artesian water in the South-East that is now being used. The shallower ground water supplies, however, particularly along the alluvial and coastal sand-bed areas, have not been investigated and developed to any extent except in a few localities.

South Australia has 120,000 square miles out of 670,000 square miles in the Great Artesian Basin. In the Murray Basin, Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia have 170,000 square miles. In the Eucla Basin, Western Australia and South Australia have about 68,000 square miles, while in the Pirie-Torrens Basin South Australia has some 4,000 square miles. Sub-artesian bores throughout Australia

number more than 200,000, with a daily free discharge exceeding 350 million gallons. The loss by evaporation and seepage is estimated at more than 90 per cent. Diminution in flows from these bores has emphasized the need to eliminate wastage as much as possible, and investigations have been made regarding wasteful methods of distribution of water by open channels and the careless use of water. From the point of view of the development and settlement of Australia as a whole, few subjects would be more important than underground water resources. Only 4 per cent of South Australia enjoys a 20in. rainfall or better. In the vast areas of low rainfall, water stored in the ground may, because of high evaporation, be the only continuous source of supply. Areas in which underground water exists should be planned and conducted as a whole if maximum results are to be maintained. The South-East of South Australia, in which the electorate of Victoria is located, contains shallow water in huge quantities and of beautiful quality suitable for irrigation of all classes of vegetation, either by flood or spray irrigation.

In view of the terrific development of this area by war service land settlement, the Australian Mutual Provident Society, and particularly by private enterprise—which is still continuing—I consider that a small Select Committee should be appointed by this Government to take evidence on the spot on all matters concerning the use and disposal of surface water, shallow water, sub-artesian and artesian waters. Fresh water is the life blood of this State and we, as a Government, are virtually committed by previous promises to drain much of this most precious asset by the most direct route to the sea, even without making many provisions for regulators on the drainage works.

In the South-East we have a wonderful supply of excellent quality sub-artesian water. The artesian water has not been explored but it has been tapped. Much water is running to waste into the sea, and I believe that a Select Committee should be appointed to take evidence on this matter. For months on end on my property I pump water at the rate of 200,000 gallons an hour for irrigation. If huge quantities are permitted to drain to the sea the artesian basin will be depleted and in time the value of the country will depreciate. If we can conserve that water without interfering with settlers we should do so. Almost 1,000 men have been settled on the land under the war service land settlement scheme, of whom

about one-third are established in the South-East on excellent cheap land. The land was purchased cheaply because it was subject to inundation, but drainage has overcome most of the problems.

Mr. Quirke: The regulators you mentioned earlier were envisaged in the original drainage scheme.

Mr. HARDING: As far as I can ascertain, only two regulators are envisaged but they have not been installed because the drain has not been completed yet. Indeed, the Eastern Division section has not commenced. The South-East countryside has changed appreciably in the last 15 to 18 years. It would not be recognized by any person who resided in the South-East 40 or 50 years ago.

The question of adding fluoride to our water supplies is a controversial issue. The Minister of Works, in reply to a recent question, said that less than one per cent of our water supplies were used for drinking purposes and that to add fluoride to our reservoirs would involve heavy expenditure. If we used our natural foods—and I put honey at the top of the list of natural foods—we would not need fluoridation. If we consumed more unprocessed foods (such as honey, oranges, fresh fruits, eggs, meat and whole meal bread) and less refined and specially processed foods (such as white sugar and white bread) it would be a far cheaper means of preventing dental decay. If we consumed 4 lb. of honey a year each we would not have any export problems. Some people eat 60 lb. of honey a year. That may seem a huge quantity for one person to consume, but statistics reveal that Australians consume, on a per capita basis, 120 lb. of white sugar annually. No wonder our dental bills go up! At present we consume 2½ lb. of honey each.

Mention has been made of honey marketing. Although the value of honey production to this State is between £1,000,000 and £2,000,000 annually, in many countries it is realized that as a pollination agent the bee is worth up to 50 times more to the country than it is as a gatherer of honey. This is especially so in California where the beekeepers rely more on their bees for pollination purposes than for honey production. Unfortunately, because of the cheap cost of sprays, many bee colonies are almost wiped out through the spraying of lucerne. With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I should like to read an article on pollination written by Mr. D. F. Langridge, Livestock Research Officer of the Victorian Department of Agriculture. This will interest producer

members and others in this House. The report, headed "Summary of Pollination Results obtained on Victorian Farms", states:

(1) White Clover: One grower of certified white clover seed averaged 35 lb. seed an acre over a period of some years on an irrigation farm in Goulburn Valley. In 1953-54 and 1954-55, bees at rate of one hive an acre were introduced and yields were 100 lb. an acre and 105 lb. an acre.

