

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

Tuesday, August 14, 1962.

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

**QUESTIONS.****SEACOMBE HIGH SCHOOL.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I understand that inquiries are being made between the Education Department and the Housing Trust concerning a subdivided area of land on the south-western side of the Seacombe High School to provide for an oval. This land involves approximately 40 building sites, on which the grade would be about 1 in 20. To make it possible for the area to be used as an oval, it would be necessary to excavate about 12ft. on the high side, and the filling would have to be dragged to build up the low side by about 12ft. I believe the estimated replacement cost to the Housing Trust would be £3,500 to £4,000 an acre. There is a surveyed road between this section and the school boundary at the moment. In view of the desirability of having a high school built at Morphett Vale to assist in relieving the Seacombe High School enrolment, is it the intention of the Minister to support the acquisition of this land owned by the Housing Trust?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Members of the Seacombe High School Council and of the Parents and Friends Association and, I think, parents generally have been pressing the Education Department vigorously to purchase this property. The Superintendent of High Schools and the Property Officer of the department have entered into preliminary inquiries with the Housing Trust to see whether the land is available and, if it is, at what price and on what terms and conditions. However, it has not reached any final stage; in fact, it has not even come to my table yet so I am in the fortunate position that I do not have to give a decision either way, but I am grateful to the Leader for posing the problem, as this will give me some notice in advance and I will carefully consider the matter. I am, of course, anxious to assist all schools, particularly secondary schools, to have ample playing areas, but not at prohibitive prices; I would rather put some of the money into building new schools and further class rooms.

**FLUORIDATION.**

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Minister of Works' department made a decision, or has the Minister consulted the Minister of Health, regarding

fluoridation of the water supply, which, it is claimed, tends to reduce decay in teeth?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: This matter has been considered on several occasions and certain information has been supplied by the Engineer-in-Chief. These reports have been considered by Cabinet and I think I am correct in saying that my colleague, the Minister of Health, has also had discussions with officers of his department and that they have submitted reports to him, but no conclusions have yet been reached.

Mr. HUTCHENS: The member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) was noncommittal on his attitude towards fluoridation. In reply to that question, the Minister of Works said that no decision had as yet been made. Will he, before making a decision, have inquiries made in other countries of the world, where fluoridation has been used but has now been discontinued, to find out why it has been discontinued?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member referred to this recently in his speech on the Address in Reply. His remarks were noted with some interest and, as a result, I have no doubt that the Engineer-in-Chief, who is at present abroad, will inquire first-hand and seek information. A great deal of information (much of it, apparently, expressing opinion both for and against the proposals) has been received, discussed and considered. The protagonists of fluoridation are ardent in their support of it while its opponents are equally ardent and, if possible, more vocal in their antagonism to it. Investigations will be made.

**BRIDGES OVER RIVER MURRAY.**

Mr. HUTCHENS: Has the Minister of Works anything further to report about the possibility of having further bridges across the Murray after the Blanchetown bridge is completed? A question on this was asked by the member for Chaffey, who, unfortunately, is absent through illness.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have obtained a report from my colleague, the Minister of Roads, who advises that neither his department nor he has any knowledge of a report that "on the completion of the bridge at Blanchetown arrangements were to be put in hand for the construction in the near future of bridges at Berri and Kingston". The Minister states that obviously such bridges will be a highly desirable asset, but, beyond rough plans and estimates being made with a view to the future, it is most unlikely that any further bridges over the Murray can be considered at

present. However, the matter of improving the ferry service at Berri is receiving careful attention.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I understand that the Minister of Works has a reply to a question I asked on July 26 about the progress being made on the Blanchetown bridge.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes. My colleague, the Minister of Roads, informs me that all piles for the Blanchetown bridge have been constructed and approximately three-quarters of them have been driven. The concreting of abutments and three piers are practically completed and work on other piers is progressing satisfactorily. A number of pre-cast sections for the concrete girders have been cast and the girders for the first span have been assembled on the job.

#### PENOLA WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. HARDING: Has the Minister of Works a reply to a recent question I asked about a suggested water reticulation scheme for Penola?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have been informed by the Deputy Engineer-in-Chief that three bores are required in connection with the scheme for the Penola water supply. One of these, located in the school grounds at the corner of Cameron Street and Comaam Road, was drilled as a trial bore in 1954, and this will be included in the permanent scheme. The remaining two bores have been recently drilled and tested by the Mines Department.

The scheme was originally based on a pumping capacity of 8,400 gallons an hour from each bore, and tests show that this quantity is available. The elevated storage tank will have a capacity of 250,000 gallons and the scheme, when completed, will provide a supply for the new high school. There is provision in this year's Loan works programme for an expenditure of £30,000 and, subject to the availability of Loan funds for next financial year, the scheme should be in operation by the summer of 1963-64.

#### WHYALLA-ADELAIDE BUS SERVICE.

Mr. LOVEDAY: On July 18 I presented a petition from 4,954 electors of Whyalla praying that provision be made to enable a bus service to operate a daily all-road service between Whyalla and Adelaide. Can the Premier say whether the Government is taking steps to enable that prayer to be granted?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government has not taken any specific action

in connection with the petition that was presented here. Now that the honourable member has raised the matter for the Government to examine, I will inform him in due course of any decision Cabinet makes.

#### ENCOUNTER BAY WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. JENKINS: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about a rumour that the Electricity Trust was unable to supply sufficient current for the proposed suction pumps at Goolwa for the Encounter Bay water scheme?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Engineer-in-Chief reports that an application was made to the Electricity Trust of South Australia last December for a supply of electric power for the new pumping station at Goolwa. The Engineering and Water Supply Department has received verbal advice that sufficient power will be available from the present system to meet the requirements for the pumping station in November next.

#### SPRINGBANK ROAD BRIDGE.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: During the last few years I have made submissions and representations to the Minister of Roads about the reconstruction of the bridge at Springbank Road over the railway line at Clapham. Last October the Minister intimated that tenders were likely to be called for this work early in 1962. In June the Minister wrote me on another topic, but in his letter he said that plans were prepared for the reconstruction of the bridge over the railway line and the associated approach roads. However, since then I have heard nothing. Will the Minister of Works ask his colleague for a report on the matter?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes.

#### GREAT WESTERN BRIDGE.

Mr. RICHES: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent inquiry concerning the replanning of the main road through Port Augusta and the rebuilding of the Great Western bridge?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Roads, informs me that for the reasons given by the honourable member the department is investigating the proposal to locate the through road and bridge at Port Augusta further north than originally intended. As a considerable amount of work is involved in this investigation, results will not be available for some time.

### BARLEY MARKETS.

Mr. HALL: Has the Minister of Agriculture any information regarding markets for the coming barley crop?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I prefer to get a report on that question from the Chairman of the Barley Board, and I will bring it down as soon as possible.

### SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I believe that the Minister of Works has a reply to my recent question about safety precautions.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes. My colleague, the Minister of Railways, informs me that the suggestion to use reflectorized material on the sides of railway goods waggons is not new but has been the subject of investigation by railway officers throughout Australia. The use of Scotchlite tape, or a similar material, was actually tried out by the Victorian Railways Department some years ago, but it was found to cause confusion and hazards to shunting staff in railway yards. The material was therefore removed from the rolling stock. The suggestion was discussed recently at a conference of the Australian and New Zealand Railways Commissioners, and it was decided that the use of reflectorized material on goods trains was not desirable.

### RAINWATER TANKS.

Mr. LAUCKE: In South Australia it is necessary to conserve water by every possible means, and the importance of rainwater tanks in this regard is illustrated by noting that as at June 30, 1961, there were 163,900 dwellings in the metropolitan area and that, were each of them to have a 1,000-gallon tank which would fill at least twice a year, the saving on pumped water would amount to about 327,800,000 gallons. Can the Premier say whether Housing Trust houses are provided with rainwater tanks, and, if not, whether they will be installed to economize more keenly on the pumping charges that now operate on water coming to the city in greater volume each year through mains from the River Murray?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Housing Trust initially provided rainwater tanks, but I believe that that policy has been discontinued. If the trust provided tanks it would mean that the trust would build fewer houses because it would have to pay for the many tanks that would be involved. The Housing Trust has taken the general view that it is its job to build houses rather than to undertake water conservation.

### TRAFFIC LIGHTS.

Mrs. STEELE: Can the Minister of Works say whether the question of the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Dequetteville Terrace, Bartels Road and Flinders Street (Kent Town), has been considered by the Road Traffic Board or whether there is any likelihood of its being referred to the board, as this intersection constitutes a real traffic hazard and, at peak hours, a major bottleneck occurs?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will seek that information from the Minister of Roads.

### DRIVERS' REST PERIODS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Has the Minister of Works a reply from his colleague, the Minister of Roads, to my recent question about drivers' rest periods?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Roads, informs me that a committee of officers representing the States of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia prepared a report after investigating the question of hours of driving heavy motor vehicles, periods of rest for drivers and the issue of log books, licences, etc. The report referred to was submitted to the Australian Transport Advisory Council at its meeting held in Darwin on June 12 and 13, and the council recommended that action should be taken as soon as possible to provide for the carrying of an officially issued single uniform log book by long distance transport operators as recommended by the committee. The council endorsed the report in principle, but observed that in some areas special conditions applied, particularly in relation to hours of driving. The council further agreed that the committee, augmented as might be necessary, be asked to again implement the proposals in relation to problems associated with implementation, and the extent to which uniformity of driving hours could be achieved, and it is understood that a meeting of the committee will be held towards the end of September for this purpose.

### AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL.

Mr. HARDING: The Agricultural Council met recently in Perth. I understand that the Minister of Agriculture could not attend that meeting. On the agenda were such topics as the banned export of stud merino sheep, the stabilization of the egg industry, and honey export marketing. Will the Minister obtain a report on these matters and bring it down to the House?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: All those matters were on the agenda of the meeting.

and were dealt with in various ways. Although I could give the honourable member some information now about the deliberations at that meeting, I think it would be better if I obtained a prepared report for him.

#### OPALS.

**Mr. LOVEDAY:** Has the Premier a reply to my recent question about a report on the opal industry?

**The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD:** The Director of Mines reports to me that the report is well advanced but will not be finalized for several weeks. Immediate action is being taken to station one Mines Department officer full-time at both Andamooka and Coober Pedy opal fields. In addition to looking after departmental requirements, these officers will be appointed special constables to assist in maintaining law and order. Certain amendments to the Mining Act to deal with particular problems of the opal fields have also been recommended.

#### PORT WAKEFIELD ROAD.

**Mr. HALL:** Can the Minister of Works, representing his colleague, the Minister of Roads, ascertain when the Highways Department intends to reconstruct the Port Wakefield Road, starting from Gepps Cross?

**The Hon. G. G. PEARSON:** I will ask for a report on that matter.

#### CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

**Mr. CUMBE:** My question concerns the Adelaide Children's Hospital, which is situated in my electorate. For some time, hardship has been caused to parents, who have regularly to take their children to the Outpatient Department of this hospital, in the matter of fares and travelling expenses. Following representations, has the Government come to any decision about assisting these parents?

**The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD:** The honourable member was good enough to let me know that he was interested in this matter and asked how the representations were faring. I have now the basis of a decision that has been made. The Board of Management of The Adelaide Children's Hospital has agreed to accept the offer of the South Australian Government to reimburse the hospital for moneys paid to parents for travelling expenses in bringing their children to the Outpatient Department for continued treatment. This payment will be made to widows, invalid pensioners, and all other necessitous cases who can show a medical entitlement card or certificate from the Children's Welfare Department, Aborigines Department, or the Commonwealth Social Services Department.

The plan is to reimburse to parents fares for themselves and their children on public transport, and this also applies on privately operated transport on routes where no public transport is available. This will apply only to cases where treatment is not available at the local hospital if the patient is resident in the country, and where cases have been referred by a doctor to the Children's Hospital. The scheme will commence immediately and the hospital is ready to meet genuine requests for assistance. It will be of great benefit to people in difficult financial circumstances who are required to travel to the hospital, which is provided with modern equipment and appliances not available in rural areas, and where members of the honorary medical staff are highly qualified and experienced specialists to give an opinion and carry out the necessary treatment.

#### RAIL STANDARDIZATION.

**Mr. SHANNON:** I noticed with interest the Leader of the Opposition's comments on the Premier's proposal regarding the standardization of the Broken Hill to Port Pirie line. On reading the Leader's published statements, it appeared to me that he was making a 50/50 approach to the matter: he supported the Premier's proposal in some ways, but on the financial side of it—

**The SPEAKER:** The honourable member cannot debate the question.

**Mr. SHANNON:** I should just like to explain my question, with your approval, Mr. Speaker, and that of the House. The Leader made it appear that the financial impact upon the State's finances would be such as to embarrass part of our programme in South Australia. Does the Leader favour the Premier's proposal to standardize the line between Broken Hill and Port Pirie (which obviously would give a tremendous fillip to secondary industry in South Australia, something which I imagine he would be interested in), or does he consider that the State should not embark upon this project because of its financial implications?

**The SPEAKER:** Does the honourable Leader desire to reply?

**Mr. FRANK WALSH:** No, Sir.

#### STUDENT TEACHERS.

**Mr. FRANK WALSH:** I understand that student teachers are reimbursed for all fares in excess of 2s. a day. If this is so, can the Minister of Education say whether the student teachers are reimbursed on a five-day week basis or whether claims are calculated and paid on a monthly basis?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I am not sure of the exact details, but I will let the Leader know tomorrow.

#### FIRE BRIGADES BOARD.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice): How much was paid as levies to the South Australian Fire Brigades Board by each contributing local

government body, for the financial years 1956-57 and 1961-62 respectively?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Chairman of the Fire Brigades Board has advised as follows in respect of contributions paid by corporations and district councils in areas in which the Fire Brigades Act, 1936-1958, applies for the financial years ended June 30, 1957, and June 30, 1962:

	1957.			1962.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Corporation of Adelaide . . . . .	32,592	9	4	42,192	16	3
Corporation of Port Adelaide . . . . .	12,026	4	0	15,407	4	0
Corporation of Port Pirie . . . . .	5,990	6	8	7,526	8	11
Corporation of Gawler . . . . .	1,641	3	8	2,121	16	6
Corporation of Port Augusta . . . . .	325	4	11	452	18	9
Corporation of Kapunda . . . . .	247	3	7	361	18	8
Corporation of Glenelg . . . . .	1,036	1	9	876	2	7
Corporation of Brighton . . . . .	629	19	0	677	8	7
Corporation of Marion . . . . .	1,661	19	9	2,341	3	1
Corporation of Moonta . . . . .	205	19	7	273	0	6
Corporation of Kensington and Norwood	371	18	11	498	4	11
Corporation of St. Peters . . . . .	328	2	8	347	12	9
Corporation of Burnside . . . . .	1,373	4	8	1,587	5	10
Corporation of Payneham . . . . .	360	5	10	528	14	1
Corporation of Campbelltown . . . . .	267	16	2	627	4	9
Corporation of Kadina . . . . .	171	4	5	491	18	10
Corporation of Unley . . . . .	1,140	19	0	1,782	14	5
Corporation of Mitcham . . . . .	1,238	14	3	1,629	15	0
Corporation of Thebarton . . . . .	497	6	11	524	6	11
Corporation of West Torrens . . . . .	1,669	4	6	2,179	8	1
Corporation of Henley and Grange . . . . .	428	11	7	772	11	2
Corporation of Wallaroo . . . . .	199	8	7	236	5	1
Corporation of Burra . . . . .	173	8	10	299	0	6
Corporation of Mount Gambier . . . . .	524	13	5	819	4	2
Corporation of Murray Bridge . . . . .	180	0	1	266	11	10
Corporation of Renmark . . . . .	297	0	9	569	19	1
Corporation of Prospect . . . . .	734	1	11	967	10	2
Corporation of Walkerville . . . . .	224	9	9	251	15	2
Corporation of Enfield . . . . .	1,740	14	6	2,408	4	3
Corporation of Port Lincoln . . . . .	257	18	11	606	17	1
Corporation of Woodville . . . . .	4,338	5	5	7,152	2	0
Corporation of Naracoorte . . . . .	203	15	2	370	12	0
Corporation of Hindmarsh . . . . .	2,621	4	10	3,560	17	8
Corporation of Peterborough . . . . .	180	0	1	496	5	7
Corporation of Victor Harbour . . . . .	348	12	7	288	15	7
District Council of Tanunda . . . . .	190	15	4	268	13	10
District Council of Balaklava . . . . .	164	15	9	214	11	8
District Council of Mallala . . . . .	36	17	4	45	11	5
District Council of Berri . . . . .	190	15	4	452	18	9
District Council of Eudunda . . . . .	197	6	6	247	0	6
District Council of Loxton . . . . .	184	6	8	507	3	7
District Council of Encounter Bay . . . . .	41	11	4	60	3	0
District Council of Port Pirie . . . . .	—	—	—	403	12	6
District Council of Salisbury . . . . .	—	—	—	11	8	2
Garden Suburb of Colonel Light Gardens	172	3	6	139	12	3
Whyalla Town Commission . . . . .	253	12	3	652	8	6
	£77,660	0	0	£104,497	18	11

#### BAROOTA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY.

Mr. RICHES (on notice):

1. Is the Electricity Trust of South Australia in a position to offer a supply to prospective consumers at Baroota?

2. When is it anticipated that a supply will be made available?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Chairman of the Electricity Trust of South Australia advises as follows:

1. The trust is not yet in a position to make an offer to applicants for electricity supply at Baroota but expects to do so by December, 1962, as already advised.

2. Construction work would start within six months of acceptance of the offer.

**TORRENS ISLAND POWERHOUSE.**

Mr. RICHES (on notice):

1. How is the proposed power station for Torrens Island to be financed?
2. Will the Government be called on to provide any portion of the capital expenditure?
3. If so, what is the amount of expenditure proposed by the Government?
4. Is it proposed to refer this project to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report?
5. If not, is there any organization, apart from the Electricity Trust itself, to which country districts may submit, for investigation, suggestions regarding sites for the new station?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The replies are:

1. Out of the normal sources of finance for the trust, viz., in part from direct public borrowing, in part from advances by the Treasury, and in part out of the trust's internal funds such as depreciation and other provisions and profit.
2. Yes.
3. The amount is, as yet, indeterminate, as it will depend upon the cost, which is not yet capable of accurate assessment, and the amount of public borrowing and internal funds available to the trust at the time.
4. No.
5. No. The trust is charged with this responsibility, and all *bona fide* submissions received by the Government are referred to the trust.

**UPPER MURRAY HOUSING.**

Mr. Bywaters for Mr. CURREN (on notice): How many applications for rental houses are held by the South Australian Housing Trust in the towns of Renmark, Berri and Barmera, respectively?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Chairman, South Australian Housing Trust, reports:

Renmark . . . . .	13
Berri . . . . .	17
Barmera . . . . .	6

**MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS.**

Mr. TAPPING (on notice): Is it the intention of the Government to introduce the Alpha-Numero system for the registration of motor vehicles?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The present numbering system will meet the State's requirements for many years and, accordingly, no policy decision has been made by the Government on this matter.

**OSBORNE PRECIPITATOR.**

Mr. TAPPING (on notice):

1. Would it be practicable for the Electricity Trust of South Australia to install a precipitator at Osborne power house?
2. If so, what would be the approximate cost?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Chairman of the Electricity Trust of South Australia reports:

In view of the age of the Osborne power station, it would not be a practical proposition for the trust to install precipitators at Osborne. Precipitators would cost at least £1,000,000. It is not in accord with trust policy to expend large sums of money on power stations where a large part of the useful life has already expired. With the commissioning of a 60 MW machine and oil-fired boiler at Osborne in 1965 and 120 MW machines at Torrens Island in 1967, the present Osborne plant will be used only as peak load plant.

**BEDFORD PARK SITE.**

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. When is it proposed that the University of Adelaide will occupy the Bedford Park hospital site?
2. What are the plans for accommodation for the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department when the University of Adelaide occupies the Bedford Park hospital site?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The replies are:

1. The University of Adelaide is planning at present on the basis of intake of students at Bedford Park in 1966, but the actual date and the time of occupation of the site for purposes of building will depend upon the recommendations of the Universities Commission regarding the timing of the financial programme to be shared by the Commonwealth and the State. The Commission has not yet made its detailed investigations but will visit the State for that purpose during the latter part of this year.

2. The future accommodation plans of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department include:

- (a) A remand home—this is to be built on departmental land at Glandore.
- (b) A junior boys reformatory—this is to be built on departmental land at Campbelltown.

(c) A senior boys reformatory—this is to be built at Magill, replacing entirely the present main building on that site. Each of these proposals has been recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works. The exact date of occupancy of Bedford Park by the University of Adelaide is not known. However, it would be practicable for the buildings shown above to be completed before the university is likely to need the site for students.

#### POLICE BUILDINGS.

Mr. HUGHES (on notice):

1. What is the estimated cost of the new police buildings at Moonta?

2. What is the estimated cost of the new police buildings and courthouse at Kadina?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Director of Public Buildings reports:

1. Moonta, £11,000.

2. Kadina, £39,000—excluding a separate new residence which will be erected under the control of the South Australian Housing Trust.

#### PORT LINCOLN GAOL.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the final report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence, on Port Lincoln Gaol.

Ordered that report be printed.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY.

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

(For wording of amendment see page 182.)

(Continued from August 9. Page 481.)

Mr. RICHES (Stuart): From the point of view of the people of the north of South Australia, the most important reference in His Excellency's Speech was in paragraph 13, which dealt with negotiations that had been taking place from time to time regarding the standardization of railway gauges in this State, and particularly the line between Port Pirie and Broken Hill. The destiny of many towns and of many people is wrapped up in railway policy. Indeed, any decision that affects the future operations of railways in these areas, where transportation is an essential service provided over great distances and, in some cases, with great difficulties, is a most important issue. If gauges have caused confusion in the past, that confusion has been nothing to the confusion caused by statements made on both a State and Commonwealth basis recently about this issue, which is of first importance to the

people of the northern areas. I defy anyone to be able to understand from statements that have been made just where the State is going and what the Commonwealth attitude really is.

At the beginning of my speech I make a plea that the representatives of South Australia, not only here but in the Commonwealth Parliament, will express themselves on this matter as the occasion presents itself—not only here but in the Budget debate now taking place in the Commonwealth Parliament. I believe the greatest step towards standardization of railway gauges was made during the term of the Chifley Government, when Mr. Ward, the Minister appointed specially to deal with this problem, called to assist and advise him men of the calibre of Sir Harold Clapp and charged them with the responsibility of thoroughly investigating the need for the standardization of gauges and of propounding a policy. It is a great disappointment to me that after 20 years the plans decided on then have not been advanced as they might have been. Had Labor remained in office in the Commonwealth sphere, I believe the line between Broken Hill and Port Pirie would have been standardized before now. I remind the House that the Labor Party is pledged to standardize that line. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Calwell) categorically said in Port Pirie that if Labor were returned to office it would honour the agreement entered into between the two Governments; the Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Whitlam) gave the same undertaking to the people of South Australia. According to newspaper reports, South Australian Liberal members of the Commonwealth Parliament have been briefed by the Premier about this matter, and one of them has been travelling around the State with the members' standardization committee. If he and his colleagues would stand in their places in the Senate when the Budget was before that Chamber and submit a motion expressing disappointment, and if it were sent back because it contained no provision for work to be done on this line, I think the numbers would suggest that South Australia's voice would have to be listened to. I suggest that the issue is right with them at this juncture.

One senator brought the Wentworth committee to South Australia, and it went right along this line. This was not the first time that Mr. Wentworth was here or the first time he had advocated standardization of gauges. The committee received V.I.P. treatment everywhere it went, and it issued statements that led the country press and people to think that

not only was the proposal to standardize the line from Port Pirie to Broken Hill almost an established fact but also a standard gauge railway would be constructed from Port Pirie to Adelaide and from Port Augusta to Whyalla. We are at the stage where we are wondering if anyone takes any notice of this committee and whether any value can be placed on its opinions. I imagine that the next few weeks will demonstrate how much it is convinced that the line is necessary. I believe it is essential in the interests of northern districts and of the metropolitan area that this line be converted concurrently with the line from Kalgoorlie to Perth if we are not to be excluded wholly from the Western Australian market. I have tried consistently over the last three years to advocate this, and I hope we shall not lose sight of this complete scheme. Some statements (to my way of thinking, extraordinary) have been made about this matter.

In this House three weeks ago the Premier said he had reason to believe that the Commonwealth Government was now amenable to the idea of building a railway line between Whyalla and Port Augusta. For the life of me, I cannot understand anyone being enraptured over that proposal until the break of gauges has been straightened out. I do not think anyone would use it, or that it would be economical to do so, while there are as many breaks of gauge as we now have.

The same day I asked the Premier whether any negotiations had taken place or any discussions had been held regarding standardizing the line between Port Pirie and Adelaide, and the Premier replied that that proposal had not been discussed. What good purpose would a line between Whyalla and Port Augusta serve unless it could come through to Adelaide on the one gauge? Is it envisaged that the whole of the Whyalla and West Coast business would be transacted with the Eastern States through Broken Hill?

So we have had these confused statements from time to time. We have been told that standardization would have been achieved if the State had accepted proposals submitted by the Commonwealth Government a couple of years ago. I have tried to elicit from the Premier a full statement of the proposals that have been discussed. Members will recall that last year we were prevented from debating this matter because a court case was pending and any discussion would have been *sub judice*.

The member for Gouger, during this debate, made a statement confirming some of the rumours that have been circulating. I have been told outside this House that the Commonwealth Government was prepared to agree to the standardization of the line between Port Pirie and Broken Hill a couple of years ago, but was not at that stage prepared to standardize the lines to Quorn and Wilmington, and that the State countered with a request that the whole of the agreement that was entered into between the two Governments should be honoured in its entirety and that any standardization should incorporate those lines as well. If any such offer was made by the Commonwealth Government it has never been disclosed in this House and we have not had an opportunity to discuss or debate it. The member for Gouger said that this work had been held up because the State insisted on these side lines. That is the first statement we have had, and apparently he got his information from a Party meeting. He did not get it in this House! He expressed the hope that the State would forget about these side lines, as he called them, and press on with the standardization of the major line from Port Pirie to Broken Hill.

It is a source of great regret to the thinking people of this State—and I think to all members deep down—that the Commonwealth Government has gone back on the agreement it entered into to finance the standardization of railways. If any country needs up-to-date transport facilities it is Australia. It is a great pity that the builders of our railway lines in the early days did not see eye to eye and that the lines were not built with the one gauge then. A committee, under the chairmanship of Sir Harold Clapp, was established and it had the support of all the States. An agreement, supported by members of this House and by members of the Commonwealth Parliament, was entered into. However, when an agreement is ignored, development is delayed, established industries threatened because nothing has been done to meet the situation, and Governments have flagrantly disregarded the will of Parliament and the people, then it is a matter for serious reflection and serious consideration. I hope that when the Commonwealth Parliament meets and the Senate discusses the Budget our South Australian senators, who have some responsibility to this State as well as to their Parties, will be found standing in their places speaking for this State, particularly as last week the Premier



expressed his disappointment and surprise that no provision was made in the Commonwealth Budget for this work.

Mr. Ryan: Labor senators have raised this matter in the Senate in the past.

Mr. RICHES: But the Labor senators on their own are not sufficient. If the South Australian Liberal senators stood with them they would express a major opinion, which is what I plead for. I think it would be gracious if the Premier were to have a higher regard for Parliament than he seems to have for this House. I admit that the situation can be explained away, but it is an act of discourtesy, almost to the point of contempt of Parliament, when questions are asked of the Premier on an issue as vital as this and an answer is deliberately withheld and a statement made over a television channel that same night.

Mr. Jennings: It is probably recorded beforehand.

Mr. RICHES: I express this regret because I feel it rather deeply. Last Thursday I asked the Premier whether his Government would consider building this line—and I did not use the expression “going it alone”—as a State enterprise irrespective of the Commonwealth Government’s attitude. I invite members to examine the reply I received and then to look at a statement made over the air the same day to see whether Parliament is being given the place and regard it should have. Having said that, I will give full marks to the Government if it goes on and builds this line. I am reminded that in the early days when it was found necessary to construct a line between Broken Hill and Port Pirie, South Australia went ahead and built it, and that was before we had a Commonwealth Government to go to at all. Why is it that we cannot do these things today? I believe that we can. Any move to have this line standardized will receive my wholehearted support.

I join with other members who have expressed sympathy to the relatives of members who were formerly with us and who worked and served with us but who are no longer here. Some of the members who welcomed me when I first approached the steps of this House have passed on. I believe I retained a friendship with them from that day until their end. The friendships we make here last and we feel a sense of loss when they are eventually broken.

I congratulate those who have been congratulated by previous speakers, but I shall not enumerate them. However, I pay a tribute to two persons who, for the work they did in the

district I represent, are entitled to a special word of praise. They worked hard and exerted an influence for good and sacrificed themselves in serving our people. I refer first to Miss Kath Simmons, the Superintendent of the Umeewarra Mission. I do not know of any work rendered by any individual that represented greater self-sacrifice. I do not know of any work that represented a higher level of service than the work this great lady did among the people whom she loved so much. It was a fine thing to see so many of our aboriginal people at her graveside paying a last tribute of respect, and acting as pallbearers. I have always felt that Miss Simmons taught me more about our aboriginal friends than has any other person I have met—and I suppose that is only to be expected from one who has spent forty years living and working amongst them, solving their problems with them, and at all times having their regard and respect. Not all people who work amongst the aborigines have their respect: it does not come automatically. I know of some men who were prepared to give everything they had, who left their homes, took their goods and chattels and went to work amongst the aborigines, but they were not there very long before they wanted the right to carry a pistol; they were fearful of living amongst them when drink came on the scene. But there was never any suggestion of that nature with this lady and, if anybody had ever attempted to interfere with her in her work, he would have had to answer to a good many people. I know for a fact that she received no salary and that the few shillings that the Education Department paid her for teaching the children were not accepted by her but were spent on the children under her care.

Times have changed in recent years and I should like to think that she could have lived this year out to see the change being brought about by the new policy of the Government in that this year, 1962, is the first year that the Education Department has accepted the responsibility for educating the aboriginal children of Australia. That is a major step forward. I give credit to whoever is responsible for it. It has been long asked for but has not been a problem of easy solution.

At Port Augusta the policy pursued is being carried out at present in its every phase. We have people coming in from the bush, still observing native tribal custom, still living in wurlies. We have along with them people who have been used to living in a house and have been encouraged to look after a house

and a garden. We have the next stage where houses are being provided in the mission. Then we have the final and third stage where houses are being provided in the town and where the aboriginal people are being assimilated and are living as members of the community. This has its problems. There is a different problem at every stage of development. There is almost a different problem with every age group. There are problems that time will not permit me to enumerate this afternoon, but they are real and not evident to anybody except those who live and work amongst the aborigines. I should like to pay tribute to the late Mrs. Birdseye. She was from Port Augusta and over many years had served the people of the West Coast and the outback. I am pleased that a move is afoot to recognize that service in the suggestion of the erection of a cairn at Lincoln Gap.

I support the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition and congratulate him on having produced it at this stage of the proceedings. There is great unrest throughout the country because of the incidence of land tax. I believe in unimproved land taxation. It has been the basis for taxation, as the member for Gawler (Mr. Clark) has stated, over the centuries but in South Australia in recent years we have had a hotch-potch system that is not unimproved land taxation, where we have moved amendments to the principal willy-nilly and where nobody is completely satisfied with the operation of the collection of taxation, as we understand it. The primary producers are unhappy, as was so eloquently put by the member for Burra (Mr. Quirke) in the figures he gave the House in his speech on the Address in Reply. That situation was realized by members on both sides last year but it has been advocated by this side persistently ever since it was taken to the people prior to the elections and was a plank in the policy that the Leader of the Labor Party took to the people. It is one of the issues that the people voted and expressed themselves on, asking for a review of the incidence of land taxation.

Land tax is also the basis of assessments for most councils. I believe that an inquiry at a high level into the whole of the incidence of taxation for council purposes is long overdue. Members have heard me before on this matter in this House. Is it right in these days that the whole of the finances of local government should be collected from the people who own the properties in the municipality? They are the only people who are at present taxed for

local government work. Is it right that that section of the community should have to bear the whole of the expenditure? There is not a council in the State that is not facing financial difficulties. No town or city could be established if it had to be financed by the means provided by the Local Government Act, and that has been so for a quarter of a century. If we said to the people of Woomera, "You provide the roads, footpaths and essential services by charging a rate on the owners of the land", we would get nobody to do it. We could not do it at Leigh Creek or Radium Hill; we cannot do it at Whyalla, Port Stanvac or Elizabeth. We have to get outside revenue in or local government cannot be financed. That is the truth of the matter. When the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited realized that amenities had to be provided at Whyalla to hold the work force, what did it do? It made a gift of £100,000 this year to provide the facilities that other centres have to provide out of rates and the local purse. It did it because it realized that it was not possible to finance this by taxation. It is a great pity it did not give the money to the council and duly recognize the services rendered in that regard, but that is its business. My only point is that the revenue being drawn from one source might well be regarded as being outdated in these days when revenue is being derived from sources other than the land. That is one question I think should be inquired into, and the inquiry is long overdue. I suggest that we would not have a city at Port Stanvac if we told the people who were going to live there that they must rate themselves in order to provide roads, footpaths and essential services. We could not finance it and no developing area in the State could finance it.

Mr. Coumbe: What is your suggestion?

Mr. RICHES: If I knew the answer I would not be asking for a committee to be set up. That leads me to my next point. The amendment is not being discussed, and indications are that it will not be voted on in accordance with its merits. Despite proud statements just after the elections that everything introduced into this House would be voted on according to its merits, there has been no indication that consideration has been given to this amendment on its merits. On the contrary, what do we find? The Premier has indicated outside—he has not yet spoken in the debate—that he will regard this as a vital issue and a vote will be taken on the survival of the Government. It was stated that this amendment was designed as a trick

to embarrass you, Mr. Speaker, but how can members say that? How can the Speaker be embarrassed by being called on to vote for an amendment, the terms of which he has supported year after year. Indeed, he advocated this proposal before the elections and again over the air after the elections, and he has advocated it in wheatgrowers' meetings since the elections. How can it be an embarrassment to him to vote for a motion which is in almost the precise terms of a request and a suggestion he made in this House last year? The embarrassment is not with the amendment, and it is not with this side of the House: if there is any embarrassment it is because of the limitation imposed on you, Mr. Speaker, by the Government in demanding your vote on every issue that it declares to be a vital one. That is where the embarrassment lies.

Mr. Frank Walsh: Where does a vital issue commence and finish?

Mr. RICHES: Any issue the Premier declares vital is a vital issue, and he can demand a vote at any given time. He has only to say, "This is a vital issue; the fate of the Government will stand or fall on this vote," and he has the numbers. There has been some criticism of members of the Labor Party because we introduced a Bill for electoral reform on the first day's sitting of this Parliament. Here again was a measure introduced in keeping with the undertaking we had given to the people. They were perfectly honourable and proper steps for a responsible Opposition to take, but not even one member opposite was prepared to discuss the measure. The Premier spoke to the Bill, but did not discuss its merits at all; he adopted the same attitude again: he said, "This is a vital measure; the fate of the Government stands or falls on it," and that was the issue upon which the vote was taken, not the issue of electoral reform at all.

The attitude that I adopt in this matter is that the people were asked to express an opinion. I place a high value on the expressed view of the people. They were asked to go to the polls and to say whether they wanted the Liberal Government to continue in office or whether they wanted another Government to take over, and I think they overwhelmingly demonstrated that they did not want the Liberal Government. At the same time, because of the peculiar manner in which the State has been divided into electoral districts, they were not able to give the Labor Party sufficient strength to govern either. I think we should have got some completely independent authority

to re-adjust the electoral boundaries, and then gone to the people again. I am not arguing that we had a right to govern: I am arguing that the Liberal Party had no more right to govern than we had, and if there was any mandate at all from the elections that mandate was against the Government and not in favour of it. The *Advertiser*, on the front page on March 6, summed up the results of the elections and told the people what possibly could happen. That article stated:

If Labor won 19 seats and the Liberal Country League 18 seats, Labor could claim a moral right to form a Government on the grounds that the Ministry had lost support and that Labor was the stronger Party.

Now listen to this! It continued:

But moral right would not prevail if the Government reached an understanding with the Independents.

I think that is precisely what happened. The people voted the Liberal Party out; this House voted it in. In the course of that process, in some instances the will of the people was not heeded. The Premier stated at the time that as an alternative to forming a Government he could resign and call upon the Labor Party to form a Government (by which I suppose he meant a caretaker Government), but he went on to say that if that were done there would be people in the districts of Burra and Ridley who would be disfranchised, and that was not fair. Where do those people stand today?

Mr. McKee: They are disfranchised in Burra.

Mr. RICHES: What about the feelings of the people in both of those districts, which voted against the Liberal Party? I was going to say "the Playford Government", but I have been reminded that it was claimed that it was not the Playford Government but the Liberal Party that was defeated. The Government, having been defeated, immediately set about, against the expressed will of the people, to ensure themselves in office by negotiation amongst members of Parliament.

I wish to refer now to some of the actions leading up to that situation. I did not intend to refer to what happened on opening day, but I believe that the challenge has been thrown out to us and that it is incumbent upon me, at any rate—and I want the House to know that I am speaking for myself only in this matter—to give reasons why I did not go with you, Mr. Speaker, to Government House on opening day, and to explain why I do not approve of what happened in this House on that day. I came into this House at the same time

as you, Mr. Speaker, and over those years I have learned to respect and admire you for the magnificent work you have done in advancing the interests of the wheatgrowers of this State in calling them into an organization to enable them to speak with a coherent voice. I do not think anybody has rendered better service in that regard than you have, and I gladly pay you that tribute. I hope that over those years there has been a mutual respect and understanding and a friendship from constant mingling each with the other. I appreciated very much that when I was so ill a few weeks ago you were the first to send me a message of cheer. I say that because I want it clearly understood that what I am about to say now has nothing to do with you personally, Mr. Speaker. However, I feel free to criticize several of the political aspects of your election to the position that you now hold. In saying that I want it clearly understood also that while you occupy the office of Speaker you will have my respect and I will gladly pay to the Chair all the respect it is entitled to. I have no doubt about your ability, Mr. Speaker. I have been impressed by the ability you have shown since you have been occupying the Chair; but I did not accompany you to Government House on opening day because I did not approve (and I still do not approve) of what took place on that day.