(2) Winter Nelis Pears: Shepparton irrigation area. All trees grafted with inter-pollinating varieties and bees introduced one hive per acre. Nine-year average yield 1,200-1,400 cases an acre. After bees introduced, yield increased to 3,500-4,000 cases. Seven hundred trees in the block. Bees show a definite preference for Packham pears over Williams. Actual counts showed Williams six bees, Packham 30 bees. Half tree caged with mesh to keep bees out, other half left open. At harvest open half loaded; only some dozen or 14 pears on netted half.

(3) Apricots: Shepparton irrigation area. Average yield 15 tons, never exceeded 20 tons from the block. In two years with bees yields have been about 33 tons from same block.

(4) Mustard Seed: Hamilton district. In same year, two crops compared—one with bees and one without. No bees—no seed crop fed off to stock. With bees—three bags an acre harvested and a good deal lost through shaking as crop was over-ripe when harvested.

(5) Lucerne: Murray Valley irrigation. Some indication of improved yields from use of bees, one hive an acre. Extraneous factors have unfortunately interfered with observations on this crop.

(6) Pumpkins: Metropolitan and Murray Valley irrigation. Controlled tests conducted by department have shown that number of pumpkin flowers (female) which set fruit is directly related to population of bees in crop. In our tests we were able to obtain a 95 per cent set of female flowers.

I understand that bees have been banned in the Barossa Valley, but I think the time will come when that district will be asking apiarists to return.

Mr. Laucke: At certain times of the year.

Mr. HARDING: Yes, I know bees are a nuisance when drying operations are being carried out. When I entered this House I, like the member for Barossa, was a strong objector to price control, but time has proved that I was completely wrong, as is shown in a letter from the Prices Commissioner in reply to representations by the Australian Primary Producers' Union. That letter, reproduced in *The Producer*, states:

(a) Retail prices of standard grade motor spirit at various world centres (October 1961). (Equivalents in Australian currency per Imperial gallon.)—Austral, 7s. 10½d.; Rome, 6s. 3d.; Hamburg, 5s. 8½d.; London, 5s. 6d.; Tokyo, 5s.; Wellington, 4s. 1½d.; San Francisco, 3s. 5d.; and Adelaide, 3s. 3d.

(b) Retail prices of standard motor spirit—Australian cities—Hobart, 3s. 5½d.; Sydney, 3s. 4½d.; Melbourne, 3s. 4½d.; Brisbane, 3s. 4½d.; Perth, 3s. 4½d.; and Adelaide, 3s. 3d.

Later the letter states:

(c) The following State-wide reductions have been effected by this department in the last five years: Standard grade petrol, 5½d. a gallon; lighting kerosene, 2½d. a gallon; power kerosene, 1½d. a gallon; distillate, 3d. a gallon; diesel oil, £3 11s. 6d. a ton; and furnace oil, £4 a ton. Similarly, the price of premium grade motor spirit, which is not controlled, has been reduced by 4½d. a gallon following negotiations between this department and the oil industry resulting from a continual review of the industry's figures. The aggregate savings by South Australian consumers as a result of the above reductions exceeds £10,000,000.

(f) Freight differentials: Over a period of 10 years when inland costs have been rising steadily freight differentials on motor spirit, power kerosene and distillate have been reduced on one or more occasions for each of the following areas—(1) Mount Gambier and centres radiating therefrom; (2) Port Pirie and centres radiating therefrom; and (3) Port Lincoln and centres radiating therefrom.

(g) The resellers' margin on standard motor spirit in South Australia is lower than that in any other State.

The editor commented that the figures indicated that the South Australian prices were the lowest in the world.

We are all pleased that we are shortly to have a Royal visit to this State. We may have differences of opinion in this Chamber from time to time, some in jest and some serious, but I think all members are pleased that Her Majesty is to visit us and will give her a warm welcome. Something mentioned yesterday about the opening of Parliament struck a discordant note, as I feel strongly about this matter. When Parliament is called together, at the end of the procedural guide issued to members appears the following request:

Members are requested to wear orders, decorations and/or medals (not miniatures) for the opening of Parliament.