The member for Burra said that the refusal to go to Government House was a repudiation of the oath we took on opening day. That was an unfortunate statement, and he withdrew it on reflection. The member for Gouger said that the electors of his district were disgusted with the attitude of those who did not go to Government House, and that it was an act of discourtesy and disloyalty to His Excellency the Governor. As I understand it, the visit to Government House is dealt with under Standing Order 17, which provides that the Speaker after election goes with a deputation to Government House to inform the Governor of his election. It is not a courtesy call: it is made to make a demand (supported by the members accompanying him) on the Governor laying claim to their undoubted rights and privileges. In the circumstances leading up to the election, I was not prepared to indicate my support on that occasion, and I shall give the reasons. In all of his work on behalf of wheatgrowers the member for Ridley has had to fight members sitting on the Government benches. He has always had to wage a battle with the Liberal Party in

power, and he has always had the support of members on this side of the House. I think every wheat silo in South Australia is a monument to the Wheatgrowers Federation and the work done by the honourable member, and he achieved these things in the face of opposition from the people who have opposed them through-out the length and breadth of the State—the supporters of the Liberal Party. I will come in for the member for Rocky River—

Mr. Heaslip: I will come in now and say that the Wheatgrowers Federation has had nothing to do with silos in South Australia, whereas you say it has.

Mr. Shannon: The present Chairman of the Public Works Committee brought in the report that established them.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Stuart.

Mr. RICHES: I have a memory. I did not say the Wheatgrowers Federation actually built the silos; I said it initiated the agitation for silos and carried on the agitation in this place in the face of opposition from the member for Rocky River and all the members of the Liberal Party.

Mr. Shannon: I was chairman of the committee that recommended this.

Mr. RICHES: I know that.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. RICHES: What about the debate here and your remarks about it?

Mr. Shannon: I brought in that report that started the thing going. I recommended it.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Stuart.

Mr. Shannon: The member for Stuart could not be fair.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Stuart.

Mr. RICHES: If that interjection came from another source I would resent it, but I am happy to accept it from the honourable member. Nobody was more vigorous in his opposition to the Bulk Handling Bill than the member for Onkaparinga, and nobody was more vigorous in his advocacy than the present Speaker, who in all negotiations was opposed from the Liberal benches. The member for Rocky River tried in this debate to imply that the opposition came from this side of the House, but if he reads the speeches again he will find that, although we viewed one aspect of the matter with some uneasiness, Labor has always supported progress and anything that will lift a burden from the backs of workers.

These words are not mine; they are the words of the late Leader of the Opposition (Mr. O'Halloran). The member for Wallaroo was concerned about labour being displaced at Wallaroo. He voted for the Bill but asked that its operation be delayed, if possible, until the Government could say that alternative work would be provided for the men displaced. We would like to see that happen everywhere where mechanization is introduced in industry.

In all his advocacy for the man on the land, the people whom the Speaker has had to fight have been the people behind the Liberal Governments. He has had the support in his electorate and in this House of the whole of the Labor vote, for what it has been worth. In his own electorate he was opposed by Liberal candidates and in nearly every election (if not all) he depended on the Labor vote to be elected. It was the people who were opposed to the Liberal Party who returned the member for Ridley election after election, just as they returned the member for Burra election after election.

Mr. Heaslip: He always supported the Government, too.

Mr. RICHES: He did not always support the Government.

Mr. Heaslip: He always did on vital matters, as he is supporting it now.

Mr. RICHES: Because of the interjection and because of the statements of earlier speakers, I shall now refer to one vital issue that arose when he was not in the House to support the Government. In 1939 the member for Ridley was battling for the wheatgrowers of this State and experiencing with them the difficult times during which many of them called meetings of creditors. Because of that, the Liberal Party declared his seat vacant and stopped his salary, and he had to go to the Governor with a petition of rights and apply to the Supreme Court for a restoration of his rights in this House and of his salary. The Supreme Court did not give a complete answer, and referred the matter to this Parliament. When it came before Parliament the Premier moved—

Mr. Shannon: Who was the Premier?

Mr. RICHES: Sir Thomas Playford.

Mr. Shannon: No, he was not!

Mr. RICHES: Would the honourable member like me to read his speech?

Mr. Shannon: You will find that Sir Richard Butler was Premier.

Mr. RICHES: The honourable member will find that it was the present Premier who moved that the seat of the member for Ridley be declared vacant. It was the most extraordinary situation that I had ever seen in this House; the debate became so heated that the then member for Stanley (Mr. Melrose) rose on a point of order and said that he had been physically threatened by the member for Burnside. In those days the member for Burnside was Mr. Abbott, later Sir Charles Abbott, and he was one of the members who crossed the House to vote in favour of the Leader of the Opposition's amendment to the effect that the seat of the member for Ridley was not vacant. The member for Ridley was unable to speak for himself and there was no voice to be heard in his defence. In those days the Labor Party did not have any special regard for the member for Ridley, but, as in these days, it stood for justice. It had the seat declared validly occupied and the salary restored.

Mr. Jenkins: How many Labor members were there in those days?

Mr. RICHES: I cannot remember; I think about the same number as there were Liberals.

Mr. Shannon: You are referring to the Premier's first Parliament. I think there were nine Labor members, 15 Liberal members and 15 Independents.

Mr. Clark: You had better look it up to see whether that is correct.

Mr. Shannon: I can remember it because I was the Whip.

Mr. Lawn: Apparently justice depends on the number of Labor members there are in this House.

Mr. RICHES: Members may be interested in the division list on that particular vote. Those who voted for the Leader of the Opposition's amendment were Messrs. Abbott, Bar-dolph, Christian, Connor, Craigie, Davies, Duncan, Fisk, Fletcher, Illingworth, Lacey, Langdon, and Macgillivray, Hon. J. McInnes, Messrs. McKenzie, McLeay, Michael, Neass, and O'Halloran, Hon. R. S. Richards, Messrs. Robinson, Smith, Stephens, and Thompson.

Mr. Shannon: Where was Riches in that?

Mr. RICHES: He was paired with the Hon. S. W. Jeffries. Those who opposed the amendment were Mr. Dunn, Hon. G. F. Jenkins, Messrs. Lyons and McDonald, Hon. M. McIntosh, Mr. Melrose, Hons. T. Playford and R. J. Rudall, and Mr. Shannon. Time passes and the circle is completed. In 1962, even

though the people of Ridley demonstrated at the polls that they did not want the Liberal Party, the member for Ridley forsook those who supported him at the polls and those who supported him here in order to make a bargain with the Government in the election of the Speaker. That was quite legal, but I think it was one of the things that the *Advertiser* might have had in mind when it spoke of a moral right disappearing if an arrangement could be made. Of course, any such undertaking needs two sides to it, and I do not think that the Government Party comes out any better in this matter than the member to whom I have just referred.

We have heard nice words from the member for Mitcham about sinking principle for expediency. How would he describe the sacking of a perfectly good Speaker and humiliating him, as he was undoubtedly humiliated on the opening day, by making him refuse without explanation the nomination to continue in the high office that he had graced for many years with dignity, with a spirit of service, and with the respect of the whole House? Was not that sinking principle for expediency in order that the Government could hold office? I think that the House might well examine what happens to Speakers nominated by the Liberal Party in this House. I remember, after the election, a statement in the press attributed to you, Mr. Speaker, in which you delved back into history and explained that the first duty of the new Parliament would be to elect a Speaker who would indicate to the House his reluctance to take the Chair. You said that this practice dated back to the time when a Speaker feared for his life: his head could come off.

Mr. Clark: That has happened here.

Mr. RICHES: That has been the record of Liberal Speakers. I do not know about the "hot seat" that you referred to, Mr. Speaker, but you said that on this occasion there would be special reluctance to accept the position because it would be a "hot seat". I do not know about that, but there is a real danger that when the Party machine has no longer any use for you, your head will come off. That has been demonstrated in this House more than once. The previous Speaker was a good Speaker. He was nominated to continue in office. As was pointed out by the member for Whyalla, there were precedents for that nomination, but he was not allowed to accept nomination, and we are entitled to know why. Was it because of any fear that he would not be able to carry out the duties efficiently and

impartially? We think not! Was it because of calls on his time or because of his health? I believe that the duties of Chairman of Committees are much more exacting throughout a Parliamentary session than those of Speaker. So, without explanation, a Speaker had to step down and another Speaker was elected in his stead. That is all right if that is the way members like things to be done, but it is not all right in my book and it is not the way I like things to be done. I did not support it, and I did not go to Government House to indicate that I did support it.

In His Excellency's Speech is reference to the decentralization of industry. This is still regarded as a matter of major importance to many people in most parts of the State.

Mr. Clark: Would you consider that there is a spirit of hysteria about it?

Mr. RICHES: I will come to that. The Industries Development Special Committee, of which I have the honour to be a member, went to Balaklava as well as to other parts of the State. We have visited most places. We did not find any hysteria. I am not saying that there was no hysteria at Balaklava, but it was not evident at Balaklava: it must have become evident here by delayed action. The people are really concerned, particularly in rural areas. Purely rural communities are not able to sustain the natural increase in population. This problem should be examined. It demands the best thinking that can be brought to bear on it. The migration programme is not the complete answer. It is bringing people to this country, but they are aggregating themselves in the cities and the cities are becoming more top heavy than ever. The rural areas are not advancing in population to anywhere near the extent that the metropolitan area is. This is causing concern throughout the State. At one time a farmer with a reasonably large holding could expect that his family could be provided for on that farm. That situation has gone. Farmers at one time could establish their sons on some of their land, but now there is insufficient to do it. One exception could be Kangaroo Island, where the settlers believe that perhaps for one more generation they will be able to find land for their sons. It is a source of worry for country people that sons have to come to the city for employment. Sometimes it necessitates breaking up homes or that the parents have to come to the city with them. It is a wrench, and I know it, when a child of 14 or 15 years leaves home because there is no Leaving Honours

class in a country town. As he or she walks through the door the parents realize that in all probability the child will not come back to live with them again. Where there is heavy industry there is little demand for female labour, and there is a great need to balance employment throughout the State.

Mr. Nankivell: You are not trying to make out that this problem is restricted to our State? I have a book from the International Labour Organization indicating that it is world-wide.

Mr. RICHES: I did not suggest that it was restricted to this State. I said that it is a real and present problem and that something should be done about it. I am speaking in this way in answer to the member for Gouger who said there was hysteria on the part of country people.

Mr. Hall: I did not suggest it to make Party politics out of it.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Stuart.

Mr. RICHES: The committee was told that the people at Balaklava were interested in this matter. They asked why it was that in one of the best wheat-growing parts of South Australia, where best quality wheat for flour-making was grown, the local mill was not operating. We were told that the mill was as modern in equipment as most of the mills erected elsewhere. We were told, also, that it was out of production because it had been bought by other millers in South Australia and closed.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: It is a flour mill.

Mr. RICHES: Yes. The economic circumstances, of course, must be considered, and I think the matter was explained to the committee forcibly and lucidly by the member for Barossa. My point is that there is concern at Balaklava and their question could be repeated in other country towns, not only in connection with flour mills but other industries. When people are searching for an outlet for the employment of young people they are entitled to ask why mills and factories are not operating. They hold the opinion that it is somebody's business to take action. When the committee went to Port Pirie and Port Augusta about 12 months ago local people stressed that inquiries should be made at Government level. They said that making contacts with industrialists with a view to establishing new industries in the country, or branches of existing industries, was beyond the

capabilities of local government. It should be the responsibility of somebody in authority to seek new industries and explain the facilities available in country centres. It has been done successfully in relation to Elizabeth. Industries now in operation there did not go to Elizabeth by accident, or as a natural corollary to expansion. Negotiations led to their establishment. The Housing Trust has rendered a magnificent service to the State in attracting industries to Elizabeth.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: And enterprise on the part of the Government.

Mr. RICHES: Yes. The Government is entitled to take credit for the establishment of Elizabeth and I am more than happy to give it full credit for everything done there, but I ask it to think beyond Elizabeth and have the same kind of negotiations conducted with people who could, with co-operative effort, establish small businesses in other country centres. Industrial undertakings could have the suggestion put to them that it would be to their advantage, and to the advantage of the State, to establish branches in country areas. Someone must make the contacts and someone must prepare and put cases. That sort of thing is beyond local government. It should be the function of a Government department and I am glad that the Governor's Opening Speech, and I think the Premier referred to it in the election campaign, mentioned a move somewhat along the lines I have mentioned to set up a Premier's Department. We shall watch its work with great interest. It was a matter that was submitted to the committee by councils at Port Augusta, Port Pirie and other places about 12 months ago, and undoubtedly it would have been one of the recommendations of the committee.

If we could get small industries, ancillary to primary production, established to bring about a balance of employment in country towns it would be advantageous, but as the committee went around the country it was faced with two problems. There is a progressive and thriving community that wants to see expansion and growth, which is understandable. Another community, however, wants to hold what it has and sees nothing rosy when looking into the future. It feels that unless some action is taken to replace industry it will disappear. The experience of towns like Quorn and Wallaroo is facing other country towns today. It behoves this Government and the best brains we can bring to bear on the problem in South Australia to pool their thinking to see whether these populations cannot be saved, for they depend on

development that has a definite life—and not a long life at that. What will happen when an industry is amortized? What will take its place? There are two distinct problems. I do not think anybody has the complete answer, but one thing certain is that all our energies and thoughts should be devoted, as far as it is humanly possible, to ameliorating this situation. In other States it has been done and, following the visit of the Industries Development Special Committee to various places throughout South Australia, it will be done by the people themselves gaining knowledge of what is available through that committee.

I want now to place before the House some comments brought to my notice following the publication in the newspapers last week of discussions initiated here by the member for Port Pirie (Mr. McKee) about the fumes being discharged into the atmosphere at Port Pirie. The letter I have drawing my attention to what could happen in this regard is not from Port Pirie but from a person who has suffered from coming into contact with arsenic. She wants me to tell her story; she wants to urge that steps be taken medically to ensure that her experience shall never be repeated either in Port Pirie or elsewhere.

In 1958 this lady, who is well-known to me and has many duties to perform, contacted arsenic in assisting her husband to repaper a wall of her house. She tells me:

At the time, my symptoms were passed off by several Adelaide specialists as “mild chronic poisoning” and were not regarded as serious. Early this year—

that is, four years later—

it was found that as a result of the “mild chronic poisoning” of 1958, I am now suffering from a rare blood “upset” caused directly by the poison. Professor Harry Robson and Doctor Munro Ford (who investigated my condition and which they at first thought to be leukaemia) have explained that I have developed an acute sensitivity to arsenic. The poison is responsible for a blood factor which has since developed and which is associated with the sensitivity in the form of a skin allergy and bruising. Therefore, I cannot stress too much what hidden dangers lie in even the mildest encounters with arsenic (as in fairly innocent garden-spraying activities, etc.). Should cases of invalidism result in Port Pirie (as well they might) from contact with arsenic, no compensation could offer adequate solatium for the terrible effects of the poison.

Another letter I have here, dated August 10, 1962, says:

I hasten to draw your attention to the reported statement (*Advertiser* 10/8/62) that arsenic is being discharged into the air over Port Pirie. This surely is a most alarming state of affairs and one which should give

the health authorities cause for grave anxiety. It should not be necessary to point out the obvious dangers to the Pirie community accruing from eight tons of sulphur dioxide which are depositing nearly three tons of arsenic in the air each week. In earlier correspondence with you over the question of establishing a poison control centre in South Australia, I think that I mentioned that in America (where the idea of poison control originated) these centres organize research into air pollution by noxious substances as part of their poison control programme. In view of the great danger to public health in the Port Pirie area, why have we not some similar kind of control in this State? . . . The Premier and his health advisers seem unaware that continued exposure to this highly toxic substance (either by inhalation or ingestion or skin contact) has lately been found to be the cause of certain blood and skin cancers. Because of the gravity of the present situation in Port Pirie I think that the following questions should be asked in the House:

- (1) Does the Premier know what minimum level of air pollution by arsenic would be regarded as safe for the community?

The inference is that scarcely anybody knows until research is conducted and tests are made

Then:

- (2) In view of the present dangerous levels of air pollution over Port Pirie, and the probable prevalence of undetected and unsuspected cases of chronic arsenical poisoning in the area, what steps does he intend to take to protect the Pirie community from further contact with the poison?
- (3) In view of the serious health risks and consequences which could follow from unchecked inhalation of deadly arsenic fumes, is he prepared to accept the matter as one of Government responsibility and order an immediate investigation into having measures designed to alert doctors and warn residents to recognize symptoms of chronic arsenical poisoning?

There are several other questions along the same lines from one who has suffered from the effects of what was thought to be a perfectly harmless association with arsenic—a situation in which any of us could find himself at any time—who is fearful lest this be the lot of any other person and who from her own experience is convinced that not enough is known about the effects of arsenical poisoning and contact with it. She is making a perfectly legitimate request in suggesting that some centre be set up to conduct research and make sure that anybody in Port Pirie or anywhere else who has been exposed to arsenical poisoning should be able to recognize the symptoms when they first occur. She has good reason for believing, without casting any reflections



on Port Pirie's doctors or doctors anywhere else, that not many doctors have had experience in detecting in the early stages the effects of arsenical poisoning.

A test, involving hair, finger-nails and so on, costs about £8, and the Adelaide Hospital is the only place in the State where such a test can be conducted. It seems to me that this woman is making a perfectly reasonable request that this thing should not be taken lightly, that research should be undertaken at Port Pirie immediately, and that information should be disseminated so that we can make sure that such symptoms will be diagnosed in the early stages. My colleague, the member for Port Pirie (Mr. McKee), told me this morning that it may be a pure coincidence or it may not that the number of cases of cancer brought to his notice in recent weeks is alarming. There may be no relationship at all, but it is known that arsenic can cause cancer; on the other hand, there may be a connection—nobody knows. That is the experience of us all. We go for many years without personally coming into contact with such a case and then we are brought into touch with cases that seem to indicate an alarming increase in the incidence of that dread disease.

I appreciate the fact that the company is doing everything possible to minimize this danger, as was indicated by the Premier in answer to a question last week. Whether more can be done I do not know. The Premier did not indicate any special attention to deal with the problem at the medical angle. I thank honourable members for their hearing and hope that what I have had to say is evidence that I shall vote for the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer): It is, of course, impossible for me to deal with all the questions raised by members, and if I do not mention some of their topics I do not want them to feel that their remarks have gone unheeded. I assure them that the Address in Reply speeches are studied by the Government and its departments and any useful suggestions are looked at and subsequent action is taken wherever possible. I shall not try to deal with all the matters discussed by members, but several remarks of the Leader of the Opposition require attention. I shall also deal with the remarks of Mr. Riches on railway standardization, because that is a matter of great importance to the policies of the State and to its future. It is of the utmost importance to the industries associated with Port Pirie and I

believe a clear statement will help, and certainly not hinder it. True, as the honourable member said, the South Australian Government accepted the Commonwealth Government's proposals for railway standardization. As a matter of interest, South Australia was the only State that accepted them outright, although there was provisional acceptance by New South Wales which was never confirmed. There was absolute rejection by Western Australia, Queensland and Victoria. South Australia accepted the proposals, which were ratified by the State Government and Parliament and also by the Commonwealth Parliament.

It is interesting to notice that the vote in the Commonwealth Parliament was unanimous by both sides of the House, and therefore we had every right to assume that the proposals would go forward. Indeed, for some time work did go forward without hitch and much of it was done in the South-East, where the whole of the railway service was modernized. Preparatory to changeover to the standard gauge, the obligation is on South Australia to shift the rails. All the other work was accomplished in accordance with the railway standardization agreement. The problem only arose when the work in the South-East began to be completed. I then wrote to the Commonwealth Government and asked it to make available the necessary money to start the survey of the Peterborough Division, which had been mapped out as being the next and most useful work to be undertaken. That request for the money for the survey, which incidentally amounted to only £50,000, was not agreed to at that time, but later—this was just before an election—the £50,000 was made available for the State to make the survey. Work on the survey commenced, but from that time onwards there was Commonwealth resistance to the South Australian Government's proposals for work on the Peterborough Division to commence.

Mr. Riches wanted to know whether the Commonwealth Government had ever agreed to undertake the standardization of the Port Pirie to Broken Hill line as a single project, and I should like to answer categorically. It never did that, but it went so far as to say on one occasion that it could consider this line only in isolation, which of course was a complete repudiation of the agreement. The State Government felt (as it still feels) that it had no authority to cancel the rest of the agreement in order to get one small part of it. We have never had a proposition to commence the Port

Pirie to Broken Hill line, leaving the rest to be dealt with in due course, as and when it was fitting. We have had the greatest difficulty in getting consideration of the project. It is true, as I informed the honourable member in reply to a question in this House, that I had every reason to believe that there would have been an amount in the Commonwealth Budget this year for the commencement of the work. I put a specific proposal, in writing, to the Prime Minister, and it was entertained sympathetically as far as I could see. It was a modest proposal for the standardization of the Port Pirie to Broken Hill line over a period of seven years. It was tapered off somewhat to provide, as the Commonwealth Government was making available this year £1,300,000 for the purchase of 12 diesel-electric locomotives and 100 waggons, for an aggregate expenditure of only a little over £2,000,000 this year and no more than £2,600,000. The actual additional amount wanted this year was only £800,000. Anyone who looks at the Commonwealth Budget of £2,091,000,000 knows quite well that if there were any desire to commence this work the provision of £800,000 was not and would not have been an embarrassment in any way.

Mr. Riches asked a specific question and rather hinted that I had not given a satisfactory answer. He asked whether the State Government would be prepared to consider going ahead on its own. I do not know how more specific I could have been when I answered "Yes" without any hesitancy and without any qualification whatsoever. As a matter of fact, I think that members were seized with the fact that this matter had had a public pronouncement made upon it at the time of the last election. I understood that, because it was part of the Government's policy speech and was fully reported in the newspapers. I believe honourable members were aware of the Government's policy on that matter. As a reminder on this matter, and because the honourable member raised it today, I shall quote the relevant statement. It is short and will not take long to read. I shall not take it out of its context. Under the heading of "Railways" the report states:

One important works project has not been mentioned. We have, as you know, been awaiting the decision of the High Court in connection with our dispute with the Commonwealth about the delay in carrying out railway standardization work in South Australia. As this matter is before the High Court awaiting judgment, it would be improper for me to deal with the grounds of the action, but I would like to say that, irrespective of the decision of

the High Court, my Government is irrevocably committed to the standardization of our South Australian gauges and that, quite definitely, action will be taken to see that the standard connection with the eastern States so essential to our industrial well being is provided in the near future.

The Government has not hesitated to carry out its policy in this matter. The only delay was in waiting to see whether the High Court action having been determined—and not, incidentally, in our favour—the Commonwealth Government would desire or agree to proceed with the work. That, of course, could not be determined until the Commonwealth Budget for the current year was presented. I reiterate—and I believe every honourable member if he stops to consider what is involved in this matter will agree with me—that the link with the Eastern States via Broken Hill is essential to the development and well-being of this State. From a railway point of view that connection would probably not be immediately attractive because, for a start, we will not obtain the full financial benefit of standardization, and, secondly, the development following standardization will be progressive and not have an immediate impact.

Apart from that, unless we have efficient communications with the Eastern States, particularly with Broken Hill, we will progressively lose the great advantage in commerce with Broken Hill and also the benefit of the great bulk of Broken Hill's trade we have had until quite recently (as South Australia has been the outlet for concentrates for smelting, with consequent advantages to our railways and the employment situation). If we do not put our house in order the present situation may not continue. Numerous diversions are occurring. A trickle of ore is now being carried eastwards and that trickle will undoubtedly increase unless we provide a more satisfactory service and reduce transportation costs.

Mr. Riches: Timber is being carried on the other line, too.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes, I know that. When high prices applied for base metals high transportation costs were not nearly as important as they are now that base metal prices are depressed. Indeed, if we lost some of our present European markets, because of other negotiations that are taking place, the price of our base metals would become even more depressed and, therefore, it is imperative that we commence this gauge standardization work. That will involve the State in some sacrifice because it is not easy to fit a programme of this magnitude into our other commitments, which are already great.

South Australia's interest in this matter is one of great importance and we cannot allow this standardization not to go ahead. If the Commonwealth, for any reason, will not undertake the work then South Australia must proceed of its own volition.

Mr. Casey: How do you account for the transportation of ore to New South Wales, about 800 miles, compared with our 200 miles?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: One or two reasons exist for that. Transportation is only one reason. New South Wales also provides an attractive outlet and unless we can counter that by putting our house in order that outlet will become more positive in the future. The Government holds certain views and it will submit a proposal to the Public Works Committee for investigation and subsequently will bring the question before Parliament. I think (and I do not think any honourable member will differ from my view although he may have different political beliefs) that this is something that South Australia cannot afford to lose by default. We must take action and, as was indicated prior to the last election, the Government's policy is quite firm on that point.

I shall now deal with one or two matters raised by the Leader of the Opposition. It is not possible to reply to all the matters dealt with by honourable members but I took the trouble to study the speech of the Leader and shall deal with certain matters raised by him in his speech and the amendment to the Address in Reply. The Government regards an amendment to the Address in Reply as a vote of no confidence because it is intended to embarrass the Government. That is why the Government has accepted the challenge and any self-respecting Government would accept an amendment to the Address in Reply as an approved method of registering disapproval or as a vote of no confidence in the Government. The Leader knows that as well as I know it. He knows that a successful amendment to the Address in Reply would indicate that the Government did not have the support of the Parliament.

Mr. Frank Walsh: You want to amend it yourself.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: That is a different matter. When members hear the amendment I propose they will agree with it and I believe the Leader will agree with it, too. It is certainly not a vote of no confidence in the Leader. When the Leader moved his vote of no confidence he chose a ground which he believed would prove embarrassing

to you, Mr. Speaker, when making your casting vote. That was done deliberately.

*Members interjecting:*

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Leader could not disguise the fact that he was doing that, because he went out of his way to remind you, Mr. Speaker, that you had presented a deputation to me only a few days prior to his moving his amendment, and the whole purpose of the exercise was to embarrass you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Frank Walsh: How can you arrive at that conclusion?

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I want to say one or two things about this matter; the last speaker mentioned one or two phases of it, and I shall add to those phases and provide a little more enlightenment. Unfortunately, the Leader was not present at the deputation that waited upon me.

Mr. Frank Walsh: I was not even invited.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: He was assuming that his motion was on all fours with the requests of that deputation.

Mr. Frank Walsh: You must be fair on this point; you know that this matter was mentioned in the broadcast of my policy speech.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I am not disputing that: I am stating that the Leader harnessed his remarks up—perhaps he has forgotten what he said—with the deputation that waited upon me. That deputation consisted of a number of organizations and a number of speakers, but I would be correct in saying that the main theme of the discussion was that the costs of primary production were becoming too high and that taxation was becoming an important part of those costs. Some speakers dealt with the cost of land tax, some with Commonwealth gift tax, some with succession duties, some with district council rates, and some with water rates. One speaker who was dealing with the land tax issue—and this is rather interesting—said:

We are not so concerned about what the present Government will do, but we are very concerned with what will happen if there is by any chance (he did not say "mischance") a change of Government.

He pointed out that the proclamations that were giving relief to landholders in primary production could be revoked by another Government. That was one of the phases he dealt with. I shall deal further with this question of land tax because, as I have stated previously, in my opinion the issue has been raised—in fact, the last speaker made it

clear—purely to try to put you, Mr. Speaker, in an embarrassing position. I have been associated with you, Sir, in the House as an Independent member for many years, and you have been an embarrassment to me; I make that clear. As an Independent member you have sometimes supported the Government; on other occasions you have taken the view that you would like to amend some features of legislation and you have exercised the undoubted prerogative of doing that. But over the period, Mr. Speaker, I know that you have consistently supported the Government on any question of confidence, and the biggest embarrassment that you have been to me, if I may say so, is that on occasions our Party has run a candidate against you when I considered that I should not be supporting a candidate against you because it was an invidious position for the leader of any Party to be getting support from a member and yet opposing him at election time. I make it quite clear that as far as that position is concerned I will never oppose you again—

Mr. Ryan: Is that a threat or a promise?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: — on a question of this nature, Mr. Speaker, because after you consulted your constituents you decided that you would not vote the Government out of office. That is only the proper attitude to adopt in the position under discussion. If members opposite took the trouble to look into the matter they would find that progressive land tax has always been one of the strong planks of the Opposition's policy. Progressive land tax was introduced by the Labor Party; it has been consistently advocated by the Labor Party; and it is the Labor Party's policy today.

Mr. Ryan: We don't deny that.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: When Opposition members come here and talk about the small landholder not getting concessions and all that sort of thing, they are talking tongue in cheek. When the progressive land tax was brought in—when the Commonwealth relinquished it to the State as part of the payment for income tax which it had taken over—what did Mr. Cameron say about it?

The Hon. B. H. Teusner: Is that the Commonwealth member for Hindmarsh?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes. What did the Hon. Mr. Bardolph say at that time, and what did the late Mr. O'Halloran, who was the Leader of the Opposition in this House, say at that time? They all had their

comments on this matter. Let me quote Mr. Cameron, because he is, I believe, the main adviser of the present Opposition.

Mr. Tapping: He is a Commonwealth backbencher.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Whenever the Labor Party is in political difficulty it consults him; he is the present adviser and a leader, and, I believe, if I am not wrongly informed, a member of the shadow cabinet. This is what Mr. Cameron said about land tax:

The only fault that the Opposition finds with the land tax is that it is not heavy enough. It should be so heavy that nobody could afford to keep one acre of land out of use. The land tax should be so heavy that it would be unprofitable for anyone not to use his land to its maximum capacity. I believe that the abolition of the land tax is a retrograde step, and I am glad to be able to say, as the honourable member for Melbourne said, that when Labor is returned to office, as it will be at the next general elections—

He was wrong there, incidentally—

we shall reintroduce the land tax. I hope that when we do reimpose it we shall make it heavy enough to force the wealthy rural landholders to cut up their large estates of valuable property in assured rainfall areas and force city landholders to pay something to the community in return for what the community has provided for them in the way of public facilities.

That made it clear. Incidentally, the Leader of the Opposition, when moving the amendment, made it clear that the Labor Party was in favour not only of land tax but of a capital gains tax. This is the sort of thing the deputation that waited on me was concerned about.

Mr. Loveday: That has nothing to do with the present situation.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Let me deal, if I may, with land tax itself, as I think members should know one or two things about it when dealing with this matter. First, there has been a great deal of criticism about the increases that have taken place. It has been said that enormous increases have been made unjustly, but what are these great increases and what is the position regarding them? Although the Commissioner of Land Tax makes an assessment, it is open to challenge before a tribunal by anyone dissatisfied with his assessment. So that members can see that the tribunal is an authority completely outside the Government, I shall set out the names of its members. On all boards of valuation, Mr. L. F. J. Johnston is chairman and Mr. C. R. Sutton, O.B.E., F.C.I.V., is a member. The third member varies with the district.

For the metropolitan area the third member is Mr. R. R. Bullock, F.C.I.V., and I suppose no member could say there was a more competent person to make valuations than he. For Eyre Peninsula the third member is Mr. J. K. Schramm, O.B.E., of Ungarra, chairman of the district council; for the Northern district it is Mr. H. T. Harslett, F.C.I.V., of Gladstone; for the Southern district it is Mr. J. H. Sneyd, of Mount Compass; for the Murray lands it is Mr. J. F. Sharley, of Renmark; and for the South-East it is Mr. H. B. Schinckel, of Naracoorte. Members will see that a means of appeal is provided by the Act right at the outset for anyone who believes his assessment is not in accordance with the true valuation of his land. To say that one sale alters the value of all the land in the district is a lot of rot. It does not do any such thing, and the people I have mentioned would not accept it.

What is the position regarding valuations? Although 290,000 assessments were issued, only 48 appeals were lodged with the appeals board. Of this number 15 assessments were confirmed, four were increased, four were decreased, 13 are pending decision and 12 are pending hearing. Although anyone can go before the appeal board, only four assessments were not upheld by an outside tribunal! Only 48 cases were even taken to the tribunal, and there is some doubt about whether the 12 cases pending hearing will be proceeded with.

The Leader says (although not in these precise words) that there has been an increase in the total assessed unimproved values relative to other factors. The answer to that is that land values are influenced by the volume of real estate activity, building activity and production. The following relationships are based on statistics of activity in those fields at the time when the quoted land tax assessments were prepared. The percentages that I shall give are the 1960 percentages compared with the 1940 percentages. Total assessed values have increased by 507 per cent. That does not mean that every property has increased in value by that percentage; it means that the total assessed values have increased to that extent. The value of properties transferred increased in that period by 953 per cent, the value of building permits issued by 1,498 per cent, and the net value of production by 712 per cent. In other words, land tax in 1960 (before the amendments granting some concessions were passed) had a lower bearing on production and prices than in 1940.

Let me, if I may, mention one or two interesting facts. It is true that the sum we collected last year from land tax was higher than the estimate I had made, but it is interesting to know that the increase occurred largely because half of the primary producers entitled to exemptions under the Act last year did not trouble to apply for them. I do not doubt that they will do so, but they did not do so last year, and that is why collections were higher than the estimate.

I want to put on record some information so that members will have some reliable figures upon which to base their consideration of this matter in the future. For the year 1961-62, the primary producer's share of the total incidence of land tax was 10 per cent less than in the year 1960-61. The legislation enacted last year has resulted in the man who gets his living from the land paying a lower percentage of the total collections: his share decreased from 30 per cent to 20 per cent. So that members can understand what is involved, I have taken out illustrations relating to primary producers and the amount of tax they paid in 1960-61 and the amount they paid, or should have paid, in 1961-62. An orchard property, which paid £2 10s. in 1960-61, would pay nothing in 1961-62 if an exemption were applied for. A small dairy which paid £5 17s. 7d. in 1960-61 would be exempt in 1961-62. A market garden, which paid £8 8s. 9d. in 1960-61, under last year's amendments would pay £4 3s. 3d. in 1961-62. A mixed farm, which paid £10 1s. 9d. in 1960-61, would pay £8 4s. in 1961-62. A large cereal farm, which paid £129 5s. in 1960-61, would, under the present assessments and present law, pay £143 3s. 10d. A small grazing property—and this, of course, would not be under a pastoral lease—which paid £9 4s. 10d. in 1960-61, would pay £15 16s. 2d., and a large grazing property, which paid £75 7s. 1d. in 1960-61, would pay £102 1s. 2d. in 1961-62. I think I have said sufficient to show that the Leader of the Opposition's amendment to the Address in Reply was political in nature and that its purpose was to express no confidence in the Government. The Government accepts it as such, and asks the House to reject the amendment.

The second matter to which I shall refer involves a question of policy. The Government has made searching inquiries into this matter over the years. The Leader of the Opposition has expressed himself on it a couple of times recently, so I should like to place before him and the House some of the issues involved to

show that it is a matter of considerable importance to the community as a whole. I refer to housing finance. Later today I will introduce legislation dealing with housing finance, but it will not touch on the particular aspect I shall now deal with so my remarks will not impinge upon that debate, Mr. Speaker. The Leader made a point about the funds that are secured by building societies in other States and used for housing loans. He has particularly compared the situation in New South Wales and Victoria with the South Australian position. In those two States there has been an extensive development of building societies encouraged by Government guarantee of their borrowings from financial institutions. In this State the development of means of providing housing finance has been different, involving the State Bank, Housing Trust, and extensive direct lending to house purchasers by the Savings Bank of South Australia and the South Australian Superannuation Board under Government guarantee through the Homes Act.

The figures the Leader quoted are, broadly, correct. New South Wales building societies borrowed, under guarantee, in 1961 almost £8,000,000; about £7,787,000 to be correct. The Victorian societies borrowed, under guarantee, almost £4,000,000. However, the inference drawn by the Leader that the South Australian people have been deprived of comparable funds because our building societies do not operate as extensively as elsewhere is quite without substance and foundation. It is proper, before making a judgment, to look at all aspects of the provision for housing. Through the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, its own Loan Fund, and by semi-governmental borrowing, there is currently provided for housing finance in this State about £11,500,000 of new money annually. The comparable figures for New South Wales and Victoria are about £15,500,000 and £14,500,000 respectively. If to these are added the guaranteed borrowings of building societies at the 1961 levels the New South Wales aggregate becomes about £23,250,000 and the Victorian aggregate about £18,500,000. So, realizing that New South Wales has four times the population of South Australia and Victoria three times, the South Australian figures, without building societies' guaranteed borrowing, is approaching twice as much as those of the other States including building societies' guaranteed borrowing. If we add to these figures the direct lending by Savings Banks and Crown institutions from their own funds for housing—which, under encouragement

of guarantees by the Homes Act, are proportionately far better in South Australia than in other States—the comparison goes even further to our advantage.

Lest it be thought that, despite the fact that the provision of finance for housing under governmental arrangements and guarantees is more extensive in this State than in the neighbouring States, we might nevertheless do still better if we expanded the borrowing under guarantee by building societies, the matter should perhaps be further analysed. Building societies in New South Wales secured under guarantees from banks last year about £5,500,000, and in Victoria about £3,750,000. These figures, on a South Australian population basis, would be £1,400,000 and £1,250,000 respectively. Yet this year I have in hand arrangements under which the various Savings Banks will find for the Housing Trust between £1,750,000 and £2,000,000. These funds will come from the Savings Bank of South Australia, the Commonwealth Savings Bank and the new private Savings Banks, and these provisions will be made in addition to between £6,000,000 and £7,000,000 annually lent by the Savings Banks direct for individual housing.