The recent opening was a regrettable occasion. Country members opposite who were not given the "drill" came here in all good faith; some were not entitled to wear war medals but they had service medals. We noticed that immediately members returned from visiting Government House these members came into the House without their medals. I am most concerned about this, because I think Parliament in this State is on a very high plane and I hope it will be kept that way. I consider we have a great loyalty to our motherland; I think that is rightly so, and I hope it will never lessen, whatever

happens regarding the European Common Market. It is my opinion that, against British wishes—not from an economic but from a military angle—the country has no option but to become a partner in the Common Market. I do not think that Britain has any wish to ally herself with a nation like France which, although it is a wonderful nation in some respects, is not as stable as Great Britain. I regret that on the occasion of the opening of the last Parliament we had to witness such scenes as took place in this Chamber as well as outside. I consider there was a lack of understanding or unanimity between some members in this House and another place, because the Opposition in the Legislative Council paid homage—and rightly so—to the Governor, who is Her Majesty's representative. I have very much pleasure in supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. McKEE (Port Pirie): It is with considerable pleasure that I rise to support the Leader's amendment to the Address in Reply. I join with previous speakers in extending a welcome to new members. I offer my sincere sympathy to the relatives of former members who have passed on. I believe in giving credit where credit is due, and consequently I congratulate the Minister of Education (Sir Baden Pattinson) on the high honour recently conferred on him by Her Majesty. Like the member for Gawler (Mr. Clark), I believe that this honour is a tribute to everybody connected with the Minister's department.

At this stage may I say that I fully support the move to house four aboriginal families at Port Pirie. After all, we are born with equal rights in life, although some are born into better living circumstances than others. We have fostered thousands of migrants, so surely we can take care of a few old Australians. I am pleased to learn that the people who first showed concern in this matter are now willing to accept the will of the people.

Whilst I congratulate new members I should also like to congratulate the people of the Commonwealth, and particularly the people of this State, for the way in which they supported the Australian Labor Party at the recent elections. As a result of the overwhelming support, the A.L.P. today is a powerful, complete and efficient political organization. Members opposite know full well, when they look at the vacant seats around them, that their time is running out. Yes, Mr. Speaker, it will not be long. The scene is quickly changing. The people who over the

years have maintained political mastery over the workers are a dying race. I am proud to welcome the people who are joining our ranks because they desire an economic and social State. They are fed-up with the Government that can only offer promises that are never fulfilled; they are fed-up with the Government that has made so little effort to cope with the serious unemployment position that exists in this State today; and they are fed-up with the Government that supports monopolies and combines that indulge in restrictive trade practices. They no longer desire a Government that has allowed and assisted hire-purchase companies to fleece them left and right by forcing them to pay interest on money that they do not owe. The high rates of interest charged by hire-purchase companies have ruined the entire economy of Australia, and the time has come when the people want no part of a Government that supports this daylight robbery.

Mr. Speaker, His Excellency the Governor opened his Speech by saying that his Ministers had advised him to call Parliament together at an early date in order to afford an opportunity for discussion and determination of matters that might arise in consequence of the recent elections. Honourable members should take their minds back to April 17, when our Leader obtained leave to introduce a Bill to provide for electoral equality. This important Bill was considered by my Party and by most people of this State to be one of the most important issues arising out of the recent elections, and because Parliament had been called together at the direction of the Ministers to discuss these vital issues I and my Party believed that Government members were fully prepared to debate such a matter. The debate that took place on April 17, regarding the Government's undemocratic gerrymandering of the electoral boundaries, must have broken all records as the most one-sided debate ever to take place in any Parliament throughout the entire world.

Before the recent elections there were still a few people who believed that our State Parliament was a democratic institution, but most of those people would have been Liberal supporters. However, they, too, know differently today. Every adult person and most school-children today are fully aware of the Government's undemocratic gerrymandering of the electoral boundaries of this State. The Playford Government has suppressed the working people of this State for 30 years. While it has allowed monopolistic capitalism

to get firmly established, not only has it allowed it to drive small business to the wall, but the pastoral industry in this State today has fallen almost completely into the hands of monopolies owned by nine or 10 families.