The main problem of Loan finance under guarantee to building societies in other States is, of course, the Commonwealth Banking Corporation, including the Commonwealth Savings Bank. It has been suggested that as a consequence South Australia has not received a fair share from the Commonwealth Savings Banks of its housing loans. Although I am not at liberty to disclose the actual amounts of provisions, I assure members that the Commonwealth Savings Bank is currently providing for housing, in loans direct to the Housing Trust, and in other loans direct to individuals, at a far better rate in South Australia than it is lending on average elsewhere, having regard to its extent of deposits in this State. By this far better rate of lending to the Housing Trust and to individuals in this State the Commonwealth Savings Bank makes up for the lending that it does to building societies in other States. Members may not all be aware that the Commonwealth Savings Bank deposits in this State are only 32 per cent of the deposits in the Savings Bank of South Australia. In Victoria they are about 43 per cent of the State Savings Bank deposits, and in New South Wales the Commonwealth Savings Bank many years ago completely absorbed the State Savings Bank.

I have had the utmost co-operation and understanding from the Commonwealth Banking Corporation in all three phases of its operations: Savings Bank, Trading Bank and Development Bank. I believe the activities of the Development Bank in this State have also been, on a population basis, more extensive than in all other States except Western Australia. I am pleased to say, too, that I have received from the private Savings Banks a ready and most valuable response to a request that they assist with loans for the Housing Trust, as well as for other semi-Government and local government loans. I cannot, under present circumstances, see anything to be gained by attempting to divert to building societies funds presently loaned directly to the Housing Trust, or presently loaned by the Savings Banks and other institutions directly to house buyers. In fact, such a diversion could be a direct loss to the home purchasers for, in order to cover their administrative expenses, the building societies would have to lend the borrowed funds at a somewhat higher interest rate. In New South Wales and Victoria, I understand, building societies lend the funds in question at rates significantly higher than the rates charged in this State for housing loans to individuals by the Savings Bank, the State Bank and the Superannuation Fund.

I emphasize that I am not in any way antagonistic to building societies. I recognize the extensive work they have done in several other States, in England and elsewhere. I recognize, too, the valuable, though smaller, contribution they have made in this State. The simple fact is that for reasons of history we have developed our housing institutions somewhat differently in South Australia. As I believe our different development has been mainly of benefit to our people, I do not propose to alter it. Before I leave this matter I think it is of interest to point out that the provision to building societies in this State from the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement moneys is actually considerably greater than the net funds they are providing themselves or securing from other sources. In both New South Wales and Victoria the reverse is the case.

The Hon. B. H. Teusner: We are building more houses per thousand of population than other States.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes, many more. That a large percentage of our Loan money is housing money I hope to show in legislation to be presented to the House

soon. I think it will give great satisfaction indeed to members on both sides. I am not for one moment complacent about our rate of housing. Indeed, anything we can do to speed it up will be a good thing. The fact is that percentage-wise South Australia is providing much more money and building more houses than any other State.

The Leader of the Opposition has moved an amendment to the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I give notice of an amendment that I shall move to the motion. I hope it will be considered after consideration has been given to the Leader of the Opposition's amendment.

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer can read it now.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The amendment I should like members to consider later today is the inclusion of a new paragraph, as follows, in the Address in Reply:

2c. We re-affirm our allegiance to the Throne and look forward with joyful anticipation to the visit to South Australia next year of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

The reason for moving in this way is that since the committee brought in the draft Address in Reply it has been announced that Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit this State. I am sure every member will wish to express on behalf of constituents their great pleasure at the visit of Her Majesty to South Australia again. I think that every member here will express appreciation of the fact that Her Majesty will soon be amongst us once again, and will support my amendment. At present several members of the House are unfortunately absent through ill health. I express to the Leader of the Opposition my appreciation of his granting a pair to the Minister of Lands whilst he is ill in hospital. I appreciate this courtesy, and it is a courtesy that this Parliament has always shown. I hope that it will continue to do so. I indicate to members of the Opposition that at any time, and under any circumstances, if one of them should be ill he can secure a pair. I believe that recently the Commonwealth Parliament did not honour pairs for sick members, and that it brought much discredit on it for not doing so. The people of Australia are strongly opposed to that sort of control of Parliament. I again tell the Leader of the Opposition that I greatly appreciate the courtesy he has extended to the Minister of Lands, who is seriously

ill. As far as I and my Party are concerned, we will reciprocate on any occasion whatsoever.

We have in this House a number of new members following on the last election. If the Government can in any way assist them in connection with district affairs that crop up from day to day I hope they will let us know their problems. I assure members opposite that they will receive in that respect the same consideration as members on this side. Where district work is involved they will get the utmost courtesy from me and my Ministers. Any project they suggest will be examined in the most sympathetic way. I congratulate the new members on their maiden speeches. I believe that this will be a good Parliament and that it will do much good work, but I should like to have had a larger majority.

Mr. Clark: Lucky to have a majority at all.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: What we cannot have we must put up with. I said previously that the Government would bring down in due course a Bill to deal with electoral redistribution. That Bill will be open to discussion and amendment, and honourable members will have what I believe will be at least a constructive contribution to the problem. By that, I do not mean that I shall agree to every amendment that the Leader of the Opposition or the member for Adelaide (Mr. Lawn) can devise. I should not like it to be thought that I would go that far, but all amendments will be looked at constructively. The Bill to be introduced will itself be far-reaching and will, I hope, contribute in some way to the problem now facing us. Naturally, I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. Jennings: As amended?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Not as the Opposition desires to amend it but as amended in its ultimate form when I have had the opportunity of moving this amendment. I move to insert in the Address in Reply the following new paragraph:

2c. We reaffirm our allegiance to the Throne and look forward with joyful anticipation to the visit to South Australia next year of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: I second the amendment.

The SPEAKER: The question is: "That new paragraphs 2a and 2b proposed to be inserted be so inserted."

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, are you putting the two amendments together?

The SPEAKER: No. I will dispose of the amendment of the Leader of the Opposition first and take the Premier's amendment after that question has been put.

The House divided on Mr. Frank Walsh's amendment:

Ayes (17).—Messrs. Bywaters, Casey, Clark, Corcoran, Dunstan, Hughes, Hutchens, Jennings, Langley, Lawn, Loveday, McKee, Riches, Ryan, Tapping, Frank Walsh (teller), and Fred Walsh.

Noes (18).—Messrs. Bockelberg, Brookman, Coumbe, Freebairn, Hall, Harding, Heaslip, Jenkins, Laucke, Millhouse, and Nankivell, Sir Baden Pattinson, Mr. Pearson, Sir Thomas Playford (teller), Messrs. Kirke and Shannon, Mrs. Steele, and Mr. Teusner.

Pair.—Aye—Mr. Ralston. No—Sir Cecil Hincks.

Majority of 1 for the Noes.

Amendment thus negatived.

The SPEAKER: The question now before the Chair is the Premier's amendment: "That new paragraph 2c proposed to be inserted be so inserted."

Amendment carried; motion, as amended, carried.

The SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to receive members for the presentation of the Address in Reply at 2.10 p.m., Thursday next, August 16.

#### LOAN ESTIMATES.

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of the revenue and other moneys of the State as were required for all the purposes set out in the Loan Estimates for the financial year 1962-63 and the Public Purposes Loan Bill, 1962.

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

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering Loan Estimates for the year ending June 30, 1963, as set out in Parliamentary Paper No. 11.

Motion carried.

In Committee.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: During 1961-62 expenditure of State funds on



capital works and services and funds made available for housing totalled £39,824,000. This figure was made up of £9,136,000 from funds borrowed under the provisions of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement and £30,688,000 from the normal State loan programme.

Of the £9,136,000 of Housing Agreement moneys £4,350,000 was advanced to the South Australian Housing Trust, the State Bank was allocated £4,350,000, and £436,000 was advanced to building societies. Of the State Bank allocation, about 86 per cent was actually drawn at June 30, 1962, and the remainder held for drawing in July to meet loans authorized to finance homes already in the final stages of construction.

The works programmes of the Electricity Trust and the Housing Trust were further assisted by the borrowing of £4,750,000 by way of semi-governmental loans from the public and from institutions. Each authority also employed in its capital programme a considerable volume of internal funds such as surpluses, capital recoveries, depreciation funds and maintenance provisions.

The housing programme was financed from the original allocation of £8,000,000 for 1961-62 determined at the Loan Council meeting in June, 1961, a supplement of £1,036,000 allocated at the special February, 1962, meeting of the council, and £100,000 repayments of previous advances. The State Loan programme was financed from the original allocation of £25,148,000, a supplement of £645,000 from the special Commonwealth grant given in February, 1962, for employment-producing works, £877,000 from the 1960-61 Revenue surplus, other repayments and recoveries £3,646,000, and by running the Loan Account £372,000 further into deficit. Members will be well aware from statements I have made from time to time that throughout the past year it was the Government's firm policy to do everything practicable to maintain and increase employment opportunities. In furtherance of that policy Loan activities were carried on at a rate which called for all the additional funds which became available during the year and which still resulted in an increase in the deficit in the Loan Fund from £50,000 at June 30, 1961, to £422,000 at June 30, 1962. I believe that the Government's policy was successful but as members will see in a moment there are further problems to be faced in the coming year.

In June last the Australian Loan Council adopted a total new borrowing programme of £250,000,000. This was an increase of £10,000,000 over the original programme of £240,000,000 for 1961-62, but was an increase of only £2,500,000 over the programme as supplemented by £7,500,000 of housing moneys in February, 1962. Despite strong pressure from State Ministers, who pointed out that the provision of an additional £7,500,000 for the final four months of 1961-62 was roughly equivalent to £20,000,000 for a full year and that therefore a total programme of at least £260,000,000 was necessary for 1962-63 to maintain the rate of the States' loan activities, the Commonwealth declined to support a total programme for works and housing in excess of £250,000,000.

For South Australia this means total new borrowing of £34,529,000, an increase of only £345,000 over new borrowing last year. Of the total, £9,000,000 will be borrowed under the terms of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement and, with the addition of some £150,000 repayments of previous advances, making £9,150,000 in all, is to be allocated to the Housing Trust £4,850,000, to the State Bank £3,900,000, and to building societies £400,000.

The amount of new borrowing remaining for other works and services will therefore be £25,529,000. It is expected that repayments to the Loan Fund will be of the order of £4,550,000. As the Government is not able to provide supplements from any other source this year it can be seen that a programme of barely £30,100,000 could be afforded in 1962-63 without running the Loan Fund further into deficit. As I stated earlier the actual expenditure on Loan Account in 1961-62 was £30,688,000, so that such a programme for 1962-63 would show a significant and harmful reduction.

The Government has therefore decided to implement a programme of £30,647,000, which it is expected will increase the deficit in the Loan Fund from £422,000 at June 30, 1962, to approximately £1,000,000 at June 30, 1963. Having regard to the recent level of activity and to the genuine requirements for urgent works, even this higher programme is much less than the Government would wish to approve, but I believe that it means stretching the State's finances as far as it is practicable to do so.

The provisions included in the Loan Estimates for the major statutory authorities, the Electricity Trust, the Housing Trust and the State Bank are to be augmented by almost

£5,000,000 to be borrowed as semi-governmental loans, and by further use of internal funds. I will now review for the information of members the major projects carried out in 1961-62, and proposals for 1962-63.

**ADVANCES FOR HOMES, £300,000.**—The State Bank, which administers the Advances for Homes scheme on behalf of the Government, also administers the detailed allocation of a large part of the moneys which the State borrows under the provisions of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, and which it makes available through the Home Builders' Fund to finance house ownership.

Members may recall that 12 months ago, when introducing the Loan Estimates for 1961-62, I indicated that it was the Government's aim to keep the cost of borrowing as low as possible to the house owner, and that the funds made available to the State Bank in 1961-62 would include more low-interest Housing Agreement money and correspondingly less money from the normal State Loan programme. Again in 1962-63, the Government proposes to take advantage of the opportunity to borrow from the Commonwealth for housing at a concessional rate of interest, to make a greater proportion of the State Bank's funds available from this source, and to correspondingly reduce the provision under the Advances for Homes scheme.

In 1962-63 the bank will have available for lending, State Loan funds, Housing Agreement moneys, carry-over funds from June, 1962, and repayments, totalling in all almost £5,000,000, a figure equal to the record level of advances in 1961-62.

**LOANS TO PRODUCERS, £220,000.**—During 1961-62 the bank advanced £445,000 under the Loans to Producers Act. This figure was made up of £236,000 advanced to fruit packing houses, cold stores, distilleries and other processors of fruit, £51,000 to processors of dairy products, £74,000 to fish handling co-operatives, and £84,000 to help finance co-operative irrigation projects. An amount of £420,000 is likely to be required in 1962-63 so that the bank may continue to give this valuable support to such projects.

It is the intention of the Government to seek the approval of Parliament, in the near future, to legislation authorizing the State Bank to borrow moneys as a semi-governmental authority to relieve the Loan Fund of part of the responsibility for financing loans to producers. The amount of semi-governmental borrowing authority which can be allocated

for this purpose, after meeting other requirements for the Housing Trust, the Electricity Trust, and local authorities, is not yet clearly determined. Then it will be necessary to negotiate the actual borrowing. The amount which it is tentatively estimated will be authorized and borrowed for this purpose is £200,000, leaving a net £220,000 to be met from Loan Fund.

**ADVANCES TO SETTLERS, £100,000.**—Advances by the bank last year under the Advances to Settlers Act totalled £96,000. Of this £63,000 was made available to finance farm buildings, £20,000 for water improvements, and £13,000 for clearing of land, establishment of pastures, etc. An amount of £100,000 is proposed to meet requirements for similar purposes in 1962-63.

**LOANS FOR FENCING, ETC., £20,000.**—The bank advanced £18,000 to primary producers in 1961-62 to finance fencing and £20,000 is proposed this year.

**STUDENT HOSTELS, £150,000.**—The Student Hostels (Advances) Act is designed to enable the State Bank to make advances to appropriate persons or bodies to finance the erection of boarding houses, hostels, or similar accommodation to cater for the needs of country students at schools, the University of Adelaide, or other educational institutions. The Act empowers the bank to make advances of up to 90 per cent of the reasonable cost of the land and buildings and to grant loans repayable over periods up to 40 years. Advances by the bank under this Act amounted to £9,000 last year. This amount was small because the Act was passed only last session, but there are a number of substantial projects about to commence. On current information £150,000 will be required in 1962-63.

**ROADS AND BRIDGES, £550,000.**—The sum of £200,000 was advanced from Loan Account in 1961-62 to supplement the funds available to the Highways Department from State motor taxation and contributions under the Commonwealth Aid Roads legislation. The major work undertaken last year was the Blanchetown bridge on which £161,000 had been spent to June 30, 1962. The earthworks for approaches have been almost completed, piles for foundations have been driven, a number of the pile footings have been completed, and construction of piers and abutments is under way. An amount of £200,000 is provided this year for further work on the bridge, which is expected to be completed early in 1964. The

sum of £350,000 is proposed as a supplement for other road and bridge works, and this will ensure that this State qualifies for the maximum provision available from the Commonwealth funds.

**LAND REPURCHASE FOR CLOSER SETTLEMENT, £1,000.**—A nominal amount of £1,000 is provided for the purchase of land under the provisions of the Crown Lands Act, if required to enlarge a Crown lease or agreement into a living area.

**CROWN LANDS DEVELOPMENT ACT, £14,000.**—Actual payments from Loan Account for this purpose in 1961-62 were £19,000, and work was carried out on a number of underdeveloped individual properties. A further £14,000 is provided for the continuation of this work in 1962-63.

**LANDS DEPARTMENT—BUILDINGS, PLANT, ETC., £25,000.**—Actual payments from Loan Account in 1961-62 were £21,000. An amount of £25,000 is provided this year for the purchase of plant and equipment, motor vehicles, minor buildings, etc.

**IRRIGATION AND RECLAMATION OF SWAMP LANDS, £180,000.**—Actual payments in 1961-62 were £137,000, and work included further progress in the conversion of pumping stations in the reclaimed areas to electric power, and various projects on channels, pipelines, embankments, etc.

Expenditure in 1962-63, is proposed as follows:

£15,000 is provided for further work on the electrification of the pumping plant at Waikerie, the total estimated cost being £134,000. This work is necessary to provide greater capacity and more efficient service.

£15,000 is required for the completion of the electrification of the pumping stations in the reclaimed areas. This amount is required for the installation of electric motors in the Jervois pumping station and for some ancillary works.

£24,000 is provided to commence work on the provision of an improved water supply to the higher level areas at Berri North. Expenditure this year is for the purchase of pipes and installation of part of the scheme.

£60,000 is provided to continue work on the comprehensive drainage scheme to serve 800 acres at Chaffey where seepage is becoming a major problem. Pipes for rising mains and main drains have been delivered and contracts let for installation of two caissons, rising mains and main drains.

£24,000 is provided for the commencement of the construction of a pipeline at Barmera to replace an open irrigation channel.

Funds are also provided for various channels, pipelines, embankments, buildings, plant and minor works.

**SOUTH-EASTERN DRAINAGE, £468,000.**—Actual payments from Loan Account in 1961-62, were £652,000. With the completion of minor works in 1961-62, the drainage works in the area of 260,000 acres south of Drains K-L in the Western Division have been completed. The total cost of this portion of the Western Division drainage scheme was £3,338,000. In the area of 147,000 acres north of Drains K-L work continued on construction of major drains. Work is now in progress on the main outlet drain which discharges into the sea near Kingston. The excavation of the first section of 17 miles from near Kingston to near Mount Scott is completed and work is proceeding on the section between Mount Scott and the Kingston-Lucindale railway line. Work on the enlargement of the drain known as Jacky White's Drain, and its continuance to the junction with the main outlet drain near Mount Scott, is nearing completion. To the end of June last £800,000 had been spent on the drainage scheme north of Drains K-L and it is estimated a further £838,000 will be required for its completion. The sum of £150,000 is provided to continue this work during 1962-63.

The Eastern Division drainage scheme, catering for the drainage of 727,000 acres of land, involves the construction of a main outlet drain from the Mosquito Creek at Struan, *via* Bool Lagoon, and an enlarged Drain M to the sea at Beachport. The first stage of the work is the enlargement of Drain M from Lake George to Legges Lane. The work on the drain between Lake George and the Robe-Penola Road is being carried out departmentally and has reached the stage where a half-width drain is available for the discharge of floodwaters to the sea at Beachport. A contract for the enlargement of the section of the drain between the Robe-Penola Road and Legges Lane was completed last year. The estimated cost of the whole scheme is £3,255,000, of which £757,000 was spent to June 30 last. The sum of £293,000 is provided for further work during 1962-63. Funds are also provided for the construction of bridges over existing drains, construction of petition drains, and for the purchase of plant, stores, etc.

**RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST—LOAN TO, £25,000.**—An amount of £25,000 is required to meet the fourth annual advance to the trust as provided by Statute for the purpose of assisting with its rehabilitation programme. This is additional to £50,000 per annum non-repayable grant from revenue and £25,000 to be provided each year by the trust itself.

**AFFORESTATION AND TIMBER MILLING,**  
£1,150,000.—Actual payments from Loan  
Account in 1961-62 were £1,204,000, the main  
items of expenditure being:

	£
Maintenance of existing forests ..	177,000
Preparation of land and planting	240,000
Purchase of land . . . . .	91,000
New power station, Nangwarry ..	136,000
Sewerage schemes, Nangwarry and Mount Burr . . . . .	173,000
Purchase and erection of houses and other buildings . . . . .	71,000
Purchase and installation of plant and equipment at mills and forest areas . . . . .	189,000
Administration . . . . .	127,000
	£1,204,000

In 1961-62 the output of log timber from State forests was in excess of 195,000,000 sup. ft., and on present prospects the figure will increase in 1962-63 to about 215,000,000 sup. ft., of which about 118,000,000 sup. ft. will be processed in the department's mills and about 97,000,000 sup. ft. will be treated at private mills. From the milling of the 118,000,000 sup. ft. of logs at Government mills the yield is expected to be about 60,000,000 lin. ft. of flooring and dressed timber, 4,000,000 sup. ft. of undressed timber, 6,000,000 fruit cases, 3,500,000 sup. ft. of case fitches, and 82,000 posts. Of the 97,000,000 sup. ft. of logs to be treated at private mills, some 60,000,000 sup. ft. will be used for board and case production, 3,000,000 sup. ft. for plywood manufacture for the furniture trade, and 34,000,000 sup. ft. for pulpwood.

The more important provisions for 1962-63 are as follows: £195,000 is proposed to meet the cost of recurring forest maintenance services, such as replanting, weed control, spraying, fire protection, etc.; £270,000 is set aside for preparation of land and planting. Approximately 6,000 acres will be planted during 1962-63. After allowing for clear-felling and for fire losses the total area of State pine plantations will be about 146,000 acres at the end of June next; £50,000 is proposed for the purchase of land suitable for forestry as it becomes available; £50,000 is provided for control of siren wasp. At the Premiers' Conference held in February, 1962, it was agreed that a Siren Fund of £200,000 be set up for the purpose of eradicating siren in Victoria and of carrying out research on control measures against the insect. It was also agreed that the Commonwealth would contribute £100,000 to match on a pound-for-pound basis a collective contribution of £100,000 from the

States. South Australia's share of the collective contribution was fixed at £29,000. It seems clear that the initial fund of £200,000 should be regarded as a first charge only, as the campaign itself could be of considerable duration. Provision has therefore been made for further contributions. In South Australia, intensive surveys have been undertaken by air and ground parties of pine forest plantations and I am pleased to report to members that no evidence of the wasp has been found in this State; £54,000 is required for the completion of the new power station at Nangwarry. This is required for payment to contractors of amounts withheld pending the expiration of guarantee periods and for the completion of departmental work on the scheme. The station is operating satisfactorily, and, using mill waste as fuel, has a generating capacity of 3,400 kilowatts; £118,000 is provided for further work on the construction of the sewerage scheme at Mount Burr, and £21,000 is required to complete the sewerage scheme at Nangwarry. Funds are also provided for the installation of additional plant and machinery to improve production at Mount Burr, Mount Gambier and Nangwarry, replacement plant, houses for employees, minor buildings and services as required at mills and in forest areas.

Three items—£415,000 for felling and hauling mill logs, £1,276,000 for sawmill working expenses, and £270,000 for administrative expenses applicable to sawmill working—will be charged against a working account and recovered out of revenues mainly through timber sales, while the last item—£120,000 for administrative expenses applicable to forest establishment—will be a charge against Loan Account.

**RAILWAY ACCOMMODATION, £2,330,000.**—During 1961-62, £2,448,000 was expended from Loan Account on railway capital works. For Way and Works Branch a number of small projects were completed, including signalling improvements at Gawler, remodelling of the Keith railway yard, new barracks at Lock and Naracoorte, improvements to the Hilton Road bridge and the railway track at Mile End, and diesel servicing facilities at Tailem Bend. The principal contracts completed during the year for Rolling Stock Branch were for the supply of eight broad gauge and two narrow gauge diesel-electric locomotives. Final charges of £158,000 are provided for this year which will bring the total cost of the 10 locomotives to £1,244,000. Other works completed were the construction of 10 workmen's sleeping

vans, five steel brake vans, two cement hopper waggons, and improvements to freight vehicles and suburban diesel railcars.

I shall comment on works in progress at the end of June last as I give explanations for the amounts proposed for 1962-63. Including £50,000 of material to be supplied from stock on hand, a total of £720,000 is provided this year for Way and Works Branch; £573,000 is required to meet the cost of sundry small works such as signalling and safety devices, minor buildings, track relaying, improvements to yards, etc., as they are required; £60,000 is provided to permit the new railway from Hallett Cove to the oil refinery at Port Stanvac to be completed; £32,000 is for purchase or construction of houses for employees; and £55,000 is included for plant and sundries.

For the Rolling Stock Branch £1,660,000 is provided, which will be increased to £1,810,000 by the use of £150,000 of materials on hand. The more important provisions for this financial year are as follows: £614,000 is required for progress payments under contracts for the construction of 48 diesel-electric locomotives and spares. Forty-three of these locomotives have been received from suppliers and are in service, but to cover contract retention moneys and estimated labour and material price variation claims, £294,000 is provided; £320,000 is proposed for the remaining five locomotives, which have an estimated total cost of £365,000 and are required to replace obsolete steam shunt locomotives in use at Mile End and Port Pirie; £208,000 is provided for progress work on 40 steel brake vans, and £126,000 is provided towards the construction of a further 20 workmen's sleeping vans; £164,000 is proposed to continue the programme of improvements and modifications to freight vehicles. It is anticipated that 417 vehicles will be dealt with this year; £336,000 is set aside for six diesel-electric locomotives and spares for the Port Lincoln and Peterborough Divisions. Two of these locomotives were referred to earlier as physically complete, but £28,000 is included here to meet final contract payments. Tenders have been called for the other four locomotives and £268,000 of the estimated total cost of £404,000 has been provided. The remaining £40,000 is to provide spare bogies for the efficient operation of diesel-electric locomotives in the Peterborough Division; £111,000 is proposed to permit completion of the project commenced last year to construct 35 waggons for bulk grain traffic on narrow gauge lines.

Other narrow gauge requirements include £29,000 for the construction of six hopper waggons for the ballasting programme of the Port Lincoln Division and £56,000 for modifications to ore waggons for efficient working with diesel-electric locomotives.

In addition to the £2,330,000 expenditure of Loan Funds, the Railways Department will carry out progress work on 12 diesel-electric locomotives and 100 ore waggons for the Broken Hill to Port Pirie line. Expenditure of about £1,275,000 in 1962-63 will be financed from special funds totalling £1,325,000 made available by the Commonwealth.

**HARBOURS ACCOMMODATION, £1,907,000.—** Actual payments from Loan Account in 1961-62 amounted to £1,421,000. A major project completed at a cost of £1,110,000 was the widening of the harbour fairway and swinging basin at Port Pirie and the deepening of the harbour and channel to allow for the movement of deeper draught vessels carrying concentrates overseas. The scheme involved the removal of about 2,200,000 yards of material—800,000 yards by contract and the remainder by Harbours Board plant.

Also completed were the trailer-ship terminals at Kingscote and Port Lincoln, costing £122,000 and £68,000 respectively. Replacement of old timber structures with steel sheet piled wharves and ancillary services to cater for the coastal trade, including the trailership *Troubridge*, were completed at North Parade, Prince's and Copper Company wharves, Port Adelaide, at a total cost of £541,000. Final payments were made in respect of the bulk loading installation at Thevenard, which is now operating. This installation can load wheat at the rate of 400 tons an hour and gypsum at 550 tons an hour.

For 1962-63 the main proposal is for a bulk handling installation at Port Adelaide, estimated to cost when completed £803,000, and £508,000 is set aside for work this year. The plant is planned to have a capacity of 800 tons of wheat or 670 tons of barley an hour and will be able to handle other commodities such as salt. A new berth when dredged will be able to accommodate ships with a draught up to 33ft.

The sum of £160,000 is provided for dredging to widen and deepen various sections of the Port River and Outer Harbour, and £81,000 is provided for other projects at Port Adelaide. These include surfacing and lighting of the area previously occupied by the Municipal

Tramways Trust powerhouse to provide a suitable stacking area and road and drainage works in the industrial estate.

The principal work in progress at the end of June last was the reconstruction of Railway, Federal, Queens and Barrier wharves at Port Pirie at a total estimated cost of £1,563,000. The work planned is to replace timber structures with about 1,930ft. of steel sheet piled wharves to be used as berths for loading ore concentrates, to stabilize Barrier wharf for a tanker berth, and to provide ancillary services. During last year £491,000 was spent on sheet piling and dredging over 500ft. of ore berths, work at Barrier wharf was completed, and the tanker berth was brought into operation. For the continuation of the Port Pirie wharf reconstruction programme this year, £385,000 is provided.

The sum of £210,000 of a total estimated cost of £319,000 was expended last year on the construction of a bulk loading plant at Port Pirie. This plant will be capable of delivering 400 tons of wheat an hour directly into the holds of ships. The belt conveyor foundations and 385ft. of timber wharf were constructed last year, dredging of the berth was carried out, and fabrication and erection of the shipping gallery was commenced. The £41,000 proposed for this year will enable construction of the plant to be completed.

A total of £601,000 is set aside for items of plant and equipment. Of this amount £400,000 is required to meet progress payments becoming due under a contract for a new bucket dredger estimated to cost £550,000 in all and to be completed by September, 1963; £20,000 is provided for the retention money payable at the end of the maintenance period under the contract for the grab dredger, the *Andrew Wilson*, which was commissioned last February; £48,000 is provided for mobile crane replacement; and £10,000 is provided for a new engine for a pilot vessel.

[*Sitting suspended from 5.47 to 7.30 p.m.*]

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: My statement on the Loan Estimates continues:

**WATERWORKS AND SEWERS, £11,400,000.**—Actual payments from Loan Account in 1961-62 for water and sewer works were £11,172,000. Expenditure of £21,000 during 1961-62, completed the work on the Onkaparinga Valley scheme under which water is carried from the Mannum-Adelaide main near Birdwood to serve towns and country lands

along the line of the Onkaparinga Valley and thence to Bridgewater and Aldgate. The final cost of the scheme was £1,360,000.

Nearly £2,000,000 was spent during the year on extensions and improvements to the reticulation system of the metropolitan area, principally for mains and services in new housing and industrial areas. Approximately £800,000 was spent on metropolitan sewerage extensions, new mains and house connections. Expenditure of £70,000 completed the Naracoorte sewerage scheme and 555 properties have been connected to sewers in that area. The final cost of the scheme was a little over £780,000, including an amount of £104,000 for the treatment works. During 1961-62, further progress was made on a number of large schemes being constructed to improve and extend services both in the country and in the metropolitan area, and I shall comment on the progress of work as I give information about the individual proposals for 1962-63.

**Morgan-Whyalla and Iron Knob Water Supply, £2,869,000.**—An amount of £2,804,000 is provided for further work in connection with the duplication of the Morgan-Whyalla main commenced last year, and which is estimated to cost eventually about £18,000,000. The sum of £1,150,000 was spent in 1961-62 and a section of seven miles of main from Hanson towards Hughes Gap was laid. Expenditure this year is for the laying of a further 48 miles of main and the commencement of the construction of a large storage at Lincoln Gap. An amount of £45,000 is required for pumping plant for the Iron Knob to Lincoln Gap main.

**Adelaide Water District, £2,624,000.**—A nominal amount of £4,000 is required for the completion of the Mannum-Adelaide main. The total cost of the scheme is £11,299,000. It involved the construction of three pumping stations to lift the water 1,500ft. over the Palmer Hills, together with the necessary storage tanks and the laying of over 50 miles of large diameter steel concrete-lined pipes: £138,000 was spent on this scheme during 1961-62. An amount of £390,000 is provided for the completion, except for two 2,000,000-gallon storage tanks, of the Myponga reservoir and trunk main: £1,066,000 was spent last year and at the end of June the concrete dam and the reticulation of the Myponga township was completed. The scheme also provides for the reticulation of Yankalilla, Normanville, Wilunga and McLaren Vale, and for the supply of water to the refinery at Hallett Cove.

The sum of £187,000 is provided for further work on the Clarendon-Belair-Blackwood scheme and it is anticipated that by the end of June, 1963, the scheme will be advanced sufficiently for operation. The total estimated cost of the scheme is nearly £820,000, and £127,000 was spent last year. Work completed in 1961-62, was the rising main to Chandlers Hill, the main to Blackwood and the tanks at Chandlers Hill and Blackwood. Work was carried out on the Clarendon pumping station, the Blackwood-Belair main and the tank at Eden Hills. An amount of £150,000 is required for further work on the Elizabeth water supply scheme which is estimated to cost a total of £1,871,000. Expenditure to the end of June last was £748,000. During last year £200,000 was spent for the laying of large steel trunk mains, the completion of two 2,000,000-gallon tanks, and the commencement of two further tanks. The scheme is proceeding in accordance with the development of Elizabeth and Salisbury.

An amount of £19,000 is provided to complete the raising of the dam at Mount Bold reservoir. All concrete work for this scheme, which will increase the capacity of the reservoir by 5,000,000,000 gallons, has been completed and installation of the flood gates is in progress. The estimated total cost of the project is £440,000. Funds are provided for water supply schemes at Springton and Eden Valley, Lenswood, Modbury and Salisbury North.

Barossa Water District, £54,000.—This amount is required for replacing an old main in the hundred of Mudla Wirra, for cement lining of mains and for various mains, services and minor works.

Warren Water District, £118,000.—The sum of £20,000 is provided to commence a water supply scheme for township and country lands at Navan and £10,000 to lay a new feeding main into the township of Tanunda to meet the increased demand for water.

Country Water Districts, £751,000.—The proposals for water supply schemes in country localities are:

Booloroo—£10,000 to further extend the use of River Murray water to improve supplies in this area.

Booloroo Centre—£1,000 to complete a scheme, under which water is carried from the Morgan-Whyalla main, to also supply Appila and farmlands from Caltowie to Booloroo Centre, and £10,000 for extension of mains to Wirrabara.

Brinkley—£7,000 for the laying of larger mains to improve the supply of water.

Coonalpyn—£1,000 to complete improvements which include a second bore, pumping plant and main.

Encounter Bay—£54,000 to complete a scheme to improve the supply at Goolwa, Middleton, Port Elliot, Victor Harbour and Encounter Bay by pumping from the River Murray at Goolwa. All mains and tanks have been completed and expenditure this year will complete the pumping station at Goolwa.

Hawker—£5,000 for the reinstatement of the old Hawker reservoir and the supply of a pumping plant so that water can be pumped to the higher level reservoir now in use.

Kingscote—£31,000 for the installation of larger pumping plant for two storage tanks which were completed last year.

Kingston (South-East)—£30,000 for the erection of concrete storage tanks to provide the township with a reticulated water supply from a bore.

Millicent—£80,000 for progress work on a township supply which provides for the sinking of bores, the construction of tanks and the laying of mains.

Moorlands—£5,000 for the electrification of the pumping station.

Mount Gambier—£76,000 to continue the laying of new mains, extensions to existing mains, the construction of a storage tank to improve supplies, and erection of a depot.

Mount Maria—£25,000 to commence work on the construction of a 1,000,000-gallon storage tank and the electrification of pumping plant.

Murray Bridge—£53,000 for construction of a second rising main, installation of chlorinating plant, additional pumping plant and extension into the hundreds of Burdett, Seymour and Ettrick.

Naracoorte—£5,000 for the installation of pumping plant and mains in connection with the fifth bore which was sunk last year.

Orroroo—£28,000 for the construction of a tank, replacement of several small mains and installation of a pumping plant to improve supplies.

Penola—£30,000 to continue work on the sinking of bores, laying of mains, and the construction of an elevated concrete tank.

Renmark—£4,000 to complete the installation of larger pumping units and alterations to the station.

Swan Reach—£11,000 to commence work on the electrification of pumping plant.

Tailem Bend—£10,000 to continue work on the installation of additional pumping plant and mains to improve supplies.

Whyalla—£52,000 for extensions to mains, improvements to tanks, establishment of a depot, and payment of the annual instalment to the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited for the taking over of the Whyalla waterworks.

Whyalla West—£5,000 to commence the construction of a 2,000,000-gallon storage tank.

Tod River Water District, £618,000.—An amount of £180,000 is provided so that work can commence on the enlargement and replacement of sections of the Tod trunk main. The original Tod trunk main from Knott's Hill to Minnipa was laid in the 1920's and the pipes ranged from about 15in. to 20in. in diameter. As corrosion occurred and the work of maintaining the main increased it was decided to recondition it and relay it above ground, and this work commenced in 1936. Much of this reconditioned main is now deteriorating and it is planned to replace it with a new 20in. main, spreading the work over a period of about eight years. The total cost, including some necessary work at pumping stations, is estimated at £4,098,000.

The sum of £200,000 is proposed for further work on the scheme to tap the Lincoln underground basin to augment the Tod River system and the supply to Port Lincoln. The scheme comprises 13 bores, five of which have been equipped and are in operation. The estimated total cost is approximately £930,000, and £430,000 was spent last year. Expenditure in 1962-63, is for the completion of a pumping station and storages, for the laying of further mains and equipping of the remaining eight bores. An amount of £5,000 is provided for preliminary work on the use of bores for a proposed water supply for Elliston.

An amount of £8,000 is provided for the extension of mains in the hundred of Moody, £44,000 for the extension of mains in the hundreds of Roberts and Verran, and £5,000 for the replacement of mains in the hundreds of Warren and Wilton. In the light of the worsening water shortage situation on Eyre Peninsula, arising from an abnormally dry period, some amendment of this programme in the Tod River water district will probably be necessary to meet urgent requirements.

Beetaloo, Bundaleer and Baroota Water District, £394,000.—The sum of £124,000 is provided for further work associated with enlarging the trunk main from the Warren reservoir to Paskeville, a distance of 103 miles. This scheme, estimated to cost a total of £6,265,000, is to provide an improved supply for extensive areas of country lands in the Lower North and to assure adequate supplies through the Yorke Peninsula scheme. In 1961-62, £1,228,000 was spent in laying a further 43 miles of trunk main as far as Kulpara. Earlier expenditure was mainly within the Warren water district. The total expenditure on this scheme to the end of June last, was £4,484,000, and the amount provided for 1962-63 is for the completion of the remaining seven miles of trunk main to its terminal at Paskeville and for further branch mains. The sum of £25,000 is provided for replacement of a further section of the old steel Beetaloo trunk main, which is in a poor state of repair. The amount of £18,000 is required for the extension of a main from the Morgan-Whyalla main to the Gulnare-Narridy high level area to provide an improved supply, and £6,000 is required for the replacement of an old main to improve supplies to the township of Kadina, and £15,000 for the enlargement of the feeding main which serves Moonta, Moonta Bay and Port Hughes. The sum of £8,000 is provided for new mains and a storage tank to supply the Wallaroo North beach area.