The gerrymander is also the basis of centralization while it allows these monopolies to spread out over the country like a great monster to gobble up small businesses, farms, and small pastoral holdings. This is bringing about an alarming state of urbanization. People of the best rural types are today being forced to leave their farms and their country district and come to the metropolitan area to seek employment. Furthermore, this urbanization is more marked in this State than in any other State. Most of our population is in Adelaide. This urbanization is taking place all over the Commonwealth; our five capital cities are crowded with more than half the total population of the whole continent. Most people would agree that some effort should be made to prevent this state of urbanization if we intend to develop this country. Decentralization is important not only for the development of the country but also from the defence point of view.

Australia is the most sparsely populated country in the world. The greatest challenge facing us today is the challenge to survive as a nation. Another challenge is the rapidly increasing population of our northern neighbours. Hungry people naturally demand subsistence for their families and, if it is not obtainable in their own countries, they are inevitably forced to take it from others who have more than they need. So, for reasons of defence and development, our most urgent need is decentralization and, of course, population.

Unfortunately, the immigration programme has suffered a major setback because of the Commonwealth Liberal Government's economic policy. In fact, our immigration programme is quickly going into reverse. The migrants have suffered severely because of the Commonwealth Government's credit squeeze. Hundreds of migrants throughout this State have had their household goods and homes repossessed. In fact, the Italian Government has had to subsidize unemployed Italians in Australia.

Mr. Casey: Thousands are going back.

Mr. McKEE: Yes, and others cannot possibly be induced to leave booming Europe today. While the Minister for Immigration (Mr. Downer) was touring Europe, telling the people there that the grass was much greener

in Australia, organizations were busy raising funds for the relief of distressed migrants. While the grass may be greener in Australia, the grazing is restricted. I would say that it is out of bounds to the rank and file.

We can never hope to attract the right type of immigrant unless we can provide adequate employment, housing, and essential services. With the installation of bulk handling facilities, and no doubt other improved mechanized loading devices that will come with the completion of the reconstructed wharves at Port Pirie, it is feared that a number of waterside workers will be replaced by automation. I sincerely hope that this progress does not displace a single worker on the waterfront at Port Pirie. But we know from experience what happened at Wallaroo with the introduction of bulk handling there, and it is expected to have a similar effect at Port Pirie. I have heard from reliable sources that bulk handling and other improvements are likely to cause the displacement of more than 100 waterside workers. Although I wholeheartedly agree with the introduction of automation because it represents progress and removes much of the monotony from factory work and other types of strenuous employment, I believe it favours the employer by speeding up production, and thereby increases his profits, whereas the employee, too, should benefit by the advances made because of increased efficiency.

If automation is to be successful, it should not create unemployment. It should be in the interests of the investor's own profits and dividends that he should see that it does not cause unemployment. The application of automatic productive techniques in industry and their effect on the working people should have the closest attention of all, particularly the Government. Port Pirie is still suffering from the effects of the closing down of the uranium treatment plant, and any further unemployment that would cause people to leave the town would be a drastic blow to the economy of Port Pirie, particularly if a further 100 pay envelopes were forced out of circulation. I bring this matter to the notice of the House because of what happened at Wallaroo. This is happening also throughout the Commonwealth, and particularly in Northern Queensland because of automation in the sugar cane industry. The Government should watch this closely and every endeavour should be made to prevent the drift of people to the metropolitan area.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Are you against bulk handling?

Mr. McKEE: No. I wholeheartedly agree with bulk handling and automation of all types because, as I have said, it takes the monotony out of strenuous work. It increases profits, but I believe it should also reduce working hours. It should not put people out of work.

Mr. Fred Walsh: Unless the interests of the displaced workers are maintained.

Mr. McKEE: Exactly. The Government is not in a position to meet this situation, which has arisen too quickly for it. Instead of doing something to absorb the people who have been displaced, the Government has created an unemployment pool.

Mr. Hall: You say that profits are greater now under bulk handling than they were before.