Adelaide Sewers, £3,084,000.—The amount of £1,346,000 is provided for further work at the Bolivar treatment works, which are estimated to cost a total of £10,743,000. An amount of £352,000 was spent last year for the purchase of land and the first stage of structural work. Expenditure in 1962-63 is to cover further purchases of land and construction work on the Adelaide-Bolivar main sewer. Additional contracts for mechanical equipment have been let. The sum of £3,000 is required for final payments for a major extension programme at the Glenelg treatment works. These works are a duplication of the previous Glenelg treatment plant and are required to cater for increasing development. The plant is in operation and working satisfactorily. An amount of £33,000 is required for the completion of the trunk sewer, pumping station and rising main at West Beach, and £133,000 was spent in 1961-62 on laying the trunk sewer and associated mains and construction of the pumping station. The estimated cost of this scheme is £357,000 and it is necessary to



provide for the sewerage of West Beach, Lockleys, and Brooklyn Park. The sum of £674,000 is provided for the sewerage of many new housing areas, some of which are being developed by the Housing Trust and some privately.

Country Sewers, £403,000.—The sum of £67,000 is provided for work on the sewerage of Angaston and £7,000 is required for the completion of the Myponga sewerage scheme. An amount of £294,000 is provided for the commencement of pumping stations and rising main in connection with the sewerage of Mount Gambier. The estimated cost of this scheme is £2,115,000. Detailed surveys and designs were carried out in 1961-62, at a cost of £41,000. The sum of £32,000 is required for the completion of the sewerage of Port Lincoln. Expenditure to the end of June last was £678,000 including £59,000 in 1961-62. As many as 708 properties have been connected and three pumping structures have been completed. Contracts have been let for the plant installations.

Water Conservation, £17,000.—The sum of £14,000 is provided for further work to be carried out on the construction of two storage tanks, each 2,000,000-gallon capacity at Kimba. The estimated total cost of this work is £94,000 and £70,000 has been spent to the end of June last.

Sassafras Depot, £85,000.—An amount of £70,000 is required for the hard surfacing of a considerable area in the Sassafras depot to permit more efficient handling of pipes and pipe fittings, and to provide storage areas.

The sum of £320,000 is provided for construction plant and £63,000 for preliminary investigations.

RIVER MURRAY WEIRS, DAMS, LOCKS, ETC., £60,000.—This provision is to meet South Australia's share of the cost of work carried out by the River Murray Commission.

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND LAND, £8,600,000.

Hospital Buildings, £850,000.—Actual payments from Loan Account in 1961-62 were £923,000. During the year satisfactory progress was made on a number of major works and I shall briefly comment on these before outlining proposals for 1962-63. The new east wing of the Royal Adelaide Hospital, which was designed and constructed as the initial step in the major replanning scheme for the hos-

pital, was completed in 1961-62 and occupation by patients was commenced in May of this year. The total bed capacity of the new wing is 487 beds and some 300 beds have already been transferred to it from 17 old wards in the present hospital. This will permit early demolition and site clearance for the major rebuilding scheme to which I shall refer again presently. Accommodation is provided for radiotherapy treatment, theatres, ward units, ophthalmic facilities, and a pharmacy. The orthotron and two cobalt therapy units are also housed in this building. The final cost was £2,300,000 and £420,000 was spent in 1961-62.

The expenditure of £93,000 in 1961-62 completed various additions and improvements at Port Pirie Hospital. The new facilities provided include a new boilerhouse and steam reticulation service, a modern kitchen and laundry, water tower, electricity substation, and a new maintenance workshop. The total cost of these additions and improvements was £370,000. The major proposals for 1962-63 are:

Royal Adelaide Hospital.—The major replanning scheme for this hospital, estimated to cost approximately £8,226,000, envisages the erection of three main blocks, merging into a single structure at basement and ground floor levels, comprising administration and kitchen block, outpatient block, and theatre block. The plan also provides for a new T-shaped ward block of 550 beds and adjacent boilerhouse to be erected north of the three main blocks, and a new nurses' home north of the ward block. The scheme has been considered by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, which has now recommended the early adoption of stage one of the rebuilding scheme at an estimated cost of £2,046,000. This estimate covers erection of the administration and kitchen block, including air-conditioning, carrying out the preparatory work of constructing the foundations, steel work and floor slabs of the outpatient and theatre blocks, demolition of existing buildings in the way of new works, shoring up of the existing kitchen block and provision of necessary external services for the new building and to enable existing buildings to continue in use. The accommodation to be provided in the administration and kitchen block includes bulk stores and engineering services, main kitchen, administrative and almoner's offices, part of future casualty department, main cafeteria and medical staff dining-room, university departments of medicine and surgery, lecture theatres, and medical students' facilities.

The proposed expenditure of £100,000 in 1962-63 is for design and initial work. The sum of £100,000 is provided for further work on major additions to the dental hospital, the total cost of which is estimated at £535,000. These additions, which are necessary to provide additional accommodation, comprise the erection of two new wings as well as remodelling the existing buildings. An amount of £84,000 was spent in 1961-62, and work was completed on the north wing.

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital.—The sum of £39,000 is required for the completion of the new laboratory building to be used for testing and experimental purposes. The total estimated cost is £77,000, and £38,000 was spent last year. The building will be of two storeys and will contain four main laboratories and a theatre.

Parkside Mental Hospital.—A total of £49,000 is provided for air conditioning, drainage and grading, new garage and workshop, reconstruction of roads and steam heating of wards.

Northfield Mental Hospital.—A sum of £48,000 is required to complete the construction of roadways and stormwater drains and £1,000 to permit investigations into the possibility of converting part of the administrative buildings to provide accommodation for a nurses' training centre or, alternatively, for the erection of a new building for this purpose.

Barmera Hospital.—An amount of £1,000 is required for preliminary work for proposed additions at the hospital, including extensions to the nurses' accommodation and alterations to the main building.

Port Lincoln Hospital.—The sum of £150,000 is provided for further work on major additions at this hospital. The work, commenced last year, involves the erection of a new hospital block of 50 beds, extensions to nurses' accommodation and new service buildings. Expenditure in 1961-62 was £45,000 and the total estimated cost is £733,000.

Funds are also provided for furniture, equipment, alterations and additions at various hospitals as the need arises, and for preliminary plans, surveys and investigations for proposed works.

School Buildings, £6,000,000.—During 1961-62, actual payments from Loan Account were £5,944,000, which was made up as follows:

	£
The completion of 23 contracts with a total value of £4,278,000 for new schools or major additions to schools . . . . .	2,593,000
Work under 24 contracts for new schools or major additions to schools, Teachers College and School of Art, with a total value of £5,453,000 still in progress at the end of June, 1962 . . . . .	1,563,000
The completion of craftwork centres valued at £146,000 at six schools . . . . .	69,000
Prefabricated classrooms or classroom equivalents . . . . .	330,000
Purchase of land, buildings and residences for school purposes . . . . .	843,000
Minor works, including grading and paving of school yards, fencing, roadways, additional toilets and facilities, etc., and furniture and equipment . . . . .	546,000
	<hr/>
	£5,944,000

For 1962-63, the proposals for school buildings and associated works total £6,000,000, and the ways in which the funds are to be used are as follows:

	£
Work under 24 contracts with a total value of £5,453,000 for new schools, major additions to schools, Teachers College and School of Art which were in progress at June 30, 1962 . . . . .	3,018,000
The commencement of 20 projects with a total value of £3,420,000 for new schools, major additions to schools . . . . .	1,324,000
Work on one craftwork centre valued at £50,000 . . . . .	10,000
Prefabricated classrooms or classroom equivalents . . . . .	350,000
Purchase of land and residences for school purposes . . . . .	450,000
Minor works, including grading and paving of school yards, fencing, roadways, toilets and facilities, etc., and furniture and equipment . . . . .	848,000
	<hr/>
	£6,000,000

The school building programme in recent years has more than kept abreast of current enrolments, and there has been a marked improvement in the ratio of pupils to classrooms. The proposals for 1962-63 envisage a continued improvement in that ratio.

Because of the difficulty of giving members an adequate picture of the extensive school building programme in a brief review such as this I have, in recent years, had a table prepared giving detailed information of the programme, and the House agreed that it be recorded in *Hansard*. I understand that the

information in that table has been of great use and interest to members, and I request that permission be given for the recording in *Hansard* of a similar table listing school works

completed in 1961-62, works under construction at June 30, 1962, and works to be commenced or designed in 1962-63.

Leave granted.

### SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

#### Major Completed Works, 1961-62.

Locality.	Final Cost. £	Type of Construction.
Primary and Infant Schools—		
New Schools—		
Evanston . . . . .	90,000	Precast concrete
Murray Bridge South . . . . .	93,000	Precast concrete
Additions—		
Darlington . . . . .	94,000	Mount Gambier stone
Magill . . . . .	106,000	Brick
Oaklands . . . . .	73,000	Precast concrete
Sturt . . . . .	100,000	Mount Gambier stone
Area Schools—		
New Schools—		
Coomandook . . . . .	119,000	Timber with solid spine
Technical High Schools—		
New Schools—		
Angle Park Girls . . . . .	108,000	Timber with solid spine
Additions—		
Elizabeth Boys . . . . .	141,000	Precast concrete
Elizabeth Girls . . . . .	209,000	Precast concrete
Le Fevre Boys . . . . .	340,000	Precast concrete
Mitchell Park Boys . . . . .	188,000	Precast concrete
Mount Gambier . . . . .	137,000	Timber with solid spine
Port Adelaide Girls . . . . .	209,000	Precast concrete
Vermont Girls . . . . .	202,000	Precast concrete
Whyalla . . . . .	176,000	Steel framed brick
High Schools—		
New Schools—		
Elizabeth . . . . .	292,000	Precast concrete
Gilles Plains . . . . .	302,000	Precast concrete
Additions—		
Campbelltown . . . . .	278,000	Precast concrete
Gawler . . . . .	111,000	Timber with solid spine
Henley . . . . .	295,000	Precast concrete
Millicent . . . . .	341,000	Precast concrete
Seacombe . . . . .	274,000	Precast concrete
General—		
6 Craft Centres at various schools . . . . .	146,000	5 Precast concrete and 1 brick . .
Prefabricated units excluding Major schools listed above as "Timber" construction . . . . .	330,000	Timber

#### Major Works in Progress at June 30, 1962.

Locality.	Estimated Cost. £	Type of Construction.
Primary and Infant Schools—		
New Schools—		
Elizabeth Downs . . . . .	186,000	Precast concrete
Elizabeth West . . . . .	144,000	Timber framed with prefabricated walling on concrete footings
Stradbroke . . . . .	125,000	Precast concrete
Whyalla (Hincks Avenue) . . . . .	165,000	Precast concrete
Additions—		
Campbelltown . . . . .	93,000	Brick
Dover Gardens . . . . .	67,000	Precast concrete
Gilles Plains . . . . .	90,000	Brick
Modbury . . . . .	100,000	Mount Gambier stone
Taperoo . . . . .	62,000	Mount Gambier stone

## SCHOOL BUILDINGS—continued.

## Major Works in Progress at June 30, 1962—continued.

Locality.	Estimated Cost. £	Type of Construction.
Area Schools—		
New Schools—		
Kangaroo Inn . . . . .	130,000	Timber framed with prefabricated walling on concrete footings
Keith . . . . .	269,000	Mount Gambier stone
Kimba . . . . .	189,000	Timber framed with prefabricated walling on concrete footings
Technical High Schools—		
New Schools—		
Adelaide . . . . .	453,000	Mainly precast concrete
Additions—		
Mount Gambier . . . . .	151,000	Mount Gambier stone
High Schools—		
New Schools—		
Blackwood . . . . .	202,000	Precast concrete
Heathfield . . . . .	232,000	Precast concrete
Additions—		
Enfield . . . . .	94,000	Precast concrete
Norwood . . . . .	230,000	Precast concrete
Penola . . . . .	222,000	Mount Gambier stone
Plympton . . . . .	199,000	Precast concrete
Taperoo . . . . .	202,000	Precast concrete
Woodville . . . . .	163,000	Precast concrete
General—		
S.A. School of Art . . . . .	347,000	Steel framed modular masonry
Teachers' College—Kintore Avenue . . . . .	1,338,000	Precast concrete with aluminium walling

## Major Works to be Commenced or Designed During 1962-63.

Locality.	Estimated Cost. £	Type of Construction.
Primary and Infant Schools—		
New Schools—		
Brahma . . . . .	75,000	Precast concrete
Hawthorndene . . . . .	60,000	Precast concrete
Naracoorte South . . . . .	104,000	Mount Gambier stone
Salisbury West . . . . .	146,000	Brick
Strathmont . . . . .	195,000	Precast concrete
Whyalla, North-West . . . . .	110,000	Precast concrete
Additions—		
Blackwood . . . . .	92,000	Brick
Flinders Park . . . . .	54,000	Precast concrete
Klemzig . . . . .	71,000	Precast concrete
Seaton Park . . . . .	88,000	Brick
Technical High Schools—		
New Schools—		
Dover Gardens Girls . . . . .	212,000	Precast concrete
Gepps Cross Girls . . . . .	212,000	Precast concrete
Seaton Boys . . . . .	251,000	Precast concrete
High Schools—		
New Schools—		
Flinders (Underdale) . . . . .	347,000	Precast concrete
Mitcham (Daw Park) . . . . .	348,000	Precast concrete
Modbury . . . . .	351,000	Precast concrete
Additions—		
Findon . . . . .	112,000	Precast concrete
Gawler . . . . .	242,000	Precast concrete
Marion . . . . .	113,000	Precast concrete
General—		
Technical Correspondence, Visual Aids, and Adult Education Offices . . . . .	237,000	Additional floor to existing building and a new three storey building of brick or concrete block
Domestic Arts Centre—Thebarton Girls Technical High . . . . .	50,000	Brick

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: My statement continues:

Police and Courthouse Buildings, £800,000.—Actual payments from Loan Account in 1961-62 were £656,000. Works completed during the year were a new courthouse at Port Pirie, new police stations at Cummins, Jamestown, Moonita and Morgan, new police stations and courthouses at Barmera, Kingscote and Renmark, additions to the Supreme Court and to the police station at Mount Gambier. Funds are provided in 1962-63 so that the programme of construction of police stations and courthouses to serve the country areas may be continued. Provision is made to complete a number of works which were under construction at June 30, 1962, and to commence work on many new projects. A sum of £201,000 is provided to commence work on the new police headquarters building in Adelaide. A small amount was provided in 1961-62 for initial work on this scheme. The new multi-storey building to be erected in Angas Street is estimated to cost £1,562,000, and comprises basement, ground floor, and nine upper floors, and will provide for the needs of the Police Department for some years ahead. Upon completion two of the upper floors will be available for a number of years for the use of other departments, and £1,000 is provided for initial work on a new cell block at police headquarters, the total estimated cost being £99,000.

Other Government Buildings, £950,000.—Actual payments from Loan Account in 1961-62 were £1,086,000. The expenditure of £23,000 last year completed the erection of a two-storey solid construction home at North Adelaide to provide sleeping and eating accommodation for aboriginal women when in Adelaide for short periods.

An amount of £153,000 was spent on the erection of a new air-conditioned wing at the Art Gallery to provide increased space for display purposes and for future growth of the art collection. Members will recall that exhibitions were displayed in the new wing during the recent Adelaide Festival of Arts.

During 1961-62 work was completed on stage I of the provision of major additions at Vaughan House Girls' Training School. This comprised the erection of a two-storey dormitory block for 48 girls and the final cost was £46,000. Stage II of the scheme, involving the erection of a new building to accommodate 70 girls, will be commenced in

1962-63, at an estimated cost of £182,000, and £55,000 is provided for this purpose. In addition to sleeping accommodation the building will also provide for instruction and rehabilitation, recreation, dining, medical and dental facilities, staff and administrative accommodation, and a chapel.

Final payments of £9,000 in 1961-62, completed the construction of a new cell block at the Cadell Training Centre, the final cost being £102,000.

The major proposals for 1962-63 are:—

Agriculture Department.—An amount of £36,000 is provided for initial work for the construction of a new research laboratory and store at Northfield, the total estimated cost of which is £167,000.

Botanic Garden Department.—The sum of £10,000 is provided to commence work on the construction of the new herbarium at an estimated cost of £80,000.

Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department.—An amount of £5,000 is provided for preliminary work in connection with the erection of a new junior boys' training school at Lochiel Park. The estimated total cost is £297,000 and the new training school is to permit segregation of the younger boys who are at present accommodated at Magill. At the Magill training school it is proposed to erect new buildings to house the senior boys. The work is estimated to cost approximately £459,000 and £5,000 is provided this year for preliminary work. A total of £55,000 is proposed for work on the construction of a new remand home at Glandore to provide accommodation for instruction and rehabilitation, recreation, sleeping, dining and medical facilities for 108 children. As mentioned earlier, £55,000 is provided for work on stage II of the major additions at Vaughan House.

Libraries Department.—Preliminary sketch plans have been prepared for the erection of new buildings to provide urgently required additional storage and display areas for documents and books. The estimated total cost of the scheme is £1,158,000; £5,000 is provided this year for further planning and design and £16,000 for completion of a public lift in the main building.

Sheriff and Gaols and Prisons Department.—Funds are provided for preliminary work for two major projects, rebuilding the Port Augusta Gaol and erecting a new gaol at Port Lincoln. A sum of £83,000 is provided for a programme of alterations and additions at Yatala Labour Prison.

EXPENSES AND DISCOUNTS OF FLOATING CONVERSION AND PUBLIC LOANS, £100,000.—The terms and conditions of issue of conversion and new cash loans will determine expenditure under this heading during 1962-63. As the amount required can vary markedly from one year to the next, an accurate assessment of the provision necessary is not possible. However, the £100,000 proposed will give reasonable coverage.

TEMPORARY AND EMERGENCY HOUSING ACCOMMODATION, £1,000.—The £1,000 provided is to meet the cost of sundry very small works which become necessary in connection with the emergency dwellings not yet removed.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOUSING TRUST, £50,000.—The proposed appropriation from Loan Account of £50,000 is only a nominal contribution to the trust's programme for 1962-63. As I indicated to members when presenting the Loan Estimates for 1961-62, the Government's current arrangements are to provide the greater part of the trust's new money from funds borrowed by the State under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement at a concessional interest rate of one per cent below the normal long-term governmental borrowing rate. The trust's allocation of Housing Agreement funds in 1962-63 will be £4,850,000 as compared with £4,350,000 last year and £4,089,000 in 1960-61. As is customary, the trust will also borrow part of its requirement of new money direct from the lending institutions, and £1,800,000 of semi-governmental borrowing authority has been allocated for that purpose. The trust also has substantial recoveries from the sale of houses available for respending and has recourse to other internal funds such as maintenance and depreciation provisions as well as its surplus on operations. From all sources it will have the funds to finance a capital programme totalling almost £12,800,000.

During 1961-62, the trust completed 3,258 housing units compared with 3,314 in 1960-61 and 3,174 in 1959-60. Last year's total was made up of 1,371 in the metropolitan area, 981 at Elizabeth and Salisbury, and 906 in country areas.

Units for sale numbered 1,280 including 57 cottage flats, and units for rental numbered 1,978, including 120 flats and 61 cottage flats. At the end of June, 1962, there were 2,214 units under construction, comprising 909 in the metropolitan area, 837 at Elizabeth and Salisbury and 468 in country areas.

The small decline in the number of completions in 1961-62 as compared with 1960-61 was

a temporary phase only and I anticipate that in 1962-63, the number of completions will again show an increase. The slight decline last year came about as the trust varied its practice of using a panel of builders and instead called for tenders for groups of houses. This variation had the distinct advantage of giving more builders an opportunity to bid for trust contracts, and of securing lower prices to the trust and consequently to its customers, the South Australian community. It did, however, cause a minor break in the continuity of work.

At Elizabeth the completion of 927 houses and flats carried the cumulative total of completions to 6,668. There are now a number of privately built houses on land sold by the trust and community services of all kinds are expanding. The population at June 30, 1962, was about 27,000. At Whyalla and Christies Beach building progressed steadily and the numbers of completions were 411 and 85 respectively. In the metropolitan area further satisfactory progress was made in the programme to replace temporary and emergency dwellings with permanent rental housing. To June 30, 1962, 1,673 temporary dwellings have been vacated and alternative accommodation found for the tenants, and 1,598 units had been removed from the sites.

The main feature of the 1962-63 programme is the commencement of a scheme to give to people who would otherwise be applicants to the trust for rental housing the opportunity to own their own houses by providing a minimum deposit of £50 and by repaying the balance of the purchase price over a period of up to 40 years. The houses to be built by the trust under this scheme will be single unit solid or veneer houses, costing with land, fencing and necessary utility fittings from £3,400 to £3,800 each. While this scheme is planned to take the place of a large part of the trust's normal rental programme there will be a degree of overlapping of the two schemes this year as contracts already let for rental houses run to completion, and therefore the Government is providing extra funds to cope with the temporarily increased requirements. I have here a table which sets out completions in 1961-62, houses under construction at June 30, 1962, and anticipated commencements in 1962-63 for localities outside the metropolitan area. Members have found similar information to be of interest in past years and I ask that approval be given for this table to be recorded in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOUSING TRUST.					Houses	Under	To be
Localities Outside the Metropolitan Area,				Locality.	Completed,	Construction,	Com-
Elizabeth and Salisbury.					1961-62.	30/6/62.	menced,
Locality.	Houses	Under	To be				1962-63.
	Completed,	Construction,	Com-				
	1961-62.	30/6/62.	menced,				
			1962-63.				
Allendale . . . . .	—	1	—	Penola . . . . .	1	1	3
Balaklava . . . . .	4	—	2	Peterborough . . . . .	—	—	1
Balhannah . . . . .	1	—	—	Pinnaroo . . . . .	2	—	2
Barmera . . . . .	4	8	5	Port Augusta . . . . .	28	9	16
Baroota . . . . .	2	—	—	Port Lincoln . . . . .	11	5	7
Berri . . . . .	12	4	10	Port MacDonnell . . . . .	1	—	—
Binnum . . . . .	1	—	—	Port Pirie . . . . .	—	3	—
Blanchetown . . . . .	2	—	—	Port Wakefield . . . . .	2	—	—
Bordertown . . . . .	6	1	2	Renmark . . . . .	15	4	11
Bundaleer North . . . . .	1	—	—	Saddleworth . . . . .	1	—	—
Burra . . . . .	1	—	—	Spalding . . . . .	4	—	—
Ceduna . . . . .	3	1	2	Tailem Bend . . . . .	2	1	—
Christies Beach . . . . .	85	72	160	Tantanoola . . . . .	3	2	—
Clare . . . . .	5	2	5	Tanunda . . . . .	1	1	—
Cleve . . . . .	3	1	2	Teatree Gully . . . . .	2	—	1
Cooltong . . . . .	—	1	—	Tintinara . . . . .	—	1	—
Coonalpyn . . . . .	2	1	—	Two Wells . . . . .	1	—	2
Cowell . . . . .	1	—	1	Uraidla . . . . .	1	—	—
Cummins . . . . .	1	—	—	Victor Harbour . . . . .	3	—	2
Daveyston . . . . .	—	1	—	Virginia . . . . .	1	—	—
Ernabella . . . . .	6	—	—	Waikerie . . . . .	11	2	8
Eudunda . . . . .	1	1	—	Wallaroo . . . . .	—	1	—
Gawler . . . . .	25	20	18	Whyalla . . . . .	411	246	390
Gerard . . . . .	2	—	2	Woodside . . . . .	2	—	2
Greenock . . . . .	—	—	2	Yankalilla . . . . .	1	—	—
Hawker . . . . .	2	—	—		891	465	833
Iron Knob . . . . .	—	—	5	Rural dwellings ..	6	3	15
Jamestown . . . . .	—	1	—	Soldier settlement			
Kadina . . . . .	1	—	2	homes . . . . .	9	—	—
Kalangadoo . . . . .	3	—	1		906	468	848
Karoonda . . . . .	1	—	—				
Keith . . . . .	1	—	2				
Kimba . . . . .	3	—	—				
Kingscote . . . . .	3	1	—				
Kingston (S.E.) . . . . .	1	—	1				
Kuitpo . . . . .	1	—	—				
Kybunga . . . . .	—	1	—				
Lameroo . . . . .	—	1	3				
Laura . . . . .	—	—	1				
Leigh Creek . . . . .	2	2	—				
Lobethal . . . . .	6	—	—				
Loxton . . . . .	14	1	7				
Maitland . . . . .	2	—	1				
Mallala . . . . .	2	—	—				
Mannum . . . . .	7	3	2				
Marree . . . . .	2	—	—				
McLaren Vale . . . . .	—	—	5				
Meningie . . . . .	4	—	2				
Millicent . . . . .	37	23	40				
Minlaton . . . . .	1	1	—				
Moculta . . . . .	1	—	—				
Monarto South . . . . .	3	—	—				
Moonta . . . . .	—	1	—				
Morgan . . . . .	—	2	—				
Mount Barker . . . . .	1	—	2				
Mount Bruce . . . . .	1	—	—				
Mount Burr . . . . .	1	—	—				
Mount Gambier . . . . .	71	34	78				
Murray Bridge . . . . .	22	—	12				
Nairne . . . . .	2	—	1				
Naracoorte . . . . .	12	3	9				
Nepabunna . . . . .	2	—	—				
Nuriootpa . . . . .	5	1	3				
Oakbank . . . . .	1	—	—				
O'Halloran Hill . . . . .	3	—	—				
Palmer . . . . .	1	—	—				

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: My statement continues:

THE ELECTRICITY TRUST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, £2,300,000.—For the financial year 1961-62, the trust spent £9,814,000 on the capital works programme for the electricity undertaking. The largest single amount—£2,886,000—was spent on the Port Augusta power station in which the third 60,000-kilowatt turbo-alternator and the fifth boiler were commissioned during the year in the "B" section of the station. Only one further turbo-alternator is to be installed at Port Augusta. This will be commissioned early in 1964 and will bring the capacity of the station to 330,000 kilowatts. To the end of June, 1962, £29,809,000 had been spent on works for the Port Augusta power station and its associated transmission lines and substations. When completed this project will have cost approximately £34,000,000.

The important role being played by the Port Augusta power station is shown by the fact that in the year 1961-62, this station generated 1,400,000,000 kw. hours, or 72 per cent of the trust's total requirements. In the year 1962-63 the station's generation is estimated to rise to 1,700,000,000 kw. hours, or 80 per cent of total

requirements. The Port Augusta station, using solely Leigh Creek coal, operates on base load and provides the cheapest source of power to the trust's network. This has been the most important single factor contributing to stability of electricity tariffs for the last 10 years. From the grant of £1,000,000 made by the Government to the trust towards the cost of building a transmission line to the South-East an amount of £625,000 was spent during 1961-62. Approximately half of the construction work on the 132,000-volt line has been completed. The £375,000 balance of the special grant will be used in 1962-63, and it is expected that the line will be placed in service in March, 1963. This transmission line will safeguard future power requirements in the South-East and will provide, either immediately or in the near future, for power supplies to be tapped off at Tailem Bend, Keith and Snuggery, as well as Mount Gambier.

The fifth turbo-alternator of 5,000 kilowatts capacity was installed in the Mount Gambier power station during the year 1961-62, thus completing the station to its designed capacity of 21,000 kilowatts. The Mount Gambier power station has now cost £2,405,000, of which £200,000 was spent during 1961-62. With the power station at Nangwarry sawmill interconnected with the trust's network, the total power station capacity in the South-East is now 24,000 kilowatts compared with 3,000 kilowatts available in the area when the trust first started operations there in 1956.

During 1961-62, 14,361 new consumers were connected to the electricity system. Of these, 8,600 were located outside the metropolitan area. During the current year the trust proposes to spend £8,962,000 on capital works—£2,300,000 to be made available from State Loan funds, £2,750,000 to be raised by the trust from financial institutions and the public and the balance of £3,912,000 to be met from the trust's internal funds, including the £375,000 remainder of the special grant.

The main works included in the programme are:

The sum of £1,099,000 to be spent on the Port Augusta power station covering final payments on the plant already in operation, and progress payments on the fourth 60,000 kilowatt turbo-alternator and the sixth boiler now being erected, and associated works.

At Osborne power station £522,000 will be spent on site works and progress payments for the new 60,000 kilowatt turbo-alternator and boiler. This plant is scheduled to be in service for the winter of 1965.

The amount of £330,000 will be required for preliminary work for the new Torrens Island power station, including access to the island, preliminary earth works and sheet piling. This is the initial expenditure for the large power station, having an ultimate capacity of 2,000,000 kilowatts, to be erected on Torrens Island. The first machine in this power station is scheduled for operation early in 1967.

The sum of £29,000 is proposed for the final payment on generating equipment at Mount Gambier power station, which I have already referred to as physically completed.

The amount of £610,000 will be required to complete the 132,000-volt transmission line to the South-East up to the initial stage of placing it in commission.

The sum of £905,000 is to be spent on new substations and new high voltage transmissions lines other than in the South-East line, and £980,000 for additional transformers and high voltage circuit breakers.

An amount of £1,535,000 is provided for extending and strengthening the general distribution system involving the connection of an additional 13,000 new consumers.

The sum of £1,250,000 will be required to provide for rural extensions. This represents an increase of more than 25 per cent over the previous year and will be made possible by the fact that the trust has recently encouraged private contractors to undertake line work in rural areas, thus enabling a greater programme of work to be carried out.

The amount of £892,000 will be spent on additional buildings, new depots, district headquarters and substation sites. This includes £600,000 to complete the trust's new head office at Eastwood.

The remaining finance is required for miscellaneous projects and for the purchase of general plant, tools and instruments, and includes £273,000 for Planning and Design Department salaries which will later be allocated to specific projects.

LEIGH CREEK COAL FIELD, £50,000.—During the year 1961-62, capital expenditure at the Leigh Creek Coal Field totalled £552,000. The major item of £290,000 was for the completion of the 132,000-volt transmission line from Port Augusta to Leigh Creek. The remaining finance was for additional houses in the Leigh Creek township, for additional general items of machinery, and for modifications to the coal handling plant to provide for increased production of coal. The output



from the field has now been stepped up to 1,500,000 tons per annum compared with less than 1,000,000 tons in 1960-61. The new 770-B dragline excavator was commissioned during the year, although it had been largely paid for during erection in the previous financial year. This machine is the biggest of its type in Australia, weighing approximately 1,000 tons and having an 18 cub. yd. bucket. It will remove more than 5,000,000 tons of overburden per annum.

In the current year £450,000 will be required for capital expenditure, of which £50,000 will be obtained from State Loan funds and the remainder from internal funds. The expenditure is required to consolidate the increased production of coal from the field needed by the Port Augusta power station. It is estimated that 1,550,000 tons of coal will be produced from the field during the year. An additional 10 houses and five flats will be built in the township and extensions to the workshops will be required because of the increased programme. The sum of £70,000 will be required for the purchase of new vehicles to transport coal from the open cut to the coal preparation plant, and an amount of £74,000 will be required for additional coal conveyors and coal storage bins.

**MINES DEPARTMENT, BUILDINGS, PLANT, ETC., £125,000.**—During 1961-62, actual payments from Loan Account totalled £232,000. Of this amount, £120,000 was spent on the purchase of equipment and vehicles to duplicate seismic operations to accelerate the search for oil in South Australia. A total of £14,000 was expended on the construction of a new core laboratory building for the storage and examination of cores and mineral specimens, and the balance was used to purchase scientific instruments and other plant and equipment. To continue the policy of exploration and development of the State's mineral resources, £125,000 is provided this year. An amount of £7,000 will be required to complete construction of the core laboratory and £118,000 for new and replacement vehicles, for extensions and additions to workshops and plant buildings, and for the purchase of replacement and additional plant, equipment and instruments for geological and geophysical survey work.

**PUBLIC PARKS ACT—PURCHASE OF LAND, £1,000.**—The sum of £3,000 was expended from Loan Account last year for this purpose and £1,000 is provided for 1962-63. In assisting local authorities under the Public Parks Act

the Government's normal policy is to take responsibility for part of the purchase price of open areas and to expect the local authority to take responsibility for part. The Government contribution is appropriated from Revenue, while the local authority contribution is normally obtained by means of a loan from a financial institution. In exceptional circumstances the local authority's contribution may be made available from the State Loan Fund and repaid over a fixed period. The amount provided is toward any such advances as may be found necessary.

**PRINTING AND STATIONERY DEPARTMENT—PLANT, MACHINERY, STORES, ETC., £30,000.**—Actual payments from Loan Account last year were £30,000 and a similar amount is proposed for 1962-63. This will permit continuation of the programme of replacing various items of machinery and plant which become obsolete with more efficient equipment.

**PRODUCE DEPARTMENT—BUILDINGS, PLANT, ETC., £18,000.**—During 1961-62, actual expenditure from Loan Account amounted to £40,000. The major project completed at a cost of £19,000 was the extension of the bacon factory at Port Lincoln and the provision of additional facilities to increase production. An amount of £11,000 was spent last year on other improvements at Port Lincoln Freezing Works and £9,000 is provided to complete these projects in 1962-63. This work comprises the provision of a new liquid ammonia recirculation plant to be linked with various sections of the works, a new electric power supply and switchboard, and the installation of a fire sprinkler system in the boning room and bacon factory extension; and £9,000 is proposed for small works and sundry plant necessary at Light Square works, Adelaide, and the freezing works, Port Lincoln.

**FISHING HAVENS, £40,000.**—Expenditure of Loan funds in 1961-62 under this heading totalled £26,000. The major work completed was the construction of a slipway at Streaky Bay at a cost of £22,000. For 1962-63, £23,000 is proposed to complete construction of a fixed slipway and a boat storage area at Port MacDonnell. Including land purchases the estimated total cost of the project is £40,000. An amount of £4,000 is provided to complete the purchase of land for the Lake Butler scheme at Robe and £10,000 is proposed to enable work on the scheme to commence; and £3,000 is included for minor facilities and small works to assist the fishing industry which may be approved during the year.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT—SCHOOL BUSES, £132,000.—Actual payments from Loan Account in 1961-62 were £135,000. The sum of £132,000 is provided for 1962-63 for the purchase of additional and replacement buses for the transport of schoolchildren in country areas.

SOUTH-WESTERN SUBURBS DRAINAGE, £300,000.—Actual payments from Loan Account in 1961-62 were £127,000. The scheme was commenced in 1960-61 and provides for floodwaters from the south-western suburbs to be carried to the sea. It is estimated to be completed in eight years and to cost approximately £2,200,000. Funds are provided by the Government in the first instance and then half the cost is recovered from the local authorities whose areas will benefit from the scheme. During last year a section of reinforced concrete drain running along Edward Street from Brighton Road to the sea, and the pipe drain along Brighton Road from Sturt Road to Edward Street, were completed. At the end of June last the closed drain along Lewis and Hastings Streets to Sturt Road was under construction. The sum of £250,000 is proposed for the completion of these works, for a pipe drain along Sturt Road, and for other drains within the overall scheme as priorities are decided by the controlling committee; £50,000 is provided for commencement of work on a flood control dam on the River Sturt, which is estimated to cost £285,000 to complete. This project is designed to delay the flow of floodwaters from the upper reaches and thus prevent, other than in most exceptional circumstances, the combination of upper reaches and suburban floodwaters creating a flow beyond the capacity of the River Sturt.

The proposed capital works which I have reviewed as proposals for 1962-63 will involve a total expenditure from all sources of over £57,000,000. The sources of funds will be normal State Loan funds, moneys borrowed under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, semi-government loans, and the use by statutory bodies of internal funds such as surpluses, capital recoveries, cash in hand, depreciation funds and maintenance reserves. Having in mind the continued and pressing need for development and for creation of employment opportunities the Government would wish to be able to present an even greater programme, but as I stated earlier the State's financial resources are now being gainfully employed as far as is practicable and prudent.

Two or three other projects have not been included in this Loan programme because they

have not yet reached the stage where they have been reported upon or referred to the Public Works Committee, but the Government is most anxious to press on with them. I propose making some special financial resources available to enable those projects to commence, if the Public Works Committee reports are to hand and are favourable. Particularly, there is no mention here of a most urgent proposal, which the Public Works Committee has reported upon since these Loan Estimates were prepared, for tapping the Polda basin to enable an additional amount of water to be available on Eyre Peninsula this year. There is a most urgent problem there. The Tod River has brought virtually no water this winter, and water available from all sources is about 400,000,000 gallons below the minimum requirements of the area. As members know, the Eyre Peninsula scheme, is designed and used almost entirely for domestic and stock purposes, and in those circumstances water cannot be rationed. The Polda scheme, which is being reported on by the Public Works Committee, will, I think, make some savings in trunk mains, and it is intended to make some adjustments in the Eyre Peninsula programme to help the finance of this scheme, which we hope to have in operation in time to avert any catastrophe there.

Secondly, only a nominal amount has been provided in these Estimates for the rebuilding of some mental institutions. The new Director of Mental Health has been doing intensive work on new plans, but they have not yet reached the stage when they can be referred to the Public Works Committee. However, funds will be available to allow the State to go ahead legally with these plans as soon as possible.

Thirdly, I intend to make money available for standardization work on the Port Pirie to Broken Hill railway line if and when Parliament approves of this project. As I am not able to give the certificates under Standing Orders before the Loan Estimates are presented, these three items are necessarily not covered by the survey I have just given. The programme I have outlined is a large programme, occasioned by the development going on in this State. If members study the programme carefully I think they will find it extremely hard to pick out a line and say, "This line is not necessary." No doubt they could pick out an odd line on which they would like more spent, but the programme envisages an expenditure of about £57,000,000,

a big percentage of which is not being made available by the Loan Council. If we had to rely purely and simply on Loan Council resources—

Mr. Hutchens: We would be starving!

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The honourable member is correct. It is only because semi-governmental authorities and the Government have made prudent use of the moneys available over the years and because we have by this means developed some internal resources that the programme is possible.

Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of the first line.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

#### IMPOUNDING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Impounding Act, 1920-1947. Read a first time.

#### BULK HANDLING OF GRAIN ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

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

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution: That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Bulk Handling of Grain Act, 1955-1961.

Motion carried.

Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House. Bill introduced and read a first time.

#### ELECTRICITY (COUNTRY AREAS) SUBSIDY BILL.

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

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution: That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to provide for the payment of subsidies to electricity undertakings providing public supplies of electricity in country areas.

Motion carried.

Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House. Bill introduced and read a first time.

#### HOMES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

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

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution: That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Homes Act, 1941-1958.

Motion carried.

Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House. Bill introduced and read a first time.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 8.48 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, August 15, at 2 p.m.