Mr. McKEE: I am not concerned about that: I am talking about the speed with which wheat is loaded under bulk handling. People should be prevented from drifting from the country to the metropolitan area. Port Pirie badly needs a permanent industry to absorb the increasing number of jobless youths and young girls. This number will increase further at the end of the year when many more leave school. During the election campaign the Premier said that most new industries coming to South Australia were being established in the country and, prior to the election, the Chief Secretary said that by promoting a higher standard of living through housing and other amenities the Government had given Northern electors conditions previously undreamed of. Several of the houses built by the Government, particularly in Port Pirie, are now vacant. While conditions may be good for some, many are not enjoying the undreamed of conditions, particularly those faced with the problem of frequently moving from place to place seeking casual work as it becomes available. Husbands are separated from their wives and families for long periods; some are separated forever. I know of many young children who see their fathers only two or three times a year. Is it any wonder that the divorce rate is high and that the demand on the Government for social services for deserted wives and children is heavy? It is most important that a young and growing family should have the guidance of and the discipline exercised by a father. The Government should do everything possible to keep people together, not to encourage their separation. To overcome this

severe problem large industries making big profits should be made to accept their responsibility in developing the country by producing various parts of their manufacture in country towns where ample employment is available.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: How would you go about making them do that?

Mr. McKEE: I don't think they have ever been approached.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Do you mean that we should compel them to go to the country?

Mr. McKEE: No, encourage them to do these things. They would realize that they have a responsibility if they were approached properly by a responsible Government. Every effort should be made to keep families closely united, and men should be occupied in useful employment. If this can be achieved we will have a happy, contented and free people. During this debate some members opposite have experienced great difficulty in trying to explain the Government's policy. The member for Rocky River (Mr. Heaslip) did not even bother to try. He spoke at length about Wallaroo, but he was, understandably, unable to speak of the Government's policy, and I am sure that the member for Wallaroo would agree that Mr. Heaslip knows even less about Wallaroo than he does of his Government's policy. I suggest that if he is concerned about the welfare of Wallaroo—and I know he isn't—and has the slightest regard for the progress and welfare of the people in that district, as a Government member he has had a long time and ample opportunity to ask his Government (which has been in power against the will of the people for almost 30 years) to brighten up and give the people of Wallaroo a fair go.

Mr. Heaslip: The Government did provide a terminal at Wallaroo, didn't it?

Mr. McKEE: I come now to the member for Gouger (Mr. Hall). He was particularly pleased to be speaking from the Government's side of the House. He was also pleased that his Party received the necessary voting strength on the floor of the House. I advise him to make the most of it, because most people in this State are not pleased about his Party's occupying the Government benches and are most annoyed at the dictatorial methods used by the Government to remain in office after rejection by the majority of the people. The honourable member knows that the public no longer wants his Government. Were it not for the gerrymander the Playford Government

would have been out of office years ago. In fact, the Playford Government has won only one election by a majority of the people in its whole career. Any member of a Government that is prepared to hold office under those conditions is devoid of all principle. Later in his speech the member for Gouger was apparently bothered by his conscience because he admitted that some members of Parliament—and I presume he was referring to members of his Party—did nothing but merely state their policy. He said that nowadays it had become a matter of promises, not policies. That is the very reason why the people are fed-up and no longer want the Playford administration. He also said that the people must be told the true position and that they were not being told it at present. I agree with him on that point, and I also agree with him when he said, "We want a return to true politics."

He said that we must get away from promises that eventually can only bankrupt the State and the Commonwealth. When he said that, I thought he was going to tell the House what his Government would do about the serious unemployment in South Australia, say that his Government intended ceasing taking action against aged pensioners to recover hospital charges, foreshadow an award for rural workers, or explain some measure his Government intended to introduce to prevent restrictive trade practices or to control hire-purchase interest charges. The honourable member admits that his Government has only promises to offer, not policies. Judging from his fear

of Communism, which, of course, is being promoted by his own Party's policies, one is led to believe that he is more familiar with the junior branch of the Liberal and Country League, commonly known as the Democratic Labor Party. I come now to the "member for Safety Belts", the member for Mitcham, the highly rated legal brain of the crumbling Playford Government. He also lives in fear of Communism, as he has told us in this House; he is afraid of Communism.

Mr. Quirke: He needs to be, too.

Mr. McKEE: I am sure he will agree with me that he is afraid of Communism. If he is, he could, as an officer of the Commonwealth Military Forces, have gone to Korea or Malaya, where he would have had an opportunity to do some real fighting against Communism instead of talking about it in this House. Had he gone there to fight as a soldier, as did one of our members on this side, he would have been able to display some of the medals he spoke about so much in this Chamber today. The only member opposite who had anything to say about his district was the member for Angas. That is understandable, as he has not had an opportunity to voice his opinion or speak about his electorate for many years. I am pleased to support the motion as amended.

Mr. QUIRKE secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.13 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, August 7, at 2 p.m.